

# A Tale of Just ONE of Our Winners

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This yarn is about a real winner with more than 800 trophies and awards to show for his prowess on the pistol and rifle range. In case you have not already guessed, our story is about Henry J. "Hank" Adams, former Deputy Sheriff, U.S. Marine Major, FBI man and Undersheriff of San Diego County.

One of his more prestigious awards was for the winning of the DuPont Trophy in 1935. At this event, sponsored by the Western Cartridge Company, he won the trophy using a high powered rifle and pistol and a small bore rifle and pistol. His winning score of 1094 out of a possible 1200 also won him the National All-Around National Rifle Association Championship.

Before World War II, Hank joined the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and was a member of the United States Marine Corps Reserve. When the War came along, he was called up and was with the Marine Raiders when they invaded the Solomon Islands. Hank headed up an eight-man patrol, and on his own killed fifteen Japanese in a hillside bunker. He assisted the rest of the patrol in wiping out another thirteen enemy soldiers.

Henry Adams returned to the Sheriff's Department in 1946 as Undersheriff for



Sheriff Bert Strand and served the County in that capacity for 5 years.

He was a fellow Marine and friend of our own Olympic Pistol Champion, Bill McMillen.

There are many stories of "Winners" in the old museum files. I hope to bring you more of them in the future.

The Old Historian.