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ALABAMA RIFLE AND PISTOL ASSOCIATION
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NRA Board Election: The Alabama R&P Association recommends the following for the NRA Board of Directors: Allan Cors
Charles Cotton
Graham Hill
Howard J. Walter

Savage 340 Rifle: A deer hunting buddy had a Savage 340 rifle languishing in his closet and was willing to part with it for a very reasonable price. So I acquired it. He had killed a few crows and a goose (illegally) with it. It had also ridden around in the floorboard of his brother's truck for a few years. The rifle has little more back story; my friend bought it from a co-worker of ours. When the co-worker was diagnosed with terminal cancer, he offered me his firearms. I was honored that he chose to offer them to me. I never knew what guns he had, but it didn't matter. However, before we could consummate the deal, his son decided he wanted the guns. This was a better deal all the way round. So the rifle has a connection to my deer hunting friend as well as a long dead friend.

This model rifle was brought out in 1947 and discontinued in 1985. It was available in 22 Hornet, 222 Rem., 223 Rem., 30-30 and later on in 225 Win. Mine is in 222 Rem. It is a low cost bolt gun with a detachable 4 round magazine. It also is factory drilled and tapped for Weaver side mounts. I know of no other rifle factory drilled for side mounts.

Savage marches to the beat of their own drummer when it comes to action screws. The current M110 rifles have 2 screws, one that goes into the front receiver ring and the other just ahead of the trigger guard. Most manufacturers put the rear screw into the rear tang. The Savage M1920 has no less than 4 action screws, plus a wood screw to access the rear action screw. The 340 has an action screw that goes into the recoil lug and a second screw that goes into a barrel band out in the fore-end. With this barrel band arrangement, I have no interest in taking this rifle out of the stock.

If I remember correctly, years ago the State of Alabama bought a bunch of these rifles in 30-30 caliber for issuance to Game Wardens.

The information I am providing comes from Frank de Haas's Bolt Action Rifles book. de Haas says the one he shot was good for killing crows up to 100 yards and groundhogs up to 200. After I got all the screws tightened up, my rifle is good for crows up to 200 and groundhogs up to 400 (if the shooter gets the elevation right). Groups run between 2.5 and 3 inches at 200 yards. These groups are very similar in size to the groups I get from an M700 Remington in 222. The M700 is about as old as the 340. The 340 might shoot better if I glass-bedded it. However, as I mentioned above, I don't want to get involved with that barrel band set-up. Time out for a digression: I took the 700 and 340 to the range for a side-by-side comparison. The 700 wouldn't stay cocked. I have had this problem several times with M700s. The wood swells and interferes

with the rear trigger pin. All my 700's are decades old. Perhaps Remington now provides more clearance in the trigger area.



Savage 340



Savage 340 showing side mount

On a later date I did shoot the two rifles side by side. The 340 shot a little better than the 700 and put bullets of different weight closer to the same point of impact.

The 340 was what Savage was aiming for; a low cost serviceable rifle.

Last Bulletin: This will be the last bulletin for those who have not renewed for 2020. Dues are \$25.00/year. Send check to: Treasurer, AL R&P Association
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