

JANUARY 1959 50c



FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

Guns

HUNTING • SHOOTING • ADVENTURE



GUNS FOR THE
WORKING COWBOY

THE MAN WHO BEAT
THE UP-SIDE-DOWNERS

ARSENAL ON THE HUDSON

In 10,000 reloads *
I've had Best Results
shooting CCI says..

Joe Hiestand



*

"During the past two years I have reloaded about ten thousand shotshells.

Naturally I am interested in only the highest quality of reloads and I have had the best results with CCI primers.

I recommend CCI primers to anyone interested in reloading."

Joe Hiestand

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JOE HIESTAND**

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- Amateur Clay Target Champion of America—4 times
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Champions*

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- Shotshell Caps, 8.75 per M
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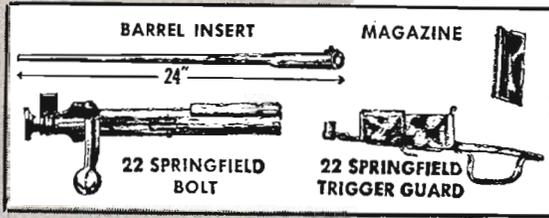


cascade cartridge, inc.

LEWISTON, IDAHO

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Greatest "Springfield Advance" in 55 years! (DEALERS: Special prices on 3 or more)

GET... **smashing power**

an inexpensive
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SEMI-AUTO
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ONLY
\$14.95



SMASHING POWER

As fast as you can pull the trigger. The brand new Plainsman pistol uses inexpensive BB's and powerful full CO² (Carbon dioxide) chargers. Pistol built on .22 Target pistol lines, rugged metal alloy in blue-black finish. Standard full sized pistol weight & balance. Super magazine capacity of over 100 shots! Common (available everywhere) "soda charger" CO² cylinder contained in target shaped grip. Quickly & simply removed & replaced.

SO POWERFUL

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FREE EXTRAS: 10 CO² Cartridges plus 8 Tubes of Copper Plated BB's. A \$2.00 Saving!

Over 17,000,000 Gun Parts in Stock!

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Straight length—20" long—6 groove, large .940 outside diameter—used on pistols—often fitted to old '92 Winchester for use as .357 magnum rifles. \$6.75 ppd. (10" lengths \$3.95 ppd.)

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3 GUN SIZE.....\$2.00 ppd.

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SAVE \$4.00 HERE!

Yes, unbelievable as it sounds, save a full \$4.00 on these new Lyman 57 sights—each with target knob—regular price throughout the country is \$8.50. Our buyers worked long and hard to bring you this special. Order 57A. Mount on left side. Only \$4.50 ppd. (Dealers \$10.00 per doz.)

STANDARD BRASS SHOTGUN SIGHTS, large bead, regular 4x40 thread, in constant demand, usually \$1.00 installed or 50¢ ea. Special packet of 10 for only \$1.00. Oh super special! 10 packets (100 sights) for only \$7.50. (Tap for above 4x40, 50¢ extra)

★ WE HAVE OVER 17,000,000 GUN PARTS Modern—Obsolete—Foreign. For free quotation send broken part or rough sketch. ★

SAVE UP TO 50% ON THESE BRAND NEW REDFIELD SCOPE BASES

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Base Only.....\$3.75
Set of Rings (3/4" only).....\$3.10
(Rings .867 dia.).....\$6.80
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SOLE MANUFACTURERS OF THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUNS & ACCESSORIES

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38 ITEMS G I SHOOTING KIT

In handsome carrying box w/self locking handle, 10 solid brass rods (worth 7.50 ea.), bristle cleaning brushes, 2 containers special grease, 10 special screw drivers & punch. Antique styled brass oil can (often used for priming powder on percussion & flint), patch pan. All fitted for pistols .32 Cal. & up. Give or sell extra rods & screw drivers to friends. While they last—ONLY—\$2.75 plus 60¢ postage.

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5-SHOT Magazine: Fits flush, required in most states for hunting, our special price only \$2.45 ppd.

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Rare magazines, unavailable for years, only \$2.85 ppd.

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made 1954 of new steel specs., superior to any made previously. New in orig. wrappings, \$1.95 ea.—2 for \$3.50. NOTE: When 2 are ordered, new w/ carrying case included FREE.

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all kinds, new or used, military or commercial, U. S. or foreign, send rough list or do as many do, ship off for offer—check airmailed day received—if not o.k. shipment returned prepaid. Also Want.....Junk rifles, pistols & shotguns for breaking into parts.

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gift for
every shooter

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By **FRANKLYN
MacCORMACK**
*WGN-Radio, Television
Performer*



OF MY collection of more than 200 pieces, I am most proud of the Colt .45 "Peacemaker" revolver I am holding in the picture. It was given to me over 30 years ago by a Montana sheriff, Jack Benjamin, and was supposed to have belonged to a western gunman responsible for the eleven notches in the handle. It is just as accurate today as when it rolled from the Colt factory. Also in my collection are rifles and side arms from 32 different foreign countries, pieces I've been collecting for over 35 years, ever since the chief of detectives in Waterloo, Ia., my home, gave me a .41 cal. palm size Colt, the famed riverboat gambler's gun, when I was still a youngster.

MY FAVORITE GUN

By **NILS KVALE**
*Norma Ammunition
Factory Engineer*

Although I am not much of a military man, my favorite gun is the submachine gun. I find it gives a most excellent training both for eye and hand, to keep up one's abilities in shooting the ordinary rifle or pistol, and even shotgun. Various targets, moving and stationary, at short, medium and long distances also make the SMG an extremely interesting and amusing gun to shoot, and the ammunition is inexpensive. The Swedish SMG m/45 is the best performer of all types I have handled; our standard bullseye at 100 meters is four inches, and we hit it. I wish this gun had the magazine housing of the Schmeisser and the cocking knob on the left side, but these are personal opinions, which may not be shared by all shooters. As a ballistician, I wish the gun were shooting a little more cartridge for its weight than the 9mm Luger.



TRIGGER TALK



THE COVER

When a man wins, both his personal grit, skill, and courage, quality, and the quality and fitness of the tools he uses, influence his record. So the guns of world pistol champ Bill McMillan, Captain U.S.M.C., share the shooting Marine's national and international honors.

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

JANUARY, 1959

VOL. V, 1-49

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FROM THE world's champion shooter cover to the first-team lineup of stories, we are presenting to you shooters an all-star package for New Year's. We lead off the "world's champion firearms sport magazine" with the inside story of world's champ pistolman Captain Bill McMillan, U.S.M.C. And, to give a plug for the men in green, it was Marine training that made McMillan an outstanding pistol shooter.

Take a gander at the others—Walter Rodgers' story on cowboy guns, by a working cowboy—and Dick Simmons, Apple-state sheriff and noted firearms author and gun stock expert, writes of fine woods in "Gunstock Beauties on Parade." Al Goerg, whose "22's For Survival" caused so much comment and concern, has an important story for the woodshunter, "Your Target is Smaller Than You Think." Read and compare those targets, the vital areas of deer, then cross check it with your own experience these past months. Would you have done any better if you knew then what you know now?

"Give The Little Lady A Gun" is a story urging men to take their wives hunting. Maybe you don't *want* to take your wife along on your hunting trips. Some do and some don't—which makes it a tough editorial choice. Yet women can and are sharing fun with guns, with no detriment to their femininity and no un-ladylike competition with men. . . . Anyway, here it is; if you don't like the idea, don't read it.

The line-up includes a couple of players which would constitute, in any other journal, real "scoop" reporting but which, in GUNS Magazine, you readers have been accustomed to as usual fare. Our lead article is a report by GUNS' tech editor on his recent visit to Bannerman's Island. This off-limits depot of the gun trade's biggest and oldest collector gun firm is also the gun trade's biggest mystery. New photos plus old ones bring the Bannerman's Island story up to date.

Second scoop is a follow-up to one we ran from Sweden a couple of years ago, titled "Where Tommy Guns Are Shot By Civilian Marksmen." The story, first on popular civilian use of automatic weapons to appear in any journal in the U. S. since the "prohibition daze," aroused a flurry of MG stories in the other magazines, some pro, some viewing with alarm. Now, GUNS has discovered and brings to you the story of a group of enthusiasts in southern Indiana who legally enjoy the fun of shooting burp guns. They call it the "height of plinking," and you may agree with them.

A third "exclusive" (we promised two but you're getting three—you always get more for your money in GUNS) is the report on the Schorn automatic rifle. Possessing unusual accuracy for an autoloader, the Schorn rifle may be a sign of new gunmaking firm on the horizon . . . at any rate, it certainly answers "what's new?" And to readers, GUNS will always try to give you what's new in the gun world. Just keep up with us from month to month.

RARE CIRCASSIAN WALNUT

Finest gunstock wood. Very dense, yet light in weight, takes smooth finish sharp checkering. Turned and inletted stocks from \$16.50 up to \$80.00 for rare fancies. Rifle blanks from \$15.00 to \$75.00. Shot gun blanks from \$10.00 to \$40.00. No other wood compares with Rare Circassian as a gun stock. New shipment recently rec'd.

EXTREMELY RARE OREGON MAPLE FROM VERY OLD BIG GNARLED TREE

Finest we ever had. Limited supply fancy blanks rifle size—or turned & inletted—\$50.00 to \$75.00. Shot gun blanks, \$20.00 to \$35.00.

FREE TO GUNSMITHS: Big 4-color chart showing Flaig's varied PREMIUM GUN STOCK BLANKS in natural color.

BEAUTIFULLY GRAINED FRENCH WALNUT—French rifle blanks, \$20.00 to \$40.00. Turned and inletted for most rifles \$5.00 more. xxx \$25.00; suzer Burris up to \$35.00.

CURLY MAPLE RIFLE BLANKS: \$7.00 to \$30.00. Turned and inletted for most rifles, \$8.00 to \$35.00.

FINEST PENNA. BLACK WALNUT BLANKS & STOCKS:

Rifle blanks all grades, \$4.00 to \$20.00. Walnut shotgun blanks, \$1.50 to \$15.00. Walnut inletted stock for most rifles; standard \$6.00; xx grade (butt) \$8.00; others \$10.00 to \$12.00. Also Penna. buris and rare buris available NOW: xxx grade \$17.50-\$20.00.

PRECISION-CHAMBERED BARRELED ACTIONS



STANDARD OR SERIES 400 FN ACTION OR HVA ACTION BARRELED TO FINEST DOUGLAS ULTRA-RIFLED CHROME MOLY BARREL.

✓ CHECK THESE OUTSTANDING FEATURES:

CALIBERS:

220 SWIFT—22-250
243 WIN.—244 REM.
250 SAV.—257R—7MM
270 WIN.—308 SAV.
280 REM.—308 WIN.
30-06 & the .25-06
35 Whelan 458 WIN.
Also the 7x61 Sharpe & Hart \$7.50 additional.

1. New standard FN Mauser Action.
 2. Finest DOUGLAS Ultra-rifled, Chrome Moly barrel, with patented smooth hard 6 Gr. swaged "BUTTRON" rifling.
 3. Each unit precision chambered to mirror finish with proper headspace.
 4. Each unit test-fired with sample fired case included for your inspection.
 5. Length and twist as wanted, otherwise we will ship recommended length and twist.
 6. Barrels have fine ground finish.
 7. Choice of light-weight or sporter weight, medium heavy, or heavy weight barrels.
- PRICES, for light or sporter weight (9-1/2 lbs.) \$74.00. Medium heavy, \$79.00. Full heavy \$84.00. FN Magnum Douglas Barreled Action: Cal., 300 H&H, .375 H&H, .270 Weatherby, .300 Weatherby \$87.00. For premium grade barrel \$3.00 additional. For the new 300 series FN action or HVA Action (pictured above) \$10.00 additional.

F.N. BARRELED ACTION SPECIAL:

New F.N. Imported lightweight barreled actions, blued, with ramp. Caliber .220 Swift, .244 Remington, .250-3000, .257 Roberts and 7mm. Also .270, .308 & .30-06 Cal.—Price \$67.50.

SAKO L-57 ACTION & DOUGLAS BARREL

NOW AVAILABLE: The new light-weight SAKO L-57 Action, barreled to the Douglas chrome moly barrel in calibers, 22-250, 220 Swift, 243 Win., 244 Rem., 257 Roberts, 250 Sav., 300 Sav., and 308 Win., \$84.00 complete light-weight or sporter-weight. Premium grade barrel \$3.00 additional. SAKO L-57 Lightweight Barreled Action with 22" Micro-Grooved barrel in caliber .308 or .243 Winchester, blued, complete, \$79.00



ACE TRIGGER SHOE

\$2.50
Fitted to your Mauser or F.N. Action \$6.00 more.

ENFIELD M1917 30-06 PARTS

New 5 Gr. Barrels \$15.00
Excellent 5 Gr. Barrels \$12.00
BOLT'S Complete, NEW \$50.00
Other Enfield Model 1917 parts in stock.
Other gun parts in stock. Write your needs.

New FLAIG'S Ace

BENCH REST STAND Cradle size approximately 3 1/2" x 9". Gun may be raised or lowered without removing. Made entirely of Aluminum. Weight 3 1/2 lbs. \$12.00. (Dealer inquiries invited)

POWDER MEASURE STAND Universal type. Revolving holding head, adjustable in seconds. Large knurled lock wheel. Will accommodate any popular shot and powder measure. \$4.00. (Dealer inquiries invited)

NEW Springfield Nickel Steel Bolt \$3.50, same bolt altered for low scope with pear shaped handle like 70 Winchester, only \$8.50

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MILLED TRIGGER GUARDS—Made for Flaig's by Sako and featuring Sako's smooth-working hinged floor plate. Will fit any M-1903 Springfield. Dressed tang, blued. These will enhance any fine sporter. \$15.00
(Dealer inquiries invited)

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BOEHLER BARRELS, proof steel, semi-octagon, ribbed, matted entire length. Made by FRANZ SODIA of Ferlach, Austria, in .22, .25, .270, 7mm, and .30 caliber. Also now available in .243 and .244 cal. Highly accurate—in the white, \$45.00. (Fitted to your action, with sheared head, complete price \$60.00.)
2-GR. SPRINGFIELD BARRELS \$3.00. Case of 10 \$25.00
NEW SPRINGFIELD 4-groove BARRELS \$10.00
New! Krag 2-Groove 30-40 BARRELS 23" or less in length. Fully chambered threaded. Only \$15.00.
4-GR. ORDNANCE BARRELS 23" long, fully chambered, threaded, blued, \$20.00.
New! MAUSER '08—30-06 2-GR. BARRELS 23" or less in length. Fully chambered & threaded. Only \$15.00.
Note: Any of the above Barrels expertly fitted to your Action—headspaced and test-fired—\$2.50 additional.

Exclusive!

NEW FLAIG-ACE FINISHED BARRELS

Made by a nationally known barrel-maker of highest repute, we now offer the patented "button rifled" smooth, hard, swaged, six groove chrome moly barrel of absolutely top quality, completely threaded precision chambered and crowned at a money-saving price. You can now have your favorite caliber in your choice of weight at a moderate price. NOW also for the 54-70 Win. including 25-06, 22-250 and other calibers.

- Immediately available for the FN Mauser, Springfield, Enfield and 722 Remington Action.
- Choice of LIGHTWEIGHT 22", SPORTER WEIGHT 24" and MEDIUM-HEAVY WEIGHT 26"
- Choice of Calibers: 220 Swift, 22-250, 243 Win., 244 Rem., 250 Sav., 257-R, 270 Win., 7mm, 300 SAV., 308 WIN., 30-06, 25-06 and the new 280 REM. 222 also available for the 722 Rem. only.

ACE BARRELS—F.O.B. MILLVALE, PA.

Ace "Button-Rifled" Barrels, Each \$24.00
If your action is sent to us, we charge \$5.00 to fit, headspace and test-fire, including handling.
F. N. Ace Barreled Actions (White), Ea. \$67.50
All Calibers Listed

ACE BARRELS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR

6.3 and 7.7 Jap. and Mexican and Kar Small Ring Mausers in Calibers: 220 Swift, 22-250, 243 Win., 244 Rem., 250 Sav., 257 Roberts, 7MM, 300 Sav. and 308 Win.

Barrels are ready to be turned into your receiver. They need only have headspace checked. DEALER inquiries invited and GUNSMITHS be sure to ask for our special descriptive literature on this time and money saving tremendous value item. RETURN PRIVILEGE IF NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED.

DEALERS: Authorized Installation Write for Free New List #30.—We Stress Individual Service.

Poly Choke

★ FLAIG'S MILLVALE, PA. ★

GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]

◆ Tokyo, Japan: The Japanese Government announced that anyone who wants a hunting license from now on will have to pass a five-hour course in firearms handling to prove they are capable with guns.

★ ★ ★

◆ Fort Carson, Colo.: Army Recruit Roy L. Milliorn, a four foot, 11 inch trainee, found it impossible to fire the M-1 rifle with his short arms. Taking the situation into hand, Fort Carson shortened the butt of a rifle an inch and a half, led it to compensate for the weight loss, and now "Shorty" Milliorn can handle his rifle with the best of 'em.

★ ★ ★

◆ Long Beach, Calif.: When a policeman here used the butt of his pistol to subdue a rowdy hooligan, it wasn't quite the end of the story. The judge, hearing the case, ordered the defendant to pay for the damage done to the pistol when it was brought down over his head.

★ ★ ★

◆ Arlington, Va.: John McGuire, a top G-Man for a quarter of a century, ruefully admits that his teen-age son, Stevie, now outshoots him on the target range. The FBI agent and his son belong to a Virginia rifle club.

★ ★ ★

◆ Sudbury, Canada: Bill Hrinivich felt sorry for a duck he had wounded, so he nursed it back to health, even providing another lame duck to keep it company. Bill has transformed a swamp into a pond where as many as 300 different kinds of ducks make their home. To keep predators away from this wildlife sanctuary he has created, Bill always keeps a shotgun handy. The duck was wounded accidentally.

★ ★ ★

◆ San Diego, Calif.: James Woodward was clerking in a store when a man drew an automatic pistol and told him it was a hold-up. Whereupon, before he could utter another word, the young clerk jumped on the man and disarmed him, then held him for police with his own gun. The clerk did this by grabbing the gunman's weapon with one hand and the wrist in the other—in accepted Marine Corps fashion. James Woodward, you see, actually is a Marine, clerking on the side once in awhile.

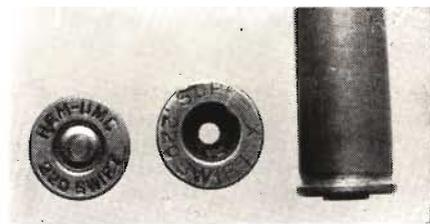
★ ★ ★

◆ Seoul, Korea: Sgt. William Earp, with the U. S. Army in Korea, is a relative, a third cousin, of the old West's famed gunslinging lawman Wyatt Earp. The sergeant is a squad leader and a fine shot in his own right. There's something that gripes him though. "Everybody pronounces the name Erp," complains the sergeant. "It should be Arp."

HANDLOADING BENCH



EXCEPT FOR Weatherby's Rocket, the .220 Swift (starting a 48 grain bullet at 4,110 fps) remains the highest velocity round since Winchester brought it out in 1935. Handloaders get 4,466 fps with 42 grain Sisk Express pills ahead of 43.5 grains 4064, to reduce varmints to fragments with vital organs liquefied. If you haven't tried this little hot shot you'll find it a new experience in velocity performance. You can amaze your friends and yourself by punching holes in ½" armor plate like it was wet paper at 100 yards. (The same plate will shed .300 H & H Magnums.) You won't get shaking palsy from recoil, either. The little stingaree squeezes groups tighter than a miser does his money; and the extra strong case is easy and economical to load with a variety of bullets made by most custom makers.



Cases show "long primer" with firing pin hole print, may fire when chambered; also high pressure pocket; excess headspace primer will pop out.

Much misinformation has been written on the Swift, the most absurd being that it is temperamental. It isn't. Good factory or custom rifles give precision accuracy with a wide range of bullets, powders, and charges. Factory ammo is probably the most carefully loaded number. It shoots well in every rifle I've tested. My fine F.N. Mauser has made many groups around ¾ minute of angle with handloads, with some smaller. It holds that accuracy 'way down the road with an 8X hunting-type Leupold scope that isn't too powerful for off hand or running shots, and aligns fast for long range. Groups might tighten a bit with a 20X target glass, but my guns are for practical hunting, not targets. My fine custom Swift on an F.N. action does fully as well.

Some shooters do not consider any .22 suitable for game much larger than coyotes. Actually, in my opinion, efficiency depends more on the bullet type and velocity than on caliber. Ralph Sisk, the .22 bullet specialist in Iowa Park, Texas, said a .22 pill of the right type at the right velocity will bag all medium heavy U.S. game. In his hands it will. To prove it, his walls are covered with heads of deer, pronghorns, wild hogs, elk, and moose. To make a legal .23 caliber for antelope, he built two Sisk .234 wildcats on the 300 H & H Magnum case, to start 75 grain bullets at close to 4,000 fps. He recent-

ly made a clean, one-shot kill at about twice the range many shooters would try (or should) with a heavy .300 Magnum. He took the performance for granted.

Any .22 bullet that "explodes" inside vital organs is quite deadly. Hi-V shock often makes quick kills even when vital spots are missed. Tough bullets may not have proper explosion at long range after velocity is reduced. Light, soft bullets might explode too fast on larger game at close range. This would cause a terrific surface wound, but would blow small varmints to smithereens.

The 54 gr. Sisk Niedner S.P. is a soft core, soft jacket number, made for not more than about 3,400 fps. At this speed it's a bomb, with low pressure and long bore life. For varmints, try 30 grs. 3031 or 32 grs. 4064. You might vary the charge a grain or so up or down for pin-point accuracy with individual guns. For recovering small game in one piece, try the 54 gr. Niedner F.J. (Full Jacket) number with reduced loads.

Sierra, Sisk, Hornady, Speer, and other good 55 grain bullets perform well. Sisk makes the largest variety of .22's in .223 and .224 diameter. The .224's generally give superb accuracy, but some rifles really tighten up groups with the smaller diameter. You'll have to try both to find the best size. Throat diameter affects pressure, accuracy, and safety. One M-70 rifle that blows primers with factory ammo may have a tight throat or bore, which the factory would gladly correct, but the owner likes the accuracy with his slightly reduced handloads, and won't return it.

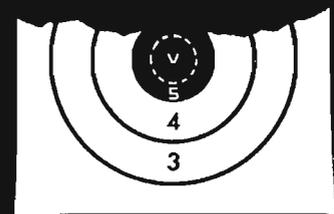
All Sisk Express numbers take any velocity in safe pressure limits. The 55 grain is my favorite. This, and other makes, gives long bore life and moderate pressure with 37 grs. 4064, for a "sufficient" 3,500 fps. Speer's Handloaders Manual recommends this, or



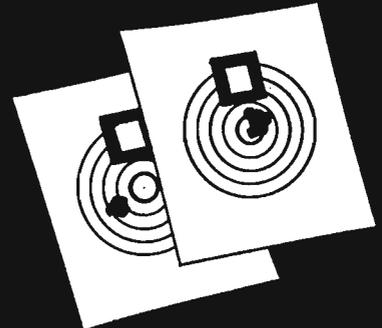
Micrometer with nail head silvered on makes good neck thickness gauge.

37.5 grains, in the more than 50 chronographed loads with Speer bullets. All hot loads should be worked up. I found Speer's top charge of 41.5 grs. 4320 at 3,765 fps a bit hot in one rifle. Sisk lists his top 55 gr. Express load as 40 grs. 4064 for 4,075 fps. This is within 25 fps of the top 44 grain hell-for-leather charge listed by Weatherby for the formed Swift case in the .220 Rocket. My rifles handle the Sisk bomb load beautifully in Remington cases with C.C.I. primers,

(Continued on page 44)



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Elmer Keith says . . .

The 7x61 Sharpe-Hart Cartridge and

The Schultz-Larsen M60 Rifle

THE SO-CALLED big 7 mm cartridges are not new. The first one I used and tested was the .275 H & H; next, the .276 and .280 Dubiel, when I worked with John Dubiel on these fine loads. The .276 was still a 7 mm made from the .275 H & H case. The .280 Dubiel was a larger bore, going a full .2885" groove diameter.

I experimented a great deal with all three at the time, and also used them on big game. Finally, in company with C. M. Oneil and Don Hopkins, we developed the .285 O.K.H., first on a necked down .30-06 case, and later on the shortened Magnum Mauser .300 case. Don Hopkins also had several rifles made for the .276 Dubiel case. Dick Carlson of Hamilton, Montana also brought out the .276 Carlson, on a cut-off .300 Magnum case that is very similar to the 7x61 Sharpe & Hart. Roy Gradle later made a 7 mm on the .348 case.

In addition, the Germans brought out their famous or infamous .280 Halger, which was nothing but an exact copy of the old .280 Ross and also, like the .280 Dubiel, a larger caliber than true 7 mm. The Germans also brought out the time-tried and excellent 7x64, a true big 7 mm and one very well liked and extensively used in Africa.

All were and are very good long range cartridges and, with 175 to 180 grain bullets, will shoot flatter and lay closer to the wind than will the famous .300 H & H Magnum. This is largely due to sectional density of the long 7 mm bullets. I did a great deal of work with the .280 Dubiel and 180 grain bullets, finding it a wonderful 1000 yard load and, at 500 yards, made several prone groups with Lyman Target scope and heavy barrels that went from 2 1/4" to 3", well under the minute of angle with W.T.C.Co. 180 grain bullets and No. 15 1/2 Dupont. Later, when Oneil and Hopkins and myself developed Duplex loading, I soon found that the .30-06 case with Duplex load in 7 mm, the .285 O.K.H. as we named it, would do anything the .280 and .276 Dubiel would do. With one 26" Sniper-weight barrel by A. O. Neidner and some hand-swaged 173 grain M1 bullets swaged down to .2845" and 55 grains of 4350 in Duplex tube case, I put 10 straight into just 6 inches at a measured 800 yards. The cartridge and rifle also shot many groups of just 2" at measured 300 yards, prone with sling and target scope or bench rest.

These cartridges proved even better than the fine commercially loaded 180 grain .300 H & H Magnum or the earlier abrupt-shoulder Super .30 or .300 Magnum made by both H & H and Hoffman Arms Co. I owned and used three rifles made on the old abrupt

shoulder .300 Mag belted case, and also a .30 Newton for comparison. The long 175 to 180 grain bullets in the .280s and 7 mm would beat the .30 caliber every time for trajectory and for wind drift at long range with equal weight bullets.

Phil Sharpe and Dick Hart worked with their own shortened version of the Magnum case, very similar to the Richard Carlson .276. They experimented and changed that 7x61 Sharpe & Hart until they got the best possible performance with 4350 powder, working it out to as near exactly perfect bore capacity with this powder as was humanly possible. While the .276 and .280 Dubiel fell by the wayside with the death of my old friend John Dubiel, and the .280 Halger and 7x64 also dropped out after World War 2, Sharpe & Hart went ahead and had their fine cartridge commercially loaded by Norma, and had the Schultz and Larsen rifle manufactured for their cartridge. The Halger and 7x64, like the fine Hoffman and Dubiel rifles, were custom jobs, as were the .285 O.K.H. and the Carlson and Gradle big 7 mm rifles. Ammunition had to be hand loaded for all but the 7x64 and the .280 Ross, later called the 280 Halger.

I tried to get Remington to bring out the .285 O.K.H. but without success. It is much superior ballistically to their present .280 Remington load, when used with 180 grain bullets and 55 grains 4350 powder. Sharpe & Hart are to be complimented for staying with the job until they obtained both a commercially made rifle and commercially loaded cartridge. For standard loading of 4350 powder and any bullet from 160 to 180 grain the 7x61 S & H is probably as near perfect as human ingenuity can make it.

On game I never was able to tell much difference between any of these big 7 mm rifles when used with same weight bullets, and I used them all at one time or another, even killed five elk with the 285 O.K.H. before I found that, with 180 grain bullets, it was too light for raking shots on this game. I also found these big 7 mm calibers were by all odds the finest and flattest shooting rifles obtainable for all other big game up to and including sheep, goats, and caribou. If placed in the chest cavity, they also killed all American big game very well, but on raking shots would not turn the trick.

The 7x61 Sharpe & Hart cartridge employs a new case, thicker and heavier and slightly larger at head than the .300 Magnum brass. It has been worked out to exactly fit the bore capacity with 160 to 180 grain bullets and Dupont 4350 powder. For the wood-chuck hunter wanting highest velocity and light bullets, the cartridge was loaded with up to 68 grains of 4350 with 120 grain Sierra

bullets in a special 16 inch twist rifle to give 3597 feet velocity with 55,640 pounds pressure, as high as anyone should go with a brass cartridge case.

They also experimented with 130, 140, 145, and 154 grain bullets, getting very high velocities in these woodchuck loads. For the practical big game hunter, however, we found out long ago, in working with the other big 7 mm cartridges, that anything under 160 grains is too light for big game as it simply explodes on impact and will also explode on a sunbeam or a blade of grass! The 160 grain Sierra boattail, that makes such a fine deer load with 50 grains 4350 in the old 7x57 Mauser cartridge, also proved the most popular for the 7x61, so Sharpe & Hart loaded it to as high as 3300 feet with 64 grains 4350 for a pressure of 53,800 pounds. They then had their Swedish cartridge supplier, Norma, duplicate the load as nearly as was practical with their powders. The end result was the 160 grain soft point boattail backed by 60.5 grains of Norma special No. 104 powder for a velocity of 3100 feet with a pressure of 51,730 pounds.

This is a fine wonderfully accurate load and cases simply fall out of the rifle, showing no signs of excess pressure. It seems to shoot equally well in rifles with both 10 and 12" twist. Personally, I would prefer a 10" twist and a 180 grain bullet at around 2800 to 2900 feet for all big game shooting, and the hand loader can easily get such a load.

Years ago we loaded the .280 Duhiel to 2900 feet with standard case, but it was over bore capacity. We also loaded the .285 O.K.H. to 2814 feet with 55 grains of 4350 and the 180 grain Western Tool & Copper Co. bullet in standard cases, and to an estimated 3200 from Duplex cases, estimates based on trajectory and steel penetration tests in comparison with the 180 grain .300 Magnum match load. The Sharpe & Hart case will duplicate standard loadings of any of these cartridges, as it gives 3241 feet with a charge of 60 grains 4350 for only 43,800 pounds pressure, with 175 grain bullets. Pressure reading on this load seems unduly low to me. With 62 grains 4350 and 175 grain bullets velocity went up to 3272 from a 12" twist rifle, with only 47,040 pounds pressure. Again this seems like unduly light pressures to this old experimenter. Loading 57 grains 4350 in a 12" twist rifle with 200 grain bullet gave 2863 feet velocity for 48,300 foot pounds pressure, a very good long range game load.

H. Nelson Busick and the writer had Bob

Wallack make up a special rifle with about 6" twist in caliber 6.5, chambered for the Sharpe & Hart case necked down to 6.5 for use with Barnes 200 grain 6.5 bullets. This rifle shot very steadily also with 58 to 60 grains 4831 data powder and the extremely long 6.5 bullet about 1½ inches long. This bullet had the greatest sectional density ever secured in a rifle bullet, as far as I know. With the very slow burning 4831 powder, it worked well and developed just over 2400 feet with a 60 grain charge of 4831. It also made a splendid long range rifle, for although the bullet did not start at high velocity, it had a much lower velocity loss than any other existing shouldered rifle bullet we have ever fired; so that over long ranges it was actually much flatter than many high velocity bullets at over 3000 feet muzzle velocity.

From my many years experimenting with high velocity rifles in several calibers, I would favor a 10 inch twist in the 7x61 S & H for their Schultz & Larson rifle, using bullets of 180 to 200 grains weight for all big game shooting. There is no substitute for sectional density, and when you can have high sectional density at high velocity you have the best in a flat shooting long range rifle.

Popular demand as evidenced from orders received convinced Sharpe & Hart that the general shooting public wanted a 160 grain bullet at high velocity, so their Norma load of 160 grain at 3100 feet answers popular demand. In my opinion, the 7x61 Sharpe & Hart cartridge with 160 to 180 or 200 grain bullets is one of the finest long range cartridges ever produced for our lighter big game. In factory loading, the 160 grain Norma load is no doubt the best of all commercially loaded cartridges for such game, including sheep, goat, antelope, mule deer, and caribou to extreme long range. We do not consider it best for the heavier game. For the hand loader the Nosler 175 grain would be best of all bullets.

Next, the rifle. For many years, shooters have been prejudiced against rifles having rear locking lugs. This is all well and good when applied to lever action rifles with long springy breech blocks and locking lugs; but, when applied to bolt action rifles, it is something else. The old British S.M.L.E. .303, when tuned up for match work, showed up very well in competition at long range and was considered about the fastest and smooth-

(Continued on Page 62)

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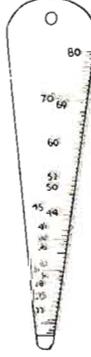
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CROSSFIRE

The Sullivan Law Up-state

I happen to be a country resident of New York State, and I can tell you that getting a pistol permit under the Sullivan Law is a long drawn out process. There are at least five forms to be filled out; then the waiting begins. It takes at least 90 days, while the Judge, Sheriff, Chief of Police, and an official in Albany decide if you are qualified to have the permit.

The permit is worth waiting for though, if you live in the country, because you get a permit that is good for the rest of your life. At least it works that way in the section where I live. I now have three Ruger revolvers registered: a .44 Magnum, a .357 Magnum, and a .22.

I taught my younger brother to use a rifle and the pistols when he was 12, and allowed him to carry the 22 pistol whenever he went with me to walk the trapline or hunt woodchucks.

Chester G. Southwell
Highlands, New Jersey

Legal Nonsense

While looking through the statutes of Mississippi, hoping to get an idea for a bill for my students to submit to the annual practice congress sponsored by the various colleges of that state, I ran across something that would delight an enemy power, especially if all the states had it. This is a law requiring that all rifles with a muzzle velocity of 2,000 or more feet per second be registered. Since such a gun can be very useful in the national defense, fifth-columnists and fellow-travelers would know where to look for them, in order to help render America defenseless.

Wm. H. Wilson
Millington, Tenn.

Law Means "Can" As Well As "Can't"

I read your magazine every month and enjoy it very much. I was especially interested in your article on the Sullivan Law, as we have just started a pistol club in our town. I would like to ask you why it is impossible to get a pistol permit for anything except target shooting in this state, as I cannot get a definite answer from any of the law officers around here.

Earl M. Richardson, Jr.
Orleans, Mass.

Few police officers are qualified to give opinions on legal matters. You need a lawyer. Each club should have among its members a competent attorney willing to go before a judge and get a court order, if necessary, forcing police to issue licenses. The police duty to enforce laws means giving the citizen

all the privileges to which he is entitled (such as gun licenses) just as much as it means keeping from the citizen the things which the law prohibits. If your law provides for the issuance of handgun permits, police should be required to issue such permits to applicants who comply with the requirements set up by the statute. An active shooting club, through its members canvassing for desirable political nominees and acting to ensure their election, can increase its voice in public affairs. It takes a little work: liberty always did require some effort.—
Editors.

Collector Seeks Connections

As one of your readers, let me compliment GUNS for an interesting job well done. I am a collector of firearms, not a shooter, but nevertheless find the publication far excels the job done by any of your competitor magazines.

I have a small problem that I am hoping you can solve. I am trying to locate a gun collectors club in my vicinity. Do you know of any, or could you refer me to someone who could give me this information? It's very frustrating to have a collection of arms, and not be able to meet with fellow collectors. My vicinity is the Princeton-New Brunswick area of New Jersey.

John Wright
Franklin Park, N. J.

".22's For Survival"

I found ".22's For Survival" interesting, but I question the selection of a single-shot for the survival gun. I think the clip-fed bolt-action repeater would be better. The Air Force's M-4 survival rifle (.22 Hornet) uses a clip (detachable box) magazine. However, if you already have a good .22 repeater, I think you would be better off with the gun that you know and shoot well.

For living off the countryside, the .22 is the best of guns; but if you expect to gun Reds, better get a high-power rifle. The best bet would be the 03A3 from the D.C.M. If your gun shoots .30-06 Springfield, the government might be able to pass out ammo to fit. If not, you might be able to obtain weapons and ammunition from invaders who won't be needing them any more.

John W. Rockefeller
Grand Island, Nebraska

I have just read ".22's For Survival" by Alfred J. Goerg and my only complaint is, why doesn't it appear in more magazines?

Americans should be more defense-minded. Poland, England, and France didn't think it could happen to them in World War I. Americans don't think it can happen here. But (God forbid) if World War III comes, it

could and I believe it will happen here.

More on the subject along with the guns, please.

Mrs. Thomas P. Wells
Miami, Florida

Congratulations on printing Alfred J. Goerg's article "22's For Survival." He is not alone in his beliefs, and I for one have already built up an arsenal in the past few years. My battery consists of several military rifles, pistols, and shotguns.

I, too, have friends interested in the idea. With the present crisis in the Middle East, the thought of enemy marines on our doorsteps doesn't sound too silly.

"A Minuteman"
Massachusetts

I like your magazine. Guns have been my hobby. The article in the August number, "22's For Survival," by Alfred J. Goerg, was wonderful. I wish it could be published in pamphlet form so one could afford to give it away.

I know what he means, for I was here. The Japanese could have come on from Pearl Harbor and landed on this coast; only by the grace of God they decided to go in another direction. If we should get into war again with any major power, I hope the same grace works again; otherwise we are sure to be invaded.

Everything the powers that be can think of to hinder us in the use of firearms is done. It is a violation of the law to practice shooting in the counties of California adjacent to the coast. While our armed forces are trying to get to the moon, the training for survival on the ground is neglected, and that is where the battle will be won or lost.

I have sold all but one of my guns (can't use them, too many restrictions). I still retain a hand gun. Wouldn't go out at night without it, for with crime and violent deeds, it is more dangerous now than when the Indians were here. As soon as they can get around to it, I suppose they will relieve me of that too, so I will be an easy prey for the criminal.

Rev. Luther Arthur
Huntington Beach, Calif.

Drop Dead!

I enjoyed reading the so-called controversy between Keith and Weatherby. However, I do not think there is much difference between the two. I do not think that Weatherby would go out to kill elephant with a .220, or that Keith would go out to shoot a crow with a .470. Just as in everything else there is a point of diminishing return in regards to velocity vs. bullet weight. This is the point they have not agreed upon.

Velocity is very important in trajectory, but over a certain speed I do not believe it has too much to do with the killing power. I doubt if a deer can tell the difference in being struck with a 150 grain bullet at 2900 f.p.s. or a 150 grain at 3600 f.p.s. at 100 yds. Naturally, at longer ranges the 3600 f.p.s. will out-perform the 2900 f.p.s. You tell a bear that has been struck with an ultra-velocity bullet in a non-vital spot that he is supposed to drop dead, and he will probably chew your head off.

It has always been my belief that any cartridge is capable of killing the animal; that the killing power lies in the shooter. Dead is only dead, whether killed with a

standard cartridge or the ultra velocity. I think that Mr. Bell proved this long ago. However, I do not recommend that your readers try the same!

Charles W. Leavell
Sumter, S. C.

"Mr. Bell" was a world-famous hunter who killed all kinds of African game (and many of them) with—if memory serves—a 6.5 mm Mannlicher and 7 mm Mauser.—Ed.

Congratulations, Meredee

In your August Issue, page 6, "Guns In The News," paragraph one is quite a bit in error. As I am the instructor who taught this little wonder to shoot, and the one who witnessed the targets and sent them in to the NRA, I will attempt to straighten out the story for you. First of all, the little girl in question was Miss Meredee (not Joan) Marks, daughter of Capt. Theodore Marks, Post Signal Office. Meredee fired a perfect 300 over the NRA Ranger Course, using a M1922 Springfield rifle which is much too heavy and long for her. Meredee fired in the prone position with the rifle tucked under her arm pit. This little girl has been firing for a little over a year, has shown great promise, and we are very proud of her here at the club. She has been an inspiration for many of our aspiring young shooters.

I am a steady reader of your magazine, and would appreciate it if you would correct the errors in the story so that Meredee will have the story as a keepsake.

SFC. Ralph L. Matthews
Sec'y Chugach Rod and Gun Club
Chugach, Alaska.

East, West, Home's Best

There is no "Exhibition Grade" made by James Purdey and Sons, London, though the guns shown in the September issue may have been made for an exhibition. They make one grade only—the best. Ornamentation fancier than the standard Purdey light scroll engraving costs extra, but the buyer receives the same steel, wood and workmanship. Gold inlaid guns are sold mostly to Indian rajahs and the newer rich of the Western world.

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J. R. Balentine
Carmel, California

It must be nice to be in England now that egos are in bloom.—Ed.

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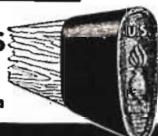
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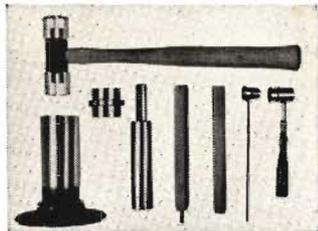
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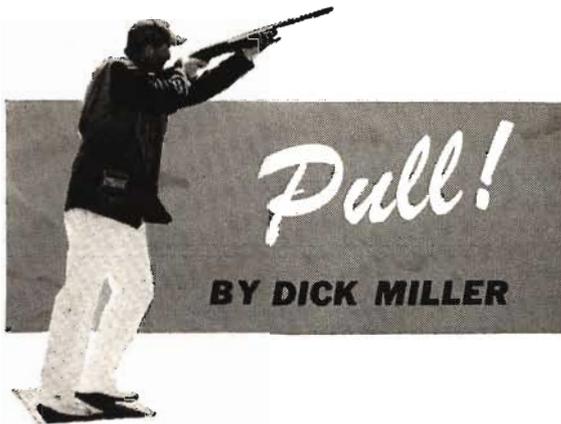
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TRAPSHOOTING is a growing sport. This is proved by record-breaking numbers of entries each year in the Grand American, the national trapshooting tournament, held annually at Vandalia, Ohio. Skeet is enjoying a healthy growth also; perhaps not as spectacular a growth as that which marks the trap-shooting sport, but a growth which is encouraging.

But the increasing popularity of both the clay target sports is, I'm afraid, in spite of, rather than because of, the efforts of most gun clubs.

Now, before every gun club president or secretary in the United States and Canada (where both sports are rapidly gaining new shooters) writes me or GUNS Magazine a "you cur, sir" letter for that remark, let's take a look at the record. (This is a good phrase in an election year, regardless of your party affiliations.)

Government statistics show that about 15 million Americans buy hunting licenses. We may deduce that a majority of this army of hunters either own shotguns, or have access to them.

Reliable sources estimate that there are about 15 thousand skeet and trap shooters in the United States. We now arrive at a figure indicating that only one out of each thousand sportsmen possessing the tools and inclinations for clay target shooting are attracted to the gun club.

At this point, it will surely be interjected that economics enters the picture. Some of the "you cur, sir" letters which I will get as a result of this column will say that our community doesn't have enough money to support trap and skeet clubs. These letters will point out that, while members of the communities involved can afford to hunt, they cannot afford to shoot trap or skeet.

Two answers can be given in advance. One is that some of the most active gun clubs to my knowledge are located in communities with relatively low economic levels. Another answer is simply the observation that a sportsman can usually afford to follow a sport in which he is interested. If a man doesn't like, or isn't familiar with a sport, he feels that he can't afford it. Some of my trap and skeet shooting friends make only from one-third to one-half as much salary as some of my non-shooting friends who say they can't afford the sports.

It will also be said, "My town isn't big enough to support a gun club." This is not borne out by the existing evidence, either. Some of the largest and most active gun clubs in the Mid-west are located in towns of less than five thousand souls.

Before you write me a letter which has to

be mailed in an asbestos envelope, answer this question. What is your club doing to bring the fun of shattering moving clay targets to more members of your community?

Has the club promoted a Hunter's Special shoot lately, in which hunters or new shooters are encouraged to try the games of trap and skeet in competition with other beginners?

Does your club set aside a special day, or night, for the instruction of beginners?

One of the surest ways to drive the new shooter away from trap or skeet is to introduce him to the games in a squad of experienced shooters, and without any preparatory instruction.

As a part of my duties in providing technical assistance to the Outdoor Education Project of the National Education Association, I have had the pleasure of introducing shotgun shooting at hand-thrown clay targets to about 500 teachers and administrators, over a sixty-day period. Amazing numbers of the school people, most of whom had never fired at a clay target and many of whom had never pulled the trigger on a shotgun, wanted to know where and when they could enjoy more of this sport.

After a four-hour shooting and hunting education clinic I recently conducted for a group of 40 high school boys, at least half the boys bombarded host club officials with questions as to when they could do more clay target shooting. All this enthusiasm came after each shooter fired five shots at targets thrown with a hand-trap.

If your gun club has not permitted or encouraged near-by citizens to shoot at as many as five clay targets, how can you know whether or not those citizens are interested in shooting?

Sure, I know that you won't make confirmed shooters out of every person you get out to the club with Hunter's Special shoots, or instructional clinics; but you *will* pick up *some* new shooters in the process. On the other hand, if you *haven't* conducted clinics or hunter's specials, the games of trap and skeet are growing *in spite of* your efforts.

This column should be interpreted in no way critical of the Amateur Trapshooting Association, the National Skeet Shooting Association, or the arms and ammunition manufacturers. The real burden of providing continued shooting interest, and the necessary growth, falls on the shoulders of local clubs. It is only on the local level that the potential shooter can be met and introduced to trap and skeet.

Now, go ahead and write your letter. Maybe your experience in gaining new friends for trap and skeet will be valuable

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to those clubs whose efforts have not been so successful. And please, no letters saying your club doesn't want any more shooters. You won't believe it, but I got letters saying "we don't want more shooters" in answer to a column I once wrote in similar vein, for another magazine. If your shooting game is worth the time you spend on it, it's worth promoting, if only because it will be a better game for you if more people contribute time, effort, and money to it.

Looking For A Place To Hunt?

HOW MANY of you 15-or-so million American hunters have, at one time or another, wished that you knew of a good place to hunt—a place where you could be sure of getting a bag and a day or more of really good upland game shooting? How many of you have wished that the seasons were longer?

There is an answer to that wish. Excellent shooting, unlimited bags, and legal open seasons four, five, and even six months long are available to you on the nearest shooting preserve.

The growth of shooting preserve popularity is proof positive that the preserves offer a workable solution to the problem of where to hunt, and there is a shooting preserve within easy reach of nearly every major population center in the United States. Shooting preserves are ideal for men and women whose time for sport is limited. They are perfect also for the sportsman who wishes to introduce his wife, son, or daughter to the shooting sports.

Shooting preserves are privately owned or leased acreage on which artificially propagated game is released for the purpose of hunting, usually for a fee, over an extended season. Good game cover is planned and cultivated; game birds are carefully bred, reared, and conditioned. At maturity, pheasants, quail, chukars, or waterfowl are released in accordance with state and federal regulations, to provide hunting under natural conditions. A shooting preserve is a place of convenience for sportsmen unable or unwilling to spend long and perhaps fruitless hours searching for unposted coverts in which legal game may (or may not) be flushed.

No two shooting preserves are alike. This variety works to the hunter's advantage. Some preserves operate as full-fledged resorts in

which comfort and amenities are provided for an entire family. Other preserves offer simple daily-fee hunting with no frills.

Guides and trained bird dogs are furnished, but most preserves permit you to work your own dog if he is kept under control. If you have a youngster along as a hunting companion, a shooting preserve is the ideal place for his introduction to the field. All preserves guarantee good shooting.

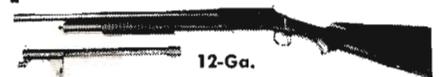
Charges vary, depending upon the services and facilities offered. Some preserves fix prices by the number of birds bagged, others by the number of birds released. Some of the preserves offer attractive membership rates. In all instances, the sportsman and preserve operator agree on cost before the hunt is begun. There are shooting preserves to suit most purses and most tastes. Many cater to hourly wage earners and sportsmen of average income. The advertised literature offered by the individual preserve will specify costs.

Reservations must be made in advance, and hunters provide their own shells. It is well, however, to follow the preserve operator's suggestions regarding shot sizes. Ask in advance about hunting license requirements for the reserve in question. In some states, no license is required on shooting preserves; in others, low-fee licenses are available for use on preserves only.

Sportsmen's Service Bureau, 250 East 43rd Street, New York 17, New York, offers free of charge a neat, illustrated folder listing (by states) more than 300 shooting preserves in the United States, giving addresses where information can be obtained, and listing the kinds of game offered. A postcard to Sportsmen's Service Bureau requesting this folder may solve your hunting problem.

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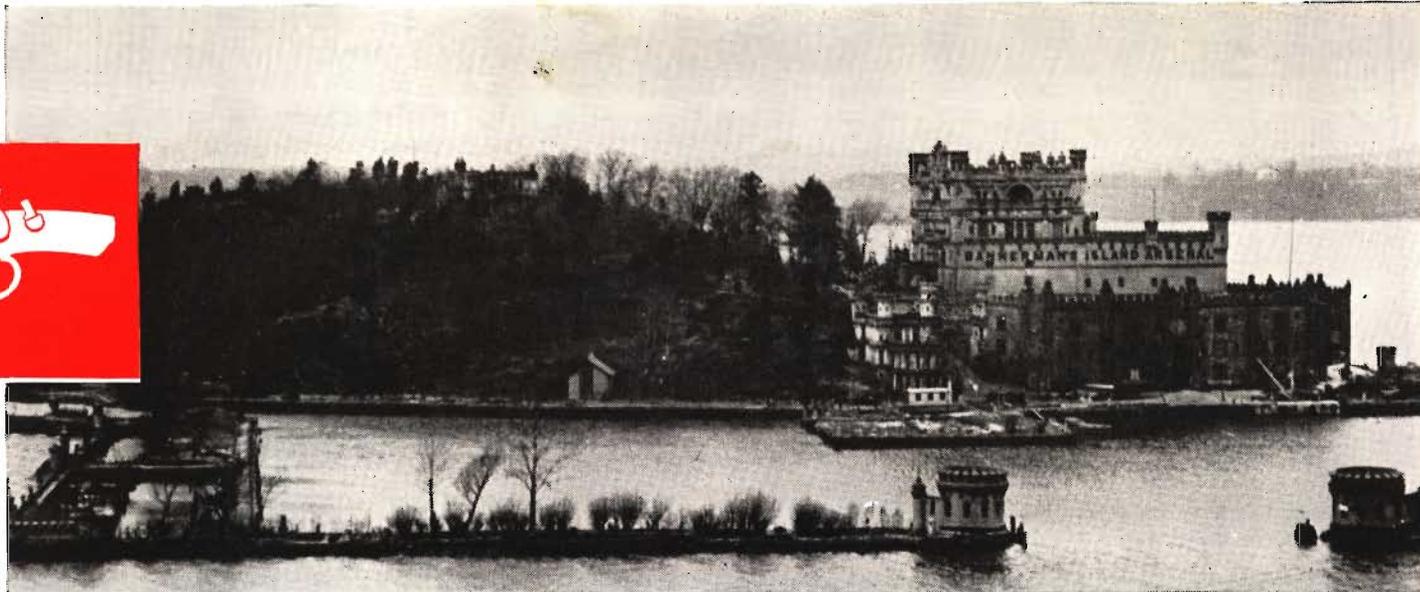


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Island castle was guarded by men and dogs against trespassers who might steal or be injured by stored munitions. Dogs are gone, but secrets of island are still well guarded.

ARSENAL on the HUDSON

3RD OUTSIDER IN 50 YEARS TO VISIT BANNERMAN HUDSON RIVER ISLAND CASTLE,
GUNS STAFFMAN EXPLORES THE GUN TRADE'S BIGGEST MYSTERY



Demolition expert Forgett (left) removes fuse from Civil War shell.

By WILLIAM B. EDWARDS

THE POWER LAUNCH which had brought us across the Hudson from Cornwall, N. Y., churned nearer to Polopel Island. I could see the square mass of the castellated warehouse looming out of the morning haze. The breakwater was awash with the tide, but we rounded the long southern arm and chugged between the guard turrets, passed a worn sign which proclaimed "Keep Out—Explosives—Armed Guards." In quiet excitement I waited for the boatman to bring the launch alongside the wharf. I could wait patiently. Along with millions of passengers on the New York Central's water level route up the Hudson, along with thousands of gun collectors who know the fabulous Bannerman arms business and its incredible catalog (which after 90 years is still a standard reference work for gun students)—I, too, had long wondered "What's on Bannerman Island?"

Since that day in 1942 when I wandered into the long, narrow shop on lower Broadway, the building at 501 with its antique "Bannerman—Firearms" and gold bullion letters on the facade proclaiming "Army & Navy Outfitters" which has hardly changed in a half century; since that day when I bought a rusty Spencer rifle on their "Specials" table for \$2, Bannerman's catalog and company had been a moulding factor in my collecting of old guns. With the tremendous post-World War II interest in arms collecting,



Fabulous wall at Bannerman's Broadway store has been stocked for years with arms from Island. Photo shows display in 1940's; but rare guns still turn up.

some other merchants have tried to imitate Bannerman, with more or less success. But it is not easy to imitate a legend. And legend Bannerman's has become, largely because of the Island. Now I was to be the third outsider in a generation to set foot on the Island. The first was an Army colonel who visited the Island after World War II. The second man was sitting by me in the launch: Valmore Forgett, late PFC, Ordnance Corps, USA, now owner of the Service Armament Co., also known as "Ma Hunter's."

Bannerman bought the island in 1900 from one Thomas Taft, who had bought the rocky crag in Newburgh Bay to keep it from being used as a depot for untaxed whiskey. Taft cut out the bootlegging and entailed the title with one condition, that no liquor be sold on the Island. This became one of the most ironic twists in the story of the Island Arsenal, for as it turned out, the condition should have read, "No whiskey shall be *used* here." On that Island, Francis Bannerman erected a rambling castellated warehouse five stories high, rising some fifty feet above the

level of the Hudson. He needed the Island to store 20,000,000 rounds of captured Spanish 7mm Mauser ammunition, as well as thousands of Mauser rifles captured in the Spanish-American War. Ultimately he moved other munitions to the Island, including case after case (possibly as many as a hundred thousand at one time) of Civil War Springfield rifles. Of most interest to Forgett professionally were tons of Civil War and Spanish War artillery shells, corroded into dangerous condition. In addition, Bannerman, to build a foundation on which to place his arsenal, sunk barges in the Hudson—barges filled with live Civil War artillery projectiles. As we disembarked and walked across the crumbling concrete walk, I noticed that the overgrowth of poison ivy was tangled about the nose studs of fused Parrott rifle shells.

The potentially dangerous condition of the age-old munitions stored on the Island became apparent to the Bannerman people recently, and they tried to locate an ordnance expert who would deactivate the unsafe munitions.

They contacted West Point's Museum and were told, "Go see Val Forgett." They also wrote to Aberdeen Proving Ground. "Only man in civil life we know who would tackle that job is Forgett," they were told. Thus warmly recommended, the engaging proprietor of Service Armament Company was willing to risk life and limb to take a look. With an ever-present possibility of stepping on some ancient fuse rotten with verdi gris that would detonate from the pressure of a foot, we trod Bannerman's Island.

The breakwater (composed of thousands of .45-70 musket barrels dumped in and mortared over) led to a north ground-level door. Beside the entrance I suddenly paused, scooped into a tin box filled with the pine needles of decades, and pulled out a 1" Gatling Gun cartridge case that crumbled in my fingers from corrosion. That case, in "keepable" condition, would be worth from \$5 to \$10 to a collector. There must have been a hundred in the box once—now gone beyond recall.

Inside the first floor of the main warehouse, we walked past stacks of ammunition cases. These chests, each about two by one by three feet in cube, contained some of the 20,000 rounds of high explosive Spanish War cannon ammunition that Bannerman wanted deactivated. In addition, there were round metal canisters, navy gray, holding an even two dozen two-pounder brass case cartridges. The shells were painted red, high explosive, and the fuses were of a type that is "armed," by the shock of discharge, ready to fire on impact. These shells were condemned, so the story goes, because they had been dropped once in transport. We shook one slightly—something rattled inside. I looked at the piles of ammo chests rising twice as high as my head into the dimness of the unlighted warehouse vault, and wondered how easy it would be to "shock" them a second time for detonation. I certainly did not envy Forgett his job.

We continued to probe. My gun-hunting instincts were all primed to find a 20-musket armory chest, or one of those chunky square boxes containing fifty Frontier Colts, the way Uncle Sam used to ship them. But rust and dust

covered everything. There was no system, no order, just chaos.

To the rear on the first floor, Island caretakers had laid out a hundred cases of .45-70 ammunition for one dealer order. More cases held tens of thousands of the brass-bullet Spanish Remington cartridge. Off in a corner by a rickety, dangerous stairway where three big chests, lids smashed. Each contained Spanish Mauser cartridge clips, once-bright with fresh nickel plate for tropical issue, now spotty and stained with age.

On the second floor we discovered more interesting relics. A pile of scrap resolved itself into a tangle of .50-70 rifle barreled actions. We apparently had stumbled on Bannerman's "factory" area where, long years ago, skilled workmen had remodeled long Army rifles into cadet muskets for private military academies. In another section of this floor, we came upon hundreds of sword hilts—just the hilts and about a foot of blade, and scabbards chopped in half, all of the American Civil War pattern. North-South Skirmish fans would like that cache before someone chopped 'em in half. Further on, we came to Gatling Gun carriages, with wood-spoke wheels smashed, and the bronze hubs missing. One trunnion cap remained; its fellow had been hammered off. "What is this, battlefield salvage?" I asked. "Heck no," Forgett snorted. "A former caretaker was an alcoholic, and he took boatloads of brass over to the mainland to peddle for booze!" So much for prohibition, public or private. . . . In sorrow, I counted the Gatling Gun carriages. Each was damaged, the guns gone, their heavy brass housings melted years ago. A few barrels, a damaged set of trunnion arms or two, some gears, a bent feed case—all that remained of a dozen fine Colt Gatlings.

I took the light and decided to pass to the highest point quickly, to get the lay of the land, and then continue the search working down. The top was a huge "captain's walk" ringed by a parapet and with gun shields set in embrasures, for the Navy quick-firers—light guns shooting the two-pound shell, that old Francis had bought from the Spanish War sales. Even these guns (Continued on page 52)



Scotsman's Island warehouse could transfer heavy guns through big doors directly to vessels for shipment.



Main gate has phony portcullis lattice and beams like cannon. Chains do not really operate drawbridge.

Gun from Farragut's flagship "Hartford" is silent sentinel amid the poison ivy of old castle island. In foreground, a Gatling Gun caisson decays from the wind and weather.



Store stocks quantities of uniforms for props and rents guns to movies, theatres. Island still has bales and boxes of Civil War and 1898 equipment unopened and unlisted.

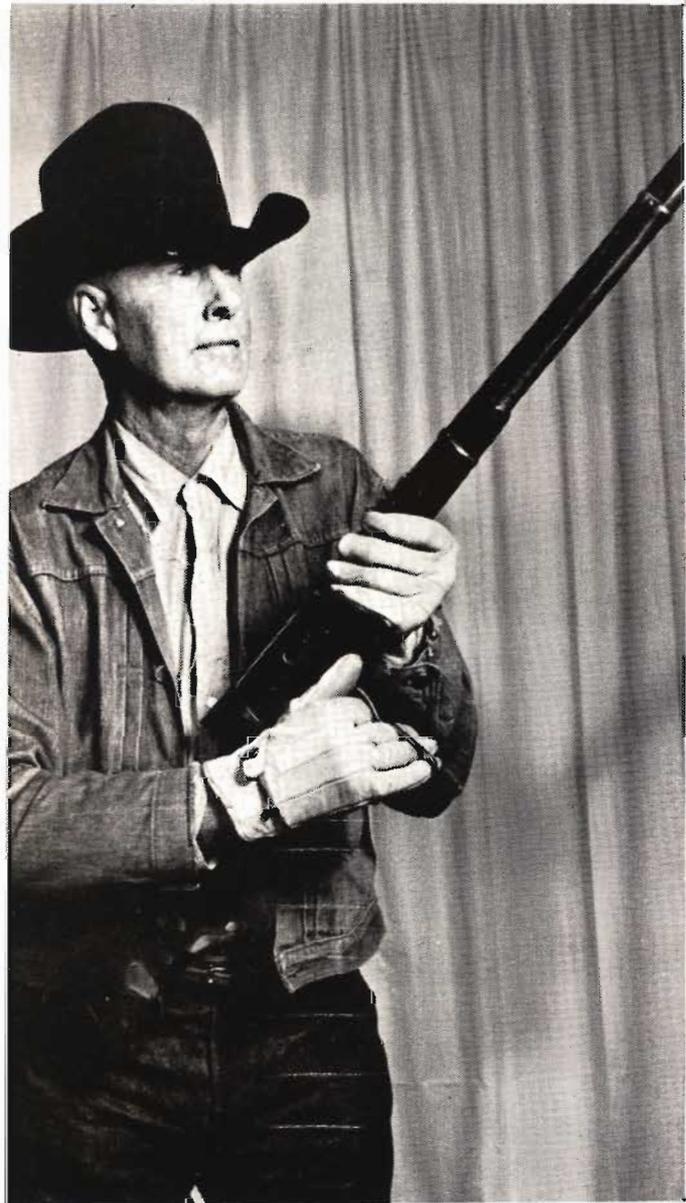


Rare four-barreled flint pistol is typical of finer guns sold in store. Catalog seldom has current price, as they go fast.

Stock of collectors guns like Irish flinter, German wheel-lock and British blunderbuss is always available at No. 501.



GUNS FOR THE



After 45 years as cowboy, professional hunter, and law officer, Walter Rodgers knows guns as tools of a trade at which he is "an old pro."

By WALTER RODGERS



Rifle should be carried so it leaves room for you (and the horse) to work, and where you can pull it when needed. Gun? A Win. .30-30.

GET IT STRAIGHT—I'm no gun expert. I'm nobody from nowhere, called Slim by them that know me, and as to shooting, I'm maybe the world's poorest shot. I've sure missed plenty!

True, I've had to try some shots that made missing downright easy; and in the course of some 25 years as working cowboy, followed by 20 years as a professional predatory animal hunter, mixed up with quite a variety of experiences as a law enforcement officer, I've handled a few guns—and seen some handled by some real good gunners. But, friend, if you're looking for a treatise on the internal ballistics of some new caliber, this ain't it. This is just a piece about working guns and working cowboys and how the two go together. The guns are apt to be a little older than new, and sort of weathered and work-battered, with maybe a screw or

WORKING COWBOY



WORKING SADDLEMEN WHO CHOOSE "PEACEMAKERS" AND .30-30S AREN'T CRAZY: THEY'RE PICKING TOOLS THEY KNOW FOR THE JOB THEY DO

two loose somewhere — more or less resembling, you might say, the men who use them. But, one way or another, they get the job done when it's needed, and that's what a man remembers.

That is Walter Rodgers' own introduction of himself — and although editors should be both unseen and unheard, I know Walter and would like to add a bit to his introduction. Walter's first article in "The American Rifleman," back in 1948, brought a record flood of enthusiastic letters, many of them from precision riflemen whose guns and pin-point accuracy would win Walter's ungrudging admiration — just as his fluid ease in bowling a running jack with a rickety old .30-30 lever action or a mule-eared Peacemaker would win theirs. Walter is one of a breed of men to whom guns were (and are) the tools of the day's work. Give him a couple of shots "to get the feel of it" and he'll do things with a rifle you and I would have discarded as junk that I couldn't do with the best piece I own. Walter knows things about guns that men never learn from books — though his own book, "Huntin' Gun" (Infantry Journal Press, 1949) will tell you some of them.—EBM, Editor.

I remember one gun I had — a Model 69 Winchester .22 caliber. It shot eight inches high when I got it second-hand in a swap. The magazine catch was tricky and I lost two clips before I bent a slab of leather over the release and secured the catch with a rubber band. I broke the stock myself soon after I got it, beating the brains out of a big coyote that had a death grip on an old trap dog I had got used to; but I fixed that (the stock, I mean) with a bandage of green rawhide I swiped from a cow too dead to need it any longer. I was keeping records then for my reports to the Office of Predator Control, so I can give you a real ballistic report on that little rifle. I used it on 1,260 working days, and I made about 4,600 clean kills with it. It accounted for 823 coyotes, 117 badgers, 102 porcupines, 161 skunks, 784 hawks, 23 owls, 20 eagles, 79 wild house cats, 6 wild dogs, 1 fox, 1 bobcat, 30 ground squirrels, 68 prairie dogs, 125 rattlesnakes, 1,260 jack rabbits, and about 1,000 cottontails. (Understand, I wasn't shooting for fun, or for record; this was the work I was hired for—or such part of it as I could do with that kind of a rifle.) It wasn't a pretty rifle, nor even a very good rifle considering the (Continued on page 45)



Homemade belt and spring-type cut-away holster hold gun where Walter wants it, lets gun come free without much lift. This is one-hand draw, thumb cocking as gun clears.



Fanned draw leaves guns uncocked until left hand sweeps over to cock gun and fire shot. Satisfactory close-range combat accuracy is possible, as well as blinding speed.

**"THE MARINES HAVE LANDED AND ESTABLISHED
A BEACHHEAD!" A FAMILIAR HEADLINE
FOR A TYPICAL MARINE VICTORY—WITH PISTOLS**



THE WORLD SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS were fired in Moscow in August, with some 600 marksmen from 27 countries competing. As expected, the Russians, with first-class guns in the hands of superb shooters with many months of training practice behind them, took most of the honors. But there were at least two major bright spots:

Great Britain won the smallbore rifle competition, taking both team and individual Firsts. (Dr. Oakley of London shot a new record of 396x400 at 50 meters to win the individual.)

And a U.S. Marine, Captain William McMillan, won the World Centerfire Pistol title. This is the story of Bill McMillan, one of the great competitive pistolmen of all time and not bad with a rifle; the man Marines call "The shootin'est Marine."

The Man Who

By BILL TONEY

Former National Pistol Champion



Champion's shooting stance is relaxed, his kit simple and unpretentious. But the man-gun combination is one of the best in gun history.



Mac checks his pet centerfire gun, a Colt's Officers Model Match .38, alongside kit holding (l. to r.) a Ruger Mark I .22 with muzzle brake, the High Standard Olympic .22 used in Olympic speed-fire at Moscow, one Colt's .45 with Giles Heavy and one plain .45 for Service matches.

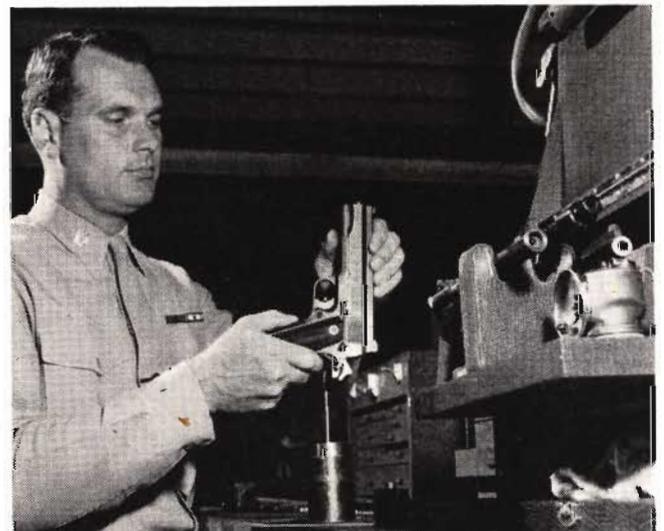
Beat the Upside-downers

IF A MARINE GUNNER had not said in effect, "Shoot the pistol or pick up brass on the rifle range," the world's centerfire pistol champion might never have entered handgun competition.

In his early years, Bill McMillan had no inkling of the impact he would have on shooting in the Marine Corps, in America, and throughout the world. During his school years, the family moved about frequently, living in various smaller towns in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He never belonged to a rifle team nor had any formal firearms training. In fact, he never had a gun of his own until he was already well on the way to shooting fame. His only contact with shooting had been very casual; nothing beyond informal plinking and hunting.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps on July 8, 1946, shortly after graduating from high school in Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania. There was no special reason for his enlistment; it just happened that way. Marksmanship is always an important part of a Marine's boot training, and McMillan got his indoctrination — with the rifle. His friends still rib him about his long assignment to the only rifle sentry post at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Some say that the post was created for him because he had not yet qualified with a pistol. But, it was not his fault. He did not receive instruction and training with the pistol for about the first ten months of his service.

"Mac" had taken to the rifle very readily, and he showed even more aptitude for pistol marksmanship when he got to it. Still the young Marine did not realize what he had. Time passed, and it became apparent to his instructors



Weighing trigger pull on .45 auto. to make sure it is within legal limit, champion demonstrates attention to detail essential to success in tough competitive sport.

that this man was team material. Assigned to an advanced marksmanship unit, he still loved the rifle and was showing no great interest in pistol shooting. CWO Earl W. Whitaker, under whom he was undergoing training, cured that by giving him the choice of further advanced pistol training or a fatigue detail picking up empty shell cases on the rifle range. The decision was quickly (*Continued on page 47*)

GUNSTOCK BEAUTIES ON

CHOOSING A RARE WOOD FOR RESTOCKING YOUR BEST

SPORTER WILL GIVE YOU PLEASURE IN ADDED BEAUTY.

Author's collection of sporters shows markings of rare woods; suigi-finished is 2nd from top.



Stocker N. E. Nelson brings out grain of maple by torching which is known as "suigi" finish.

PARADE

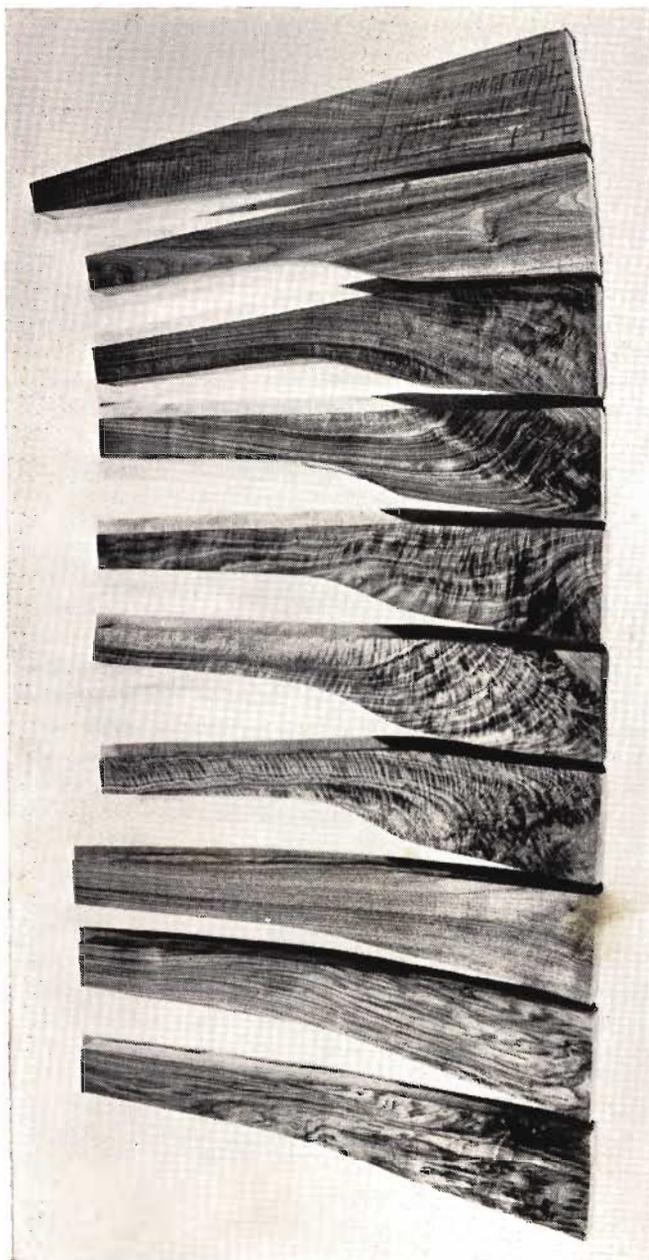
By DICK SIMMONS

GUNS HAVE A FASCINATION for many people. But one of the most fascinating fields of rifle-dom is the stocking of rifles with various kinds of woods. The stock is one of the most obvious features of any kind of firearm, but more so on a rifle than on a shotgun or pistol, simply because there is more of it.

A stock can be carved, checkered, inlaid, or shaped to certain styles and shapes, all of which help to set it apart as an individual thing. On the other hand, you can look for certain pieces of figured wood that also sets that particular weapon apart from most others. I have traveled many hundreds of miles looking over various stock blanks to find unusually marked or well figured pieces to make up into finished stocks. I have received much enjoyment in searching for them, finishing them up, and then applying the oil, lacquer or varnish to bring out the true high-lights and colors that one can never predict before hand. The anticipation is much like that received by the agate cutter or gem polisher, as very seldom do any two gems, or gunstocks, finish up alike.

You do not have to travel in order to obtain different species of woods for stock-blank purposes. Many private individuals and firms handle numerous types of imported woods. Any large city has hardwood lumber supply firms that specialize in these woods, and good, well seasoned blanks can be purchased from five to twenty-five dollars. Many of the supergrade burl, crotch or finely figured varieties will run as high as thirty-five to fifty dollars, but you will have a stock that you will be continually showing with pride, so they are well worth paying the extra amount for.

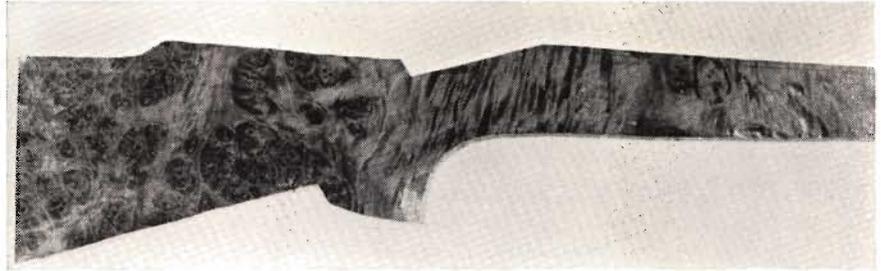
Walnut has always been considered the finest of stock wood, but this should by no means eliminate



Nelson holds maple sporter with stock that would run perhaps \$50 for the blank alone. Wood in fine grades may cost \$15 plus, up to big money for rare burl grains (above).



Before and after of a stock blank. Rare maple burl blank (right) was seasoned 25 years, shaped into combination of man made and natural art as stock for 7mm by N. H. Hultgren.



other woods which are equal in strength and far more attractive. Circassian walnut, which comes from Russia, and is no longer obtainable, has always been considered the finest stock wood procurable, with French walnut running second in choice. Gunsmith Roy Vail of Warwick, New York; Flaig's of Millvale, Pa.; and Herter's of Waseca, Minnesota, are three firms among others which specialize in handling French walnut. The English, Italian and American walnuts are all good, with those trees which grow the slowest and in a more temperate climate being the best. In the past few years we have been getting a walnut from central and northern California known as "Claro" walnut which in figure and color has most any other walnut in the world beat. We are going to hear a lot about this particular walnut specie in the future. Oakley & Merkley, P.O. Box 2446, Sacramento, California, is the main firm that is specializing in cutting, drying and distributing Claro walnut blanks. I personally would not trade a good blank of Claro for any walnut grown, but that of course is only a personal opinion. However, I note that many of our top-notch stockers are now turning to this wood as better than any which has been imported for many years.

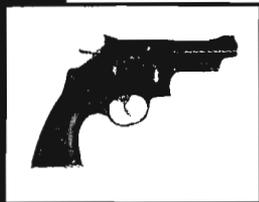
Eastern maple makes a very hard and durable stock; one that will take a lot of knocking around and abuse without denting. Curley and Fiddleback or Tiger-Stripe are the more common names applied to this eastern maple and when finished up in a "suigi" or blow-torch finish they are genuine beauties in any gun rack. I have such a stock on my .257 Roberts and after seven seasons of hunting it still looks like new. I also might add that I receive more genuine compliments on this "suigi" finished stock than on any other in my gun rack. Eastern maple is slightly heavy, but is without a doubt one of the toughest and most durable of stock woods.

Western Maple is being used quite a bit at the present time and this is one wood that the blow-torch can really do justice to. In fact very plain blanks that would show no color by staining, oiling, or varnishing, can be made to look outstanding by applying the torch. It is a much

lighter-weight wood than the eastern maple, but quite strong and entirely suitable for stocking purposes. I have one on my combination target-hunting .30-06. Stockmaker Newman Nelsen, Rt. 12, Box 700, Olympia, Washington; and Anthony Guymon, Inc., 203 Shore Drive, Bremerton, Washington, are two who specialize in supplying blanks as well as furnishing machine turned and hand made stocks of western maple wood. Guymon puts out an outstanding booklet which pictures and describes the various species of western maple and this booklet is free for the asking. "Basketweave", "Shell Flame", & "Crazy", as well as the usual well known Fiddleback, Tiger Tail and Birds-eye varieties of western maple are to be had. The first three named species are absolutely beautiful species of stock wood and unbelievably unusual. They have to be seen to be appreciated.

Myrtlewood is another favorite of mine. I have had wonderful success with it, due entirely (in my belief) to the fact that I never used a blank that wasn't entirely dry. I have stocks made of this wood that were picked for color only, with grain running in every direction but the right way, yet they give me consistently accurate groups and do not walk around in the least. I have never had one crack on me, and they are very unusually marked. I have five rifles stocked in Myrtle and would not wish to part with any of them for any reason. All blanks were dried two years before I purchased them. The Myrtle Shop at Coquille, Oregon and The House of Myrtle Wood, Highway 99, Grants Pass, Oregon, are two firms who specialize in furnishing well seasoned blanks of Myrtlewood. It is much nicer if you can personally visit these firms to pick out exactly what you wish, but if you will state your preference by letter the owners will do their best to please you. Myrtle finished up in clear plastic makes one of the most attractive stocks one can possibly find.

California Mesquite, a "screwbean type", which is found only around the water holes in the desert, is to my mind one of the most attractively marked stock woods. It is one of the toughest woods we have, and its orange-brown color with black streaks (*Continued on page 55*)



GUNS 3rd Annual POLICE AWARD

FOR SERVICES "BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY"



GUNS reports with pride, and with sincere admiration of the work police officers are doing throughout America, the results of our Third Annual Police Award.

This was the biggest one yet; biggest in number of entries, and biggest also in complexity in judging those entries. Judges agreed early in the game that it would be necessary to set up different categories into which different types of services by police, with guns, in the public interest, could be compared. The categories established were: acts of heroism involving police and guns; acts beyond the call of duty in promoting shooting within a police department; and services beyond the call of duty in promoting shooting and gun safety in the community outside the police department. These categories were judged to be of equal importance, and the three winners named below are listed alphabetically, each on a par with the others. Each of the three will be awarded the handgun of his choice, suitably inscribed and delivered in appropriate presentation ceremonies.

In addition, GUNS' judges chose five other names of officers whose services, in one or the other of the three categories, could not be overlooked. These five men are named below for HONORABLE MENTION.

In our next issue, GUNS will tell the stories of these eight men, with pictures, so that our readers everywhere may honor them for the work they have done and are doing in the defense of law and order and in the promotion of shooting skill and shooting safety.

WINNERS

DETECTIVE LAWRENCE McCALLION
PHILADELPHIA POLICE

COMM. MAURICE C. PETESCH
DEERFIELD, ILLINOIS

LT. MORRIS G. SEAMAN
BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.

NOMINATED BY

EDWARD L. CAUM
PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

LESLIE E. FIELD
CHICAGO, ILL.

RESERVE LT. C. McCracken
RESERVE LT. A. R. THODY
AND 200 MEMBERS OF BAKERSFIELD
POLICE DEPT.

HONORABLE MENTION

SGT. EUGENE C. CARLILE
EVANSVILLE, IND.

SGT. JOSEPH CARTEN
STRATFORD, CONN.

SHERIFF J. HOWELL FLOURNOY
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

CAPT. WILLIAM P. McCARTHY
N. Y. POLICE DEPT.

M/SGT. JOHN D. VEKICH
U.S. ARMY M.P.
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

NOMINATED BY

CHIEF OF POLICE CHARLES M. GASH
EVANSVILLE, IND.

THOMAS FIRRADELLO
STRATFORD, CONN.

ROBERT DYMENT
DUNKIRK, N. Y.

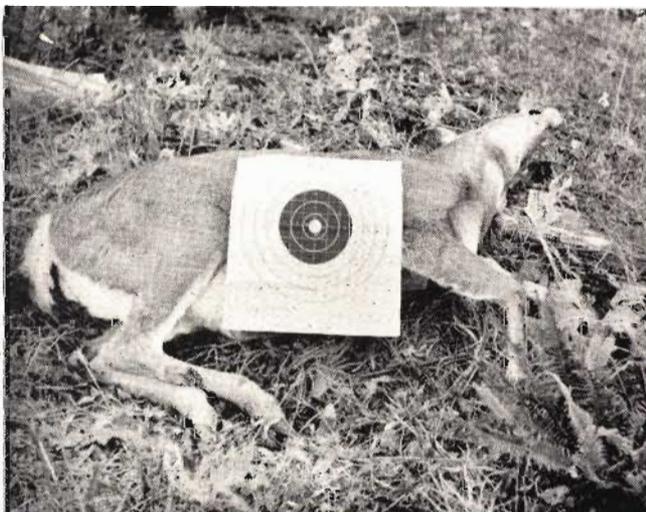
TED WASIELEWSKI
BRONX, N. Y.

CAPT. JOHN F. KALLAM
U.S. ARMY M.P.
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO

YOUR TARGET IS SMALLER



Vital area of deer may be smaller than circle of sighting-in target. Straight shooting is needed for clean kill.



Gut shot is largest section of deer where wound probably would be fatal but animal can run all day if hit there.

TOO FEW HUNTERS realize the accuracy essential for clean, humane, one-shot kills of big-game animals. The animal looks big, the scope makes him even bigger, and the hunter knows his rifle is capable of placing the shot within the killing area. But how about the hunter? Does he know where he must hit, and can he hit there, at what distance?

These are questions every big game hunter must answer if he hopes to merit his claim to the title of good sportsman. Owning a 600 yard rifle doesn't justify long shots if you're a 50 yard marksman. And even a shot "in the black" on an average sighting-in target is not good enough for clean kills. You'd call it bad sportsmanship to tee up your golf ball in the rough, or miscall your opponent's shot in tennis. It's worse sportsmanship to shoot at a game animal beyond the range at which you know that you can place your shot. These pictures show you how to tell what that range is.

THAN YOU THINK

**DON'T LEAVE IT ALL UP TO THE RIFLE!
PLACING YOUR SHOT RIGHT IS ESSENTIAL
FOR CLEAN KILLS, AND CLEAN KILLS
ARE ESSENTIAL TO GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**

By ALFRED J. GOERG



Throat shots from flank or front don't leave room for error. Vital hit must score in 9 ring, requiring accurate rifle and good aim.



Six-inch aiming bull shows just getting shot in black is not accurate enough. Neck shot (above) ruined cape.



TEN OF THE



Kick of 8-bore rifle, 1700 grain bullet and 165 lbs. recoil proves Buehler scope mount can take it.



Classic-car buff Buehler proudly hangs photos of his two restored Rolls Royce motor cars beside desk in office which holds samples of current rifles for which he makes scope mounts.

WORLD'S BIGGEST RIFLES

GUN CRANK INVENTOR MAYNARD BUEHLER TESTS HIS SCOPE MOUNTS ON HUGE RIFLES THAT MAKE ORDINARY MAGNUMS LOOK LIKE PIPSQUEAKS

By KENT BELLAH



Hollis' Martini single shot rifle of type still popular with some hunters in Africa is .577 necked to .450, delivers power at both ends.



Big Westley Richards falling block single rifle is .500-.450 used by Buehler to test sturdy rigidity of new scope mount designs.

GUN FANS DRIVE out of their way to visit Maynard Buehler at Orinda, California. Maker of one of the smallest parts of a rifle, its safety, Buehler's attraction for the gun crank tourist is his collection of the world's biggest rifles. Among Buehler's many fine rifles, there are set aside "Ten of the World's Most Powerful Rifles." Guns are Buehler's hobby, but the big bores are part of his business. All are scope mounted, in his mounts. They are his testing ground for the rugged scope fittings he makes, along with his special low bolt action rifle safetys.

Few shooters think of pip-squeak rifles when they think of Buehler, but his mounts are used on many .22 rim fire rifles. And if the mount holds zero on his big guns, it will certainly hold on hot .22 to .45 calibers. His largest rifle is a flintlock 2-bore, 1.18" diameter with 11 grooves, that uses a 3,500 grain (half pound) bullet delivering 17,500 foot pounds of muzzle energy at 1,500 feet per second. It makes our .50 caliber machine gun bullet weighing 1/5th as much, with a listed M.E. of 12,000 f.p., seem like a dinky plinker.

Buehler's battery of "Ten Most Powerful Rifles" range from the hot-shot, high velocity, flat trajectory jobs, to the big, low velocity guns that depend on bullet weight and caliber for shocking power. His 33 pound 2-bore is a bit heavy for a shoulder arm, but he made a mold to cast 3,500 grain bullets, and loaded them ahead of 28 drams FG black powder. Maynard and Dick Hart have fired it over an inner tube, with recoil over two feet no matter how tight they held the gun.

The "little" 8-bore double shoots a 1,250 grain bullet at 1,500 f.p.s. with 10 drams of FG black powder that develops 6,290 f.p. of muzzle energy. The *recoil* energy is about the same as the muzzle energy of a .38 Short Colt bullet! Some who fire the 8-bore would about as soon be shot with the .38 Short Colt cartridge. The smaller 10-bore H & H double, a type occasionally used in Africa today, has about the same recoil and energy with the same powder charge and a 1,200 grain bullet. It weighs 17½ pounds complete with a K2.5 scope—in a Buehler mount, of course. A couple of cartridges add ¾ lb. to the weight.

More modern rifles include a beautiful .577 x 3" x 750 Nitro Express double, by Westley Richards. 100 grains of Cordite starts a 750 grain jacketed bullet at 2,050 f.p.s., delivering 7,020 M.E. Neuman and other great elephant hunters have preferred this caliber to all others because it has more penetration than the .600 Nitro Express. Another show piece, in a popular caliber, is his .475 No. 2



Buehler likes to develop loads for his collection of "World's Ten Most Powerful Rifles."



Standard sporters are dwarfed beside wall rifle over fireplace. Gunsmith Buehler made grate from rifle barrels.

Nitro Express double. It too has a lot of "whammy" at both ends. 85 grains of Cordite give the 480 grain jacketed bullet 2,200 f.p.s. and 5,170 M.E.

The lower powered 450-.400 x 3¼" Magnum Nitro Express has long been popular in Africa and Asia. for two fast shots at heavy game. 60 grains of Cordite has 4,110 f.p. M.E. with a 400 grain jacketed bullet starting at 2,150 f.p.s. It may surprise some people to learn that moderate powered single shot rifles are still used by many white hunters in Africa. These men have learned to place a single bullet where it counts. and use the less expensive. lighter weight single loaders by choice. Buehler has two fine models, one a .500-.450 x 3¼" Westley Richards that delivers 2,745 M.E. The other is a .577-.450 Hollis Martini, delivering only 1,850 M.E. In English nomenclature, the double numbered shells mean the larger caliber has been necked down to the smaller caliber. In this instance, the .577 or .500 Express has been necked down to .450.

A "featherweight" bolt action in a heavy caliber is Maynard's .505 Gibbs, a Mannlicher type with 18" barrel. It was built on the Enfield action with a .50 caliber machine gun barrel, and weighs only 11¼ pounds complete with Alaska scope in a Buehler mount. Buehler doesn't particularly recommend the Enfield action, although this one takes the pressure of the regular cartridge, as well as his souped-up version of 112 grains HiVel behind 570 grain solid bullets, giving a muzzle energy of 7,400 foot pounds. Everything about this gun is terrific, including recoil,

muzzle blast, penetration, and terminal energy.

A flat trajectory number, for precision hits at extremely long range, is a beautiful .300 Super Magnum, with a 6X scope and Buehler mount on an F.N. action. A favorite load, from Roy Weatherby's "Tomorrow's Rifles Today," gives a M.E. of 4,611 f.p., at 3,400 f.p.s. M.V. with 82 grains of 4350 and a 180 grain bullet, in a blown-out .300 H&H case. This load is supposed to penetrate two inches of steel, which is a whale of a lot of penetration for a shoulder weapon.

Another super deluxe Buehler rifle is one that, considering the bullet weight and velocity, is the most powerful flat trajectory repeater built today—the .375 Super Magnum. Roy Weatherby's load of 90 grains No. 4350 with a 300 grain bullet gives 2,800 M.V. and 5,223 M.E. The F.N. action is equipped with a 4XBC scope and you-know-what mount. Buehler says he can't describe it, and you have to see it to believe what it does to a block of concrete. While his 8-bore double has a greater "paper" muzzle energy, the huge slugs at low speed simply lack the "busting" effect of the smaller, modern calibers at high velocity.

But big bore or medium bore, the rifles all have terrific recoil and none will hold zero with an inferior scope mount. Buehler says, and I believe it, that his mount will hold a positive zero on any shoulder weapon. For a number of years, famous hunters around the world have been betting their life on it, and winning.

Buehler thinks he has the best and most rugged mount on the market, and many experienced shooters agree. He recently developed an elevation adjustment to take care of receivers that may vary as much as 1/32" on the outside. He calls this the "Micro-Dial Universal" base. All Buehler rings, either solid or split, fit all Buehler bases, and all bases have windage adjustments. The new Micro-Dial base permits centering the crosshair in the exact optical center of the scope. Many shooters are replacing their old-model bases. One scope in one set of rings can be changed from one gun to another that it fitted with the new base, without re-zeroing.

How Maynard P. Buehler, Orinda, California, became a manufacturer, shooter and experimenter who is doing exactly what he pleases, is a saga of turning a hobby into a profitable business. His scope mount and safety is as well known in Alaska and Africa as in the U. S. The low-scope safety was the start. Scope sights on military rifle conversions required a low safety and, as a suitable type wasn't on the market in 1939, Buehler designed one. The King Gunsight Co. ordered 100 immediately, and Buehler was in business.

He had built a milling machine at night school, so it was no problem to tool up. The first run was 1,000 safetys for the Mauser, Springfield, and Winchester 54. Safetys were made in the basement workshop, and Maynard packaged them in the garage. Advertising created a national demand.

Scope mount advertising paid so well, the basement shop could no longer handle the volume. Buehler made a deal with some old friends in Oakland, who had a small factory, to do the manufacturing. But, first, he redesigned and rebuilt all the production tooling, and furnished milling machines specially tooled for the work. Sub-contracting was a happy solution and he now has time to handle the business end, contacting 200 jobbers and 4,600 dealers who sell Buehler mounts and safetys.

Buehler was born in Boston, where his love of shooting started early. When he was six, (Continued on page 58)



Where Are TOMORROW'S MINUTEMEN?

By DAVID F. SOULE

WE LIKE to think of ourselves as “a nation of riflemen,” self-armed, ready and able to dash out any time and become an effective, fighting, guerrilla force in resisting any enemy who might attack our country.

But is it true?

Except for a very few widely scattered individuals—and possibly small groups in certain also widely scattered areas—no.

We're not “a nation of riflemen.” Hardly 5 per cent of the men inducted into the armed forces for World War Two knew how to shoot a rifle even passably well. A stunningly high percentage had never so much as fired a rifle or handgun. And it is highly doubtful that as many as one of 100 of the men who *were* familiar with weapons knew enough about woodcraft to live off the land and fight effectively as guerrillas.

If this seems to you to be a pessimistic appraisal, ask yourself this question: If this country were hit tonight and you were a survivor, *what would you do?*

Involved in that question are these questions: Where would you go? With whom? How would you get there? What would you take with you? And what would you do, or try to do, after you got there?

Time was, you remember, when the American colonies helped defeat invaders by the more or less individual efforts of the “Minute Men.” Armed with gun skills and woods skills gained in Indian fighting and in getting meat for their tables, these men were a formidable force against the world's finest soldiery. But times have changed, and men have changed with the times. How many men today could survive and fight under similar conditions?

Where to go and how to get there would, in itself, be an (Continued on page 63)

GIVE THE LITTLE

**HUNTING TOGETHER, THIS SOUTH
FLORIDA COUPLE SHARE SPORT
IN WHICH WOMAN'S SKILL CAN
OFFSET MASCULINE MUSCLE**

By MARION RUBINSTEIN



To avoid being left behind as a "hunting widow," Zephyr Bode urges gals prepare for gun sport by reading up on hunting.

HUNTING HUSBANDS whose wives complain about being "hunting widows" can take a tip from Zephyr Bode, a wife who has earned hunting equality with the best men hunters, including her husband. Take her along with you!

(Editor's note: Men who are bitter about feminine invasions of masculine prerogatives, who believe that a hunt is primarily a chance to "get away from it all," including "the little woman," had better hide this magazine to avoid conubial dissension. We're not necessarily advocating "togetherness" in all its phases, but women *are* hunting, and liking it; and once that fact is accepted, the idea of making them *good* hunters has merit. And that's the theme of this story.)

Zephyr Bode says a lot of women think hunting is too rough and tough for most women and that only a big, strong woman could "take" it. Mrs. Bode thinks husbands may have fostered this belief, to some extent. She thinks some husbands may have fostered it because they just don't want women along on hunts, and some may have fostered it because they think women in hunting clothes and hunting surroundings would necessarily be "unfeminine" or something. Zephyr herself refutes both of these theories. She is just five feet tall, weighs just 110 pounds, admits she's 40 but could easily pass for 25, and the way she looks in hunting garb has convinced numerous strong anti-feminists that mixed hunting has points in its favor.

Zephyr is a good hunter. This is not so surprising when you learn that she owned her first rifle at the ripe age of eight and has been hunting ever since, with good teachers. Her first teacher was her father; a man who loved hunting, wanted a son to hunt with him, and, failing that, taught his small daughter to be his hunting companion. "That was lucky for me," says Ed Bode, Zephyr's husband, an exporter who sometimes spends more time hunting than he does at his business. Ed is intensely proud of Zephyr's hunting ability, even to the point of boasting that she is a better hunter than he is.

But a gal doesn't have to have hunted all her life to be an acceptable hunting partner, Zephyr advises. She says it's a lot easier than, for instance, learning to be an acceptable mixed-foursome golfer or tennis player or bowler—because in any of those games a woman has to be really a lot *better*, skill-wise, than the men in the game, to make up for the men's superiority in muscle. Strength makes little or no difference in shooting, and any woman who will follow a simple set of



LADY A GUN

Comely lass who belies real age of 40 keeps young by keeping active. Outdoor garb was selected by Zephyr after study of ladies' hunting fashions. At right, she and husband Ed unload duck boat, handing guns out first.



commonsense suggestions can make herself at least "good enough to take along, even good enough to win a lot of sincere masculine admiration. "You don't really have to be very good for men to praise you," says Zephyr. "Most men expect women to be (a) awkward, or (b) just plain stupid, with guns; and when you're not, they think you're wonderful!"

Here is Zephyr's "simple set of commonsense suggestions:"

1. Learn to shoot. It's not hard. Sotto voce, Zephyr said, "If your husband is even-tempered and reasonably patient, have him teach you. If not, take lessons from somebody else and save wear and tear on family relations. If your husband is a duck hunter, or an upland bird hunter, you'll want to learn to shoot a shotgun. Go out to your local trap or skeet range, rent a gun, and get the pro to teach you. If hubby is a big game hunter, or a varminter, or any kind of a rifle hunter, hunt up your local rifle target club and let them teach you. Ten to one they'll be so delighted by your wanting to learn that they'll go to no end of pains to teach you.

2. "Pay particular attention to all your teacher says about gun safety. Men are particularly critical even of men who forget the rules of safe gun handling, and this is as it should be. They'll be watching the female member of the party with extra attention. If they see that you know the

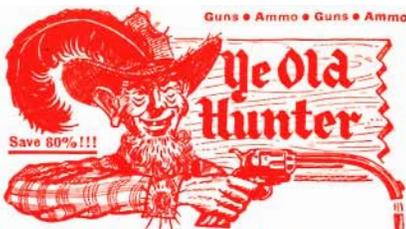
rules and are careful to observe them, they'll give you credit beyond your due.

3. "Read a few articles and a few books on hunting. You'll be surprised, first, how interesting they are; and, second, how much you can learn from them. You can learn a great deal in this way about the game you hunt, about where to aim, what to do and not to do in the woods. Incidentally, do some reading too on game cookery. If there's any doubt about your welcome with the men of a hunting party, you can remove it by coming up with a really tasty game dinner, cooked in the woods or at home.

4. "Equip yourself well before the hunt with clothing and the necessary gear, and be dead sure it's the right clothing and the right gear. Reading can help you here, too; so can advice from an experienced hunter of either sex.

"In buying clothing, be sure it's comfort-
(Continued on page 50)





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Ye Old Hunter illustrates all weapons by actual untouched photographs so you can see how they REALLY look!

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HERE IT IS! Leave it to Ye Old Hunter to bring gleaming perfect fresh stock .303 British ball 170 gr. magnificent issue loads to you at only \$7.50 per 100! Stock up now to shoot those sensational bargain Royal Enfields for almost nothing! Why pay more elsewhere! Shipped Soonest. Order NOW! ALSO: Fine .303 British Soft-point hunting loads—only \$13.75 per 100 rounds. (See opposite page for the ammo bargain of the year.)

THE PRIDE OF THE BRITISH ARMY in all wars from 1900s Boer campaign until 1950 in Korea are these beautifully machined true original Mk. III S.M.L.E. rifles. The famed stand-by even today of governments all over the world. 10 rd. magazine and .303 caliber ammo assure perpetual enjoyment. Only \$14.95 in perfect operating condition. (Add \$1.00 for selected walnut stock if available). Original long knife blade bayonet only \$1.45. Ye Old Hunter has the best for less.

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BRITAIN'S BEST! Her latest and finest Enfield Service rifle, the No. 4, incorporating all improvements and changes of 50 years of service requirements. Manufactured as late as 1955! Still standard in entire British Commonwealth and many other nations. Proudly in service from Buckingham Palace to Kuala Lumpur!! Available now from Ye Old Hunter at only \$15.95 with beech stock. (Add \$1.00 for selected English walnut stock if available.) Original No. 4 bayonet only \$1.00 when ordered with rifle—worth easy twice the price, but yours today at only \$15.95.

CAL. .303



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Most are NRA Excellent unless otherwise specified ONLY \$14.95 and up!! WHY PAY MORE ELSEWHERE?

All take standard ammo, available everywhere.

ORDER TODAY FROM THIS AD!!! ON HAND FOR PROMPTEST DELIVERY. SEND PERMIT IF YOUR STATE OR CITY REQUIRES!

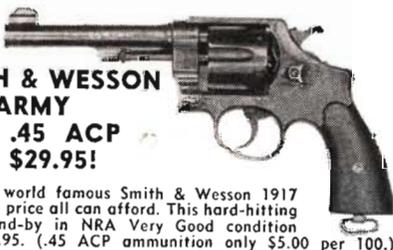
LLAMA .38 SUPER AUTO ONLY \$29.95!

Absolutely NRA Excellent "SUPER LLAMA" in original box with cleaning brush, worth twice but only \$29.95! Some with grip-safety, \$5.00 more. (Extra magazine \$2.50).



SMITH & WESSON 1917 ARMY CAL. .45 ACP ONLY \$29.95!

Now, the world famous Smith & Wesson 1917 Army at a price all can afford. This hard-hitting Army stand-by in NRA Very Good condition only \$29.95. (.45 ACP ammunition only \$5.00 per 100.)



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COLT NEW SERVICE CAL. .455 ONLY \$24.95!

Extremely rare and in great demand for those who know. This "husky" of pistoldom is all gun. A "Ye Old Hunter" bullseye special only \$24.95 in NRA Very Good. A few NRA Excellent only \$29.95. Don't delay. (.455 Webley ammunition only \$7.50 per 100.)



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The pistol bargain of the year Webley & Scott .455 Revolvers in NRA good condition at the unbelievable price of \$14.95. Some NRA Very Good \$19.95. Standard of the British Army. (.455 Webley ammunition only \$7.50 per 100.)



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The Argentine .45 ACP. Rarest of the rare. This masterpiece is absolutely NRA Excellent throughout and only \$29.95. (.45 ACP ammunition only \$5.00 per 100 rounds.)



Never NEVER NEVER again will such a pistol opportunity present itself!! Even Ye Old Hunter's cannily curiously cunning old eyes blinked in squinty disbelief when he learned of his unbelievable exclusive good fortune in obtaining at a single stroke the PICK of the world's greatest pistols at a price which permits YOU to LOAD UP NOW or forever hold your piece. Nobody but nobody under-sells Ye Old Hunter! AMERICA'S BIGGEST ARMS HOUSE—AMERICA'S LOWEST PRICES! No connection with no other Hunter nowhere—no how! ALEXANDRIA, VA., GUN CAPITAL OF AMERICA. THE MECCA OF GUNDOM.

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PANCHO VILLA SPECIALS
CAL. 7MM REMINGTON ROLLING BLOCKS

ONLY 92¢ per lb.!!!
TOTAL PRICE \$8.28!

Yes, here it is, the original "gun crank condition" 7mm Remington. You can almost see the finger prints which the former fanatical owners pressed into the wood as they realized the jig was up. Nobody has Remingtons like these! All guns practically complete. Pre-oiled and ready to clean up. The buy of the century, only \$8.28! Also some original "Long Tooth", or ultra rare "Short Tooth" bayonets. These historical specimens, only \$1.95 each. A Treasure.

FAMED .43 ORIGINAL REM. ROLLING BLOCKS

Wt. 9 lbs. ONLY 62¢ per lb.
TOTAL PRICE ONLY \$5.58!

You can't buy prime hamburger at this price. Condition of all rifles is "Gun crank special", meaning that the outline is clearly visible through the rust and you can see light through the bore. Little of that old crank grease will clean this fantastic bargain to NRA poor condition. Cracked with conquest in the hands of fanatical Latin hands. It is truly a precedent shattering bargain at only \$5.58. shipped pre-oiled. Action alone worth this giveaway price. A gun crank's dream. Adorn this historical relic with an original bayonet, only \$1.00, when ordered with this rifle. Supply not inexhaustible.

GARRIBALDI'S GREATEST!

Only \$9.95 complete with 100 rds of original ammo!

Yes, this impossibly low price is true! This amazingly machined and fantastically inaccurate six-shot repeating GARRIBALDI'S GREATEST can be bought for ONLY \$9.95. COMPLETE with one hundred rounds of ammo in original clips. This is the rifle that COULD HAVE WON THE KOREAN WAR if the Chinese had been unarmed. Enjoy the greatest and cheapest big bore shooting of your life with this blood condition Garibaldi's Greatest Repeater! Now!

ORIGINAL U.S. KRAG "LONG TOM" RIFLES

CAL. 30-40 . . . ONLY \$16.95!

At last! The smoothest and most loved U. S. bolt action ever made available at a price anyone can afford! Tried and true, and worn to prove it, these original U. S. Krag .30-40 "Long Toms", are yours. NOW, complete mechanically and worn as tight as you'd want and fortunately, without upper hand guards for only \$16.95! Order today!

RARE RUSTY RUSSIAN ROMANOFF RIFLES!!

CAL. .30 (7.62MM) . . . ONLY \$8.95!

Ye Old Hunter made a cash deal recently in Ulan Bator for these original rare rusty Russian Romanoff rifles which have been calming devolutionists for almost three generations—yet they are still amazingly light and complete and can be pleasurable cleaned up to reach the least pretensions of the NRA condition grades: Original 7.62MM (.30) sporting ammo available everywhere so get yourself a superb repeating sporter or rare captured collector's item at world's lowest price! Sputnik dollzies—remember, this is your rifle too! Cheaper than in Moscow! Caviar aroma exudes from the stocks when scraped.

RED RUSSIAN REPEATING RIFLES "MN"

CAL. 7.62MM (.30) . . . ONLY \$9.95!

These were specially selected before being offered as ransom by a group of formerly fanatical devolutionists. Magnificently fair condition throughout—ready for years of faithful capitalist service. Take standard U. S. made 7.62MM ammo as well as Ye Old Hunter's GI Communist Cartridges at only \$7.50 per 100.

COLLECTOR'S SPECIAL
VERY LIMITED SUPPLY OF BOTH MODELS
NOW! The RARE Lee-Metford Mk.11 (1892 Mod.)

CAL. .303 . . . Only \$24.95!

It took Ye Old Hunter to find the last of the famous Lee-Metfords of the War Issue. Completed with the unique 9 Groove rifling, later used on many Japanese rifles, and first of the British 10 Shot bolt actions. Wonderfully preserved, with bluing almost intact and all with Walnut stocks. Only \$24.95. LIMITED. A truly unique bargain.

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CAL. .303 . . . Only \$19.95!

Developed during the Boer War from the Lee-Metford model, this was the first Enfield charger loader, and the first of the Enfield 5 Groove barrels for cordite loads. This was developed to off-set the clip loading Mausers used so devastatingly by the Boers. Later issued to territorialists and Navy, so SMILES could be used by overseas troops. Extremely well preserved, only \$19.95. A historical blue chip special.

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MINIMUM ORDER 100 ROUNDS. All prices below \$1.00 rounds and not be topped. EXPRESS, SHIPPING CHARGES COLLECT. Sensational New sensational prices! Save, save, save.

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At last! The first and only offering of this supremely desirable Japanese rifle and carbine cartridge brought back from the mysterious Truk naval base as part of a huge bulk order by Ye Old Hunter, a die-bell holder in ammo bargains, 138 gr. FP. Brass cases!!

6.5MM SWEDISH MAUSER. . . . \$7.50
Here it comes! The finest 6.5mm rifle cartridge ever developed and produced by the ever-lovin' Swedes to standards unsurpassed anywhere on the earth. A real Swedish buy by the way. The finest 6.5mm rifle and carbine price. 168 grain bullet and superb brass cases assure reloading with proper components for years to come!

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Superb appearing original 6.5mm Italian ball loads for all those imported rifles. Packed in original 6 rd. clips and to use in all those Italian 6.5 mm rifles and carbines. Cheapest price ever offered for these magnificent appearing cartridges. Components alone worth double!

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Gorgeous original Winchester 7mm commercial export ammo in 20 rd. boxes each round guaranteed with original 7mm Mauser enable tool-less bullet pullin and effortless salvage. Order like "Pulin" now, sensation today!

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Finest quality recent date issue ball ammo in ORIGINAL 6 rd. CLIPS at the lowest price ever offered. A well the clips alone for more than we sell the ammo loaded in them. 128-gr. original issue ball round . . . the first of the new short cartridges, and still among the finest.

7.62MM RUSSIAN RIFLE. . . . \$7.50
Choice lot of Captured Communist cartridges picked up near altered Spanish remains in California by Ye Old Hunter—the greatest globe girder of the world. 7.62mm FP issue loads. Order now! Don't put it off another day!

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The collectors' and shooters' find of the year at lowest price ever offered! The rarest and most desirable of semi-automatic Mauser rounds available at last. Formerly sold up to \$1 per round, so stock up now with supply lasts at this amazing price. Contemporary production! 184 Gr. Boat-tailed Bullets. What-a-give-away. Today!

.30 CALIBER M1 CARBINE. . . . \$5.00
Ye Old Hunter left no stone unturned to bring you this gleaming late date ammunition. Manufactured in the mid 40's. It literally sparkles and shines in these shiny brass cases. No further need to inquire; this is in hand with an eager-beaver crew ready to rush it off.

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Sensational low price on these superbly intact delightfully mellowed Winchester 150 GR FP Bullets. Perfectly flawlessly preserved brass cases, 20 rd. Commercial original issue manufactured in roaring 20's and joyous 30's to delight the discerning 50's with their unbelievable economy and discolored hues; Now!!!

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Leave it to Ye Old Hunter to return triumphant with this greatest large rifle cartridge bargain in America today. Beautiful original Commercial U. S. Krag 220 gr. FP loads. Far less than even reloading components costs. Supply not inexhaustible, so better order now to be sure! Manufactured by Winchester. Etc.

8MM GERMAN MAUSER ISSUE . \$7.50
Beautiful, clean 8MM ball ammunition, all brass cases (nickel plated), original 8mm Mauser in original box and boxer (reloading) rifle barrel. True 0.223 inch diameter along worth practically this give-away price for these components. Order today and shoot your favorite Mauser at this shattering price. No stocks of select ammo cannot last forever. Don't delay, order today.

8MM FRENCH LEBEL RIFLE. . . \$5.50
Rarest of the rare are these true 8mm Lebel rifles. Nickel plated 198 gr. boat-tailed bullet assures fantastic long range accuracy in those 8mm French rifles and carbines. Original issue 8mm Lebel in original box. Your life's requirements as at this price this ammo give-away just CANNOT last. Famous French First! A treasure!

CALIBER .303 BRITISH. . . . \$7.50
HERE IT IS! Leave it to Ye Old Hunter to bring you this perfect fresh stock .303 British ball 170 gr. magnum to shoot those sensational British 10 shot rifles. Almost nothing! All brass fully reloadable cases! This sparkling ammunition on hand for immediate delivery.

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Unbelievable, earth-shaking, but true, true, true. Imported sporting .303 British soft-point ammunition, never available at this price. True 0.223 inch diameter per 100. Never has anyone dared to offer this price for .303 ammo at 14¢ per round, but Ye Old Hunter, being all his life an expert in this line, has decided that all other hunters can cash in on this. With only \$13.75 you can have five berdan primer and 150 Gr. expanding bullet make this the ammunition buy of the century.

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At last! Your favorite pistol cartridge at an absolutely unheard-of bargain price. Fine original assorted issue loads from the world's most famous factories to slide through those no-longer-expensive 9-shot pistols. Browning's, Radom's, Mausers, or what-have-you. NOW!!!

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.44-40 WINCHESTER \$5.00
These are original 217 Gr. Black Powder loads in original Winchester boxes. Function in all types of rifles as well as those choice old Colts and Winchester's. Hope no shipment permits this unprecedented low BARGAIN.

.45-70 GOVERNMENT MODEL. . . \$6.00
Ye Old Hunter now re-offers the famous sell-out of last winter—finest round sale ever made in the United States. These are original 405-Gr. lead, black powder loads, in original sealed boxes. They are the best of their kind. No reloaders, save, save, save as most primers indent with you are always AHEAD. AHEAD. AHEAD.

.45 (ACP) COLT AUTOMATIC. . . \$5.00
Unbelievable discovery of enormous underground supply of these original .45 ACP rounds for all you 45 shooters. All U. S. manufactured. A bargain for all you 45 shooters of 50. Not to be confused with our .45 "pulin" ammo, which is not fully live and raring to fire. Stock up while the stockin's good, as supply is not unlimited! TODAY.



Ye Old Hunter is all heart!

F. N. Belgium Semi-Automatic Rifle!

Manufactured at the ultra-modern F. N. Plant in Belgium for Egyptian export, this fine, precise, smooth-handling semi-automatic combines the most modern production methods with the requirements for rigorous front line assault functioning. VERY GOOD condition throughout, typical F. N. quality, all milled parts, 23 1/2" 4-gr. bbl., and standard 8mm caliber plus the extremely low price of \$69.50, make this the most sought after semi-automatic on the market today! 8mm Mauser ball ammunition in stock at only \$7.50 per 100 rounds. Limited production. Limited supply. A collector's must. Yours now!

ORIGINAL G 33/40 MAUSER CARBINES

CAL. 8MM MAUSER . . ONLY \$44.95!

8mm Mauser Featherweight Carbine's! Yes, we know that it will be almost too fantastic to believe, but again, Ye Old Hunter has made a scoop that will benefit all devotees of fine guns. Original G 33/40 8mm Mauser featherweight carbines, the joy of the German Mountain Troops. Very limited supply. Don't lose out on this magnificent bargain. Good condition! Supply Not Unlimited! Order today and save!

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CAL. 8MM . . . ONLY \$44.95!

The only genuine post-war 98 Mauser. Produced in Czechoslovakia exclusively for King Farouk's trusty, dandy, desert camel corps, these short 98 Mauser carbines have seen little or no use. All very good or better. With all milled parts and 23" barrel. A truly remarkable top grade Mauser guaranteed unbleached by desert sun, and devoid of all sand. Ready for immediate target or field use and absolutely a collector's must. This very limited production could well make these the last and finest of the famed genuine Mausers. 8MM military ball ammunition with reliable boxer primers on hand at only \$7.50 per C.

GERMAN MODEL 98 "BOLTLESS" MAUSERS

CAL. 8MM MAUSER . . . ONLY \$17.95!

They said it couldn't be done, but leave it to Ye Old Hunter to locate this hitherto hidden cache of genuine 98 Mausers, all with bolts thoughtfully removed. Ze find of ze century for you of foresight who carefully studied a 98 Mauser bolt. F. N. Mauser scope-ejecting bolts with interchangeable and are readily obtainable. A bonanza of Mauser components! All milled parts—barrels, receivers, stocks, trigger guards, magazines, etc. Brand new Mauser military five-leather slings \$1.95. Value compounded. Only \$17.95 today!

ORIGINAL MAUSER MODEL 71/84 "BIG 11"

CAL. 11MM MAUSER . . . ONLY \$9.95!

The FIND of the century—the BUY of the century. Completed in every detail and fully functional down to the clouds of dust which rise into the air with every stroke of the bolt. When it speaks, there is thunder in the hills. There is no telling what condition you may attain from the hours spent joyfully cleaning up these horrible specimens, with luck, NRA "Fair Condition" is possible! Only \$9.95, complete!!!

SWEDISH MASTERPIECE MATCH MAUSERS

CAL. 6.5MM Swedish Mauser ONLY \$22.50

Without doubt the finest Mauser built are these never-before-available Swedish masterpiece match-mausers! Superbly finished, colored, bright, of America's amazing, new automatic cartridge and 29" barrel make them the best rifle buy ever placed on the U.S. market. An unusual rifleman's treat, only \$22.50. 6.5 MM ball ammunition only \$7.50 per 100 rounds. Order now!

AUSTRIAN MANNLICHER POLICE CARBINES!

CAL. 8MM Mauser Only \$19.88!

Fastest Bolt Action in the World!
Another bargain from Ostmark! Ye Old Hunter talked the reliable Austrians out of these beautiful light weight, shot finished, colored, bright, of America's amazing, new automatic rifle—the Armatite AR-10—a world first from Ye Old Hunter's secret underground printing press. Send 10¢ stamp or coin for special Enfield story "The Finest Rifle in the World"! Order today.

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They Call MG Practice “THE PEAK OF PLINKING”

By GEORGE B. JOHNSON

Police Juvenile Officer

Unique Schmeisser-action rifle may have been styled for police in Germany. Collector Sloan and author (left, below) check MG 34 feed.

COUNTRY'S BIGGEST AUTO WEAPONS COLLECTOR HOLDS MEETS WHERE FRIENDS GATHER FOR FUN OF BURNING AMMUNITION BY THE CASE

THE RATTLING BURSTS OF MACHINE GUN FIRE shatter the quiet rural afternoon on a farm in southwestern Indiana. Burp guns rip in the “Battle of Sloan’s Farm.” This is not a redoubt of the Civil War nor a South American revolution transferred up north. Heavy and light machine guns, subs, semiautomatics, and a dozen one-of-a-kind experimental arms are fired by a bunch of gun nuts getting together to shoot for fun with some of the most unusual guns fired today by civilians.

Headquarters for this burp gun safari is the Worthington, Indiana home of Robert D. Sloan, a “typical” fortyish Indiana farmer. Sloan has one of the most fabulous collections of guns belonging to a private individual in this country stacked on shelves and hanging on the walls of his neat, average-looking home. Everything from the Gatling gun to the latest stamped-out submachine guns form a neat clutter in almost every room of this gun nut’s paradise.

Specializing in machine guns for many years past when machine gun collectors were as scarce as mint Paterson Colts, Sloan has built a collection that is the equal of any outside a museum. And, as far as I can learn, it is the only place in the world where this type of weapon can actually be fired and tested in relation to others by any person with a legitimate and sincere interest in weapons.





"Peak of plinking" is description juvenile officer Johnson gives to his dust-raising performance with German light MG.



Russian guns, Sloan says, are well made as U.S. MG's; has pan-fed "Deg" and Goryunov.



Post-war Hungarian submachine gun is prized item in Indiana farmer Sloan's collection. Stock folds up like MP 40, but wooden forearm improves accuracy. Clip also folds.

Acquiring his first gun, an '08 Maxim for \$7.00 back in 1929 when the army sold captured material to anyone who wanted it, Sloan started collecting machine guns seriously in 1938. He got many deactivated full automatic weapons from returning World War II veterans. His shooting machine guns have been acquired on a Class 4 license from such firms as Numrich Arms, from whom he obtained a complete series of experimental Thompsons; and Interarmco sold him British Brens, German MG 34's, Danish Madsens, and many other interesting models. He now has about 250 guns, more than 150 of them machine guns of all types and nationalities, plus a few cannons to round out the collection.

His home is a Mecca of interest for gun enthusiasts. Sloan often takes time out from his busy farm work to show visitors his collection. He remarks that the gun most gun bugs ask to examine is his German FG 42 paratroop rifle. Sloan attributes the great interest in this particular gun to its exotic appearance, its rarity, and the fact that it is one of the direct forerunners of the present trend toward light weight, dual purpose machine rifles.

Sloan's own favorites are the Thompson submachine guns, "because of their romantic background and fine workmanship. They have made such a great impression that, although manufacture was stopped years ago, it is

still the average person's conception of a submachine gun," he commented. Sloan's Thompsons and some other rare experimental types are the outstanding items of his collection.

His Thompson guns include the 1919 model which the company named the "Basic Machine Mechanism." It was made without sights or stock and simply intended to demonstrate the action. It is uncertain how many were manufactured. Sloan's is serial number 7, feeding from a 50 round drum only. Shooting it is like handling a water hose, just point and spray.

In addition to examples of all the standard model Thompson, he has six of the British Birmingham Small Arms Company models in various calibers. He has been unable to get much background information about these guns, except that they were made in England before World War II for test by the army. The factory was unable to give any further information about them because their records were destroyed by fire. But they did state that only about 20 of them were made. Bob Sloan would be pleased to hear from anyone who can furnish any additional information about the BSA or any other experimental models. These include a Thompson Light Machine Gun of .30-06 cal., built on the same Blish principle as the better known Thompson semiautomatic



MG collecting is essential for arms designer, says Sloan, who has blowback .30-06 of odd form.

rifle, and two experimental submachine guns designated T-2 Thompson, about which little is known. Sloan thinks they may have been made up for test at the time the army was considering the M-3 Greasegun for adoption. Another two standard model Thompsons, but in .30 Carbine caliber, round out this group of very interesting guns.

When asked his opinion of various weapons in his outstanding collection Sloan modestly qualifies his statements by declaring himself "no expert on automatic weapons, just a fellow with a lot of guns." But being able to closely compare weapons of all countries has given him an advantage over most people; and this familiarity certainly lends some authority to his opinions.

What is his opinion of American automatic weapons? "Well made, reliable. But, with one or two exceptions, perhaps lacking in imagination."

German? "Usually far superior in design features to American guns of the same period."

Russian? "Simplicity is the first thought that comes to mind. The Degtyarev Light Machine Gun is a good example. It has only six working parts in the action. Although Russian weapons in the past have inclined to be very roughly made, the latest types I have seen show manufacturing standards equal to the best American military small arms manufacture."

In addition to his historical machine

guns, Sloan also keeps a supply of the most recent types of machine guns on hand for sale to police departments. He retails European guns such as the Madsen and Swedish Carl Gustav submachine guns, but finds that most law officers still prefer the older and better-known Thompson. The psychological effect of the lethal looking "Tommy Gun" is often so effective in police work as to require no actual shooting.

While many of Sloan's guns are deactivated, most of those he has acquired since getting a Class 4 firearms license several years ago are in shooting condition. It is this that makes his collection of such outstanding interest.

Anyone who has ever done any MG shooting will know what Sloan means when he says that it is difficult to describe the fun of firing a full automatic weapon. "The peak of plinking," would perhaps come closest to describing it, to anyone who has ever pumped a rapid fire clip of .22's into a rolling tin can. For, while target practice with both single shots and small bursts are just as important with machine guns as any other type, the thing that sets them apart and makes for lots of fun on a summer afternoon is the 4th of July sound of a clip full of lead going someplace in a hurry. Chopping down tree stumps with a watercooled Browning, rolling tin cans with a Sten gun, or shooting clay pigeons with a Thompson Sub add a thrill to shooting that no other (Continued on page 64)



Experimental English 9mm (right hand) and Thompson T-2 transition model are in Sloan's study group.



Kennon twins Bubber (l) and Mickey (r) learn gun safety, don't point guns at camera.

**HAVE
FUN
WITH
GUNS**

Young shooters do not "play" in senior Kennon's gun room, but Mickey is honored to be allowed to wear gun belt. The brothers hold .25-06's made by their father.

**TWINS NOT YET TEENS
ENJOY GUN FUN WITH SAFETY
UNDER GUIDANCE OF DAD
WHO IS EXPERT SHOT AND GUNSMITH.**

By **WILLIAM HAMMACK**
The Atlanta Journal & Constitution



HOW YOUNG SHOULD KIDS SHOOT?



Kids find Dad is good coach as well as expert stocker, reloader.

by their father, who is a distinguished marksman and a top gunsmith.

Today, these lads can outshoot many expert riflemen

HOW OLD should kids be before they start shooting?

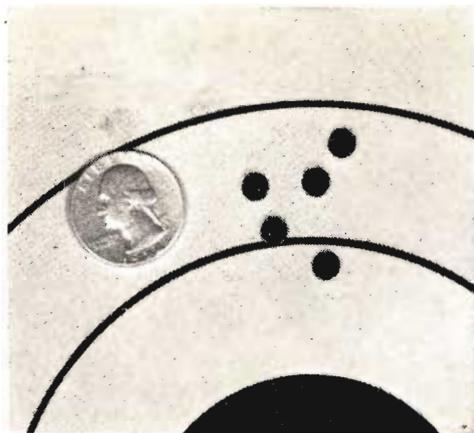
There are a pair of eleven-year-old twin boys in Atlanta, Georgia, who have been banging away since they were three years old. They are supervised and coached

and pistolers. Although they will have to wait a few years before they are old enough to compete in National Rifle Association Senior matches, they would be strong contenders in these shootfests right now.

The boys, Bubber and Mickey, sons of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Kennon of Atlanta, took to shooting like young ducks take to swimming. Mr. Kennon did not push them into handling firearms. Nor did he push his daughter into target practice; but the little girl, Mary Katherine, three years old, already has become a junior-grade Annie Oakley. She fires on her father's indoor range, her chubby finger squeezing triggers on full-size .22 rifles and pistols.

Her brothers possess arsenals that any gun enthusiast would be proud to own. Mickey has put his brand on these: a .22 pump rifle, a .22 single-shot (*Continued on page 61*)

HOW TO GET



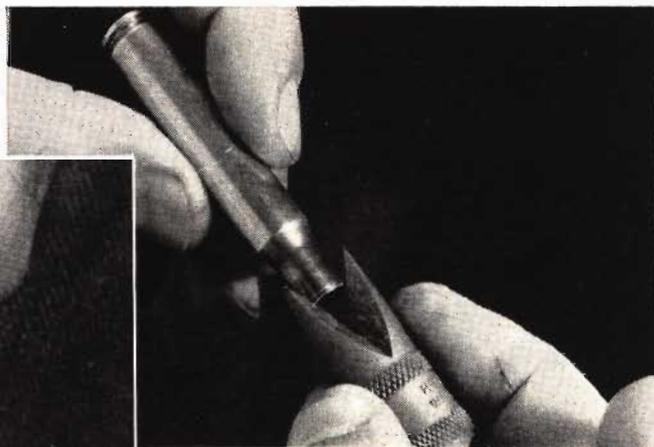
Five shots from Kindley's favorite .250-3000 dropped into quarter group: 93 grain gas check, 24 grs. #4895.



Cull handloads and reject cases like one (left) with off-center flash hole.



Bullets must be cast sharp, flat bases to take lube and gas checks (at right).



Trimming case neck leaves slight burr. Remove inside and outside by chamfering cutter. Herter tool has right bevel shape.

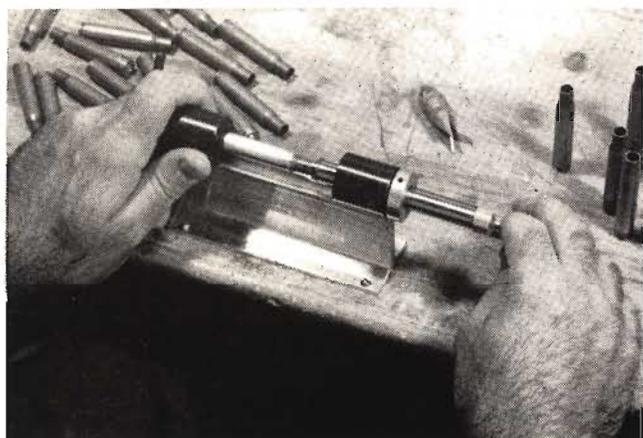


Inspect mould for warpage. Parting line should be mere crack in good mould, like Ideal single cavity type used in story.

CAST BULLET ACCURACY

GROUPS OF BENCH-REST QUALITY ARE POSSIBLE WITH CAST BULLETS IF THEY ARE CAST RIGHT, CAREFULLY SELECTED, AND LOADED WITH STRICT ATTENTION TO MINUTE DETAILS

By ROBERT J. KINDLEY



Forster trimmer is used to cut back case necks to uniform length. Trimming helps accuracy using cast bullets.



Weighing layout (hold to .01 grain) has capped hulls end up at left, powder scale and fixin's, charged cases right.

CAN YOU GET bench rest accuracy from cast bullets? Consistent minute-of-angle groups from lead-alloy slugs? With careful handloading, both are entirely possible.

The record speaks for itself. The late C. W. Rowland, one of the best and most serious bench rest shooters the game has known, shot a ten shot group at 200 yards that measured a scant .725"—with cast lead bullets. This amazing group was shot over fifty years ago and remained unbeaten until quite recently. And then it was bettered only by rifles, sighting equipment, and *jacketed bullets* that are as near perfect as modern methods and machinery can make them!

Minute-of-angle accuracy from cast lead-alloy bullets is no accident. It can be obtained only by the careful hand-loader who has the time and patience to load them properly. The same care and skill the serious bench rest shooter employs with jacketed bullets is necessary to produce ultimate accuracy with lead bullets. These handloads cannot, however, be completely assembled using the same techniques as with jacketed bullets. Strict attention must be paid to a few seemingly unimportant details both in casting and reloading to reap a harvest of 1" groups on the range.

First of all, the mold is a piece of precision equipment, rugged, but easily ruined by abuse. Handle it with the same care you'd give a set of micrometers. Examine a new mold very carefully before using it. The halves should close tightly, with little effort. Hold the blocks up to a bright light as a check. Any trace of light along the parting line indicates the halves are not closing tightly. Perfect bullets from such a mold are impossible.

Carefully examine the inside face of each block with a magnifying glass. Any burrs must be removed. Check the two line-up pins. They may need a slight polishing or may have to be pressed back into the blocks to allow proper alignment.

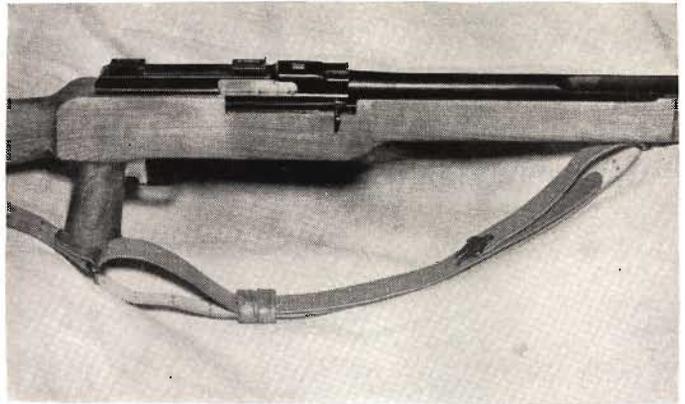
Pay particular attention to the cut-off plate. Here is one of the most important parts of the mold. Correct adjustment of this piece is necessary to produce accurate bullets. The plate must be flat. Adjust the screw so that the plate just swings free by its own weight. It shouldn't be loose enough to flop around.

A properly adjusted cut-off plate should leave the base smooth and flat with clean, sharp corners. The cut mark should be centered on the base of the bullet. Two bullets held base to base should pass a (Continued on page 59)

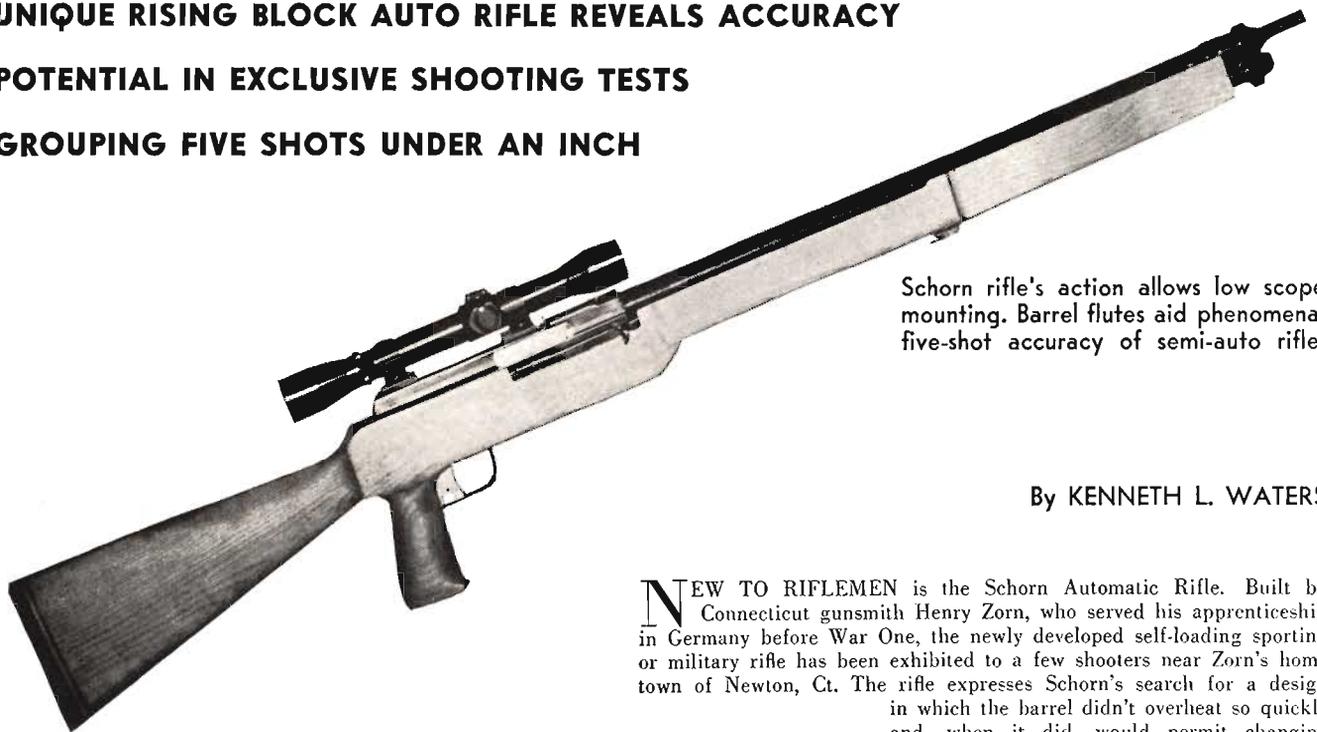
Gun OF THE MONTH



THE OLD • THE NEW • THE UNUSUAL



**UNIQUE RISING BLOCK AUTO RIFLE REVEALS ACCURACY
POTENTIAL IN EXCLUSIVE SHOOTING TESTS
GROUPING FIVE SHOTS UNDER AN INCH**



Schorn rifle's action allows low scope mounting. Barrel flutes aid phenomenal five-shot accuracy of semi-auto rifle.

By KENNETH L. WATERS

NEW TO RIFLEMEN is the Schorn Automatic Rifle. Built by Connecticut gunsmith Henry Zorn, who served his apprenticeship in Germany before War One, the newly developed self-loading sporting or military rifle has been exhibited to a few shooters near Zorn's home town of Newton, Ct. The rifle expresses Schorn's search for a design in which the barrel didn't overheat so quickly and, when it did, would permit changing barrels without tools and without re-head-spacing the new barrel. Schorn conceived his new rifle during War Two, proposed to build it for the benefit of his adopted country. Development continued, the Korean War spurred his efforts to perfect it in detail, but meanwhile the Ordnance Corps, with a considerable bigger budget, modified the Garand, tested a few other automatic rifles, and then adopted the modification as the M14. Here, most gunsmiths would have dropped the project but Schorn persisted. Back to the drawing board he went, to perfect his rifle as a sporting model for the hunter and target shooter. We tested the military model some months ago, but its performance suggested the rifle had strong possibilities for success as a sporter. This is the most deadly-efficient rifle I have ever fired. Imagine, if you can, the accuracy of a tuned Model 70 heavy barrel target rifle, combined with the fire-power of a Garand or Remington autoloader, and you get some idea of the merits of this (Continued on next page)



German-American gunsmith designed pistol-grip weapon as U.S. military arm but will make it in sporter style.

rifle. The receiver is flat, for low scope mounting, with ejection of cases through a neat right side port. Just behind the barrel breech on top is a square hole into which one of the lugs, a square steel block, spring actuated, rises to lock. There are two locking lugs at the front sides of the bolt, and still a fourth lock-up at the bolt rear, against a recess in the receiver reminiscent of the Savage M99. At the rear of the bolt's travel, a cushioned bolt stop absorbs the slam of the bolt in recoil. While no trouble has been experienced with the resilient buffer so far, I feel that a coil spring set in the rear of the receiver would be more reliable over a long period of time.

This clip-loading detachable box magazine rifle was designed as a gas-operated semi-automatic which could be easily modified for full automatic in a military version. For sporting purposes it would be designed for semi-automatic only. The special Schorn-designed single row clip did not function perfectly—in follower angle it was a departure from conventional clips and most probably a standard clip design would be preferable. This was the only feature of the rifle which did not check out perfectly on test firing.

Schorn's rifle trigger design is his own. Operating on a radius, neither a straight pressure to the rear (such as would be caused by an accidental blow) nor the jarring force of recoil, will cause this rifle to discharge. Its butt may be slammed on the floor when cocked, without accidentally releasing the sear. Trigger must be pulled in a normal manner to fire, and there are three safeties, one of which is located in front of the trigger and is operated manually. Two others are internal safeties, claimed by Schorn in his pending patents.

Key feature of the Schorn rifle is its barrel, a heavy 22½" Douglas target tube, button rifled, in 7.62 NATO (.308). Four large flutes milled lengthwise disperse heat more rapidly than from conventional barrels by increasing the area, and the ribbing increases stiffness with light weight. Sporter barrels would have smaller, more neatly spaced flutes. The barrel locks into the receiver, has a full thread 1" by 1½" long, but can be quickly changed by hand. Since barrels chambered in the same head-size with different calibers (as .243, .358, .308) can be interchanged without headspacing, a shooter might use one rifle for 'chucks, deer, elk or moose. This should be a popular innovation.

Although gas works the action, no hole is tapped in the barrel. Instead, the expanding gas is trapped in a device at the muzzle somewhat like a flash hider, then led down into the gas cylinder below where it drives piston and operating rod rearward in conventional fashion. The stock on the military model we used was pistol grip type, could be slimmed and restyled for most pleasing effect in a commercial model. Important departures from old rifles is the grip which positions the firing hand and trigger finger uniformly for each shot, and the stock bolt through the bottom of this pistol grip into the receiver, holding the action firmly in the stock and allowing the barrel to float free for accuracy. That accuracy was most apparent when shooting.

The day was bitter cold, but shells chattered through in the function-firing test. The gun behaved well except for occasional jams traced directly to magazine malfunction—not

a serious defect because the magazine was a non-standard experimental design unlike the ordinary clip which would be easily adapted to the Schorn rifle. Even the sandbags were frozen, but with a 4-X scope, from rest, I fired 5-shot groups for record at 100 yards. The results were truly unusual for an auto-loader—five shots were in ¾" at 100 yards—accuracy many bolt actions will not achieve even under ideal weather conditions. The Schorn rifle will shoot! Its future should be successful.

Inventor Schorn and a friend, Emil Seifert of 357 Windsor Ave., Stratford, Conn., are hoping to determine the extent of sportsmen's interest in this new rifle before going into production for commercial sale. A sporting model of the Schorn rifle is almost ready for preview.



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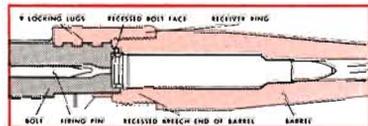
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HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 7)

a combination I highly recommend for highest velocity at minimum pressure.

The same load in the smaller capacity W-W cases with W-W primers will stretch case heads in my guns, and cause a sticky bolt. With Remington cases and C.C.I. primers the accuracy is superb. When starting at 4,075 fps the bullet passes the 200 yard mark at over 3,000 fps, with rotational speed a whooping 200,000 R.P.M. plus. This is cranked up faster than a Texas tornado with its tail on fire, and the heavy charge is apt to reduce bore life. I reserve it for long range work, and use 37 to 38 grains for routine shooting.

Hi-V friction isn't the major cause of bore wear, as some writers claim. The first wear is a dulling of the lands a few inches ahead of the chamber, with the balance of the tube interior almost like new. This is caused by hot powder gas under high pressure that would melt a gun like butter if it was maintained a second or so. To avoid chewing up a gilt-edge tube prematurely, "moderate" loads that would be called hotter than a stove lid in lesser guns are entirely satisfactory. A new barrel is not an expensive replacement, considering it may consume hundreds of dollars worth of ammo before it's "shot."

The top charge listed by Sisk for his heavy 63 gr. Express is 37.5 grs. 4064 for 3,600 fps. Fine accuracy is obtained with 33 grs. for 3,260 fps, using W-W cases and C.C.I. primers, or 33.3 grains in a Remington case. A change in primer brands in top loads might run pressure as much as 10,000 psi higher, with much more gas and very little velocity increase. The only job of the primer is ignition, with as little gas as possible.

Gas check bullets cast 1-10 give fair short range accuracy at velocities up to 2,100 fps, obtained with a 55 grain number with 15 grs. 2400. A minimum charge worked down especially for GUNS Magazine is 6 grs. Unique at 1,607 fps. Another load with a 55 gr. jacketed bullet tested for GUNS is 10 grs. Unique at 2,195 fps, which knocks small game colder than a banker's heart. At close range no sight adjustment is needed with a rifle sighted for the same bullet at 3,500 to 3,600 fps. For best ignition the barrel should be elevated before firing low density loads.

Custom bullets are so good and cheap that it hardly pays to cast inferior pills. The bore should be checked carefully for signs of leading before firing standard loads. The

Swift, like other guns, is not for slipshod loading if you want pin-point accuracy at 300 yards and more. Crude ammo may serve for close range work, but precision accuracy is obtained only with uniform, quality fodder.

Factory pressure in the strong case is close to a hot 50,000 psi. Case stretching is no worse than in other hot calibers, written claims to the contrary. Mike cases after sizing, or use the more convenient combination length and headspace gauge. Max is 2.205" in standard chambers. I trim to 2.20" and check cases after firing hot loads. I recommend using one lot of one make, sorted by weighing. I have one lot that runs from 169.3 to 170.5 grs., with some loaded over 25 times. If a flyer turns up mark the case, and if it happens again discard it.

Many new cases have a neck wall variation of over .005", which can cause flyers when bullets enter the bore out of alignment. This is easily detected with a \$32 neck wall mike; or you can make one just as good by sawing the anvil off any old 1" mike and soldering on a new one made by forming a 6d finishing nail. The fault can be corrected with the Outside Neck Turner Accessory for the Forster Case Trimmer. An inside neck reamer reduces brass thickness but does not make uniform walls. Maximum neck diameter is .2600 for standard chambers, with .002 to .003 clearance. Sloppy chambers affect accuracy; tight ones increase pressure. A cast will tell much about the size, best with Chamber Cast Metal. (Sold by Frank Mittermeier, 3577 E. Tremont Ave., New York 65, N. Y.) This alloy metal is melted in a can set in hot water, pours at 194°, and hardens almost immediately.

Bullets are best seated out to nearly touch the lands. Squib loads should be identified, one way being a dab of nailpolish on the heads. After firing, the cases may have excess headspace and should never be used again with normal pressure loads. Examine all cases for visible defects after firing hot loads and discard those with cracked necks, bodies, webs, or enlarged primer pockets.

Quality loading dies are a must. Over-worked brass is avoided by backing the sizer out as much as possible for easy chambering, and still hold the bullet tight. An undersize bore increases pressure, generally corrected with .223" diameter bullets. Zinc alloy bullets can be driven much faster than jacketed lead, but killing power is greatly reduced, they ricochet badly, are wind sensitive and lose velocity rapidly.

My shooting companion, Kenneth Shackelford, who is a busy school teacher and active in religious work as Sunday School Superintendent, spends many happy hours shooting and reloading. An ardent handgun hunter, his favorite rifle is an F.N. Swift. Says Kenneth, "Those who don't like a Swift don't have one!" I agree fully. They perform beautifully with factory ammo, still better with good handloads.

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LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS
GIFTS FOR GUN SPORTSMEN?
SEE PAGE 66

GUNS FOR THE WORKING COWBOY

(Continued from page 19)

shape it was in—but it got the job done.

Fiction writers, moving pictures and television, and some gun writers as well, have so glamorized the so-called "Western" guns that many people who know guns resent us and our guns because they believe that we believe that our guns are the best guns for all uses. They think we think that our saddle-scarred .30-30s are the best possible hunting rifles, that our single action "hawgaigs" are the best possible sidearms for everything from targets to taming outlaws. It just ain't so. We know (at least, some of us do) that there are guns that will shoot further, and flatter, and faster, and straighter, and hit harder. (Those of us who don't know it just never bothered to wonder, because the guns they know and use do all they need for a gun to do. After all, if a tool does the job, it's a good tool. If a hammer drives nails, you don't blame it because it won't saw wood—or you shouldn't.)

"Then why," some Nimrod will ask, "are these guns so popular with your kind of people?"

If by "my kind of people" he means real, ridin'-and-workin' cowboys, then it's a good question and fits my theme like a tailored boot—the same way the guns in question fit the job we do with them.

Let's talk first about the rifle—and by "the rifle," I mean the rifle you mean when you talk about "Western guns:" the flat, lever action Winchesters, Marlins, or Savages, mostly of the .30-30 persuasion which we carry in our saddle scabbards.

Let's say, first, that the working cowboy don't have even a kissin'-kin resemblance to the usual screen version of the species. He's for work, not for pretty; and that goes for his outfit. His saddle is where he works, not just a place to sit for an hour's pleasant recreation but the platform for grunting, swearing, sweating work during about half of his living hours, every day, for as long as he's able to cut it. It's his workshop, and it must carry his tools.

It must carry his rope, because that's the tool with which he handles everything he can tie to—from cattle and horses. To stretching barbwire and pulling the sucker rod on the windmill. It must carry his combination wire-cutters and staples, for fence fixing; worm medicine and fly dope; a branding iron, if needed; a canteen of water and some grub (if he's fixin' to eat), or maybe a pot



and skillet; his bedroll, if he's sleeping on the country—and his rifle, also if needed.

So far, he's burdened his horse with about 40 pounds of saddle and blanket, plus his working equipment. In the middle of which, he hopes, there's room for him; not only room for him to ride in, but room for him to work in. Like as not, he'll be climbing over rough country, uphill and downhill, maybe a lot faster than he likes, if he has to run down an animal, and certainly a lot longer than he likes, because he'll work "from can to can't," maybe wearing out two or three horses in the process. He'll likely have to catch (rope) and doctor several calves before night, so he'll need leg room and rope room and things placed where he can reach 'em and where they'll ride best and where they won't interfere with the job he's doing.

... And, if he has to carry a rifle, he wants it to be the flattest rifle, and the lightest, and the easiest-shooting rifle that will do the job. He wants it flat because even the flattest rifle you can get will feel like a knobby fence-rail under your leg after a few hours' work (real work) in the saddle. He wants it light, because even the lightest rifle you can get will pull a saddle over to one side when the cinch gets loose (as it will)—and did you ever try riding rough country trying to keep extra weight on one stirrup to balance your saddle?

About those words, "easiest-shooting"—let's not quarrel about 'em; they just slipped in. For the cowboy, like for everybody else, the "easiest-shooting" rifle is the rifle he's used to. For many a cowboy, that's the lever-action. It's the gun his daddy used, and his granddaddy; and like the song says, "It's the old-time religion, and it's good enough for me."

All of that saddle equipment has to be placed to the best possible advantage, and that goes double for the rifle; because when you need a rifle, you need it—and no matter how short you cut it or how flat you squeeze it, a rifle just don't fit a horse or a horse's rider. Carry it with the butt forward and

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high, it's in the way of your rope and your
reins. Butt forward and low, it pokes your
horse in the neck on tight-reined turns. Take
a look at the picture of me getting down off
the saddle with the rifle. Carried with the
butt to the rear and low enough to swing a
leg over, with the scabbard slanted forward
and down and snug tight under the saddle
skirt, is the best way I know to pack it
and be able to snatch it in a hurry. If any-
body knows a better way, tell me; I could
sure use it!

Why us cowboys stick to the .30-30 class
of calibers is another thing that maybe needs
some explaining. Partly, of course, it's an-
other case of "the old-time religion." The
.30-30 was a real high-powered rifle when it
first started riding on cowboy saddles. Now,
a lot of people call it a pip-squeak. But cow-
boys don't need a rifle that will knock the
eye out of a mountain sheep at 600 yards
or so. We don't shoot at such ranges. We
don't need a gun that will knock down an
elephant, either—elephants being real scarce
on our Southwestern ranges. We've learned
pretty well what the rifle will do, and what
we can do with it, and that's enough for us,
and we like it. . . . Come to think of it, what
more can you say for your rifle?

Anyway, right or wrong, your cowboy fig-
ures that the short, flat, lever-action saddle
gun in the conventional "thutty-thutty" cal-
iber is just about ideal for his job. He'll
likely use the same gun all his life, then
pass it along to his son when he retires. He'll
likely never be able to hit a five-inch bulls-
eye target with it at 50 yards—but he'll
usually kill what he shoots at with it. How
can this be so? Well, your working cowboy
don't hold any records for driving staples,
either—but he drives 'em. He don't win any
rodeo bucking contests, but he rides what's
cut out for him to ride. He holds no time
records for roping, but he's roping for wages
without wasting too many loops. It's part
of his job.

Same goes with his gun. He's no master
hand at targets. He can't "hold and squeeze"
on a black spot on paper, but his rifle is a
tool that is familiar and when he "throws"
it on a varmint, it kills the varmint. He
probably can't tell you why this happens, or
how. His knowledge of ballistics may not be
much greater than a town dude's knowledge
of how to rope and brand a calf. When he
goes into the general store he tells the clerk,
"Gimme five pounds No. 4 hoss-shoe nails
and a plug of eatin' tobacco and a box o'
thutty-thutties." Ask him if he wants 150
or 170 grain loads and he'll likely say,
"What's the difference?" Tell him the one-
seventies hit the hardest and that's what he
wants—providing the price is the same. He's
not hard to please; he just wants nails for
his hammer.

So far as fast handling is concerned, there's
just about as much speed in one repeating
action as another, since it depends mostly on
the man and how fast he can get his sights
on the target. Any time a sportsman sacri-
fices the superb accuracy of a fine hunting
rifle for one of these "cowboy guns" just be-
cause he thinks it's "faster," he's making a
sad mistake. He's not a cowboy, and he'll
likely use his gun only once a year, and fast
handling comes only with practice and is not
worth much to the average hunter anyway,
who would do better to shoot straight and
leave speed to men who have some reason
for being in a hurry.

What I'm driving at is—there's no real
argument between you (with your flat-shoot-
ing, scope-sighted, far-reaching Deerslayer)
and me with my .30-30. We're just different
men with different guns for different jobs.
There's no comparison, either, between the
beautiful, expensive rifle owned by some rich
rancher (or some rich rancher's son) and
the guns of a working cowboy. There just
ain't, to my knowledge, a bolt-action, scope-
sighted, minute-of-angle rifle that can endure
a round-up in a saddle scabbard and come
out of it shooting minute-of-angle—and no
man who can endure sitting on top of such
a rifle that long, either. Such rifles can be
mounted on a saddle and carried into deer
country and used to fine advantage; but,
friend, that ain't a working gun as I define
it. That's a sporting arm.

Enough about the rifle. Why is the Colt
Frontier Single Action so popular with work-
ing cowboys? Same answer: it's "the old-
time religion," the gun we're used to and
like—and it's a good tool, one that will
take rough usage (rougher than most gun-
owners can even imagine!) and still "work"
for you when you need it.

Rough usage? I've seen 'em used as ham-
mers to shoe horses; as twisting levers to
get that last couple of inches of stretch on
a strand of barbwire; as wedges to pry a
stone out of a horse's hoof—man, the list
could be endless! I sort of wonder when I
hear men say the old Single Action was "the
gunsmith's friend," that they "shot loose,"
and that "everybody improved 'em." Maybe
some "shot loose," but they shot, loose or
not—and brother, there's times when that
is important! And most of the gunsmithing
done on them was done to make them fit a
certain man's ideas or methods of shooting.

I owned an old Colt Frontier six once
that had no front sight. It had been filed off
because some owner before me figured the
sight might catch on something and slow
his draw. I carried that gun for five years.
Another one I carried for many years on
the predator hunting job had no trigger. It
was fired slip-hammer—by letting the ham-
mer slip out from under the thumb.

Few people, it seems to me, ever learn to
use the big Single Action the way it should
be used. I suppose Sam Colt's main idea was
to turn out a weapon that could be carried
loaded, ready for a quick first shot, and a
repeater capable of repeat shots, using husky
knock-down loads. He did that, and he also
produced, whether accidentally or on pur-
pose, a balanced, walking-beam handgun
that can be handled fast. This makes the gun
a perfect fit for the cowboy's needs. The
average cowboy would look like a complete
novice in a target match; but his gun, if he
carries one at all, must be capable of stop-
ping whatever he wants to stop, and do it
sudden.

Your screen version of how the gun is
worn and used is a lot different from the way
working cowboys wear and use it. The screen
hero may wear and use his gun the way pro-
fessional gunmen wore and used them (or
he may not). But your working cowboy
would be laughed out of camp if he showed
up in a buscadero belt dangling his gun half-
way down his leg. If you're going to wear
a gun while working cattle all day long, that
gun had better be slung flat on a belt to
ride snug against the hip, out of the way but
within reach if needed. Many cowboys de-
sign and make their own holsters from old

pieces of saddle leather or a boot-top, not worrying much about looks but taking great pains to build a rig that will keep the gun where he wants it, out of his way while he works. As the pictures show, my own rig ain't purty, but it does what I want it to do.

I said the Single Action was a balanced "walking-beam" handgun, and "walking beam" more or less describes the way I use it and think it should be used. What with the shape of its handle and the heavy loads it shoots, the recoil rolls the gun back and up—into perfect cocking position. Hook your thumb over the hammer, and all you need to do to fire a second shot is—close your hand. Your grip pulls the gun down to target level; your thumb holds the hammer back, cocking it; and the hammer slips from under the thumb and lets the shot go just as the gun comes level. Repeat, and you'll see the gun perform the walking-beam movement I'm describing. Fired this way, the gun is truly a "single action:" one smooth, fast movement cocks the gun and turns the shot loose. You won't get pin-point target accuracy this way, but you can get so you can put from one to five mighty discouraging punches into anything you need to stop, and do it plumb sudden. The gun ain't a target gun, anyway, and never was. Anything you do to it to make it one, takes just that much away from its efficiency for the job it does best. Even using lighter loads reduces the recoil, fails to roll the gun back to easy cocking position. You have to *lift* it with your wrist muscles, and that spoils the smoothness

of the walking-beam motion.

So there you have it: an old cowboy talking about the guns he loves. But before you decide that cowboys must be crazy to love those guns, remember that your working cowboy is not a sportsman on a week-end hunting trip. He's a man riding from dawn to dark over a few hundred sections of rough range land, ministering to many head of high-price cow-stuff for which he is responsible. He's behind in his sleep, and he's saddle-sore and always hungry. He's likely living in a line shack forty miles from nowhere, cooking his own bacon and beans plus hoecakes of his own weird and wonderful design, over firewood chopped from a limb he likely dragged a mile or more at the end of his rope.

He's not pretty, and his old sweaty shirt gets the salt washed out of it in the surface tank when and if he has time to do it, and every article in his camp and on his saddle and on *him* has to pay its way in indispensable utility for the weight it puts on his hard-working horse. What he has to shoot, he aims for it to stay shot. What he shoots with is chosen, like his rope and spurs, for the job, not for looks.

Don't underestimate him; he's a pretty capable kind of hombre, and he learned it all the hard way. But don't try to copy him, unless you aim to do his job. His wire-cutters or his rope wouldn't be much use to you in your office, and his guns probably don't fit your shooting needs, either. But for his job—they're perfect.

THE MAN WHO BEAT THE UPSIDE-DOWNERS

(Continued from page 21)

made, and the result has made news throughout the world.

In 1949, "Mac" competed in the Marine Corps Eastern Division Rifle Matches at Quantico, Virginia. He has been in the big time ever since. His first National Matches were the superbly run 1951 National Pistol Championships at San Francisco, where he placed fourth for the national all-around pistol championship. I know of no other American pistol competitor who has come so close to the national title so early in life and upon his first appearance in the Nationals.

For the next six years, Mac was always a strong contender in nationally important pistol tournaments, usually finishing very near the top. It was not until 1957, however, that he finally went over the hump and became the all-around National Pistol Champion of the United States. In this contest, there are matches for .22 caliber, any center-fire .32 caliber or larger, and .45 caliber pistols or revolvers. In each caliber class, the firing is equally divided between Slow Fire with a time limit of ten minutes for each ten shots, Timed Fire with 20 seconds allowed for each five-shot string, and Rapid Fire with a ten-second time limit for each five shot string. A total of 270 shots are fired, for a possible score of 2700 points. Usually a separate day is given to the firing of each caliber.

In the 1957 national championship tour-

namment, Mac dogged the footsteps of the Army's great pistol marksman, Master Sergeant Huelet L. Benner. Finally, in the last match, the .45 caliber National Match Course, the Marine ace beat Benner by 11 points to overcome a nine-point deficit and win the championship by a two-point margin.

During the years of building up to this triumph, there had been other successes. He was the first man since the adoption of the 2700-point national championship aggregate match to have won both the all-around championship and the national service pistol championship. For some time he has modestly worn the Distinguished Marksman Medal and Distinguished Pistol Shot Medal awarded for outstanding proficiency with the military service rifle and service pistol respectively. Each is a highly desired and difficult-to-attain award. To be awarded both while in your twenties is a particularly outstanding accomplishment. In 1956, he had reached the pinnacle of service pistol success by winning the national championship for that weapon with a record score of 291.

Charles Askins won the service pistol championship in 1936 and the all-around championship in 1937 when it was a 900-point, three-gun affair. In 1957, two days after McMillan won the all-around national championship, Benner won the national service pistol championship with a record score of 293 and became the third man to have been both all-around and service pistol champion.

In international shooting, the young Marine has also had his day. He tried out for the U. S. International and Olympic Pistol Team in 1952 and made the team,

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using a High Standard Supermatic pistol in both the Free Pistol and Rapid Fire Silhouette events. As one of the two American representatives in the Olympic Rapid Fire pistol event he placed seventh. In the World Shooting Championships of the International Shooting Union at Oslo, Norway, a couple of weeks earlier he had been a member of the American team which won the center fire and Rapid Fire Silhouette pistol matches with world record scores. In our 1954 try-outs for the U. S. International Pistol Team, he was high man in the Rapid Fire Silhouette event. When the team fired in the World Shooting Championships at Caracas, Venezuela, he placed second in the silhouette event and third in the center fire match.

This Rapid Fire Silhouette event in Olympic or International Matches requires some explanation. It is very different from our own Rapid Fire matches, which are fired on standard bullseye targets, all shots on the same target. The Olympic or International Rapid Fire event is fired on man-shaped silhouettes in three time stages. In the first stage, five shots must be fired in eight seconds, one shot on each of five "shoulder-to-shoulder" silhouette targets. In the second stage, the five shots must be fired, one on each target, in six seconds. In the final stage, the time is cut to four seconds. Having fired through the three stages once, the course is repeated. A match consists of two strings of five shots at each time stage. And simple hits are not enough. Each target carries scoring "rings," so that numerical values can be given to each hit.

Top competitors in this match have switched from .22 Long Rifle to .22 Short ammunition to avoid even the modest recoil of the Long Rifle load. They have had guns specially built for the event, guns with compensators, guns with weights, guns with any and everything that just might give a man a bit more time to aim in that swift burst of firing. The "upside-down" guns designed by Margolin and used by the Russian competitors were designed to throw recoil straighter back against the cushion of the shooter's hand and arm, thereby reducing the upward kick and lessening the time needed to get the gun back on target.

The American national pistol records which McMillan holds are too numerous to list. The most important are his score of 2652 over the 2700-point, three-gun, National Match Course aggregate, and a terrific 2663 over the National Rifle Association Short Course Aggregate. Both were startling.

His rifle successes are also outstanding. He won the Marine Corps Rifle Matches in 1955 with a score just two points short of the record. In connection with this event, the Marine Corps Pistol Matches are also fired. McMillan's combined score in the two tournaments made him winner of the Lauchheimer Trophy, senior marksmanship award of the Corps, with a record score of 1131, which at this writing still stands.

This phenomenal marksman gives no outward indication of his great ability. He is young (born January 29, 1929), healthy, big (in the six-foot, 200-pound class), and nice looking. According to him, he was too small (about 140 pounds) to take any big part in athletics during his high school days. Golf and swimming are two of his hobbies now, and they keep him healthily well conditioned but not finely trained from an athletic viewpoint.

His movements and reactions are fast. They have to be for him to rate among the world's best in firing the international rapid fire event. Recently the quick draw has attracted his attention. In contrast to some of the "Western marshal" outfits, he uses a double action Smith and Wesson Combat Magnum (.357 caliber) revolver carried in an S. D. Myres Border Patrol-type holster on a Sam Browne belt without the shoulder strap. It is a very practical rig, one that is seen on many uniformed police officers every day. When he draws, that hardhitting little gun literally pops into firing position.

An Army major once said to him, "Mac, you're the most 'at ease' soldier I have ever seen." He can be a rough, tough, field Marine, or he can be spit and polish. In full uniform he is an alert and immaculate military figure. Never lethargic, phlegmatic, or apathetic, he has the quiet self assurance and easy relaxed bearing of many topflight athletes.

Far from a swashbuckling adventurer, Mac is a pretty typical young American with living habits no different from those of thousands of others. Married and the proud pappy of a youngster whom he affectionately dubs "Wild Bill," Mac likes to live at home. He does not smoke, and his drinking is usually limited to a few cold beers at the end of a day. He does not believe drinking during shooting hours helps scores. The personality and temperament of this big Marine are the best indications that he has the stuff of which champions are made. He has the competitive spirit. He can produce under the pressure of competition, and every inch of the way his sportsmanship is of the highest.

In listing four things needed to make a good pistol shot, the champion first named the desire to win. A man like this will ask no favors or special privileges and will have only token patience with artificial handicaps and classification systems. When he began open competition it was customary to classify unknown beginners as "Experts," the next-to-top bracket. As soon as the laborious classification machinery can operate to classify him, the usual pistolman rates as "Marksman" or "Sharpshooter." Mac's first official classification was "Master," the top leaf. Since then his classification has been the very least of his worries. He wishes to compete only with the best. Asked directly whether he believed classification systems developed better shots, he answered with an unqualified "No." In his own words, "The keener the competition, the more challenging the match."

McMillan is as likely to feel the pressure of competition as anyone else, but he can shoot good scores in spite of it. This pressure, which handicaps many competitive shooters, is likely to be felt when one is about to win or lose an important match or when he is about to attain some signal success such as breaking an important record. The man who does not care enough to develop some degree of excitement at such moments will not care enough to spend the necessary study, time, and effort to place himself in such a position.

In the Rapid Fire Silhouette match in the 1952 Olympics, "Mac" got a good start with a score of 290 over the first half of the course and led the field at that point. However, competition from the top European shooters, long accustomed to this particular match, was intense. In the second half of the course, our more experienced representative,

M/Sgt. Benner, scored a miss. Under the scoring system in effect at that time, he was, for all practical purposes, eliminated. That put the chances of a win for the United States squarely on the shoulders of the 23-year old Marine firing in his first Olympic Games.

Mac started his second half of the course with a score of 99 at the eight-second stage. In the six-second stage, his last shot cracked just as the targets edged and there was doubt as to whether it was fired in time. If it was a good hit, he was still in position to win the match. If it had landed too late, both American representatives would be far down the list. At that particular time, another competitor had trouble with his gun and scoring was delayed some five minutes while tension and anxiety mounted. When the targets were finally scored, Mac's last shot had been a hit; his score for that stage was 97.

However, his four-second and final stage scored a definitely below average 89 for a total score of 575 over the course. The match was won by 1948 Olympic Champion Takacs, of Hungary, with 579. Even the best shots must sometimes have scores below average, and they are just as likely to occur one time as another. With regard to this particular incident, I asked Mac, "Did the close call on your last shot of the six-second stage, and the delay in scoring it, have an adverse effect on your four-second stage?" "Definitely," he replied.

About two weeks earlier, in the World Shooting Championships, he had been on the spot and came through with flying colors. He fired last on the American team. Competition was keen and our scores were good. A high score by the anchor man might make us world champions. One miss would eliminate us. The Turtle Creek boy came through with no misses and a total of 579 to give the Americans the world championship with a new world record score of 2304.

Upon the many occasions that he has approached new national or world records he must have felt pressure, but the records speak for themselves. When he fired the last few shots in the national service pistol match in 1956 he knew he was on the brink of a new record and might win the match. Such times make seconds seem like eternities, and each one is miserable; but if you stand hitched and keep shooting, you may win. McMillan won the Custer Trophy.

In the summer of 1957, Benner's national record of 2644 over the National Match Course aggregate with three guns had stood since 1950. Then McMillan exceeded it three times in four months and came to the National Matches with a new record of 2652 fired on the San Diego, California, Police Range.

Speculation was rife. Why are California scores so much higher than those at Camp Perry? Would he shoot the same scores at the Nationals? Would he be the new champion? The Californians shoot the same distances at the same size targets in the same time limits as competitors in all other parts of the country. Good weather, fine permanent type ranges, and superior management of tournaments are conducive to high scores. In addition, "Mac" was at home when he fired his 2652 in San Diego in the South Pacific States Pistol Regional Championships, July 5-7, 1957. He could not be expected to duplicate those scores under the conditions that are so often so unfavorable

at the National Matches. However, barring some unforeseen mishap, he would hold up and shoot a good score.

With the heat on and everyone looking down his throat, Mac pounded away for three days and came in with a strong finish. His score was 40 points short of his national record, but the rest of us were shooting below par also. His 2612 was the best score fired in that tournament, and the United States had a new National Pistol Champion—the fourth one since World War II.

Anyone who believes a champion must have elaborate and expensive equipment will be surprised upon viewing McMillan's shooting kit. The case itself and the telescope for spotting shots are good but plain and low to medium priced. The last time I saw it, he was carrying a .22 Ruger pistol customized by Jim Clark, a Colt Officers Model Match revolver for the "any center fire" matches, a .45 automatic pistol with John E. Giles accuracy job, rib, and sights, for most of the .45 caliber matches, and another .45 automatic for service pistol matches. It is a modest, simple, and economical outfit, free of frills and furbelows but with quality where quality counts.

There are no secrets about Mac's success or technique. He was blessed with a sound, healthy body and some natural aptitude in the beginning. He has learned and used good technique. During training sessions he practices regularly, and at matches, alertness and preparedness keep him clear of many pitfalls that plague other shooters.

The McMillan technique is the same that has been taught to thousands of other beginning shooters. He takes a solid, comfortable stance, grips his weapon firmly, brings his sights into line with each other and his aiming point, and sometimes mashes, sometimes squeezes, the trigger to fire the shot without disturbing the sight alignment. He uses adjustable sights and changes them whenever he thinks it necessary, which is infrequently. With some of his guns he aims at the center of the bullseye and with others at its six o'clock edge.

The champion believes that it is easy to overtrain and that he will become stale if he shoots too much over a long period of time. For shooters seriously interested in keeping in trim, he suggests at least 60 rounds of practice firing with each of the three calibers per week. In his own case, he likes to shoot about 90 practice shots per week with each of the three guns.

Mac is very gentlemanly and sportsmanlike as well as a crack marksman. Since 1951 I have been meeting him as an opponent in national pistol competition. Sometimes I have beaten him. More often he has beaten me. But, never have I known of his bragging, gloating, griping, or otherwise evidencing anything other than scrupulous honesty and the highest sportsmanship.

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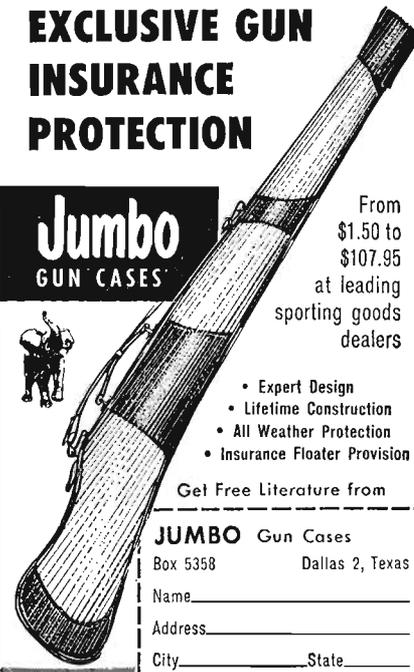
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GIVE THE LITTLE LADY A GUN

(Continued from page 33)

able, and be sure it's practical. Don't risk the possibility of being a kill-sport because ill-fitting boots or clothing make you miserable and unable to do your share. Talk to experienced hunters about materials that enable you to move silently in the woods, about boots that give you sure footing, about (for duck hunting) camouflage suits and waders and things to keep you warm—and (for other kinds of hunting) about colors to buy for safety.

"Clothing that is comfortable and practical and right in the woods need not be ugly, or make you ugly. Preview your hunting clothes with your husband as critic. If he likes them, you're probably all right—though it's always well to inspect yourself critically in a mirror as well; husbands are sometimes *too* easy to please! Then, if you're going to a hunting camp, check with someone who has been there (preferably a woman) and find out what women wear there. You can be perfectly dressed for a woods camp with husband and friends, but pretty uncomfortable in the same clothes in a place where other women are dressed differently.

5. "Having bought your clothing and equipment, pack it. As you pack it, check each item against the weather you may encounter, against what you know or can find out about the country you'll be in. Take three complete changes, to be sure you can always dress dry in rainy weather or in case you fall in the drink.

"Having packed, take a long look at the bulk of your luggage. Let your husband look too, to see if there'll be room in the car (or boat) for it, if it can be easily handled (would it be better differently packed? In two packages instead of one, or three instead of two?)

"Then—unpack and pack again, this time checking very carefully to make sure (1) that you will have everything you need (everybody hates the hunter, man or woman, who arrives in camp without his sox, or his soap, or his ammunition!), and (2) to make sure that you will remember this best-possible way of packing the next time you do it. A bundle that is too big or too heavy to handle, or so put together that it falls apart when handled, can make you most unpopular even with yourself in the woods, to say nothing of the way the men will feel about it.

"Do these few simple things—go prepared to rough it a little without whining—have a good time if it kills you (after all, if it's that bad, you needn't go a second time)—and be willing and eager to learn from older heads—and you won't be too unpopular in any hunting party. Don't worry if you feel like, even act like, a beginner; after all, you are. Don't worry if you don't shoot as well as the men; if you handle the gun safely and show them you *know how* to shoot even if you aren't an Annie Oakley, they'll love you."

The Bodes believe in safety even beyond gun safety, and comfort beyond warm clothing. Ed has invented a hunting stool which can be set down in a duck blind to decrease the discomfort for which duck blinds are notorious and to keep certain parts of the hunter's anatomy dry, or dryer. He has also assembled a safety kit particularly suited to the type of hunting they do and the kind of country in which they hunt most often—duck hunting, in the Okeechobee marshes of South Florida. The safety kit resembles a professional photographer's equipment bag and carries a compass, shells, rain coat, thermos of cold water, thermos of hot coffee, a snakebite kit, a mosquito net, a flashlight, day and night flares, and a collapsible bamboo pole that will extend to a height of 16 feet. This last item is designed for the mounting of a bright yellow flag high enough to be seen above the saw grasses, to catch the eye of companions coming to pick you up or of searchers for lost hunters. The flares, of

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**DO YOUR CHRISTMAS
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SEE PAGE 66**

course, are for similar emergencies.

Hunting in the Okeechobee marshes, says Ed Bode, is different from the wildfowling to be found anywhere else in this country. The Bodes and their friends use airboats (shallow-draft boats powered with air propellers) to reach the natural marsh-grass blinds from which they shoot mallards, pintails, teal, widgeons, and scorp.

Guns? Well, Ed Bode uses a Remington 16 gauge automatic equipped with Polychoke. Says Ed, "For me, this is an all-around shotgun. I use high velocity shells loaded with 5s or 6s, for ducks; standard loads, No. 6 or No. 7½ shot for pigeons; and high-vel with 4s or 5s for geese."

Zephyr uses an Ithaca Featherweight 20 gauge pump. "Some will argue that she'd do better with a bigger gauge," Ed admits, "but, again, she likes the 20—and she gets her share of the birds, so—?"

Mrs. Bode used the little Ithaca to good advantage on a trip to the Bahamas last August. "We hunted white crown pigeons," she says, "off the islands of Great Exuma. The day before the opening of the season we went ashore on one of the islands and hired two Negro boys to retrieve birds for us. The boys didn't like to wear clothes and, when they saw birds coming our way, they'd pull off their pants, yell, 'Heah dey come, Mum! Shoot, Mum!' and plunge into the water. The bird flights were from island to island, so there was a lot of water retrieving."

Speaking of those boy retrievers reminded Ed of two boys they encountered one day in a Florida marsh. "These two kids were walking in water up to their arm-pits," Ed related, "and they were really lost. We picked them up and they told us that they had started into the swamp with a ball of twine, the end of the twine tied to a tree on shore, letting the string out behind them as a guide to lead them back to safety. Trouble was, the string broke. Those boys were in real trouble."

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Being lost in the big swamps is no joke, even for adults."

Hunting trips together have not only brought Zephyr and Ed Bode closer together as a family; it has also, Ed says, "brought us closer to our friends. We've gotten to know them better by sharing interests and experiences with them."

Zephyr had one final word of advice to wives about hunting. "Don't expect to hit every bird you shoot at, and don't feel badly if you don't. After all, it takes *men* years to become good wing shots—and lots of them *never* do it! As a matter of fact—maybe I shouldn't say it, but it's so—unless your husband is as good a shot as mine is, you may even, after a trip or two, have to miss a few on purpose to save his ego! After all, shooting is one sport where the big man's muscles don't just automatically make him invincible! If you want to, and will practice, you can shoot as well as he can—or better!"

But, lest we end this story on a too-controversial note, here is a flash-back. Remember Zephyr's reference a while ago to good game cookery? Here's her favorite recipe for duck. About this, Ed says, there's no controversy; this is *good*.

First, of course, kill your duck. . . . Take three cups of rice and cook until tender but not soggy. Drain and steam. Add one cup chopped pecans, 1½ cups chopped celery, one cup chopped onions, 1½ cups chopped bell peppers. Salt and pepper to taste. Add bacon fat if you like it. Stuff the ducks with this mixture and use the rest to put in the pan about 20 minutes before taking the ducks out of the oven. It's guaranteed, Zephyr says, to get the lady another invitation. 

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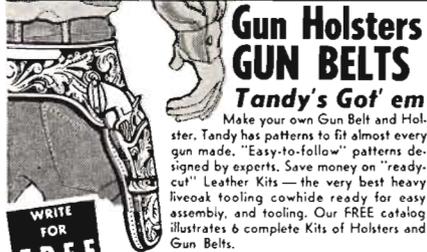
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ARSENAL ON THE HUDSON

(Continued from page 17)

were gone, more probably unlimbered and sold for scrap, since they had no military value for over a generation.

The castle roof was tarred and sagging. One side sloped a good four feet lower than the other, and I did not dare trust my weight to the middle. I edged around carefully, caught the view downstream where West Point's gray granite barracks clustered on the hillside, saw farther downstream where Cornwall was a sprinkling of white window frames and blue roofs. Then I started downstairs. The three top floors were empty of heavy gear, the top two stripped clean. Through the concrete floors I could see daylight as the sun shafted through some window on the floor below. Wire net and rods showed where the concrete had sloughed off, leaving nothing but reinforcing metal.

The third floor level had a southern exit to a castellated walkway that slanted down abruptly to ground level. Strewn about and tumbled into the rank garden below, were dozens of U.S. Army white cork helmets. "Rudy Vallee bought 600 of these a few years back," I was told. "His band wore them, and then they were auctioned off for charity." Today—anybody want a pith helmet? They're up there on the Island, rotting in the rain.

The second floor came in for another careful search. I shuddered to look at a carefully piled stack of Civil War army knapsacks, forming a huge cube possibly fifteen feet high and thirty feet on a side, which had begun to tip. A single rope passed in front of the pile, the topmost tiers of which had now sagged out as much as five feet over the base. The rope has frayed to a single strand or two. If that pile collapses, it might have force enough to bring down the whole tottering old building!

Though Bannerman built for the ages, his castle has hardly lasted a lifetime. A reason why is found in Bannerman's story of a potential customer. "A party came to us," recounted the late Frank Bannerman VI "and wanted to purchase a large lot of military cartridges. The price was satisfactory

and the sale was almost made when he requested the privilege of using our island to repack the cartridges into nail kegs." Bannerman refused. "We will not sell you the cartridges," he told the revolutionary agent, "You haven't money enough to induce us to break the law." The ammunition buyer then went to another firm, bought the cartridges he needed, had the boxes wrapped in excelsior and packed in kegs of dry cement. The shipment was seized by customs officers, the ammunition impounded and sold at auction. "We were the purchasers," Bannerman added smugly. "The cement we used in building our island storehouses, and the cartridges were sold to the President of Santo Domingo."

El Presidente got a better deal with his cartridges than Bannerman got with the cement. It occurred to me that, if I were a revolutionary shipping ammo in cement barrels as a disguise, I too would buy the *cheapest cement* I could find. To judge from the state of Bannerman's castle, that is what happened. The 20"-thick main walls have developed cracks through which daylight passes, and weeds are starting to push their way into the building.

We walked outside again, and it was like walking out of the 19th into the 20th century. Piles of gummy knapsacks, chests of unfinished Krag Jorgenson rifle parts, rusted cartridge clips and broken artillery carriages were the heritage of the 19th Century to the 20th. Outside, a shattered 3" gun needed a thousand dollars worth of woodwork to make it useful. And, still looking up stream, defending the Island from the holiday boaters who often oar close for a look, a monster Dahlgren gun rested on its iron barbette carriage, frozen solid with red, immovable, but as grand in its silence as when it frowned from the gunwales of Flag-officer Farragut's "Hartford" and challenged the Confederacy on the western waters.

I had brought with me several old Bannerman catalogs, two dating back to 1903 and 1905, and here in the shadow of the firm's memories, it amused me to look through them and see what was once offered. Take the Hall rifles, for example. . . .

"First American Breech-Loading Flint Lock Rifle made in America," reads the 1905 catalog. After a thrilling description of the guns, calculated to speed the purchaser's pulse, comes the kicker: "We expect to get \$50 each for some of these guns . . . but for the present we will pack gun in case ready for express (buyer pays expressage) for \$10.00 each." Though this lot of Hall rifles has long since been sold, Bannerman has left us a story of how he obtained them:

At the Government auction sale, 300 Hall's rifles were offered. In 1873, Bannerman had bought such guns in unserviceable shape at 3½c each. About 1900, he had paid as much as \$8 a gun. Puzzled over the market value of these guns, Banerman dreamed three days before the sale that he was in his Broadway store, selling a man a Hall rifle for \$1.71. He took this figure as his bid. When the bids were opened, it was found that Bannerman's competitors, Hartley & Graham, had also bid \$1.71. Bannerman and H & G's business friend, William Read of Boston, cut the lot three ways. Even at \$10.00, Bannerman could afford to sell them.

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The founder of this fantastic arms business (which, as early as the turn of the century, "required 15 acres for storage") was the sixth Francis Bannerman, a vigorous Scottish nationalist born in Dundee, Scotland, in March of 1851. With his parents, he arrived in America in 1854 and grew up in Brooklyn, where his father ran a ship's chandler store near the Navy Yard. The business, managed by his father and later by Frank, grew during the 1870's and 1880's, but did not take on its character of a general munitions firm until near the turn of the century. In 1897, Bannerman moved to 579 Broadway, a spot that served as major outfitters for many of the Spanish American War volunteer regiments. Young Frank had accompanied his father to the government auctions which siphoned off the tremendous Civil War surpluses and, with native Scottish sagacity and some acquired Yankee acumen, became a shrewd bargainer in the surplus sales then being held in New York. A newspaper ad of about 1900 showed three steam trains and the heading, "Three train loads of army goods sold to Francis Bannerman," with revolvers at 50c up, carbines at \$1.00 up, muskets slightly higher.

Though Bannerman's later catalogs intimated he had purchased guns at the end of the Civil War, his name is conspicuous by its absence from the Congressional report of sales made in 1870-71. Then a half-million

captured Spanish war material acquired by the U.S. in the Spanish American War. Over 20 million rounds of small arms cartridges, plus a tremendous pile of other munitions already on hand, made the New York fire marshal take a dim view of the business, and so Polopel's Island was bought. To it came barge loads of munitions, including the Spanish Mausers.

Many of Bannerman's Mauser rifles were cleaned and repaired at Springfield Armory. The armory business was a little slow in 1900 since the Army boards were considering adopting a new magazine repeating rifle, ultimately the famous "03 Springfield," and Bannerman paid the men. Bannerman then bought 14,000 guns and offered them at \$10 each, with 7,000,000 rounds of 7mm ammo. Master of the "hard sell" in a gentle, 19th century sort of way, Frank wrote, "Any day our Agent may send us cablegram ordering shipment of the whole lot (for export). If you contemplate purchasing a good rifle do not put it off. Every one is pleased with the Mauser." Some of his customers were more than pleased: they went stark, raving mad with joy. Surely only a madman would write, as one testimonial declared, "The Mauser is the only gun made for use in hunting big game, mountain sheep, elk, etc., at 1,500 to 2,000 yards. The .30-30 rifles are not in it. The Mauser is superior to any American-made sporting gun." Even for 1900,



Bannerman gift to Britain was M1901 U.S. Action with Krag, M1903 and Mauser parts built on.

Springfields, plus tons of cannon and harness, were sold off to arm the French in the Franco-Prussian War. Though Bannerman may not have been personally active in those sales, his firm was to have a long association with foreign munitions houses. By World War I he had consolidated small arms storage and sales at 501 Broadway, with the Island Arsenal off Cornwall, a warehouse at the Eric Basin Stores Brooklyn on the water front, and a Belgian agent in Liege.

Bannerman also had commercial connections with the German-Belgian munitions firm of Adolph Frank of Hamburg. To judge from the overlapping offerings of identical muskets and rifles, Bannerman did a brisk business bidding in guns for ALFA and the European munitions traders, reserving a stock for his store. Collectors shudder to recall the picture of the Colt rifle musket in Bannerman's catalog where, in addition to reassuring every collector that he needed one, Bannerman remarks that his Liege agent altered 50,000 of them to *flintlock* for the African trade, and they are "now rare." There seems to have been considerable reciprocity between Bannerman in New York and the German and other foreign munitions brokers. Offered in Bannerman's catalog as well as those of European dealers, were the identical souvenir trinkets—desk weights, ink stands, and button hooks, made from a variety of small arms cartridges and small-caliber cannon shells.

The small-caliber cannon shells, 37mm or Hotchkiss one-pounder projectiles, were souvenirs from Bannerman's biggest commercial coup, when he purchased 90% of the

that was a real "gone" shooter.

Bannerman lived an adventurous life. The Mausers did not make him any money sitting in New York, and he decided to go abroad to sell them. Complained Bannerman frequently, "The American Government does little or nothing to help their merchants trade in foreign countries." He had shipped a sample Mauser and cartridges to King Alexander of Serbia, via American Express. But the King was assassinated and the transaction slightly delayed. The gun remained in the American Express office in Hamburg, until Bannerman asked of the new King Peter if he was interested. Said Bannerman, "The Serbian agent cabeled 'Yah!' but no business could be done without samples."

Quickly, Bannerman took passage for Europe, entrained to the Balkan kingdom with his rifle and cartridges. He met the Serbian agent in Liege and gave him the package of cartridges to smuggle through, while Bannerman decided to take the Mauser rifle to King Peter personally. At the German border the customs officer reached for the gun but the Scotsman, game to the last, cried out, "Nien Zoll, Deutsche Mauser," ("No duty, German Mauser") and showed the guard the "Loewe-Berlin" stamp on the gun. But the customs officer levied a duty of 72c, which the munitions magnate gladly paid and continued on his way to Serbia. The ironic finale to the excursion was that Serbia agreed to buy the rifles, but Austria-Hungary refused to allow shipment and the deal fell through.

Dealer in second hand goods, Bannerman often tried his hand at manufacturing. In

SHOOTIN' AMMO

303 BRITISH MILITARY \$7.50

Per 100 cartridges. The finest made in Europe; 165 grain Mark VII copper-coated pointed bullet. Limited quantity Win. manuf. American primed—\$9.00 per 100.

8MM. MAUSER MILITARY \$7.50

Per 100 cartridges. Military top-quality Brass British Issue 154 Gr. Copper Jacket Metal Point, with American type primers. Clips for Model 98 Mausers, 6 for \$1.00.

30/40 Krag 30 U.S.A. \$7.50

Per 100 cartridges. With 220 grain copper-coated jacket bullet, round nose. Remington Kleanbore, non-corrosive. Save your good Krag barrel—use non-corrosive ammo.

30-06 SPRINGFIELD \$7.50

Per 100 cartridges. M2 with 150 Grain Military bullet, late issue non-corrosive. All factory loaded, can be used in M1 Garand or any make 30-06 cal. rifle. Clips, 5 shot, per dozen \$1.20; Extractors \$1.50.

45-70 GOVERNMENT \$9.50

Per 100 cartridges. Made by U.M.C. with 500 Gr. lead bullet and smokeless powder. Packed 20 to the box. Limited quantity net in boxes \$7.50.

30 CAL. M1 CARBINE \$5.95

Per 100 cartridges. Factory loaded with 112 grain Metal jacket bullet. Limited quantity late issue non-corrosive \$7.50. Also 110 gr. Soft Nose box (50) \$6.00. 15 Shot Magazine, 85c. 5 shot \$2.45, 30 shot \$4.95. Govt. Surplus heavy canvas Zipper Cover \$2.45. Legal barrel extension \$3.75. Stocks with metal fittings \$4.75. Complete bolt assembly \$4.95. Extractor \$1.00. Latest adjustable rear sight \$1.85. Brass brushes \$1.00 a doz. Free list.

RIFLES

Winchester Model 71 Lever Action Rifle. 348 Cal., 24" Bbl. All brand new, in factory boxes. List \$120.00. Special Price \$89.95.

Winchester Model 07 Auto., 351 Cal., with 10-shot clip. Brand new, in factory boxes. List \$177.75. Special Price \$137.50.

PISTOLS

Colt Challenger 22 Auto., 10 Shot, 4 1/2" or 6" Bbl. New, \$42.40.

Colt Official Police 38 Special on 41 frame, 4" or 5", blue. VG to XLNT. \$39.95.

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A \$250.00 VALUE—ONLY \$17.50!

REMINGTON SPRINGFIELD 30-06 BARRELS

\$17.50 not for 1, or 5—but for 10 barrels! These are brand new, 2 groove, manufactured by Remington Arms Co. for the U. S. Govt. at \$25.00 each.

30 CAL. CARBINE BARRELS \$8.25

Brand new, in cosoline, with front sight. Piston and nut, also front band and swivel; very scarce. \$8.25 p.p. Milled Springfield trigger guards complete with floor plate, catch, spring, pin, also follower & spring—\$6.95. Springfield field-test bolts—\$3.95.

Barrels for Thompson 45 Cal. S.M.G. Plain 10 1/2".....\$10.95
Barrels for 30/06 Springfield 4 Groove..... 7.50
Barrels for Mauser 98, 30/06 Cal., 2 Gr. \$9.95; 4 Gr. 14.95
Barrels for Krag Spr. 30/40 Cal., 2 Gr. \$9.95; 4 Gr. 14.95

Walnut Stocks for Model 1897 Win. 12 Ga. \$5.95 plus p.
Walnut Stocks for Model 31 Pump Rem. \$4.95 plus post.
Walnut Stocks for 11A Rem. Auto. 12 Ga. \$4.95 plus post.

Hand guard for 31 Rem. \$3.95—Win. Model 97.....\$1.95
Barrels for 520-620 Stevens Pump 12 Ga. 20"..... 4.95
Action Bar for 520-620 Stevens Pump 12 Ga..... 1.95

Hand Guard with Bayonet Attach. for 12 Ga. S.G..... 2.95
Barrels for Colt Commando 38 Sp. 2"; will fit

Official Police, also Army Special..... 4.95
Trigger Guard Milled for 22 or 30 Cal. Springfield..... 2.75
Magazine for 22 Cal. U.S. Springfield..... 2.75

U.S. Springfield Reamers H.S. Steel Necking—\$2.95
Roughers, 30/06 Cal..... 3.95
Brass Revolver Rods with Brush; 32; 38; 45 cal. Ea. 1.00

Cartridge clips for all foreign rifles—advise wants

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GUARANTEED—Tested and proven over 40 years by repeat sales to satisfied users. SEND

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G-1 Bradford, Pa.

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Address.....
City..... State.....



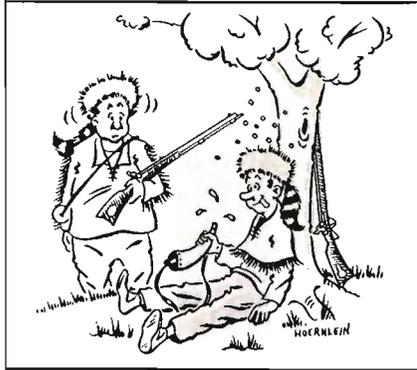
the 1880's he became associated with Christopher M. Spencer, rifle inventor then making a pump shotgun, first of its kind and one liked by Annie Oakley. The Spencer business fell apart in 1887, and Bannerman for the next twenty years listed the Spencer factory in his catalog as "for sale."

By World War I Bannerman had grown to be the largest house of its kind in the U.S. A cooperative bidder with rival firms like W. Stokes Kirk and Hartley & Graham, he had a better sense of publicity and appealed more to the gun crank and collector than to the revolutionary agent. Though he spiced his offerings with phrases like "special bargain prices to government war ministers," his primary appeal was to the curio collector. Remington revolvers, new, at \$1.85, he suggested could be grouped with brass drumstick holders (20c), U.S. Marine brass shield (15c), crossed sabres (10c), and U.S. brass bridle monogram (10c), or "All the above articles for \$2.40, not including the board." The happy purchaser was supposed to make his own mounting plaque, drill a hole through the revolver frame, and bolt it to the board as a "den decoration."

But Bannerman did turn out some unusual models of guns for shooting purposes. Cadet Corps were outfitted with Bannerman cut-down Springfield rifles, or Remington single shot pistols converted to small infantry muskets. For the more delicate cadets, he offered "quaker guns," his own original design, using U.S. muskets with wooden barrels. Once he inventoried 125,000 Springfield musket stocks, and he could make up these items from time to time from spare parts. And being the successful bidder on the 5,000 condemned U.S. Rifles, Model 1901-2, put him into the Springfield Rifle business.

These particular guns and parts of guns were in all stages of manufacture at Springfield Armory when several major design changes were authorized. Bannerman became the lucky bidder on these bolt action receivers and assemblies, which are distinguished from the true M1903 receiver by having a smooth receiver bridge at the rear,

not humped up to receive the large M1903 safety lug on the bolt. Came World War I and Bannerman decided to do a nice thing for England with these parts. He created the Bannerman Springfield, fitting M1903 stocks, Krag barrels and sights, Krag trigger guards, Mauser handguards and followers, and dummy magazine floor plates to the guns. They were chambered .303 and marked on the receivers with the Bannerman arm and flag, and the word BANNERMAN in an arc. A thousand of these rifles, plus complete sets of equipment, cartridge belts, bayonets, were delivered to the British as a gift from their roving Scotsman. His Majesty's Government said thank you, tried out the rifles at Hythe,



found that the first shot would hit the mark, but found also that the second shot would not feed into the chamber. The big .303 rims jammed in the Mauser-type magazine. So they stamped all the guns "DP" for "Drill Purposes," and not one of them saw combat. But the spirit was there. An old British soldier told me that the Bannerman Springfield was one of the most accurate rifles he had ever handled, with that .303 cartridge on the front-ling action, for the first shot. For the founder of the firm, the first shot was the last: the sixth Francis Bannerman died in 1918.

After World War I Bannerman's firm kept active, and such deals as Civil War Smith Carbines, which they sold by the thousands

through Gimbels New York Store for as little as 29c, kept them in business. They bid in thousands of the Russian Nagant rifles and proudly proclaimed that buyers should order "as our prices are half what the ammunition companies charge." They even converted Russian rifles to .30-06, but few people care to talk about that nowadays. Such guns were definitely unsafe.

And through the years the Broadway store sold the Springfield rifled muskets, the Colt revolvers as "complete outfit, including flask, mould, caps, just \$7.50." But today, with the 501 Broadway address destined to be cleared for a parking lot, and the Island crumbling into the weather, gun fans want to know what is left at Bannerman's. The question is not easily answered. The New York store runs through the depth of a city block, has basements and sub basements, and from personal experience I know that something nobody expects always seems to crop up there. With the Island and the store, I still cannot answer the question "what's left at Bannerman," except to say "plenty." Bannerman's is full of surprises.

Take the day I got a copy of their big, new catalog. There, staring out from the same page where in earlier editions it has been pictured as a memento of the days when the firm *did* have Gatling Guns, was a rare aluminum 6mm Gatling, complete with tripod, drum, ammunition, and *price*. Gatling guns with prices had not been listed for years. But I plunged. No, I didn't buy the gun, but I wasn't much later than the customer who did buy it.

And then one day I stopped into the store for a look around. That wall of guns has had muskets come and muskets go, and something caught my eye: a sawed off musket with a profile that was familiar. I had been doing research on the Hackett or "Fusil Robert" muskets, the top-lever detonating breech loaders tested at West Point in 1837 in competition with Colt, Cochran, and Hall's arms. I owned one such gun, identical with the West Point Museum specimen except for serial number. Now I saw something similar on Bannerman's wall, and for \$5 I bought a specimen of the hitherto unknown under-lever Fusil Robert. It needs cleaning, and the lever is missing, but one day I'll get around to restoring it. For me, Bannerman still has a bit of that old charm.

The fact is that while Bannerman probably doesn't have cases of muskets left, the impossible does happen. Said the Island's caretaker, "We found a box of .50-70 rifles here last month and sent them down to the store." And from the sub basements of the store, cases and chests of parts, accoutrements, artillery components, and ammunition, still come in bewildering confusion. The old firm is ready for a face-lifting.

Current dope is that new premises will be secured and the business continued. So near to the century mark, it would be a shame to shut up Bannerman's merely because the old building must come down. A more aggressive selling program will put more of the Civil War relics before the collector, and Bannerman's will boom again. But they are still a little leery of that island. There is enough ammunition on that rocky crag to make it boom all by itself.

Fires U.S. Made Standard .308 AMMO MADE BY REMINGTON, WINCHESTER, WESTERN & PETERS

BRAND NEW
.308 WINCHESTER
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COMPLETE WITH TELESCOPIC SIGHT

Complete with brand new U.S. made 4 Power Sporting Scope with coated lenses, adjustable for windage and elevation, precision mounted and boresighted.

The most outstanding all-purpose big game sporting rifle ever offered. Our gunsmiths select a factory brand new 22" unfired U.S. made .308 Winchester Cal. barrel, fit and headspace to a choice all milled surplus 5-shot Model 95 FN Belgian Mauser military action with turned down bolt handle. Mounted in a fine walnut sporterized military stock. The result is a firearm equal in accuracy and value to any sporter costing four times as much! Absolute satisfaction or your money back.

NOTE ABOUT .308 CALIBER

.308 is the standard caliber today of the U.S. Army and all NATO powers. It uses the standard 30/06 bullet and you may reload with these if you wish. The case has been designed to the highest ballistic efficiency using the new ball powder. It is the most advanced standard cartridge in the world today and is universally available at all sporting goods stores.

7MM MAUSER SPORTER WITH OPEN SIGHTS \$19.95

The ideal brush gun. 7MM FN Belgian sporter with open sights adjustable to 2000 yds. Turned down bolt. Used but guaranteed in very good shooting condition in every respect. A fine gun at a fabulous price for the man who prefers open sights.

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FOR THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON COMING ALL YEAR LONG
SEE PAGE 66

GUNSTOCK BEAUTIES ON PARADE

(Continued from page 24)

running through it makes it very unusual in color. I have had two rifles stocked in Mesquite and prize them highly.

Western "quilted," "crazy" or "shell-flame" maple, which I briefly mentioned previously, is a series of names attached to one particular species of maple grown in Washington State and Oregon. This species produces stock blanks figured to resemble oyster shells, large fish scales, or half-dollar size coins overlapping each other. When blow-torched, these stocks give off an iridescent effect which I have never seen on any other wood. They make attractive stocks for light-weight rifles.

Apple wood and Cherry, as well as Wild Cherry wood all make good stock woods and were used quite extensively by our early settlers in the East. They are uncolorful, but practical. Apple is a white colored wood that can be made to resemble Ebony if dyed black in color and highly polished. The Cherry woods are pink in color if left natural. Charles DeVeto, 12717 Irvington Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, furnishes Eastern Curly Maple and the Cherry wood blanks.

One of the most unusual stocks I have is made of Zebra Wood which is imported from Africa. It is yellow colored with dark brown streaks through it. Zebra wood, Tulip wood, and California Mesquite probably have the highest contrast in the grain colors of any stock woods.

I have a Tigerwood stock which is dark brown in color and even when it came off the carving machine it was highly polished. Sanding really made it glow. Very strong and no particular grain structure whatever. It also comes from Africa.

An Amaranth or "Purple Heart" stock from South America is a natural purple in color and quite unusual because of this true natural color. This wood is used quite extensively for inlay work on gun stocks as well as for making forend tips and grip caps. It is also practical as an entire stock.

A stock cut entirely from a big western maple burl is one of the most unusual as well as beautiful ones in my personal collection. It was seasoned for over twenty-five years before I had Nils Hultgren of 1217 South McBride Ave., Los Angeles 22, California, finish it up in plastic finish and put it on a 7mm Mauser rifle for me. I probably could have sold this blank alone for \$100 because of its unusual qualities.

Laminated stocks of all patterns and designs are available, and will be found to be very practical where one wishes to eliminate warping, such as for target rifle use, or if living in damp climate areas.

There are literally dozens of varieties of imported woods which will make very fine gun stocks. Some of them are a little heavy, but they can be used on target or bench rest rifles to furnish the shooter with something different. They cost very little, if any more, than the local plain woods and I have never paid over fifteen dollars per blank, even of the imported woods.

After purchasing a blank which is sup-



posedly guaranteed to be dry, I send it to one of the various firms who specialize in machine turning stock blanks, and have it turned. This usually runs from ten to twelve dollars. Then I set it on the wall to see if it is going to warp or walk around or twist to any appreciable degree. There is not much wood left in that forearm after it has been machine turned and inletted, and if it is not good and dry it is going to twist

around or pull one way or the other to quite an extent. I let them hang on the wall from six months to a year. If they have not altered shape very much by this time, I can rest assured that the stock is well seasoned. I might add that these are left in a room that is in the upstairs part of the house and the temperature varies to no great extent from one month to the next. If they have not warped or walked around during this drying period, I have never found them to do so after being completely finished and fitted to the gun.

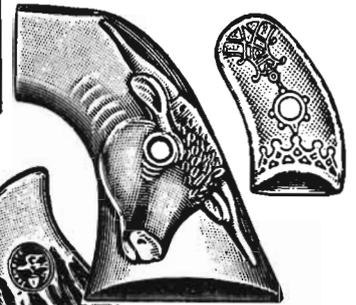
As to finish—I have oiled stocks, laquered stocks, varnished stocks, and stocks sprayed with plastic. I have found them all to be very durable, but the oil finished stock will absorb more moisture than those finished otherwise. The new plastic finishes are very hard, durable and wear extremely well. Furthermore, they leave the wood in their natural color, which I personally prefer. I will never use oil again on a stock unless it be a piece of plain wood where I care nothing for the looks. If you have a finely figured piece of wood or one with contrasting grain, then it should be finished in the natural state with no stain being used. That is what sets the stock apart from others. The only one I have stained is a Prima Vera stock which I placed on a Jap sporter, but it was straw colored in the natural state and I didn't care for it. It took a beautiful walnut stain with golden high-lights.

My rifle stocks have been to me one of the most enjoyable parts of my shooting hobby. I have displayed them many times to civic clubs, Parent-Teacher Association meetings, and sportsmen's groups, in neighboring counties as well as my own. People come from all distances to look at them, yet they cost no more to make up than would a factory issue stock, providing you pick out your own wood and have them turned and inletted by machine.

Even if you own only one rifle or shotgun, I think you would gain much pleasure from having one stocked in an unusual wood of some sort, one that is attractive, yet durable.

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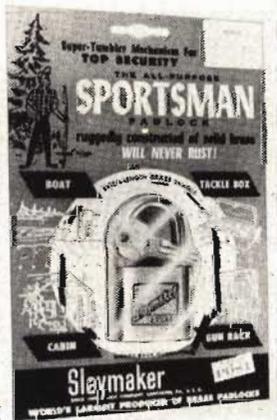
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SPORTY BALSAM PILLOW gives out long-lasting, fresh, fir-balsam fragrance of Maine Woods. The "Sportsman Design" makes it popular with the outdoorsman and a decorative addition in the home. Tan colored material with green imprint. Size 7" x 9". \$2.49 Postpaid. A product of The Spencor Company, P. O. Box 57, Lewiston, Me.



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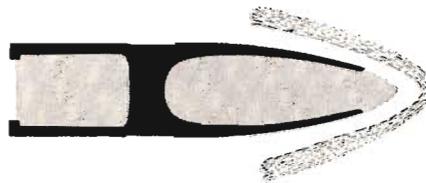


LIGHTWEIGHT 20 GAUGE AUTOMATIC-5 shoots all 2¾ inch cartridges including the 2¾ inch Magnum. Average weight of the 20 Gauge is 6 pounds 4 ounces. It will be available in 26 and 28 inch barrel lengths, either ventilated rib or plain matted. Choke selection will include full, modified, improved cylinder, and skeet. The plain matted barrel model will retail at \$144.75; the ventilated rib model at \$164.75. New model recently announced by Browning Arms Company, Ogden, Utah.

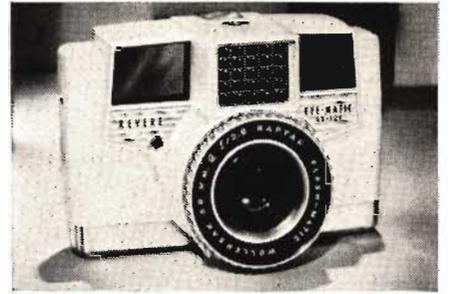
PORTABLE POWER for hunting cabins or lodges. 1000 watt portable model provides low-cost electricity for lights, water system, refrigerator, radio, vacuum cleaner, clothes washer, oil burner, hot plate, electric tools in your cabin or lodge. Fits in car trunk.



Automatic start and stop. Models for sole supply or stand-by service when central station power is cut off. Sizes from 500 watts to 50 KW, gasoline . . . 10 KW to 50 KW, diesel. Folder A-33 available upon request. Write the Kohler Co., Kohler, Wis.



NOSLER PARTITION JACKET BULLETS, two bullets in one. Constructed with two lead cores, covered by a gilding metal jacket and separated by a wall or partition near center. Front lead in action disintegrates, creating great shock; rear half with front jacket folded back over it has increased the diameter approximately double, having ample weight and stability to penetrate deeply. Used all over the world with unexcelled results. Make amazingly regular one-shot kills. Work equally well loaded in small and medium sized cartridge cases. Ideal in the super magnum types. Manufactured by Nosler Partition Bullet Company, 382 Wightman St., Ashland, Oregon.



REVERE'S NEW STILL CAMERA features completely automatic exposure setting. Electric Eye-Matic Model EE-127 camera eliminates completely the need for calculating the lighting and adjusting the exposure setting accordingly. The outdoorsman particularly will appreciate this time-saving device. Simply aim at the subject and the camera's electric eye does the rest. Guaranteed professional results from the standpoint of his exposure, the sportsman and amateur photographer can concentrate on picture's artistic composition. Further details furnished by Revere Camera Company, Chicago, Ill.



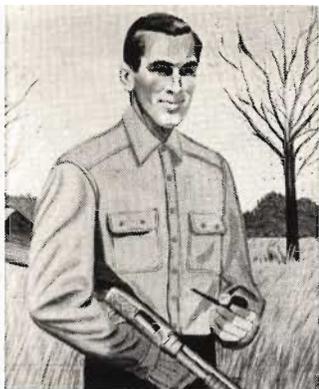
JIM BOWIE KNIFE measures just a foot long, 7" hand-honed blade ¼" thick. Large brass guard, shank of blade extends through brass lined, extra heavy, untrimmed stag horn handles. Clean simple lines, balance and workmanship—a thrill to hold. A hand-forged knife built for hard use. Beautiful leather sheath at no extra cost. Knife shipped postpaid for \$8.50, money-back guarantee. A product of Cap'n Ball, Dept. G-1, 110 Worth Ave., Palm Beach, Fla.

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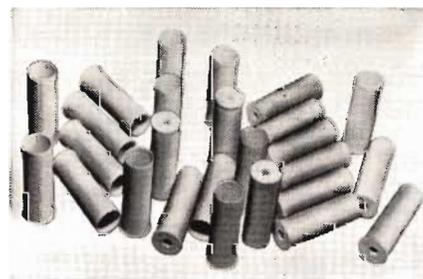
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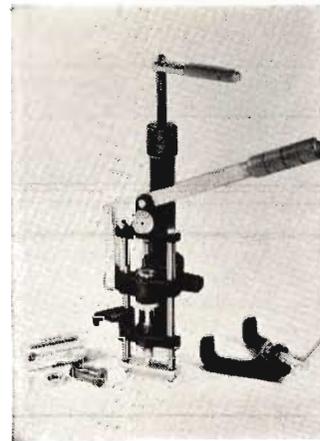


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NEW SAECO LUBRI-SIZER is precision, heavy duty, cast bullet sizing and lubricating press, with heat treated and honed dies, ground between centers for absolute concentricity. Dies and top punches are available for all popular calibers and bullets. Saeco Lubri-Sizer has gas check seating attachment and spring loaded grease reservoir. The parallel rods are ground for absolute alignment and bullet concentricity. Lubri-Sizer less die \$36.00, die \$6.50, top punch \$2.00. Now available for immediate delivery. For further details contact Santa Anita Engineering Co., Dept. 17, 2451 E. Colorado St., Pasadena, Calif.



"TOUCH 'N' CHROME" refinishes rusty chrome with pure, glowing metal. The kit consists of Magichrome Cleaner, a highly effective chrome cleaner; and Magichrome, a powdered metal in a special base that sets in seconds and polishes to a glowing luster. Impervious to weather, corrosion, or salt, "Touch 'n' Chrome" is guaranteed to stop further rusting, giving year-round protection as well as restoring the chrome to its original brilliance. The process is simple: clean the chrome with Magichrome Cleaner, dab on Magichrome, and polish the finish gently to blend with the original chrome. Developed by Yale Engineering Co., 900 No. Franklin, Chicago 10, Illinois.

(Continued from page 30)

his father brought home a little Stevens single shot .22 with a supply of Shorts. His brother, Ken, was only four, and their dad had to help them hold the rifle. Both boys learned to shoot, and to love guns. Ken is now a collector of Winchesters. The first game the youngsters took were large snapping turtles in the Charles river. With Dad paying for the ammo, one summer the boys popped three cases (30,000 rounds) in two months. Dad thought this was too much of a good thing, so reduced the allotment to a case or so a year. The boys supplemented this meager supply with cartridges bought with their own money.

Maynard became interested in the mechanical end of guns in high school. More than a quarter century ago he started hand-loading and remodeling guns under the supervision of C. R. Salmonson, a gunsmith in Oakland, California, where the family had moved. He soon had his own lathe and was making his own reloading tools, reworking military rifles and designing wildcats for himself and other people. He devel-



oped the Lovell R-2 at the same time Lovell did. Again, with Dick Jonston, who is now a professional guide in Alaska, he developed the famous Varminter at the same time Gebby did. They called their version the .22-250 Magnum, but the cartridges were interchangeable. Maynard says this first experimental rifle is still the most accurate rifle in his collection today. As such developments were a hobby, he never made an effort to commercialize on them.

Handguns play a large part in Buehler's hobby shooting. Favorites include a Colt Woodsman, a matched pair of S & W K-38/K-22 revolvers, a .45 Colt Single Action, and a Colt .45 ACP. His love for optical sights caused him to design a mount to use the K-1 Weaver scope on a revolver. While he doesn't recommend it, it did work, which is what he wanted to prove. His fine rifle collection includes most calibers from .22 Hornet up. He shoots them all. No loading tools are made to take the extremely large cases so he makes his tools and loads for all calibers.

Buehler had five years of college in the

Flint two-gauger shooting eight tons muzzle energy slug tests scope mount.

early 30's, majoring in mechanical engineering. During the depression he worked as a machinist, yet quit his job three times in four years to take six month hunting trips. The first trip covered most of the U. S. and the second Western Canada, in a Model A Ford. Being practically broke, he lived off the country with a Colt Woodsman. The battered Model A made about 20,000 miles into Mexico, on the third trip. Maynard discovered he was down to \$30 and 2,750 miles from home. He got back with \$5 to spare, due to his deadly accuracy with the Woodsman that supplied plenty of fresh meat, including jackrabbits. Those 18 months of hunting accounted for specimens of most North American game.

An attractive lady named Katherine and a preacher ended his roaming, carefree life, as Buehler says, "for a better one" in 1939. Marriage didn't faze his love of guns, shooting and experimental work, and he applied himself with even greater zeal.

Gunsmith business was building up, and leaning heavily to scope sights. Buehler wasn't satisfied with any mount on the market. Mount rings were in the way of the turret and he thought they should have a better appearance, in keeping with fine custom rifles. After many trials he built his conception of the ultimate in a fine, sturdy mount. Local shooters liked it, so more national advertising brought in floods of orders. After making and shipping 1,500 mounts, plus the safetys and gunsmithing, 16-hour days were beginning to tell. The couple took a vacation in 1940, and were too busy for the next 15 years to take another.

The office was moved to Orinda, 10 miles out of Oakland, when Katie resigned in 1949 to look after the family. Their first daughter, Sandy, was four years old, and Nancy was born in 1950. Their home is four miles out of Orinda and the abandoned quarry, converted to a fine shooting range, is conveniently located about midway. This is where one can often hear rifle fire that sounds like artillery. The basement shop, now entirely experimental, is still at home, where Buehler does all the tooling and works out the new ideas which are the life-blood of his business.

He completely reconditioned a Phantom I and II, Rolls Royce, stripping them down to the last nut, to see why they are considered the finest cars in the world. He found they were built with a complete disregard for cost. Both cars took several blue ribbons and premier awards in auto shows, before he sold them. As he said, "There was nothing else mechanical I could do to them." He built a 1/2 scale model Rolls, with a semi-automatic transmission, for the kids. Top speed is 12 mph with the 1 1/2 horse power motor.

When Buehler designed and made the first one of his scope mounts, he thought of it as the "ultimate" in design. Yet after years of acceptance among shooters, he made a change to "Micro-Dial" to even further perfect it. He doesn't think he can improve his present mount, but he is not the kind of man to rest content with even perfection. His basement shop still whirrs and the nearby range resounds to the sounds of Buehler's Ten of the World's most Powerful Rifles.

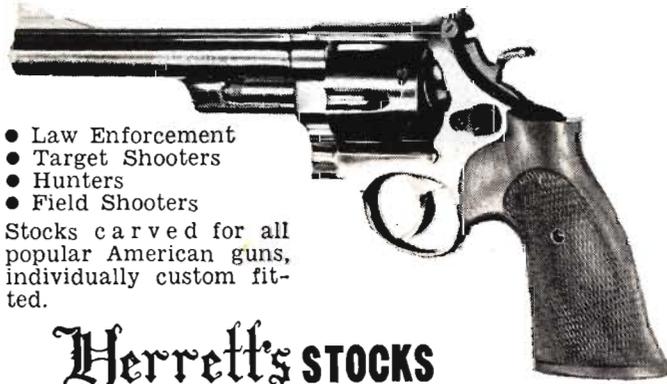
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HOW TO GET CAST BULLET ACCURACY

(Continued from page 41)

minimum of light. A small high spot usually remains where the sprue has been cut off. This high spot must be "dead center" to eliminate "fliers." Cast bullet bases must be perfect if the utmost accuracy is to be obtained.

Old time schuetzen men spoke of the base as the "steering end" of the bullet. For this reason their molds were often cut to pour from the nose, assuring them of a smooth, flat, perfect bullet base. This part of the bullet must expand uniformly and fill the grooves forming a perfect, gas-tight seal. If the base isn't square one side will emerge from the bore before the other allowing the hot, expanding powder gases to escape unevenly, a condition which will tip the bullet, losing accuracy.

Cast bullets are made from a lead-tin alloy. Rifles, as individuals, will show a preference for one mixture over the others. This particular alloy can only be determined by experimentation. All of my rifles, regardless of caliber, will shoot tighter *average* groups with bullets cast as soft as the rifling will handle without leading. Usually a 15/1 or a 20/1 mixture of lead and tin is a good place to start. These two normally produce excellent groups in cases of medium capacity, especially at 1800/2000 feet per second velocities.

Any good handbook, such as the Ideal or Belding & Mull, covers the procedure for casting good bullets. Several details remembered while casting will do much to insure good, *uniform* bullets. The mold must be almost as hot as the molten metal itself. The best method to bring the mold up to heat is

by casting bullets. Usually 10 to 20 will warm it up. When your bullets drop from the mold with full grooves, sharp corners, wrinkle-free bearing surfaces, and are as bright and shiny as a newly minted dime, casting can proceed without interruption.

Above all, don't try to hurry. It takes several seconds for the metal in the sprue to solidify so that the cut-off plate can do a smooth job. Allow the dipper spout to remain in contact with the sprue hole for a couple of seconds after the mold has been tipped upright. This will insure a completely full cavity. And while the dipper and mold are thus connected, tap the bottom of the blocks lightly on the top edge of the melting pot a couple of times. This little trick will pound the molten metal into the mold, producing cast slugs that won't vary more than .2 grain either way. Remember you are casting bullets for accuracy and that a little patience will pay off with smaller groups in the range.

Above all, be sure to handle cast bullets very carefully. Even the "hardest" alloys are soft and deform very easily while hot. Catch the slugs as they drop from the mold on a folded blanket or a large turkish towel. *Don't drop them into a pile.*

I cast my bullets in groups of 110 or 115, then set the mold aside while these are examined. Any slug with even the slightest defect is thrown back into the pot. The ones that appear perfect are then weighed on the scales. These bullets are separated into three groups; those that weigh within .25 grain either way of the nominal cast bullet weight;

those that weigh from .25 to .5 grain above that weight; and those that weigh from .25 to .5 grains below the weight. Any bullet that varies more than plus or minus .5 grain is discarded.

Each of these weighed groups is kept separate—lubricated, sized, loaded, and shot the same way. And each lot of 110 is kept separate. A lot of trouble? Not when loading to squeeze the utmost accuracy from a cast bullet. Uniformity is the secret of lead-alloy accuracy and this is one of the ways of being certain your cast bullets are as uniform as possible.

Lubrication has a definite and very important bearing on the ultimate accuracy of any cast bullet. It makes little difference whether the slug is lubricated by the cake-pan, cake-cutter method or with a sizer and lubricator, just as long as the grooves are packed full. The most important thing is the composition of the lubricant itself. Many different mixtures have been tried, sworn by and at—water pump grease, Lubriplate, beef tallow, Japan wax, beeswax, and carnauba wax to name a few. All have their merits, but from several years of experimentation I have come to prefer one outstanding lubricant. It is a 50-50 mixture of pure beeswax and paraffine. Both of these are inexpensive and readily obtained at the corner drugstore and eight ounces of this mixture will lubricate several thousand bullets.

According to the particular tastes of the rifle this mixture is softened to a tough, pliable consistency by the addition of Vaseline. With higher velocity loads the bearing surfaces are sometimes coated with one of the "DAG" solutions or with Gunslick. The former is colloidal graphite suspended in a vola-



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tile solution which evaporates leaving the bearing surfaces coated with graphite. Accuracy with this lubricant has been excellent. Leading is no longer a problem even with cast bullet loads at close to jacketed slug velocities!

After lubrication, the gas check is attached to the base of the bullet. This shallow copper or gilding metal cup protects the base from the blow-torch blast of the expanding powder gases. Accuracy is not measurably affected by the make, type, or material of gas check. The important thing is to attach the gas check so that it *remains* on the bullet clear to the target. A gas check flying off the base of the bullet during flight is often the cause of that one "flier."

There are many different brands of gas checks on the market at the present time and they all perform excellently *if* they stay with the bullet. One brand is designed so that it crimps on the base of the slug when forced through the sizing die. This particular one does a very good job of staying with the bullet. However, gas checks are much a matter of choice. Usually the Ideal brand fits the base of bullets cast from a Lyman mold much better than most of the others.

Proper sizing of a lubricated, gas-checked, lead-alloy bullet is probably one of the most important operations affecting pin-point accuracy. For years handbooks always recommended shooting a cast bullet that was several thousandths over groove diameter. Theory behind this practice was that the larger bullet did a better job of sealing the bore, thereby jacking up pressures for more efficient burning of light powder charges. However, none of my rifles will produce accurate results with oversize bullets. All of my pet gas check loads call for a bullet sized to groove diameter.

To determine the proper bullet size for any rifle, first "slug" the bore by pushing a hunk of soft lead through it. Mike this to determine the groove diameter. Now mike one of the bullets as cast. Most molds will throw a bullet from .005" to .007" oversize. If the cast slug is more than .003" over groove diameter it will be best to run it through two sizing dies to reduce it. In this manner

a more concentric and uniform sized bullet will result. Be sure that the sizing die doesn't shave more lead from one side of the bullet than from the other, causing the slug to be lop-sided and inaccurate. The *less* a relatively soft lead bullet is sized by the rifle barrel itself, the more accurately it will shoot.

In trying to squeeze minute-of-angle groups from cast bullets, much depends on the choice of primer. Uniform ignition of the light powder charge is a must. Often, large rifle primers such as the Winchester 120, Remington 9½, and Western 8½ are too hot for reduced gas-check loads. This is especially true with Unique and #2400 powders. Large pistol primers work much better with these. However, you may find that your rifle digests



a load of 60% to 75% of a full charge of #3031, 4320, 4064, or 4895 with real accuracy. If such is the case, large rifle primers will work fine. One of the most accurate loads for my .30-06 sporter is 30.7 grains of #4895 behind a 165 gr. bullet with Win. 120 primers. On the other hand, 12.5 grains of Unique triggered by the Win. 111 large pistol primer with the same bullet in the '06 shoots like a house afire.

With the .250-3000 FN sporter I rely entirely on Federal #210 primers to get 1" groups. This particular primer is one of the most consistent small group producers I have found. This is especially true with 1800/2000 fps loads using #4227 or #4198 powder. Regardless of the primer used be sure that it is firmly seated on the bottom of the primer pocket. And be sure to use a primer punch that fits the contour of the primer face to avoid crushing.

Cases to be loaded with cast bullets require special attention. For uniformity, separate them into groups of ten or twenty according to make. Each must be *full length* sized before loading the first time, then trimmed to a uniform overall length. Trimming the necks will insure the same seating depth from case to case. It will also square up the case mouth so that one side of the slug doesn't emerge before the other. Trimming also affords equal neck tension on the bullet from load to load, an important accuracy factor.

Trimming will leave a slight burr on both the inside and outside of the case mouth. A few turns of an ordinary 82-degree countersink will chamfer the inside; a couple of gentle swipes with a small piece of crocus cloth will remove any trace of burrs from the outside, or use one of the special deburring tools for this operation.

Examine primer pockets carefully. Make sure no burrs were left on the inside when the flash hole was punched. Remove any by scraping with the squared end of a small screwdriver. Flash holes will vary from .065" to .085". The actual diameter is unimportant, just as long as it is the same in every case. Run a #45 drill through each hole as a check. If any are larger than this drill size, discard them for cast bullet use.

Be sure that the flash hole has been punched "dead center." Often they are off to one side of the pocket. If so, discard that particular shell. Always clean the primer pocket before seating a new primer. Scrape out the residue left by the spent primer with the end of a small screwdriver blade or use one of the special steel wire brushes designed specifically for this job. A tiny bit of primer residue in the primer pocket can tip a new primer enough to cause faulty ignition, resulting in a "flier" for that shot.

After cases have been fired once, subsequent reloadings will require neck sizing only. Adjust the sizing die so as to leave about 1/16" of the neck unsized. This unsized portion will center the case in the neck of the chamber, holding the bullet concentric with the bore and delivering it true to the rifling.

Selection of the proper size of expanding plugs is very important in assembling accurate cast bullet loads. Why go to the trouble of casting, weighing, lubricating, and sizing a perfect bullet; then ruin it by forcing it into a case neck that is too small? Use an expanding plug that is as near to the diameter of the sized bullet as possible for best results. Expanded with such a plug, the case neck will cause very little, if any, deformation of the slug during the seating operation.

One of the most accurate bullets for my .250-3000 is the 85 gr. Ideal #257312. As cast from my mold this particular bullet mikes .257" on the nose and is not sized. With this slug I use an expanding plug that measures .2575". Bullets are seated in the case necks with the fingers, yet there is enough neck tension to cause a little "pop" when one is withdrawn. This bullet, shot as cast and seated in this manner, averages 1" groups at 100 yards when pushed by 18 grs. of #4198 in my 7½# FN sporter!

Bullet seating depth will greatly affect accuracy. Here, experimentation is necessary. Cast bullets are peculiar creatures. As a general rule a seating depth which allows the bullet to just touch the lands when the bolt

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is closed will produce excellent results. However, sometimes a bullet will shoot much closer with a certain load if seated with the base flush with base of the neck. Be sure to make up a dummy cartridge for future reference, once an accurate seating depth is determined.

An accurate cast bullet load can be worked up for any of the powders. Better accuracy in light loads will be obtained with the quick-burning powders like #2400, Unique, #4759, #4227, and #4198. #4198 works exceptionally well with loads in the 1800/2000 fps range. Heavier bullets will shoot much better with the slower powders especially at long ranges.

Several of the salvage powders currently on the market shouldn't be overlooked. #4895 Gov't powder is excellent. #4831 will produce exceptional accuracy with most of the .30 caliber cast bullets of 150 grs. or more. Both the Western ball powders, type "C" and H-240, shoot very well in small and medium capacity cases. And, here, the hand-loader can combine accuracy with economy. Most all of the salvage powders mentioned sell for about \$1.00 to \$1.25 per pound, thus giving the shooter about twice as many loads as canister powders for the same cost.

When working up new loads, I usually weigh every charge on the powder scales until I get the grouping I want. Then I calibrate my Belding & Mull measure to throw this particular load and find that it is accurate enough to give me consistent minute-of-angle groups. This is especially true with the fine-grained powders such as Unique, #2400, #4320, #4227, #4895, and Western ball.

No one can recommend any load that will give pin-point accuracy in all rifles of a given caliber. The most accurate load for a particular rifle with a certain cast bullet and powder can only be determined by experimental shooting. The best place to start is with a load from a good handbook for the bullet you intend to use. Try it. If you are lucky, it may group; more than likely it won't. Work up from this load by .5 grain increments, within reason. Shoot a series of groups and compare them. Pick the load that averages the smallest groups. Now vary another series of loads from this particular charge by .1 increments both plus and minus. Shoot another bunch of groups and compare them. Pick the load that again averages the smallest groups and stick with it.

If you think better accuracy can be had, try varying the bullet seating depth, or try another lubricant. Perhaps your rifle will handle a bullet .001" to .002" larger than groove diameter. Then, again, your best accuracy may be obtained with a different bullet mixture.

But, remember, cast lead-alloy slugs are temperamental. Don't get discouraged if your first attempts don't bring 1" groups. Lead bullets can be made to shoot as well as jacketed slugs if particular attention is paid to a few details. Uniformity from load to load is the one big secret to cast bullet accuracy. Experimentation and a lot of shooting are necessary to make lead slugs perform. But with enough of both, your lead-alloy bullets will punch out the X-ring with monotonous regularity. And there's a certain satisfaction of knowing you're entirely responsible for those 1" groups, from the casting of the slug right on down to the final trigger squeeze!

HOW YOUNG SHOULD KIDS SHOOT?

(Continued from page 39)

rifle, a .22 target pistol, a .410 gauge shotgun, and a pellet pistol. Bubber's: a .22 pump rifle, a .22 single-shot rifle, a .22 frontier model pistol, a 20-gauge pump shotgun, a .410 shotgun, and a pellet pistol. But the boys are not limited to their own weapons when they shoot. They have access to the rifles, pistols and shotguns in their father's extensive firearms collection.

The twins handload their own cartridges, carrying out the entire operation by themselves, except the measuring of the powder, which is done for them by their father. He tames their wildcats to kittens by under-loading, and he does this to cut down on the noise level of the rounds. "One of the saddest mistakes a fellow can make in training a youngster to shoot safely," Kennon says, "is to use noisy ammunition. I have found that the kick of a gun doesn't worry a shooter nearly so much as the noise does."

Mickey is a crack pistol shot. Not long ago, when Mr. Kennon was practicing for a .38 caliber match at Atlanta's Gate City Gun Club, Mickey outscored his father, and the senior Kennon has been winning pistol and rifle matches for more than forty years. He says that Mickey, firing a handgun, can outshoot 95 per cent of the officers of the Atlanta Police force, and many of these men are Deadeye Dicks with a revolver.

Bubber's favorite fire arm is a shotgun. The youngster loves to hunt birds, and Georgia's quail fields give him plenty of opportunity to hone the edge of his wing-shooting.

The boys come by the powder in their blood naturally. Their father, a member of the Atlanta Police Department, cut his teeth on shooting irons in his native state of Texas. Their mother is a fine wingshot.

Mickey and Bubber are on Cloud .45 when they enter their father's den, where he keeps the greater part of his gun collection. Since all the weapons there, from superbly restored antiques to brand new, Kennon-made custom rifles, are ready to fire, Mr. Kennon has laid down an inflexible rule: no ammuni-

tion allowed in the den.

This is just one of the safety measures he has drilled into his boys ever since they first started handling firearms. And this schooling in safety may be the reason why neither lad ever has had a shooting accident.

Kennon senior has taught his sons to respect guns. When they make ready to fire on a range, the safety procedures they follow might open the eyes of many adult shooters who sometimes grow careless.

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DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

ELMER KEITH SAYS

(Continued from page 9)

est of all military bolt action rifles for combat use. The Model 54 Schultz and Larsen action, with its rear locking lugs, managed to clean up the free rifle game pretty well for years in international competition, which speaks well enough for the accuracy, when applied to a big sturdy bolt action.

The new Model 60 Schultz & Larsen employs the same rear locking bolt lugs. The bolt is heavy, large in diameter, and employs four locking lugs. This makes for a very smooth, fast action, as there are no lug races to cramp the bolt in operation. The case head is enclosed in the head of the bolt (similar to the Remington 721, 722, and 725 rifles) with the same type pin ejector; but the Schultz and Larsen extractor is a much larger, stronger unit than those employed in the Remingtons and, to my notion, far better. This type of recessed bolt head, combined with a really good spring-type hook extractor, offers the best possible combination for safety and surety of extraction, to my way of thinking.

The action cocks on the closing movement like the Enfields and, while this is objectionable to some, it will be found very fast once you become accustomed to the rifle and throw the bolt fast. Three gas vents are lined up within the ejection port in the top of bolt when it is closed. The recessed bolt face eliminates any chance of gas escaping other than through a ruptured primer, and these three gas vents should well take care of any such occurrence.

Safety is on the right side of the cocking piece, well positioned for either right or left hand shooters. Bolt stop is small and neat and lays almost flush with left rear end of receiver, projecting just enough to make it easy to reach for bolt removal. Bolt handle is small, neat, well shaped and positioned for both scope use and rapid fire work.

The action appears long and massive and it is just that, but is amply strong for any cartridge and some of the largest most powerful .450 elephant cartridge rifles are now being made on the Schultz and Larsen

action. It was proof fired with up to 130,000 pounds pressure, which it handled the same as the old heavy Magnum Mauser action, and which blew up standard Mauser actions. This Danish-made action works very smoothly and fast. The top is matted full length and the bolt is completely enclosed its full length, except for the ejection port. It is tapped and threaded for standard Buehler or their top mounts. Buehler makes a special mount to fit it.

The action is anchored by two strong guard screws, one at the recoil lug and one just in front of the trigger guard, plus a wood screw in the lower tang behind the trigger guard. Trigger is small, neat, grooved, and well positioned. Trigger pull is excellent. The magazine is hinged, with trip in front of trigger guard, where it should be. Ammunition can be changed quickly, or the magazine can be recharged from the bottom while keeping a loaded round in the chamber. The magazine holds three rounds, which with one in the barrel, makes it a four shot rifle.

The rear locking lugs permit a longer barrel shank and thread, making for maximum stiffness at barrel and receiver joint. The receiver has flat, clean top lines, and the trigger guard is neat and well shaped. The barrel is 26" long, just the right length to burn the heavy charge of slow burning 4350 powder or the Norma No. 104 powder. Barrel is of excellent exterior design, with a heavy breech portion extending one inch forward of receiver, then a gradual taper for three inches and a straight taper on to the rather small muzzle, just right for extreme accuracy in a hunting weight barrel. Barrel and action are beautifully polished and blued a deep blue-black. Bore is rifled with 6 grooves and narrow lands and is perfectly finished.

The stock follows my own design of nearly 30 years ago, first made by John Dubiel, except that the forward end of the cheek rest is raised upward instead of being turned downward into the middle of grip. It has the same excellent Monte Carlo comb, low in front, and instead of my monogram hump on the right side, this one has the old Wundhammer swell. Grip cap is larger and grip

flares out larger at the cap. This is an excellent stock that will fit almost anyone and will not punish your jaw in shooting. It is stocked just right for scope use, and no iron sights come on the Model 60. Grip cap and soft rubber recoil pad with white spacers and one inch sling swivels complete the stock job.

All told, I like this rifle very much. It is a well finished rifle, comparable with many fine custom jobs. The forestock is a departure from my design, in that it is flat on the bottom with less width at the top. It feels and holds very well indeed.

We fitted one of Weaver's latest 60 series K-4 scopes with my double horizontal wire reticle known as the range finder reticle, in Buehler special mounts for this rifle and, after bore sighting, only four shots were necessary to sight it in perfectly for 300 yards. Accuracy was exceptionally good from the start. At 100 yards, this 12" twist rifle seems to want to pile these 160 grain Norma loads into one-inch groups, and at long range it still shoots very small groups. No doubt the elimination of lug recesses in the receiver ring contributes to a very stiff strong action and a much closer, smoother fit of bolt to receiver, which in turn contributes to the high degree of accuracy.

In all fairness, I must admit to having been prejudiced against those rear locking lugs when I started working with this rifle. However, the more I use it, the more I like and admire its many good features. The four locking lugs permit a bolt lift of only one-eighth turn, about half that of conventional Mauser-type actions. The flush extractor permits the bolt to be completely enclosed in the receiver. The trigger pull is one stage, no slack to take up. Lock time is very fast. Striker travel is about one half inch. The safety has three positions: fully forward is fire, fully to the rear for safe with trigger, bolt, and firing mechanism fully locked, and the half-way position which locks the firing mechanism but permits bolt to be withdrawn or ammo loaded safely into the rifle.

The rifle bolt is easily dismounted by cocking and moving the safety to the midway position. Then press a small pin on the left side of the cocking piece to rear and rotate the sleeve clockwise 45 degrees, and it comes apart. After much study and considerable shooting, I firmly believe this Schultz & Larsen action to be one of the strongest I have ever used including the well known Magnum Mauser actions.

After looking through a lot of factory-made rifles since World War Two and finding many crooked barrels, poor stocking, and rough receiver-and-bolt fits, it is a pleasure to test a rifle that comes to the shooter all ready to take into the hills. Merely slap your favorite scope in a set of Buehler split-ring mounts, bore sight and target, and you are ready to go. In conclusion, I can only give this rifle and cartridge a clean bill of health and believe the rifle and the 7x61 S & H factory load to be one of the best yet offered sportsmen for all our lighter big game that has to be taken at long range.

Excellent dies for reloading the cartridge may be had from several reloading tool makers, including the fine R.C.B.S. dies. The 7x61 Norma cartridge case takes our commercial large rifle primers, and empty cases as well as loaded ammunition may be obtained from Sharpe & Hart or their dealers.



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SEE PAGE 66**

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The answer is, don't do it! Formerly many shooters, when they needed a slug load in their shotgun for use against a big animal, simply took their jack knife and cut the cartridge case almost in two between the powder and shot charge. It was and is very effective, for the whole front end of the shell goes out of the gun in slug form. It will blow an awful hole in a bear at close range, as I have had occasion to note! However, the shot charge must be compressed and the whole oversize case (wad and shot charge) forced through the forcing cone into the bore of the gun. In so doing, pressures mount greatly, beyond even the heavy proof loads used in proof firing the guns at the factory. With modern heavy loads and particularly with our late short magnum loads, these pressures are enough to blow up a good gun. So don't try this stunt.

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WHERE ARE TOMORROW'S MINUTEMEN?

(Continued from page 31)

insoluble problem for the average individual who hadn't done a lot of detailed and far-sighted planning. To that problem, the Civilian Defense organization could and should provide answers. But are Civilian Defense leaders thinking along these lines? If not, why not?

Why not set up, in integrated coordination with each local Civilian Defense group, local Home Guard units—call them Minutemen, if you will—composed of men who have guns, know how to use them, and either have or stand ready to learn the woods skills and guerrilla fighting tactics needed for "enemy harassment?"

As of now, of course, our government takes a very dim view indeed of any attempt to organize any armed force outside the formal categories of armed forces. The rule now is—don't do it! But . . . rules can be changed, if enough people set about to change them. Maybe it's time that men of good will and good courage began taking a long look at rules that just might, God forbid, make the difference between death and survival.

I was thinking the other day how I'd go about it, if such things were permitted. I'd begin, I think, by picking a hard core of sure prospects from among the men I know in local Rifle and Pistol Clubs, Legion organizations, and hunting groups. I'd want to know each man extremely well before I asked him to join my cadre. I'd want to be very sure, first, that he believes in the things I believe in. I don't want any pink in this picture; after all, if the worst happens, my life may depend on the absolute loyalty of the men I choose.

I want men who own guns and know how to use them; but, on a par with that, I want men with some skill as woods-runners. Even a man who is loyal and brave and a dead shot can get you killed if he lacks woodcraft for this kind of hunting. I'd remember, though, that woodcraft can be learned; and if there was a man I wanted who didn't have it, I'd teach him.

Given a group of maybe ten good men and true, we'd meet and pick leaders. We'd also enact a set of by-laws. One such law would require every man to stand ready to produce on a moment's notice certain guns and certain quantities of ammunition. A rifle of the current U. S. military caliber would be a must, if only because military ammunition is easier to obtain in war time—might even be furnished.

A .22 rifle would be equally important, for use on small game for meat. A shotgun would provide additional food-getting values. And every man should have and know how to use a combat-caliber revolver or pistol.

I'd see to it that at least one man in my group was, or became, a radio "ham" and technician. If this bad dream of ours came true, there would be no power, no telephone facilities, no communications of any kind in many areas—or, at best, none available to woods-running riflemen without official insignia. It would be real nice if one of the boys owned a walky-talky. I see them advertised by companies dealing in war surpluses.

Whatever "inner circle" group you joined or formed, you would want first to join the regular Civilian Defense unit, whether they recognized your group or not. Members of Civilian Defense units are issued cards of identification which give the holder certain rights regarding movement from place to place in an emergency, and this alone would be essential. Anyway, any man fit to join my unit will be active in Civilian Defense in its other phases as well as this one. This is an obvious duty, and my men are not the kind who shirk duties.

. . . Of course, it will never happen. It happened in a lot of countries, but those were foreign countries, not like our country. It can't happen here. . . .

But if it *did* happen . . . I'd sure be glad I knew those ten woods-running riflemen! If there were enough of us—us "Minutemen of Tomorrow"—there might be a tomorrow, even after the night of terror.

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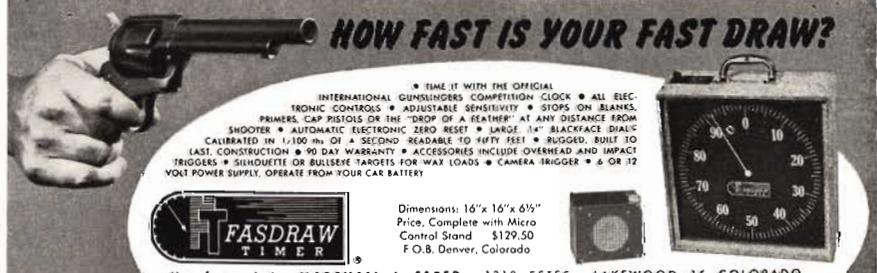
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"THE PEAK OF PLINKING"

(Continued from page 38)

weapon can match.

An afternoon of such shooting is not cheap, but the plentiful supplies of inexpensive military ammunition now available make a few hours get together as reasonable as most other after-lunch sports. Also helpful to the cost is that machine gun shooting is a group sport. They are among the few weapons that are almost as interesting to watch as to shoot; and more fun when several trigger squeezers get together for a bang-up time.

Why does Sloan in particular, and other automatic collectors in general, collect machine guns? Sloan answers with a very short sentence: "They are interesting."

To the present generation, brought up on movie Tommy Guns, heavy doses of MG's in war-time news reels and training with full automatic weapons in the armed forces, a genuine interest follows naturally. Expose a man to an interesting thing, be it a Tommy gun, or a 36-26-36 blonde, and he is going to stay interested for a while, even though it may be expensive, rare, or even illegal. He still wants it. Being hard to get only makes it more desirable.

Sloan believes the machine gun, like the shotgun, pistol or blunderbuss, is just another type of weapon. It is one that should not be underemphasized or overemphasized, one that should take its rightful place with the others as a collector's item. After all, machine guns have been dramatic and historic weapons in world events. No man who has ever heard it will forget the ripping blast of the German burp guns, the rattle of Korea's Russian Tommies, or the Maytag put-put of the G.I. Greasegun.

Heretofore, the military collector had to work around the machine gun, including only the semiautomatics such as rifles in his collection. But now that the world's armies are going full automatic it is no longer possible to ignore them.

The designer also has a legitimate need to collect automatic weapons. The problems involved in designing automatic weapons are enough to fill articles in themselves. Anyone interested in arms design must necessarily have access to shootable automatic weapons.

Military small arms design in this country needs new blood. We cannot get it if new designers are not allowed to develop. You cannot pick out a man who is good at designing can openers to build a gun and expect to get any more than a worked-over version of the one before it. Original and far sighted design can come only from a man with a close familiarity and interest in guns.

At present, the Russian comrades are not only out-Sputniking us, but badly out-gunning us as well. Their new weapons are tops. The sad point is they have equipped their troops and have enough left over to send to the Middle East. With Russian weapons go Russian instructors and influence. Yet the United States—military leader of the free world—has only recently placed the first order for the newly adopted M-14, and does not expect to have the military forces fully equipped until 1960.

The third and, probably, most important reason civilians should have access to automatic weapons, is military preparedness.

President Eisenhower as general emphatically stated during World War II: "Any young

man that has ahead of him prospective service in the armed forces will do well to learn all he can about the American military rifle. If he can become a really capable rifleman, so much the better. Once he has donned the uniform he will find his hours and days so packed with intensive training that he will find the time all too short to learn the many things he should know, for his own self-preservation, before he is called upon to meet the enemy. . . . *Expertness in the rifle's use cannot be overemphasized.*"

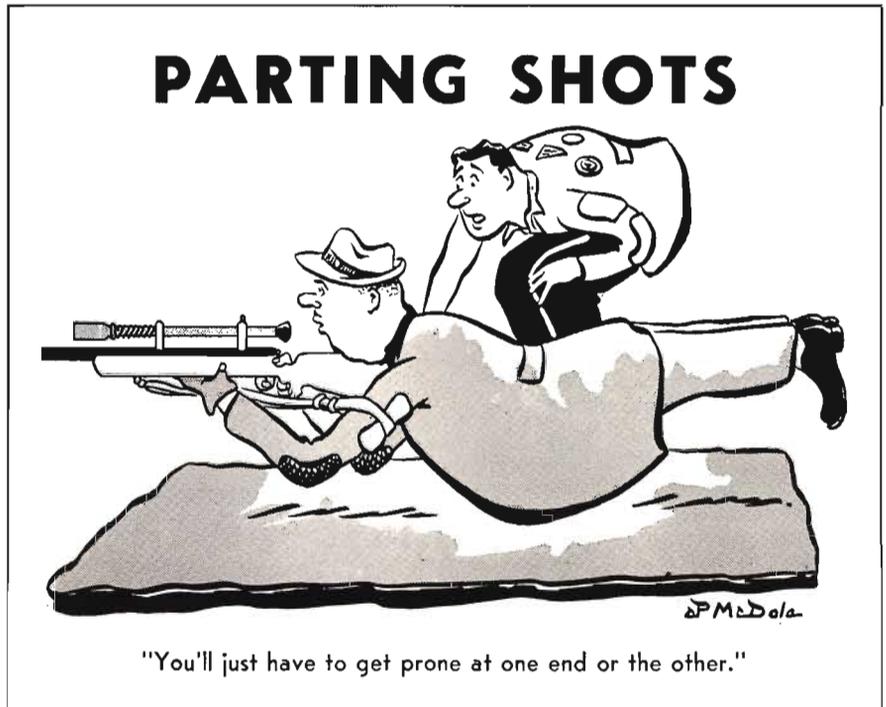
Up to this time it has been standard practice for the government to encourage civilian practice and use of the standard military weapon. Now that full automatic weapons are becoming standard in our own and all major world armies, General Eisenhower's statement has become even more valid.

If another war should come, it will come swiftly. We shall have even less time to prepare than in the last. Unbelievable as it may seem at first thought, only a small percentage of soldiers in combat fire their rifles at the enemy. But if you consider how much training and weapons' know-how you would want before you stuck your head out of your hole under fire to shoot back at the enemy with any confidence of hitting anything, the point comes home. Such confidence can not come in the few short weeks of service training.

The average American knows far less about automatic weapons than he knows about the rifle; yet the auto-firers are the weapons he will be expected to use if war should come. It was the man with a rifle or machine gun that slowed the Japs at Bataan, stopped the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge. The same desperate need may come again.

Now that machine guns are becoming plentiful, numerous machine gun collectors are springing up. A few years ago, if you wanted to hang machine guns on your wall instead of blunderbusses, nobody cared but the U. S. Treasury Department. Under the Federal Firearms Act, the Treasury boys made things complicated for the M.G. collector, but they were generally fair about it. So long as you went by the book, they were satisfied and even helpful in getting the red tape work accomplished.

Full automatics are standard military weapons and are here to stay. Thousands of them are already in the hands of the public, and the number of them in civilian hands is increasing. Because of these facts, the laws do need revision. It should be revision that will severely punish the criminal for using any sort of weapon; but also it should not make a criminal out of the fellow with an honest interest in the sport of shooting with machine guns.



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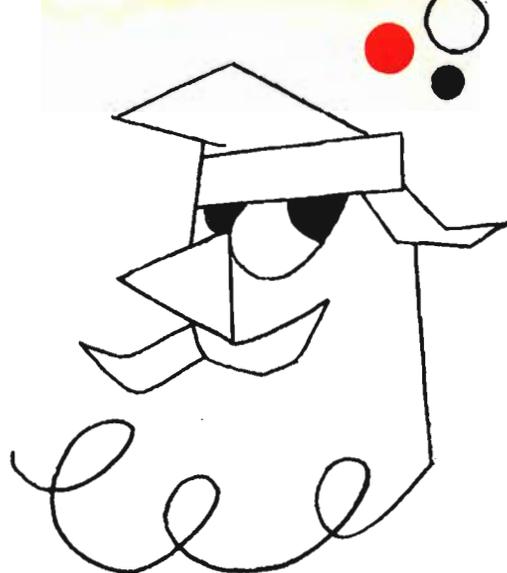
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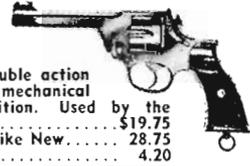
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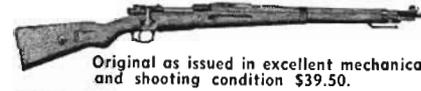
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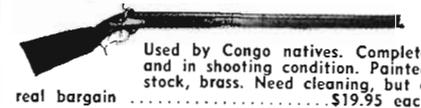
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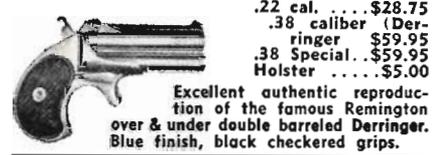
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