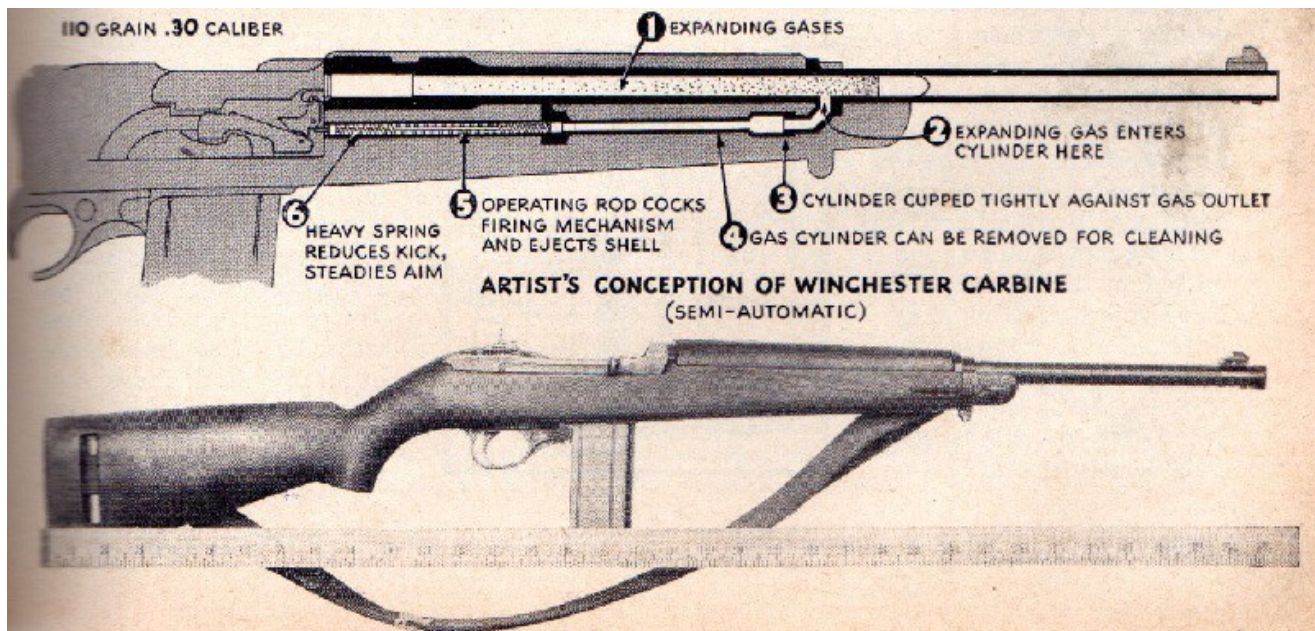


The Toy Carbine

By Guy Goldfeder

Someone once asked when did carbines become collectible. My first thought was as soon as production started! there was quite a stir in 42 regarding the military new carbine. In Popular Science 1942 there was even speculation and artists rendition of how the carbine worked based on descriptions.



During carbine production some avid collectors unscrupulous workers smuggled home parts. This is evident on at least one know case of the ATF arresting and charging one such individual. Later we see reports of carbines called lunch box specials assembled from said parts. Clearly there were early collectors.

It was not until the 60's when an individual could actually own a real USGI carbine, this was when the DMC first released carbines. And there were also commercial carbines being made.

But what about a representative or toy carbine? When were they first available?


Recently there was a post about a toy carbine and a challenge to establish if toy M1 Carbines were produced during war time and when did they become available.

Well back in the day a many of boys picked up a fine stick and and immediately became representative of their military weapon of choice. With the onset of WWII I am sure many of boys were happy to call their fine sticks the new M1 carbine, M1 Garand or the old time favorite Springfield. Heck I am sure there were more than a few Tommy Guns in there as well. Anyone remember dirt bomb grenades!

Well to answer the question as best as I can I would say as early as 1944 there were toy carbines on the market, this based on advertising.

E.W. Boyce and company offered up the Pattern No. 1000T which was "the gun you heard so much about." "Made from actual U.S. Army Walnut Gun Stocks"

THIS IS THE GUN . . .
You've heard so much about - - read so much about - -
The Gun made of actual U. S. Army Walnut Gun Stocks - -
Rejected for actual U. S. Army Overseas Guns - - but perfect for a toy.



PATTERN NO. 1000T — **COST — \$2.37½ each**
Retail Selling Price \$3.95 O. P. A. Approved

Made at Grand Rapids by craftsmen who *know* woodworking—who would be making the world's best furniture if it wasn't for the war.

This gun is the *real* thing—not just realistic looking but made of actual U. S. Government reject gun stocks which can be gripped firmly. Trigger operated noise maker gives loud, sharp bullet-like sound—not just a meek, mild click. Light enough so any boy can handle with ease making it an ideal Boy Scout Training Gun as it is a well built, honest-to-goodness piece of merchandise to take rough usage. *No springs or mechanism to get out of order.* Standard U. S. Army Walnut finish as illustrated with black top and barrel.

DESCRIPTION: 36" long; 4" wide at butt end; slotted sight with sight tip at muzzle end.
Trigger operated noise maker: no springs or mechanism to get out of order.
FINISH: U. S. Army Walnut finish on underframing with black top and barrel.
MINIMUM SHIPMENT: 36 guns. Each gun individually wrapped. Entire shipment carton packed. Shipping weight 70 lbs. F.O.B. Grand Rapids.
TERMS: 2% - 10 days net 30. The Government has interpreted and construed a change in terms as a change in price, therefore, all orders are 2% - 10 days. Orders calling for 2% - 10 Days, E. O. M. WILL BE RETURNED, a condition we cannot help.

All Shipments are F. O. B. — Factory

E. W. BOYCE AND COMPANY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
216 S. SEMINOLE CIRCLE
FORT WAYNE 6, INDIANA

SHOW ROOMS
1463 MERCHANDISE MART
1605 AMERICAN FURNITURE MART
CHICAGO

..... *Direct Factory Selling Agents*

20 YEARS SELLING GOODS THAT DO NOT COME BACK TO CUSTOMERS WHO DO

The retail price was set at 3.75 by the Office of Price Administration (OPA) which instituted price controls during WWII. Now \$3.75 might not sound like much but according to online calculators that would be approximately \$50.00 in today's money.

The ad states that they were made in a Grand Rapids plant who would be making furniture. This would suggest that they were made by the Robert W. Irwin Company. They were the only company in Grand Rapids making carbine stocks and their history was as furniture makers.

In CCNL 105 by Ken Schliesman and CCNL 331 by J.B. Powers it was reported There are toy carbines that have been reported as having silver or gold paint lettering on the heel of the grip "PAT.PEND EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT CO GRAND RAPIDS MICHIGAN" as well as a circle with "Genuine Army Reject Carbine Stock" located on the right side of butt stock. It has been observed that some have the sling and oiler cutout were others were void of this manufacturing procedure.



Looking at the lower picture we do not see the markings on the butt stock, also notice the different trigger. However both are of the same general construction.

So the question is are E.W. Boyce and Emergency Equipment the same company or perhaps Emergency Equipment bought the toys from E.W. Boyce and added the paint.

The picture below is the Marlin Junior, clearly of a different construction.



Marlin Firearms Co. in New Haven Connecticut made stocks for Underwood Elliot Fisher which were identified by having MU stamped in the sling cutout. According to the book Marlin Firearms, A History of the Guns And the Company That Made Them by Brophy , at the conclusion of WWII production in 1945 Marlin had a significant surplus of carbine stock blanks left over. Marlin took these blanks and made them into the Marlin Junior. The Marlin Junior toy carbines typically had a decal just forward of the trigger area on the underside of the stock.

One of the hallmarks of Marlin stocks are the two additional holes in the butt plate area which were for locating the stock in the machine to manufacture them. Winchester and Sprague & Carleton also have these holes. These holes are not present on Robert Irwin stocks, However I have noted that there is some sort of tooling that makes slight indents in the same location.

Many older carbine collectors surely remember the Montgomery Ward catalogs. In a 1944 catalog there was advertised the "Boys' Drill Rifles" which not only offered up wooded toy Springfields for sale but also the M1 Carbine!

Boys' Drill Rifles...with Army Rejected Walnut Stocks

Actual reproductions in size, shape and design—of the famous Springfield and Carbine rifles, used by the American forces on European and South Pacific battle fronts. The genuine Walnut stocks were originally made for the United States Army—were rejected because of slight imperfections in the wood, and have been refinished so that practically all defects have been concealed. All the usual metal parts, except trigger guard, are made of wood—then given a realistic gunmetal finish that can hardly be distinguished from “the real thing.” They’re much lighter in weight than regular rifles—weigh only 2½ pounds. A six-year-old boy can handle them, but because they’re actual size reproductions of real guns they can be used as training rifles by drill teams or military academies. Boys also prize them as wall decorations for their rooms or dens. Both types of guns have front and rear sights. When trigger of either gun is pulled—it gives a loud “BANG.” To order these guns see individual listings at right.

COMPLETE DETAILS OF WARDS TIME PAYMENT PLAN ON PAGE 141.

Add Toys to your Time Payment order. If you already have an account with us, take advantage of our convenient “Add-on” plan—no down payment is required. If you do not have an account, you can open one with an order of \$10 or more. Only 10% down required on toys of any kind or on other items priced up to \$10... convenient monthly payments arranged.

6 “SPRINGFIELD TYPE” WOOD DRILL RIFLE. Looks like the real Springfield rifle used by our armed forces. Walnut wood stock (described at left), with wood parts substituted where metal is used on the actual gun... then given a realistic gunmetal finish. The bolt is an exact copy, in wood, of the regular metal bolt, but is not movable. Butt finished to resemble metal plate. Overall length, 38½ inches—approximately the same size as the real Springfield rifle. Weighs only 2½ lbs. ... light enough for a small boy to handle easily. Trigger gives loud “bang” when pulled. 48 T 779M—Shipping weight 3 pounds. Mailable.....\$2.98

7 “CARBINE TYPE” WOOD DRILL RIFLE WITH MAGAZINE. Looks like the real Carbine Rifle used by Commando units, shown in almost all battlefront photographs. Solid Walnut stock, described at left. All usual metal parts, except trigger guard, are made of wood, then given a realistic gunmetal finish. Cartridge magazine is a good copy, in wood, of the regular metal magazine. Butt finished to resemble metal plate. Overall length 35¼ inches—approximate size of real Carbine rifle. Weighs only 2½ lbs. ... not too heavy for a small boy to handle. Trigger gives loud “bang” when pulled. 48 T 779M—Shipping weight 3 pounds. Mailable.....\$2.98

For detailed description of guns listed above, see paragraph at left.

The advertisement touts that these actual reproductions were the same size shade and design of the famous Springfield and Carbine Rifles. It also states that they were genuine Walnuts stocks that were made for the United States Army and were rejected for minor imperfections.

In the 1945 Montgomery Wards catalog we find another offering of the toy carbine, this time along with the M1 Garand rifle.



I have had one of these wooden toy carbines in my collection for some time which spurred my interest into looking at toy carbines. Here are some profile pictures.



At first glance of these toy carbines something looks off about the stocks. On closer examination we can see that the top of the stock was not machined at this point. An additional piece of wood was added to the top which bedded the wooden barrel. This piece also at least partially fills in the original barrel channel.



The piece also required removing material from the recoil plate area. At first I had thought maybe this was where the defect was on the stock.

Closer examination reveals that material was removed down the back of the recoil plate area so the metal clicker mechanism can be installed.

Observing another of these toy carbines reveals that this must be a high stress area as both had the same crack in same location approximately 1 1/2 inches below the additional wood piece that was added to the top of the stock.

Looking at the nose we can see further evidence of the added wood piece to fill the barrel channel as well as fit the wooden barrel.



It is interesting to note that these toy carbines were the only wooden toy carbines that had a magazine. The features were much closer in actual shape of a carbine than the other examples. The butt plate area is typically painted black, which is well worn and only noticeable when you look for it. The Butt area does not have any holes like the Emergency Equipment Toy.

It is inconclusive if the hand guard was U.S.G.I. but is clear that once assembled a quick and rough sanding brought the profiles together as well as defining the barrel band area.

Clearly much more work was involved in producing them. These were offered up for \$2.95, that would be \$41.97 in 2017.



What is not evident is who provided the stocks or built these toy carbines. It has been said that they are made by Parris-Dunn Manufacturing Corp. I have had a few toys made by Parris-Dunn and do not believe this to be the case.

the Parris-Dunn company was formed in 1936 in Clarinda, Iowa by William G. Dunn and Cecil Lewis "Catfish" Parris. They were producing wind driven generators for farms. With WWII and America's imminent involvement, the US Government recommended that Parris-Dunn produce dummy training rifles out of wood and metal that copied the M1903 Springfield for the U.S. Army. The U.S. Navy was impressed with these "trainer" rifles that they contacted Parris-Dunn in June 1942 to produce a "trainer" rifle to there specifications. Walnut was in demand for needed production firearms and they were required to use a cheaper wood which they stained.

The reason for trainers was due to the fact that the U.S. Government shipped many of our arms overseas for our allies that were currently engaged in war.

Parris-Dunn went on to manufacture over a half of a million of these Army and Navy trainer rifles and achieved the coveted Army-Navy "E" award. When the war was over the training rifles were sold off as surplus and Parris-Dunn went on the make western cork pop guns and marketed cowboy and trainer rifles.

In 1949 Dunn retired and Parris moved the company to Savannah Tennessee and the company dropped Dunn from its name. To this day makes full size replicas of the M1903 Springfield with working bolts as well a smaller sized one for children. Again these were made of a wood other then walnut. Most were stained or painted white.

In 1953 "catfish" Parris started the Kadet Military Drill teams. Clearly a boost to trainer sales. This program ended in 1970's.

From a 1956 advertisement in Playthings Magazine we see an ad for The Kadets of America.

The Kadets of America

8,000,000 BOYS WILL TURN TO LOCAL STORES FOR LICENSED KADET EQUIPMENT

M-30 SENIOR TRAINERIFLE
Largest, most realistic Trainerifle made, 47 1/2" long. Bolt action. Stacking swivel, metal butt plate. Used army leather sling. Graduated rear sight. Also available with new 1 1/4" top grain leather sling. Packed 1 dz. to ctn. 54 lbs.

KADET 30
BRAND NEW! 40 1/4" overall. Detachable rubber bayonet. New 1" split grain leather sling. Bolt action, clicker trigger. Metal butt plate, stacking swivel. Includes 28-page Kadet Handbook. Packed 1 dz. to ctn. 42 lbs.

KADET 23
40 1/4" overall. Bayonet, adjustable OD web sling. Bolt action, clicker trigger. Butt plate, stacking swivel. 28-page Kadet book. Packed 1 dz. to ctn. 41 lbs.
KADET 22—As above, but without bayonet. 35 1/2" long. Does not have butt plate or stacking swivel. 1 dz. to ctn. 38 lbs.

REALISTIC BOLT ACTION
Metal bolts on the M-30, KADET 30, 23, and 22 work smoothly, realistically. A feature every boy wants! (Bolt on the M-20 is wood, with simulated cartridge in place. Works easily for youngsters.)

ACCURATE, AUTHENTIC REPRODUCTIONS OF REAL ARMY RIFLES, KADET TRAINERIFLES ARE EVERY BOY'S DREAM. THESE, AND THE FAMOUS CORK-SHOOTERS AT THE RIGHT ARE THE WORLD'S MOST-WANTED TOY RIFLES. PUT THIS DEMAND TO WORK FOR YOU BY PLACING YOUR ORDER TODAY.

FREE! Kadet merchandising plan with window display layouts, etc. Write for details today.

28-PAGE ILLUSTRATED KADET HANDBOOK
To be distributed to thousands of boys. Catalog section lists Trainerifles and other equipment, advises boys to buy at their local stores.

One of the hundreds of Kadet drill teams using Kadet Trainerifles. The Parris Trainerifle is the only authorized Kadet rifle.

PARRIS MANUFACTURING COMPANY Savannah, Tenn. • Home of the National Catfish Derby

The Parris-Dunn contract rifles had metal butt plates with several different marking. When they went on to make toys some of the full size had the metal butt plates of a different marking. The toy rifles for the most part had gold and red decals on them. It seems odd to me that the rifle from Montgomery Wards has not shown up with butt plates or stickers or any other way to distinguish it as made by Parris-Dunn or Parris Mfg.



Looking at ads I found one for Parris Trainer in a 1951 Hardware Age catalog. Notice even the UN Police Pistol has their name on it.



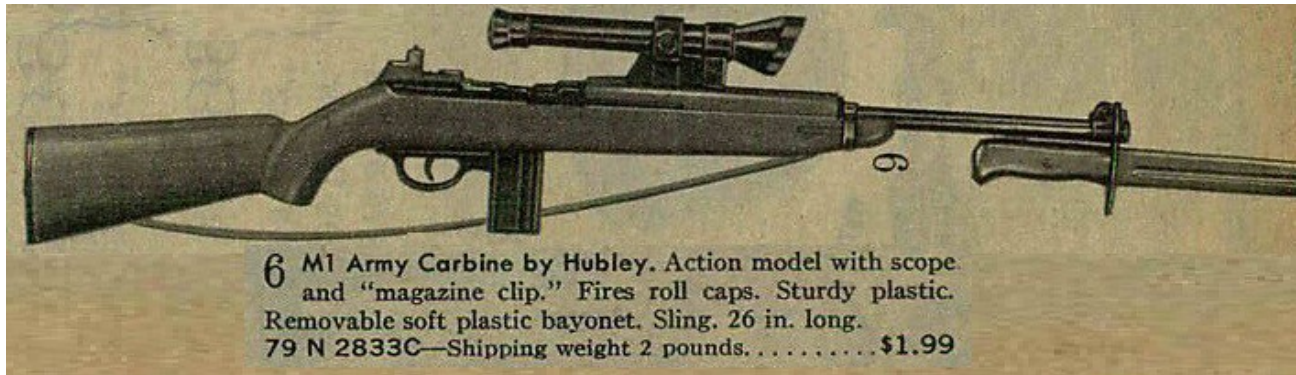
It would seem all brochures and advertisements that Parris-Dunn and Parris Manufacturing stuck to the bolt action and lever action design for its more realistic trainer rifles. It also is appears that the marked all of their products.

With that I would say the chances are very slim that Parris-Dunn or Parris had anything to do with the M1 carbine with one very small exception. In the 1960's Parris Mfg produced a line of Official TraineRifles (sic) The full size M-30 was nickel plated and had a M1 carbine rear sight for a limited time.



For anyone interested in drill and training rifles i recommend Non-Firing Drill & Training Rifles by Malcolm MacPherson or any of his essays found on the internet.

Well that is it for wooden toy carbines. Anyone have a plastic Hubley from the 60's they wish to share pictures of?



6 M1 Army Carbine by Hubley. Action model with scope and "magazine clip." Fires roll caps. Sturdy plastic. Removable soft plastic bayonet. Sling, 26 in. long. 79 N 2833C—Shipping weight 2 pounds. \$1.99

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