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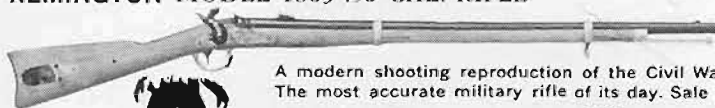
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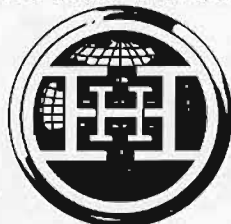
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ARMS LIBRARY

THE PISTOL SHOOTER'S BOOK

By Col. Charles Askins
(Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa., 1961. \$8.50)

First printed in 1953, this is revised and brought-up-to-date edition of a popular textbook for handgunners. Charles Askins is a former National Pistol Champion, winner of hundreds of medals and trophies in national and international competition, and an officer with extensive experience as a shooting instructor and coach in civilian, law enforcement, and military programs. But this is more than just an instruction manual; it is good reading. Written in the breezy Askins style with which GUNS readers are so familiar, it could hardly be otherwise.—E.B.M.

CONFEDERATE ARMS

By Wm. A. Albaugh III and
Edw. N. Simmons
(Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa. \$12.50)

I am tremendously impressed with the quantity of difficult research that must have gone into the preparation of this large, handsomely illustrated and printed volume. It would need a better Civil War buff than I to "pinpoint" it (though some doubtless will; I have never seen a gun book—or even article)—that was completely safe from the critics, but certainly every Civil War buff will have to buy it, and so, I suggest, should many others whose interest is more general. Worth the price to anyone interested in research is the extensive (83 pages) Directory of "makers, gunsmiths, dealers, men, places, and items connected with Confederate ordnance." It is my opinion that the gun world is deeply indebted to the Stackpole Company for its many contributions to the literature of our interest—of which this book is certainly not the least.—E.B.M.

YOUNGER BROTHERS

By Carl W. Breihan
(The Naylor Co., San Antonio, Texas. \$5.95)

Carl Breihan, who is a well-versed writer of western history, has done a very fine job with the history of the Younger brothers. The author has carefully explored the history of the time, and the flavor and pace of the wild west is strongly apparent. So strongly, in fact, that it becomes difficult to put the book down. On the whole, a very fine history of the notorious Younger boys that should appeal to many readers, not only to the western history buffs.—R.A.S.

CARTRIDGE CONVERSIONS

By George C. Nonte, Jr.
(Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa., 1961. \$7.50)

As the name of the book implies, this is a technical work. Captain Nonte is a ballistics expert and handloader, and has been fascinated by the subject of cartridge conversion for many years. Although not a book to read of an evening, it is the most complete book on the subject and it is written so that anyone can understand it.

Nonte's deep knowledge of the subject becomes apparent when one picks up the

book. It is well written and amply illustrated; it is full of the too often neglected complete know-how, and if the reformed case does not come out the way it should, Capt. Nonte cannot be blamed for it. He covers not only the tools and how to use them, what brass to use and what this particular brass can be converted to, but there is also a complete and lengthy list of case forming data. This last section alone is worth the price of the book, and I personally am very glad to have this volume handy at my loading bench. Gun bug, handloader, wild catter—whatever your leanings, this is the book you should have.—R.A.S.

PARKER: America's Finest Shotgun

By Peter H. Johnson
(Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa., 1961. \$6.50)

From pre-Civil War background and Civil War use, to and through Remington takeover and production, this is the story of Parker guns and gun making, including numbers made in each grade, prices of models when offered, and a chapter on buying and collecting Parker guns today. If you own a Parker, or want to own one (as who doesn't), here is a thorough evaluation of what you have or what you can get. If your interest is only in the general story of gun development, here is a hitherto unwritten chapter of that story, and a valuable addition to any "arms library."—E.B.M.

WILDERNESS COOKERY

By Bradford Angier
(Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa., 1961. \$3.95)

From poach in a pouch to roast muskrat, from crow—or better called rook in this case—to fish dinners and stews, from pan broiling to the secret process of making Brunswick stew, it is all here in one handy volume. Bradford Angier knows more about wilderness cooking, preserving of meat, fruit, vegetables, and bread than any other man alive and he tells the innermost secrets of being a camp cook in simple terms, so simple in fact that anyone can understand and follow the directions, even if they can't hard boil an egg at home. Even if you only carry a couple of sandwiches afield, Angier has certain ideas on this subject too, and for those of us who cook in camp, the book is as important as a container of salt and some matches.—R.A.S.

THE CONVENIENT COWARD

By Kenneth Shiflet
(The Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa. \$5.95)

With 220 members of the Seventh United States Cavalry dead on the Little Big Horn in "the most complete defeat the American Army ever experienced," the American public (and particularly the newspapers) needed a scapegoat. Somebody had blundered. Custer? Perish the thought! He was one of the dead, and aren't men who die in battle always heroes? Custer's second in command, Marcus A. Reno, was the most "convenient" culprit, and the newspapers branded him "coward." Told as fiction but with the ring of history, this is the story of Marcus Reno before, during, and (too briefly) after that battle. Like it or not, accept it or not, your picture of the misnamed "Custer Massacre" is less than complete until you have read it.—E.B.M.

Don't Overlook Page 66!

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KNOW YOUR LAWMAKERS

Congressman Arnold Olsen
1st District, Montana

I think that hand guns and rifles represent the self reliance of our American people—particularly out in Montana and the West. In the urban areas many sportsmen keep and bear arms and call themselves meat hunters. In truth and in fact they are meat hunters and they enjoy the several hunting seasons for upland birds, water fowl, and big game—deer, elk, moose, and bear, to name a few of the prey of the meat hunter.

Further, in the rural and more remote areas these same guns, as well as serving the meat hunter, also serve to preserve law and order to protect life and property. In many places in Montana and in the West, the duly elected and acting peace officers are many miles removed from the place that needs protection from lawlessness and law-breakers. Guns in the hands of lawful citizenry are fundamental authority in support of law and order in those kind of circumstances. I would contest any infringement on the right of the people to keep and bear arms.

Congressman Donald C. Bruce
11th (Indianapolis) Dist., Indiana

I BELIEVE IT IS the Constitutional right of every American not convicted of a crime of armed robbery or violence to be the owner of firearms. The moves to legislate against private ownership of firearms are contrary to the American belief and to our Constitutional rights. It would only strengthen the hand of the criminal element who are able to get firearms by one means or another, and it would disarm the populace completely. I shall vigorously oppose *any* (orig. emphasis) such legislation which would either call for the registration of firearms which are not now required to be registered or for the curtailment of the rights of ownership of such firearms. I can't think of *any* (orig. emphasis) better way to prepare the possible take-over of our government than to disarm the populace.

Congressman Bob Dole
6th District, Kansas

I believe this Amendment is of significant importance as the Second Amendment extends to all of the citizens the right to bear arms for their self-defense and for the preservation of their forms of government. Yet, our concept of the "militia," today is limited to the regular army under enlistment or conscription or the National Guard. It would seem to me that reasonable restriction by state law does not contradict the attitude of the Amendment.

Congressman Walter L. McVey
3rd District, Kansas

I believe the Second Amendment is our greatest guarantee of protection from Communist subversion. Unfortunately, many people, some of whom are well-meaning, propose to weaken or destroy it by restricting ownership of arms. Unwittingly they would weaken the backbone of our national defense. Criminals will always have arms, but honest citizens will not do so unless they possess the right to possess and bear arms.

Hon. Archie Gubbrud
Governor of South Dakota

In South Dakota we have no conflict between the Second Amendment of the Federal Constitution and the laws of the State of South Dakota. The rights stated in the Second Amendment have not been infringed upon or modified in any way.

The only legislative trend involving firearms in the State of South Dakota has been directed towards firearm training and gun handling safety for our younger citizens of the state.

As Governor of the State of South Dakota, it is my wish to see the younger generations become proficient in firearms use and to recognize and practice the elements of firearms safety. I will always support sound legislation directed towards the fulfillment of these objectives.

Hon. Donald G. Nutter
Governor of Montana

AT THIS TIME I know of no legislation pending in the Montana Legislature which would in any way restrict the use of guns in the State of Montana.

Readers Note: All *Congressmen* may be addressed at "House Office Building," and all *Senators* at "Senate Office Building," both at "Washington 25, D. C." Address all *Governors* at: State Capitol, name of capital city, name of State.



Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

JANUARY, 1962

Vol. VIII, No. 1-85

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Arthur S. Arkush
Ass't to the Publisher



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Wm. B. Edwards.....Technical Consultant
Kent Bellah.....Handloading
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THE COVER

Seven years ago (January '55) GUNS made its debut into the then uncluttered world of gun publications. Today, in a world in which gun magazines come (and go) with an almost monotonous regularity, GUNS faces the future with a confidence based upon a record of uninterrupted growth. Our cover: a Canadian trapper at The Pas, Manitoba.

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W. B. Edwards, 843 Judson Ave., Evanston, Ill., Kent Bellah, St. Jo, Texas.

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THE EDITOR'S CORNER

HORRIFYING to anyone who loves the shooting sports are the reports ("Sports Illustrated," Oct. 23, 1961; "True," Nov., 1961) of the shocking behavior of duck hunters in assorted hunting resorts from Ohio to Texas. On the testimony of Fish & Wildlife observers and waterfowl biologists, not just a few but actually a majority of the gunners patronizing certain private shooting club preserves were guilty of sins against sportsmanship that ranged from minor to sickening. George Laycock ("Bums In The Bulrushes," *Sports Illustrated*) says, "The gentlest statement anyone could make is that the average hunter, when he wades into the boggy world of waterfowl, becomes a liar and a bumbling cheat." I resent the word "average," but I confess its justification on the basis of the evidence presented.

"Sky-busting" (blazing away at fowl far out of gun range) was practically universal, according to the observers. It would be charitable to attribute this mark of the novice to ignorance, which it is in some cases; but many veterans were proved guilty also. Bad enough that such shooting robs other, better hunters of shots by keeping the ducks flying wild; but this is only part of it. Such shooting causes countless cripples (half again more cripples than birds retrieved, according to on-the-spot checks), and it paves the marshes with spent shot that is deadly poison to feeding birds. Without actually breaking a written law, the sky-buster may kill (by wounds or poison) several times his legal limit.

A high percentage of hunters observed actually did kill, and retrieve, well over their legal limits, either filling bags for less able gunners or trying to sneak the birds out past the check stations. Some shot but either refused to retrieve or else stomped into the mud such birds as teal or widgeon, so that they might fill their limits with prime mallards or canvasbacks. Calling such men sportsmen is as much a misnomer as would be the application of the same term to the back-alley hoodlum who bludgeons an old lady with a rock.

I have never been less than proud of my membership in the fraternity of shooters and hunters. Never—until now. But the men pictured in these charges are not our brothers. They deserve banishment from this and every brotherhood of sportsmen, no matter what their financial or social status.

We have, in recent months, seen some improvement in the publicity given guns and shooters, coupled with a greater willingness on the part of the public to "listen to our side" of the perennial anti-gun legislation problem. But we can expect little sympathy if we permit ourselves to be smeared by the filth of such actions as these. And smeared we have been (witness these two articles in two high-circulation magazines) and will be, for the simple reason that one sinner makes news; a thousand non-sinners don't. These bad apples taint us all. It is up to us to cull them out.

The fact, and it is a fact, that both of these articles relate to private shooting clubs does not mean that private shooting clubs are all bad, or that any need be bad. It does mean that private shooting clubs must not be permitted to believe that the fees they charge place them beyond the law or permit them to admit swine under the guise of sportsmen.



GUN RACK



By R. A. STEINDLER

The .308 Norma Magnum

This is a big game cartridge first and foremost. The Norma factory loads feature the well-known 180 grain "Dual-Core" bullet that has acquired an enviable reputation in Africa, India, and Europe. In the 23 inch barrel, the 75 grains of special Norma powder give a 3,000 fps velocity, and complete handloading data for this caliber are now available from Norma.

The .308 Norma Belted Magnum—the official name of this caliber—is a highly accurate, flat-shooting caliber and has, in extensive tests, performed very well. Ammunition lot #107068 consistently produced fine groups right out to 250 yards, and the 180 grain bullet has very good wind bucking qualities. All shooting for record was done from a bench, and consecutive 5-shot strings varied very little in group sizes. At 25 and at 50 yards, groups measured $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, at 100 yards 1.21 inches, while several test groups at 200 yards measured slightly under 1.6 inches. Ballistically, the cartridge is very similar to the .300 H&H Magnum, but has the advantage that any sound .30-06 can be converted to this new caliber. As a matter of fact, Norma has a kit that will help the gunsmith in the conversion job.

The rifle used in testing was the Kodiak Model 158, the first commercial gun chambered for this fine new caliber. Our test gun has serial number C 4839 and weighs 7 pounds 3 ounces. The Kodiak magnums take

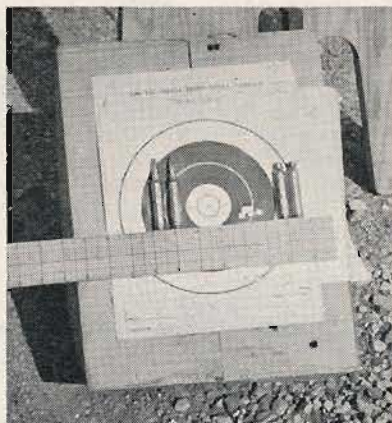


three rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber and all Kodiak guns have hinged, engraved floor plates. These guns, by the way, are built on the FN 400 series actions and have 24 inch sporter barrels made from heat treated, chrome-molybdenum steel with 12 groove swaged ratchet rifling. Trigger pull on the gun tested was clean and crisp, weighing 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds. The gun is equipped with a folding leaf sight which is factory adjusted for 100 yards, but a 4X Nickel scope in Weaver mounts was put on the gun for tests.

The stock is designed for scope mounting and is finished by the "Firekote" process that

makes it resistant to the ravages of time and usage. The safety is silent, effectively locking sear and bolt. It is a handsome and well balanced gun that makes shooting the .308 Magnum a pleasure. Although recoil is a highly personal matter and sensitivity to it varies from man to man, in shooting the gun most of the afternoon, recoil was not felt any more than experienced with a .30-30 or an '06, despite the fact that only a thin rubber rifle pad is used on the gun. For those who are especially sensitive to kick, a regular recoil pad would seem indicated.

In summary: A flat-shooting, highly accurate gun and cartridge combination for big game.



Accuracy with factory loads is very good, recoil not punishing.

The Latest in Handloading: XL 333

This latest loading tool is based on the moving bar system of the earlier Dunbar tools, but offers a number of advantages not found in most other tools. The XL 333 operates from three stations and operation is extremely simple. The tool is basically a shot-shell loader, but five minutes with wrenches and the tool is converted to load either rifle or handgun ammo. The advantage of such a conversion lies in the fact that the hand-loader needs to buy but one tool, and that resizing and seating dies can be kept mounted when the tool is used for metallics.

The major handicap in most of the current shotshell tools lies in the fact that wad pressure is not clearly enough indicated and many loaders exert too much pressure on the wads, thus getting poor results from their tool. The XL 333, once the pressure is established and the tool is set for the desired wad pressure, has an ingenious system to avoid excessive wad pressure. A tiny light operated from a single small battery goes on the moment the desired pressure is exerted.

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.308 NORMA BELTED MAGNUM

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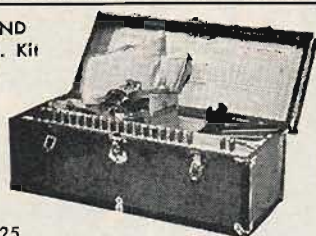
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Loading metallic cases, the tool will take the standard 7/8-14 dies, but powder measure, dies, and primer holder are not included in the \$18 cost of the conversion unit. Loading metallics on this tool is not any different than loading brass on any H-type or turret press and the XL 333 has ample power to resize big rifle cases.

This is a very versatile tool and the ammunition reloaded with it performed well in all the guns it was used in. Particularly impressive was the ease with which a rank beginner could learn to reload shotshells in a few minutes and the cost of the tool is within financial reach of most, especially when one considers the versatility of the XL 333. The tool is made by Excel Inc., Franklin Park, Illinois, and retails for just under \$90 complete for one gauge.

Embossed Labels

Neatest gadget of recent months, in my opinion, is the Dymo-Mite Tapewriter which embosses raised white letters of your choosing on adhesive-backed plastic tape for identification and labeling systems. Your name, or any legend desired, can be printed and permanently attached to guns, hunting cases and equipment, tools, or where-ever needed.



For guns, your name "planted" inside the grip or butt plates will provide positive identification until found and removed, and how many thieves look in such places? The tapes come in many colors, and the tool has a blade that cuts them to size. Tapes appear to be weatherproof, stick fast, and lend a decorative color note to many sports items. Model M-5 pictured here costs \$24.95. Another model is pictured in "Shopping With Guns," this issue.

Ammo for Argentine Mausers

Norma recently made a number of shooters happy by making available their new 7.65 mm Argentine Mauser ammunition. These guns have been relegated for some time to the clunker stage since ammo supplies were either very short or just not to be had and existing brass was not reloadable. The new Norma load contains 48 grains of one of the Norma powders, and the 150 grain soft point bullet attains a muzzle velocity of 2920 fps. Expansion and penetration of the bullet is excellent, thanks to the Tri-Clad construction that is standard with many of the Norma bullets and accuracy of the cartridge is very good. We obtained an issue rifle from Mars Equipment Corp., Chicago 45, number U

8538, and were able to group 1.65 inches at 100 yards repeatedly. The Norma ammo is boxer primed and that means that handloaders can now reload this brass and have a very reliable deer gun and cartridge.

Folding Gun Rest

The CW Folding Gun Rest is easily portable and can be used for those varmint shots when a sitting, squatting, or prone position is possible and where rifle support is needed. The two legs are equipped with spikes that easily settle to give adequate support for the felt-padded upright bar that the shooter grips to support the fore-end or rifle barrel. This system has the advantage that the shooter's hand rather than some saddle arrangement is used to support the rifle, and that the individual's shooting level is easily attained. The rest alone costs \$3.95, and with a canvas holster, cost goes up one dollar. The rest can be obtained directly from C. Hanson, 712 East 14th Street, Minneapolis 4, Minn.

Black Powder Rifle

Numrich Arms recently supplied us with one of their black powder Hopkins and Allen long guns. This is a single shot, under-hammer gun of the muzzle loading variety and of .45 caliber, weighing in at a very respectable 9 1/2 pounds. The over-all length of the gun is a staggering 49 1/4 inches, and the barrel is 32 inches long. The gun comes complete with powder and powder measure, lead and a mold, gun patches and powder solvent, percussion caps, a special screwdriver, and instruction manual. The ramrod is fixed under the barrel which gives the gun a very pleasing appearance.

The barrel has a right twist 8 groove rifling, and construction of the barrel is extremely heavy, making the gun somewhat difficult to handle in the offhand position. But once used to the weight distribution, shooters will find that holding qualities are very much like those of other guns, and shooting the Hopkins and Allen can easily make a man into black powder addict. There is practically no recoil, but we sorely missed the conventional black powder smoke.

The 125 grain lead ball is sped on its way by a load of 50 grains of FFG black powder, and accuracy at 50 yards from the off-hand position averaged slightly under 2 inches. Our gun, serial number 303, had a trigger pull of 3 3/4 pounds and the trigger broke cleanly and crisply without creep or backlash. Most ingenious is the spring arrangement of the gun; the trigger guard is the main spring and the rear of the trigger guard serves as trigger spring.

In shooting this black powder muzzle loader, it is essential to remember that a badly fouling powder is used and that the bore of the rifle does require cleaning. This can, in part, be accomplished by moistening the patch that is used around the ball, but best results were obtained when the barrel was cleaned every so often with a separate patch soaked with the solvent that Numrich supplies. This is a neat package deal and the leisurely fashion of loading, aiming, and firing helps the shooter relax when he does get the piece loaded and the sights lined up on the target. Last but not least, this Hopkins and Allen gun could produce a new family sport and at a very low cost, especially if the

(Continued on page 63)

HANDLOADING BENCH

By KENT BELLAH

Excessive Pressure

ALL HANDLOADERS experience indications of excessive pressure at one time or another if they fool with enough guns and loads. Sometimes the exact cause of excessive pressure is difficult to pin-point. Sometimes it even baffles experts. Pressure isn't a dirty word. It's necessary for Hi-V performance in modern cartridges that are wound up tight. Once in a blue moon a factory round runs excessive pressure, or indicates it. The Sporting Arms & Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute set maximum limits for all cartridges. I wish we hull fillers were half as careful to not exceed the acceptable pressure range as multi-million dollar factories!



Normal load; hot load which blew primer;
excessive charge blew case, wrecked rifle.

Lacking test equipment and pressure barrels we have to load "by guess and by gosh," by working up loads for individual pieces, with our components. This works dandy, except on rare occasions. Speer, Lyman, and other manuals list a huge variety of tested loads. Both manuals are necessary, and both warn to use max loads with caution. I've repeated these sage warnings so often in this column that you may fail to heed them. Let's get at the causes of pressure, and discuss the cures. Then you won't be flabbergasted when a listed load locks the bolt on your rifle.

Manuals are a wonderful guide, but they are a guide only. Loads are not specific for your gun and components. Change one component and pressure may increase or decrease. Pressure figures may be far from correct for identical loads in your gun. Top loads may require 5 or 6 grains less powder than listed. Some lads use routine loads in the pressure range of "blue pills," and never know it. A good lot of cases may never give trouble. A single weak case can cause plenty of trouble! You can check out your top loads by slowly working up the charge. If no indication of pressure appears with a 5% greater load and identical components, your load is "safe," or at least we'll assume it is.

Safety still depends on the brass shell. So long as the case holds in every respect, pressure may be as much as 50% more than the S.A.A.M.I. limit without giving any trouble. Brass varies in quality, and manufactured shells vary still more! Shells in the same lot do not all have equal strength. They vary a bit in grain structure, hardness and dimen-

sions. Not all are perfect, even after careful inspection and quality control. Internal brass defects can give indications of excessive pressure with normal or moderate loads! Don't forget this fact. That's why loads in the borderline maximum pressure range (which also varies quite a bit with identical components) may indicate pressure in only one to 10 or more rounds out of 100. This can happen with brand new hulls as well as much-fired brass.

Some brass defects are not dangerous, and some are. Certainly troubles are intensified by hot loads. Fired brass changes in grain structure and other qualities. The more times it's fired, the more it changes.

You'll quickly note pressure indications in cases with softer or thinner heads. Soft heads, occasionally found in a lot of normal brass, gives everything from slightly expanded heads to blown primers, hard extraction, a locked bolt, or even brass extrusion. It depends on the pressure, head softness and thickness. It's always cause for concern, generally appearing with heavy charges for a particular gun, or in switching lots or makes of components. Check a different make of case, working up the charge. Pressure may vary considerably with different components. Some lads are surprised to find their pet rifle won't take "moderate" listed loads, or as much powder as some other guns.

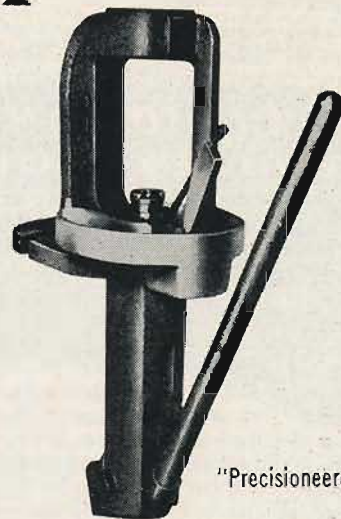
Soft case heads may indicate excessive pressure with "normal" loads in modern Hi-V cartridges. In extreme cases a blown primer may release enough gas to blow off an extractor or floor plate, and lock the bolt. It seldom injures the shooter, but it's too close for comfort, even in high quality rifles. Regardless of pressure, such loads are entirely too hot for that particular shell.

I had worked up a fine "moderate" load of 37 grains 4064 with 55 grain bullets in a fine custom Swift. When I switched makes of cases the action locked with a few rounds. Taking my own advice I switched back to a new lot of the original make. The trouble continued. Lab tests proved a few hulls in both makes had soft heads. Switching to a new lot of the original make corrected the trouble. This was soon after WW II when quality control was not as good as it is today.

(Continued on page 62)



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CROSSFIRE

Expert Pistolman

As a corollary to W. A. Carver's article in *GUNS* of August, 1961, entitled "Deadly At Twenty Paces," it might be of interest to observe that Carver is a History Teacher at Sandusky, Ohio, High School. He holds degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts, each with honors. His hobbies are metal working and pistol shooting.

Carver is eminently qualified to discourse on the subject of muzzle loading pistol shooting. He has established many national records, has been National Champion several times, and adapts or makes his own equipment.

At the 1961 Spring Shoot of National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association he won a six-event aggregate with a score 19 points ahead of second place winner. The four top places in the aggregate were won with barrels adapted by Carver, being shot by him, Bob Kiser, John Kromer, and Jim Nieman. In a re-entry match, Kromer shot 100-4x at 25 yards and 94-3x at 50 yards, the latter the best score ever fired at 50 yards in national competition.

In 1960, and again in 1961, at the Invitational Turkey Shoot of Henry Ford Museum at Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan, in a one-shot-event, Carver won a turkey each year, firing a pistol and competing against Kentucky rifles used by other competitors.

Ladow Johnston
Toledo, Ohio

Letters We Like

Just got through reading my September issue of *GUNS*. The two articles, "Today, A Gun May Save Your Life," and "Buy Your Gal A Gun," should be cut out and framed. These were the best articles I've read in any magazine for a long time. I can't praise *GUNS* magazine enough. It's the greatest thing since the invention of the firearm. Your advertising is tops, too. You're doing a very fine job, keep up the excellent work.

G. E. Dempsey
Fennimore, Wis.

I have just finished reading Tom Newburgh's excellent article, "Today, A Gun Could Save Your Life" in your September issue. I would appreciate it very much if you would send me the author's address so that I could send him a note of congratulations and comment. Thank you.

James L. Meyers
Bridgeton, N.J.

Congratulations to Detective Tom Newburgh, Chicago police, for his straightforward article in your September issue. Articles like this from thinking law enforcement officers can certainly do a great deal to re-

move some of the ancient gun laws that clutter our books and only protect the crooks and hoodlums. I hope to see more of this type of article, as it may stir the public into some action.

J. R. Wells
Alexandria, Va.

The story by Tom Newburgh was the best I ever read. It should be read by every business person, law enforcing officer—and especially law makers.

Morton R. Bossler
Seattle, Wash.

Having read both the McCall's article, "This Very Day A Gun May Kill You," and now Tom Newburgh's "Today A Gun Could Save Your Life," I am convinced that there are at least a few law enforcement officers who don't feel that every man or woman who owns a gun is a dangerous mentally incompetent criminally inclined person.

I want to congratulate the editors of *GUNS* Magazine for printing this article.

W. J. Bassett
Yakutat, Alaska

Your excellent magazine has printed an article which should answer the anti-gun and anti-gun legislation cranks: "Today A Gun Could Save Your Life," by Tom Newburgh. This gentleman is not only an experienced police officer with an unusual viewpoint as to the honest citizen and firearms, but he has the ability to express his viewpoints. I'm sure all gun enthusiasts (myself included), and some non-gun supporters, would agree with him.

I know it is dreaming, but I'd like to see Mr. Newburgh give talks based on his article to every State Legislature and in the Congress of the United States, to stress the importance of the freedom of all honest people to own fire-arms and be able to use them if necessary. With more people like Mr. Newburgh writing and talking to State and Government officials as well as to the public, we might someday bring about a repeal of laws like the Sullivan Law of New York, and laws in other states that disarm the honest citizen and make it easier for the criminals to operate safely.

Lyndon E. Fish
So. Burlington, Vt.

Minutemen

"Minutemen" is an organization of sportsmen interested in gun craft, hunting, and target practice. Readers interested in this plan, please contact: Minutemen, 613 East Alton Street, Independence, Mo.

Patrick E. Kelley
Kalamazoo, Michigan

"Some Like 'em Short"

Just wanted to compliment you for the article about the short Martini Pup.

I have a Winchester 62 pump .22 rifle, not a Pup, but short enough. It measures 26½" overall, with a 16½" barrel; with the law in mind, it was cut this way. The 62 is a very accurate little job, and once one gets used to the lack of a buttstock, the rest against the cheek is good enough. It's fine for snap shooting, and, or, rapid fire.

Howard Jones
Cleveland, Miss.

Letters Wanted

I am a member of the Wellington Outdoors Shooting Society and would be very glad to hear from your readers who are also interested in hunting, ammo collecting, and similar hobbies.

Your magazine is very informative and interesting.

Gordon Douglas Sylvester
1 Cameron Street, Kaiwharawhara
Wellington, New Zealand

For a long time now I have been a keen reader of *GUNS* and find it an excellent publication. Many of the articles are of particular interest to me in my hobby and interest.

However, I would like to contact readers who are, like myself, keen on collecting military arms and relics, souvenirs and trophies of WW II.

My private museum is fairly large and comprises items from two wars, from button to machineguns, and contains several 100 pieces. My collection was awarded a Gold Medal in the 1957 Royal Adelaide Exhibition for "an exhibition of outstanding merit as judged by world standards."

I would like very much to make contact with over-seas collectors.

Good luck to your fine magazine.

Albert F. Lawson
25 Reywell Street
West Croydon
South Australia

Sticks To Facts

Mr. Chatfield-Taylor's article, "The Right Rifle For You" (July, 1961, page 6) is unusual in that it is not biased. Sticking to facts, the article advises the layman, very simply, to use a reliable big game cartridge, with the stress on accuracy rather than on high velocity or size of bore.

Thanks for a fine magazine that sticks to its subject. I always look forward to the brown envelope with *GUNS* inside.

John W. Horst, Gun Maker
Canon City, Colorado

Rule Britannia

About 20 years ago, England was at war with Germany and fighting for its very existence, living in constant fear of invasion. The British were notoriously anti-gun; they have disarmed the people throughout history. When weapons were needed to protect the home land, there were only 75,000 in the whole country, and this included antiques. The militia was armed with flintlocks and swords.

On August 3, the Home Office appealed to Britons to turn over their arms, and the promise of amnesty brought forth 20,368 guns and 427,830 rounds of ammunition.

These guns were handed over because the owners did not have permission to own them. Alas, how history repeats itself.

Richard Rosenthal
Newark 12, New Jersey

We Hope So Too

As an English reader of your excellent magazine, I would like to thank you for publishing such a varied work on the subject of firearms. Of particular interest to me is the battle which has been waging for the past few years on the subject of legislation. No doubt you are aware of the situation as it stands in Britain. Let us hope that the American people can realize, in plenty of time, the folly of such a state of affairs.

A. J. Donaldson
Sunderland, England

A Voice From England

I've been an interested reader of your magazine for some time. I think it is a fine magazine, and I have spent many happy hours reading such copies as I can obtain. There is nothing to compare it with on this side of the water. This is hardly surprising, as the word "gun" is a "wicked word" here, and to even talk about them seems to class you as a potential bank robber. It is almost impossible to obtain a permit from the police, especially for handguns, even if required without ammo and just for collection purposes. I did manage to obtain a permit for a .22 match rifle when I belonged to a club, but when this disbanded, I had to return that. So now I read about guns and study the pictures in your magazine and thus keep up with the hobby that way. What wouldn't I give to get my hands on some of the guns shown in your magazine!

Although I am a married man with children and 30 years of age, a law-abiding English subject, I am not trusted with firearms. The reason(?) given for this attitude is that they might fall into the wrong hands! This of course means that all the thugs over here can go about robbing with violence, knowing full well that people cannot hit back. Funny thing is that the thugs seem to have no trouble getting guns.

Now we come to defence of our country. I remember my father joining the Home Guard (WW II). Most of the men in those dark days were armed and drilled with broom sticks because the government never had a rifle to give them. What if the Nazis had invaded then? Where would we be now?

After a while they received arms of all makes and calibers, a lot of them from the U.S.A. My father was given a model 1892 Winchester. When the war ended and we no longer could be "trusted" with guns, we tried to retain that Winchester, but to no avail. It had to be given up, and God knows what happened to it. Probably smashed and burnt. You would have thought a lesson was learned, but no. Even now, when our Army is being issued new guns, the old ones are shipped out of the country as fast as possible and, judging by the ads in your magazine, most of them go to the United States. Perhaps our government is hoping that if the need ever arises, you will ship these guns back again! I don't know, but I do know that if we were allowed to buy them over here, I would feel a lot safer. I never did feel safe with a broom stick!

I hope some day to live in the U.S.A. In the meantime, I would say to all you gun fans, "Don't let the anti-gun people take your guns away from you, because apart from protection against things, there can be no doubt that an armed citizenry, as has been pointed out in your magazine repeatedly, is vital. Who would send guns to you if your country were invaded? In fact, where would your country be today without armed citizens? Still under British rule!

Kenneth R. Clarke
London, England

More Gun Legislation

In your July issue (Crossfire) I note with approval your intestinal fortitude in casting the spotlight of publicity on HR613, the Anfuso bill.

There is a bill currently in committee known as HR7390, sponsored by Representative John B. Dingell of Michigan. This bill would call for the 11 per cent federal excise tax on component items used by reloaders. The revenue derived would be earmarked for maintenance of government conservation.

The reloading industry is still in its swaddling clothes and the revenue derived from this bill would not be particularly significant. It would be taxation without representation for a large number of shooters in this country. Consider the fellow who merely plinks, shoots target, trap, skeet, competitively or otherwise, not using government lands. He would be taxed equally, if he were reloader, with those who did hunt government land.

The sometimes misguided, sometimes alarmist, and sometimes downright subversive elements want firearms abolished, registered, or otherwise controlled are making deep inroads through a legislative process and are posing a decided threat to a right guaranteed to us in the Bill of Rights in the constitution.

I applaud your stand on the Anfuso bill, and ask that you continue to cooperate with those of us who deplore anti-firearms legislation.

George E. Fairchild
Lewiston, Idaho

Outlawed Guns


Frank C. Barnes' description of outlawed guns (Oct. 1961 issue) was a good reminder of the simple-mindedness of many legislators. Some ivory-tower do-gooders or professional viewers-with-alarm doubtless approached congressmen with an argument like this: "If we didn't have guns, nobody would get hurt and no crimes would be committed."

I would like to see all single-shot firearms removed from under the National Firearms Act. A hold-up man would think more than twice before trying to use one in his business. On the other hand, the utility guns are comparatively inexpensive; and a person with limited funds, wanting both a rifle and a pistol, could do worse than settling on a light utility gun.

The H & R "Handy Gun" has most appeal to me, and the firm should be encouraged to revive it. Besides the well known short- and medium-range 50-to-a-box cartridges available when the gun first appeared, think of the additional variety it could have now: .22 Rimfire Magnum, .357 Magnum, .22 Hornet, and others.

William H. Wilson
Millington, Tenn.

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IS PATTERN IMPORTANT?

By COL. GEORGE W. BUSBEY

MUCH HAS BEEN written about game and clay birds "flying through" holes in a shot pattern. Proof is offered in the form of patterns made on a pattern board where spaces containing no shot are frequently large enough to permit unscathed passage of large objects. Further proof is produced afield by many an inexplicable failure of a bird to die when the gunner was "dead on." All this is consoling, because all that is necessary to correct the unpleasant situation is to improve the pattern. It's the fault of the gun, not the shooter.

For so long that my mind runneth not to the contrary, eyes and ears have been assailed by the unrefuted doctrine that an even, dense pattern is essential to successful shotgun shooting. A nationally known expert puts it this way: "The goal in all field shooting is balanced loads, critically evaluated from the standpoint of gunning efficiency. Your pattern board is the final arbiter." That is a mighty interesting statement. The more carefully I analyze it, the more it seems to be over-simplified. However, to date, no sensible person of my acquaintance has openly questioned the doctrine, orally or in print. Is it true?

With fifty-one years of shotgunning bowing my shoulders, and with quite a few bouts with that terrible demon called recoil addling my brain, certain suspicions beset me—suspicions that the situation is a lot more complex than the expert makes it seem. So, with my neck out a foot, I mix my metaphors and go out on a limb. Sawyers assemblé.

In my humble opinion, and assuming use of North American factory loaded ammunition or a reasonably assembled hand load, all the time and money expended by 99 per cent of all shotgun shooters in patterning their guns is wasted. Worse, it is detrimental.

Having voluntarily placed myself in opposition to all known authorities, no quarter is expected. Perhaps, among the multitude of gunners who annually kill their meat in ignorant happiness, a few simple souls may smile in silent sympathetic agreement. More, I cannot ask.

As an example of contrary opinion, I cite the nationally known expert, Mr. Francis Sell (June 1959, *Guns Magazine*) whose meticulously recorded experiments and results on his ingenious patterning board inspire respect. That his findings are worth the powder in one shotgun shell to the mighty mass of shotgun shooters, I doubt.

For another example, my mind turns to the dean of modern shotgunners, the late Major Charles Askins, who, by long experimentation, proved that it was possible to prepare a load for a Super Ten gauge gun that would produce better than 90 per cent patterns. He also proved his own ability to utilize those patterns to make remarkably long range kills on wild fowl. But he never claimed that his findings were of more than limited value to a few devotees of perfectionism.

In the past, I, myself, have asserted that it is possible to improve the performance of any shotgun by a carefully tailored hand load; but, like the Major, I have never believed or stated that it would benefit appreciably the average shooter. Now, after more thought, I wish to qualify my former statements by interpolating that performance

can be improved *on the pattern board*—I am not sure that it applies to killing game except when the true expert is doing the shooting . . . maybe.

Inconsistent? Maybe, but so are the birds. They "fly through" factory load patterns; possibly they fly through the best patterns that any pattern board ever registered. A friend of mine, Judge Donald E. Martin, Salmon, Idaho, once told me that he could shoot through the hole of a doughnut tossed in the air, every time. He said that he knew it because he had done it many times and never had found a mark on the doughnut.

Reverting to the "even, dense pattern" on the 40 yard pattern board, let us examine the facts.

a. All the shot did not arrive at the board simultaneously.

b. Not all the arriving shot were *killing* shot.

CIVILIAN 'MINUTEMEN'

It is with real pleasure that we reprint the following from the September, 1961, issue of "Winchester News:"

More rifle practice by civilians, especially young people, is necessary to improve our national defense.

A recent Department of the Army report stated: "It is (our) conviction that the increased emphasis on other phases of national defense should not be permitted to obscure the importance of the final role that the rifleman will play in possible future conflicts."

The report recommends that all Services be called upon to make available their marksmanship facilities and to assist in establishing organizations to aid civilian marksmanship training. It also recommends that the Armed Forces provide expert instructors to train competent civilians and Reserve personnel as instructors in rifle marksmanship. The report further suggests that funds be made available for a broad program of public information on the subject, and for the construction of 5 multi-purpose ranges near large population centers.

This recognition of the importance of marksmanship is of real significance, but it can have little value unless the necessary funds are made available by Congress. You especially, as a sporting arms dealer, have a vital interest in insuring the future of rifle shooting. You can help a great deal by writing to your Congressman in favor of the report's recommendations, and enlisting your family and friends to do the same.

It was his skill with the musket that stood the Minuteman at Concord in such good stead. The continued existence of our country may some day again depend on skillful men armed with rifles. Write to your Congressman now.

c. Had the travel of those shot not been interrupted, they could, conceivably, have arrived on a pattern board at 55-60 yards still evenly distributed but not forming so dense a pattern. Nor, conceivably, could all the shot have arrived at so nearly the same time as they did at 40 yards. Conceivably, a quail, a teal, perhaps even a White Fronted Goose, might have "flown through" the spreading, lagging, wearied pattern without collecting, shall we say 17 or 12 shot?

On the other hand, suppose that a certain barrel habitually tossed 82 per cent of its total shot into a 30 inch circle at 40 yards, but 50 per cent of them bunched in one quarter of the circle, with the others patchily distributed over the remainder. And suppose that the ability of the average shooter be like the average range, goose, wind, light, and shooter-veracity: unpredictable. Then, by the laws of averages, he might kill more geese at longer ranges—say, 55-60 yards—than he could have done with the finest patterning shotgun in the world.

It is my considered opinion that the shots which penetrate the vitals of a flying bird are the shot that kill, and that the more shot the more certain the kill. Am I, then, recommending uneven or patchy patterns? Well, no, but: whereas, my old Lefever throws remarkably even patterns from its modified right barrel, its performance with the left, full choked, barrel closely approximates that of the hypothetical gun just used as an example. With light or heavy loads—untested on any pattern board—it kills game for me at "long" ranges. I trust it, and have never attributed a miss to a patchy pattern through which a bird flew.

Perhaps a tiny amount of reaming by a competent gunsmith might improve the evenness and overall density of its patterns, but I will never know. And before I sent it to the technicians at Ithaca for its 30 year rehabilitation plus some of Mr. McGraw's fine engraving, I stipulated that any alteration of the interior of either barrel would be considered an unfriendly act.

My points are: a. Even patterns must change to non-killing patterns at some indeterminate number of yards, whereas, an uneven, patchy pattern might retain killing density much farther;

b. Time and money spent on remunerative activities is fine but, for 99 per cent of all shotgunners, patterning is not remunerative. Why? Because few will take the time to do it properly, and still fewer will correct defects in patterns by tedious search for an improving load. But *all* will pounce upon an observed defective pattern and use it as an alibi for misses, forevermore.

c. The ability of the average shotgunner is not equal to that of the poorest pattern apt to be thrown by any good gun or load.

My advice is: get acquainted with your gun by shooting it at flying targets with the firm belief that gun and load will perform excellently. If you must take a short flyer at patterning, you might follow the idea of a cynical old pheasant killer named Jack Quinlan who sarcastically told me, thirty-three years ago: "Hold her like a rifle and aim at that clay bank. If you can still see dust crossed, she patterns real close." risin' after you get your eyes un-

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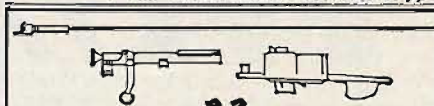
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TRAIL AND TARGET

LET'S GET IT on the record right here in the beginning that I don't claim to know it all about gunning, either trail or target. Let me add smugly—neither does anybody else! What's more, a good many of the things that I (and they) do know are probably wrong. But when a man has shot, trail and target, for forty-some-odd years, at many targets, under many conditions, he does get to believe that ways that have worked for him are not as wrong as they might be, whether they are perfect or not. Hence this column. And because I do have some friends I hope to keep, let's keep it anonymous. If you agree with me, my name doesn't matter; and if you don't, no name would convince you. Shooters are like that, and God bless 'em.

But a very high percentage of the lads and lassies (how times have changed!) who go into the woods each year with guns are not shooters—nice people, able people, smart people within their fields of knowledge, but—not shooters. Some admit this, seek advice, and profit from it. Others seem to assume that anything as primitive as hunting must "come naturally," without instruction or experience.

I remember a day in Colorado when I got an object lesson on how not to get venison. I had killed a fair mule buck the day before, so I strapped a six-pistol under my left shoulder (just in case something tried to bite me, you understand), and climbed a high ridge just west of our cabin. It was a brilliant day, warm, with snow only in patches. I followed the ridge north a mile or more to where it became a nose between two canyons, and there I sat me down to bask and soak in the joys of hunting. For, make no mistake, I was hunting—not to kill, but to see. That mile of ridge travel had taken me three hours. I'd seen three deer, inspected a bobcat's pad-marks, watched three hunters work the slope below me. Twice, I'd heard the echo of distant shots.

("Three hours to walk a mile?" you say. "The man *must* be decrepit!" Not so. The best hunter I ever knew once told me, "If you move faster than cold molasses when you're where game is, you ain't hunting. Stop every step, and look, and listen. Even then, you're likely driving game before you.")

I had a sandwich in my pocket, and I ate it. Why does food taste so good under such conditions? With the last bite in my mouth, I caught a flicker of movement in the left-side canyon. I stopped chewing. A buck eased past a thicket and slanted up-slope toward me, silent as a shadow, stopping now and then to scan the canyon behind him. A small breeze blowing toward me kept my scent from him, and he passed within fifty yards of me, over the nose of the ridge and down into the opposite canyon. . . . When he was gone, I looked back into the canyon from which he had come and saw three more deer, a buck and two does, trotting toward me.

. . . And behind them, far down the canyon, were two hunters. At least I'm sure they thought they were hunters. Far as they were, by now even my poor ears could hear what the deer had been hearing for many minutes: the sounds of sturdy tramp-tramp-tramp progress through brush and over brittle litter, over rocks that rolled and rattled. Even worse, I could hear voices. Rods apart on opposite slopes of the canyon bottom, those men were calling back and forth to each other.

They too passed within less than a hundred yards of me, and never saw me. The nearer man stopped to light a pipe on a snowy spot where the buck and two does had stopped, and where their tracks must certainly be visible; but he never looked down. With his pipe going, he said to his partner (a good forty yards distant), "I think we were gypped, Joe. What they charge for an out-of-state license—and I haven't seen a sign of game in two damn days!"

Except by sheer accident, unless some other hunter spooked a deer straight over him, he wasn't likely to see game, in any

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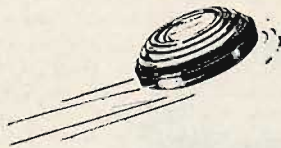
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country; not as long as he hunted down wind, and moved through the woods with the finesse of a tractor, and talked to men on another mountain!

And yet that man had spent good money on this excursion. His gun was a good one, scope sighted, still with the new shine on it. His clothing came from a good store. He had doubtless come a good distance; and, as he said, he'd paid for his license. . . He didn't need a license. He needed a teacher. I don't know about his shooting; he may have been a target expert. But he was no woodsman.

Up to the point of pulling a trigger, I have no quarrel with non-woodsmen who go hunting. I hope this man had a fine time on his vacation, and a fine time at home later, bragging about it. I'm quite sure he didn't get any game, so the country was no poorer for his visit; in fact, his fee would help pay for herd management that would insure game for me in the future.



Beyond the point of pulling a trigger, it can be a different story. Men as "green" as this, woods-wise, are green in other ways also. Having seen little game, the sight of game excites them. Excited, they shoot—at any distance, sometimes at the wrong targets. Then, my charity ceases and I take cover and call down curses on them. Not only because they might hit me, but because they spoil the good name of hunting.

If you are a novice hunter, this is not just an old man's rambling anecdote; there are lessons in it. You don't have to be a red Indian, or an Australian bushman, in the woods to be a successful hunter; but you don't have to be a blundering fool, either. Step softly and seldom, with the eye to what your foot will land on. Note which way the wind is blowing. Your nose won't know the difference, but the deer's will. And save your chatter for the bull-session at camp, later. Listen to the woods and mountains. They speak with sweet voices.



There are lessons in books; learn them. Read a book about the game you plan to hunt. Learn a little about its habits. Remember that some of its senses are infinitely keener than yours, others possibly not as keen. Think a little. It will be a long time before you can emulate the man who said he "Thought where I'd go wuz I a deer, and there I went, and there he wuz." But you can avoid spooking all the deer out of the woods ahead of you. And when you do really sneak up on a deer some morning, you'll never forget it. Whether you shoot him or not doesn't matter. Seeing him is enough. And seeing him, up close, before he scents you, is the deed of a real hunter.

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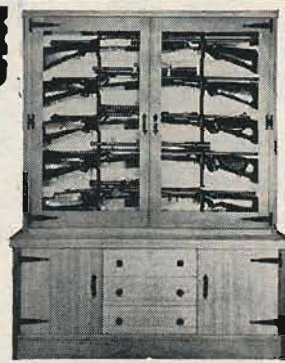
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SEE PAGE 66 FOR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT OFFER!

"LOAD ON SUNDAY— SHOOT ALL WEEK"



By LOUIS WILLIAM STEINWEDEL



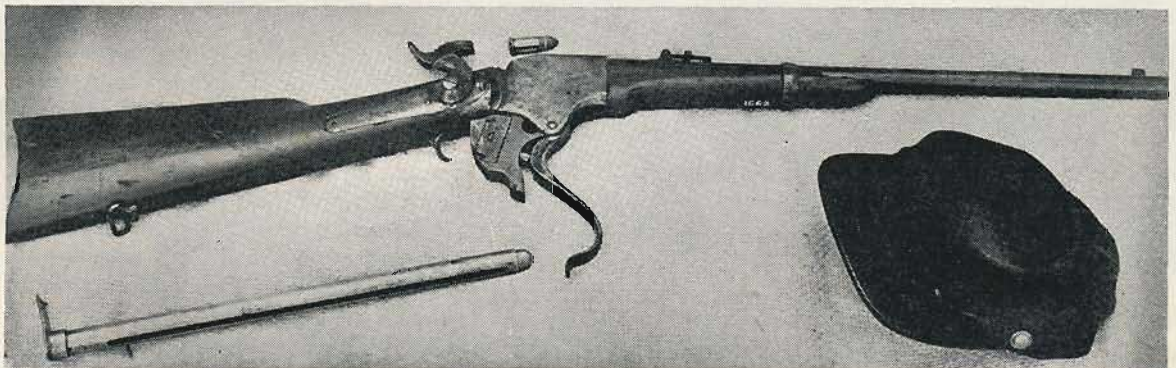
L. REEDSTROM

THROUGH THE TENSE, armed camp that was Civil War Washington, two rifle-carrying figures strode to what is now a picturesque tourist promenade—the Mall, then a jumbled mosaic of weeds and miscellaneous little wooden buildings dominated by a dour, sawed-off hunk of marble which had been deserted as a monument to George Washington when the money ran out.

The two had just propped up a board and begun an impromptu shooting match when an impressive looking Union officer, saber clattering as he ran toward them, started yelling for them to “Stop that — — shooting!” But the officer’s face faded to an ashen hue as he recognized the tall man with the rifle.

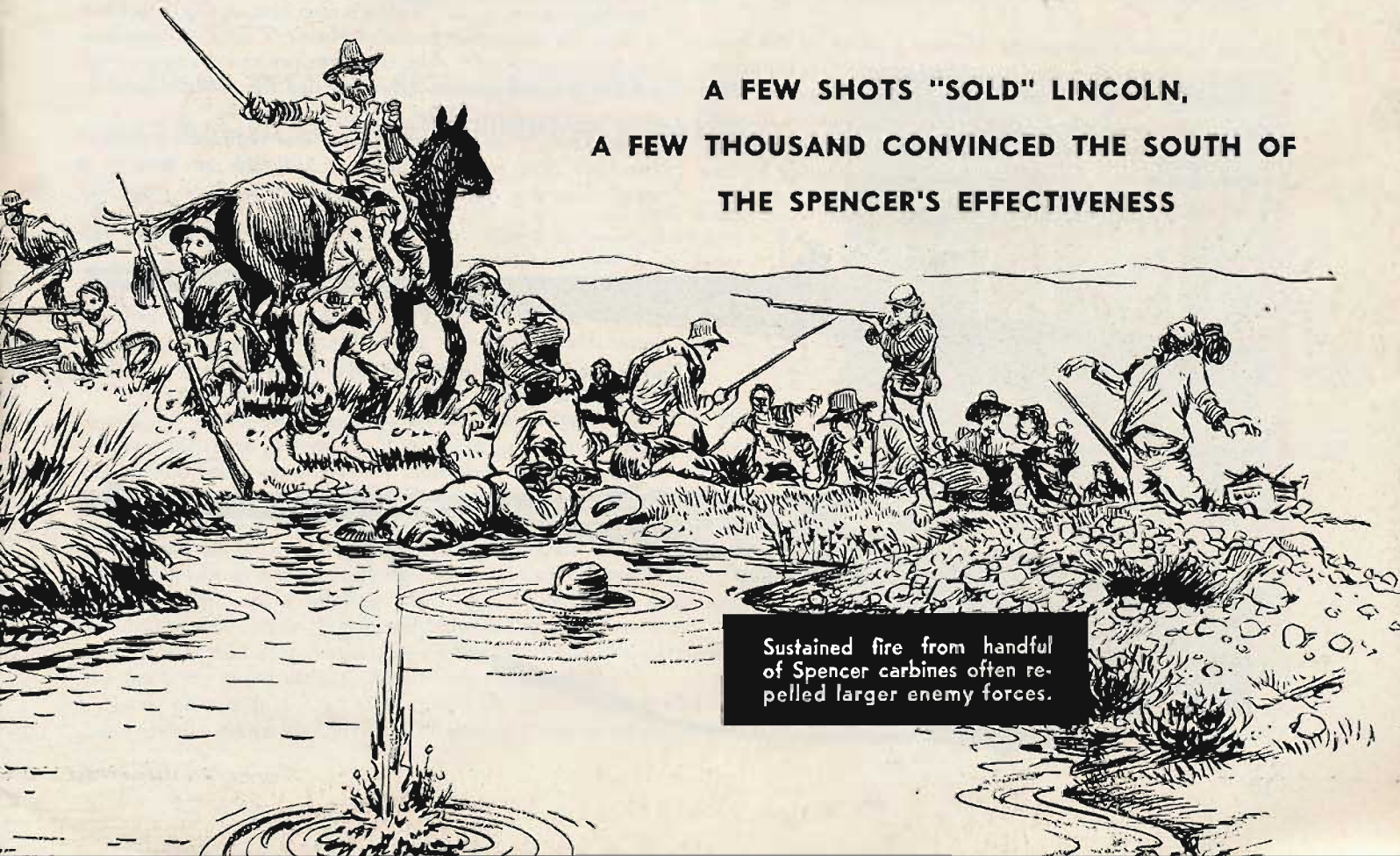
“I’m sorry, Mr. President,” he gasped. “I had no idea . . . I didn’t think . . .”

Without altering his shooting position, Lincoln smiled and waved the now red faced soldier away. The Civil War Chief Executive was busy with one of his less known but highly significant tasks as a war-time Commander in Chief —testing his companion’s new invention, the Spencer seven-shot repeating rifle. Those few apprehensive moments were, for the anxious Christopher Spencer, the prize of months of negotiating with influential friends who worked diligently but diplomatically to arrange this historic firing of seven quick shots by Abe Lincoln. Even then, the event might not have taken place but for



Mementos of hard-fought battles and routed Southern troops consist of the rapid-fire Spencer carbine with its rimfire cartridge and the feared tubular magazine. Trooper cap is authentic.

**A FEW SHOTS "SOLD" LINCOLN,
A FEW THOUSAND CONVINCED THE SOUTH OF
THE SPENCER'S EFFECTIVENESS**



Sustained fire from handful of Spencer carbines often repelled larger enemy forces.



Among the guns in this frontiersmen's arsenal hangs the Spencer carbine—the gun you could load on Sunday and shoot all week—on wall behind man at rear right.

Lincoln's personal interest in test-firing many of the guns that were submitted to the Ordnance Department. Intrigued by the inventor's fervid promises that this was the gun that would shorten and win the war, Lincoln convinced himself by personal test that Christopher Spencer's repeating tubular-magazine rifle was the arm sorely needed by his beleaguered armies.

Curiously, orders for thousands of Spencer rifles had appeared on government requisitions as early as June of 1861, some 26 months prior to Lincoln's dramatic test and acceptance. Early in the first year of the war, the Navy had run some tests on Spencer's miraculous new gun, including prolonged firing, clogging the joints with sand, and exposing it to the corrosive effects of salt water. The pleased examiner reported, "I regard it as one of the very best breechloading arms I have ever seen," and on the basis of this recommendation—a glowing one indeed for a stoic, conservative Ordnance examiner—the Navy bought 700 rifles, Spencer's first big order.

Subsequent Navy and Marine orders eventually rose to a profitable 10,000 guns and millions of cartridges; but the Army had practically ignored the gun—up to the time of Lincoln's personal test of it on the Mall. Whereas Naval Ordnance recognized the merits of a gun which was virtually impervious to the elements, which delivered a rapid fire that was overwhelming in the day of the muzzle loader, and which used safe, waterproof cartridges, Army Ordnance, headed by General James W. Riply, needed a nudge from the President himself before accepting the obvious.

Colonel John T. Wilder, a pre-war manufacturer turned soldier, had the farsighted plan to form "mounted infantry" which would be able to move about rapidly on a campaign of harassment against the Confederate army, and which would be armed with the best gun available—the Spencer repeater. Surprisingly enough, higher-ups saw fit to provide Wilder with mulepower for his novel idea, but neglected to present him with any firepower beyond the ordinary muzzle loader. Understandably irked, Wilder got around this obstacle in a somewhat unorthodox manner. Realizing that his men would be willing to pay for the guns themselves if they had the money, the colonel agreed personally to underwrite a loan for \$100,000. The deal was made, and eventually, the Government reimbursed Wilder for his "strategic investment." Wilder's men almost single-handedly won the important battle of Hoover's Gap in Tennessee by delivering 50,000 rounds of fire per minute against the confused Confederates—winning also the colorful and accurate nickname of "The Lightning Brigade."

Supplying your own gun in the less regimented days of the Civil War was not unusual. Although an attempt at standardization had been made (*Continued on page 43*)



English-made trade gun (above) was probably used against Custer. Note home-made sling on Spencer carried by fleeing John Wilkes Booth.



Jerry Hamman with Old Flattop and Mannlicher-stocked Mauser.

I Call This Rifle 'SMORGASBORD' BECAUSE—

By JOHN A. MASTERS



Author's rifle (above) delivered the goods in the field. Jerry's gun requires different handloads.

SWEDISH? YES, BUT BETTER REASONS THAN THAT NAMED THIS MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTER

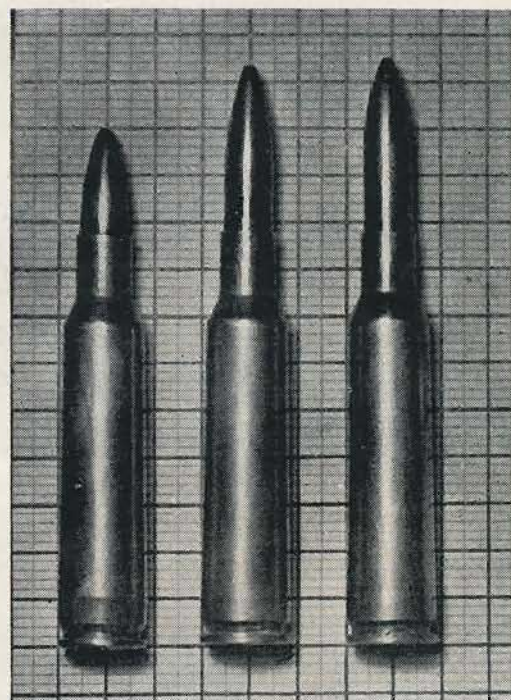
I HAVE LONG followed the custom of naming my rifles. "Subpoena" is a .25-06, named for its ability to issue an urgent summons for varmints at long range. "Nutcracker" is a Remington 513-T, my favorite squirrel rifle. But the one I am fondest of is "Smorgasbord," so named because, like the famed Swedish dining custom, it offers a variety that cannot fail to please, regardless of one's shooting taste.

It is probably more than coincidental that Smorgasbord is a converted Swedish Mauser carbine chambering the 6.5 x 55 Mauser cartridge. It seems at first glance to be out of place among the several other super-velocity rifles that are its rackmates.

I discovered the 6.5 x 55 Swedish Mauser carbine, sitting forlornly among a multitude of perfectly blued, exquisitely checkered creations on a dealer's shelf. I didn't realize it at the time, but I rediscovered the fun of hunting at the same time.

Jerry Hamman, a hunting crony, and I made the discovery almost simultaneously. Fortunately, the dealer had a good supply, and after careful examination, we each selected one. We purchased Norma brass and a variety of bullets at the same time.

Jerry elected to see what he could do with the materials at hand. While gunsmith Carroll Williams (*Continued on page 52*)



Left to right: The 87 gr. Speer, the 125 gr. Nosler, the 140 gr. flat base Speer bullet.



Male grizzly (top) was killed with one shot at a range of 70 yds. with 100 gr. Nosler bullet. Balvar 8 scope helped nail Alaska wolf (middle) at the Goodpaster river where author hunted. Mature bull moose (bottom) was killed near the Charley river with one 30 ft. shot from the .243.



Author's Winchester .243 downed these two Dall rams in the area of Robertson river.

IN ALASKA, MAKE MINE .243

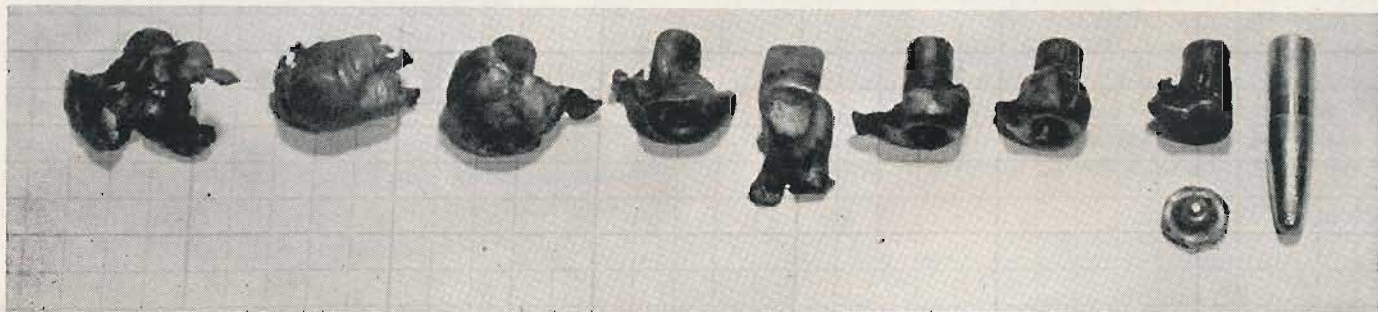
By CHARLES A. BOYD, Jr.

AFTER FIVE YEARS of hunting with a .300 H&H Magnum, and one year with an 8 mm, as a professional trapper, prospector, and guide in the interior of Alaska, I decided to change calibers. I felt that I had acquired enough shooting and stalking skill to reduce both weight and caliber—and weight was important in my work, in which a heavy pack is a serious handicap.

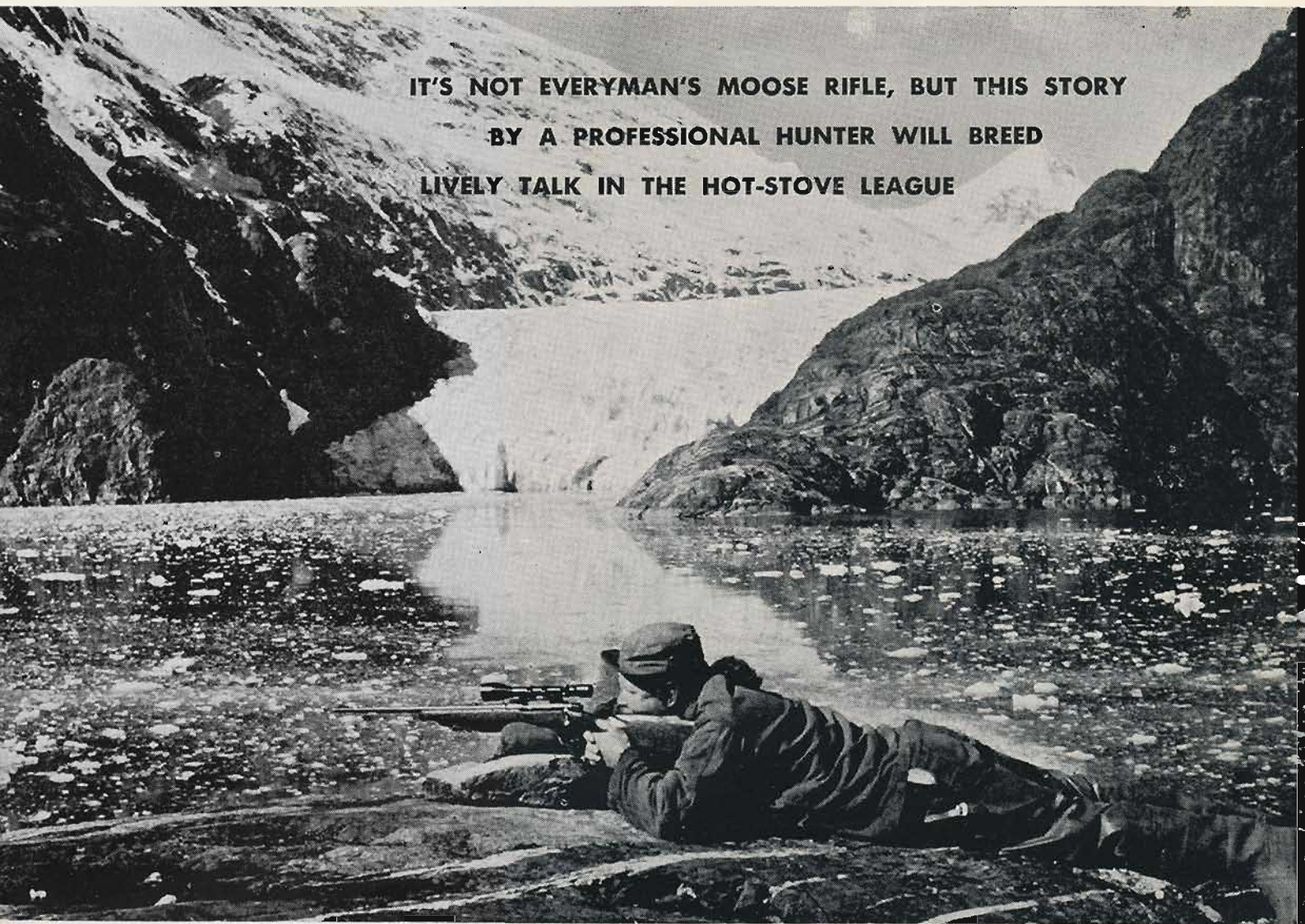
Having been raised with a gun, I had a fair knowledge of ballistics, especially with those calibers which I then considered most suitable. I was particularly interested in the .257 Roberts and the 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Schoenauer.

Although .257 Roberts ammunition was readily available

The excellent performance of 100 grain Nosler bullets is shown. From left to right: Bullets from two caribous, goat, and several moose. Bullet expansion was good in all cases when hunter did his share in holding for one-shot kills.



**IT'S NOT EVERYMAN'S MOOSE RIFLE, BUT THIS STORY
BY A PROFESSIONAL HUNTER WILL BREED
LIVELY TALK IN THE HOT-STOVE LEAGUE**



Author on Tracy Arm, Holkham Bay, draws a bead on seal's head with Balvar scope. For bounty hunting, high quality scope is essential.

and a number of companies chambered guns for this caliber, the heaviest commercial bullet weighed only 117 grains, and I felt that this was too light. (Ammunition availability was important, since I had not then started to load my own cartridges.) The 6.5 mm was available in the 160 grain factory loads, but ammunition was hard to find in Alaska, and none of the American gun companies chamber guns in this caliber.

It was at that time that the bottom dropped out of the fur market, thus affecting my livelihood and also allowing me some spare time in which I could experiment with trying to make a living bounty hunting hair seal in south-eastern Alaska. It was also the time the 6 mm in the standard forms, the .243 and the .244, took their bows; and from reports that came to me, I became convinced that one of these calibers would make an excellent compromise rifle for me—compromise as to bullet weight, availability of ammunition, and high-velocity power. The fact that the gun would be made in the States influenced my decision also. And the reputed accuracy of the caliber, plus its very flat trajectory, suggested that it might make an ideal seal hunting rifle. After several months of hair seal hunting, I had decided that the 6 mm is the largest caliber practical

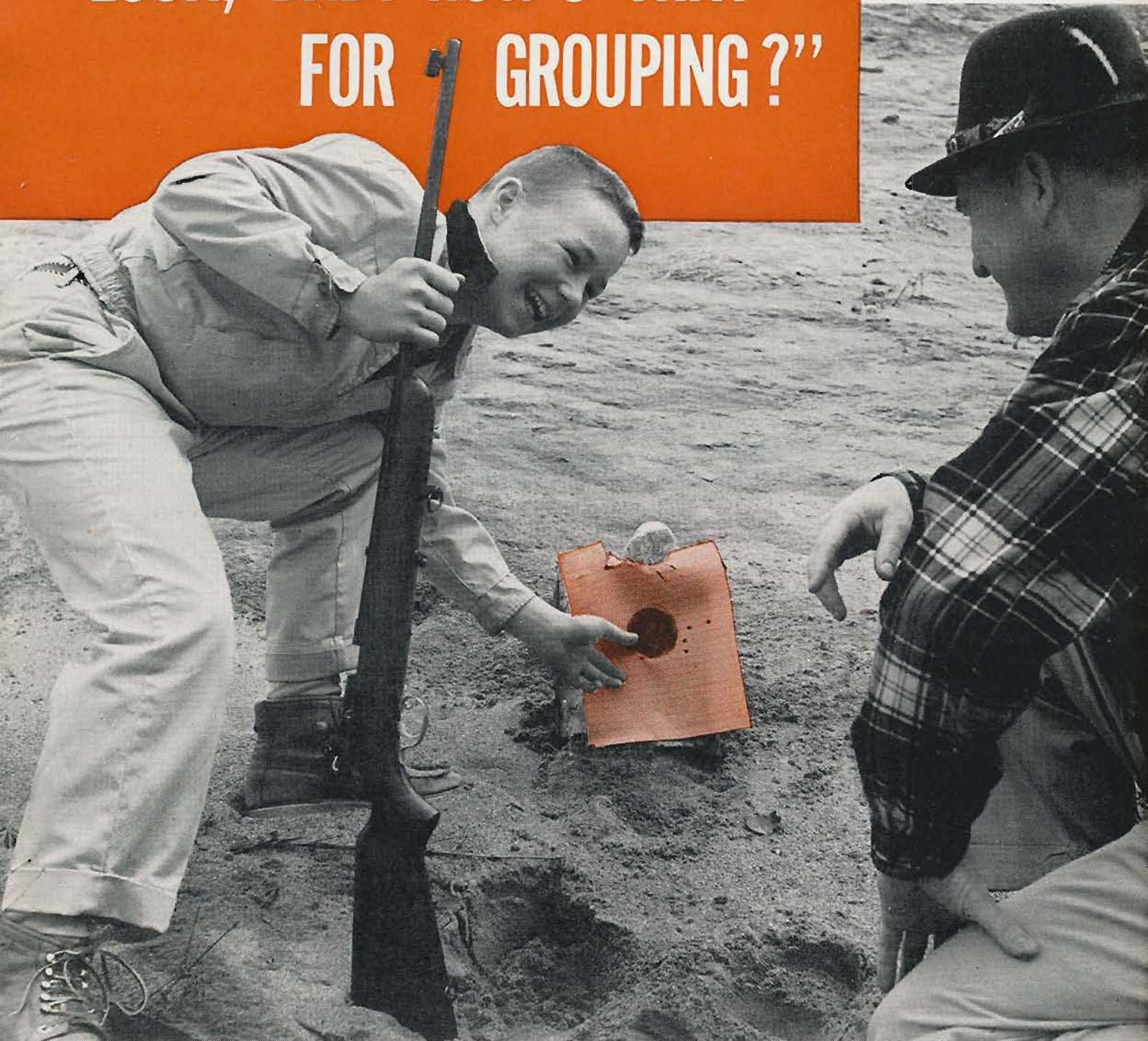
for this purpose. Larger calibers cause too much tissue destruction and permit a rapid air leakage from lungs, thus causing the seal to sink too quickly for recovery. Although other hunters have differed with me, I found this to be true in my bounty hunting experiences.

Since it was claimed that the .243 had the superior accuracy, and because brass from the 7.62 NATO cartridges would be readily obtainable, I settled on a .243 Winchester Model 70 Featherweight. The gun was equipped with a Williams Foolproof receiver sight and a Redfield Sourdough front sight. I also acquired a Pacific reloading tool, with dies, and a Redfield powder scale. The choice of sights was predicated on the fact that a trapper's gun takes rough treatment; six months a year on the dog sled in a sheath, the rest of the year in boats and carried through brush and timber. Since I literally live by my rifle, I must have complete reliability in my equipment—but must also keep in mind the weight factor. The loading equipment is light, rugged, and inexpensive, with the advantage that I can take it with me wherever I go.

All in all, my .243 Winchester and my handloads have accounted for 38 head of big game, two wolves, two lynx, and 200 hair seals, with complete (Continued on page 51)

WHEN BOY MEETS RIFLE ON CHRISTMAS MORNING, DAD FACES A
SHOOTING FUTURE. HERE'S HOW FOR THE DAD WHO IS LESS THAN AN EXPERT

**“LOOK, DAD! HOW’S THAT
FOR GROUPING?”**





Dad uses the fact that the target 'way out there won't stand still to teach trigger control. Right, Dad insists that the rifle be properly supported by boy's elbow.

"Just hold the sight picture steady, son," and Dad is ready to squeeze off the shot. Good teaching will pay off for boy in future, both on range and on big game.



By CHASE HUNTER

IT'S A GREAT THRILL to give your boy his first rifle. But that's just the first step. The greater thrill and the real fun comes in teaching him to shoot it; and shoot it he must, for youth is impatient and that new rifle is the most exciting thing he ever owned.

A lot of boys will get new rifles this Christmas; and a lot of dads will be faced with the question, "What comes next?" Because some of those dads are something less than firearms instructors themselves, here are some tips that may help.

The boy wants to shoot; you want him to shoot, else why buy him the rifle? But what, where, and how do you shoot?

Unless the boy has had previous instruction, he isn't ready for hunting, even if there is game in season. But there's no closed season on tin cans, and no bag limit. To keep the boy busy until you can shoot with him, put him to work gathering cans. Suggest that he wash them and



strip them of their paper jackets. The bright metal makes a good aiming point. And tell him not to be choosy about sizes; big or little, they'll serve at appropriate ranges.

Next question is—where to shoot? In settled areas, if you just head out into the countryside and start shooting, you're asking for trouble. In urban and near urban areas, if you don't know a friendly farmer, why not talk to a friendly policeman? I did, and the officer not only appreciated our checking with him—he knew of a fine sand pit which would serve our purpose perfectly, and he told us where to go for permission to use it. (I learned later that he actually called the owner and put in a good word for us.)

We've had similar luck in other where-to-shoot efforts. Several farmers, courteously approached, have shown us where we could find on their land a backstop for our bullets. I always show my NRA membership card, and that helps; but the mere fact that a father will be supervising his son in the proper use of a rifle is usually enough.

Young George Frost had been dreaming rifle for months before Christmas. (His dad, Jack, has been with Winchester-Western for 25 years, so George figured his bid for a rifle had a pretty good chance of being granted!) George had long ago written to the Sportsmen's Service Bureau (250 East 43rd St., New York 17) for a supply of "Ranger" targets. Small quantities of these are free; and any three of them, complete with bullet holes qualifying under the conditions printed on the back, will earn a junior marksman an attractive orange NRA Ranger brassard that will make him a really "big man on campus" with his age group. (Not a few much older "youngsters" are proud to wear these brassards, too. It takes pretty fair shooting to win them.)

George had started building a target holder too; but the one he tackled was a little beyond (*Continued on page 41*)

A Hot-Stove-League Report



Bobwhite hunting in Tennessee requires fast gun handling, accurate shooting with a gun that hunter can handle well.

By CARLOS VINSON

THE HOT STOVE league was in session. The weather was cold and blustery, but around the crackling pot-bellied heater in Tom Bratcher's cross-roads store everyone was as snug as a tomcat in a clothes closet.

The usual checker game was in progress, and a couple of guys were arguing politics; but the hot subject was shotguns. I was in the midst of this group.

"Can't say that I like these new lighter-than-a-feather wonder guns," commented "Poode" Smith from his nail keg stool. Smith is a typical

**THESE ARE VINSON'S OPINIONS, NOT OURS, AND
MAYBE NOT YOURS; BUT WHEN
THE HOT STOVE LEAGUE
MEETS, NOBODY AGREES, SO—
WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?**

small game hunter, as were all the others in the group. He proceeded to give his reasons for taboing most of the ultra-modern featherweights.

"The dadburned things kick too hard when one shoots high-brass heavy loads out of them. The companies say 20, maybe 30 per cent less recoil on these new wonder light-weights. But I say at least 15 per cent more recoil when heavy loads are fed through them. The phoom, boom, and recoil of a high brass load has got to go somewhere, and all of us that do a lot of shooting out in the woods and fields know that weight absorbs most of the recoil." After that, Poode bit off a cud of tobacco and sat back to give someone else a chance to say something.

And somebody said something. That's one thing you can always depend on, in these sessions. A man opposite Poode



Despite newer models and styles, some men still use double-barrelled guns.

snorted. "Just a sissy," he grumbled. "I been shootin' a light-weight plenty, and it never hurt my shoulder. Fact is, it helps my shoulder; puts less of a load on it totin' the gun from daybreak to bag-limit."

The resultant argument filled that session; and the verdict? A draw, as near as I could determine. The same thing happened in another session. This one started about as follows: (Continued on page 61)



A good dog, fine cover, some fast-flying birds, and a smooth-handling gun can make hunting trip a lasting memory. Winchester's Model 59 has proved itself.





Pull!

BY DICK MILLER

THE 1961 GRAND AMERICAN lived up to the reputation that only the Grand has for drama, color, tension, excitement, and blistering shooting. Name shooters proved that they were worthy of the designation, and the expected crop of totally unknowns went into orbit during the Grand.

In keeping with tradition, Steve Barringer, Russell, Kansas, a first-time Grand American Handicap entry, walked off with the big one. Steve put a 99 on the big board early in the morning, in squad 16, and let the field of 2,352 try to beat it. No one did, but six shooters came close with 98 efforts.

The one-shy scores were turned in by Stan Carmichael, Bruce Shoup, Howard Noakes, Carmon Baker, David Berlet, and Dean Noffsinger. Sixteen more hopefuls posted scores of 97, for a shot at the remaining three of ten trophy places in the big handicap event. Johnny Sternberger ran his last 50 straight, from 27 yards, to join this group.

It might be said that wedding bells gave Steve Barringer the chance to put his name among the immortals of trapshooting. Steve married Peggy Friesen, daughter of well-known Kansas shotgunner Carl Friesen, and came along, more for the ride, with his father-in-law. Carl managed a class win in the doubles race to keep peace in the Friesen family.

Some of the "name" stars whose stars glittered brightly in the 62nd Grand were Tony Biagi, Vic Reinders, Dan Orlich, George Snellenberger, John Sternberger, and Glen Everts.

Tony Biagi broke the Grand barrier with a victory in the Introductory Singles, with 200 straight plus an extra 50 in a shoot-off, then garnered the Clay Target Championship of North America with another 200 straight, followed by a record-breaking (at that point) 325 additional perfect targets in a shoot-off.

Vic Reinders took AA Class on Class Day, with a clean 200 plus another century in extra innings. During the Grand, Vic registered his 100,000th registered 16 yard target. His average on the 100,000 targets was .98056!

John Sternberger shaped a blazing climax to a great year over the traps by taking the High-Over-All trophy for 976x1000 (based on Grand week's 600 16-yard targets, 300 handicap birds, and 100 doubles) and a glittering 394x500 win in High-All-Around (200 16 yard targets Wednesday, the 100 Handicap targets on Grand American Handicap day, and the 100 doubles birds on Saturday).

Glen Everts made it a clean sweep in the junior division by taking both the High-Over-All and the High-All-Around races.

Paul Smith was not to be outdone by amateurs, so he posted a sweep in the pro-

fessional division, for High-Over-All, and High-All-Around.

One of the most dramatic events of the 62nd Grand was the special Champion of Champions tournament, limited to state and provincial champions.

Eight of the 33 entrants posted perfect hundreds. The first extra hundred in the shoot-off left three men still in the running: Ohmer Webb, Dan Orlich, and George Snellenberger. During the shoot-off, George Snellenberger's mother had died, and his wife kept the news from him in the hope that the championship could be decided before he knew. When darkness came, the three were still deadlocked, and discussing when to continue the shoot-off. While a tearful wife broke the news to a great competitor, two true sportsmen agreed that they would hold the shoot-off until George could return. A strict application of the rules would have eliminated Snellenberger by default.

When George returned Friday, the shoot began once more, and Webb fell in the first



Tony Biagi

25. Then Orlich and Snellenberger began an exhibition of precision shooting which led to 500 perfect targets by Saturday. ATA officials then broke tradition by declaring the two worthy co-champions. Snellenberger actually broke 1,000 straight targets on his way to the hard-won co-championship. He broke 200 in the Indiana state shoot, 200 in a shoot-off, 100 in the Champion of Champions event at Vandalia, plus 500 more in the shoot-off with Orlich.

One of the top stories in the typical Grand man-bites-dog picture was provided by Elbert Lesley. Lesley borrowed a friend's duck gun, broke the only 100 straight of the day, and defeated 1927 shooters in the Preliminary Handicap on Thursday, full dress rehearsal for Friday's Grand American Handicap. Jim Lannan, who credits this writer with some advice that helped his shooting, came on strong to take the runner-up spot Thursday with a 99 and 25 straight, beating the man who talked him into shooting registered targets (Don Fisher) in the process.

Lannan lost little of his touch overnight, coming back with 97 on Friday. A premonition of coming events happened in the Preliminary. Fifth place winner, after a 98, was Steve Barringer, who lost even less steam.

One of the most popular victories of the week was that of Fred Harlow in the Class D 16 yard events Tuesday. Harlow won the Grand American Handicap in 1908, tied for it in the 'thirties, then came back this year at the age of 82 with 196 of 200 targets, breaking his last 100 straight. He was using a gunstock that came from a tree he had planted, and which had grown to maturity, then was cut down. When the tree was removed, Harlow saved a section of the trunk. Ten years later, he persuaded a friend to shape a gunstock from the walnut tree.

Space does not permit listing all the trophy winners in the 62nd Roaring Grand. Many of the place winners fired perfect scores in the main event, only to have the top trophy elude their grasp in prolonged shoot-offs. Here are the top trophy places in the 1961 record books. (Scores and shoot-off scores in parentheses)

Grand American Handicap—Friday

Champion—Steve Barringer—99
Women—Sharon King—96 (25)
Junior—Douglas Holman—97
Sub-Junior—Roland Rabb—95 (24)
Professional—R. J. Tobin—92

Preliminary Handicap—Thursday

Champion—Elbert Lesley—100
Women—Gail Pierson—95
Junior—Eddie Leavandusky—96
Professional—Fred Missildine—96

Introductory Singles—16 yard—Monday

Champion—Tony Biagi—200 (50x50)
Class AA—William Harrison—200 (23)
Class A—Arnold Ecker—199 (25)
Class B—J. Robert Boyd—200 (23)
Class C—John Cain—197
Class D—Frank Gammell—196
Women—Rhoda Wolf—197
Junior—Eugene Clawson, Jr.—196 (73x75)
Professional—Cliff Doughman—199
Veteran—Men—Fred Hansen—100
Veteran—Women—Rhoda Wolf—98
Husband & Wife—
Dr. & Mrs. E. Z. Eperjessy—390

Parent & Child—

Bardon & James Higgins—390 (49x50)

Brother & Brother—

Ned and Dave Berlet—394

Class Championship Day—16 yard—Tuesday

Class AA—Vic Reinders—200 (100x100)
Class A—Andrew Long—200 (49x50)
Class B—Albert Bostwick—199
Class C—Frank Gammell—197
Class D—Fred Harlow—196
Women A—Rhoda Wolf—198
B—Evelyn Eperjessy—196 (74x75)
C—Julie Deckert—195
D—Ida Fyffe—191

Juniors A—Britt Robinson—198

B—Kent Stauffer—198

C—Eddie Leavandusky—195 (23)

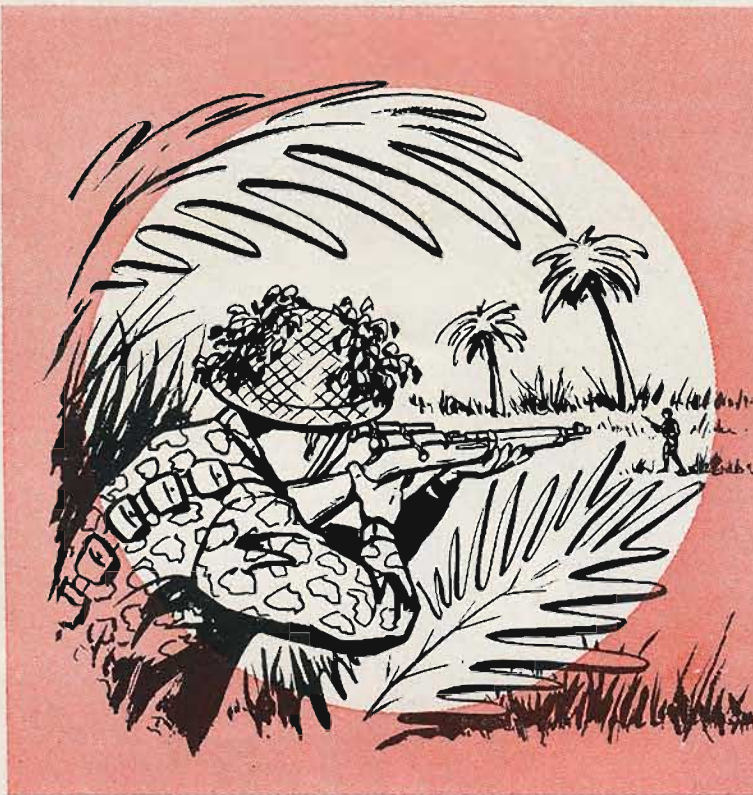
D—James Wadill II—190

Professional—Paul Smith—200

Championship of North America—16 yard

Champion—Tony Biagi—200 (325x325)
Class AA—James Townsend—200 (174x175)
Class A—Charles Keenan, Jr.—200
Class B—W. G. Redenius—199 (124x125)
Class C—Van Marker—197
Class D—Alex Naber—196
Women—Dorothy Marker—198 (24)

(Continued on page 43)



THESE RIFLES KILLED YANKS

By LT. WILLIAM H. TANTUM IV, USAR

THE AVERAGE Japanese sniper was an excellent rifleman, selected and trained for the job since completion of basic training. His equipment was, in many respects, superior to that of snipers of other nations, and his training, as far as it went, was very good.

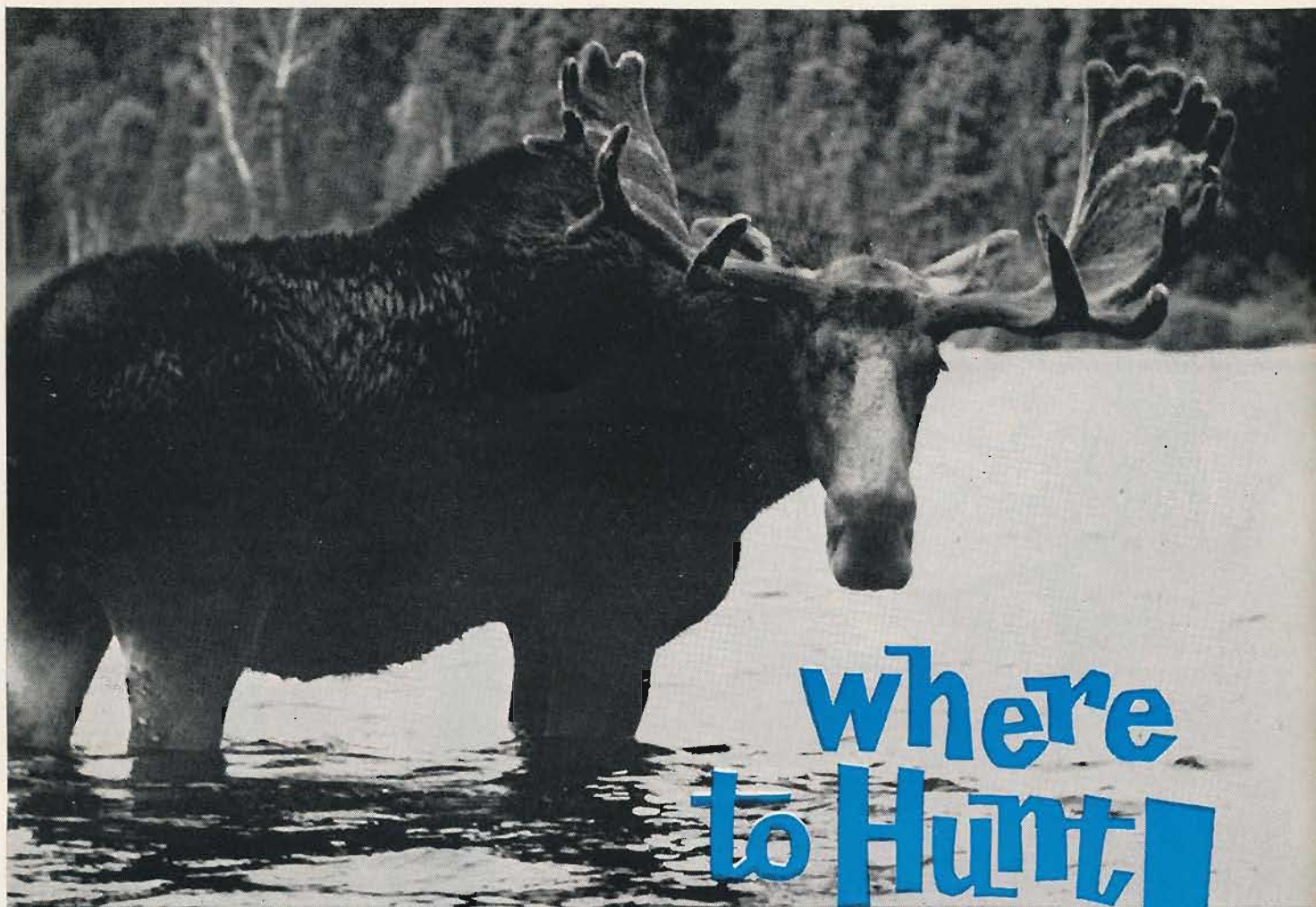
Main emphasis in the training was placed on concealment, and as many of us know, the Japanese were outstanding in this art. Concealment of the rifleman was aided by the leaf-green uniforms, green mosquito netting, and covers of helmets and caps that would permit the use of branches as additional camouflage. Although the Japanese sniper was full of well-taught tricks, he lacked the imagination that goes with the job.

But what the Japanese sniper lacked in imagination, he made up for in endurance and tenacity. He accepted hardships and long immobility with great stoicism, and being tied into the branches of a high tree for days on end did not alter his effectiveness. Training was extremely hard and rigorous, and the finished sniper was very adept in making himself invisible and remaining so. This ability was aided by some special equipment, notably the climbing spikes which were issued to all active snipers.

Realizing the relative ineffectiveness of a single sniper, they were taught never to shoot at enemy parties of (Continued on page 57)



Left: Japanese Model 97 sniper rifle for 6.5mm ammo. Right, Model 99 (1939) sniper rifle, complete, for the 7.7mm (.303) cartridge.



where to Hunt! what!

**HERE ARE TIPS THAT WILL HELP THE MAN WITH
A MODEST BANKROLL PICK THE LOCALE FOR A SUCCESSFUL HUNT**

By BERT POPOWSKI

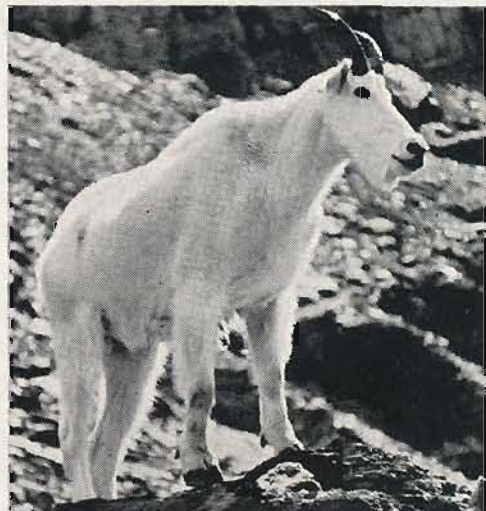
FOR MY MONEY (and I use the phrase advisedly), Alaska is tops of all our 50 states for big game hunting. But it does take money. Alaska is "a fur piece" from most of us, the trip itself is expensive, and you need guides and special equipment. For the Joe without the bulging bankroll, here are some tips on big game hunting locales that can be reached at moderate cost. Check with state game departments for license and seasons; these can change from year to year.

Where you go depends, naturally, on what you want to hunt. So here is the best advice I can give you, divided on the basis of the commonly wanted species.

Pronghorn Antelope

The prongies are fleet afoot, own amazing eyesight and, if you properly care for their meat, are second only to mountain sheep as excellent dining-table fare. To my mind they're a peerless big-game animal in every sense. (If you want to read an expanded version of this thesis, read my book, "Hunting Pronghorn Antelope.")

Wyoming is the antelope Mecca. The State issues the greatest number



Hunter needs stamina and a hard-hitting long-range load to bag glue-footed goat.

of annual licenses (over 40,000 in 1960), has the biggest native herds scattered everywhere except in mountain areas, and obtaining a license is dead-easy—if you apply early enough. Permits for non-residents cost \$25, with approximately 25 per cent of the annual issue specifically held for visitors.

Wyoming also has it over all other States when it comes to record heads. At last count, the State's prongies held 98 of the 172 listed records—or 57 per cent.

Montana rates second in its crop of huntable prongies and in the sum total of annual permits issued to hunt them. That State offers several arrangements: first, a \$100 package deal which includes deer, bear, and elk, plus the applicant's choice of three areas in which he can hunt pronghorns; second, any remaining antelope permits are sold off at \$20 apiece to visiting sportsmen, again on a first-, second- and third-choice of hunting area.

The package deal is also used in Idaho. The State charges \$75 for its general big-game license, covering deer, bear, and elk. But only those non-residents who own such package licenses can, by paying an additional \$4, enter the State-wide lottery for a comparatively few available antelope permits. The unlucky applicants have this fee refunded if their tags do not come up in the drawings.

The lottery system of allocating permits is also used in Arizona and New Mexico, which charge \$50 and \$40, respectively. The chances in both of these States are about even, with New Mexico holding a slight edge in its number of available permits.

Antelope can be, and have been, shot with iron-sighted rifles of virtually all calibers. But for the finest enjoyment of the sport the hunter needs quality glassware in both telescope sights and binoculars. I recommend no less than four-power scope sights, with 6X even better, and binoculars of light weight and 7x35 optical rating.

Shots at 200 yards, if the hunter is reasonably skilful in stalking the keen-eyed beasts, are about average. However it is no uncommon experience for a super-wary buck to permit no closer approach than twice that range. Flat-trajectory rifles are thus indicated, preferably those owning ballistic properties equal or superior to that of the new .264 Magnum, the .270, the .308, or the .30-06. Handloads or commercial ammunition, pushing bullets of from 100 to 150 grains, retain sufficient killing energy up to 400 yards—if the shot is at all well delivered.

Grizzly and Black Bears

Shooting a grizzly bear in the western States between Canada and Mexico is generally a lucky accident, with odds several thousand to one against you. There are some grizzlies in Montana, plus a handful in Wyoming; but the hunters who get them would come up kissin'-sweet no matter what they fell into. Deliberately hunting for one, and getting it, is highly unlikely.

As a matter of plain fact, the successful hunting of the common black bear is similarly playing the short end of the odds. In spite of their tremendous distribution, to the point where such States as Minnesota, Oregon, Utah, and Washington consider them as pests, scandalously few of the blackies are shot except as bonuses while hunting other game. They like thick and shadow-filled habitat, and are past masters at using it when resting or pursued. Additionally, they've marvelous noses and keen hearing and employ both to give hunters mostly glimpse shots. But they're near-sighted, and any hunter who has the wind and sits

still may have a black walk up to him within easy range.

The ten leading western-most States have over 100,000 black bears on hand. Washington is tops with over 35,000, out of which over 6,000 are annually taken; California has 20,000, yielding only 600 kills; Idaho harvests nearly 25 per cent of its 15,000; while Oregon and Colorado take less than 1,000 out of the 10,000 blacks in each State. Montana hunters do that well, out of a total population of only 6,000 head.

Oregon and Washington charge non-residents \$35 for bear permits, New Mexico \$25, but Arizona and Colorado levy only a sawbuck. A non-resident hunting California blacks may take two on his \$25 permit. Several western States allow non-residents who have package-deal licenses for deer and elk to add bears as an added bonus. These include Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, with Utah classing blacks as predators and allowing year-around hunting of them.

Healthy blacks go into prolonged hibernation about the time early-winter snows shut off their major fattening food supplies of oil-rich nuts and sugar-ripe berries. The best bear pelts are usually taken during spring hunts, as soon as possible after the bruins have emerged from hibernation.

Adult blacks much more often weigh between 200 and 300 pounds, though occasional mastodons of the tribe very infrequently top double that weight. I believe the largest black on authentic record weighed 640-odd pounds, which is a cracking weight even for the regularly larger grizzly.

Blacks are readily killed with (*Continued on page 47*)

Wyoming is tops for pronghorns, both in size of trophies and in herd population.

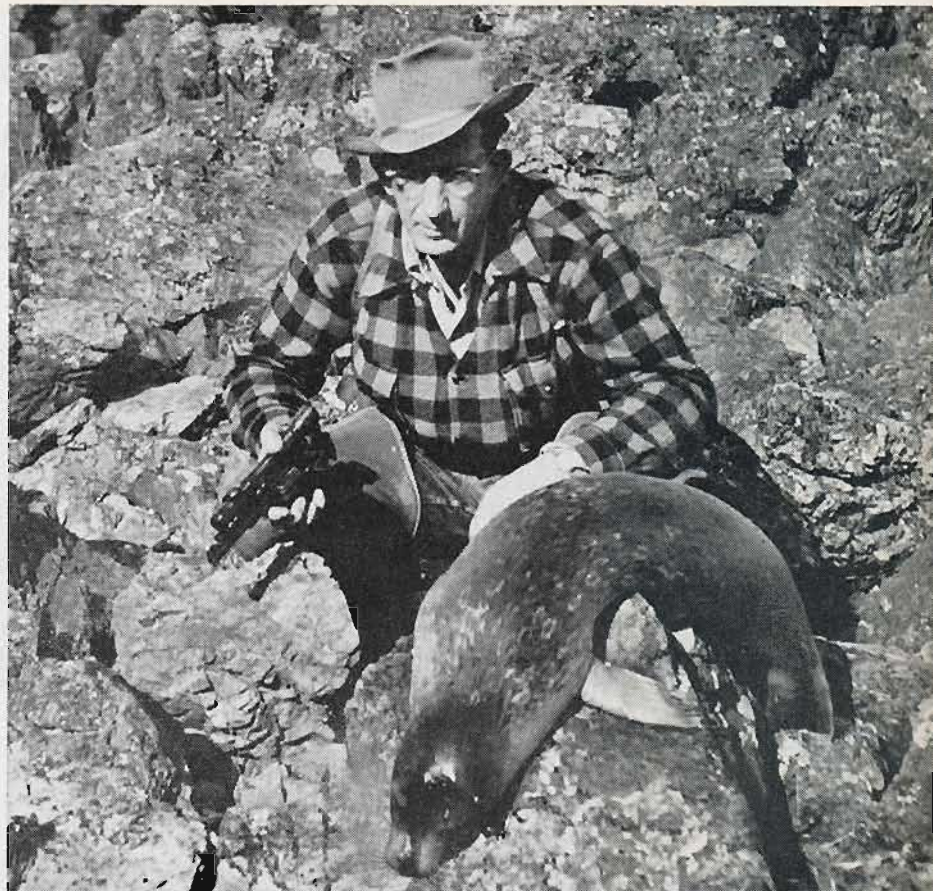




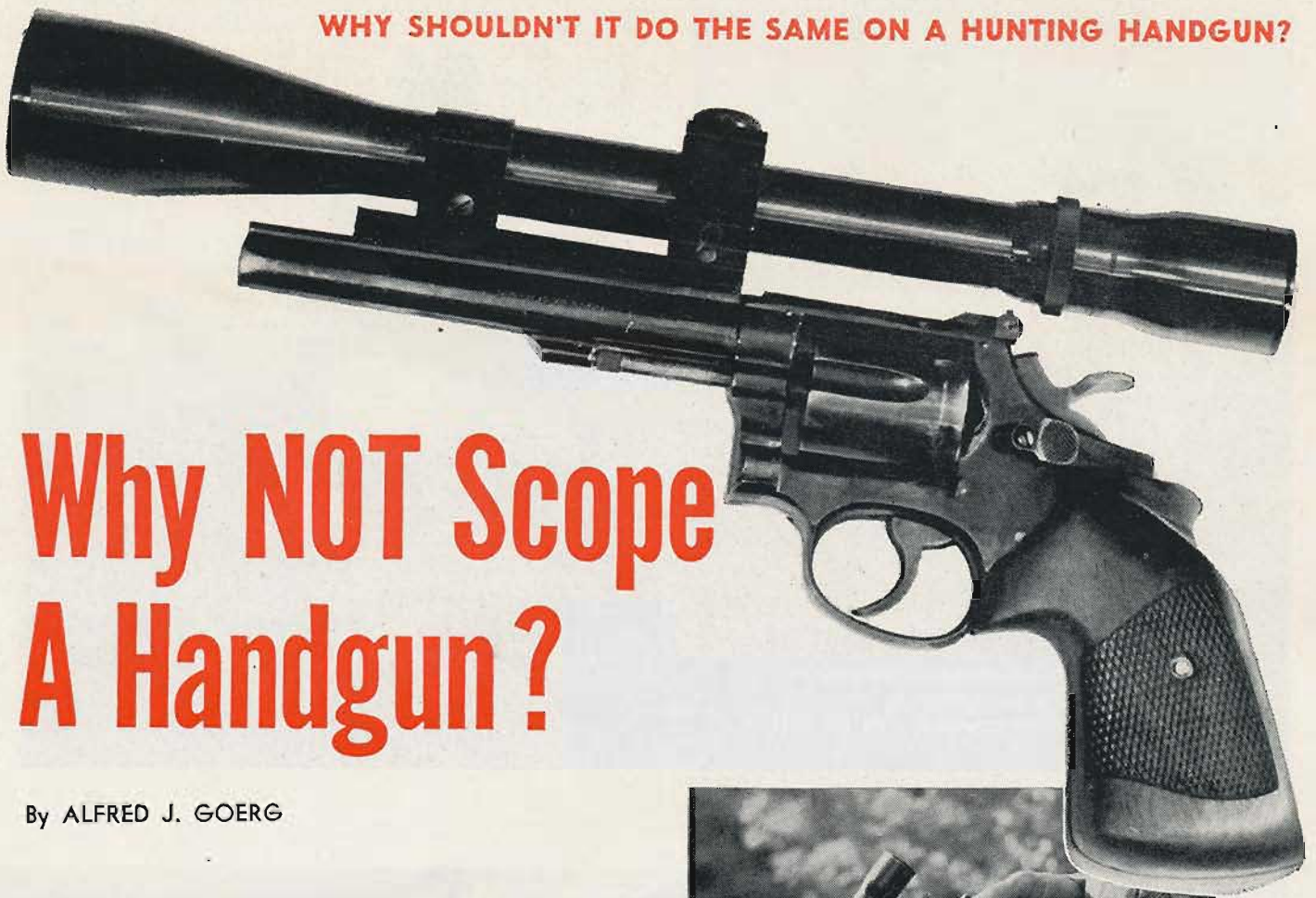
Scope on handgun is helpful for pot hunting as shown by beheaded ruffed grouse hit with .44 Magnum. Scope is essential for all big game hunting.



This Alaska brownie was downed by scoped handgun. Author with head-shot seal and scoped Kay-Chuck gun that made hard-to-see target visible.



IF A SCOPE IMPROVES RIFLE ACCURACY,
WHY SHOULDN'T IT DO THE SAME ON A HUNTING HANDGUN?



Why NOT Scope A Handgun?

By ALFRED J. GOERG

SOME SAGE-BRUSH philosopher is reputed to have said, "If it weren't for differences of opinion there'd be one all-fired popular woman in the world—and an awful lot of damned unhappy ones!"

There's never any lack of differences of opinion about guns and shooting. One top-flight expert is recently on record with a preachment against hunting anything much bigger than rabbits with a handgun. Another has recorded the opinion that a scope on a handgun is as useless as a periscope on a locomotive. Well, they're entitled to their opinions; I'm entitled to mine. I like handgun hunting, not only for rabbits—and I like scope-sighted handguns.

Take this for a sample:

The sun had already dipped behind the hills when I pulled into a logging road through heavily timbered country. Now that the day's heat would subside, the animals would come out from hiding to browse or to stalk a smaller creature—depending on the nature of the beast.

The road was fairly smooth, and I stepped up the speed of the station wagon. Suddenly a lone, three-quarter-grown coyote jumped onto the road and sped in front of the car. For perhaps 200 yards he stayed in front; then, when we arrived at a patch of old growth trees where the underbrush was nil, he left the road and ran uphill. He would jump up on a large windfall and then down the other side.

Where he had left the road I stopped the car, opened the door, and cocked the scoped .44 Magnum Smith and Wesson. With a rest on the car top, I gave the distress call of a small animal. He heard it, and stopped for a split second on the windfall. The rest of that second he never



Author's experimental .224 Harvey Kay Chuck revolver with Weaver variable scope. Bottom: S & W .44 Magnum blazed trail to hunting with handgun.

remembered, for the bullet hit him dead center, making an instantaneous kill.

The distance was about 60 yards; it was in heavy timber—and the time was sundown. These light conditions are not the best, and had I not had a scope it is highly improbable that I would have made a hit even with the aid of the solid rest. The scope was a Weaver K1 with crosshair reticle, with special finer adjustments put in it to replace the standard six-inch-click adjustment standard for shotgun use. Unlike iron sights, these scopes do not require strong light on both the front and back sights and on the target. With the scope, there need be light only on the target. Shooting in bad light, or at night, as when coon hunting, it is always easier to get off a (Continued on page 42)



Jim Dee, crack shot and one of the men on the go in shooting promotion, levels on a target under camera pressure. (He hit it!)



Shoot, Man! And
Roll the Camera!

By DICK MILLER

TAKE A MOVIE producer out from behind the camera, put a shotgun in his hands, let him learn how much fun it is to shoot a firearm instead of film and you have a new man! At least, this is what happened to Kal Weinstein, associate producer for Columbia Pictures, and president of Plaza Picture Productions, New York City.

Kal is a veteran of countless sport shorts and movie travelogues, all from a behind-the-camera angle. But not once had he picked up a gun and joined in the fun, when shooting and hunting sequences were being filmed.

All this was changed by the events of one day early this

year. Kal enplaned from his New York headquarters, with Jim Dee, Director of Shooting Development for Sportsmen's Service Bureau, for a business trip to Chicagoland, to firm up some details of an upcoming Columbia Pictures Bill Stern sport short on the fun of shooting preserve hunting. The trip began as the usual business trip of a busy associate producer.

When Kal and Jim met the writer in Chicago, I insisted that they delay long enough to sample the great pheasant shooting I had enjoyed at Ed Halter's Pheasant Valley Hunting Club in nearby Kenosha, Wisconsin. Go to Ed

Halter's we did, and a shotgun was put in Kal Weinstein's hands for the first time in his life.

After a brief instructional session for Kal, the apprehensive neophyte nimrod, we took to the field. When we returned to the clubhouse, Kal was no longer apprehensive, nor was he a neophyte. Every pheasant which rose to his gun was bagged smartly. Here was one of those rare natural wing shots, who didn't know it. Here was latent ability, and an appreciation of great fun, which had never been realized.

There was still time for more shotgun shooting before business, so we moved over to Ed Halter's duck tower, with its tricky and difficult clay target angles. When the first target emerged, and I saw that Kal was about to shoot it, I started to warn him that the shot was too far, and that he couldn't reach it. My warning would have been wasted, if I had gotten it out. The target fell to his shot.

After that one, there was no stopping Kal. He gave all of us lessons in wingshooting. Suddenly, the scheduled shooting preserve film at Purina's experimental farm at Washington, Missouri, took on new significance.

When I met Jim Dee and Kal at Purina's farm, in advance of Director Harry Foster and his camera crew from New York City, Kal had purchased hunting clothes and was ready for shooting game and shooting film—in just that order.

Weather delayed film shooting for two days, and afforded crew and film characters an opportunity for more shotgun shooting. At this point, having won Kal Weinstein as a highly enthusiastic convert to the great game of shot-



Bill Towell, Missouri conservation director and crack shot, discusses shooting and filming plans with young Mark Middleton who was featured shooter in the film.

gunning, I was apprehensive that the spectacular shooting at Kenosha might have been a flash in the pan. But my fears were groundless. Everyone warmed up with a session at clay targets thrown from a trap mounted on the top of my Lark station wagon. Kal had a run of at least twenty consecutive hits here. Then he followed a pointer into the field for his first look at a quail over gunsights. Three shots—three quail. Three more shots, three more quail.

I knew when he moved to the blinds for a go at some very fast flighted mallards that the bubble would burst. It did—only it was my bubble (*Continued on page 52*)

**WHEN A MOVIE MAKER CAN'T MISS,
THAT'S NEWS. AND WHEN TOP SHOTS
PERFORM ON FILM, THAT'S A
SPORT SHORT WORTH SEEING**

Given a shotgun and a short course in handling it, pro footballer Don Owens was stung by wingshooting bug, behaved like a pro gunner before the cameras.



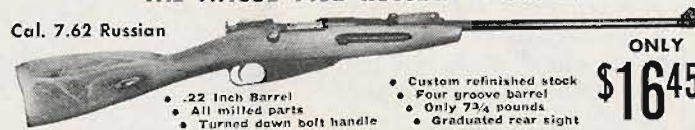


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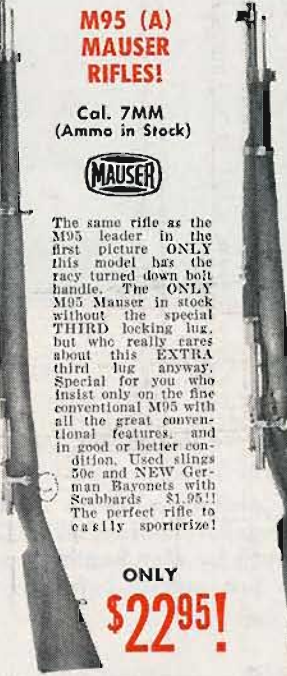


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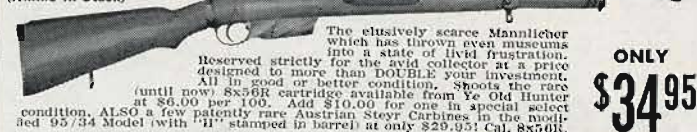


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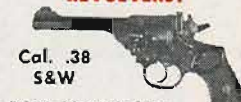
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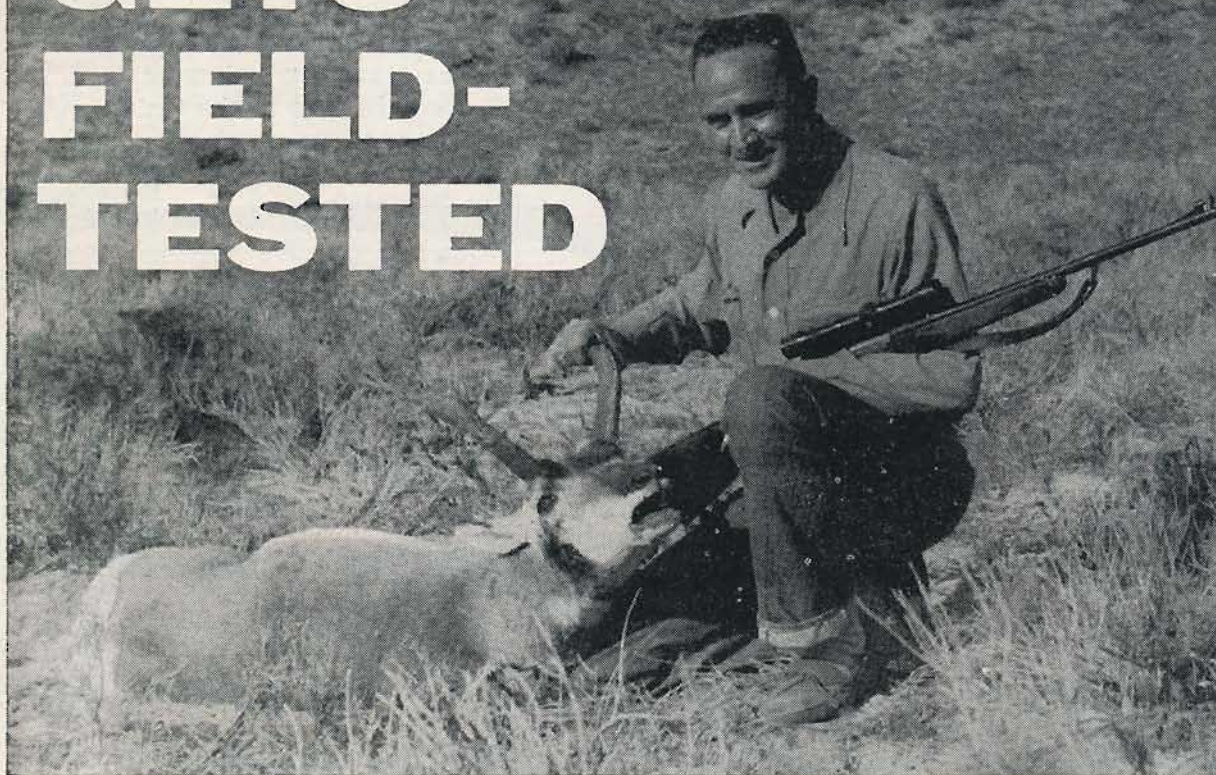
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The .30 Belted Newton GETS FIELD- TESTED



Author with antelope killed at 430 yards with one shot from his .30 belted Newton. Bullet entered neck between chin and brisket, dropped buck where he stood.

By R. F. CHATFIELD-TAYLOR

LAST APRIL (1960), this magazine published an article of mine dealing with certain technical aspects of the .30 Belted Newton cartridge—or, as it is sometimes called, the .30-338. It mentioned the ease with which .30-06 rifles of suitable bolt action could be modified to the bigger case, as well as the impressive velocities obtainable with it; velocities far in excess of those of the factory loaded .300 H. & H. Magnum.

Last fall, I went to Wyoming for a hunt under the auspices of Les Bowman, the famous Cody outfitter. I cannot really say whether the trip was the result of the rifle or the rifle the result of the trip. I do know, however, that the two were inextricably inter-related, and that the genesis of both projects occurred at approximately the same time. Each man, I dare say, has his own reasons for going on a big game hunt. It can be a search for good companionship, the thrill of the actual hunt, the spiritual and physical benefits of a simple life in the outdoors, the desire to test a piece of new equipment, or a combination of all of them. To me, it has always been a combination; but I must confess that I am apt to weight the testing angle a bit more heavily than

might be the case with the average man.

Be all that as it may, last winter I was talking with my old friend, Jack O'Connor, and he was good enough to suggest that I join him and Prince Abdorreza Pahlavi of Iran, the brother of the present Shah, on a Wyoming hunt. Inasmuch as I had been thinking about this very thing with the same outfitter Jack suggested, it did not take me very long to accept with much enthusiasm, subject to being able to get a Wyoming big game license which can get a bit touchy if you wait too long. The thing is that they only issue about 2500 non-resident licenses a year, and by the end of March they are usually all gone. It was then the end of March, so I called the Wyoming Game & Fish Commission on the telephone and asked if they could still give me one. They replied that they had just thirteen left and that, if I would wire them the cost, they would hold one for 24 hours. So that worked out, and I was all set and made plans to meet Jack and his charming wife, Eleanor, at Rawlins on September 29.

From the beginning of April until the date of departure from my home on Cape Cod, I devoted my time to developing a suitable load for the .30 Belted Newton—a load which would not only combine the great power and, hence, ranging qualities of this fine cartridge, but also the accuracy which I was convinced was possible in my rifle. I tried various weights and makes of bullet, from 150 grains to 200, and I finally settled on the 180 grain Nosler, seated so that the case just covered the relief grooves in the bullet. This load was fully described in the April, 1960, article to which I have referred above. It produces 3165 fs velocity in a 22" barrel using resized .338 brass, Winchester 120 primers, and a judicious* amount of 4350 powder. These figures are not guesses but were established at the Winchester laboratories on Potter Counter Chronographs.

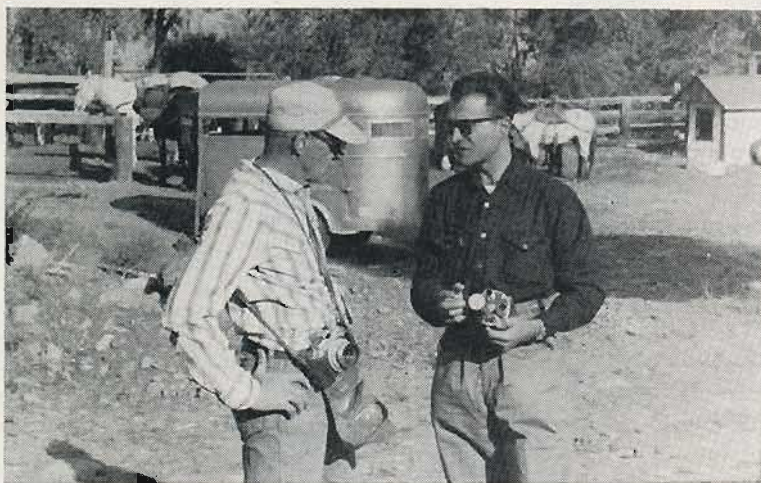
This load will produce under one inch groups at 100 yards the vast majority of the time, providing not over three shots are fired in quick succession. In this connection I might parenthetically add that I believe that the three shot group gives a more accurate picture of practical hunting potential than does the customary five shot group in all cases where more than 70 grains of powder is being

burned in a reasonably light barrel. This amount of powder generates terrific heat and some barrels will "walk" appreciably after more than about three shots. In any case, my interest in what happens to the fourth and fifth shot in the field is largely academic. If I miss with the first three then it is time for the good Lord to take me by the hand. Hair-splitting accuracy will no longer help.

I arrived in Wyoming on the 29th of September with a rifle in which I had, over the summer months, built up a considerable confidence and which I was most anxious to try out. Lew Jow—a resident of Rawlins, keen antelope hunter and fine guide—met me about 9:30 A.M. and got me settled in a comfortable motel. The O'Connors were not due until evening. I asked, not too optimistically, if there were any chance of an afternoon hunt. To my surprise, Lew assented eagerly and told me to be ready at noon.

At the appointed time I was sitting, all ready, in my room when there was a roar outside and Lew had arrived in a jeep under the hood of which reposed a large Chevrolet V-eight engine of Gargantuan (*Continued on page 46*)

**DEVELOPING A LOAD IS
A LITTLE LIKE BRINGING UP
A SON. YOU KNOW THE
INGREDIENTS ARE RIGHT, BUT WHAT
WILL IT DO IN A SHOWDOWN?**



Hunting companions Les Bowman and the Prince Abdorreza Pahlavi of Iran take time out from hunting to compare cameras. Chatfield-Taylor in the elk camp at 9,500 ft.





"Tio" Sam Myres and daughter-in-law, Mrs. Bill Myres, look over leather purse made in store.



The Birth of the **BUSCADERO**

By HALDEEN BRADDY

*Texas Western College
El Paso, Texas*

TIO SAM MYRES was a good man with a gun himself, and he knew well many of the most celebrated gunmen of his day, outlaws and lawmen alike. One of the most famous of these was Captain John R. Hughes of the Texas Rangers, man-hunter extraordinary and a frequent visitor to Myres' shop. It was Hughes, in fact, who provided the inspiration for the name of Myres' most famous product—the "Buscadero" Belt.

"Tio" means "uncle," and "Tio" Sam Myres had become by the time of his death in 1953 at the age of 81, not only one of the Southwest's most famous saddlemakers and leather craftsmen but also the beloved "uncle" of all Western gun-fanciers. Born in Clebourne, Texas, moving later to Sweetwater and thence to El Paso, Tio Sam was the image of Buffalo Bill Cody. Like Cody, he was the visual embodiment of the romantic Western Hero. To the very end he walked proudly erect and straight, grey mustache spreading above his firm lips, grey goatee flowing full on his aggressive chin, fine white hair sweeping to muscular shoulders. A-foot or a-horseback, Tio Sam in his buckskin coat never failed to bring the past into the present for all who beheld him in his Wild West regalia.

Tio Sam spent many hours worming secrets from ambitious bullet-slingers on both sides of the law, and then designing belts and holsters which they (or he) thought



The Grand Old Man of holsters, "Tio" Sam Myres looked liked the storied west, was well-known throughout area.

FAVORITE RIG OF MODERN GUNSLINGERS, THE BUSCADERO WAS BORN TO HELP A FAMOUS RANGER TAME THE WEST



A Buscadero belt and holsters, Bill Myres style, with matching pearl-handled Colt revolvers, is typical of the workmanship that made Texas saddleshop famous.



Bill Myres, dark suit, shows William C. Boren a Tio Sam holster at recent NRA gun exhibition.



Fabled Captain John R. Hughes of the Texas Rangers wears cartridge belt from Myres shop.

might improve their speed "on the draw."

Two leather-maker sons, Bill and Dale, survived the pioneering S. D. Myres, Sr., and recently each had a bit to say about their father's association with the renowned Ranger, Captain Hughes, and something to add also about the origin of the celebrated "buscadero" belt.

According to Bill Myres, his father first met Captain Hughes during the epoch when Hughes served as a hired investigator in the panoramic Big Bend. At that time, Captain Hughes was a left-handed gun-flagger, because a Choctaw Indian had permanently incapacitated his right hand when Hughes was only 15 years old. The Indian's rifle shot (as explained by Mack Martin in *Border Boss*) crippled the future Ranger's right arm for life. Forced thereafter to draw from the left side, Hughes developed into a sure-fire shooter, but he always remained interested in improving his draw.

In those days Hughes had a learned friend, the distinguished author, Eugene Cunningham. It was Cunningham who suggested that the Ranger talk over his problem with "Tio" Sam Myres. Together, the saddlemaker and saddleduster evolved a remarkable belt and holster, a rigging at once pleasing to the most critical eye and quick to reach with a drop of the hand. Hughes had become lightning fast through constant practice; and since his right hand

remained unusable for a safe draw, his left hand compensated for the defect by a speedier and speedier leftward swoop. The first outfit won the name of "Myres' Quick Draw." At this juncture the writer Cunningham stepped in and, according to Bill Myres, christened the revolutionary new design the "Buscadero Belt."

In his book *Triggernometry, A Gallery of Gunfighters* (1941), dedicated to Captain Hughes, Cunningham wrote that Captain John R. Hughes was "directly responsible" for what Myres called the buscadero belt. Myres took the idea from Hughes' gun harness. Hughes conceived the design for his own harness to make the quick draw quicker still. Author Cunningham viewed the new belt as a revolutionary step forward in speeding the gunman's draw. He noted that the studied horizontal (Continued on page 60)

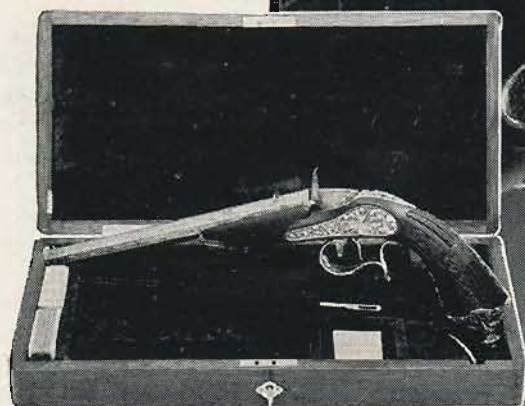
FLOBERT: Forgotten Man

By WILLIAM B. EDWARDS

ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN names in the roster of the world's arms makers is "Flobert." Yet the name is all anyone seems to know of him. His first name is seldom mentioned, his address is uncertain, his working dates are unknown. Pollard, in "A History of Firearms," speaks of Flobert's invention of the metallic cartridge as early as 1836, making him a contemporary of Lefauchaux; but Blanche ("A History of Guns") dates him 1847 and damns with faint praise by saying "even if he did not invent" the metallic cartridge.

Flobert's date is more correctly set by (Continued on page 54)

Magnificent specimen of Flobert's work is in author's collection. Gun is in mint condition, shoots modern caps.



"HOW'S THAT FOR GROUPING?"

(Continued from page 23)

his skill with Jack's tools, so it never quite got finished. Jack suggested that he just take three light boards, sharpen the ends of two of them, and screw a small curtain-rod bracket into one side of each of the sharpened pieces to support a cross member. Ramming the sharpened sticks into the ground and laying the cross piece between them would give a support for those Ranger targets. Scotch tape or thumb tacks would hold the targets in place.

George pulled a surprise, too, in the way of targets. He came up with a package of Necco wafers, favorite targets of exhibition shooters. They're fine. They bust when hit; the pieces dissolve next time it rains; and you can eat any you can't hit! (Tin cans do require some picking up after the shooting. You don't want to be a litter-bug.)

At the sand pit, Jack picked out the highest and steepest sand bank that was free of rocks, and this became the backstop. The simple target rack was planted right in front of the bank. Then he climbed the bank to look over the other side, just to be sure that no one would walk up on them from that direction. Then he paced off 50 feet and spread an old blanket for the firing point.



Young shooter takes fine bead on target slowly, forms good habits.

With a brand new shooter, it is all right to start out at shorter ranges, say 30 feet; but closer than that is not advisable. An unseen rock might cause a splatter of lead that could make a nearby area uncomfortable. At 50 feet, fill a sugar sack with sand and use it for a rest. Make it easy for the boy to score; hits will instill confidence, confirm his interest.

Jack took the first few shots at a tin can. He said that was to make sure the rifle was sighted in. Frankly, I think he just wanted to shoot.

Let's interject right here that young George Frost was an "advanced novice," if that isn't too great a contradiction. Growing up in a gun-indoctrinated family, George was pretty well versed in the how-to and how-not-to of gun handling. He knew that nobody but an ignoramus fails to open a gun each and every time he picks it up, to be sure it isn't loaded. He knew that guns must never be pointed "at any thing you don't intend to shoot." He knew that a gun's action should be open when being handled other than in actual shooting. He knew "The Ten Commandments of Gun Safety." He had learned these things, not as safety precautions (boys aren't much interested in safety), but as, "This is the way it's done by people who know how. Doing it the wrong ways just shows you don't know about guns."

Since the rifle's arrival, George had been drilled in handling that particular rifle: how to open it, how to load it, how to manage the safety, how to field-strip it for cleaning, how to mount it to his shoulder, how to squeeze the trigger. A lot can be learned, and should be learned, about shooting without shooting!

So George was ready for basic instruction in the third phase of the boy-meets-rifle problem; how to shoot it. Jack boiled those fundamentals down to four: position, sighting, trigger control, and—take it easy.

Of the four standard shooting positions, the easiest is prone. Here, most of the body is supported, so it's easier to hold steady. (For the fine points of this and all of the positions, write the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington 6, D. C., for printed and illustrated instructions.) Because it is the easiest position, prone is the position at which a beginner should start. Make it still easier by positioning a sandbag so that the boy's forward hand can rest firmly on it. (Never rest the barrel of the gun itself on a hard object.)

Sighting comes next, and here again you can get printed, illustrated help from National Rifle Association or Sportsmen's Service Bureau. These will tell all about "sight picture," what it means with various types of sights, how to practice sighting, and how essential sight picture is to good shooting.

Trigger control means putting pressure on the trigger smoothly, without jerking—because jerking the trigger will wreck the sight picture and throw the shot wide. Jack told George to get into position so that he was comfortable and so that all parts of his body felt firm and supported. He positioned the gun on the boy's shoulder, and positioned the boy's forward hand against the bag rest for the firmest possible support. And he told George to start putting pressure on the trigger as soon as the sights seemed to rest on the target.

"But first," Jack said, "remember the fourth rule: take it easy. That means—relax! We're in no hurry. All your muscles should be loose and easy. Take a few slow, deep breaths. All you lose if you miss is one bullet; and the sand will catch that. Now, take another easy, full breath and let about half of it out. As you do, get your sight picture and start trigger pressure. The shot should go before you feel the need to breath again."

The shot did go—and the can jumped. It was a good big can, and the hit was pretty well out on the surface, but you never saw a happier boy. Or a happier father!

There are two types of sights for teaching a youngster: peep and open. (Scores are better left till later.) The rifle you buy will come equipped with one type or the other. The peep rear sight has a hole to look through; the open rear has a notch to look over. And there are two types of front sights: post and bead. Treat them both the same.

With the notched open sight, the front post or bead should be centered in the notch and be exactly level across the top of the notch.

With a peep rear sight, you look through the peep hole. Your eye will naturally seek the brightest part of the hole, and that is the center. The front sight should be centered in the peep and come up to just touch an



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imaginary horizontal line through the middle of the peep. A constant sight picture every shot is vital to good scores.

As you look through this sight picture at the target, the spot you see will be where the bullet should hit. Just balance the bullseye (or can, or Necco wafer) on top of the front post like a pumpkin on a fence post. That's all there is to it. Not easy, exactly, but easily understood and just difficult enough to keep a shooter trying to attain perfection.

Trigger control is a bit less easy to explain to your boy. It is a matter of coordination between the eye, the body, and the finger muscles. The experts will control the pressure of their fingers on the trigger so that the rifle fires at precisely the right moment, when the sight picture is perfect. But you can't tell that to a boy just learning; if you do, he will jerk the trigger in an effort to "catch" the perfect sight picture, and the jerk will throw the shot off. Trigger control is best explained to a beginner as a steady increase in pressure, directly to the rear, until the rifle fires.

In spite of warnings, many beginners will

jerk the trigger because they try so hard to do well. That invariably will cause a motion in the gun before it fires, and the bullet will go wild. When this happens, get down beside the boy and tell him to load and sight the rifle. Then, with your own thumb and finger, pinch off a couple of shots while he holds the sight picture. These hits will usually be better than his, and this will show him what he was doing wrong.

Coaching a boy in the way he should go with a rifle is one of the most rewarding of chores, particularly when it's your own boy. You may even find yourself shooting better as a result of reminding yourself of the fundamentals. And you'd better shoot well; if you don't, the boy will beat you! That's one of the nicest things about shooting: it's a sport the whole family can play together, one at which they can all excel. The kids, including kid sister, can be experts, and so can mother. You don't have to be big, or fleet of foot, to be a marksman. If you can see, and if you can listen to instruction, and if you have the patience to practice, you can be a champion!

WHY NOT SCOPE A HANDGUN?

(Continued from page 31)

fast shot with the aid of the scope. This is particularly true if there is no magnification in the glass tube, as is the case in the Weaver K1 and J1 series.

Ninety per cent of the shooting done afield, handgun or rifle, will be fairly close shots. The IX scopes have no magnification, therefore can be nearly compared to a peep sight that had a fine sighting point and perfect clarification—something that is not possible. The reticle and the target are in the same focal plane when a scope is used.

One fall, I was hunting in the Primitive Area of Idaho for elk. Every morning I would pass ruffed and blue grouse on the open ridge trail. I would have liked to bag them for camp meat, but I thought it wiser to avoid any shooting for fear of spooking elk that might be near by. A few days later, after whetting my appetite day after day at the sight and the thought of fried chicken, I shot a big bull. This was my release to do some promiscuous shooting.

It was late that afternoon when I reached the trail on the way to camp. As usual, there were ruffed grouse in the bushes along the trail. One of these flushed into a low spruce about 50 feet away. The big .44 Magnum handgun is quite destructive at this range; a body hit would leave very little for the skillet. But the Weaver K1 crosshair quartered the head of the grouse, and a moment later that head was gone.

This type of shot is simpler with the finer sighting of the crosshair reticle than that of the common patridge type front sight. The patridge front sight on most handguns is either one-tenth or one-eighth inch wide. This is one of the most accurate iron sights possible to make. But at 50 feet, the patridge sight is as wide as a standard bullseye—about two and three-quarter inches. No matter how accurate the sight may be, on a small or

distant object it immediately becomes too big a tool for fine work.

On an Alaskan brown bear hunt with a .44 Magnum revolver, I shot and hit a brownie twice in the chest as it was coming towards me, hitting it at about 60 feet. After trailing him a short distance, I came upon him again just as he was getting to his feet. At 20 feet, the crosshairs of the IX scope was on his head for a quick kill. But the shot was a couple of inches low and only broke his jaw. I had drawn another .44 Magnum with regular iron sights as an auxiliary in case I needed it, but I did not use the iron sighted revolver; I used the scope. Why gamble on a second-rate piece of equipment when you have something better?

The third shot clinched it. And many men have needed more shots to down brownies with high-powered rifles.

Every rifle shooter knows that an open iron sight cannot hold a candle to a scope, whether it is a one or multiple power. Yet, for some reason, when such a thing is mentioned for handguns, they close their minds.

I have made three big game hunts in Alaska, and many side trips to other big game country. All my hunting was done with a scoped handgun, and I have been able to bag Dall sheep, brown bear, black bear, deer, elk, and assorted smaller game. I give a great deal of credit to the use of the scope. Shooting ability is necessary, of course. I have a fair amount of this, but in my home town I cannot take first place in a shooting match. With the scope, you don't have to be a pistol Master—any more than you have to be a National Champion with a rifle to be a successful hunter. With handgun or rifle, you need to be able to place the bullet where it will do the business. With the handgun, as with the rifle, the scope helps you to do it.



(Continued from page 26)

Juniors—Charles Keenan, Jr.—200
Sub-Juniors—Britt Robinson—197
Professional—Paul Smith—199

Champion of Champions

Men—Co-champions—

Dan Orlich—George Snellenberger
Junior—Women—Mary Christopher
Junior—George Burruss—100 (175x175)

Zone Singles Champion—

C. E. Barnhart—100 (50x50)

Zone Team Champion—Central Zone 987

(Marvin Driver—J. T. Hughes—John Sternberger—Bob Stifal—Gus Wesley)

State Team Champion—Indiana—988

(Lee Davidson—Joe Fields—J. T. Hughes—Earl Toliver—Roy Williams)

Doubles—Champion—Joe Hiestand—98

Class A—John Sternberger—97 (59x60)

Class B—Harold Grewe—95 (18x20)

Class C—Carl Friesen—96

Class D—James Barker—92 (19x20)

Women—Gale Pierson—91

Juniors—Glen Everts—95

Professional—Paul Smith—98

Vandalia Handicap—Saturday

Champion—Paul O'Brien, Jr.—99 (25)

Women—Gladys Pfost—97

Juniors—Bill Heiter—96

Professional—Bob Andrews, Jr.—95

High-Over-All

Frist—John Sternberger—976x1000

2nd—Dan Orlich (toss) 974x1000

Class AA—Ira Eyler (toss) 97x1000

Class A—Elmer Lucas—967x100

Class B—J. Robert Boyd—962x1000

Class C—Howard Wilkin—938x1000

Ellis Rhodes—938x1000

Class D—Dr. W. H. Northern—935x1000

Women—Helen Urban—936x1000

Juniors—Glen Everts—960x1000

Professional—Paul Smith—960x1000

High-All-Around

1st—John Sternberger—394x400

2nd—Dan Orlich (toss)—391x400

Women—Mary Christopher—371x400

Junior—Glen Everts—382x400

Professional—Paul Smith—384x400

LOAD ON SUNDAY

(Continued from page 18)

with the regulation .58 caliber rifled musket and the .44 Colt Army revolver, literally scores of different carbines, rifles, and revolvers (requiring an equal number of specialized cartridges) advanced or retreated with the Union army.

With the exception of an odd little hump, which housed the lever mechanism, just in front of the trigger, the Spencer carbine did not look much different than the ordinary Sharps, Burnside, or other single shot arm of the period. Its secret of sustained shooting lay in a tubular magazine encased in a tunnel in the butt stock, similar to that of the Winchester Model 63 .22 caliber rifle. On the underside of the gun was a combination lever-trigger guard similar to the one on the Sharps paper cartridge breechloader. (In fact, a number of Sharps and Spencer parts were interchangeable.) When this lever was pushed forward, the fired shell was ejected, and a fresh one popped into position from the magazine tube in the stock.

Actually, the Spencer action was somewhat naïve in comparison to the new Winchester lever action principle, but nevertheless the gun was rugged and amazingly cheap for its complexity. Its rate of fire was formidable, especially if you were facing an opponent with a muzzle loader. With only one magazine, the rate of fire was limited to seven or eight spaced shots in a minute; but if loaded spare magazines were available, the gun would deliver up to fifteen shots a minute, a worthy candidate for the Confederate nickname of "machine rifle." Early models of the Spencer were made in the traditional long barreled, full stocked musket pattern. Since this neither increased firepower or effectiveness and served to decrease handling ease, Spencer made another break with the past by concentrating on the short, light carbine for cavalry use. Eventually, these outnumbered the long guns by about eight to one.

As Wilder's "Lightning Brigade" and other units with their own guns racked up success after success with the Spencer, a still relatively unknown general named Grant watched

his performances with curiosity and envy. Lincoln's decision at the Mall meant a lot to Grant, who had been embarrassed at the capture of Vicksburg to find that the Confederates were armed with sturdy, accurate, British Enfields while a considerable number of his own men carried ancient smooth-bore conversions from flintlocks.

At Gettysburg, 3500 Spencers had been used and had contributed to a Federal victory well out of proportion to their small numbers. In one phase of the battle, the two great cavalry leaders, Stuart and George Armstrong Custer, met as Stuart moved in behind Meade's position to attack the expected retreat of the Federal army that never needed to retreat when Pickett's Charge culminated in failure. Custer's men made a brilliant showing that day with their new repeaters, and the illustrious Jeb Stuart, virtually unconquerable up to the Gettysburg campaign, fled from the hornet's swarm of .52 caliber Spencer bullets. Custer praised Christopher Spencer's "machine rifle" to the blue Pennsylvania skies. "I attribute the success to the fact that the regiment is armed with the Spencer repeating rifle, which in the hands of brave, determined men is the most effective firearm that our cavalry can adopt."

Often overlooked is the bloodless battle between Christopher Spencer and the War Department for acceptance of his weapon. Fortunately for the Union, Spencer won and Lincoln gave the South its most fearsome enemy—the Spencer repeater. Civil War history indicates that fighting against swelling numbers of "the gun you load on Sunday and shoot all week" was a hopelessly lop-sided affair for a muzzle-loading South.

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ing a single shell, much less the basic components of powder, bullet, and cap that had to feed singly into a muzzle gun for each and every shot.

The addition of Spencers miraculously multiplied the effectiveness and size of the already huge Union army. The Spencer carbine served to turn the Union cavalry from a sadly overburdened, under-generated, and harassed lot at the outbreak of the war, to a streamlined and fast-shooting juggernaut, more than a match for its worthy but now under-armed adversary. In fact, before the end of the war a number of instances were recorded where embattled Confederates gave up at the mere sight of approaching Spencer troops.

But the coup de grace to the South's previously splendid, successful mobile force was delivered, not by a mass of blazing Spencers but by a single gun from the Connecticut piano factory. It was spring of 1864, and the Union army was doing the invading. A relatively minor engagement was shaping up at Yellow Tavern and Jefferson Davis was on hand to witness a probable Southern success. Among the men present was private James A. Huff, a Michigan cavalryman who had previously been with Colonel Hiram Berdan's "Sharpshooters." Anyone connected with the Berdan's storied band had to be able to deliver fire at long range with infallible accuracy, and Huff was no exception. So, when he saw a splendidly uniformed Confederate officer cantering through the Virginia woods, his Berdan-instilled instincts jerked his shiny Spencer to his shoulder and his practiced eye to the sights. John Huff never knew what he did, but his shot hit the dashing and beloved Jeb Stuart and sent a chill through the Confederacy from Richmond to New Orleans.

The Spencer, revolutionary though it was, was still no blank check made out to victory for the Union. For the inanimate Spencer to do its job, it had to be backed by commanders who first recognized its potential and, even more significantly, had some idea of what it was they were supposed to be doing with it. Benjamin Franklin Butler, Massachusetts lawyer and politician, commanding the Army of the James, was supplied with one infantry and two cavalry regiments armed with the mighty Spencer. These gave him a repeating firepower of about 150,000 rounds per minute, plus his other muzzle and breechloading strength. Yet with this formidable force, the bungling Butler somehow managed to get himself outshot at the battle of Drewry's Bluff, and inexplicably surrounded at the curiously named site of Bermuda Hundred. Butler's "leadership" can be fully appreciated only when compared with an action like that at a lonely Federal outpost deep in Confederate territory where 17 Spencers held off thousands of Confederate cavalrymen and artillery pounding at them from 150 foot range! Far to the South, too, the Spencer was being misused and misunderstood. William Tecumseh Sherman, the Georgia-scorching general, direly underestimated the potential of the comparatively

dainty looking repeating carbines which had been supplied him. Had he utilized them properly, historians and tacticians tell us that his "march to the sea" might never have been required. Even ten years after the war, when repeaters were commonplace everywhere, Sherman wrote, "The only changes that breechloading arms will probably make in the art and practice of war will be to increase the amount of ammunition expended and necessarily carried along."

In contrast to Sherman's opinion of the Spencer's capabilities, Confederate officers—from their unenviable position at the business end of the Spencer—saw the gun's value with a clear, unflickering comprehension. One grey clad officer, after one of the many defeats inflicted by the Spencer, was encouraged to write: "The difference between a Spencer carbine and an Enfield rifle is by no means a matter of sentiment."

The Confederate officer's words rang no more prophetically true than at the unique crossing of the Chatahoochie River. As a small force of Federals cautiously forded a stony sector of the river, 200 British Enfields suddenly glanced formidable .58 caliber bullets off the rocky right of way. Diving for the safe but soggy sanctuary of the Chatahoochie's pebbled bottom, the Federals made a momentous discovery: the Spencer was entirely workable under water! When a man came up for air, he might just as well do it with a cocked rifle. The sight of sopping blue ghosts rising out of the depths and firing at them was just too much for the astonished Confederates, who were used to having a light rain ruin their paper-wrapped muzzle loader ammunition. The Southerners turned and fled, leaving the Union army with its most curious—and probably its only—underwater victory.

While the army was using the waterproof Spencer to its full moisture-resistant advantage, the Navy was not getting on quite so well. Early in 1865, it was decided that a combined Army-Navy attack should be launched against Fort Fisher, North Carolina. This heavily fortified and impenetrable fortress and its environs were strategically significant because they served as a massive supply point for Lee's army. Capture of this one fort, manned by only two thousand Confederates, would have a more devastating effect on the still struggling Southern army than any major defeat.

The attack began with an awesome but ineffectual battering of the Rebel fort by artillery from more than 50 Union ships. Then a force equal to that of the entire grey garrison was landed. The Navy had owned thousands of Spencers since the early days of the war—many not even once fired—but the invaders were armed with pistols and cutlasses! The "battle" lasted about a half hour, and no one need enquire of the outcome.

There was much envy of the Spencer below the Mason-Dixon line. Southern officers were day dreaming as to what they could do if positions were reversed and they were as

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well armed. Although the South had been as progressive in its arms selection as it could afford to be, just before the war the muzzle loading British Enfield was the highest-regarded weapon available in sufficient quantities at a logical price. However, as repeaters steadily joined the ranks of the Union army, a desperate South began to search frantically for an answer. One prospective but unsuccessful solution was the importation of the Le Fauchaux revolving rifle which, among other faults, was difficult to aim and subject to easy accidental discharge.

The Spencer proved unyielding and irrevocably hostile to a beleaguered South. Even the few captured repeaters could not be turned against their former owners unless quantities of the irreplaceable rim fire metal cartridges were taken with them. The rifle proved of even less worth to the pseudo-Southerner whose cowardly shot in Ford's Theatre delivered a more grievous wound to Dixie than all those staccato Spencer blasts combined. For the dozen days that John Wilkes Booth wandered at large in the wilds of Northern Virginia, he never fired a single shot from his loaded-to-capacity Spencer carbine, and today the gun lies aging in the quaint little museum across the street from the scene of the befuddled actor's last, tragic performance.

If Spencer's gun had been slow in getting started on the Civil War scene, it inexplicably died in the post-war period. In March of 1866, a number of weapons were leisurely examined under less demanding peacetime conditions (the test lasted 52 days) and the expected verdict was reached: "The experience of the late war, as well as all experiments by this board, prove that the Spencer magazine carbine is the best service gun of this kind yet offered." But here we have another curious and seemingly illogical paradox. Notwithstanding the Spencer's incomparable battle record, exacting post-war examination and recommendation, and the fact that the Government already owned over 100,000 repeaters, work was started on converting thousands of Springfield muzzle guns to breech-loading single shot cartridge arms. This ill-considered venture produced Springfield models of 1865, 1866, 1868, 1870, and finally culminated in the familiar rifle and carbine model of 1873 and its subsequent slight improvements.

Next some Washington bureaucrat decided to sell off the "surplus" Spencers at the bankrupt prices of \$7.00 each. These bargains were quickly snapped up by not so shortsighted traders who had not the least difficulty in unloading them on their red customers on the far side of the Missouri at handsome profits.

Stunned by the dissolving of Uncle Sam's lucrative account, the Spencer Rifle Company was further lashed by fate when it tried to sell comparatively expensive new models to a market loaded with slightly used repeaters at less than \$10.00. Four reconstruction years were all that Christopher Spencer's Connecticut company could survive. It closed its doors, and was absorbed by Winchester.

While thousands of ex-soldiers were hurrying home to decorate their hearths with souvenir Springfields, the remainder of the army was busily directing its attention to the neglected Indian problem. The tables were turned on the once invincible blue columns when their painted adversaries greeted the

sight of their single shot Springfields with shouts of delighted laughter from behind their shiny seven shooters.

A few Spencers did find their way to the Frontier, on the white man's side, and the story of the "Battle of Beecher's Island" in Colorado is much the same tale as those told in the War Between the States. Probably the only reason the Spencer appeared at the noted siege in the dry Arickaree River bed was that the surrounded half-hundred men were irregular cavalry, principally scouts, with a bit more freedom (and good sense) than to docily accept whatever guns the War Department happened to be handing out. The result of the Beecher's Island bout is history: Over a thousand Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Sioux under the mighty chief Roman Nose were beaten and scattered by a besieged band one twentieth their size.

Another and more famous Indian engagement had a different ending. When George Armstrong Custer went forth into the hinterlands of Montana, the Seventh Cavalry was armed with 405 .45-70 Springfield single shot carbines, originally issued in 1873. The Indians opposing Custer, contrary to many tall tales of Winchester-carrying hordes, were not particularly well armed. There were a very few Henry sixteen shot repeaters, Sharps and other good guns among them, but their overwhelming advantage lay in numbers rather than in armament. Had someone in Washington seen fit to arm Custer as superbly as he had been armed at Gettysburg 13 years earlier, Little Big Horn might today be just another scenic spot in the West, remembered for a major victory rather than for a crushing and tragic defeat.

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(Continued from page 37)

proportions and astronomic horsepower. Lew muttered something about deep sand in the desert and liking to get to and from the hunting country expeditiously. I put my rifle in a built-in rack, stashed binoculars and camera here and there and, finally, loaded myself in—all, I might add, with considerable misgivings. After all, a jeep with hundreds of horsepower? What about that carefully adjusted 'scope and what about that carcass which was the only one I had?

We started out of town in a most comforting and sedate fashion, and I was just about to conclude that my misgivings had been groundless when we rolled out on to the desert on a broad, beautifully smooth highway. That is when things began to happen. There was an ugly rumble, the kind you associate with a 3000 horsepower bomber engine, something hit me in the middle of the back, and the next thing I knew we were a projectile aimed at Montana and traveling at somewhere in the neighborhood of Mach 1.

It is said that the human animal is adaptable to almost anything. I believe it, since before long this seemed like a fine and most expeditious way of getting around, and I began wondering why anybody would settle for less. I even began reacting normally enough to tell Lew that I should like to pause before reaching the hunting country just long enough to fire a fouling shot. Lew allowed that was an elegant plan and forthwith turned off the highway, across a ditch, on to the desert. He further allowed that in addition to removing excess oil from my barrel it might be well to see that the sight adjustment had not been disturbed. In view of his infernal machine this was just dandy with me. I thought that if the innards of my scope felt anything like my innards, it was high time to do a little check-up.

Lew drove up to a mound of sand and stuck a one quart oil can on the middle of the mound. He then got back in the—the, er, thing—and drove off furiously the way we had come. He said, grinning like a skunk eating yellow-jackets, "We de-oil the barrel, we check sight adjustment, and we practice range estimation all at once." He probably wanted to add "—and we bloody well see if this dude can shoot"; but he didn't. He stopped finally, threw a blanket over the hood of the jeep, and said, "Okay. Hit the can."

I felt like the time I had to make my first speech. Anyway, it looked like just about the range at which my bullet would print about three inches high, so I put the crosshair just at the bottom of the can and touched her off. Big cloud of dust but the can did not move—not any. I decided that Lew's misguided missile had indeed wrought havoc with the sights or that I had sadly misjudged range, so I decided to pace it off. It turned out to be 169 paces and there was a hole through the can about a half an inch from center. Lew smiled. I smiled. We were both happy, for different reasons.

We arrived in game country very quickly, thanks to our advanced form of transportation and, before long, were seeing scads of antelope; and by scads I mean hundreds. We drove over many miles of desert and saw a

good many bucks, but always Lew restrained me and told me that we could find a better one. Finally, we came up on a low ridge and Lew stopped and got out his very powerful glasses. After looking off in the distance he pointed at a spot on another higher ridge and said, "Shoot it." I finally spotted what he was looking at and told him that he was really an optimist, "Okay," he said, "you shoot."

I took another couple of looks and decided that the antelope was about 500 yards away. The big .30 was sighted to be on the button at 300, which would put it about two feet down at 500; so with a little, silent prayer, I aimed between the horns of the head-on animal and squeezed her off. The recoil blotted out the scenery but Lew yelled, "My God, you hit him. He's down. You got him!"

I said I doubted it, so we drove as close as we could, walked a little way, and found the buck down with a bullet through his neck about half way between his chin and his brisket. The range turned out to be 430 paces and, of course, the bullet did just what it was supposed to do at that range. Instead of dropping 24 inches it had dropped about 12", since the range was 430 and not the 500 I had figured. I had badly misjudged the range but the beautiful accuracy of the .30 Belted Newton had taken care of me and given me a very nice antelope, my first.

The width of an antelope's neck cannot be more than about five inches, if that. Yet, this rifle, with its under minute of angle accuracy, was up to the job. Let me say at this point that I am bragging; yes, but not about me. I am bragging about a fine Winchester barrel and action, a fine Griffin & Howe stock, and a fine cartridge which I believe was first developed by Chet Paulson of Washington and further developed by Fred Huntington of R. C. B. S. in Oroville, California. I had what amounted to a bench rest. There was little or no wind. The human element was insignificant, the machinery was all-important.

After looking over the buck Lew said, "Well, it's a pretty good buck but I wanted a better one for you." So, naturally, I said, "If that's the case, what the hell did you tell me to shoot it for?" "Well," says Lew, "I just wanted you to shoot at it." I could only conclude that Lew's mind held facets too complicated for a simple New Englander.

We drank a bottle of beer and field dressed the buck. We did a lot of talking. Lew was complimentary to his hunter. I wasn't quite a dude any more. And I was complimentary to my guide. An aura of bonhomie was all over the place, and the sun was setting behind the mountains, and everything was pretty beautiful, generally and by and large. You know how it is.

When we got back to town, Jack and Eleanor O'Connor had arrived and at first I didn't say anything about the afternoon's activities—that is, I didn't say anything for about thirty seconds or so.

Jack was not interested in antelope, but Eleanor was, so the next day we all went out and Eleanor gave a convincing demonstration of what a gun expert's wife should be. She clobbered a very fine buck, running like a striped ape, at over 200 yards. She used a

7 x 57 Biesen Model 70, the previous shot from which had killed a sable antelope in southern Tanganyika.

The next day, we drove up to Les Bowman's outfit in Cody. I have known Les and Martie for 25 years or so—back in the days when they were both winning airplane races and stunt competitions. Haven't seen much of them since, so it was an elegant reunion. In the due course of time we met Prince Abdorreza and while he and Les packed off into the really high country for sheep and elk, Eleanor went home to Idaho and Jack and I packed in to Les' Pass Creek camp at the 9,500 foot level in the Thorofares. This was a little jaunt of some 31 miles and, not having been on a four-legged animal for about 8 years, I knew I had been somewhere that evening. Pass Creek is a beautiful spot. There is a river flanked on both sides by a grass meadow 100 to 200 yards wide. Behind the meadows, the timber begins and extends up to timberline.

The first afternoon, my guide and I stumbled on a bull elk standing broadside in the middle of one of those meadows. I got off the pony and unlimbered the artillery, sat down and was about to exert the last few ounces on the trigger when the guide said, "Don't shoot that poor miserable thing. We'll see a dozen better than that in the next day or so." Well, you guessed it. Never saw another less than four parasangs away. It was bluebird weather and there was a full moon. The elk fed in the meadows at night, and bushed up in the day time. They're there all right, but I was in the wrong spot at the right time.

One thing did happen. It was after dinner one night, and one of the guides had to go out. All of a sudden there was a piercing yell. He had looked up, and right in front of him was a great bear. At least, it looked big to him. So we ran out with muskets and flashlights and by this time the bear, more scared than our friend, had climbed a lodgepole pine. It was no great feat to collect the bear, whose pelt I hope will keep my wife's feet warm when she gets out of bed on a cold Massachusetts morning. He was a nice little black in the brown color phase. The destruction wrought by the .30 Belted Newton at such short range was appalling. You could put your entire fist in the exit hole.

The hunt ended, and I was supposed to be bitterly disappointed at not having got an elk. I really wasn't. I had proved, to my satisfaction, my contention that the .30 Belted Newton is a fine load; I had seen some fine new country and, particularly, I had had the pleasure of a couple of weeks of elegant companionship, good talk, and good fun. That after all, is why we go hunting.

**(In the April, 1960, article also, the author refrained from mentioning powder loads. His loads are high, carefully arrived at by tests safeguarded with laboratory equipment, for use in a specific and thoroughly trustworthy rifle. Chatfield-Taylor is not a gunsmith; he is scientific hobbyist-experimenter, has nothing to gain by recommended maximum loads that might function disastrously in other rifles, under less guarded conditions. If you try handloading along these lines, work in conjunction with a capable gunsmith, starting with minimum loads and working up cautiously.—Editor.)*

WHERE TO HUNT WHAT

(Continued from page 29)

full-body shots. But on angling shots their body-lard tends to smother bullet impact and penetration into superficial wounds; painful, but rarely fatal. Too, the bear tendency—to fall or roll at the most superficial hit—often cons the tyro hunter into believing he has a stone-dead kill; until he sees his "dead" bear highballing it to ultimate safety.

Thus rifles for blacks should use ammunition expressly designed for straight-ahead plowing, with bullets that don't readily blow up or deflect from their course shortly after impact. That generally calls for moderate to heavy jackets and either round-nosed or soft-points with minimum lead exposed. Bullets should be of middling weight, which means from 140 to 150 grains for the .264 Magnum and .270 and their like, and from 180 to 200 grains for the various .30 calibers in wide-spread hunting use.

Mountain Goats

Only a tiny percentage of mountain goats have ever been hunted easily. These pantalooned, bearded and glue-footed critters literally live on top of the world, frequently amid a devil's nest of cliffs, narrow rock ledges and slides. Despite the wicked look of their stiletto-like horns, which kill coyotes and wolves and have been known to fatally stab such fearsome opponents as hungry grizzly bears, goats take refuge in areas of general inaccessibility to such enemies—and to man.

Since they're seldom surprised by the

sudden appearance of any enemies, goats have developed exceedingly stolid temperaments. Their usual gait, even when being stalked or shot at, seldom breaks into anything faster than a shambling trot. Generally they just start climbing at a measured walk, a pace no hunter can match in that thin mountain-top air. It takes sound lungs, legs and heart to do any extensive traveling in typical goat habitat.

Including Alaska in the survey of this species, there are upwards of 20,000 goats in continental United States, but only some 600 are annually taken. Oddly enough, both Montana with 240 head, and Washington with 200 kills, both top Alaska's estimate of 125 taken as recently as the 1959 season. Idaho reported 57 taken the same year. There are also some small stocks of goats in Colorado, Oregon, and Wyoming, but they're not plentiful enough to be of significant hunting supply.

Atop general big-game licenses—costing \$75 in Idaho, \$100 in Montana, and \$35 in Washington—the same States charge \$10, \$5, and \$25 respectively, for special mountain goat permits. The sport is generally deemed so rugged that there isn't nearly as avid a rush for permits as exists in connection with many more easily pursued species.

Goats can exhibit remarkable life tenacity, especially when spooked with near-misses or superficial wounds. Their wicked horns are also remarkably brittle and a goat shot where it will roll or fall any distance can

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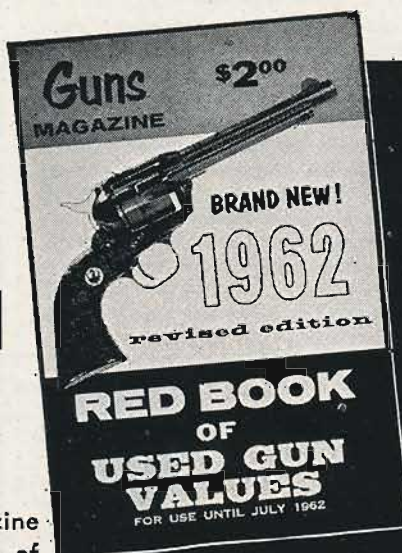
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easily wind up sans most of its trophy head-gear. Game technicians, trapping goats for transplanting to other areas, lick the handling hazard and possible horn fracture by slipping on short lengths of tough garden hose. This isn't a bad idea for the hunter to adopt to protect the horns during transportation from kill to the taxidermist.

Although goats have stepped out from behind rock slabs and other vision barriers within ridiculous ranges of hunters they're usually shot at from 150 yards on out. Thus moderately flat-trajectory rifles, using ammo of sustained energy—meaning good sectional density should be used. Animals should be shot so they go down in place and don't roll; but those found on inclines can be lung-shot, when they generally seek a level spot on which to bed down and die.

Almost any rifle suitable for sheep is also a good one for goats, though mountain grizzly hunters needn't feel they're over-gunned with rifles and loads suitable for the hump-shouldered bears. The trick is to anchor the billy where he can't destroy his trophy qualities.

Javelinas

These little wild pigs, technically known as collared peccaries, are far more sporting game than their size suggests. Javelinas hear and smell very well indeed. Thus, in the spotty cover in which they live, the best bet is to sit or stand overlooking an area where signs of their travel or feeding have been previously noted. Javelina eyesight is on the poorish side, and can easily be licked by hunter silence or immobility. But if one of a traveling or feeding herd smells a hunter its harsh grunting sends the herd rushing off in a clatter of tiny hoofs. If selecting a trophy by sex is an object you might as well forget it; it's almost impossible to do so at normal hunting ranges. These little piggies weigh from 35 to 40 pounds at maturity, when they stand between 16 and 18 inches high, with a body length of a yard. The rare 50-pounder isn't apt to be an epicurean prize since they toughen with age.

Javelinas have a navel-like scent gland on their rear backs, almost directly above the hind feet. This smelly organ must be carefully removed to avoid transferring the odious scent to the meat or the successful hunter. And, like antelope, if a game bag to protect the meat against dirt and dust is handy, field skinning helps preserve fine eating.

Although there are plenty of the wee-porkers in New Mexico, that State also has a lot of feral tame pigs running around loose. A hunter who smacks one of those can readily find himself in a jackpot of warden or landowner ire. Texas has the largest javelina population though non-residents usually have to buy hunting rights, of all kinds, in that State, plus a license fee of \$25. Arizona charges non-residents \$5 and its javelina hunting is generally far better because of more accessible range. The hunting season generally runs through the early months of the years so frozen-out Northerners can sample an unusual and exciting hunting sport.

Kills reported for 1959 showed that Arizona harvested 3,098 of its 12,000 head, while Texas reported a kill of 1,200 out of parent herds totaling 125,000. New Mexico and Nevada, the only other States having jave-

linas in residence, had no open seasons.

Almost any rifle, from a ".30-Twice" on up, will neatly take these little pigs. The main problem is getting a clean shot at a single target while the piggies are feeding or traveling. Any reasonably solid hit should produce some 25 pounds of choice field-dressed pork.

Wyoming Moose

The *shirasi* moose of the central Northwest is the baby of the moose clan; though moose are the largest of our North American deer. Canada moose are next in size, though both of these lesser forms are overwhelmed by the Alaska-Yukon jumbos of the Far North. Alaskans, and visitors, kill some 4,000 of these whoppers every year.

Wyoming moose are now found in six Western States and are showing satisfactory increases in all of them. Slightly over a ten per cent harvest is annually taken off parent herds that total over 10,000 head. Wyoming held the edge with 659 kills in 1959, Montana was second with 400, and Idaho



contributed 58. Only a handful were taken in Utah, while Nevada and Washington held no open season to build their herds further.

Since moose are massive of body and heavy of bone they require considerable rifle to kill them cleanly. Occasional kills are reported by .270 users, using handloads with bullets at the 150- to 170-grain level. But a much better bet is to begin at the .30-06 level, with ammo carrying bullet weight of 200 grains and on up. Most experienced hunters go even higher in rifle power, using the .300 and .375 magnums.

Wyoming sells a straight \$75 non-resident moose license, while both Montana and Idaho require general big-game licenses to make visitors eligible for moose permits. These costs run to \$100, plus a moose permit for an added \$25 in Montana, and \$75 plus \$10 in Idaho.

Bighorn and Desert Sheep

Both of these members of the mountain sheep family belong to the bighorn branch of the wild sheep clan. Thus their main difference lies in their choice of habitat—the Rocky Mountain bighorns inhabiting the northern reaches of these mountains, while the Desert sheep cling to the more arid and barren southern stretches of that mountain chain. Centuries of lean feed and scant water have made the latter a much less massive animal than his cousins.

Although there are possibly as many as 25,000 bighorns in the Rockies between Canada and Mexico, their increase much beyond that point is very uncertain. In fact, due to overgrazing of high mountain meadows by other big game and summering bands of domestic sheep, it is quite unlikely these grand gamesters will even be able to hold to that figure. Occasional increases are

balanced by die-offs due to parasitic diseases they often pick up in ranging behind the domestic sheep.

Wyoming is the non-resident's best bet, with about 150 bighorn permits annually available in separate hunting areas. Montana offers about 65, though transplants may improve that number in the future. Idaho does nearly as well, with Colorado and Nevada as other possibilities. Wyoming charges a flat \$75 for sheep permits, Montana \$15 atop its general big-game license, and Idaho \$10 beyond its general license. All these States wait until a deadline and then, if there are more applicants than licenses, stage a lottery drawing to determine the lucky permittees.

Sheep are not particularly hard to kill. However, due to their fine eyesight, the hunter should be provided with a flat-shooting caliber that might be called on to down a trophy ram at from 200 to 400 yards. The .264 Magnum and the .270 are fine when loaded with 140- and 130-grain bullets, respectively; bigger calibers of more bullet weight, in conformity with their sectional density requirements, will also serve nicely.

Wapiti (Elk)

The American wapiti, or elk as it is more popularly known, comes in two distinct forms: the Rocky Mountain elk that is most commonly known, and the Roosevelt elk which is a somewhat smaller and shaggier beast with heavier though shorter antler spreads. The Rocky Mountain form used to be found quite regularly on the Great Plains areas during primitive days. But the Roosevelt elk always did favor the rain-forest side of the Continental Divide and its more luxurious vegetation and denser cover. In mature body size there is little difference in the two.

Idaho's estimated 80,000 elk in residence give that State a distinct bulge over the other five leaders—Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming, whose populations range upward from 30,000 head apiece. These top six States annually total a harvest that varies from 60,000 to 70,000 head. Naturally enough the kill rises in direct proportion to the severity of weather and snowfall during the hunting season. Conversely, open weather allows the animals to stay high, which forces hunters to camp, ride, and climb higher for their game.

Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming are the top bets for the Rocky Mountain strain of elk, while Oregon and Washington provide the bulk of the kill off Roosevelt elk. The annual kills in these leading States range from 9,000 to 16,000 head, depending chiefly on weather.

All of the leading elk States invite increased hunting pressure to keep their parent herds under control. Game managers claim that a kill of from 25 to 35 per cent is almost continually needed to protect lowland farm and ranch crops, fences and haystacks against winter elk damage. The big gamesters then travel in sizeable bands and often pose severe problems in the protection of such private property.

Elk are undoubtedly the top big game on which most western mountain States depend for their game income, all the way from license fees to the charges levied by guide-outfitters. Thus such States as Montana and Wyoming, at \$100 apiece, use elk as the chief attraction in package licenses which

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also include deer and bear. Montana also adds a free antelope tag in this deal. Idaho charges \$75 for elk, deer, and bear, but charges an additional \$4 for those visitors lucky enough to draw pronghorn permits as a bonus.

Guide-outfitters get in on the act with minimum costs of \$300, and on up, for seven- to ten-day hunts. Naturally, since the various seasons do not coincide entirely, even ten days isn't enough time in which to bag three or four species existing in considerably different terrain. Such multi-species trips quite frequently require considerable travel from ideal habitat for antelope and plainsland muleys on one hand to bighorn sheep and mountain goats on the other, with elk, moose and bear somewhere in between.

Rifles for elk should be chosen with a full appreciation that the critters are burly and tough and far less easily reduced to possession than deer or bear. Unless well hit they can travel fast and far, sometimes over seemingly impossible country. In good hands the .264 Magnum and .270 are adequate, when loaded with heavier bullets; but only in good hands. The .30-06 using 180-grain slugs is a definite improvement, with the .300 Magnums distinctly better for sure-anchoring kills.

Basically, all the above species of big game can be hunted with one caliber of rifle by switching to heavier loads of more bullet weight for such species as elk and moose. But this presupposes that the hunter is a good shot and has great confidence in his rifle. Conversely, if he doesn't own that ability and confidence, it does him little good to switch to a rifle of greater power if that arm makes him apprehensive of its greater recoil. Such improved killing energy is functional only if it is well delivered on the game of the moment.

I would estimate that fully a third of the above-mentioned big-game species annually killed are taken by one-rifle or one-caliber hunters; or with two rifles that are of approximately the same general trajectory and energy delivery. But I would also say that 50 per cent of these species, or more, is taken with "arsenals" of two rifles of distinctly different field characteristics. As follows:

First, for such big game as antelope and plainsland muleys, the hunter must have a scope-sighted and flat-shooting rifle, plus a knowledge of its trajectory performance and energy delivery at the longer ranges. He may get his game at close range; but he has to be prepared for the strong possibility that his best shots will be at upward of 200 yards.

The same advice applies to both sheep and goats. Many animals of these species are taken at moderate ranges; but just as high a percentage of the top trophies are taken under adverse conditions of long range, where the hunter cannot efficiently get closer and thus must take the shot as it offers.

Naturally, if he can safely work up for the shorter and safer shots, he should by all means do so.

I hold no prejudice for or against any given caliber, as long as they are made to perform efficiently and economically. During one span of three hunting seasons I used a .270—with 130-grain loads—to kill ten big-game animals with a dozen shots. They included antelope, whitetailed deer, muley deer, elk, bear, sheep and goats, and every one was fatally hit with the first shot fired at it. The two shots "wasted" were used on a bull elk and a billy goat; the former to keep him from dropping off into a canyon, the latter to keep the billy from moving onto a steep rock slide where he might have rolled and shattered his horns.

I'm 100 per cent certain that I wouldn't have done any better with any other single caliber of rifle, or load; in fact I'm positive I very probably wouldn't have done as well. But that doesn't mean that I've henceforth been continually married to that caliber as the "best" in the available firearms field. There just is no such animal.

Second, for such big game as elk and moose, and possibly goat and grizzly bear, even the superb hunter and marksman can use more killing power in a heavier caliber. Aside from goat, these critters may be encountered in thickish cover or, as in the case of the big bears, at short range. All of these game species should be put down as rapidly as possible, which means with the minimum of well-delivered bullets. If finishing shots are needed they are much more efficiently used on a downed animal than haphazardly flung at one that is heading for the horizon.

But experienced guide-outfitters, many of them fine hunters and excellent shots in their own right, repeatedly note that far too many of their clients are fearful of the recoil of their powerful weapons and consequently score badly, or not at all, with them. Power will not compensate for accurate placement of less lethal bullets. A hunter of that mental and physical makeup is far better off using a rifle that he handles with confidence and precision.

Hunters who want to keep abreast of the latest regulations in the areas they plan to hunt should write the Game Departments for current advice. Trophy hunters who wish pre- or post-trip information on all species of North American big game should address their inquiries to the Boone and Crockett Club, Secretary Mrs. Grancel Fitz, 5 Tudor City Place, New York 17, N.Y. She can furnish the names and addresses of local trophy-measuring experts for further contacts and information and also has copies of that trophy-hunter's bible *Records of North American Big Game* at \$10 per copy. From this fine volume trophy hunters can readily learn just how high they have to aim in order to get their kills into the select group of all-time records.



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THE .243 IN ALASKA

(Continued from page 21)

satisfaction. Plenty of people will say that it's not enough rifle for some of the game on which I have used it, but it has done the job when I have done mine, and who could ask better?

Preparatory to seal hunting, I mounted a Balvar 8 scope with a B&L mount on my Model 70. I was guided by the scope's reputation, since they have proved themselves in the field for ruggedness, versatility, and are non-fogging. This last feature is an absolute must for the commercial seal hunter.

Although I never was able to get minute of angle accuracy from my rifle, the 1½ to 2½ inch groups I was able to shoot proved adequate for me. For hair seal, I found that two loads were most satisfactory. The most accurate and least destructive load was 42 grains of 4350 pushing the 87 grain Hornady bullet. Also very satisfactory was the 75 grain Sierra bullet propelled by 44 grains of 4350. The 87 grain Hornady bullet with 44 grains of 4350 was highly accurate and flat-shooting, but the load is so destructive that almost every seal hit with it sank. I used 7.62 NATO brass, necked down to .243. This brass, by the way, proved to have 2 grains less powder capacity than the commercial brass.

Of all the game I shot with my .243, the swimming hair seal was the most difficult to hit. The target area is small, and care must be used so as not to lose the dead seal. The head of the swimming seal presents an area of roughly four inches long by three inches wide, and range estimation over water is difficult. Even slight waves make shots extremely difficult, and my average shots were just under 200 yards. Practically all my shooting was done from shore or from small icebergs. I lost a good many seals when I started to shoot from a rocking boat. A fully jacketed bullet might do quite well in this type of hunting, and could prove worthwhile in eliminating wolves and wolverines caught in traps.

My hair seal hunting venture proved a failure financially, but I found that I learned more about shooting and hunting in those six months than I had learned in 20 years as hunter and trapper.

My .243 has accounted for grizzly and black bear, for moose and caribou, for goats, sheep, and deer. In practically all instances, my .243 did its share, providing I held right. The .243 performed well at all ranges, and a number of big game heads dropped on the first shot. When the first shot did not produce instant death, it was a question of inadequate bullet placement. This I know, because I kept careful records, examining each kill for entrance and exit holes and extent of tissue damages.

A 100 gr. Sierra bullet, pushed along by 41 grains of 4350, accounted for a one-shot kill on a mature, fat, male black bear at 40 yards. The bullet entered between the shoulders and pulverized a 1½ inch section of the spine. The bear never knew what hit him.

Using my hair seal load of 42 grains of 4350 with the 87 grain Hornady bullet, I shot an old billy goat at 100 yards. This bullet was placed high in the lungs, and extensive damage caused instant death.

The same load accounted for a three year old buck, the bullet hitting the neck vertebra

and killing instantly.

At 250 yards, the 87 grain Hornady bullet produced a one shot kill on an adult bull moose that was climbing and moving away from me. The bullet hit the thoracic vertebrae and lung damage was extensive. These are not selected, unusual instances; they are simply typical of many equally successful kills on tough, heavy game.

Because I live by my gun, I suppose I have more stalking ability than most hunters, and my .243 performed very well at short ranges. A four-year-old bull moose was quatering away from me at 30 feet. The 100 grain Nosler, backed by 44 grains of 4831, was placed into the neck, where it pulverized two inches of the vertebrae and produced instant death. The recovered bullet had shed the front core, but was otherwise intact.

This Nosler bullet, with a slightly different load, dropped an adult grizzly bear at 70 yards. I held at the point of the shoulder and the bullet smashed the shoulder joint,

entered the lung cavity, thence into the heart.

The loads used were the product of necessity. I had neither the time nor the financial resources to develop more adequate loads—loads which, I am certain, would perform even better in the area where I hunt. Because of costs and transportation problems, I was limited to three powders (H450, 4350, 4831), and to five bullet varieties. For smaller game, I used either the 87 grain Hornady or the 85 grain Sierra, while for big game I used the 100 grain Nosler, the 100 grain Sierra, or the 110 grain Barnes bullets. All of them performed well, providing of course that I held on one-shot kill areas of the game.

It is my opinion that the .243, used with prudence and placed accurately, will consistently take all big and small game in Alaska. Considering all factors of weight, recoil, accuracy, flatness of trajectory, and the wide variety of bullets available, the .243, at least for my purposes, is the best all-around cartridge now produced.

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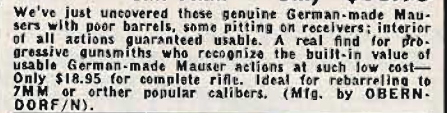
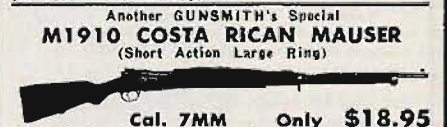
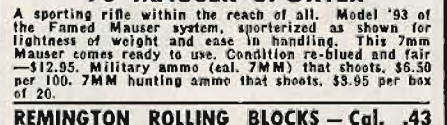
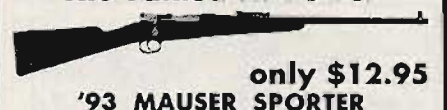
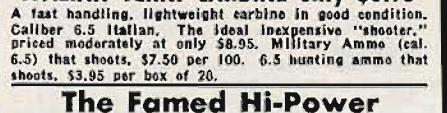
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(Continued from page 33)



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that burst. Kal knocked down mallards with regularity, while some of the rest of us were muttering unkind remarks about the ancestry of mallards, and the tendency of ammo makers to leave the shot out of shotshells.

Now, for the one sad note in the story. All this new-found interest and unexpected ability (to say the least) on the part of his associate producer failed to move Producer Harry Foster. When Kal repeatedly asked, "Harry, can I shoot (in the film)?" the answer invariably came, "No! We are not doing a horror picture!" And that was that. Harry stuck with his pre-selected cast of experienced shooters: Bill Towell, Missouri conservation director and a fine shot, Elaine Johns, a veteran of field trial shooting, Jim Dee, and the writer, along with beginners Don Owens, pro football star with the St. Louis Cardinals, and the fine little junior, Mark Middleton.

While we are telling the story of Kal Weinstein's conversion to and prowess with the shotgun, we can't overlook chronicling the fine shooting and the fun of Don Owens and Mark Middleton. Don Owens, endowed with the superb coordination of a great athlete, took to the shotgun quickly. He too ground up the clay targets thrown from the top of my Lark with a portable trap, and gave a portent of things to come in the field. Mark, and his Dad, Jack Middleton, Purina executive, shared star billing at clay targets, and Mark performed like a seasoned veteran in the pheasant sequences of the film.

As is the case with everyone who is introduced to the great sport of hunting under proper conditions, Don Owens, who is sports director of St. Louis' KTVI-TV when he is not banging heads in the pro football circuit, found hunting the greatest of fun. Even

before the film was completed, Don was negotiating for a dog, selecting a gun, and announcing to all and sundry that this game was for him. This is understandable behavior for a fellow, who, when told by Director Harry Foster to take a gun, and go shoot a duck for the camera, did just that, even though he had never before fired at a duck.

Harry had confidence in Don, and it was repaid, because prior to the shot, he had told the eager backer-uppers, who were stationed out of camera range, just in case Don missed, to lay off and let Don shoot his own duck. While this order was not received with notable enthusiasm by the backer-uppers, who were anticipating more shooting and more fun, we were duly impressed by Don's performance. Our cheers were not as full-throated as those of a partisan pro football crowd, when Don creams an opposing back, but they were just as enthusiastic.

Now, when you see this Columbia Pictures sport short in your movie theater, you will know the story behind the story; even that untold story of the most enthusiastic movie producer behind the camera.

The film "Dogs Afield" is now being shown in the movie theaters of this nation and the world. Also, arrangements can be made with Purina Chow dealers, Purina salesmen, and shooting preserve operators, for showing a 16mm version of "Dogs Afield", with commercial trailer on game bird feeding.

And you may be seeing more shooting pictures, if this overheard conversation means anything. Harry Foster was heard to say to Kal Weinstein, "How come you want to book so many shooting pictures?" The answer: Shooting's fun, for everyone, and especially Kal Weinstein.

SMORGASBORD

(Continued from page 19)

was altering the bolt handle to a neat butter-knife design, and installing a scope safety and a 3X Weaver scope. Jerry went to work on the "issue" stock. He emerged with a neat Mannlicher-style stock which he glassbedded. The finished rifle weighed in at 7 pounds 14 ounces including sling; and including the \$29.25 purchase price, Jerry paid a total of \$94.20 (\$17.00 for metal work, \$47.25 for scope and mount).

I elected to restock mine with a Monte Carlo style stock, and I chose a 4X Weaver scope. My total cost came to \$113.70 because of the added cost of the blank and the more expensive scope; but I wound up with 4 ounces less weight than Jerry.

Gun literature generally indicates a fast twist such as that in the Swedish Mauser requires a long bullet. We started with 140 grain Speer bullets. With 50 grains of 4831, Jerry's rifle hovered around 1 1/4" groups at a hundred yards. With the 120 grain Speer bullet, the results were almost as good. Despite considerable experimenting with several powders, his rifle would deliver 3" groups with the 87 grain Speer bullet. His best load was 48 grains of 4320.

My rifle proved to be an exception. With 50 grains of 4350 and the 87 grain Speer bullet, I consistently got cloverleaf 5 shot groups running barely over an inch. The 125 grain Nosler with 52 grains of 4831 did almost as well, giving 1 1/2" groups. I tried the

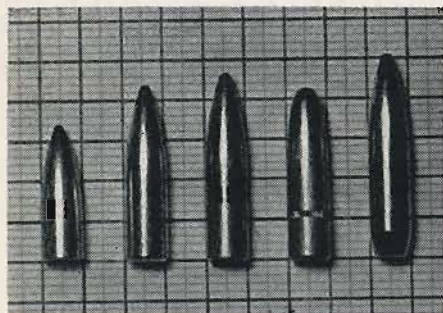
129 Hornady roundnose, the 140 grain Speer flat base spitzer, and the 140 grain Sierra boattail. I tried 4320, 4064, 4350, 4831, 3031, and HiVel 2; but my little jewel just didn't like long heavy bullets. I was lucky to get a 3" group.

Western Texas where we make our home is a flat, treeless desert plain covered with shifting sand dunes. But there is one big compensation: the country is overrun with varmints, including coyotes, crows, hawks, and untold thousands of big antelope jack-rabbits. We "blooded" our rifles on the big jacks. I used the 87 grain bullet, Jerry the 120 grain. In the dune country, we often got shots ranging up to two hundred yards. With our rifles printing 1 1/2" high at a hundred yards, we found it unnecessary to hold over at 200 yards on jacks. On coyotes, we got hits out to 250 yards by laying the horizontal crosswire on the backline. On hawks and crows, we aimed point on out to two hundred, "one head high" at 250, and "two heads high" at 275-300 yards. Jerry's 120 grain bullets bucked wind much better than my 87 grain slugs, as would normally be expected.

Along in the summer, I took my nine year old son on a varmint hunt. He shoots a hobbled off .222 Sako Marlin; I used Smorgasbord. During the day, he asked to shoot my rifle, and proceeded to blast a sitting jack at about a hundred yards. Immediately,

he set up a clamor for a 6.5 x 55.

I found one with a poor bore, but fortunately, gunsmith Carroll Williams had a Norwegian Krag barrel which he fitted to the action. We left the barrel 22" long to reduce the muzzle blast for the boy. I shortened the issue stock, and built the comb up to bring the boy's eye squarely behind the 3X Weaver we fitted to the rifle. The Krag barrel was completely free floating in the Swedish military stock, but the rifle shot quite well. With 47 grains of 4831 and the 87 grain bullet, the recoil was light, and groups ran around 2 inches. Garth and I shot our 6.5 x 55's all summer on varmint, and by fall, I resolved to use Smorgasbord exclusively for the year's big game hunting.



Favorite bullets: 87 gr. Speer, 120 gr. Speer, 125 gr. Nosler, 129 gr. RN Hornady, and the 140 gr. Sierra BT.

The antelope season is the first to open in Texas. The first week in October, Jerry, Garth and I made arrangements to hunt antelope on the huge Forker-Gage ranch near Marathon, Texas. We went down a day early, and prospected our hunting area until sundown. Jerry got worked up over a buck whose horns grew freakishly flat. He named him Old Flattop, and we scouted the herd until we saw them bed down in a *saquista* grass flat between two chert ridges.

Dawn found us on the crest of one of the ridges, glassing the flat below us. For perhaps half an hour, we watched the herd leisurely get up, a few at a time, and start to feed. Jerry eventually spotted Old Flattop in his scope, but he had to ease up into sitting position to shoot. A binocular-eyed doe spotted him, and the herd took flight. Jerry's first shot was behind, but his second sent his buck sprawling. We found the 140 grain Speer bullet had expanded perfectly at the approximate 150 yard range, making a four-bit sized exit hole.

We managed to maneuver Garth to within 75 yards of a fat doe coming in to water at a windmill; and that left me. I climbed a chert ridge, and hid in a clump of sotol, while Garth and Jerry made a wide swing through the valley. Presently, I spotted a herd trotting toward a saddle in the ridge I was on. I dropped behind the ridge and sprinted for the saddle. When I cautiously peaked over the crest, the herd was single-filing toward the gap. I dropped behind a clump of *tabosa* grass, and picked out a fine symmetrical head in the bunch. On they came, until around 300 yards separated us. Then they stopped to look back at the drivers.

Right then, I admit I wished hard for one of my high velocity rifles. With Subpoena, it would have been an easy shot. But Jerry and Garth kept moving toward them, and

presently the herd started moving toward me again. I let them come to within 125 yards before sending the 125 grain Nosler on its way. At the rifle's report, my buck humped up, and the herd took flight. He ran perhaps 30 yards before going down. The 125 grain Nosler bullet expanded to about twice its original diameter in passing through.

Because of school, Garth didn't go with me after whitetails. I took a medium sized six point buck with the 87 grain Speer at just under 100 yards. The bullet went in a little far back, angled through and came out just behind the off shoulder. Death was instantaneous from extensive heart and lung damage.

The acid test for Smorgasbord came during the mule deer hunt Garth and I worked into a weekend. Garth took a fine 8 point buck weighing in at 138 pounds from a stand we set up near a waterhole. The 87 grain bullet, at around 150 yards, performed beautifully. The shot was a bit high, but the lungs were extensively damaged, and the buck moved perhaps ten feet before going down. He was dead when we reached him.

I wanted a trophy head, and the best place to find one seemed to be in the rugged canyon country. Garth carried the binoculars and acted as spotter for me. We worked slowly along the canyon floor, stopping to glass the steep walls from time to time. I wasn't expecting the buck that exploded from a patch of whitebrush within 30 yards of us, and I scored a clean miss with two shots.

By mid-afternoon, we were both tiring. I selected a grassy knoll as a place to rest, but Garth, like most nine year olds, couldn't be still. He kept glassing the slopes on either side, and presently he located a buck lying down under a cedar about two jumps below the rim of the canyon. I glassed him and immediately got a good case of buck fever. The main beam of his antlers looked bigger than my wrist.

I estimated the range to be three hundred yards. There was absolutely no cover between us and the deer, and I felt sure the buck would spook over the rim if we tried to close the gap. I laid the binoculars aside, and found him in the scope. He was lying facing away from us. I decided to try to put the bullet in his neck just where it joined the body.

Very likely I yanked the last fraction of an ounce on the trigger. The buck bounded up and whirled, trying to locate us, stopping finally broadside to me. My second shot sent the 125 grain Nosler bullet behind the

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shoulder, high under the spine, and Garth's shouts told me I'd scored. The buck was the largest taken on the 178,000 Forker-Gage spread—and Smorgasbord had won its spurs.

It is no surprise that the 6.5 x 55 is a fine dual purpose cartridge. Ballistically, it is quite similar to the .257 Roberts, a cartridge long recognized as a fine combination deer-variant load. The 6.5 x 55 has perhaps a slight edge over the .257 Roberts in that it permits the use of heavier bullets. That it can be come by quite economically, and converted into an entirely acceptable sporter cheaply, is a "bonus" advantage.

Though factory loaded ammo is available, I regard handloading the 6.5 x 55 as an absolute must. A fine variety of bullets is available to the handloader, and Norma brass utilizing American or Boxer primers is

widely available. Completely adequate hand-loading tables are to be had in either the Speer or Lyman manuals.

My experience indicates 87 or 100 grain bullets are to be preferred for varmints, and thin skinned big game such as antelope and whitetail deer; 120 or 125 grain bullets are quite adequate for mule deer, or if you find the 140 grain bullets are more accurate in your rifle, there is little difference in trajectory or performance.

The 6.5 x 55 is no breeze-burner, but it has all the performance necessary for game up to mule deer size. You'll have to be a bit more adept at stalking, but you'll find, as I did, it's a lot of fun to rely on a rifle that requires that the hunter, and not only the rifle, deliver the ultimate in performance.



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At Camp Perry, Army SFC William B. Blankenship Jr., of Richlands, Virginia, shot 2631x2700, with 119 Xs, to retain the title of National Pistol Champion for a second year. (The man must be slipping! He shot 2636 to win in 1960; and he shot 2659 in the 1960 Pre-Perry matches at South Bend, Indiana. Maybe he was holding back a bit this year, not wanting to discourage the opposition?)

And when it comes to small-bore rifle competition—Airman 3/c Victor L. Auer, USAF, of Sherman Oaks, California, fired a grand aggregate of 4783 out of a possible 4800, with 359 x's, to win the National Smallbore Rifle Prone Championship for 1961 at Camp Perry. This is news that should be of interest behind the iron curtain!

GUN OF THE MONTH

(Continued from page 40)

Swiss Capt. Rudolph Schmidt, who sets it as 1845. This is seemingly logical, since Flobert is listed as having exhibited "muskets, rifles, and pistols" of his own invention at the Great Exhibition in 1851. Yet the catalog of this exposition in London does not describe these guns, omits Flobert's other names, and gives his address as "3, Rue Racine, Paris," which seems to have been incorrect.

These are strange phenomena, for the Flobert design swept the gun world. Gunsmiths in Paris, Liege, Suhl, and some say even in the Connecticut valley, turned out arms of the Flobert design—mostly small-caliber rifles and target or "saloon" pistols. Up to the turn of the century, Flobert-type guns were carried in all lists, at very low prices.

A table of such arms marketed in the United States would include M. Hartley & Co.'s No. 300¼ "Flobert or Saloon Rifle, Plain System, adapted to .22 caliber hall caps." The rifle, with polished barrel, oiled hardwood stock, side ejector, bright mounting, scroll guard, sold for only \$2.50. On the facing page, second-hand smoothbore muskets of almost no value at all sold for fifty cents more.

Assuredly, it was this cheap little single shot that, in the words of Charles Edward Chapel, spelled the death of that great American rifle, the Kentucky. For what boy would scrimp and save to buy a handmade "Kaintuck" when he could buy a rifle "adapted to .22 calibre ball caps" for only \$2.50? That the little Flobert rifles brought the fun of shooting to untold thousands of lads was an unexpected benefit. The man behind this gun lived to see the day when his simple conception would be used for rifles and pistols carried in every land. The copper cartridge case, and the simple and effective breech loader, were Flobert's monument.

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loaders are usually found in rusted, worn out condition. They were shot a lot, cheaply made for the most part to begin with, and the corrosive effects of the Flobert "bulleted breech cap" was devastating to rifled or smooth bores. I had once owned a Flobert pistol in pretty good, blued original condition, but had learned, like other lads brought up on Chapel, to scorn it. Recently, in a gun store, I was offered a look at such a pistol, half-hidden in the dimness of the unlighted display case. My inattention turned to excitement as the dealer laid upon the counter top the most magnificently decorated Flobert saloon pistol I had ever seen loose outside of some flossy European museum. Sculptured salamanders writhed on top of the breech tang; on the sideplate, a bird fluttered, half-charmed by a serpent advancing with yawning jaws. Two dogs fought a battle on the opposite sideplate, and along the top of the deeply etched barrel balanced by a foliage pattern were the words "FLOBERT INVENTEUR BREVETE A PARIS." I bought it quickly at what was certainly the highest price paid for a Flobert pistol to date; but no other Flobert I knew of was so magnificently decorated. It was an exhibition grade pistol in the style of Louis XVI and, wonder of wonders, the deeply rifled bore was shiny clean in spite of some surface spotting on the outside of the chiseled steel and ornulu gilt pistol.

I turned to Winant's "Early Percussion Firearms" book and found out he had precious little on Flobert. I looked up Horace Smith in Williamson's big Winchester book, and found reference to his supposedly making "Flobert type" pistols in Connecticut in 1851-2. I scanned everything I could find, for "Flobert"—found nothing! Yet I had thought the man had invented the metallic cartridge case, "as we knew it." The Horace Smith allusion, imperfectly detailed by Williamson, furnished a missing link between the work of the French cartridge engineers, Flobert and perhaps Houllier, and the development by Smith & Wesson of the .22 Short a couple of years later. But of records on Flobert the books were bare.

Having done the leg work to determine that nobody really knew anything about Flobert, with the guns of his genius, I turned to a friend in Paris, Maurice D., one of the finest scholars in the gun field but slow as molasses in letter writing. My study of Flobert had to await his pleasure, so I turned to studying the gun and doing a little shooting.

Jack Boone of the Laszlo cartridge importing folks in Brooklyn had just sent me a batch of Eley .22 CB Caps. These I assumed were the right fodder for the Flobert; at least they went in one end and when the trigger was pulled, came out the other. The Flobert design in the first model does not employ any separate breech block. The hammer itself is the breech block, and the extractors are two claws on each end of a rib across the hammer face that serves as firing "pin." When struck, the Flobert cap bulged into the recesses of the claws, and was pulled back out of the chamber when the gun was recoiled. This also was true using the CB Caps. I journeyed for a gunning day to visit friend Clyde Howell and we tried it out in his basement at the noble distance of about five yards. I took fine aim at the bull of a 50-foot slow fire pistol target and squeezed the trigger.

Two things happened. I was close enough

to see the hole instantly appear, cutting into the ten ring and, also, behind me the empty cartridge case clattered lightly to the concrete floor. I fired three more shots, each shot cutting into the one hole, and each case being either fully ejected out the back, or hanging up in the hammer face from a "short recoil" as we'd say of an automatic gun. I had not only a famously accurate indoor pistol (hardly any noise at all with the CB Caps) but an auto-ejecting gun modern as any anti-aircraft cannon! The fifth shot I either jerked or it was unaccountably a flier; some of the other groups made also seemed to toss one wild. But the bore did not foul up, and most of the cartridge cases were thrown free of the gun.

That this was not a part of the design was shown when the hammer followed forward again: the treatment was too rough for it, and the tip of the notch had sheared off. I later dressed it a bit deeper and restored the full cock of the action, but did not shoot it any more. Evidently the CB Caps were just too powerful for that design of breech. Then, finally, I visited Derumaux and found he had searched out much of the Flobert story.

Louis Nicolas Auguste Flobert was born in Paris in 1819. He died in the town of Gagny (Seine et Oise) in 1894. With whom or where he served his apprenticeship is not known. Presumably, he was article to a master gunmaker until his 21st birthday, as was the custom. Then he may have sought

employment in either his master's shop or in another, working as a journeyman.

Young Flobert first appears in print in his 25th year in the Paris City Directory as "armurier, 6 rue Racine," between the Boulevard St. Michel and the Place de l'Odéon. He must have been working on his breech-loading gun at the time, for he was issued his first patent in 1846 on a design that led to the perfected breech loader. This first design was for a special kind of percussion cap. From the patent specification of 17 July, 1846, No. 3589, issued to Flobert and his friend Antoine Paul Regnier du Tillet, we read: "System of priming firearms by a semi-conical capsule which one places in the interior of the percussion cone. . . ."

The concept required a percussion cone slightly enlarged at the back, and a copper cap drawn together at the mouth, that fitted inside instead of outside the nipple. The back of the cap was bulged with a tiny rim, but the entire head was filled with fulminate like a common percussion cap. The rim was grasped by hooks on either side of the hammer, which pulled it free after firing the shot. While the idea could be employed with common powder-and-ball muzzle loaders, Flobert discovered that an important result of his invention "is the result obtained with an indoor target pistol (pistolet de salon) . . . one introduces to the percussion nipple a No. 4 ball (4 mms) and on this ball an ordinary cap rendered conique, one obtains a

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Beautifully made and exact in every detail even to the British proof marks.

The gun is nicely brass trimmed as was the original. The lock is marked behind the hammer "Tower" and in front of the hammer is a crown over the letters "G.R.". 15 3/4" overall with 9" barrel, about 69 caliber. This is a modern made copy and many dealers have asked \$49.50 each, but my low price is \$30.00 each and \$55.00 per pair. Prepaid in continental U.S.A.

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Compression molded Imitation Stag. For most American Target Guns. \$4.50. Yes, for Hi-Stad, Double D too. Originators of POINTER STOCKS, with thumbrest, and GENUINE WALNUT TARGET STOCKS for Ruger single D & Colt SAA new model \$9. Also most complete stock of quality genuine Pearl, Ivory, and Stag grips.

ORDER NOW! REMEMBER, IF IT'S A PISTOL GRIP WE'VE GOT IT! SEND FOR FREE LITERATURE.

SOUTHWEST CUTLERY & MFG. CO., INC. 1309 Olympic Blvd., Montebello 12, Calif.

distance of the shot of 100 paces. . . ."

Though ball and case were as yet separate, Flobert was on the way to inventing the inside primed metallic cartridge, and with it his famous breechloader. The next patent was granted to Flobert alone, still working at 6 Rue Racine, on October 4, 1849 (No. 8618). For the first time, he described "A new type of firearm."

"This invention consists of a new mechanism or hammer (percuteur) which permits me to make a great saving of price in new guns, that is to say musket, rifle, pistol, from the littlest calibers to the biggest muskets, combined with metallic cartridges in which the power is derived from fulminating powder with addition of sporting gunpowder." The drawing illustrates the hammer and breech block in one piece, with hooks for catching the cartridge rim, as in the exhibition pistol pictured with this article.

The cartridges are quite clearly pictured: in one the round ball fits at its diameter into the metallic case which carries not only priming in the base but in Flobert's own hand the words "poudre noire," black powder, inside. A shot cartridge was also shown, and table-top tools of press type for loading the special ammunition.

Unusual in design, the patent-picture guns have metal breech structures, with removable sideplates. The barrels in both long gun and pistol are held to the metal frames by a single screw from the bottom. Either grip or stock is attached to the frame at the back by screws.

Though a relatively standard form of trigger could be used, Flobert seems obsessed by super accuracy, and conceived of a very soft let-off, using a button trigger. The button was of wedge form, and when pressed back, the side slid against the bottom of the frame, moving the sear smoothly free of the hammer notch. A screw in the center of the button permitted a fine adjustment of triggerpull. Flobert's "saloon pistol" if chambered for .22 Long Rifle and made secure in the breech, would be in good company today with modern Free pistols!

By 1851, Flobert felt prosperous enough to go to London. He saw many things there, including the revolving pistols of Colonel Colt, and the interchangeable Mississippi rifles of Robbins & Lawrence. It will be remembered that Robbins & Lawrence made 5,000 unsuccessful Jennings tubular repeating rifles in 1851; Jennings rifles that led to the development by Horace Smith of an improved form using metallic cartridges patented in the summer of 1851. Whether Horace Smith met Flobert at the Great Exhibition is uncertain, but there is much uncertainty about the exact schedule of Smith's activities in those days. Smith, working with Robbins & Lawrence on the Jennings gun (Smith's improvement, Pat. No. 8317, Aug. 26, 1851), might have been at the Great Exhibition with the Robbins & Lawrence display. If so, he must have been much impressed by the just-unveiled Flobert pistols and the Flobert bulleted breech caps . . . perhaps the genesis of his own rimfire

cartridge of five years later.

Between the 1849 "button trigger" patent and the patent of 28th Dec. 1855 and 22 July 1856 (French No. 25444), Flobert matured his design. The drawing shows a pistol with the classic mechanism of the Flobert system, but was for a sort of secondary breech block locked in place by the hammer, a little like the later Remington Rolling Block, but more complicated. Flushed with success, Flobert displayed at the Paris Exposition of 1855. The report declares that "Mr. Flobert is the inventor of a pistolet de salon which is much used these days, in which the primer and the ball are brought together in a cartridge, and where the hammer, during firing, closes the breech. One introduces the charge when the hammer is cocked. The exhibitor has not failed to apply his system to small calibers. And by his persevering researches, he has arrived at the application of it to the caliber of 14 mm, which is the same as certain military arms. . . ."

The report concluded by noting the articles displayed: "Beau pistolet de salon, avec monture en ivoire, richement sculptee." By 1867, a most important year for arms exhibitions in Paris, history had caught up to Flobert and breech loaders were commonplace, as were metallic cartridge innovations. The catalog merely stated: "Hunting arms, rifles and pistols for indoor shooting, capsules (i.e., cartridges) for indoor arms. . . ."

I like to think that my elaborately finished Flobert, stock in ebony fluted and carved, was made for one of these important exhibitions. That the piece is not a series piece from the Flobert regular production is shown by the absence of Flobert's own serial number usually found stamped on the bottom flat of the barrel immediately forward of the stock tip, if the gun is a genuine Flobert "a Paris" pistol.

Though the records do not so thoroughly ignore Flobert as at first appeared, the claim is slow in coming for the importance of his work. That remarkable gun scribe of yesteryear, W. Greener, in his classic "The Gun And Its Development" (1881), states: ". . . In all saloon rifles and pistols the propellant is fulminating powder (see the patent, Mr. Greener; see the patent!) contained in a small copper case (14 mms small?), the invention, we believe, of M. Flobert, whose name is the best known in connection with these arms. . . ."

That was Mr. Greener's statement for the English edition. When he prepared his book for French consumption, he wrote a little more explicitly. We translate from the French edition, second part, on metallic cartridges, page 276: "In 1853, Flobert invented for his saloon rifles and pistols a capsule of copper topped with a ball which one introduced into the breech and, without any doubt, it is from this that came the idea of the metallic cartridge. . . ."

Few pistolers today have fanciful birds and snakes cavorting over their favorite target pistols, or writhing salamanders of silver hampering their aim at the back sight. But as you touch off that nipper nine and wish the last shot into a ten with your Officers Model Match, give a brief prayer that maybe M. Flobert, to whom fond parents gave three additional names in case you forgot one, is guiding your shot from on high. After all, he began it.

SHOOTERS WHO KNOW...READ THIS. OUR NEW MK IV 1" TUBE RIFlescope \$27.50

Our new factory contains the world's most modern automated lens producing equipment (our own development) with quality control to 5 millionths inches (as required in mil. range finders). This now allows us to build a superior quality riflescope for less than any other U.S. or foreign plant. MK. IV has blue tinted tube, Long 2 1/2" to 4" eye relief incl. 1" tube, 1.45" eyepiece, 12.5 overall. Internal adjustments. Double shock mounted optics, color corrected, 30° field at 100 yds., 4X only until '62. Fits any standard 1" scope mount.



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Send check, cash or money order. \$5 deposit for C.O.D. SHIPPED PREPAID. Calif. resid. add 4% state tax. Dealers and dist. inquire. If not superior to any \$50 scope, equal to any \$80 scope, return for immediate 100% cash refund.

PAN TECHNICS, INC. 14 PAN TECHNICS BLDG., SOLANA BEACH, CALIFORNIA

JAP SNIPER RIFLES

(Continued from page 27)

more than two or three men since this would expose the sniper to possible detection. One of the most notorious sniper tricks was the use of two men, hidden in trees. While one man searched out the enemy's position and kept them pinned down, the team mate would pick off the enemy at leisure and with great precision. It was not long, of course, before our troops learned to have their own sniper-hunters separated from the main body of men under sniper fire, and these men then had the job of eliminating the Japanese snipers.

The Japanese sniper was accurate to 300 yards. Beyond this range, his ability to place shots accurately was extremely poor. He was very slow to react to a changing situation, and his major forte was the fact that did not have any imagination and stuck to his job of shooting enemy personnel. He would not change his field of operation nor the field of fire unless so ordered. The Japanese sniper was not the best the last war produced, but he certainly was the most persistent one, and—he was not afraid to die. He was a patient man and, for his physical stature, he showed plenty of physical stamina. While our snipers were more accurate riflemen, the Japanese sniper had the advantage of numerous prepared positions which had been selected carefully for control of terrain and concealment.

During the early part of the war, the Japanese sniper was equipped with a special, "no-smoke, no-flash" cartridge. This was a standard 6.5 mm round with a reduced charge, and the bullet was a 137 grain gilding-metal jacketed or cupro-nickel bullet. The propellant was a nitro-cellulose powder and the charge was 30 grains. Elimination of flash was helped by the 31 inch long barrel of the Arisaka 6.5 mm Model 97 (1937) sniper rifle which aided the complete burning of the powder charge. The muzzle velocity of this ammunition was about 2700 fps.

The Japanese did not attempt to make special sniper cartridges for the later (1939) Arisaka, Model 99, that was chambered for 7.7 mm cartridge. Both cartridges were issued in Mauser-type clips of five rounds each, and the clips were packed in small cardboard cartons, each holding three clips. Three of these cartons were carried in a rubberized fabric carrying case.

The first Japanese sniper rifle, Model 97, was a modification of the standard Model 38 (1905) rifle. The rifle had a telescope sight offset on the left side of the receiver by means of a dove-tailed base. The scope is of the fixed focus type and of 2.5 magnification with a 10° field of vision. Mounting of the scope was done with a combination of lever and spring latches. The sniper rifle is also equipped with a special bolt, the usual sliding bolt cover, a detachable muzzle cover, and a folding monopod that is attached to the front band of the rifle. The scope is removed by rotating a lever until the knob is in a forward position. By depressing a special spring latch button at the forward edge of the mount, the scope can be slid to the rear of the mount.

The Arisaka Model 99 (1939) was chambered for the more effective 7.7 mm (.303) cartridge, and the scope was of the 4X variety with a 20° field of vision. This scope was also of the fixed focus type, and mounting of the scope was identical to the one

just described. The special features of this new sniper rifle were identical to those of the earlier arm.

The 2.5X scope measures seven inches in length, while the 4X scope is one inch longer. The smaller scope weighs 10 ounces, the bigger one goes to one pound 6 ounces. Reticles in both scopes are marked vertical from 0 to 15, horizontal 20 mils each side of the center, the markings being in 5 mil intervals. The horizontal line intersects the vertical scale at the 3 mark, and there are no provisions for windage or lateral correc-

tions. Elevation changes are effected by a rotating sleeve in both models. Eye relief is very short, and the scopes are mounted very far back on the rifles, so that the soft rubber eye piece would contact the face when the rifle is sighted. Rifles can be clip loaded when the scope is mounted. When the scopes were not used, the sniper was equipped with a well constructed canvas case that has a heavy coating of lacquer for weather protection. This case is fitted for the scope, and there are provisions for carrying a small sight-cleaning brush.

The Japanese sniper was one of the most effective of the last war; but even so, through lack of training, he failed to exploit his equipment and ability as well as he might have done.

Hunter's Code

The National Rifle Association has adopted a Hunter's Code of Ethics which, given general support, could help bridge the widening gap between hunters and the landowner who is reluctant to permit shooting on his property. With more and more hunting lands being closed, we must bridge that gap soon, or quit hunting! Here is the Code:

1. I will consider myself an invited guest of the landowner, seeking his permission, and so conducting myself that I may be welcome in the future.
2. I will obey the rules of safe gun handling and will courteously but firmly insist that others who hunt with me do the same.
3. I will obey all game laws and regulations, and will insist that my companions do likewise.
4. I will do my best to acquire those marksmanship and hunting skills which assure clean, sportsmanlike kills.
5. I will support conservation efforts which can assure good hunting for future generations of America.
6. I will pass along to younger hunters the attitudes and skills essential to a true outdoor sportsman.

NRA members get a card on which the Code is printed. Your name and address, and that of the Association headquarters, serves as an identification and guarantee to the landowner that you are a responsible person and a sportsman. Join the NRA, and get your card. It could make your hunting license mean something!

PREMIER WEATHER CAPS



Exposed rimless windows wipe clean instantly, no edges to hold dirt, rain or snow. • Waterproof, unbreekable, high light transmission. • Protect optics and prevent scope fogging. • Do not reduce lens apertures or optical field of scope. • For all popular rifle scopes. • Specify make, model and power. Price \$3.50 pp.

Designed and manufactured by
ROBERT S. THOMAS PREMIER RETICLES
PERRY, WEST VIRGINIA
(patent pending)

CASE-BRITE



"The cases I cleaned with Case-Brite look better than new." — Joseph A. Harris, N.R.A. Certified Rifle Instructor, R. 5 North Vemon, Ind.

Sold in ¼ pint cans in powder form . . . makes solution that brilliantly cleans hundreds of brass cartridge cases . . . in 3 minutes. List price \$1.75.

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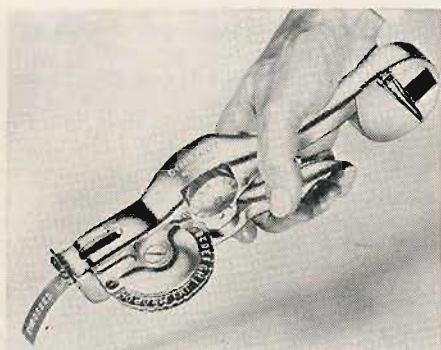
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GUNS • JANUARY 1962

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SHOPPING



DYMO MITE Tapewriter hand embossing tool prints name or any label on adhesive-backed vinyl tape in assorted colors (or aluminum or other metal tapes) for permanent identification of guns and equipment, or for labeling and identification systems. Dial letters wanted; easy grip pressure produces embossed letters. Model shown is priced at \$34.95. Could provide cheap insurance in protection of valuable guns and gear. From: Dymo Industries Inc., 2546 Tenth St., Berkeley 10, Calif.



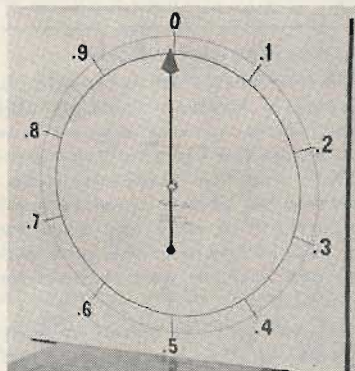
PONY SHOES GUN HOOKS. Distinctive, useful gift item made from real steel pony shoes. Will hold .22 cal. rifle to double barrel shotgun. Each pony shoe measures approximately 4" x 4". Leather-lined to protect barrel and stock. Pony nails furnished for mounting. Completely assembled, ready to mount. Can be put to a variety of sporting and home uses. Priced at \$2.95 per pair, prepaid. From General Products Co., Dept. H, Box 1304, Rome, Ga.



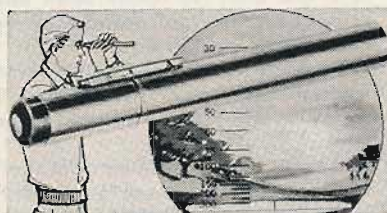
SHOOTING MITTS FOR HUNTERS available in choice of three qualities. No. 130 of all top grain leather, flare top, shirred-in elastic, \$4.95 per pair; No. 1510 with leather palm patch, tip fingers and thumb at \$2.95 a pair; No. 1811 (pictured) has embossed vinyl-coated 100% orlon fleece lining at \$1.98 a pair. In small, medium, large, left or right. All prices postpaid. Send check or money order to Merchants Sales Corp., 222 W. Adams St., Chicago 6, Ill.

"SCOTCH-BRITE" brand cleaning and finishing pads introduced by Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co., 900 Bush Ave., St. Paul 6, Minn. Hunters use pads for refinishing gun stocks and cleaning and polishing metal equipment. Pads available in two grades: General Purpose pad is fine grade, other is Ultra-Fine pad. Both types measure approximately 9½ x 6¼ x ¼ inches. General Purpose pad can also be used as a scouring pad for pots and pans in fishing and hunting camps.

FAST DRAW TIMER with large 24-inch dial designed for use in large audience shoots, shooting gallery installations and any place where visibility from a distance is important. Clock can be used with manufacturer's standard impact target or "Sound Stopper" attach-

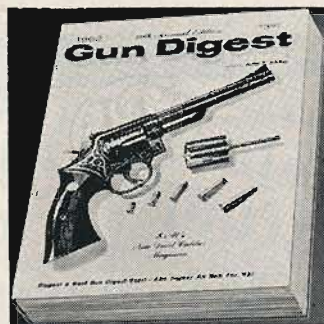


ment. Features remote reset and may be mounted on a wall. Large clock complete with impact target, finger switch, wiring, mounting hardware, etc. and instructions sells for \$93.00 from: Fastime Company, 1761 Hampton Rd., Grosse Pointe 36, Mich.



PAR-SCOPE is precision 6X telescope for all sportsmen. U. S. made, with achromatic glass optics. Compresses to five inches, fountain-pen length. Clips in shirt pocket. Can also be used by hunters to spot game, estimate range. Price is \$9.95 ppd., Pan Technics, Encinitas, California.

1962 GUN DIGEST. 16th Annual Edition of great gun book. Edited by famed John T. Amber. Giant publication contains everything about modern and antique handguns, rifles, shotguns, scopes, all accessories, plus ballistics and complete illustrated catalog



(with prices) of world's available guns. 384 giant pages. Rare Civil War Centennial Firearms Catalog of 1864 included free. All for only \$3.95 at your local dealer or postpaid from The Gun Digest Association, Dept. G-11, 4540 W. Madison St., Chicago 24, Ill.



MINIATURE 2-WAY TRANSISTORIZED RADIO. Crystal controlled walkie-talkie, sending and receiving set in 5" high case fits in shirt pocket. Easy to operate: press to transmit, release to listen, operates ½ to 2 miles. Priced \$29.95 each postpaid with battery; 2 for \$59.50; \$5 deposit for C.O.D. Offered by Electrosolids Corp., 13745 Saticoy St., Panorama City, Calif.

RIFLE RELOADING TOOL. Base price \$9.95. Simple, compact reloading outfit from JGR-Gunsport, Ltd., 2362 Kingston Rd., Toronto 13, Canada for new .22 JGR cartridge. Velocities in excess of 2200 f.p.s. using 37 grain hollow-point and 40 grain soft point jacketed bullets. Complete outfit inc. fine European-made Tyrol sptg. rifle, in .22 JGR caliber, lists from about \$69.96.



REDWING HOLSTER made of buckskin laminated on leather incorporates two corset stays to conform with gun. No heavy steel to break. Holster can be mashed flat, will pop back into original shape. Won't scratch from rough handling. Comes in black and beige, rough side out. Other colors on special order. Send hip and waist measurements, type and caliber of gun and length of barrel. Send money order for \$32.95, with measurements, to Jessie-James Gun Shop, 5626 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood 28, Calif.

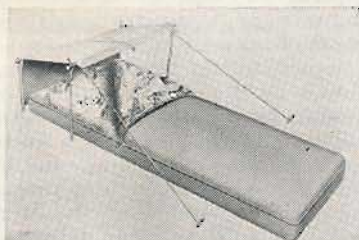
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CHEST PROTECTOR. 100% wool chest, neck protector repels biting cold winds for hunters. Neck portion of protector rolls up so that it shields lower half of face from cold. Available in buff to blend in with hunting clothing, as well as scarlet and navy. One size to fit everyone. Priced at \$3.00, postpaid from The Gokey Company, Dept. G-9, 94 E. 4th St., St. Paul 1, Minn.

FINE SPORTS ITEMS from Taylor Gifts, 226 W. Wayne Ave., Wayne, Pa. Gun and Target home shooting gallery, air gun set with electrically operated ducks spinning target and bell bullseye use ordinary house current. .177 caliber air pistol repeats with 20 BB's, also shoots darts or pellets. Extra targets, ammunition included. Shooting game priced at \$19.95. Framed maps of The World and the United States appropriate for dens, game rooms. Sportsmen can decorate their home or cabin bars with attractive wrought iron Bar Lamp. Word 'Bar' is spelled out on old-time white globe.



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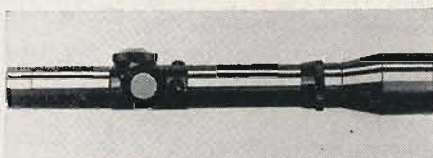
HUSK BULLETS, a .22 caliber bullet in a .308 caliber Husk. Unbeatable combination of high muzzle velocity, high sectional density. No alteration required of rifle, cartridge case, or reloading tools when loading Husk Bullet. Due to soft material of Husk, pressures and bore erosion are reduced, muzzle velocities increased. Superior target and field accuracy at all ranges. Husk acts to shield bullet proper from fast moving and erratic gases which engulf and disturb ordinary bullets at muzzle. From: Malter Arms Co., 225 W. 34th St., N.Y. 1, N.Y.

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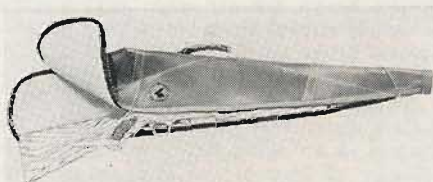


.257 100 GRAIN BLUNT NOSE BULLET. Designed in length and weight to work most effectively in .250-3000 rifles. Nosler Partition Bullets best used in, and market aimed at this high velocity rifle. Nosler bullets feature positive expansion, deadly shock, and maximum penetration. Manufactured by Nosler Partition Bullet Co., Inc., Bend, Oregon.

"**CAMP IN COMFORT**" is new booklet offering practical tips for outdoorsmen, issued by Estwing Mfg. Co., Rockford, Ill., manufacturer of prospector's pick and sportsmen's axe. The back-pack camp, emergency camp, cold weather camp, and camping tools are described with illustrations. Available to the public at a cost of 25 cents each.



STERLING'S "SPECIAL" SCOPES. Nitrogen filled, 1-inch steel barrel with internal micrometer adjustments. Dust, moisture, and shockproof. Color corrected, hardcoated lenses. Fine light gathering quality. Complete with leather lens caps. 2½X, \$20.70; 4X, \$22.25 ppd. General Import & Brokerage Co., P.O. Box 12464, Fort Worth, Texas.



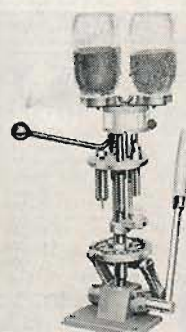
SHOTGUN, RIFLE, HANDGUN CASES of premium quality announced by Marble Arms Corp., Gladstone, Mich. Bearing "Marble's for Quality" insignia, cases were designed for sportsman who wants top-notch case. Rifle and shotgun cases priced from \$13.50 to \$25.00, available in three types in complete range of sizes. Pistol cases start at \$8.00.

A COMPLETE SELECTION of 100% premium quality Northern goose Down insulated clothing and sleeping bags described in 52-page mail order catalog from Eddie Bauer, 417 East Pine Street, Seattle 22, Wash. Prime Down insulated products offer comfort in wide range of temperatures from mild to sub-zero. Insulated clothing includes caps, vests, mitts, a variety of jackets and coats for hunters and outdoorsmen. Other catalog items include tents and boots.



SHOTGUN-RIFLE HOLSTER made of top grade heavy steerhide has 1½-inch leather belt. Assembled with rivets, it features safety with faster aim for more game, as gun points up at all times when in field use. Suggested retail price \$6.60. Available in any belt size from manufacturer: Skeet n' Field Holster Co., 14 Woodward Heights, Pleasant Ridge, Mich.

RELOADING EQUIPMENT CATALOG No. 61, revised 1961 edition, available from RCBS Inc., P. O. Box 729, 605 Oroville Dam Blvd., Oroville, Calif. An accurate, informative aid to shooters. Accompanied by illustrations such subjects are treated as rifle and pistol reloading, rifle and pistol dies, shell holders, primer feed, Jr. and A-2 Presses, bullet jackets, and kindred reloading subjects.



GRAND AMERICAN Progressive Shotshell Reloading Press. Each single stroke of operating lever completes six separate functions at six separate stations all at once. All operations in fixed sequence. Index table lifts shells to dies on turret, performing each step against positive stops for absolute accuracy and pressure controls. Resizing takes place on last step to insure crisp, factory-like reloads. Empty shell casings insert into rotating shell-holder above index base, and advance through all progressive steps with click-stopped precision, aligning each operation automatically. Finished shells are aided out of resizing die by action of crimping handle. Reloading Press priced at \$119.50 from The Lyman Gun Sight Corp., Middletown, Conn.

SHOE SAVER big boon to sportsmen who want to keep feet dry. Silicone water repellent preserves leather and keeps feet dry without rubbers. Shoes stay soft, comfortable, new looking longer, take a brighter, lasting shine. Manufactured by Dow Corning Corp., Midland, Mich.

No. 1919 WALK AND DRAW HOLSTER



Pat. #2970727
With Stainless Steel Buckles
Belt with One Holster
Tan \$36.50 Black \$38.50
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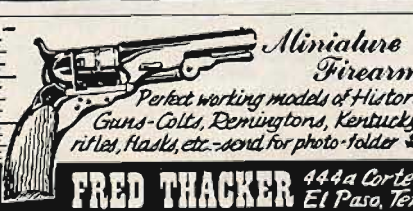


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Don't Overlook Page 66!

BIRTH OF THE BUSCADERO

(Continued from page 39)

position in the close-fitting belt canted Hughes' pistol butt forward and his holster toe backward, permitting what he depicted as an unusually "quick disengagement of the weapon."

In his matchless tome, *Fast and Fancy Revolver Shooting*, the gun-expert, Ed McGivern, gave full credit to Cunningham for explaining the source of Myres' buscadero belt. McGivern added, "The word 'buscadero' is of Spanish origin. *Buscar* is the verb to search or hunt. The suffix *dero* means 'he who is' or 'he who does.' Buscadero, then, could be translated as either *the one who hunted* or *the one who was hunted*. In the last mentioned sense, it became current from Utah to Cananea (of the state of Sonora, Mexico) in the days of Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch (probably in use long before this; it spread particularly in Butch's day) as the general name for the outlaws—the men who were hunted."

Was Captain Hughes, Tio Sam, or Eugene Cunningham the originator? The name of the person who first applied the coined word "buscadero" to the rigging does not appear as a certain, incontestable fact. Moreover, neither Tio Sam nor his sons, Bill and Dale, ever secured a patent for the historical belt.

Nonetheless, it was the fate of the buscadero belt to fare exceptionally well. It contains so many fine, mechanical features that it has become the favorite of gun experts everywhere.

Earlier designs strapped the gun holster up high on the hip. The buscadero style incorporated three radical improvements: it lowered the holster, made the gun easier to draw, and was curved to fit the body. Two billets loop onto the buscadero, one entering the hole in the belt strap, the other fastening down over it. The single buscadero of the Hughes' type supports one gun; the double, two. The loops in the buscadero belts allow various types of holsters to be fitted to them, or to be interchanged at will. It was Ranger Hughes who rounded up the last of the bad outlaws in the Big Bend country and put the *quietus* on them permanently. Thus the six-shooter won the West, but the buscadero belt helped to tame it.

Born in 1855, John R. Hughes hailed from Cambridge, Illinois, where the word "buscadero" was unknown. Later, when he had run-ins with Butch Cassidy in deep South Texas, Hughes no doubt heard the word often. Why? Because Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch, whose members included the gun-slugging Kid Curry and the Sundance Kid, were known far and wide as buscaderos. Cassidy came to Texas out of Utah and spent years in the mining regions of Mexico. According to George A. Brown, retired U. S. deputy marshal, Butch reappeared in El Paso about 1912 under an alias. He then acted as an agent for Pancho Villa, rebel leader of Mexico, and there bought from Brown a splendid horse, Prince Tyrant, a striking bay gelding with a star in his forehead. All along the Rio Grande, Butch Cassidy (alias George Leroy Parker, Jim Lowe, etc.) bore the name of buscadero.

It is probably a bit more respectable to associate the word with the law officer

Hughes than with the outlaw Cassidy. One must remember, though, that bandits like Billy the Kid, Butch Cassidy, Pancho Villa, and a raft of others, had a hand too, or both hands, in the making and molding of the West.

The invented word buscadero, though ultimately of Spanish derivation, drew its meaning from the speech of Mexico. Frequently the two Latin languages differ as much as the two Anglo tongues, British and American. A "subway" in England may designate an alternative thoroughfare, but in the United States it signifies an underground railroad. Similarly "buscadero" would stand for one thing in a Spanish sense and quite another in the New World along the southern Rio Grande. In the eminent Francisco J. Santamaria's *Diccionario General de Americanismos*, the verb *buscar* means "irritar, provocar." According to Soledad Perez, notable folklorist who lived long in Mexico, the coinage "buscadero" is familiar about mining camps in Chihuahua as a term for a bully or a trouble-maker—one who irritates or provokes. It is never synonymous, Miss Perez said, with a hired gunslinger, whom Mexicans call a *pistolero*.

The Mexican people south of the Rio Grande who dubbed Hughes a buscadero probably never thought of him at all as a hunter but rather as an official who made bothersome inquiries. Certainly they did not think of him as a cold-blooded killer, although Hughes had the reputation for shooting down his man when conditions made a killing necessary. The sight of Captain Hughes simply spelled trouble to them. Mexicans in the Big Bend would be provoked but not murderously enraged if Hughes, or one of his deputies, interfered with their smuggling or stealing when the Texas Rangers made their usual patrols up and down the Border. Unquestionably, the actions of Hughes irritated the Mexicans, for they knew him to be a man bent on straightening out such embarrassing Border incidents as stealing cattle and horses. As a buscadero, Captain Hughes acted in the lawful but informal office of what everybody now calls a trouble-shooter. He "stole" the Mexicans' "strays" in order to return them to their proper Texan cattlemen owners.

Buscaderos also gained notoriety in the days of the Wild Bunch as dangerous two-gun flagers, Butch Cassidy winning a firm infamy for his unique type of ambush, which the biographer Jack Martin described as "his usual course." Those buscaderos lived in the wastes near cow towns and mining sites. They robbed, they fought, they itched for trouble. But rowdy Butch Cassidy, Boss of the Buscaderos, was no killer! In fact, he alone among outlaws performed his daring robberies without having to kill.

On the other side, Captain Hughes had fewer qualifications as a dyed-in-the-wool buscadero. He could fire only one gun, and he shot to kill. But this left-handed Texas Ranger provided the inspiration and name for the oldtime saddlemaker's design of a harness for a faster, easier draw that has become the favorite of fast draw experts everywhere.

A HOT STOVE LEAGUE REPORT

(Continued from page 25)

"I ain't too well sold on these new short stroke pump guns," said "Clabe" Robinson, from his comfortable seat on a bag of hen scratch behind the bread and cookie rack. "I can't see where the short stroke gains anything for the average hunter, and too often it fools hunters into making too short a pump stroke and not ejecting the empty shell. I've had it happen while I was trying to get in those extra shots on the rise of a covey of bobwhites." Clabe was speaking from experience, and he is a dyed-in-the-wool small game hunter of long standing.

There was argument here, too, and plenty of it. One man sort of put an end to it when he said, "Man that don't learn to operate the gun he carries deserves trouble!" This sounded pretty close to fighting talk, so we changed the subject each man still with his own opinion.

The group assembled in Tom Bratcher's general store were typical American small game hunters of the "Average Joe" class. And this class buys more guns and ammunition than all other classes of hunters combined by far. They often meet at the country stores, sporting goods stores, or snack bars to discuss their shooting problems. Any outdoor and gun writer like myself who fails to get in on as many as possible of these sessions misses a lot. Right or wrong, the "Average Joes" are the ones that make or break the gun and ammo makers by the conclusions they arrive at during their leisure hour sessions. They know what they want and do not want, and if one of them buys a gun that, in his opinion, fails to live up to its advertising, chances are he will think twice before buying another gun of the same brand. These "Average Joes" are more interested in guns they can buy over the counter than any other kind.

In weighing the merits of any new shotgun that comes on the market, I certainly do not brush aside the things I hear at the hot stove sessions like the one briefly described. Where I have not actually had similar experiences myself, I try to get a sample of the gun in question to make some actual field tests with it. In other words, I try to prove what I write before I write it.

My small game hunting experience dates back to the early twenties. The old saying, "The Roaring Twenties," goes well with some of my early small game hunting experiences. I cut my eye teeth in small game shooting with the old Winchester Nublack and Western New Chief blackpowder shells, and with Peter's Referee semi-smokeless loads. This was back about 1918. And well do I remember on damp days how I used to have to stoop down to look under a cloud of blackpowder smoke to determine whether or not I had killed a bobwhite.

Part of my early hunting was done with an old "Belgium" hammered double 12 gauge that kicked like a steer most of the time. How I ever kept from developing flinches permanently I will never know. I finally graduated to a neat little 20 gauge hammerless Ithaca double. I market-hunted cottontails (they brought 10 cents per rabbit at the country store) and sold possum hides to pay the difference between the old 12 gauge and the new 20.

I have lived through quite a few seasons of

small game hunting, gun, and load developments. I haven't missed a season of small game hunting during all these years. And I have shot every type of shotgun ever used on small game since the muzzle-loader days. I am even having an old muzzle-loader restored at this writing, with which I plan to do some small game shooting, just to prove to myself what small game hunting was like back before my time.

Even after all these years, I do not claim to know it all about small game guns. Far from it. I will never get through learning. But I have some opinions about shotguns for small game, things "Average Joes" might be interested in hearing about, ideas that I will pass along.

For instance, my own tests have led me to agree with Poode Smith in his summary of recoil reduction. Not many of the modern lightweight pumps and auto-loaders are my idea of guns for high brass loads. They bounce around too much after being fired, and most of them kick too hard. Too hard, for me, that is.

The trend to lighter shotguns started when Ithaca came out with what they called their "Featherlight" repeater. Ithaca's pump has wonderful balance, and it has enough weight so that it will not kick one's jaw off during an afternoon of banging away in a dove field with high brass loads. Ithaca's "Featherlight" became popular almost overnight, and it has held its own for very good reasons.

Naturally, other companies tried to match Ithaca's featherweight idea. Some of them failed. I know, because I have bruised my shooting shoulder black and blue firing modern high brass loads out of some of them. Spongy recoil pads will help some, but they are troublesome, and they do not keep high velocity and magnum shell recoil from giving me a headache. A little extra weight expertly distributed will absorb the kick and "phoom" better than anything else.

Without specifying brand names, I removed some of the late model lightweight pumps and auto-loaders from my own personal collection of small game guns some time ago. The reasons: too much recoil and jar. The "so-called" short stroke of some of

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the newer pump guns bothers me a lot more than it has ever helped.

Considering the modern pumps and auto-loaders on the market today, here are my own personal favorites:

Ithaca 37; Winchester 1912 (pump); Remington 870 (pump); Browning Standard (auto-loader); Remington 11-48 (auto-loader); and Savage 775 (auto-loader). Where no loads heavier than the lightest high velocities are to be used, I like the new Marlin Premier Mark II pump very much. It is a very nicely balanced and finished gun, but a bit too light, I think, for real heavy loads.

With all due respect to their makers and inventors, I have yet to see, feel, and shoot an auto-loading shotgun with non-recoiling barrel that really appealed to me. Even the gas-operated high powered auto-loading rifles that I have tried failed to measure up to the standards that I have set.

Recoil has not been appreciably reduced in any of the non-recoiling barrel auto-loaders that I have tried. As a matter of fact, I believe that in most cases the recoil has actually been increased; I mean the kind of recoil that we "Average Joes" notice and the effects of which we feel at the end of the day. I do not know anything about factory testing recoil, and I am not arguing with it. I do, however, know something about the kind of recoil that affects me and thousands of others who tramp through the fields with guns banging away at game. If we get a headache and sore shoulder after shooting a half box of high brass shells out of a certain modern, lightweight gun, then I can give the gun makers a tip and tell them that we do not want that kind of gun. Most of us had far rather pack around a pound of extra gun weight than a splitting headache and a sore shoulder.

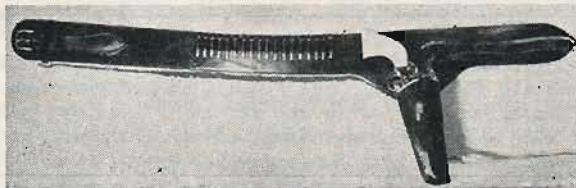
Practically all of my small game hunting is done with a 12 gauge gun. Only rarely do I use a pump or auto-loader weighing less than 6½ pounds. The weight I prefer is

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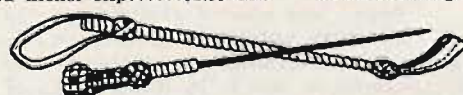


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between 7 and 7½ pounds for auto-loaders and between 6½ and 7 pounds for pumps. The nearer a 12 gauge pump is to 7 pounds, the better I like it as a general rule.

As already indicated, I am not too well sold on the newer short stroke pump shotguns. As with the gas-operated auto-loaders, I have too many malfunctions with them. The short pump stroke bothers me to the extent that I all too often fail to work the pump properly during fast shooting. And the gas-operated auto-loaders I have tried malfunctioned a lot more than the auto-loaders with recoiling barrels. Until the gun companies can make some improvements in their gas-operated auto-loading shotguns, I, for one will stick to the models that have recoiling barrels.

Like many thousands of other average American small game hunters, I seriously doubt if I will ever go back to double barrel or over-under shotguns. Good guns of these models are no longer economical, that is, what I call really good-for-the-money guns like our modern pumps and auto-loaders.


The "Average Joe" small game hunter of today will do well to buy a modern (not too light) three-shot pump or auto-loading shotgun. He will definitely get the most for his money by so doing. The only doubles I now own are in my gun collection and I rarely shoot any of them.

The "Average Joe" who goes down the street to the nearest gun shop just before hunting season to buy himself a new shotgun will profit by doing some serious thinking.

First off, if "Joe" is going to shoot ducks and geese mainly, and maybe a few pheasants or prairie chickens in open country, he will profit by choosing a 12 gauge gun with a 28 inch barrel—modified or full choke. Or if he plans to also do some brush country shooting for quail and the like, he may choose a 26 inch improved cylinder bored barrel and have a choking device like Poly-Choke or Cutt's Compensator installed. The extra attachment on the end of the barrel bothers some hunters in their aiming, but the extra bulk does not seem to bother many shooters. If I were using a choking device, it would be

on an auto-loading gun instead of a pump, simply because I can aim an auto-loader quicker in fast brush shooting.

Dry shooting—quick aiming practice swings—helps determine good stock fit in a shotgun. If the stock drags on the outer clothing while raising the gun to the shoulder speedily, it usually means that the stock is too long. A properly fitted gun will allow perfect freedom of action and movement. No one can shoot well with a poorly fitting shotgun. It is true that a hunter can adjust himself eventually to almost any gun of reasonable dimensions, but it is not true that doing this is the best course to follow. Such adjusting periods can be avoided if the hunter buying a new shotgun will spend a little time getting the feel of various guns. Custom shotguns come too high for most of us.

A good over-the-counter shotgun properly cared for will last for a lifetime of average small game hunting. Treated like a stove poker, the useful life of any shotgun will not be very long. So take care of your gun and it will serve you long and well. 

WHO'S WHO IN SHOOTING

THREE MEN were named as the outstanding promoters of shooting during 1960 at the Second Annual Conference on the Shooting Sports in New York. Winning cash awards by "Field & Stream" magazine were Ben Avery, Phoenix, Ariz., Harrell Kanzler, Columbia Falls, Mont., and Joe Carten, Stratford, Conn. The three men were chosen from several hundred nominations by a committee headed by Lt. Gen. James Doolittle for their efforts in the promotion of shooting in their communities and states. Doolittle presented the awards.

Avery, a shooting leader in the Phoenix area, has been a prime mover in Junior National Rifle Association activities, in firearms safety and hunter-training courses, and in the control of restrictive gun legislation. Almost single handedly he gained legislative and popular support of the Black Canyon Range, a 1,200-acre shooting area on state-owned land, with 100 firing points and more under construction. It was a seven-year job.

Kanzler, second-place winner, instituted club activities in the Flathead River Valley of Montana as a member of the Glacier Rifle and Pistol Club. Later, he went on to the Columbia Falls Rifle and Pistol Club and its affiliated Northern Rocky Mountain Sportsmen's Club. A hunter as well as a range enthusiast, Kanzler has introduced his own and many other youngsters to hunting. He also helped write the Montana code for hunter safety training, and pioneered its application.

Carten, third-place winner, is a lieutenant of the Stratford, Conn. police department. He was a leader in the training of youngsters in the safe use of small arms through the local Police Athletic League. A life member of the National Rifle Association and a graduate of the New York

and FBI police academies, Carten has spark-plugged a club activity that in ten years has trained 1,500 youngsters in firearms skills and safety, won Blue Trail Range championships every year since 1953, produced precision rifle exhibition teams to perform before church and civic groups, and developed squads and individual shooters that have won more than 4,000 awards.

Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall was the featured speaker of the conference, which was attended by more than 100 executives of companies directly concerned with shooting. Udall warned the group that sportsmen in the United States are being faced with fewer and fewer places to hunt and fish each year, and he pointed out that if we are to be morally as well as physically strong we must have outdoors to use. For that reason, the Secretary explained, we must conserve our outdoor heritage.

Earlier in the conference, Gov. Joe Foss of South Dakota urged the representatives of gun-manufacturing companies and allied industries to take aggressive action to protect shooting from restrictive legislation by informing the public about the values of shooting as recreation.

At a midday business meeting the members of the conference voted to form the National Shooting Sports Foundation as the beginning effort in unifying the promotion and protection of shooting. Fred A. Roff, Jr., of Colt's Patent Fire Arms Company, Hartford, Conn., was elected chairman of the executive committee of the new organization. Other members of the committee are E. H. Hilliard, Jr., of Redfield Gun Sight Company, Denver, Colo., William Ruger of Sturm, Ruger & Company, Southport, Conn., and H. G. Williams of Browning Arms Company, Ogden, Utah.

HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 9)

The odds of finding this condition today are about like drawing four aces in four consecutive poker hands. But take a lesson and don't be stingy with new brass. It's often a bargain!

Brass suffers from fatigue in cold working, the same as it's weakened from over annealing. It can happen during manufacture, but is generally found in reloads. Over-worked brass is most often the fault of poor quality sizing dies, even when used for neck sizing. Slight defects in brass often do not show up with the first firing, but the second firing magnifies the defect. This is one reason factory ammo so seldom has a case failure. Cold worked brass, especially if fired in sloppy chambers, often shows premature neck and body cracks. This is rare in modern Hi-V factory loads. Occasionally .38 Special mid-range stuff cracks on the first firing. There has been so much of it that I'm not in favor of using untested .38 hulls for hot loads in .357 Magnums.

In the black powder "daze" of the famous .44-40 you packed a case pregnant with FFg black, and thought of pressure as something to put on cheap politicians. A puny spark from the crummy primer would kick off the charge pronto, unless the powder had absorbed moisture. So would a spark from a cat's whisker. Firearms efficiency was low. Life and reloading were not complicated. Hunters got close and placed a slug well. But a good many rounds were expended for every clean, one-shot kill, despite the feats you hear of top shooters, and see on the family Idiot Lantern (TV).

The old primers won't do the job with modern coated powders. Modern primers are hotter than a \$2 pistol. They must supply fast, white-hot heat for perfect ignition. Those designed for handloading do a wonderful job with the type of tools we use. Switching primers may cause a considerable change in pressure for a given load.

A pressure increase can result from excess primer gas. Some firms use varying amounts of one compound in all primer types. CCI, for example, makes nine types for handloading. Formulas were developed for each type of powder they were designed for. Their new

Magnum types ignite coated powders perfectly and completely, using new high energy fuels and oxidizers. CCI's standard type, that set a world's record back in 1955, have the desirable qualities of prolonged heat with little primer gas, for a low velocity spread. The Magnum formulas carry these features even farther, and are best with coated powders.

A loud Bang! doesn't mean you get fast, complete ignition. CCI Magnum No. 250 gives a progressive detonation (or more correctly burning) with a white cone of fire surrounded by flame. The powder soaks up heat like a blotter soaks up ink for complete ignition. It's excellent for slow powders such as 4831, 4350 and 4320, working well in cases from the .30-30 to .300 Weatherby Magnum we've tested. I agree with Ray Speer, of Speer bullet fame, that CCI Magnum's do not unduly increase pressure. Ray says, correctly, an exception is when loads are near the primer leakage stage, which is too hot anyway.

If you cuss 2400 because it doesn't burn completely in Hi-V handgun loads you'll love CCI Magnum's. Some lads get away with loading too much 2400 because they don't get complete ignition. A good, not max load, is 15 grains in .357 cases with CCI Magnum No. 550 behind a 127 grain half-jacketed swaged pill. The charge is not as impressive as damage on the terminal end!

CCI's Standard pistol primers are best for powders such as Bullseye that requires entirely different ignition. These nearly eliminate the burning particles so desirable for coated powders. Ignition is primarily by a short cone and soft flame, so perfect they have won many matches. All CCI pistol primers we have tested exceed drop test specs for sensitivity, making them excellent for target or weak spring guns.

A few years ago N/M, N/C (Non-Mercuric, Non-Corrosive) primers were "hot," meaning they detonated violently. They increased pressure without a corresponding increase in velocity. The old corrosive formulas actually gave the best ignition, which is why the military kept the old FA-70 mix so long. Modern primers give fast, complete ignition. CCI deserves much credit for the long hours of research and testing that brought us their new Magnum types. They are one more advance in firearms progress.

With a batch of hulls to fill, and running out of space, I'll have to discuss in a later column how excessive pressure is caused by bullet seating, case sizing, powders, and other factors. Until then, play it double safe. Work up loads for your particular piece, with your components, or check your current loads for high pressure.

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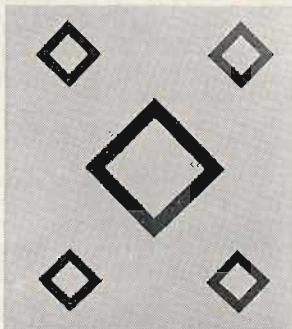
GUN RACK

(Continued from page 8)

gun is rested on a support for a youngster. This is not a sporting rifle, but never was meant as such; it is, however, a lot of fun to shoot.

Sighting Targets

Borrowing a leaf from the bench rest clan, Mason Williams of Shooters Service, Clinton Corners, New York, has now available the new sighting targets that we have been waiting for. With the crosshairs, tapered post, or



dot, it is very simple to hold the same position on the target shot after shot, and this is particularly important in rifles of heavy recoil. The gray paper on which the targets are printed aids substantially in reducing sun glare on the range, and the heavy black lines of the squares show up well, even when iron sights are used. The small squares are 1½" across, the big one measures 4 inches.

Mossberg 500

The new Mossberg 500 12 gauge pump gun got a good workout here, and it performed very well. What pleased shooters and observers alike was the latest feature, the location of the safety—on the top, where it belongs.

The gun weighs 6½ pounds, holds six shells, and is available only in 12 gauge. However, a variety of barrel chokes and lengths are available, as are barrels with Mossberg's C-Lect Choke—thus making it possible to own several sets of barrels for one action. The gun does not need to go to the factory for barrel fitting, and putting a barrel on the gun is simple: just put it on and screw it down. (For those who shoot 3 inch magnum shells, a special barrel and a fitting 13 oz. steel plug for the stock is also available.)

The gun comes equipped with a rubber recoil pad. Accidental doubles are eliminated by the disconnecting trigger mechanism. Loading is simple and fast, performance of the gun was very good and smooth. Loaded shells are removed easily without pumping shells out and a magazine plug is supplied in order to conform with the Migratory Bird Law. Positive feeding of shells is accomplished with the extra large, double shell releases, and the action must be closed and locked before the trigger can be pulled. Take-down is simple and the gun can be

(Continued on page 65)

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(Continued from page 63)

stripped without tools in a few minutes.

Editorial deadline prevented us from running pattern tests with the gun, but it worked fine on a dove hunt and also on claybirds thrown from a handtrap. Empty hulls are ejected smoothly and the function of the gun was completely satisfactory. Feeding failures did not occur, and the safety was strong and positive. Comment: A reasonably priced, well-functioning pump gun that has stood extensive tests very well. If it is a pump gun you are after, take a look at the Mossberg 500. The wide choice of barrels should make this a very popular shotgun.

Hollywood Shotgun Loader

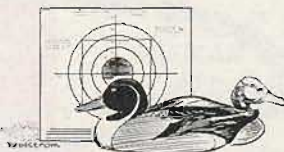
On his way back to Hollywood, Lyle Corcoran stopped by after spending a week at Vandalia. He carried in his truck the new Hollywood Automatic Shotgun Loader, and it is quite a tool. We dug out some empty 12 ga. hulls, about 800 of them, and reloaded them in less than half an hour. Despite all efforts to make the tool malfunction, every round came out perfect. The only trouble found was—the tool is so fast you need an assistant to pour shot, powder, primer, wads, and empty hulls into the feeder tubes.

This is not a tool for the fellow who reloads a couple of boxes a week. It is a production tool that cranks out perfectly loaded cases at the rate of 1800 an hour. It costs \$575 complete for one gauge—and this is cheap for the man who needs volume production.

The tool can be taken apart and cleaned quickly and easily, if the need arises. Every thread is machined to close tolerances, and if the operator does his part in keeping the feeder tubes loaded, there is no way for the tool to malfunction. One of the problems in

mass reloading shotgun hulls is that they have to be sorted and inspected and still every so often, a mangled case slips into the feeder tube. In order to see what would happen with such a case, we slipped one such case into the tube. Result: One slightly seedy looking hull, but perfectly loaded and it functioned smoothly in a Model 50.

The instructions that come with the tool are clear. Each step is shown with pictures and diagrams showing how to adjust or clear the tool. Powder and shot measures are a part of the tool, and loads can be adjusted without extra bars. Other gauges should be available in the near future, if Corcoran can catch up with the orders he now has for the 12 gauge Automatic Loader. This is the tool for the club, the commercial loader, or for the man who shoots a lot.



Trajectory Calculator

The trajectory of a given bullet or even of a fellow's favorite rifle seems to be cloaked in mystery to the average shooter. The gun sighted in for 100 yards must be held high for a shot at 275 yards, but most hunters don't know just how high they must hold to connect with the target. Ballistic graphs and charts are of course available, but they usually are stored away at home, safe but useless when needed. The Trajectorygraph, Hondo, Texas, is available in all popular calibers and sells for \$1.98. With this plastic gadget, it is a simple matter to visualize just where your bullet will strike and it would be

a worthwhile investment to have one of these on hand for every caliber gun in your gun cabinet.

Bucheimer Gun Cases

This company manufactures a number of gun cases that not only have eye appeal but, are ruggedly enough built to withstand heavy usage. This writer purchased one of these cases quite some time ago and the case has seen a lot of hard wear, yet it looks as new as the day it came off the gunsmith's shelf. Bucheimer also makes a line of handgun holsters and belts, including some fast draw rigs which are handsomely made from top grain cowhide. A good gun case, pistol rug, or holster is a good investment for the protection of the gun and these Bucheimer cases meet all our requirements.

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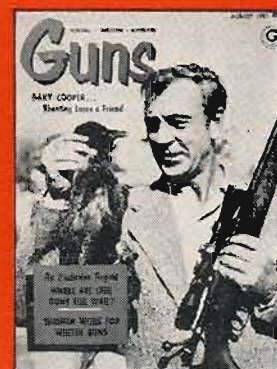
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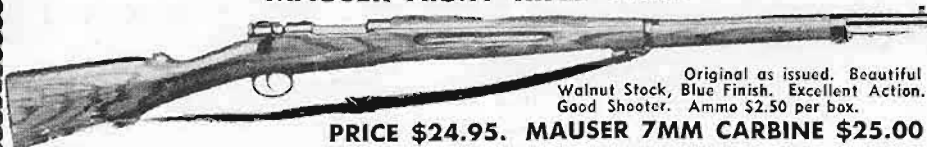
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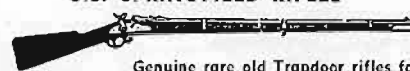


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