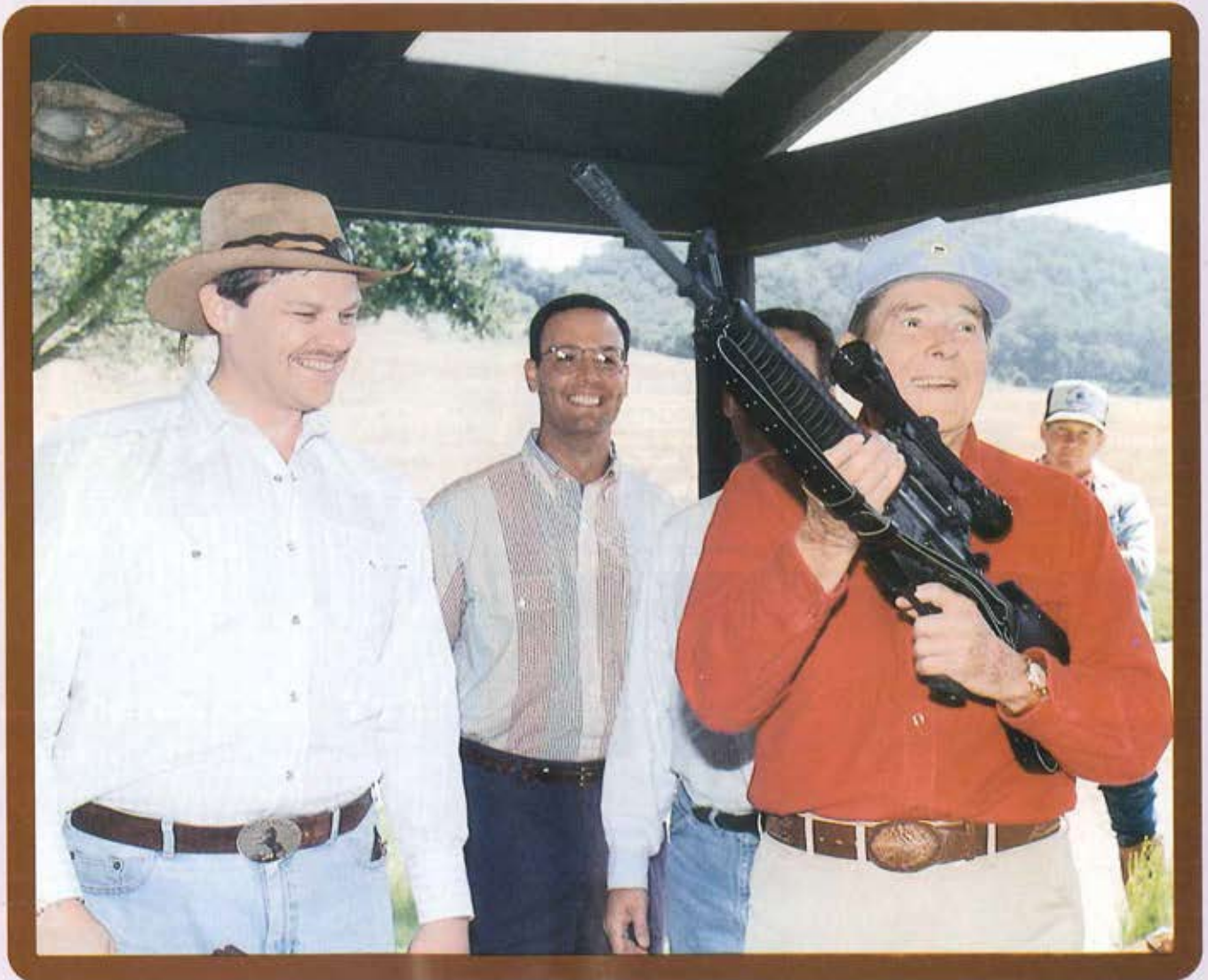




THE ALLIANCE VOICE

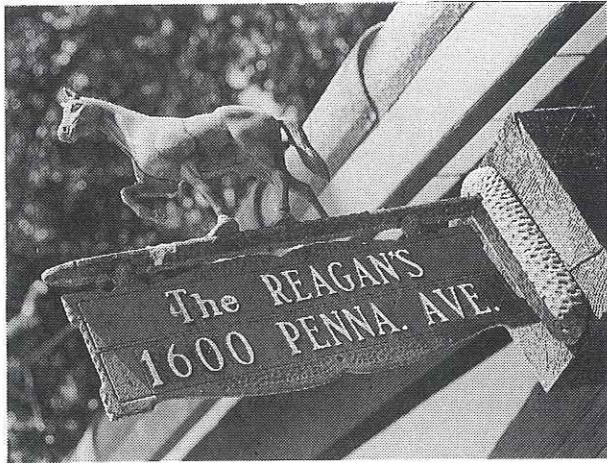
AUGUST 1992

HIS INALIENABLE RIGHT



Our Favorite President Accepts Colt Guns From ASSC

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 21
Freeport, OH
43973



President Ronald Reagan Receives Colt Guns And Galco Holster From American Shooting Sports Council

**By Richard Feldman
Executive Director
American Shooting Sports Council**



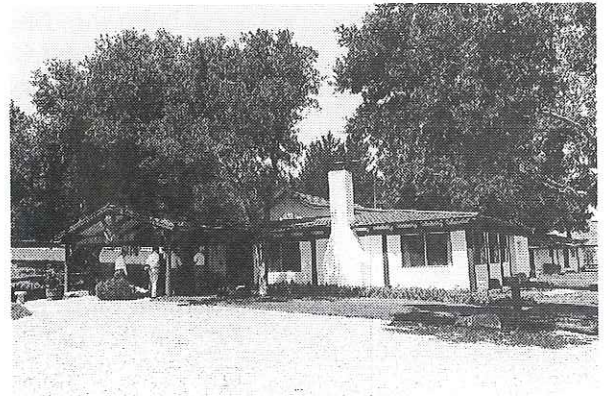
**The man who
challenged the
"Evil Empire",
made it shudder,
and hastened
its demise.**

It was 9:40 A.M. when we left the Red Lion Inn in Santa Barbara and headed north on Route 101. A picturesque twenty-three miles later, our four-wheel-drive vehicles left the main highway and traveled up into the mountains onto a winding canyon road. We drove through this magnificent part of our country with cows staring at us, mist shrouding the pastures, small sparkling streams flowing over the gravel-packed road, to our final destination—Rancho del Cielo, the western White House from 1981 to 1989.

We were en route to visit the man responsible for making America the undisputed military power on this planet, the man who challenged the "Evil Empire", made it shudder and hastened its demise. This was the man who recognized the inalienable right of every law-abiding American to keep and bear arms even though severely wounded by an armed crazy barely two months into his presidency.

Our entourage was about to pass through gates still guarded by the Secret Service and spend the next couple of hours with Ronald Reagan—a living legend.

Traveling up the steep road in the two vehicles were Ron Stilwell, ASSC's President; ASSC board member Doug Hamlin, publisher of Guns & Ammo; Geoffrey Steer, assistant publisher, Guns & Ammo; Bob D'Olivo, Peterson's crack photographer for close to 40 years; Bob Hanson, national sales manager for Galco; and George Waite, proprietor of the Beverly Hills Gun Shop who came along to make the firearms transfer strictly kosher.



**Rancho del Cielo, the western
White House from 1981 to 1989,
now the retirement "getaway" for
President and Mrs. Reagan, was
the scene of the presentation of
two Colt firearms and an ornate
holster from Galco International**



PRESIDENT REAGAN RECEIVES GUNS AND HOLSTER *Continued*

The origin of this trip, which will be forever ingrained in my memory banks, went back several months when, on a lobbying trip to Sacramento, I sought out an old friend who spends a great deal of time "up at the ranch". He explained that the many guns Reagan had been given during his presidency were owned by the museum, and Ron couldn't even shoot them! I asked what he'd like to have. The reply came back immediately, "A Colt six-shooter", the kind he had used in the many westerns he had starred in years before his political career.

I called Ron Stilwell, then president of Colt's, and he said, "Let's do it!" We decided that the presentation needed a theme, and we added a Colt Sporter—the old and the new! One of ASSC's newest members, Galco International, was contacted and asked if they would be interested in crafting a custom holster and rig for the 45 single-action Colt. No hesitation there—"Yes we would!", responded CEO Richard Gallagher.



Bob Hanson, National Sales Manager of Galco International, presented a beautiful hand-crafted holster inlaid with silver to the President. The silver medallions on the belt and holster depict the brand and the seal of Rancho del Cielo.

Any time an event like this one gets organized, a million things can go awry, and at breakfast that morning of Thursday, June 18, I felt I had ingested a flock of butterflies. It wasn't until our vehicles pulled in next to the barn past the gate that my stomach calmed down and my real excitement began.

Stilwell, Hamlin, Waite, Steer and Hanson carried the guns and leather down the slippery wooden steps from the barn to the patio of the ranch and began

setting up the presentation on a table. The President was out riding and wasn't expected for another half hour. Just as we completed the set-up, around the corner walked "the man" himself, looking relaxed and chipper. (I just hope I'm in as good shape as he is when I'm 81-plus!)

The setting couldn't have been better; and after introducing everyone, Ron Stilwell presented Mr. Reagan's new guns to him. The President aimed the Sporter, looking through the scope as a Secret Service agent shouted out, "Wish we had had more of those in 'Nam!'"



The President sites in his new Colt Sporter, a gift from Colt's Manufacturing Company. The gun was engraved by Colt Master Engraver Steven Kamyk with the seal of the President of the United States. Shown left to right (behind the President): Ron Stilwell, ASSC's President; Doug Hamlin, Publisher of Guns & Ammo; Richard Feldman, Executive Director, ASSC; and George Waite, owner of Beverly Hills Gun Shop.

Bob Hanson gave the President the most beautiful holster this gun lobbyist has ever seen. Mr. Reagan immediately strapped it on and made sure his 45 fit properly. (It did!) He related how he learned to shoot and how he practiced the quick-draw for the movies. After inviting us to sit and passing out sodas, President Reagan spent the next hour regaling us with experiences from his long careers in Hollywood, and in Sacramento and Washington.



This much was obvious—Ronald Reagan loves guns, loves shooting and loves people. He's one of ours. And he's just one of the boys, not impressed by his own achievements. Sitting on that patio, I had to remind myself that this was the man who changed America and changed the world.



"He's just one of the boys, not impressed by his own achievements. Sitting on that patio, I had to remind myself that this was the man who changed America and changed the world."

(L to R): President Reagan, Ron Stilwell, Richard Feldman

It was getting a bit chilly, but when we got up to leave, the President invited us in and gave us a tour of the ranch house, which was much smaller and a lot more cozy than I would have guessed. He told us about the outlaws that a little over a hundred years ago ranged the Santa Barbara hills. He pointed out a tree where legend has it that several outlaws met their maker. We suggested that our current legal system could profit from the lessons learned on Rancho del Cielo in its earlier frontier past. He winked.

While I can't deny that the morning was just great and that Ronald Reagan is the man I envisioned him to be, there was a special purpose to the day whose meaning will be clearer as time goes on. The anti-gunners may have **thought** they co-opted **our** pro-gun former president for their exclusive use. **No way!** He believes in our industry, he believes in our products,



The President's Colt Single Action Army .45 has a personalized serial number and a 24K gold inlay engraved with the cattle brand utilized at his ranch. The gun also features one wide and one narrow band of gold inlaid at the rear of the barrel and ejector tube, one wide band of gold inlaid at the barrel muzzle, one wide and one narrow band of gold inlaid at the rear of the cylinder, and Rancho del Cielo engraved in script style down the backstrap.

and he shares our views about individual responsibility, accountability and personal freedom. Just as a strong American military hastened the destruction of communism abroad, an armed citizenry is a powerful deterrent to both crime and tyranny at home.

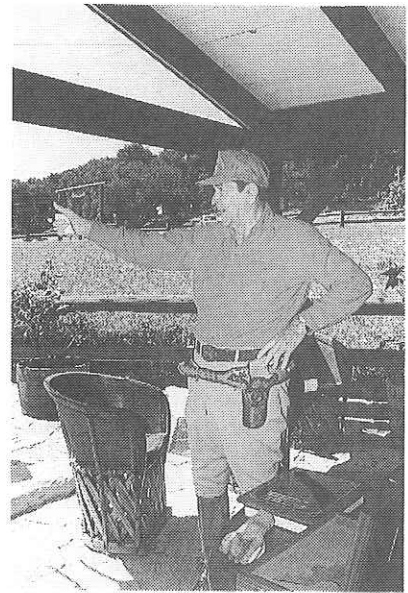
Ronald Reagan need not issue a "white paper" to outline these beliefs, which he holds dear. Two hours of using my eyes and ears at Rancho del Cielo with the man who fulfilled his pledge that he would "make us great again" absolutely convinced this author—well beyond a reasonable doubt!

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10

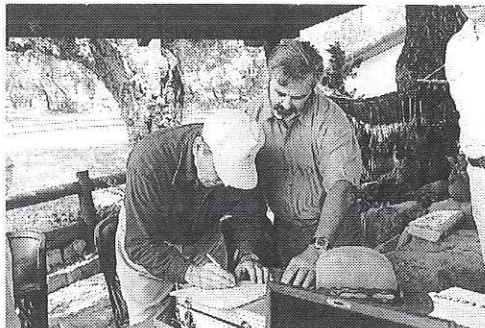




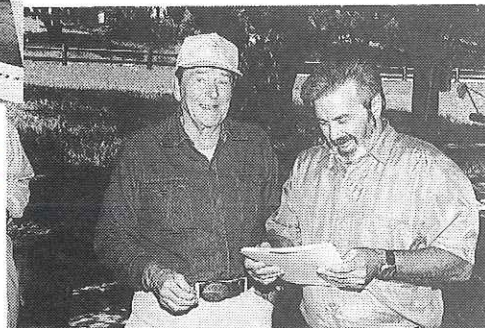
This presentation from ASSC with cooperation and contributions from Colt, was made in appreciation for President Reagan's efforts to restore citizens' pride of country; re-install the individual's sense of responsibility for their actions; and for recognizing the importance of manufacturing and technology to the economic well-being of the United States of America. (L to R): Doug Hamlin, The President, Richard Feldman, Ron Stilwell

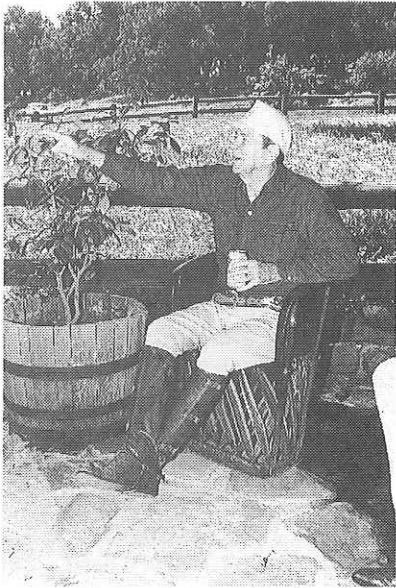


Mr. Reagan shows off his style! The Colt .45 came in a footed walnut presentation case with a plaque inscribed with the following: "In appreciation to Ronald W. Reagan from one legend to another Colt's Manufacturing Co., Inc. June 18, 1992".



Even the Prez has to do the mountain of paperwork required by the feds and California. George Waite is sure to file this 4473 in a special place—it's a collector's item!





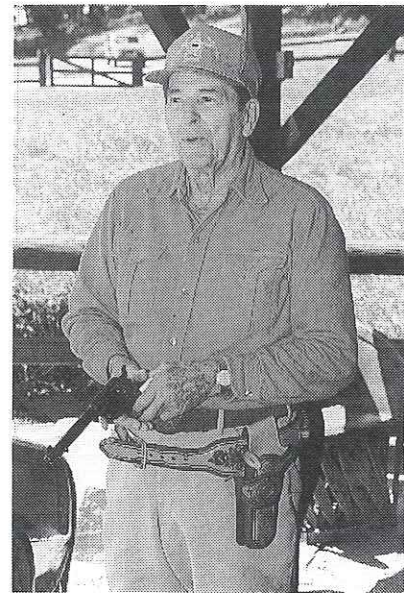
The President points out a tree where legend has it that several outlaws met their maker. When our author suggested that our current legal system could profit from the lessons learned on Rancho del Cielo in its frontier past, Mr. Reagan winked!



Admiring the plaque presented by ASSC are (L to R): Bob Hanson, National Sales Manager, Galco; Doug Hamlin, Publisher, Guns & Ammo; Geoffrey Steer, Assistant Publisher, Guns & Ammo; Richard Feldman, Executive Director, ASSC; and Ron Stilwell, President, ASSC.



President Reagan was very impressed and very appreciative upon receiving his new guns. All the others that he received while he was in office had to go to the Reagan Library. He gets to keep—and use—these!



Mr. Reagan immediately strapped on his new holster, which is magnificently inlaid with silver and turquoise. Kudos to Galco for a beautiful job!