

TRIGGER TALK

IT IS DIFFICULT, at least for anyone having more than a passing interest in guns, to witness one of Hollywood's standard slam-bang Western movies without raising a skeptical eyebrow now and again during the smokey flow of film. Admiration often gives way to a snicker when a single bullet, fired from the hero's hip, neatly disarms a distant badman. The snicker evolves into a sneer when later the same hero bags his seventh, eighth, or ninth (depending upon the casting director's budget) outlaw with his trusty but unloaded six-gun.

Questions arise. "Who the hell does Hollywood think it's kidding?" is one of the most frequent. The true gun-handling ability of actor-shooters is another subject often argued but which is, as yet, unresolved. Another aims a doubting finger at the skill of trick shot artists who "stand in" during difficult gun-action scenes. So wages the proverbial battle of "the right way," versus "the Hollywood way." We do not profess optimism of such quantity as to suggest that Hollywood limit six-guns to six shots, much less five, but we have included in this issue an excellent article by Charles MacDonald Heard, a professional movie gun expert who answers the questions and places the blame.

Of special interest to the gun collector and, in a way, to any man who has not always seen eye-to-eye with his next-door-neighbor, will be Carl Breihan's full coverage of the notorious Hatfield-McCoy feud. In his "Guns and Gunners of the Feuding Clans," Breihan discloses the present whereabouts of many of the weapons used during the long inter-family war. He also dismisses many of the legends attached to the feud, maintaining that "the story is fantastic enough even if one holds to the truth."

We have good news for many readers (the exact number to guess) who have been sending in requests: "How about handgun articles by Keith?" So here is the first of what we hope will be many pistol pointers by Shooting Editor Elmer Keith. Here is special advice for the tyro on "how to buy 'em and how to shoot 'em." Keith knows. He is "Mr. Handgun himself" to a wide segment of the shooting world.

Louis Corbeau tested a brand new gun barrel for GUNS. The Appel barrel, named after Dr. Gustav Appel who developed it, was claimed to have more accuracy over a longer barrel life. After a rifle was made up on the barrel, Corbeau attempted to burn it out as fast as possible and thus either prove or disprove claims of the Appel Process. His story, "The Barrel I Could Not Wear Out," is an interesting, and at times startling, account.

Anyone who can't afford an expedition to Africa will be happy to learn of the safari land described by Dev Klapp. It's right down yonder in Texas, podnah.



THE COVER

Pretty actress Anne Francis can not be listed among Hollywood's top gunfighters, but she was an apt and enthusiastic pupil when gunswift Arvo Ojala coached her in the use of the big sixes for a recent moving picture role.

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

DECEMBER, 1957 VOL. III, NO. 12-36

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GUNS magazine is published monthly at 8150 N. Central Park Avenue, Skokie, Illinois. Second class mail privileges authorized at Skokie, Illinois. SUBSCRIPTION: One year, \$5.00. Single copy 50c. CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Four weeks' notice required on all changes, send old address as well as new. CONTRIBUTORS: Submitting manuscripts, photographs or drawings do so at their own risk. Material cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. PAYMENT will be made at rates current at time of acceptance and will cover reproduction in any or all GUNS magazine editions. ADVERTISING RATES furnished on request.