



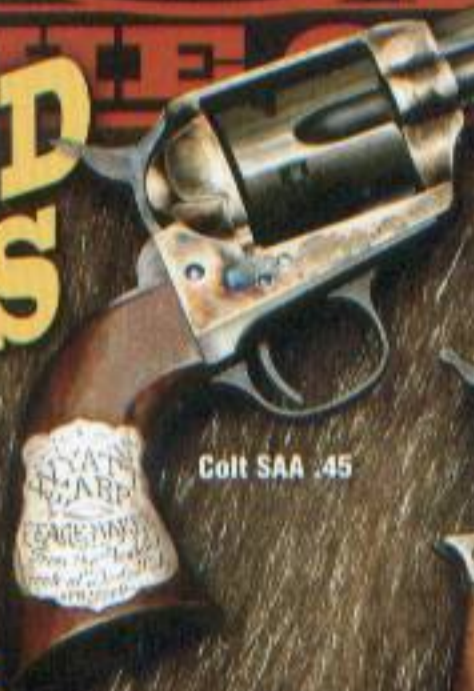
Combat Handguns® Presents #54 SUMMER 2007™

GUNS OF THE OLD WEST

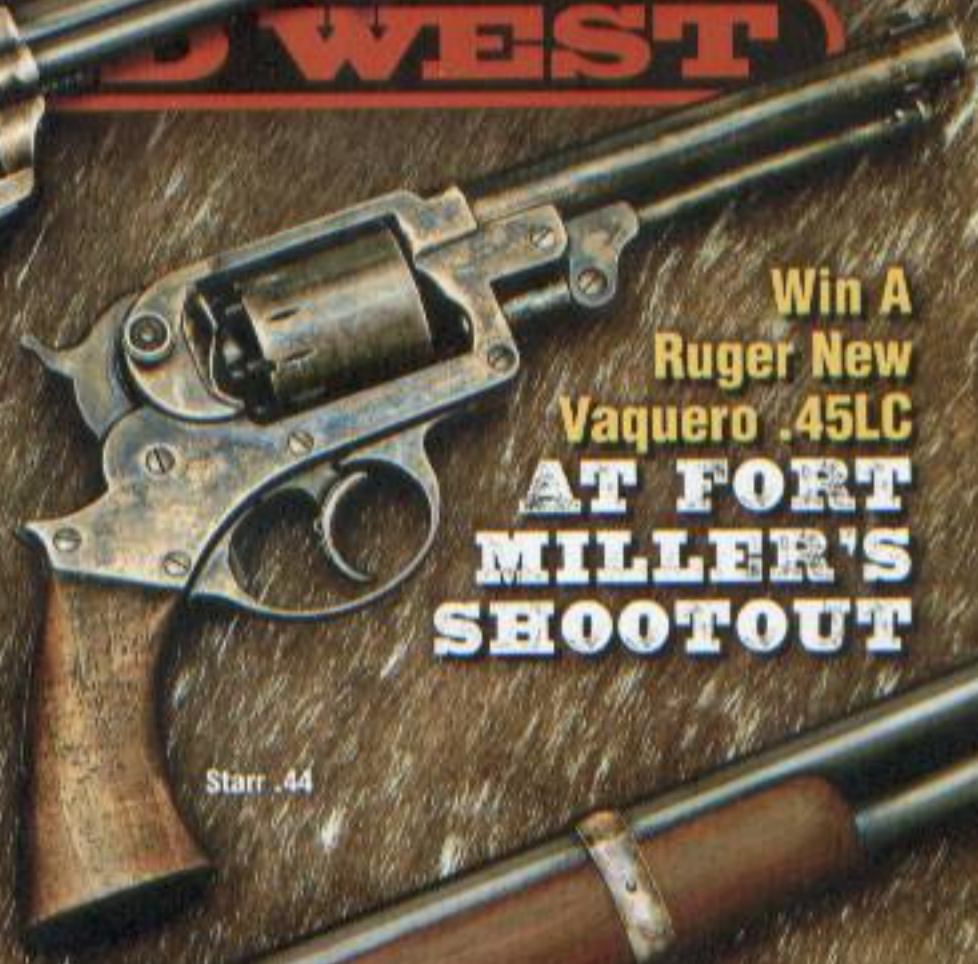
The Guns of LAST-STAND WESTERN WESTERNS



Tombstone's Colt SAA .45
Stagecoach's Winchester M1892 .45
Unforgiven's S&W Schofield .45 & Starr .44



Colt SAA .45



Starr .44

Win A Ruger New Vaquero .45LC AT FORT MILLER'S SHOOTOUT



S&W Schofield .45

Custom LSI Puma '92 .45Colt JOHN WAYNE SPECIAL.



Winchester 1876 Centennial TEDDY ROOSEVELT'S TOP GUN

GUN TESTS

- ★ Taylor's Spencer .45 Schofield ★
- DGW Schofield No. 3 .45LC ★ DGW Starr .44
- ★ Custom Cimarron 1873 Short Rifle .357Mag ★
- ★ Custom LSI Puma '92 .45LC ★
- ★ Taylor's 1876 Centennial .45-60 ★
- ★ Peacemaker Specialists Last Frontier .45LC ★
- Ruger New Vaquero .45LC ★ Ruger Old Army .45LC

Winchester M1892 .45

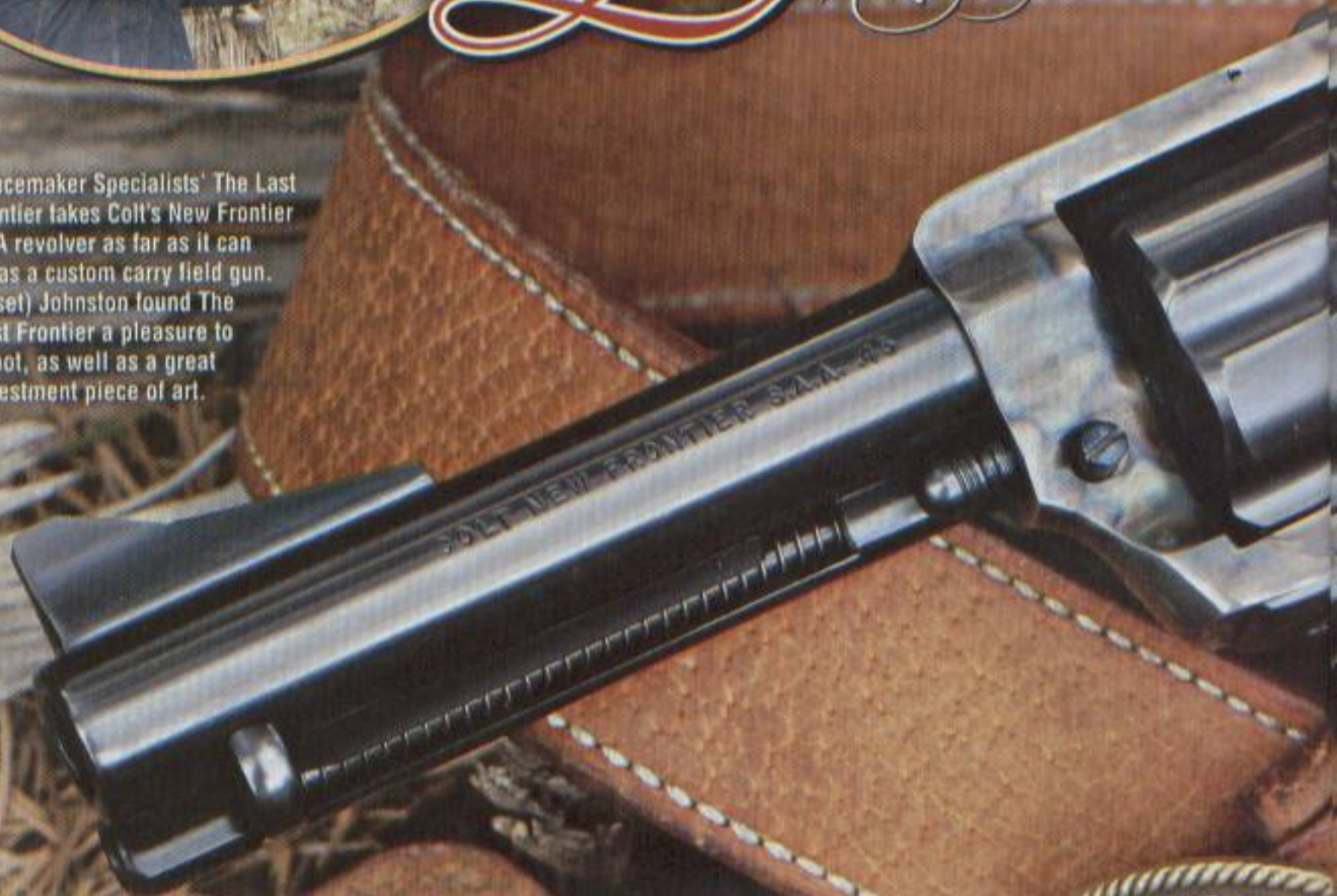


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LAST

Peacemaker Specialists' The Last Frontier takes Colt's New Frontier SAA revolver as far as it can go as a custom carry field gun. (Inset) Johnston found The Last Frontier a pleasure to shoot, as well as a great investment piece of art.



WHEN COLT RE-INTRODUCED its "2nd Generation" Single Action Army a half-century ago, the gun skyrocketed to the top in popularity. After all, the Colt SAA had steadily grown in demand after World War II, much of this due to the movies and TV Westerns of the 50s. The SAA had also grown quite collectible after being discontinued at the outbreak of the war, so it was a very wise move to put it back into production.

However, Colt added a version of a pre-war Single Action Army that was even more rare than the standard

version and more sought after by collectors. This was the Colt Flattop SAA, which had been popular for competition shooting during the late 19th Century. This was mainly because the Flattop had an adjustable rear sight mated with a variety of optional front sights.

Called the New Frontier, the 2nd Generation Flattop SAA came with a Colt Micro rear sight, which was click adjustable for windage and elevation, and a ramped front sight. That may have been its problem along with its name, as the New Frontier just never seemed to catch on.

FRONTIER .45 COLT

BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

**New Frontier gets
born again thanks
to Peacemaker
Specialists!**

The term "New" didn't help it any, in my opinion, as the vast majority of customers wanted something old. The old handle, Flattop, would have been a better choice, or Target Model. While the fully adjustable sight was a great improvement over the original sights available on the gun, it too, was not really authentic.

When the New Frontier was discontinued it finally began to grow in popularity, as it became collectible. If you can't get something anymore, you suddenly want one, but most of these new guns remained unfired. Finally,

those that had been used began to get used more, as people began to see the value in having a Colt SAA with sights they could adjust to hit something with, and the accuracy of these guns started to be appreciated.

Today, the Colt New Frontier has something of a cult following with many of these fine guns being customized for field use. None can top the work being done by Peacemaker Specialists. Owned and operated by Colt SAA guru Edward Janis, Peacemaker Specialists works on nothing but Colt SAA revolvers and they call their custom New



1) The hammer of The Last Frontier is color cased to match the beautiful colors on the Colt's frame. 2) The detail of the custom .45 Colt cylinder is seen with its beveled front and correctly sized flutes just like turn of the century Colts. 3) All exterior screws on The Last Frontier are fire-blued for that extra touch.



Frontier Colt "The Last Frontier."

"The Last Frontier" is Peacemaker Specialists idea of the ultimate adjustable sighted .45 Colt SAA revolver and I sure can't disagree. Whether it's hunting, target shooting, ranch work, Cowboy Action Shooting or self-defense, "The Last Frontier" will fill the need to a "T."

The first function optimized by Peacemaker Specialists on this or any SAA is reliability, the gun must go bang when you need it to. For this, the Gunslinger Action Job will guarantee total reliability for as long as you own the pistol, or they will fix it free of charge.

The timing of "The Last Frontier" deserves special mention, as it just doesn't get any better than this. Not only is the action job like a fine gem, but when the hammer is brought to full cock, that's it. No play, no over-travel, nothing, thanks to the installation of an adjustable hammer stop. No factory single-action can top this and most don't come close.

The second aspect maximized is accuracy. With the creep-free 2.25-pound trigger pull executed during the Gunslinger Action Job, you really have as perfect a trigger as you're going to get. Next, correct the oversize cylinder chamber throats by replacing the cylinder with a .357 cylinder bored to a precise .452 of an inch diameter to match up with the barrel bore diameter and bullet size. The cylinder is then fit perfectly tight with its bushing and the bolt. One final touch is re-cutting the forcing



cone to 11 degrees and you get one of the most accurate New Frontier revolvers ever.

The final accuracy element is to provide the shooter with the ultimate sight picture. For a field carry revolver, Peacemaker Specialists install a 4.75-inch barrel, but other barrel lengths can be had upon request. They stone the front sight perfectly to square and re-serrate the ramp for a glare-free sight picture. Then the Micro rear sight is replaced with an Elliason rear sight, as used on the Colt Gold Cup, as this sight provides a single sight plane. The top corners of the sight are rounded and the sight blade is serrated to match the serrations on the front sight. This treatment provides a glare proof sight picture as close to a custom Bomar sight picture as possible.

This sight truly sets The Last Frontier apart from most single-action revolvers.

Once the workings have been taken care of, they concentrate on the appearance of the gun, and we all love things of beauty. Thus, the final step is to make "The Last Frontier" look as good as it shoots, and don't think this is the easy part.

Peacemaker Specialists start with a perfectly shaped elephant ivory one-piece stock. With the feel of a pistol being paramount to how one shoots with it, they take great pain in shaping the ivory to exactly duplicate the early 1st Generation one-piece walnut stock of the US Military Colt SAAs. Incidentally, if the customer prefers a one-piece walnut stock of the US Cavalry Colts, they offer this stock also.

To duplicate the perfect feel of the early Colts, Peacemaker Specialists had to bevel the heel and toe of the backstrap the same as the early Colts. Also, they carried the metal work one step farther by beveling and fluting the cylinder to match the early 1880's black powder Colts. The later cylinder flutes have always been a sore point with me, but they round them the way they were back then. The beveling of the front of the cylinder not only looks great, but also cuts down on wear and tear inside your holster, as well as making the gun easier to re-holster, and believe me, this gun was made to be carried.

To top off the appearance of The Last Frontier, Peacemaker Specialists color caseharden the hammer to match the beautiful Colt case colors on the frame and loading gate. These parts can also

PERFORMANCE

**Peacemaker Specialists
The Last Frontier .45 Colt**

Load	Velocity	ACCURACY		
		Small	Large	Average
Black Hills 250 RNFP	718	2.51	2.86	2.72
Winchester 225 STHP	908	2.24	2.53	2.38

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in feet per second (fps) by Alpha Chrony, and accuracy in inches for five 6-shot groups from 25 yards. Elevation: 7,000 feet, Temperature: 61 degrees, Humidity: 68%.

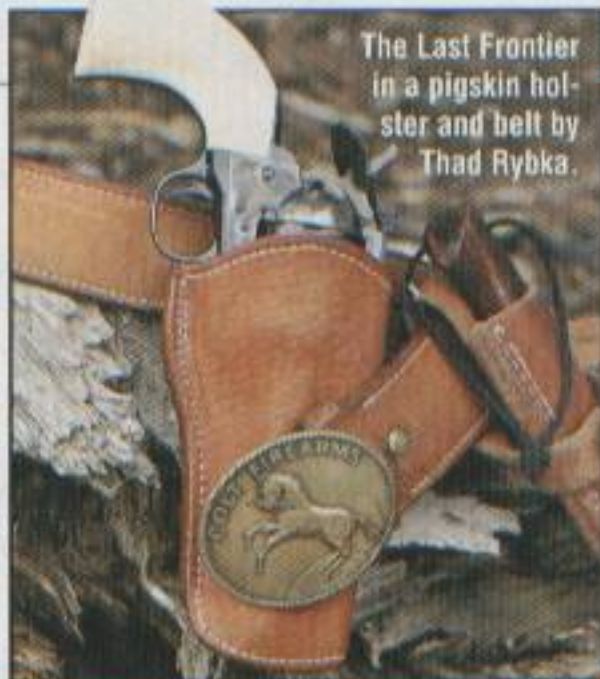
be re-case colored if necessary. The rest of the main parts are rust blued to give the gun a rich pre-war style satin blue finish. Finally, all the exterior screws are fire-blued.

The result is the most accurate, reliable and beautiful adjustable sighted Colt SAA available. "The Last Frontier" feels as if it was made just to fit your hand and it is perfectly balanced, at least in the 4.75-inch version, but any length Colt SAA out to a 7.5-inch barrel seems perfectly balanced to me. Consider this with all those "drop dead" gorgeous looks and you've got it all.

Range Time

Shooting Peacemaker Specialists' The Last Frontier was like eating candy (or drinking fine whiskey) for me, but then I've had a major love affair with the SAA for well over 50 years. I've seen some of the best the world has including custom guns. A few are as good as those from Peacemaker Specialists, but I've seen none better.

At 25 yards, using a 2-hand hold standing, my sample The Last Frontier grouped into 3 inches or so with 6 rounds. It's important to



The Last Frontier in a pigskin holster and belt by Thad Rybka.

fire all chambers of a revolver to check the consistency of the chambers. All guns have some preferences as to ammunition and this one's favorite loads went into under 3 inches from the bench. All empty cases either fell free, or were ejected with no effort.

The .45 Colt cartridge is often overlooked for serious use, but it's still one of the best for deep penetration even when using standard factory loads with 255-grain lead bullets. How's 18 inches in 10% gelatin? I know I can do my part with it and it'll take care of the rest.

Eddy Janis was kind enough to send me his personal Thad Rybka carry rig

for a Colt SAA to evaluate with The Last Frontier sample. While not new, this rig has remained in excellent condition. Made of lined pigskin this rig would thrill anyone, and makes an ideal rig for toting any SAA into the back country. Eddy tells me that Thad doesn't publicize his phone number (I can appreciate that), so you'll have to contact him via the snail mail. ☛

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peacemaker Specialists

144 Via Fuchsia, Dept. CAS
Paso Robles, CA 93446
805-238-9100

www.peacemakerspecialists.com

Thad Rybka

2050 Canoe Creek Rd, Dept. CAS
Springville, AL 35146