



Springfield Mass August 29, 1986

We acknowledge receipt of your recent letter asking for information on a Smith & Wesson revolver.

The Model 29, first shown in 1955, was cataloged as a standard production item in January 1956. It was available in 4" and 6 1/2" barrel lengths and either blue or nickel finish.

Early in 1958, the screws retaining the sideplate were reduced from four to three, and the model number was stamped on the frame at the yoke cut. Also, the first 8 3/8" barrel was offered and a limited number of revolvers with this barrel length will be found in the four-screw sideplate variation.

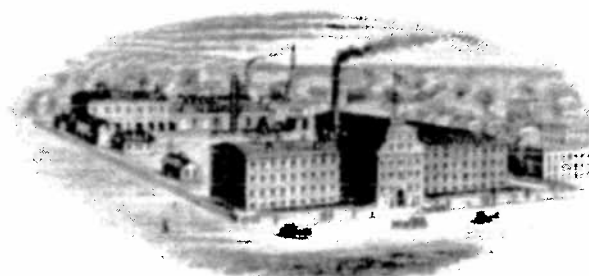
The first Model 29, serial number S121836, was custom built in our Experimental Department. The first production revolver is serial numbered in the low S130000 range.

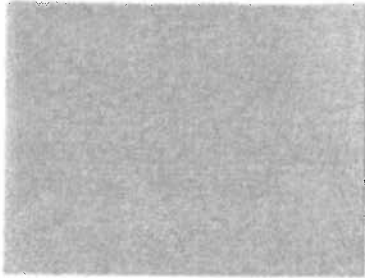
The -1 indicates a new left-hand thread extractor rod to replace the right-hand threaded rods which would work loose and bind the revolver. This change appeared in November 1960 at approximately serial number S207001.

The -2 signifies a further improvement, a new cylinder stop. This engineering change eliminated the old style cylinder stop plunger spring which was located in front of the trigger guard.

In 1960, the black style presentation case was replaced by a mahogany one.

- Continued -





Page Two
August 29, 1986

In 1969, as a result of the passage of the 1968 Gun Control law, Smith & Wesson changed its serial number prefix on the N frame revolvers. At this time, the S prefix was ended at serial number S333454 and a new series began with serial number N1.

The N serial number prefix series was continued into 1983 through N960000, at which time the serial numbers were changed to the new Smith & Wesson serial number series which was three letters and four numbers.


We have researched your Smith & Wesson Model 29, .44 Magnum revolver in company records which indicate that your handgun, with serial number S317353, was shipped from our factory on August 15, 1969 and delivered to Elmer Keith, in Salmon, Idaho, a great gun writer and legend in his field.

We have enclosed a copy of the invoice covering the shipment of this Model 29, serial number S317353.

We hope that the information furnished will be helpful and of interest to you.

Sincerely,

SMITH & WESSON


Roy G. Jinks
Historian

RGJ/dsg
enc.

OUTSTANDING AMERICAN HANDGUNNER AWARDS

FOUNDATION, INC.
P.O. Box 153, Station C, Buffalo, N.Y. 14209



February 4, 1986

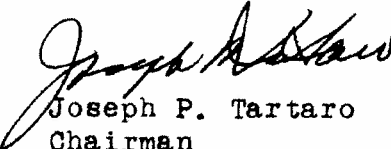
[REDACTED]

We acknowledge your bid of [REDACTED] for the
Elmer Keith Model 29 auction.

The successful bidder will ~~be~~ notified by phone
on April 21, 1986 and the bid announced at the Annual
Outstanding American Handgunner Awards dinner in New
Orleans on April 25, 1986.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,


Joseph P. Tartaro
Chairman



ELMER KEITH MUSEUM FOUNDATION, INC.

c/o The Idaho First National Bank

SALMON IDAHO 83467

An Idaho Nonprofit Corporation Established 1984

April 22, 1986

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I received a call this morning from Joe Tartaro, representing the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards foundation, indicating that you were the high bidder for the Elmer Keith, Smith & Wesson .44 magnum. Mother and I donated this gun to raise funds to support both the Elmer Keith Museum Foundation Inc. and the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation. Dad carried and shot this gun quite a lot so you will notice a slight wear from going in and out of the holster. Specifically it is a model 29 with a 5 inch barrel, red ramp front sights, adjustable rear sights, light custom trigger job and ivory grips. The right grip is designed to fill the hollow of your hand with a steer head, the left grip has the initials E M K which stands for Elmer Merrifield Keith. I think the 5 inch, in this case serial number 5317353, is one of the earlier models with not a large number being produced.

Just as soon as the bank transmittal is received we will issue a cash receipt and a major contributor certificate. I regret that I was not present to meet you personally and present the gun in New Orleans. I hope you will enjoy owning and shooting this fine old piece for you are now part of the Keith family. Dad would say "Keep your powder dry".

With respect,

Theodore F. Keith
4340 Shamrock
Boise, Idaho 83704

Elmer Keith's Model 29 for Sealed Bid Auction




How much would someone pay to own one of Elmer Keith's personal Smith and Wesson Model 29s? How much would you pay to own a piece of handgun history, a handgun owned and shot by the late, great Elmer Keith?

You can send your sealed bid for the pictured Model 29 to benefit the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation and also the Elmer Keith Museum Foundation. The proceeds will be divided equally, and the half going to the Keith Museum is fully tax deductible.

The gun is a S&W Model 29 .44 Magnum with a five-inch barrel. The stocks are carved ivory with a steer's head on the right stock and the initials EMK on the other side. The right side of the frame bears the signature, "Elmer Keith." This gun was used by Elmer Keith personally and is the only one of Keith's 29s that will be available for sale, according to the Keith family.

Minimum bid is \$1,000 and bids must be received by April 20, 1986. The bids must be in writing and include the bidder's name, address and phone number. The bid should read: "My bid for the Elmer Keith Model 29

Smith and Wesson revolver is _____
If my bid wins the auction, I agree to pay one half to the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation Inc. and one half to the Elmer Keith Museum Foundation Inc." Bids should be mailed to OAHAF, P.O. Box 153, Station C, Buffalo, NY, 14209.

The winning bid will be announced at the NRA Show in New Orleans at the OAHAF Awards Banquet April 26, 1986. Tickets to the OAHAF are \$35 per person and are available at the above address. 

American Handgunner readers need no introduction to Elmer Keith, the inventor of the .44 Magnum and .41 Magnum. His penchant for big bore magnums is legendary and his prolific pen spread the Gospel According to Elmer.

From his pet load of 22 grains of 2400 behind a 240 Keith bullet in .44 Magnum to his thrilling accounts of African hunting, we are all indebted to Elmer Keith for the great advices he made in the field of handguns. The American Handgunner salutes the late Elmer Keith.

KEITH'S PSALM Anonymous

Elmer Keith is my name,
I shall not flinch.
He teacheth me to larger calibers,
He suggesteth better handloads.
Yes, though I load with 2400,
I fear not failure,
For my Smith and Wesson is with me.

Recoiled chambers comfort me,
I hunt chipmunks with my .458,
Verily, I stay calm with my .44
Magnum.
Yes, though I load maximum,
With a pinch for good luck,
Yes, though I employ Lyman
To design a heavier bullet,
I shall not be rebuffed,
Dearly someone will bring forth
A better magnum;
Then shall my heart be
gladdened,
And powder smoke shall surround me
All the days of my life.

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TO STEEL TARGET SHOOTING!



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REDI-SET® will reset itself
instantly after each impact.
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one stand
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overall height 22 in.

Maintenance of targets:

Some paint target and face color desired.
All parts can be removed for repair.
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Only fact is to ensure continuous impact.

2 1/2 in. bore for 12/20 yard handgun 100 yards for rifle
3 in. bore for 12/20/30 yard handgun ONLY

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Target (28 lbs) \$12.00

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ALL CHECKS MUST CLEAR PRIOR TO SHIPMENT
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The Thoroughbred of the Handgun World

INVOICE

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SOLD AND/OR SHIPPED TO

**ELMER KEITH 1 4310-12
SALMON
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CUSTOMER'S ORDER NO. DEPT.

4 8 69

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY SHIPPED	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
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1	M29 44 MAG 5 B CUTTING DOWN BARREL LABOR CHG 7.50 ENGRAVED ELMER KEITH 1 HR LABOR 7.50 SER NOS S 317353 ✓			
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INVOICE DATE	MERCHANDISE TOTAL	DEDUCT	IF PAID IN	EXCISE TAX	TRANSPORT. CHARGES	INVOICE AMOUNT
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SHIPPED VIA

DAYS

\$ AUG 15 1969

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RMS: F.O.B. SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A. INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 6% PER ANNUM WILL BE CHARGED AFTER 30 DAYS. AVERAGING OF INVOICE DATES NOT PERMITTED.

Smith & Wesson do hereby guarantee that the goods or services covered by this invoice have been manufactured or performed in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and amendments thereto.

14th Annual

**OUTSTANDING
AMERICAN
HANDGUNNER
AWARDS**

- 1973 — Elmer Keith
- 1974 — Col. Charles Askins
- 1975 — William B. Ruger
- 1976 — Bill Jordan
- 1977 — Harlon Carter
- 1978 — Skeeter Skelton
- 1979 — Lee E. Jurras
- 1980 — Warren Center
- 1981 — Steve Herrett
- 1982 — Hal Swiggett
- 1983 — J.D. Jones
- 1984 — Larry Kelly
- 1985 — Frank Pachmayr



April 25, 1986 — New Orleans Hilton, New Orleans, Louisiana

8 Nominated for Top Handgun Award; Elmer Keith Gun to Be Auctioned

One of the highlights of the 115th annual meeting of the National Rifle Association in New Orleans will be the "Oscar Night" of handgunning sponsored by the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation (OAHAF).

The 14th annual awards dinner of the Foundation will be held at the New Orleans Hilton on Friday, Apr. 25. OAHAF members and friends will be the first to know the identity of the Outstanding American Handgunner for 1986, as well as the winners of the Handgun Hunter's Hall of Fame Handgun Hunter of the Year, Sierra Bullet "Elmer Keith" Handgun Writer of the Year, and the American Pistolsmith Guild's Pistolsmith of the Year awards. Dinner guests will be able to meet and visit with the winners of this year's awards, plus prior award winners and a host of handgun greats.

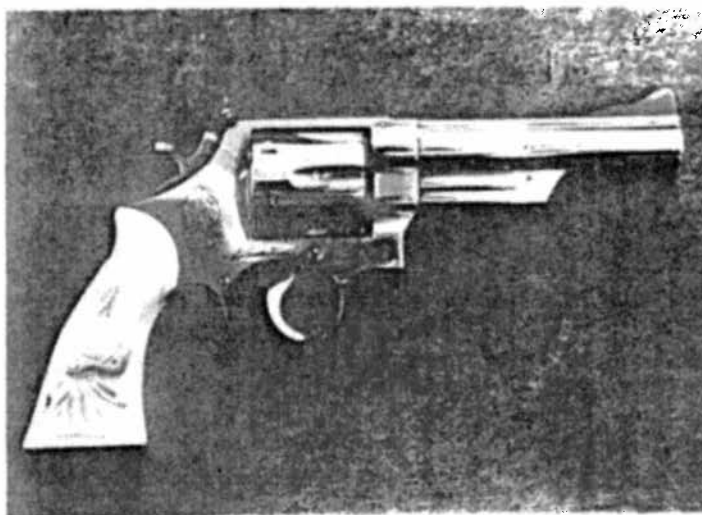
In addition, the successful bidder in a write-in auction for one of the personal guns used by the late Elmer Keith will be announced. And Serial No. 3 of a limited edition of 500 Steve Herrett commemorative Thompson/Center Contender pistols to be auctioned later this year by the Foundation will be displayed.

Eight finalists have been nominated for the Outstanding American Handgunner award by the Foundation's awards committee. They are: John Bianchi; Ray Chapman; Elgin T. Gates; Dean Grennell; Rob Leatham; Bob Milek; Lon Pennington, and Harry Reeves. Leatham and Pennington, outstanding competition performers in recent years, were nominated for the first time this year. Bianchi, Chapman, Gates, Grennell, Milek and Reeves have been previously nominated for the award.

Selection of the winner is now in progress as annual, life and supporting industry members ballot by mail for a winner among the eight nominees. All classes of membership have an equal single vote.

In addition to the presentation of the famous bronze statuette, the Foundation frequently presents other special and posthumous awards. The winners of the Handgun Hunter of the Year, Handgun Writer of the Year and Pistolsmith of the Year awards are selected by committees established by the companies and/or organizations which sponsor the particular award.

The Elmer Keith gun is being auctioned to benefit jointly the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation and the Elmer Keith Museum Foundation in Salmon, ID. One half of the price paid for the Keith gun will be tax deducti-



Upper photo: Right side of Elmer Keith's personal Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum handgun which will be auctioned to benefit the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation, Inc. and the Elmer Keith Museum Foundation, Inc. The successful bidder will be announced at the 14th annual OAHAF banquet in New Orleans, LA, on April 25. Right side features engraved "Elmer Keith" on the frame and relief steer's head on the carved ivory grip. *Upper Photo:* Left side of the Elmer Keith gun has the initials "EMK" inscribed in the ivory grip. Bidding is open to any interested individual subject to federal and any applicable state firearms laws.

ble. Keith was one of the world's best known and respected gun writers and the recipient of the first Outstanding American Handgunner award in 1973.

The gun is a Smith & Wesson Model 29 .44 Magnum with five-inch barrel. The grips are carved ivory with a steer's head on the right stock and the initials "EMK" on the left. The right side of the frame bears the engraved signature, "Elmer Keith". It was a gun that Elmer Keith used himself and is, according to the Keith family, the only one that is not expected to be included in the proposed Elmer Keith Museum collection.

OAHAF
Members Meeting

Fri., Apr. 25, 1986
10 AM

New Orleans Hilton

To conduct elections
and other business

- Over -

All mail bids above a minimum of \$1,000 received prior to April 20, 1986 will be considered, with the gun going to the highest bonafide bidder. Bids must be in writing and include the name, address and telephone number of the bidder. The bid form should read: "My bid for the Elmer Keith Model 29 Smith & Wesson revolver is _____ . If my bid wins the auction, I agree to pay one half of the bid to the Elmer Keith Museum Foundation, Ind. and one half to the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation, Inc." Bids should be mailed to The Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation, P.O. Box 153, Station C, Buffalo, NY 14209.

The Thompson/Center Steve Herrett Commemorative Contender which is being auctioned by mail bid to benefit the Foundation is one of three that the Rochester, NH, firm is donating to special purposes. These three guns are different from the others in the limited edition of 500. They have special gold treatment in the engraved portions which depict the late Steve Herrett, the 1981 winner of the Outstanding American Handgunner award who developed the .30 Herrett and .357 Herrett cartridges. Serial No. 1 has been donated to the NRA to benefit the International Shooter Development Fund. Serial No. 2 goes to the Herrett family. Serial No. 3 goes to the Foundation. The other 497 presentation cased guns are expected to sell for about \$800 each. Bidding for the Foundation Contender will close Sept. 30, 1986.

Tickets for the 14th annual OAHAF awards dinner at the New Orleans Hilton are available at \$35 per person. To have tickets mailed to you before the dinner, your reservations and check will be needed by the Apr. 17 deadline. For payment and reservation on tickets to be held at the door, the deadline is Apr. 20. Ticket orders should be addressed to the OAHAF, Box 153, Station C, Buffalo, NY 14209.

The winner of the 1985 Outstanding American Handgunner Award was Frank Pachmayr. He was selected in balloting by Foundation members who voted for their choice among the Top Ten Nominees. The nominees were: John Bianchi; Bill Blankenship; Ray Chapman; Jim Clark; Elgin Gates; Dean Grennell; Roy Jinks; Bob Milek; Pachmayr and Harry Reeves.

Winners of other awards at the 1985 dinner in Seattle included: Lucky Nightingale, Bladensburg, MD, winner of the Handgun Hunters Hall of Fame award; John "Jeff" Cooper, winner of the Sierra Bullet "Elmer Keith" Handgun Writer's award; Jim Clark, winner of the



Frank Pachmayr was the winner of the 1985 Outstanding American Handgunner Award and the silver winner's buckle created by Jerry Wilson. Pachmayr was selected for the honor in balloting by individual and supporting industry members of the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation, Inc. Other winners of the prized bronze statue include: The late Elmer Keith (1973); Col. Charles Askins (1974); William B. Ruger (1975); Bill Jordon (1976); Harlon Carter (1977); Skeeter Skelton (1978); Lee Jurras (1979); Warren Center (1980); the late Steve Herrett (1981); Hal Swigggett (1982); J.D. Jones (1983), and Larry Kelly (1974).



award for his performance on behalf of the 1984 Olympic Games. The late Ed McGivern was posthumously elected to the OAHAF Hall of Fame.

The Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation was established in 1973 to give recognition and reward to those relatively few individuals who have devoted their lives to furthering handgun shooting as a legitimate sport. It is currently chaired by Joseph P. Tartaro and governed by a Board which includes Ray Chapman, David Ecker, Elgin Gates, John Goodwin, Roy Jinks, J.D. Jones, Larry Kelly, Jerry Rakusan, Hal Swiggett and Stephen K. Vogel.

Commemorative Thompson Center revolver will be auctioned in mail bids to the OAHAF. The deadline for bids is Sept. 30, 1986. This gun and two other presentation models are engraved with gold inlay, and offered in a deluxe presentation case. The gun features a 10-inch bull barrel in .30 Herrett caliber and select fancy wood grips. The right side of the receiver features an engraved bust of the late Steve Herrett, while the left side features a reproduction of the Outstanding American Handgunner statue which Herrett received in 1981 as a signal of his extraordinary lifetime contributions to sport handgunning.

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PRO-GUN POLITICIANS... FACT OR FANTASY?

GUNS & AMMO

\$2 JUNE 1986

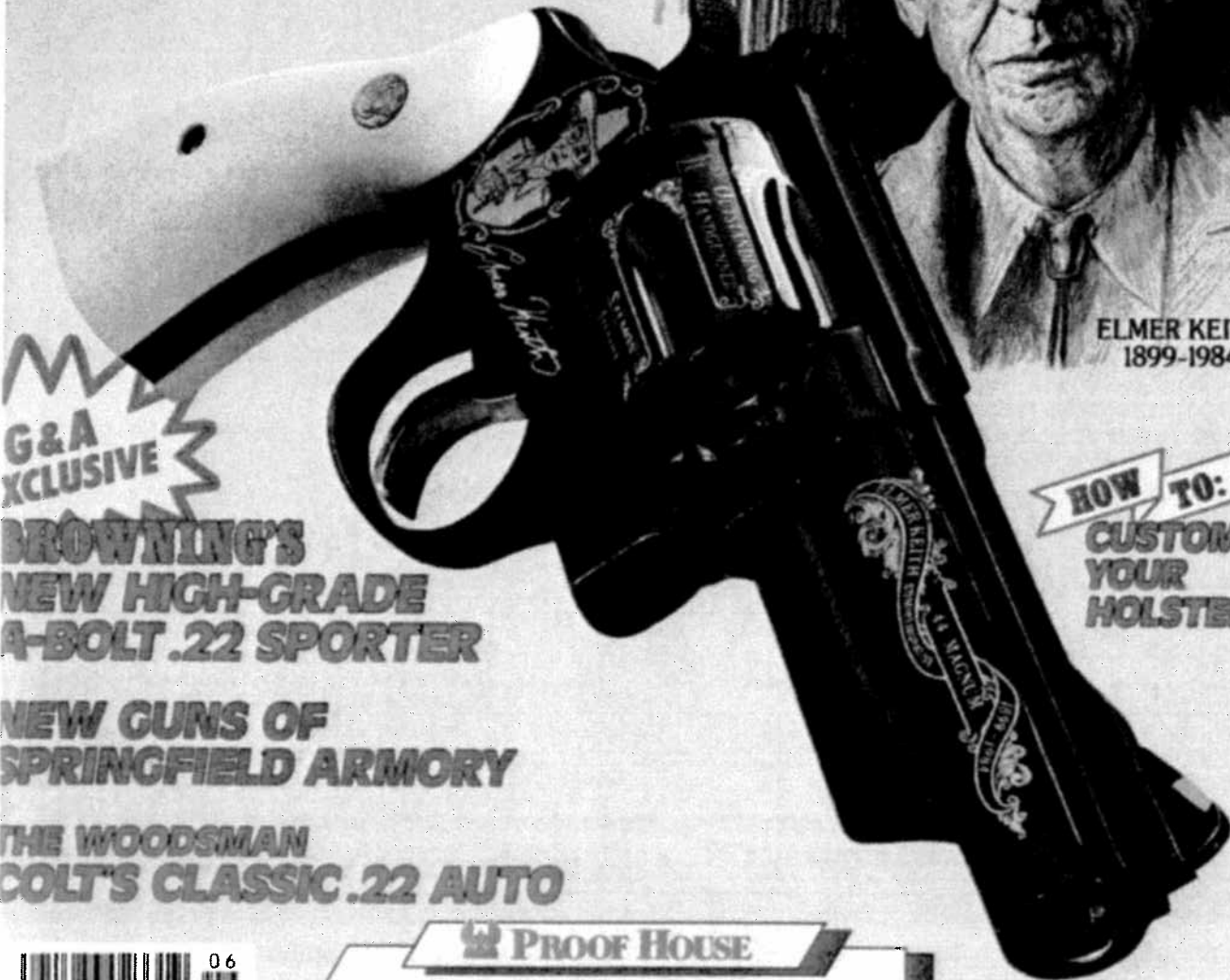


Elmer Keith Commemorative

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THE DEAN OF SHOOTING



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