

Guns and Bicycles Fire Imagination of Collector

BY HENRY GREENE JR.

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Proprietor of more than 350 guns without ever having fired a shot himself is Joe Steinlauf, 3851 Ogden av. His museum in his tire and bicycle shop at the Ogden av. address also includes old and unusual bicycles and such items as a one hand clock, an Irish shillelagh, and a sword handle wrapped with human flesh.

Born in Austria 58 years ago, Steinlauf came to this country with his family in 1912. The gun collection was started a year later when his father sent him down to the basement for some coal, and young Joe found a wooden gun that apparently had been delivered with the coal.

Family of Bike Riders

Somehow, Steinlauf relates that wooden toy made him curious about guns and he began buying and trading for unusual firearms. The collection includes a still-loaded Colt .44 caliber army revolver made in 1861 and found on the battlefield of Gettysburg; revolvers used by guards on the old Wells Fargo express; a British knife pistol with a 4 inch blade; and a combination-lock revolver that cannot be fired until the proper combination has been set.

As for the bicycles: Steinlauf's entire family has always ridden bikes, he says, and he began selling bicycles and bicycle tires when automobiles were still a rarity.

His son, Fred, 32, began riding when he was 2 years old and developed trick riding routines that won him a place in the army special services in the last war. He used to do the

manual of arms at war bond rallies wearing a full field pack and riding a unicycle.

Makes "Gangster Bike"

In addition to acquiring antique cycles, Steinlauf has made many odd bicycles, including a five place model with four wheels that he intended to present to the Dionne quintuplets. Another, made from the head of an old fashioned brass bedstead, resulted after Steinlauf dreamed one night he was riding his bed down the street.

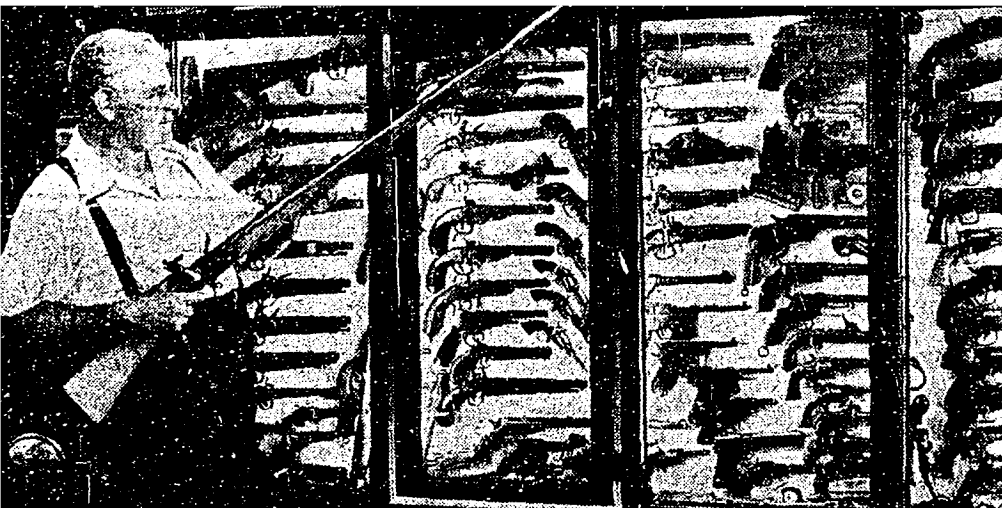
A "gangster bike" that Steinlauf made for a gag during prohibition was depicted, in apparent seriousness, by Robert Ripley in his newspaper column. A heavy tandem, it has 15 guns welded onto the frame.

Visitors to Steinlauf's little tire store museum have come from each of the 48 states. One authority on guns, the late cowboy star Buck Jones, spent several hours going over the weapon display.

Other items in the museum are a rare collection of bicycle name plates, a display of cypress knees, and American and European license plates.

Maintains Museum Containing More Than 300 Guns

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Holding Italian flintlock nearly 100 years old, Joe Steinlauf points to some of 350 guns in his museum at 3851 Ogden av. Guns are kept in airtight glass cases with special burglar alarm.



Steinlauf holds two unusual bicycles he has collected. High wheeler has 4½ foot front wheel and is more than 80 years old. Wooden tricycle, called "bone shaker," dates from Lincoln's time and is valued at \$150.