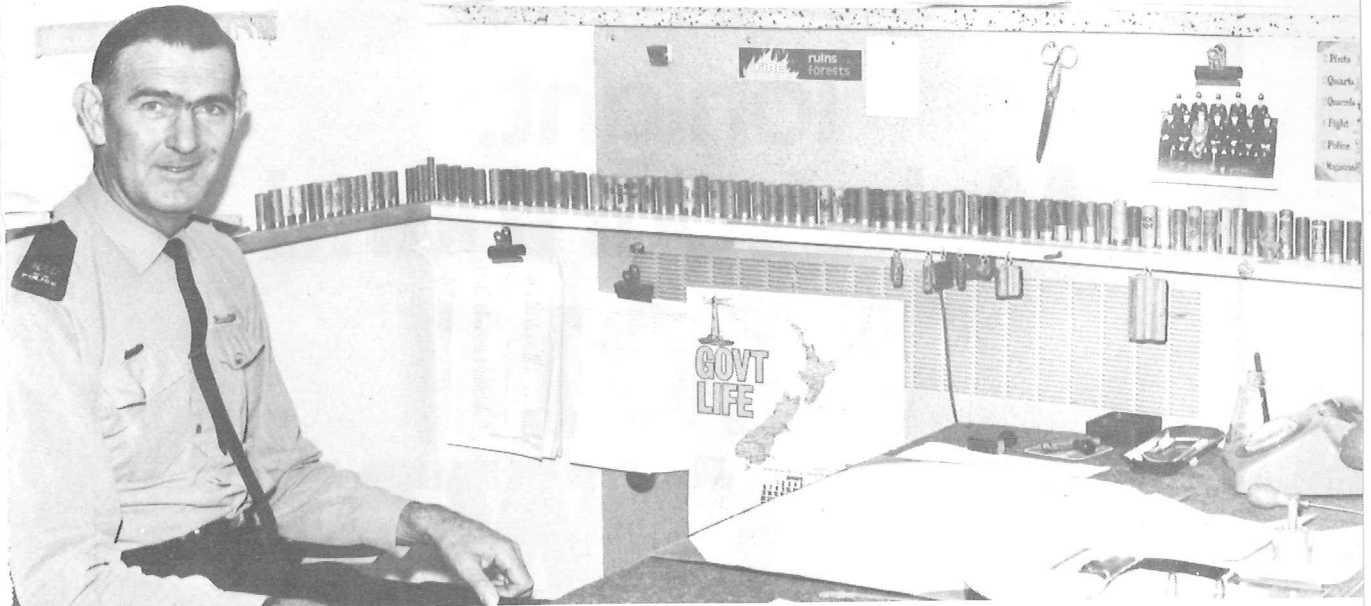




One Hundred Years of
American Gunmaking



Photograph shows Ray in his office— his collection can be seen snaking along the wall behind him. He wears the Royal Humane Society medal ribbon on his right breast.

AN UNUSUAL COLLECTION

IN THE CARE OF RAYMOND VERNON PETROWSKI, BEM
(Royal Humane Society Medal for Bravery)

Ray is not a member of the IPA and nor has he expressed any interest in joining — as yet. Well over 6-foot and always immaculately dressed, quiet, and a loner enjoying activities of a more individualistic nature. Keen on the outdoor life as a youngster, he still enjoys his fishing and maintains a strong and educated interest in firearms. This yen for the outdoors yielded him the experience that aided him so much in those eight or nine rescues he personally achieved off the New Plymouth's port sentinel, Paritutu, and earning him the well-deserved decorations he wears.

Spending the twilight of his career as New

Plymouth's arms officer, Ray is able to maintain his affiliation with the recreation he loves. This, then, leads to his most unusual hobby: collecting shotgun shells.

The arms office is just in through the main doors and to the right at the district HQ. His shells decorate a small shelf just behind his desk. They run round two walls now and, gradually, the numbers increase.

Many 'customers' have added an interesting item after having seen the collection. Ray knows them all — their make, calibre, age, type of shot and so on. It makes interesting listening.

If you are in New Plymouth, duck in and

see Ray — he'd be happy to show you the colourful array. It just goes to show that similar objects, properly collected and displayed, become an interesting and sometimes unique hobby. One wonders how many other shotgun shell collectors there are.

Think again, Ray, as you read this article . . . you could become a valuable member of our organisation. You have something to offer the IPA, and the indeterminable number of advantages of being a member is what the association has to offer you.

For those interested, the statistics of the collection are: The shells have been made between 1930 and 1974. There are just over 100, made of paper, plastic, brass and aluminium. They range through No. 10 shot to buckshot and solid ball. Special issues include the 1974 Commonwealth Games, New Zealand championships and Rabbit Boards, and include all the colours of the rainbow. Well-known makes are evident, such as CAC, ICI, Eley, Nobel and so on. Countries of origin include New Zealand, the United States, Australia, Germany, France, Belgium, Great Britain and Canada.