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HB 411

STATE ADMINISTRATION

Exhibit No.

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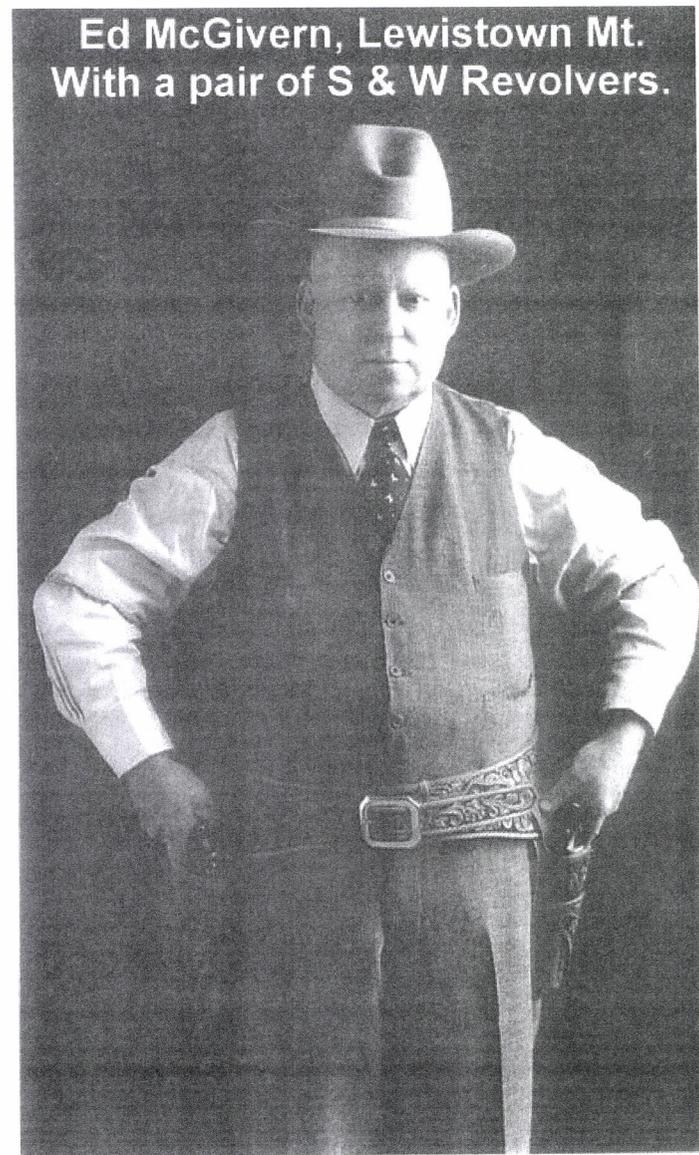
3-20-2013

HB 411

# Ed McGivern

Lewistown Montana  
Fast and Fancy Revolver  
Shooting  
World Record Holder

Ed McGivern, Lewistown Mt.  
With a pair of S & W Revolvers.



**Edward ('Ed') McGivern** (October 20, 1874 - December 12, 1957) from Lewistown, Montana, was a famous exhibition shooter, shooting instructor and author of the book *Fast and Fancy Revolver Shooting*. McGivern also performed extensive research into the art of handgun shooting, particularly with the double action revolver.

## Exhibition shooting

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Ed McGivern is renowned as one of the best handgunners that ever lived. His Guinness world record for "The greatest rapid-fire feat" (set on August 20, 1932 at the Lead Club Range, South Dakota still stands. He emptied two revolvers in less than 2 seconds. His accomplishments include "firing two times from 15 feet, five shots which could be covered by a silver half-dollar piece in 45/100 of a second". His shooting was so immense, timing machines would malfunction in attempting to record his shooting speed.

Mr. McGivern was capable of many amazing shooting feats, most of them well documented in his book. To name just a few:

He could break six simultaneously hand thrown clay pigeons targets in the air before they hit the ground.

He could hit a tin can hand thrown 20 ft. in the air, six times before it hit the ground.

He could drive a tack or nail into wood by shooting it.

He could shoot the spots out of playing cards, or even split a playing card edge on.

He could shoot a dime on the fly.

He could shoot a revolver like a machine gun.

He is known as the King of Pistols.

All of these executed with either hand using a factory Smith & Wesson M&P double action revolver (puportedly his favorite handgun).

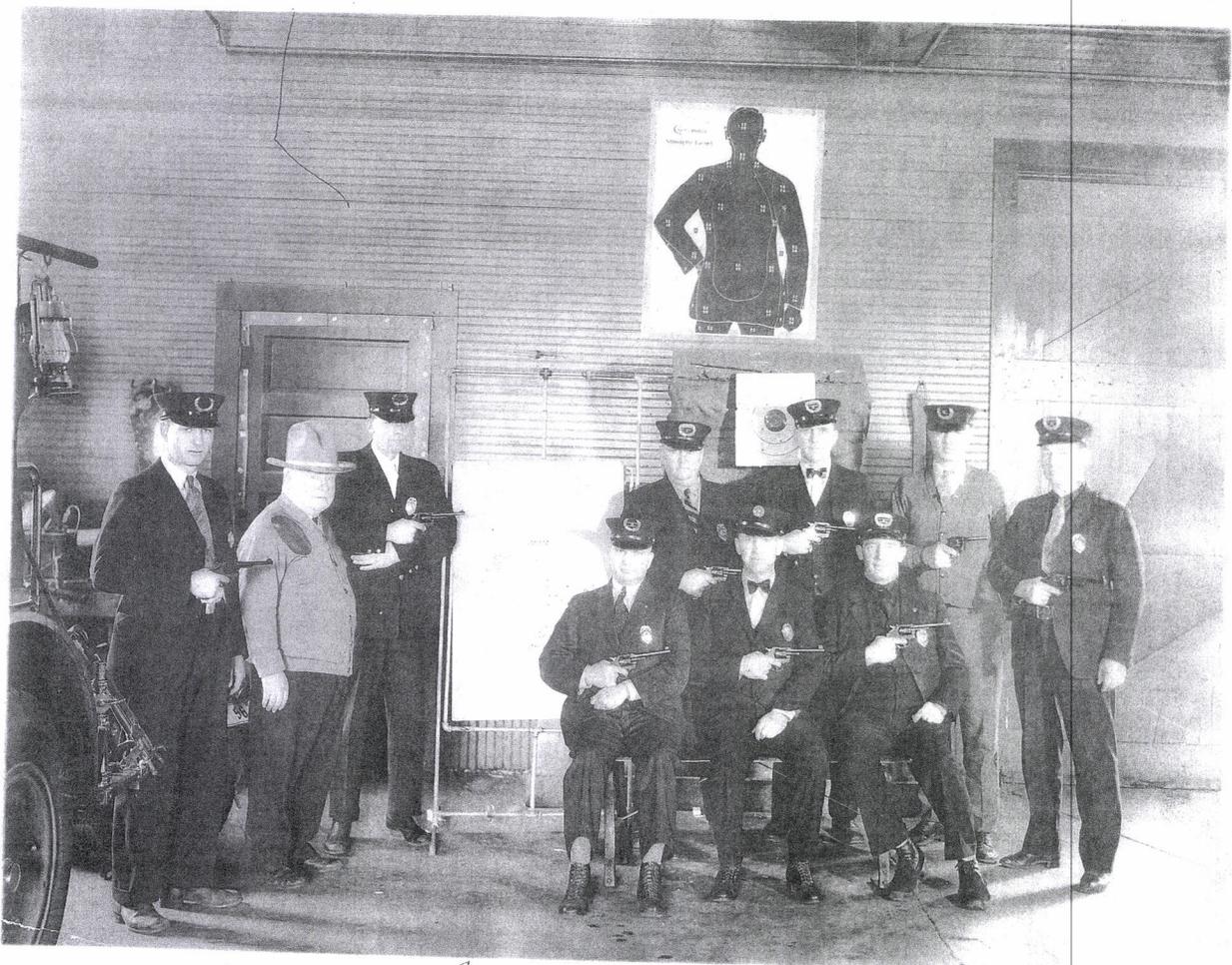
Competition shooter Jerry Miculek has attempted, and broken, some of McGivern's long standing records, such as the record for 60 shots fired from 10 revolvers.

Although Miculek holds a number of records, his attempt to beat McGivern's 5 shot record resulted in a time of .57 seconds. Testament to McGivern's ability was the fact that the 5 shot record was set in 1932, when McGivern was 57 years of age. Soon after that point, arthritis ended McGivern's competitive shooting career.

## Long range shooting

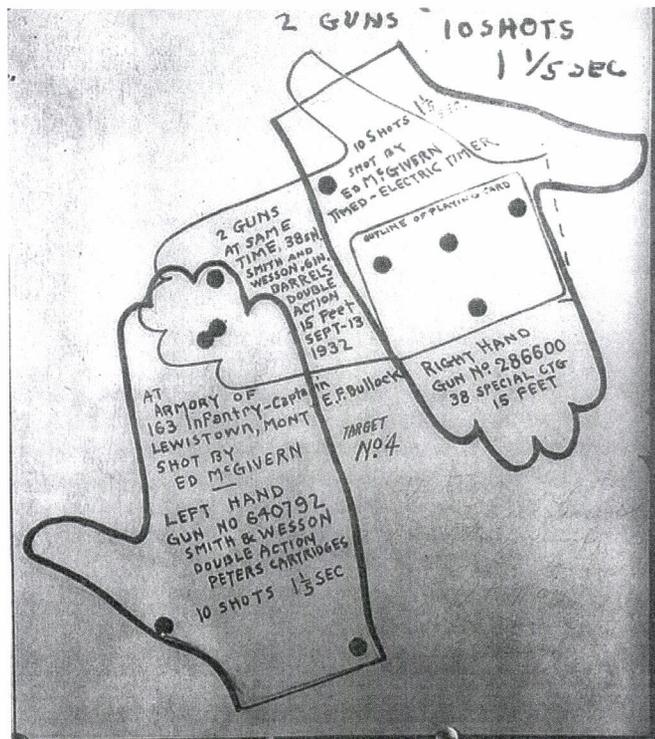
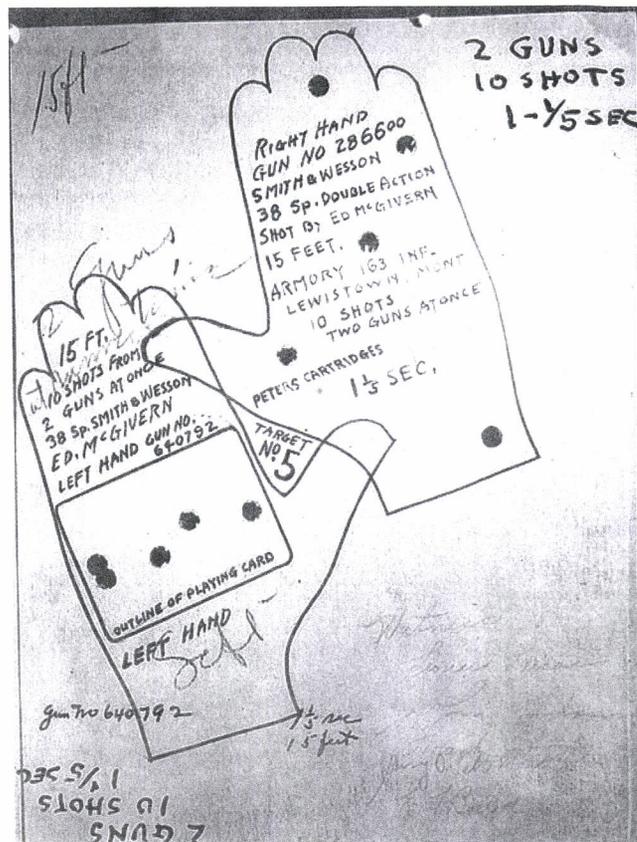
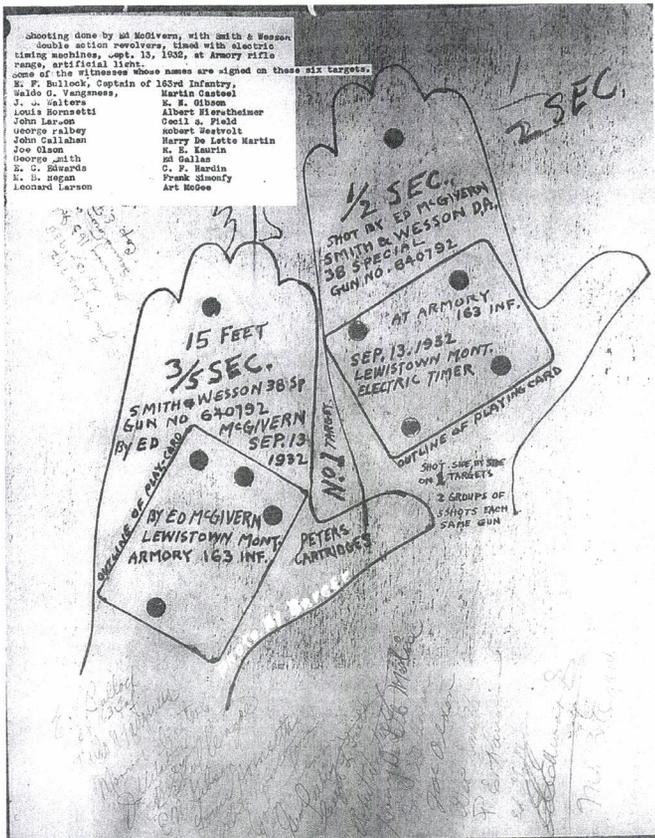
McGivern, along with his friend Elmer Keith, were instrumental in pushing the envelope in the early days of magnum revolvers. While Keith was primarily interested in hunting, McGivern was more interested in police use of the revolver. McGivern demonstrated that with proper sights and use, the .357 Magnum could be used on man-sized targets at ranges of up to 600 yards. McGivern experimented with different types of iron sights, including peep sights, and telescopic sights. His preferred type of iron sight for this use was a small diameter rear aperture and a post with a gold bead for the front.

Photo taken at Lewistown Police Station  
on September 13 1932 after the shooting of the targets  
with two guns at the same time (10 shots in 1 2/5 seconds)



↑ 10 Shots 2 Guns 1 2/5 SEC

See Targets Next Page



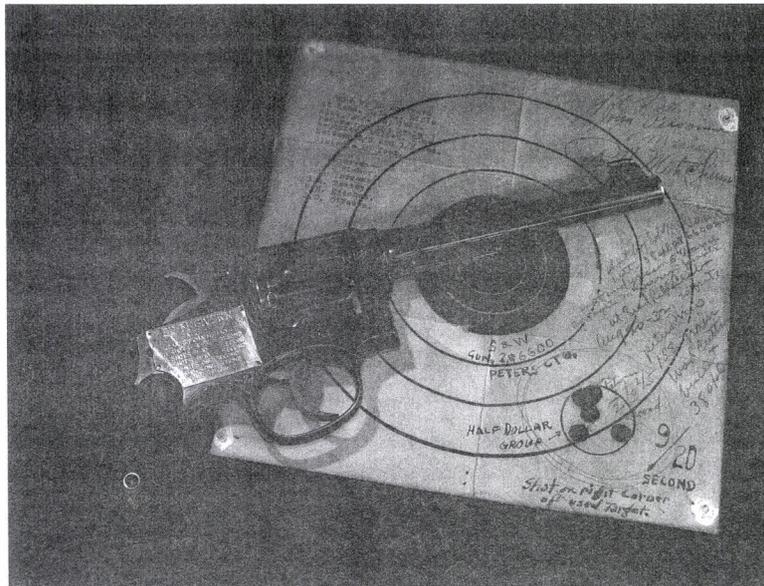
Lewistown, Mont. Sept. 14, 1932.

We, the undersigned officers of Company K, 163rd Infantry, were in charge of the program of shooting put on by Ed McGivern at our new armory headquarters, No. 525 Main street, on the evening of Sept. 13, 1932. We operated the electric timer attached, and connected up with, his revolvers, with which he did the shooting shown on the six targets, witnessed and signed by us, and others, on that occasion. The results so outlined, signed and witnessed, are genuine, and the time is correct. The shooting was done with standard Smith & Wesson double action target revolvers, No. 286600 of 38 caliber, and No. 640792 of 38 caliber, both having 6 inch barrels. The 45 caliber Smith & Wesson standard double action target revolver used was No. 23703. Standard factory ammunition of Peters ctg. Co. and Remington Arms Co., was used.

Three targets, No. 4-5-6, show 10 shots from the above two guns (five shots from each,) both guns fired at same time, by the double action method. (One gun with each hand) the time for three trials was 1-1/5 seconds each. The 5 shots from the 45 cal. revolver, grouped under outline of hand, was 4/5 of a second, on target No. 3. The distance for all targets shot was 15 feet.

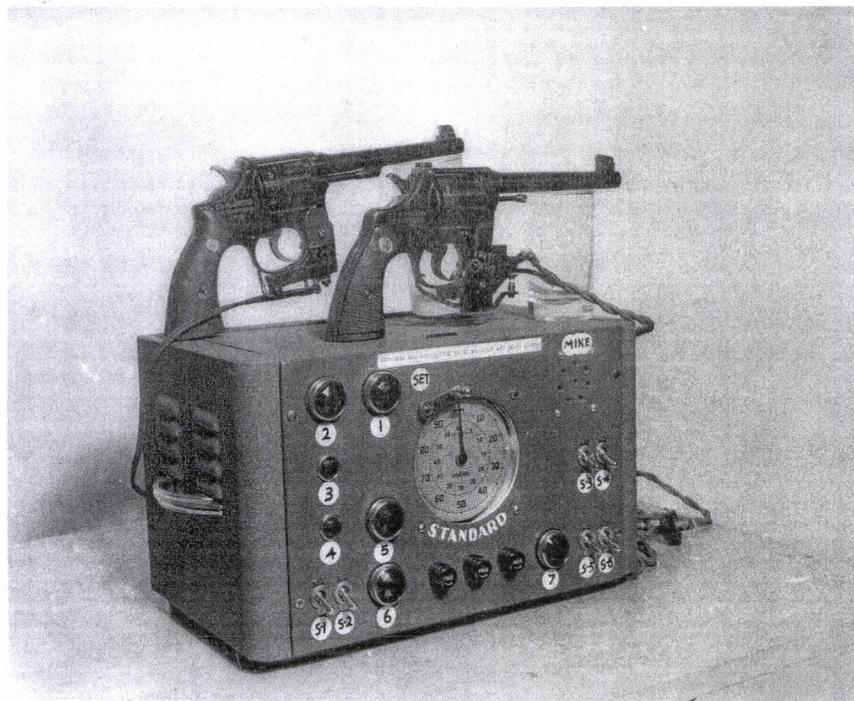
Two groups of five shots each, shot side by side on same target, with gun No. 640792, show time as 3/5 second, for first group, and 1/2 second for second group—each group being under outline of hand, on target No. 1. Target No. 2 shows 5 shots, under outline of hand, in 1/2 second. All targets are signed and numbered for identification. Details are printed in India ink on each target, gun numbers also.

E. F. Bullock Capt 163rd Inf. Ad. S. L. Hagan  
 Leonard Larson Sgt. C. Baum Lt. Sgt. Gustaf  
 Arthur McShee Sgt. Willie Pananus Corp. Galley  
 C. F. Hardin Sgt. R. F. Bullock Sgt. H. S. F. E. Kroese



One of the guns used to set the record.

Elaborate timing device was a product of McGivern's own ingenuity. Providing measurements in increments down to 1 / 20 second, its accuracy was verified by the U. S. Bureau of Standards.



# Ed McGivern and his family were traveling with Wild West shows in the early 1900's and performing their shooting skills.



## THE McGIVERNS

Follow the Shots  
Exhibition of Rifle and  
Pistol Shooting

### E. J. McGivern with Rifle

1. Shooting object held on lady's head.
2. Shooting small objects held in lady's fingers.
3. Shooting, splitting paper edgewise with bullet.
4. Shooting, cutting 2 cards edgewise with one bullet.
5. Shooting two swinging balls as they cross.
6. Shooting 3 objects with one bullet, shooting through first object and splitting bullet on axe blade which makes it possible to hit the ones on each side of the axe.
7. Breaking six small objects, different position each shot.
8. Breaking glass ball with rifle while absolutely blindfolded.

### MASTER BOB, Pistols

1. Shooting small object with pistol.
2. Shooting small object with pistol upside down.
3. Shooting swinging ball while standing on his head.
4. Shooting small object with mirror over shoulder.
5. Shooting small object with mirror between feet.
6. Shooting small object with mirror from hip.
7. A very hard shot, using double mirror; in this shot it is impossible to see gun or object only as shown in second mirror.

### MADGE McGIVERN, Rifle

1. Shooting chalk from between fingers.
2. Shooting poker chips edgewise, held in fingers.
3. Shooting candle out.
4. Shooting glass ball with card over end of gun, making it impossible to see sights or object fired at.

### MR. McGIVERN, Pistols

Shooting 2 objects at once, one on each side of the stage.

1. Arms crossed—2 pistols.
2. Arms extended—2 pistols.
3. One over shoulder, one in front.
4. One stationary, one swinging.
5. Shooting two pistols at two objects while handcuffed.
6. A sure way to stop boys from smoking.
7. Hitting small objects tossed in the air with rifle.

Ammunition  
Furnished by

**HUGHES & McCALEB**  
NO. 20 MONTANA STREET



Original letter from Ed McGivern to Douglas Wesson  
Page 2

It's possible to put two medallions on them just like you did on the other pair, they look swell, and I want the medallions on all guns that I have used and use. I'm just a little proud of them. The new gun came to hand and promises spring and it promises to be pretty fast.

I don't want to impose on you old Pal, but I'll surely appreciate it if you'll send that \$4.00 and let me send you the money later, I just don't have the \$24-41 to spare just now for a few days.

Hathaway & Am Rifleman wrote me some time ago that he felt quite sure my article would come out in July issue, you might get in touch with him about the advertising, if any, you wish to run in the same issue.

By the way Doug how about getting out a small booklet on flying target shooting with revolvers and super speed revolver work Double action shooting etc. I have some wonderful material on hand and Outdoor-Site is going to give me the cuts used in the article, so perhaps you and I could cooperate and get this out as an advertising feature for your guns. We had hundreds of calls for such a book, I'd like to help you out with the material for the booklet and I'll guarantee you'll be very reasonable with you with the entire matter as I very much appreciate your cooperation. The shooting public will gobble up an new arms will be a real topic of conversation at all points. Let me hear from you promptly please.

Sincerely Yours - Ed McGivern

**Original letter from Douglas Wesson to Ed McGivern**  
**The letter confirms the special police price for the**  
**6 revolvers ordered for the police shooting team that**  
**Ed was training. The revolvers on display were**  
**included in this order.**

May 18, 1932.

Mr. Ed McGivern,  
Lewistown, Montana.

Dear Ed:-

Confirming my wire, I am very glad indeed to extend the special price to you for the .38 M. & P. target for police class, but please, as I have said before, consider this price confidential, and quote to the police the price shown in the list that I am sending you; this in order to avoid any conflict with Dealers who might very rightly object to anything under quoted.

Cordially yours,

D. B. Wesson,  
Vice President,  
SMITH & WESSON, Inc.

DBW/MC  
Encl: "D" price list.

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1918

**CLASS OF SERVICE**

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

**SIGNS**

- DL = Day Letter
- NM = Night Message
- NL = Night Letter
- LCO = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Night Letter
- WLT = Week-End Letter

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 180 Worthington Street, Springfield, Mass.

ALWAYS OPEN

1932 MAY 17 PM 10 26

NA323 20 NM=LEWISTOWN MONT 17 !

D B WESSON, VICE PRES=

SMITH AND WESSON INC SPRINGFIELD MASS=

WANT EIGHT 38 SPECIAL TARGET REVOLVERS FOR POLICE CLASS

DOES MY SPECIAL PRICE COVER THIS PURCHASE BY ME WIRE=

ED MCGIVERN.

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
TELEGRAM	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise messages will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

CHIEF
AGCT'S INFMN.
TIME FILED

May 16, 1932.

Ed. Mc Givern

Lewistown, Mont.

Glad to supply at your price

Have power to you

D. B. WESSON

PAID (Charge to Smith & Wesson)

**Original letter from Douglas Wesson to Ed McGivern  
The letter confirms the order and the shipment of the  
6 revolvers for Ed's order.**

June 1, 1932.

Mr. Ed McGivern,  
Lewistown, Montana.

My dear Ed:-

I was very much pleased to get your letter of May 25th with large sums of money enclosed, and I hastened to get out the four .38 M. & Ps. and the two K-.22s, which I trust will arrive promptly and give perfect satisfaction.

I am also very glad to include another K-.22 for you. I only wish that I could see my way clear to tell you to forget about the bill, but business is business with us, and we are just another one of the numberless manufacturers who are counting each and every penny; I know that you can appreciate our position.

As I have told you, we don't regularly handle ivory stocks, and have to get them from the outside, so there will be a slight delay in furnishing the two pair, but they will be along with monograms as promptly as possible, and I feel sure that we can get them to you before, or by the middle of June.

I am glad the .38 M. & P. turned up all right, and I'll be very interested in hearing how it works out; I had put in a slightly stronger trigger spring, but as no one around here has a trigger finger like yours, what we thought was pretty fairly stiff didn't mean anything to you. By the way, I note that Elmer Keith in his latest article gives your wellknown trigger finger a very pretty compliment.

I believe that either a booklet or an additional chapter in our next edition of "Burning Powder" by Ed McGivern on ultra-fast and flying target shooting would be darned interesting, and when we get together, as we must do sometime not too far from now, we can go into it.

Very cordially yours,

D. B. Wesson,  
Vice President,  
SMITH & WESSON Inc.

DBW/MC

**Original Invoice from S&W shows shipment of the 6 revolvers shipped on June 2, 1932. The second invoice is for a K-22 that Ed ordered with the 6 revolvers on his original letter to Douglas Wesson.**

Customer's Date 5-25-32

Date 5-31-32

Order 249

Via

Mr. Ed. McGivern  
Lewistown,  
Montana

2  
4  
8

K-22 Target with McGivern sights  
38 N & P B 5" Sq. Target with McGivern sights

Target and targets enclosed

Paid \$146.46

PAID JUN 2 - 1932

Customer's Date 5-25-32

Date 5-31-32

Order 280

Via

Mr. Ed. McGivern  
Lewistown,  
Montana

1

K-22 Target with McGivern sights

Target & target enclosed

PAID JUN 2 - 1932

**Original Credit Memorandum from Smith & Wesson for  
the extra K-22 Ed ordered in May, that was shipped  
June 2, 1932.**



**CREDIT MEMORANDUM**

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. September 29, 1932.

**SMITH & WESSON, INC.**

TO Mr. Ed McGivern  
Lewistown,  
Montana.

MANUFACTURERS OF SUPERIOR REVOLVERS

*We CREDIT your account as follows:*

1	K-22 Target Revolver B 6" with "McGivern" Sights	22.19
	<del>EXCISE TAX 10¢</del>	2.22
		<u>\$24.41</u> ✓

Original Sale June 2, 1932.

DO NOT SEND OUT OF OFFICE

## Ed McGivern Lewistown Montana

Below is a article from the Lewistown paper June 20, 1932 about Ed McGivern on "Forensic Ballistics". He had been called as an expert in several cases. This is another side of Ed McGivern that is not known by many people.

This Article was found in the records of the Smith & Wesson Historical Foundation.

Lewistown, Montana, Monday, June 20, 1932

### McGivern Speaks On Forensic Ballistics At Rotary Meeting

Lewistown Rotarians at their weekly luncheon meeting Monday heard an interesting discussion by Ed McGivern who spoke on the topic "forensic Ballistics". Mr. McGivern who is a widely recognized expert on firearms told of the methods of investigation into this field that were invaluable and important in many legal cases, especially, those involving major crimes. McGivern described the variations in markings on a bullet fired from a gun, caused by markings in the riflings and also the mark of the firing pin, so that a bullet or shell could be positively identified with relation to the gun from which it was fired. McGivern, who has been instructing the Lewistown police in pistol shooting, said the local force was unexcelled in marksmanship.

McGivern has been called as an expert in several important legal actions and drew upon his actual experience for much of his material. He discussed the speed, direction and markings on bullets in a very interesting fashion. To hear his talk members of the legal profession in Lewistown were guests of the club

Lee M. Walton,  
811 First ave, S.  
Great Falls, Montana.

Lewistown, Montana.  
March 26, 1937.

Dear Lee:--Just received your letter of March 25th. As you said you were in a hurry to get going with the K 22 revolver I have decided to send you my new exceptionally smooth working K 22 No. 655399 and I'll wait for the one that is coming from the factory, which will be fully a month or more. I sent you the new Magna grips on the gun and also a pair of the standard grips that are standard equipment and come with the gun. The Magna grips are \$2.50 extra but, in your case, take them with my compliments.

The screw at the back part of rear sight is the elevating screw. The small screw just ahead of the elevating screw is the locking screw. Loosen the front screw, then make your elevating adjustments to suit you, then tighten the locking screw. Keep all sight screws tight at all times.

Use the 25 caliber wire brush that is in the envelope to keep forward part of cylinder cleaned up specially when shooting 22 short cartridges. You do not need any brass wire brush for the barrel. Use greased or film coated or Klean Kote lubricated cartridges always. Do not use any dry coated or plated bullets of any kind. Keep dirt of every kind out from under the ratchet head that turns the cylinder from the rear. Keep all metal fouling or burned powder and other residue cleaned off from front end of cylinder, also from back end of barrel and your gun action won't bind or drag in fast shooting.

You now have one of the smoothest, fastest double action K 22 revolvers that I have ever had in my hands, and plenty accurate. Keep it well cleaned with Hoppe's No. 9 and oil it occasionally, and you'll get a life time of excellent service out of that gun. If anything ever goes wrong get in touch with me and I will have it fixed up for you.

Just as soon as my arm gets sufficiently squared around to allow it, I'll write you and arrange to come over and meet the boys and discuss the revolver instruction possibilities. I wish to thank you very much right now for your cooperation and support. Just to show my appreciation I have sent you an exceptionally fine K 22.

Sincerely yours,

*Ed M. Givern*