

10 An Insider's Look at Dillon I

By Mark Pixler

Since we started doing calendars nine years ago, I guess it's about time I said something about them. The original idea was to reprint the previous year's *Blue Press* covers in a calendar format. The problem is, your calendar has to be ready for production sometime in August. So, the first year, we ended up sorting through all the photos we had on hand, and when we discovered we didn't have enough, we hired a few models and shot photos specifically to make the deadline. The rest is history (that repeats itself just about every year).

Once again, for 2009, we were shooting photos right up to – and maybe a little bit past – the production deadline. We believe the end result was well worth the extra effort.

Miss January is Deandra, a new face around Dillon, who was "discovered" by Mike Dillon at one of his favorite lunchtime restaurants. Although she's never modeled for us before, she does have a coincidental connection. She happens to be the late Nyle Leatham's grandniece! Nyle would be extremely proud to know she's carrying on the family's traditional association with Dillon, and doing a VERY nice job in the process.

In the January photo, Deandra's posing with a 9mm Beretta 92 Brigadier, tricked out by gunsmith Fred Childers at Briley (briley.com). Of course, it features a Briley barrel and a beautiful pair of oil-finished walnut grips. Oh, and if you look closely at Deandra's necklace, you'll see the charm is in the shape of a handgun. Yep, carrying on an old family tradition.

Miss February is Haley, another new face, dressed in a pinstriped suit and equipped for Prohibition duty with a 1928 Navy-Overstamp

Thompson and a 1930 Model A Ford Coupe. After the photo shoot, Haley asked if she could take both of them for a ride. There's just something about a Thompson...and a lady WITH a Thompson has my full attention.

Of course, you may have noticed that Haley is also on the cover. There were so many great shots from that photo session, we just HAD to figure out a way to use more than one. Mike Dillon liked the shot in front of the Model A so much that he picked it for the cover, and Haley's raised eyebrow in the photo beside the car just makes her look like she's up to something – we decided to use it.

Miss March is Christina. If she looks familiar to you, it's because she was in our 2007 calendar. We haven't seen much of her lately because her class schedule limits the days she's available for photo shoots to weekends only.

In the March photo, Christina is wearing a print dress and holding a very early production Model 94 Winchester in .30 WCF. The folks at Dillon Aero chipped in and bought the Model 94 for Mike Dillon as a Christmas present a few years back. It's one of the nicest early 94s I've ever seen. Truly a classic.

Christina holding it makes it even better!

Miss April is Carly. When this shot appeared on the December 2007 issue, an uproar ensued because several VERY sharp-eyed individuals noticed that the safety on Carly's pistol was off...with the hammer back. Thanks to the magic of Photoshop, we fixed that before including the shot in our calendar.

Truth is, because Carly is a shooter, and because it's HER gun, I didn't pay much attention to whether or not she had the safety on; and because it was Carly's first gig as a *Blue Press*

