

SEVENTEEN GUN PEOPLE + ONE

In 1985 photographer George Gardner and journalist Patrick Carr produced the book ***Gun People***.

In fifty years of photography, George W. Gardner (1940–2022) revealed his deep empathy for the American experience, from the most ordinary moments of daily life to events that have shaped American history. Riding his motorcycle or flying his plane, he actively pursued both the unusual and mundane - he covered it all. Among Gardner's myriad projects was the collaboration with journalist Patrick Carr on ***Gun People***.

In 64 photographs and corresponding interviews of Americans who owned guns, this prescient book explores one of the most controversial arenas of current political, personal and journalistic interest. With nuance and complexity, ***Gun People*** delves into the large and small issues around all aspects of this debate. Examining guns, history, ordinary fear, paranoia, machismo, hubris and common sense, ***Gun People*** is unflinchingly straightforward in its images and interviews.

READ WHAT GUN PEOPLE SAY FOR THEMSELVES

Gardner did not approach his subjects as an outsider. He was an animal trapper himself and grew up in rural America where there was little controversy over the practical aspects of gun ownership. The results are penetrating photographs devoid of irony or judgement.

Since ***Gun People*** was published nearly forty years ago the issues have grown ever more fraught, with the controversy around 2nd amendment rights [2A], the rapidly increasing number of guns in American society, the wide availability of assault weapons, and the frequent incidences of mass shootings.

Gardner's vision is sometimes surprising and uncanny. *Nudie Cohn*, the final image in this catalogue but not published in ***Gun People***, was photographed during the making of the book. Nudie Cohn created elaborate rhinestone-studded attire, "Nudie Suits," for country western and rock stars, as well as celebrities from movie and television Westerns. In his outrageously inventive customized Pontiac Bonneville convertibles, Nudie switched pistols for door handles. Atypical as well is no. 12 in this catalogue, *Bijan*, a celebrated men's clothing designer of the time, who devised a kevlar-lined suit for those high profile customers at risk of being shot, as well as a luxuriously outfitted gun.

In addition to the individual vintage prints in this catalogue, a unique set of vintage photographs plus proof sheets from ***Gun People*** is available as a unit.

Paul M. Hertzmann, Inc., San Francisco, in partnership with Andrew Smith Gallery, Tucson and Deborah Bell Photographs, New York, represent the estate of George W. Gardner.

Please direct your inquiries to Paul M. Hertzmann, Inc. at pmhi@hertzmann.net or 415-626-2677.





1. Andrea C., an artist and mother who lives in Massachusetts.

Vintage silver print, 1984. [8938]

Size: 8 x 11 1/2" on 11 x 14" sheet

Signed in pencil on the print margin; signed, dated and annotated 'Gun' in pencil and titled in ink, with the photographer's copyright stamp on the reverse of the print.

Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 3.

\$3000

"Pistol shooting at a target is a great sport, and I really loved it. I was good at it, too.... It still feels great."

[Read more about Andrea here. \[no. 1\]](#)



2. Ray M., pictured with his three children and his Savage over/under .22/20-gauge combination gun, is a professional fur trapper in New Mexico.

Vintage silver print, ca. 1985. [8942]

Size: 10 x 11 1/2" on 11 x 14" sheet

Signed in pencil on the print margin; signed and annotated 'Gun' in pencil and titled in ink, with the photographer's copyright stamp on the reverse of the print.

Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 5.

\$3000

"I average about three hundred [coyotes] per season when their fur is prime."

[Read more about Ray here. \[no. 2\]](#)



3. Dennis P., a Vietnam veteran, runs Central Florida's largest firearms dealership.

Vintage silver print, 1984. [8950]

Size: 11 x 8" on 11 x 14" mount.

Signed in pencil on the print margin; signed, dated and annotated 'Gun' in pencil, with the photographer's copyright stamp on the reverse of the print.

Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 25.

\$2500

"Happiness is a belt-fed weapon."

[Read more about Dennis here. \[no. 3\]](#)



4. Rush H., a pneumatics and firearms expert, described himself as an "assassinologist".... He is pictured with a Carbano Mannlicher rifle, the type of gun said to have been used by Lee Harvey Oswald.

Vintage silver print, ca. 1985. [8944]

Size: 8 1/4 x 11 1/4" on 11 x 14" sheet

Signed in pencil on the print margin; signed and dated in pencil, with the photographer's copyright stamp on the reverse of the print.

Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 27. [variant]

\$3000

"The Carbano was a fake-out, a cover-up gun."

[Read more about Rush here. \[no. 4\]](#)



5. Sandra C., a medical secretary began shooting seriously three years ago. She competes in trap and skeet matches and hunts pheasant and deer.

Vintage silver print, 1984. [8953]

Size: 6 3/8 x 9" on 8 x 10" sheet

Signed, titled, and dated in pencil on the reverse of the print.

\$2500

For another photograph of Sandra see *Gun People*, 1985, p. 9.

"My first deer hunt was a strange experience...I shot, and I got my first deer...Once you've pulled the trigger it's over. You either get it or miss it..."

[Read more about Sandra here. \[no. 5\]](#)



6. Mickey F. progressed from motorcycle and automobile racing to International Practical Shooting Confederation and NRA "action shooting" competition.

Vintage silver print, 1983. [8948]

Size: 10 1/2 x 8 1/2" on 11 x 14" sheet

Signed in pencil on the print margin; signed, titled, and dated in pencil with the photographer's copyright stamp and a 'Doubleday & Co., Inc.' typed label on the reverse of the print.

Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 35.

\$2500

"...the sport has a way to go before it reaches the dollar status of golf or tennis...."

[Read more about Mickey here. \[no. 6\]](#)



7. Thomas W. is a novelist, a Senior Professor of English and a lifetime hunter.

Vintage silver print, ca. 1985. [8945]

Size: 8 1/2 x 6 5/8"

Signed in pencil on the print margin; signed and dated in pencil, with the photographer's copyright stamp on the reverse of the print.

Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 77.

\$2500

"I've seen expressions on deers' faces that were very pointed."

[Read more about Thomas here. \[no. 7\]](#)



8. Paris T. is a weapons designer formerly employed by the U.S. government on weapons projects.

Vintage silver print, 1984. [8951]

Size: 8 1/2 x 6 5/8"

Signed in pencil on the print margin; signed, dated and annotated 'Gun' in pencil on the reverse of the print.

For another photograph of Paris see *Gun People*, 1985, p. 127.
\$2500

"If they hit the ground with their legs crossed, they're dead."

[Read more about Paris here. \[no. 8\]](#)



9. Christopher W. is a freelance writer/photographer and a recently initiated gun owner.

Vintage silver print, 1984. [8955]

Size: 9 x 6 1/2" on 8 x 10" sheet

Signed in pencil on the print margin; signed and dated in pencil on the reverse of the print.

Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 69.

\$2500

"That's the attraction: smoothly functioning machinery, and the acquisition of power."

[Read more about Christopher here. \[no. 9\]](#)



10. Jerry P. is a gun dealer, range owner and lobbyist/spokesperson for New York State gun owners.

Vintage silver print, 1982. [8954]

Size: 7 x 9" on 8 x 10" sheet"

Signed in pencil on the print margin; signed and dated in pencil, with the photographer's copyright stamp on the reverse of the print.

Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 93.

\$2500

"I always carry.... I only ever pulled once."

[Read more about Jerry here. \[no. 10\]](#)



11. Louise B. helps her husband run an inn near Taos, New Mexico...he bought her the .38 Special revolver she holds.

Vintage silver print, 1983. [8941]

Size: 8 1/2 x 11 1/2" on 11 x 14" sheet

Signed in pencil on the print margin; signed, dated and annotated 'Gun' in pencil on the reverse of the print.

Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 99. [variant]

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"...when [my husband is] not here, my gun is practically my best friend. It goes with me from room to room."

[Read more about Louise here. \[no. 11\]](#)



12. Bijan, the internationally famous men's clothing designer...pictured in the office of his Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills, boutique.

Vintage silver print, 1983. [8962]

Size: 11 1/2 x 8" on 11 x 14" sheet

Signed in pencil on the print margin; signed, dated and annotated 'Gun' in pencil, with the photographer's copyright stamp and a typed label from 'Doubleday & Co. Inc. on the reverse on the reverse of the print.

Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 59.

\$3000

"My gun had become a topic of conversation all over the world.... Personally I don't like guns."

[Read more about Bijan here. \[no. 12\]](#)



13. Bill D. has been collecting U.S. and other military guns since he was six years old. Professionally he runs an insurance business in Florida.

Vintage silver print, ca. 1985. [GG-GP-076]

Size: 8 1/2 x 6 5/8"

Signed, titled, and dated in pencil on the reverse of the print
Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 67. [variant]

\$2500

"The machine guns legally licensed to collectors are almost never involved in crimes."

[Read more about Bill here. \[no. 13\]](#)



14. Dr. Richard D., a noted psychiatrist and teacher, foiled armed robbers at both his office and his home before deciding to apply for a New York City pistol license.

Vintage silver print, 1984. [8960]

Size: 13 7/8 x 10" 14 x 17" sheet

Signed in pencil on the print margin.

Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 15.

\$3000

"I fired two shots - one in the lung, and one in the liver."

[Read more about Dr. Richard D. here. \[no. 14\]](#)



15. Susan S. runs a surplus store in Florida. Susie is pictured with an AR-15 assault rifle equipped with various sophisticated sighting systems....

Vintage silver print, 1984. [8937]

Size: 8 X 11 1/2 on 11 x 14" sheet

Signed and dated in pencil on the reverse of the print.

Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 21.

\$3000

"Where the red dot is, that's exactly where the bullet is going to go."

[Read more about Susan here. \[no. 15\]](#)



16. Cole P., pictured with his flare gun beneath the muzzles of his twin Spandau machine guns on his World War I Fokker Triplane....

Vintage silver print, ca. 1979. [8947]

Size: 8 x 11 1/4" on 11 x 14" sheet

Signed in pencil on the print margin; signed and dated in pencil, titled in ink, with the photographer's copyright stamp on the reverse of the print.

Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 51. [variant]

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"Fokker knew that it would work...and the Germans ruled the skies until the Allies found out how [the machine guns] worked. Then the dogfights really got started."

[Read more about Cole here. \[no. 16\]](#)



17. Virginia V. owns and operates two adjoining stores in Brooklyn. She received a National Rifle Association cash award for foiling an attempted robbery in 1983.

Vintage silver print, 1983. [8939]

Size: 11 1/4 X 8 1/2" on 11 X 14" sheet

Signed in pencil on the print margin; signed and dated in pencil, with the photographer's copyright stamp and a 'Doubleday & Co., Inc.' typed label on the reverse of the print.

Illustrated: Carr and Gardner, *Gun People*, 1985, p. 115.

\$3000

"I like everybody, but when somebody tries to kill me..."

[Read more about Virginia here. \[no. 17\]](#)



18. Nudie Cohn, the Tailor

Vintage silver print, 1983. [8934]

Size: 8 1/2 x 11 1/4" on 11 x 14" sheet

Signed and dated in pencil, with the photographer's copyright stamp on the reverse of the print.

\$4500

Nuta Kotlyarenko (1902-1984) escaped anti-Jewish pogroms in Kiev, landing in New York in 1913, aged 11, and renamed himself "Nudie Cohn." After moving to California he and his wife started making custom designed suits, embroidered with dogs, plants, feathers, garlands, instruments, patriotic eagles, imaginary cowboys and rhinestones for his Rock and Country singers and Hollywood clientele. Among his famous customers at Nudie's Rodeo Tailors were Elvis Presley, Elton John, Gram Parsons, Robert Mitchum, and John Lennon. Flamboyantly attired in his own suits, he gained fame also for his equally embellished automobiles, complete with pistol door handles.

[Read more about Nudie here. \[no. 18\]](#)