

TRIGGER TALK

GUNS points with pride to the new name appearing on our masthead for the first time this month—the name of Elmer Keith, internationally respected authority on hunting and shooting subjects generally.

To say, "This man needs no introduction," is more than just a trite phrase in this instance. Elmer Keith's books and articles have been definitive texts in gun circles since 1925. He is very probably the most experienced hunter of American big game in the business, was for 30 years a big game guide operating across the continent from Mexico to Alaska. He fired on three National Match bigbore rifle teams, placed among the first ten in four national individual bigbore matches at Perry, is internationally famous for his experimentation and shooting in the handgun field, is quoted wherever men shoot as an authority on handloads for both handguns and game rifles. He was Gun Editor of "Outdoorsman" for 12 years, of "Western Sportsman" for four years, has been on the technical and/or "contributing" staff of the "American Rifleman" for eight years, is the author of six classic books on guns and shooting. His contributions to GUNS will include feature articles and, as frequently as our space and his time allows, a department under the heading "Elmer Keith Says." The broadest title we could think of for Elmer was "Shooting Editor." He will talk about nearly everything connected with shooting, in the months to come—including his first African safari which starts a few months hence. We're proud to have Elmer with us, know that his contributions will make GUNS more valuable to you, the readers.

Other stories in this and the two following issues follow the pattern of the hunting season. "Woodcock Are Easy Targets" startled us here, may give you a new slant on "the bird everybody misses." "Is Fee Shooting The Answer" presents a controversial subject which we may be forced to accept on the basis of hard economic facts rather than sentiment. Times do change, and fee shooting may be the biggest change in hunting since the days of the Long Rifle.

But sentiment does have a place in hunting, and not even the cold facts of ballistics can displace a favorite gun in the affections of many hunters. In "He Uses Three Rifles For Deer," veteran hunter Jess Reid tells how he bowed to ballistics without forsaking old loves. There's a lesson here, too, for every man who sights in a new rifle.

"Long Shots Don't Make Good Hunters" (or vice versa) hits hard at shooting egos, yet every hunter knows deep in his heart that sportsmanship does end at an exact and measurable distance from the muzzle of the gun. What this distance is for you is the subject of this story.

There'll be another round-up of hunting articles in November. And whether you're going for "Small Game On A Budget" or stalking gaur in India, GUNS wishes you "Good sport and safe shooting."



THE COVER

Few things are more symbolic of our American heritage than this October cover scene of a man, a dog, and a gun—a scene that will be repeated times without number this Fall and, God willing, for many Falls to come.

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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