benefits you sometimes get with an older rifle. Depending on condition, it’s likely you can find this model starting at $100.

The Marlin we tested was in near-new condition. This model was made from 1940 to 1965, according to Modern Gun Values, 10th Ed. The 80-DL had a 24-inch barrel with Micro-Groove rifling, and was fitted with a Lyman Model 57 MR aperture sight, similar to the aperture we saw for the Winchester 69A. This sight alone would cost in the neighborhood of $100 today, but according to our reference, it may have been standard on this Marlin. It had fine click adjustments for windage and elevation, and an adjustable sliding dial for elevation indexing.

The barrel was fitted with a bead front sight on a ramp. There was provision for a sight hood, but none was fitted. The original dovetailed rear sight had been replaced with a wedge of steel so there would be no interference with the aperture rear. The receiver was grooved for a tip-off scope mount.

The plastic trigger guard was attached with two wood screws. It shielded a narrow trigger that appeared to be chrome plated, as was the entire bolt. The bolt head had a cleverly designed dual extractor, and the empties were ejected by a spring-loaded wire rod protruding forward from the action. This rod kept tension against the bottom of the bolt and prevented bolt rattle. Just over the rear of the chamber was another piece of spring steel that served to guide rounds into the chamber, and also provided downward pressure to the head of the bolt when it was fully closed. These features worked well, and we feel the uniform position of the closed bolt contributed to the excellent accuracy of this rifle.

The detachable magazine held eight rounds. It was tricky to remove and replace, but once inserted it stayed in place. Removal required pinching in a fore-and-aft direction. Feeding was flawless with all ammunition tried except for two failures to feed with .22 Long ammunition. The magazine well was shielded by a steel plate attached to the rifle with two fasteners, a wood screw at the front, and a through-bolt at the rear that also provided the take-down function.

The rifle weighed 6.3 pounds, exactly the same as the Winchester 69A, and its stock had pleasing, adult-dimensional lines, with a pull of 13.75 inches. Apparently, it had been fitted originally with sling swivels, but these were absent. The finish, however, left wide-open pores throughout. This rifle would benefit greatly from a good oil-type finish, which would bring out even more of the fine wood figure. The forend was deep and narrow, and the pistol grip had a functional shape and feel. The top of the comb was slightly fluted, but the flutes could have been better integrated into the lines. There was a black