

National Firearms Museum
May 1 - December 31, 200

y Phil Schreier

he private and corporate firearms collections of William B. Ruger, Sr., are on exhibit in the National Firearms Museum's temporary exhibit gallery—The William B. Ruger Gallery—through Dec. 31, 2000. Entitled "Ruger & His Guns," the exhibit is a 70-piece sample of Ruger's personal arms collection plus significant historical pieces from the 51-year history of Sturm, Ruger & Co.

Highlights of the Ruger personal collection include: a rare, L.D. Nimschkeengraved Sharps Model 1853 rifle; a pair of Wolff & Hinrichs pistols that intrigued Ruger as a boy; and numerous Winchester, Marlin-Ballard, Purdey and Gibbs rifles, each of which played some significant role in the design and development of numerous Sturm, Ruger & Co. models.

Notable corporate milestone arms include the Savage Model 1899 rifle that

Ruger converted from lever-action to semi-automatic operation in 1938, the first .22 Standard pistol along with its prototypes, plus the Ruger "Baby Nambu" .22 pistol, and serial No. 1 of a dozen Ruger models and numerous shop prototypes.

Most of the arms have only been seen within the pages of R.L. Wilson's Ruger & His Guns. The exhibit represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the arms that made Sturm, Ruger & Co. the most successful firearms manufacturer of the 20th century. Personal mementoes of Alexander Sturm and William B. Ruger complement the exhibits as do numerous full-size reproductions of original sporting artwork that hang in Bill Ruger's home and office.

Ruger Tourer is one of two automobiles that Ruger produced in 1969 as prototypes to a hoped-for production run of a classic touring roadster. Modeled after a Bentley VandenPlaz roadster, the Ruger Tourer has a Ford 427 V-8 engine with dual Holley carburetors that take it from zero to 60 m.p.h. in 7.7 seconds! The car offers visitors yet another look into the unique mind and personal interests that

