

Guns



FEBRUARY 1956 50c

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Nazi swastika (black on silver) on red and white diamond, the German Jugend insignia. A small lot found by our agent was imported by us from Europe. Sheaths are black steel and leather. Rare collector's find, an excellent hunting knife.

Send Check, Cash or Money Order. No C.O.D.'s. Add 80¢ per knife for U.S. A.P.O. or F.P.O. air mail.

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tion. These nineteenth century Toledo blades can be bent nearly double without showing any sign of a set. Our European agent informs us that these sabres are about 1875 vintage. They were found in a remote European ordnance depot and imported directly by us. For C.O.D. send \$3 deposit.



A. 6-SHOT MAGAZINE

B.

C. 6-SHOT MAGAZINE

A. 30/06 U.S. ENFIELD RIFLES

This is the famous 30/06 American-made Enfield Rifle. We now have received shipment and guarantee VERY GOOD condition. This is a proven hunting weapon as is, with all desirable Enfield qualities plus the ability to take the .30-06 cartridge, available

B. FABULOUS U.S. SPRINGFIELD RIFLE FIND

BACK FROM BRITAIN. This may be the last lot of the famous U.S. Springfield Model 1903, CALIBER 30-06, ever located for public sale. We believe these guns were shipped over early in WW II. They are GUARANTEED EXCELLENT. In other words, they are in beautiful shape! This is the most accurate and dependable military rifle ever made and an all-time favorite hunting

C. HUNTERS! CONFISCATED RUSSIAN RIFLES

This is the late Russian Model 7.62 MM Mosin Rifle, approx. 30" barrel. Mechanically perfect. Outside: good. Bore: fair. Ballistics: 2820 F.P.S. with 150 grain bullet. Ammunition available everywhere in U.S., an excellent hunting cartridge. Hinged floor plate. Russian ordnance marks on receiver. The Russians won the International Meet in Venezuela (1954) with this model rifle. These guns were confiscated from Communist revolutionaries and placed on the free world market. They are of the type used by

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This 8MM (7.92) Mauser ammunition was manufactured in Germany to strict military specifications. Full jacketed. (Purchased

everywhere. Barrel, 26". Protected sights, blade front, peep rear, calibrated to 1600 yds. Magazine holds 6 cartridges. No more of these guns in this fine condition are available. It is an excellent buy for sportsman and a unique addition to every collection. For C.O.D. send \$10 deposit..... **\$37.50**

weapon without alteration. It is the late model high-number weapon also used with scope rifle by marine troops on Guadalcanal and in Korea. A powerful and accurate rifle at extreme ranges. Softnose hunting ammunition (30/06) sold **\$59.95** everywhere. For C.O.D. send \$10 deposit.....

Red Chinese in Korea. The sale of these guns in no way aids any country behind the iron curtain. A Once-In-A-Lifetime collector's item. This is the lowest price we have ever seen which would allow a man to equip himself for big game hunting. **RUSSIAN RIFLE AMMUNITION FREE. 20 rds. full jacketed ammunition included with each rifle purchase. Additional cartridges: \$7.50 per 100 rds. For C.O.D. rifle send \$5 deposit..... \$14.50**

commercially would cost you \$20 for 100 rds.). Our bulk price: \$73.50 per case of 1500. 25% deposit on C.O.D. Ammunition sent Railway Express, F.O.B. Pasadena. No orders under 100 rds.

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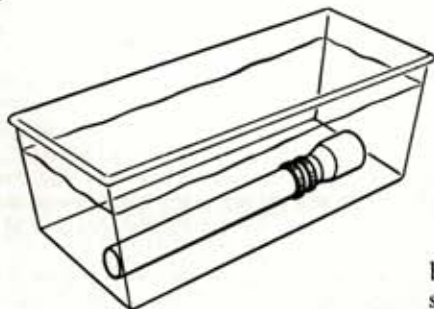
We Certify That No IRON CURTAIN Country Benefits By This Sale

All sporting weapons, collector's items, ammunition and souvenirs imported by us have been found by our agents in European, Asian and African countries which are not

behind the iron curtain. Items bearing nazi insignia have been acquired by us solely for their value as period pieces to Western Hemisphere collectors.



Will the Hunting Sight You Plan to Buy Pass this Test?



Most of the hunting sights on the market today are claimed to be *fogproof*, *dustproof* and *moistureproof*. Naturally, this is one feature you want and expect in the sight you buy, but how can you be sure? Here's how you can easily test a sight for fogproofing without ruining it should it prove not to be completely fogproof. Immerse the sight in a pan of water that is 50° to 60° warmer than room temperature. Use a pan or basin large enough to allow the sight to lie flat, with two or three inches of water over it. Within a couple of minutes the warm water will expand the air in the sight and create an outward pressure. If there is any leak, a string of tiny bubbles will rise from the point of leakage, and you can be sure the sight is not fogproof. Don't perform this test on any sight that is not supposed to be fogproof, and any sight given this test should be removed within a few minutes so that the sight will not have a chance to cool and draw water into the tube.

Another good test is the "icebox" test. Take a sight from a warm room and place it in the freezing compartment of a refrigerator. Moisture from the warm air will condense on the glass surfaces indicating internal fogging caused only by leaky construction. Again, don't perform this test on any sight that is not supposed to be fogproof or that has optical elements cemented with Canada balsam. Quick changes of temperature may cause failure resulting in separation of lens elements.

You can realize how important it is to have your sight completely fogproof when you think of what happens under varying conditions of temperature and weather. Many a "perfect shot" has

been ruined by a sight with fogged lens surfaces—but never with a Bausch & Lomb hunting sight. Bausch & Lomb sights are *guaranteed* fogproof, dustproof, and weatherproof! Make your own test and be sure.

FREE MANUAL

Before you buy any rifle sight, send for "Facts About Hunting Sights," a 72-page manual of technical and practical information. From it you'll gain an expert's knowledge of sight performance and dependability—you'll learn the important facts on good sight construction and how you can get the most for your money in a rifle sight. A free copy will be sent to you by return mail. Write to Bausch & Lomb Optical Co., 20602 Lomb Park, Rochester 2, N. Y., asking for manual G-165.



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CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Defense of Single Action

In the October issue of GUNS, a W. T. Burnette of Chicago, Illinois, wrote a letter concerning the Single Action Army .45 caliber revolver.

In this letter, Burnette said, and I quote: "A good man, with a modern double-action, would have you shot three times by the time you got that huge hammer cased back."

With due respect to Burnette, who states that he is a former peace officer, I still must disagree with Burnette's thoughts and opinions.

I unfortunately do not own a pair of these guns. But a friend of mine does. I practice drawing with them occasionally.

For Burnette's information as well as anyone else who might be interested, I have been timed in my drawing both guns at once and firing. The fastest I've ever been clocked at is one second. That's from start of draw to fire. Do you know of anyone who can fire three rounds from a single gun (double action or single action) in one second?

From a distance of 15 to 20 feet for best accuracy, there's only one man in the world I wouldn't attempt to draw against—either for play or for real. That man is Mr. D. A. "Jelly" Bryce of the FBI. He can pull a gun and fire in 3/5 of 1 second. And he goes under his coat to do it. Him I wouldn't want to tangle with.

So, Mr. Burnette, I suggest that you amend your statement. Because it depends on the man who is using the .45 single action. The man with the double action might not even clear leather, let alone get off three rounds.

I'll stick with the .45 caliber Single Action Army Revolver and as soon as I can save the money, I intend to have a pair.

Don E. Hines
Lawton, Oklahoma

Inaccuracies in Language

I buy GUNS on the stands, and find it very interesting. There was a time when Outdoor Life, then published in Denver, Forest & Stream and Hunter-Trader-Trapper all had individuality, but now all the bunch of outdoor magazines are simply stereotyped forms with the exception of yours and the one in Austin, Texas.

But let me give you what is intended as friendly and constructive advice. I note a tendency toward inaccuracy in your language and statements, and accuracy is the main thing a rifleman desires. For instance, I remember your referring to cartridges as shells, which is almost the same thing as saying that you don't know a rifle from a shotgun. Of course the shell is a component part, but the whole is a cartridge. A complete shell refers to shotgun ammunition.

That is the only one I recall offhand, but there have been others.

Perhaps your editor is a former newspaperman. They work at fever heat to get out the daily sheet, and if half they say is wrong it is understandable, but when you have a month in which to print your publication, such errors should be ironed out.

W. T. Moyers
Denver, Colorado

Best Magazine on Guns

I just received my December issue of GUNS and could hardly wait to get to read it. I think you people put out the best magazine there is on guns and ammo. I have gotten every issue you have published except the first one.

Howard King
Laredo, Texas

Congratulations on a really fine gun magazine. I have just finished my second issue since subscribing and I am only sorry I waited so long.

I especially enjoyed the article on the 30-30 by Jack Connor, but sincerely hope you do not discontinue articles on my favorite gun, the Frontier Colt. I can say from experience that my .38-40 Frontier will hit a rock at a good 300 yards. I can even supply witnesses to that fact.

Keep up the good work on a darn good magazine.

James W. Regas
Golden, Colo.

Jugular Express Bullets

In my article "The Two-Gun Man Comes Back" (January), I mentioned the new Harvey Jugular Express bullets under development by Lakeville Arms Co. Swaging dies and jackets are now available to make these half-jacket, pure lead core bullets, or factory bullets can be obtained in .38 and .357 caliber, either 114 grain hollow points or 127 grain solid points. We have been testing the 114 grain that we made in their bolt-action dies. It can be driven 1,800 feet per second in the Magnum revolver with a charge of 18.2 grains 2400 powder, to deliver 819 foot pounds of energy with mild pressure.

This is the most destructive varmint killer we have ever fired in a handgun, combined with exceptional accuracy and moderate recoil. Accuracy of the deadly little slug seems to increase with velocity, and we are now working up slightly heavier charges for revolver and rifle. GUNS was the first magazine to report these Jugular Express bullets, that we believe will make the heavier, low velocity slugs obsolete.

Kent Bellah
Saint Jo, Texas

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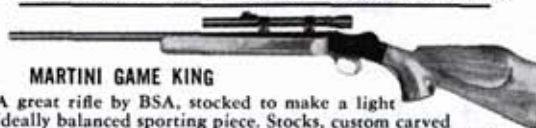


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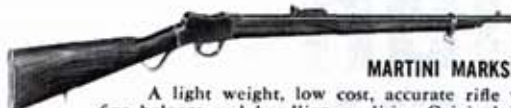
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GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

□ In Chicago police were puzzled when they found a green Dodge convertible riddled by 300 bullets. They thought the car might be a clue to a gangland slaying. Upon tracing its license plate, they found it belonged to Herbert Schmidt. Asking him how come his car was bullet riddled, he explained that he shot up the car in anger when he returned home empty-handed from a hunting trip.

□ Elsa Lind, 16-year-old University of Maryland student, getting ready for a trek along the Amazon, wanted some kind of weapon as a protection against wild animals but was reluctant to kill. So she has a pistol that stuns but brings about no fatal consequences.

□ At the Jefferson Proving Grounds in Indiana, used to test weapons from hand grenades to 155-millimeter guns, soldiers were surprised to pick up David Gilkey of Cincinnati in the middle of the artillery range. Gilkey told them that he had lived three weeks in the middle of the range, eating pears and apples on the reservation. None of the fired shells fell near him. In court he said he was making the grounds a "religious retreat," was fined \$25.

□ The first casualty of the hunting season in the Pigeon, Mich., area was the telephone service. A hunter shot a cable in half.

□ Owner of the biggest, most impressive buck deer rack in the world is Henderson Coquat of San Antonio. The deer, which weighed 200 pounds, had a ten-point rack, believed to be a new world record for white-tailed deer. Coquat, nervous at the sight of the imposingly handsome animal, missed the first two times he shot at it, but brought it down the third time. After that, says the hunter, everything was quiet "but the pounding of my heart."

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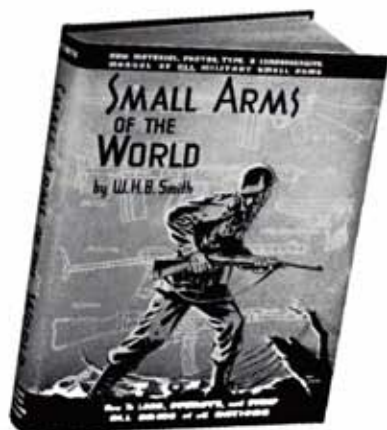


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MY FAVORITE GUN

By ALLAN SHIVERS, Governor of Texas



My favorite gun is a 28 automatic shotgun. I use it, naturally, for quail and dove hunting. On the occasion of my attendance at the governors' conference in Chicago last August, through the courtesy of Governor Herter of Massachusetts, we were all presented with silver-plated .22 target revolvers made by Harrington & Richardson. Mine had my name-signature engraved on the barrel.

My favorite hunting story has to do with my daughter, Marialice Sue (Cissy). My two oldest boys both killed their first deer when they were 7 years old, and there was always a lot of talk about this in the family. Cissy was

anxious, therefore, to keep up the tradition and to kill a deer before she was eight.

So, last year, we took her with us, though she obviously didn't have her heart in hunting. She stayed in the camp the first day, but went out with us the second. The first deer she saw, she shot at and missed. The noise scared her though, and she didn't want to shoot the gun again.

Pretty soon, we caught sight of an old buck and started to trail him. One of the old hunting hands in the party got several shots at him, missing every time. When we finally got close again, everyone kept urging Cissy to shoot so she wouldn't let the boys get the best of her. Well, she said she would shoot if I would aim and if her mother would stand behind and hold her hands over Cissy's ears. So there we were, me kneeling down trying to aim the gun, Cissy with her hand on the trigger and her mother holding her hands over Cissy's ears. When the old buck stuck his head out of the brush, Cissy shot and got him right through the neck.

She didn't seem too happy when she saw the dead deer and went back to the car right away. Still, if you come to our house now, you will find the buck's head on the wall, and Cissy will be the first to tell you that she shot him when she was seven years old!

By JEFF CHANDLER, Hollywood Movie Star

A youth spent in New York City, where even admiration for a gun struck terror in the hearts of one's elders, kept me from gun appreciation for some time. In fact, it wasn't until I was in the service that I made close contact with firearms. And out of the welter of guns they threw at us, my fondest association was with the Colt .45 Automatic Pistol. It's a tricky little devil, but has always paralleled, for me, the kind of punch I admire in the ring—short, well-aimed, and devastating.

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FEBRUARY
1956
Vol. 2
No. 2-14

Guns



MAGAZINE

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COVER

The Sharps sporting rifle which boomed its message of death to ten million buffalo is used by Stewart Granger in the MGM film, "The Last Hunt." Granger portrays a hide hunter of 1883 in the movie about buffalos and buffalo rifles. He uses an aperture target rear sight for hunting.

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TRIGGER TALK


IN THIS month's GUNS the over/under shotgun, slighted by American manufacturers, comes in for a share of high praise. Colonel Charles Askins' story "Glamour Girl of the Shotgun World," is based on some special experience which he has had. As U. S. military attache in Spain a few years back, Colonel Askins was often called upon to be a member of a shooting party. His shooting associates were the nobility and top manufacturers of Spain. There the over/under double is a highly-favored form of shotgun, and his "work" (some might call it "play") only reinforced Askins' enthusiasm for this type of gun. Although Marlin is the only American maker currently offering O/U. guns, the currently imported selection of Valmet, Browning, Aguirre y Aranzabel (AYA), Merkel, and Ferlach stacked doubles was considered carefully by Askins in writing his article.

The colonel was recently on duty at the biggest Army maneuvers since World War II. Involving tactical employment of atomic weapons, the outing at Camp Polk, La., called "Operation Sagebrush" will probably not furnish Askins with material to write about for some time to come, due to security restrictions. However, he has been working on one story with his usually penetrating style, "What's Wrong With Target Rifle Shooting?" which will appear in GUNS next month.

Milton F. Perry has tipped the lid to a hush-hush question in "Why Not Shotguns For Army?" Perry is curator of the West Point Museum and an able arms historian. He first wanted to write a story about the old time forger's shotguns used for game in frontier days. As he began to delve into the matter of military shotguns, he found that far from being obsolete, they had been used with success as recently as World War II and the Korean war.

The delicate art of cookery invades GUNS pages this month through Harry Botsford's article on ducks—and what to do with them after they are shot! Former food editor of Esquire, author of several cooking and eating books including "New York's 100 Best Restaurants," and frequent TV commentator, Botsford writes with imagination and, more to the point, "good taste."

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WHY MORE HUNTING



Foraging for food, mule deer ranges through 15 states and has multiplied so rapidly in recent years that in some states there are three deer to every hunter. Result has been special season to allow shooting of either sex.

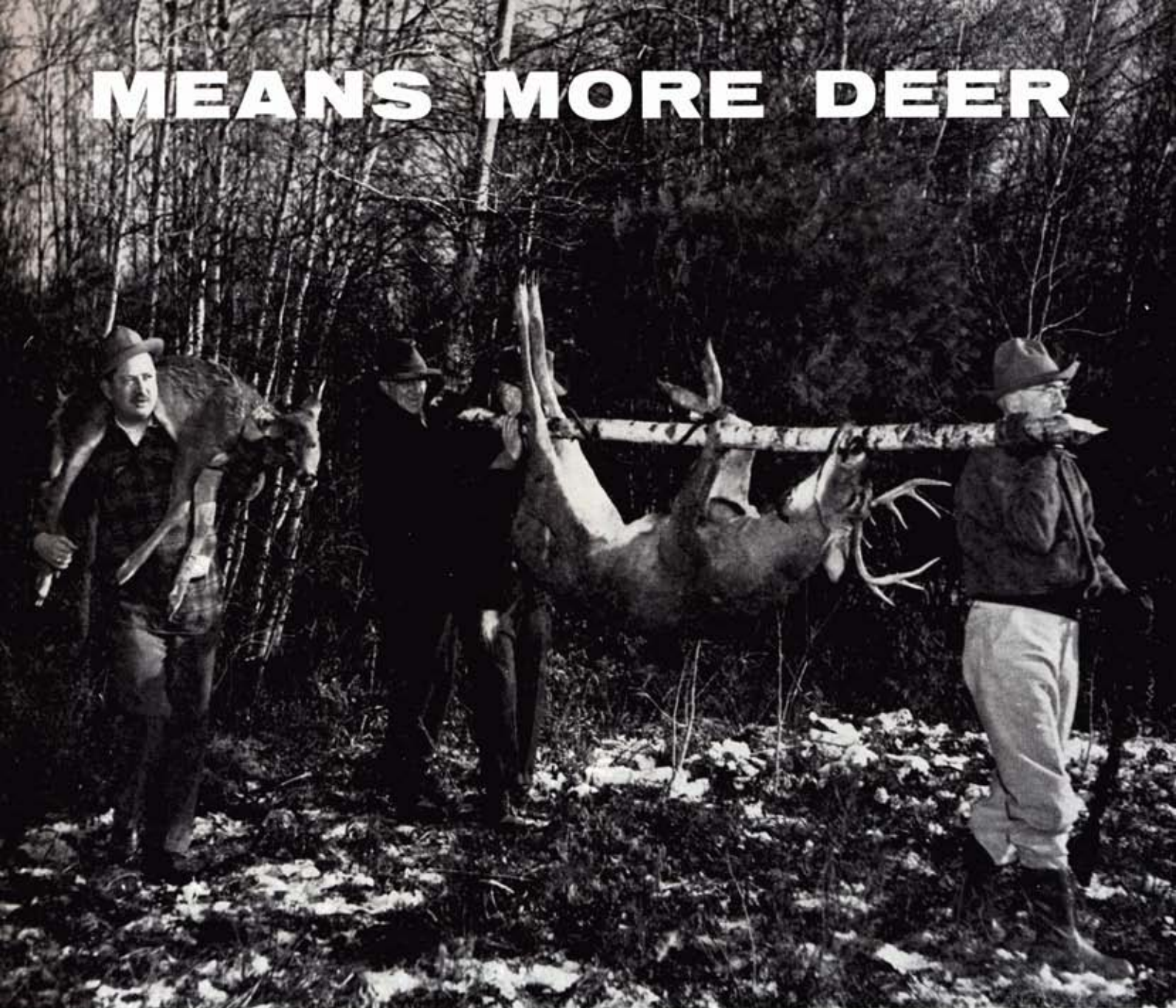
**BIOLOGISTS NOW AGREE THAT MORE SHOOTING WILL THIN HERDS,
SAVE EXCESS FROM STARVATION AND RESULT IN HEALTHIER ANIMALS**

By H. JAY ERFURTH



More efficient kills with such deer rifles as newest fast-acting Model 88 Winchester will guarantee better and faster breeding of deer. Modern rifles deliver one-shot kills and cut over-population.

MEANS MORE DEER



Of 5 million hunters during last season, only one out of three actually bagged a deer. Biologists insist that killing of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million deer is not enough, that more hunting and longer season allowing killing of does would produce healthier animals.

SHOOT MORE DEER and the more deer there are to shoot! The more deer hunted the more deer there are to hunt!

Maybe it sounds a little like cartoonist Al Capp's comic strip "shmoos," which multiplied endlessly. But this is no comic strip fantasy, no pipe dream, no hunter's vision of paradise. This concept that more hunting means more game concerns the ordinary whitetail and mule deer which range American forests from coast to coast. And the men who now are promulgating this notion are not trigger-happy hunters but rather respected biologists and conservationists.

Consider the words, for instance, of Professor A. Starker Leopold of the University of California zoology department: "It would be best for all concerned, including the deer population itself, if many more deer were shot."

Another proponent of the same theory is J. Burton Lauckhart, chief of the Washington state department of

game, who bluntly states: "The only way to produce and have more game is to kill more game."

Both of these men are staunch conservation champions, men who want to protect and preserve wild game. What is behind their seemingly contradictory statements? How can they reconcile the killing of more deer with their avowed purpose of preserving the deer population?

Basically the answer is in the laws of nature. There was a time when America's deer population faced extinction just as the American buffalo was wiped out. That happened about 50 years ago when venison was slaughtered indiscriminately year around. Laws were enacted to protect deer. Nature lovers had their way in many states so that killing of does were entirely forbidden. And in places where such laws were not passed, many hunters had a guilt feeling about shooting a female deer.

All of this was done in the name of conservation. But



Predator cougars and coyotes once kept number of deer in check but man's all-out hunting of these varmints has given deer chance to multiply much more rapidly until herds outgrow available food supply and then starve to death.



what has happened in recent years is that increasing deer herds have outgrown their available food supply. The result has been a decline in reproduction as well as death from starvation for many thousands of head of whitetail and mule. In a hard winter more than 100,000 will perish.

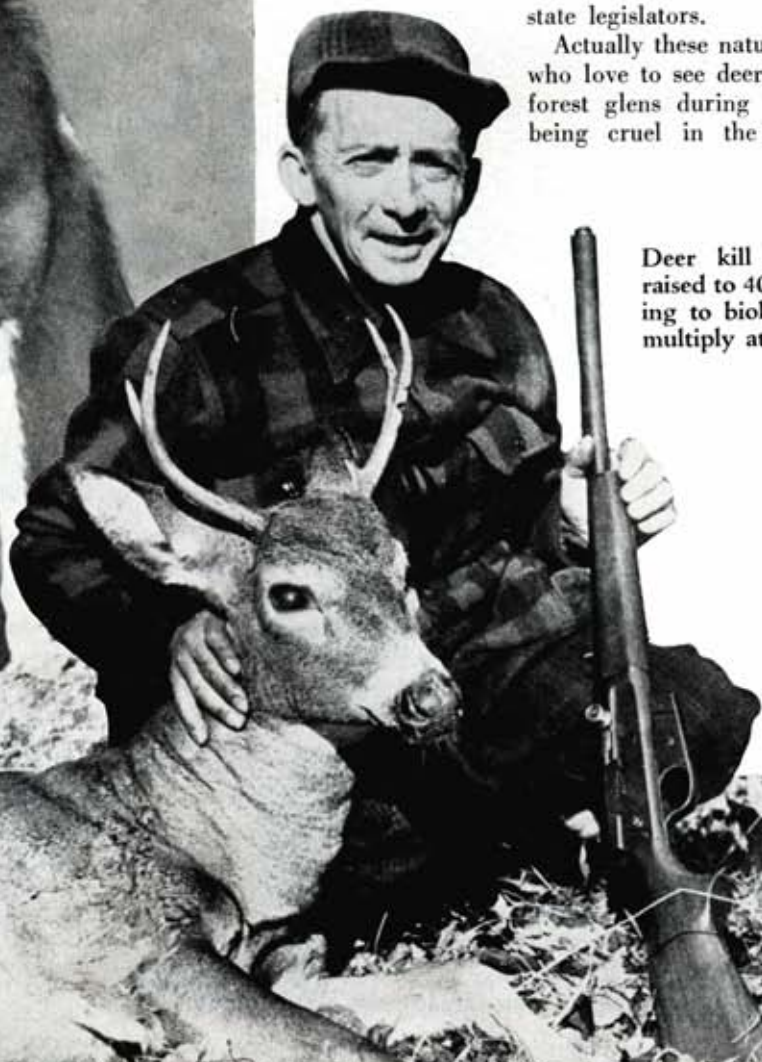
What will more hunting do to alleviate this situation? According to Professor Leopold, the answer is logical: "The amount of good forage any range can produce is limited and therefore the number of deer it will support cannot be increased beyond a certain maximum, no matter how solicitously they are protected. Indeed, too much protection may allow them to overrun their food supply and thus actually reduce their numbers in the end.

"The best thing we can do for the deer is to permit a great deal of hunting. It would eliminate the excess of population each year and leave the remaining deer in a healthier and more thriving condition."

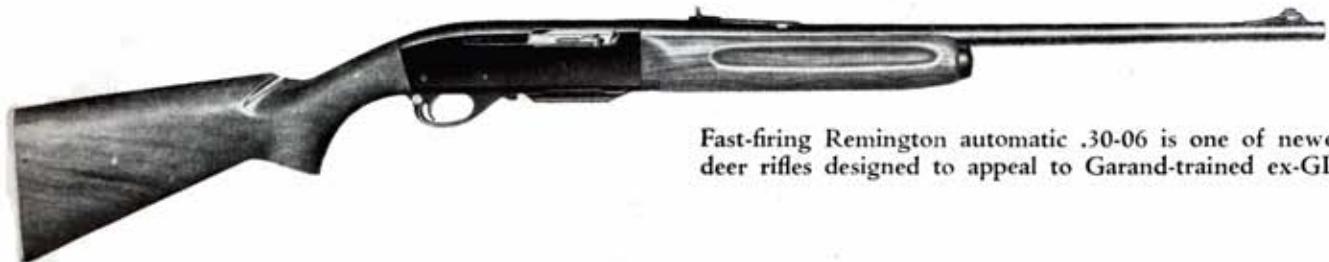
Leopold is especially critical of the so-called "buck law," which prohibits shooting of any but full-grown animals. Actually the law limits the number of deer that hunters can shoot to from four to nine per cent of the total deer population of about 15 million. The California professor insists that as much as 40 per cent of the deer herd could be killed by hunters each year without diminishing its numbers. "This is no more than its natural turnover rate," states Leopold.

Of course, to allow hunters to take up to 40 per cent of the deer and turn it into venison for their dinner table would mean shooting does and fawns, too. And this idea causes many club ladies to toss up their hands in horror and shriek to their state legislators.

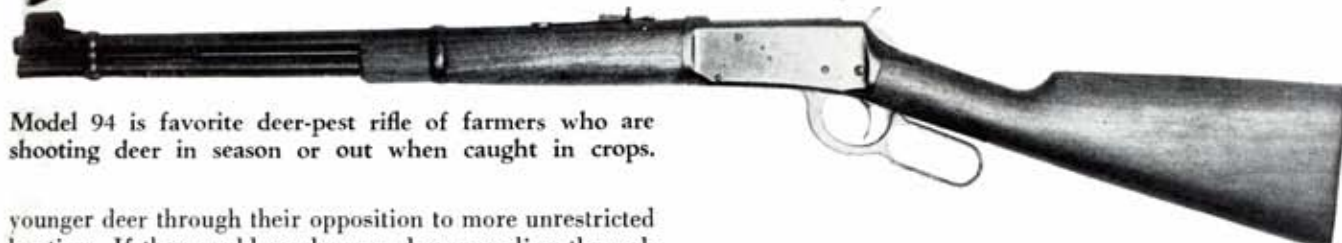
Actually these nature-loving women, who love to see deer drifting through forest glens during the summer, are being cruel in the extreme to the



Deer kill could easily be raised to 40 per cent, according to biologists, since deer multiply at that rate yearly.



Fast-firing Remington automatic .30-06 is one of newest deer rifles designed to appeal to Garand-trained ex-GI's.



Model 94 is favorite deer-pest rifle of farmers who are shooting deer in season or out when caught in crops.

younger deer through their opposition to more unrestricted hunting. If they could see hungry deer prowling through deep snow drifts in winter months, if they could see thousands of scrawny deer lying dead of malnutrition on icy open fields, they might realize the shortsightedness of their hysteria.

Actually man is kinder to deer than Mother Nature, which with her immutable laws of the survival of the fittest has decreed that the deer species can grow so much and no further. In poor feeding ranges, most deer do not breed until three years old although capable of reproducing in their first mating season. Availability of food is all-important in breeding, zoologists have found. The more deer hunted and killed, the more food left for the surviving deer and the more they reproduce.

Farming and civilization, too, have done more to protect the deer than all the protective seasons. Unlike his ruminant cousins, the elk and the buffalo, the deer lives well in close association with man. They thrive on new and secondary vegetation and an astonishing number are supported on cutover or burned-out land which has grown up in scrub oak or tasty willow and aspen trees. In the east young forests of second-growth trees serve as food for more deer than ever lived in the same places before Columbus came to America.

Most people associate deer with notions of the "forest primeval," but the deer do not seem to understand this. Bounties on bobcats, puma, coyotes, which destroy livestock as well as deer on western ranges, have upset the laws of nature which limited the deer population. Paradoxically, killing the cats which preyed on deer is responsible in part for starving, diseased and dead deer because of increasing growth of the herd.

And yet the average hunter, who has pushed miles into the heavy brush of Michigan's Upper Peninsula deer country, and spent a couple of hundred dollars on his unsuccessful trip, may wonder where the dickens are all these deer that are supposed to be so abundant. Mr. Unlucky Hunter may not realize that he has already become a victim to deer overpopulation and that the reason he returned empty-handed was that the deer he might have bagged had starved to death.

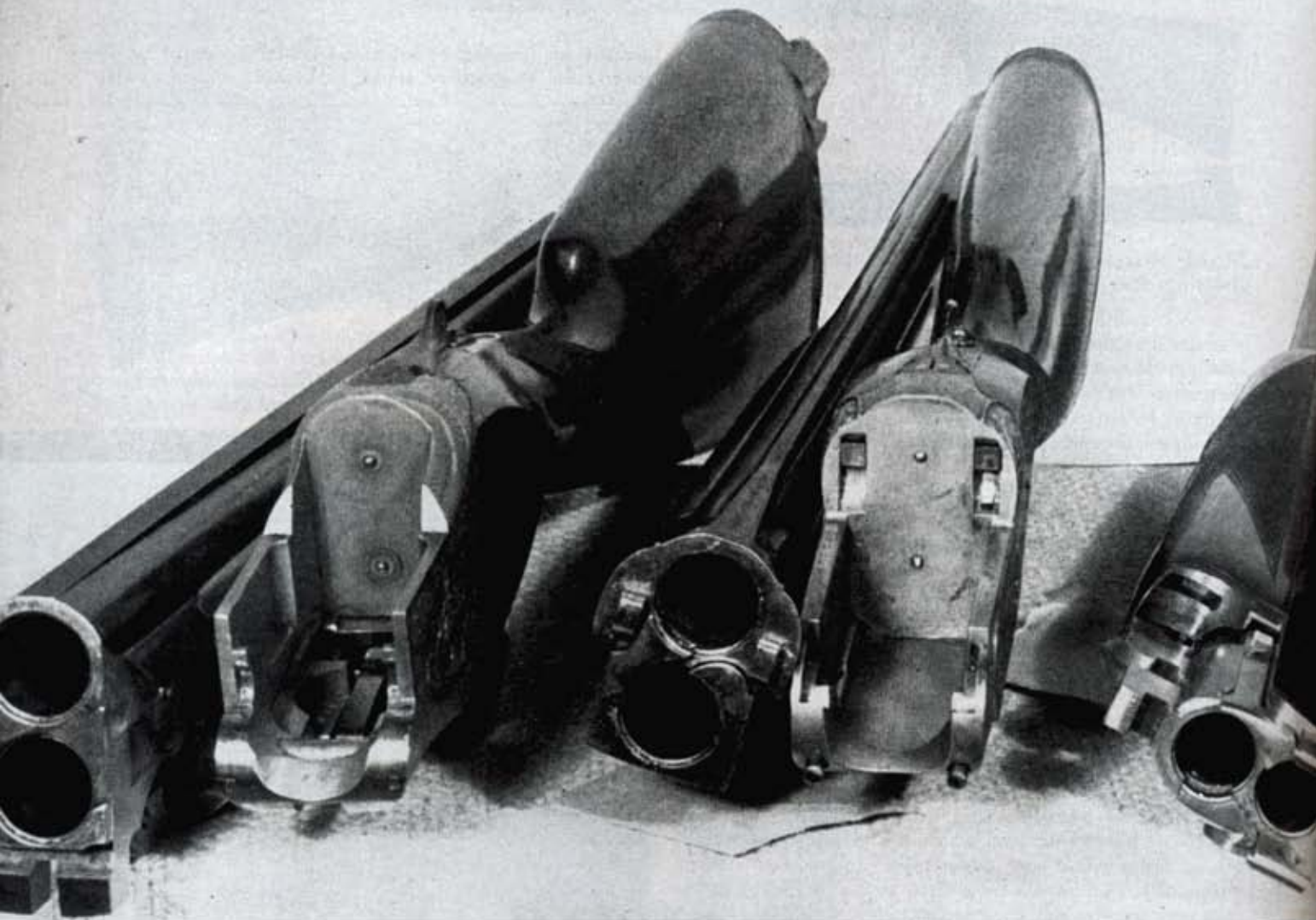
Oddly, the finest deer country in the U.S. is also one section of land over which is fired more ammunition than in any other place. This game park is the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, where an almost mythical "white stag" lords it over his harem of does.

I was working on the small arms proving range in 1945, and saw, some thousand yards down through the green alley cut into the woods, a white (Continued on page 45)

Pack-carry is used in California which has summer hunting season, but buck law keeps deer herd growing too fast.



GLAMOUR GIRL OF



Over-unders differ in locking details. Browning 12 and unique Simmons-Browning 16 have one lug (1st and 4th). Westley Richards (2nd) has two top lugs, is very strong. AYA (3rd and 5th) has Merkel action with Kersten bolts.

OVER/UNDER POINTS MORE NATURALLY, SWINGS OUT MORE SURELY AND CAN PRODUCE MORE GAME THAN ANY SCATTERGUN ON MARKET CURRENTLY

By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS

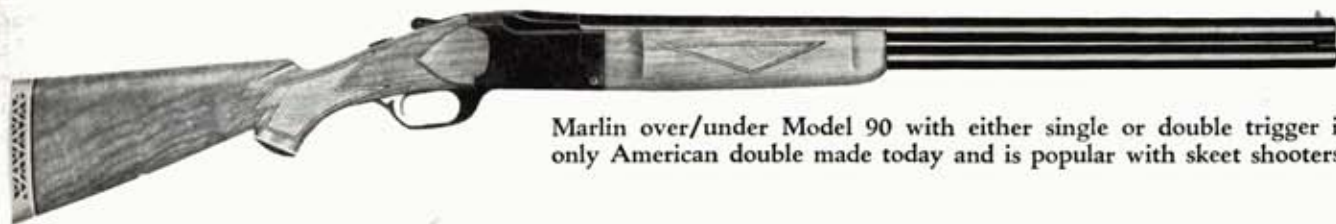
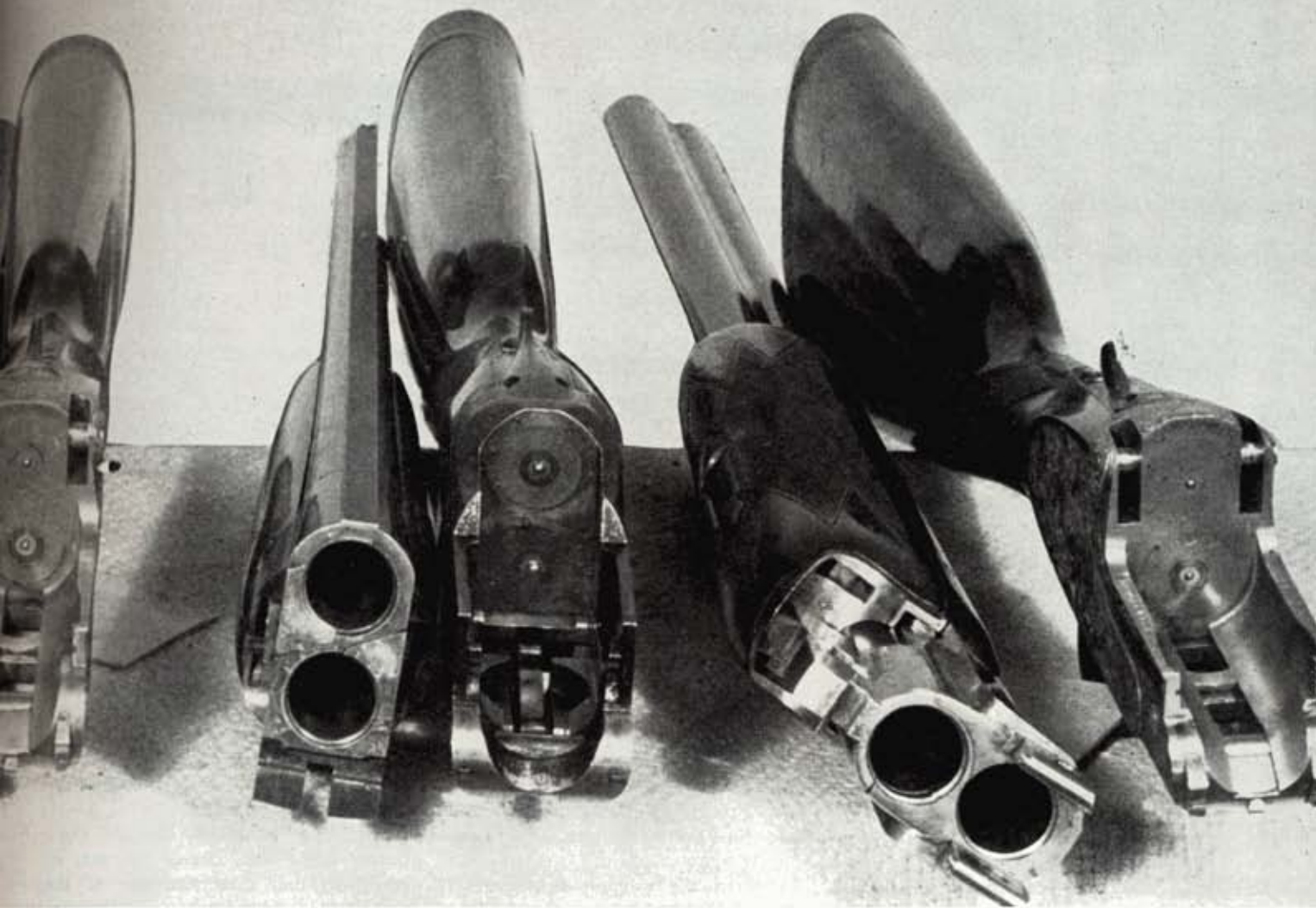
THE MOST exciting shotgun today is the over/under. Virtually unknown to the average wingshot, a beautiful over/under is truly a glamor piece. Not only does it account for more game killed but it is a joy to handle. There is concrete evidence to indicate that better shooting can be done with this stacked-barrel model.

The over/under points more naturally, handles more surely and possesses a liveliness that is missing in all the others. I have been shooting the scattergun very intensively for the past 35 years; I've tried 'em all—the conventional doubles, the autoloaders, the pump repeaters and the over/under. For me the over/under is the only gun. I

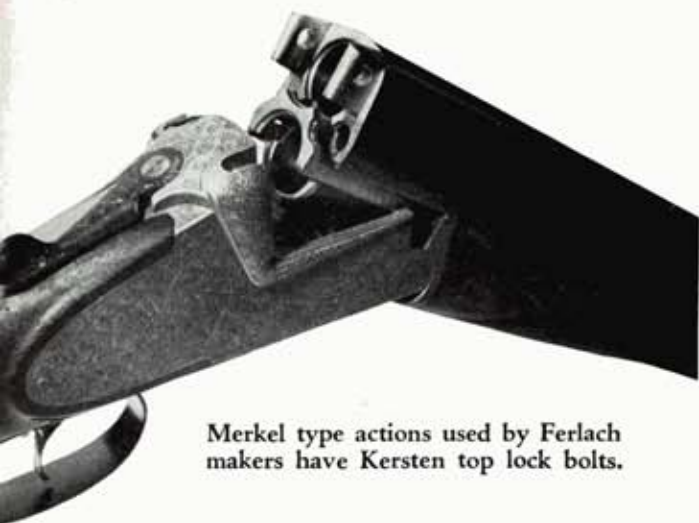
have eight of them and I'll probably possess another eight before I am through. I have methodically kept close account of my killing as against my cartridges expended this past decade and shell for bird the superposed shotgun produces more game in the bag than any scattergun on the market today.

A shotgun is an extremely short range proposition. It has got to be pointed in the hundredth part of a second and unless it falls dead on the game during that first mounting, it is dangerously apt to miss. It is completely unlike the rifle which can be thrown to shoulder rather leisurely and the aim corrected after the stock cradles at

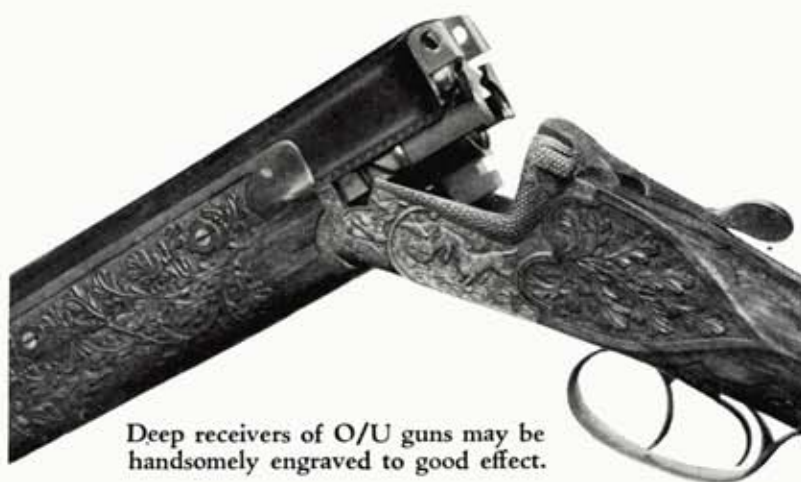
THE SHOTGUN WORLD



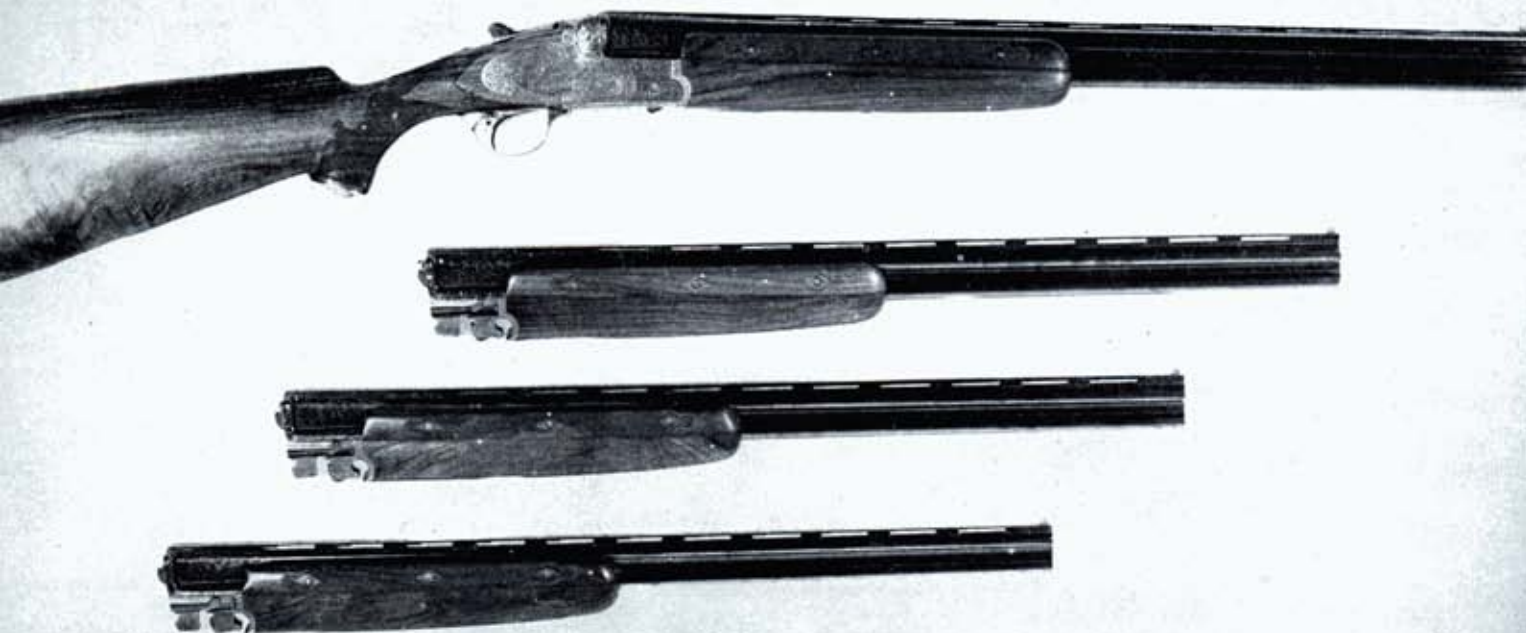
Marlin over/under Model 90 with either single or double trigger is only American double made today and is popular with skeet shooters.



Merkel type actions used by Ferlach makers have Kersten top lock bolts.



Deep receivers of O/U guns may be handsomely engraved to good effect.



Continental 12 with Simmons-made barrels in 20, 28 and .410 for skeet gunners lists at about \$2,500 total cost.

shoulder. Not so the smoothbore. I sometimes think I have the trigger half gone before the stock strikes my shoulder. And at any rate the lead is being taken as the gun comes up, and if that gun does not fit I miss.

The over/under performs as though it were a part of the gunner. It will fall dead on the mark and do it faster than any gun. It possesses this elusive yet highly essential quality because of its design.

A shotgun is pointed with the hands. If the hands are not in horizontal alignment—that is both in the same plane—the gun cannot be properly pointed and a miss will occur. The left or forward hand is the guide element; the right or rear is the anchor. If the hands do not function in the

most exacting unison, with a coordination that is perfection itself, sloppy shooting results.

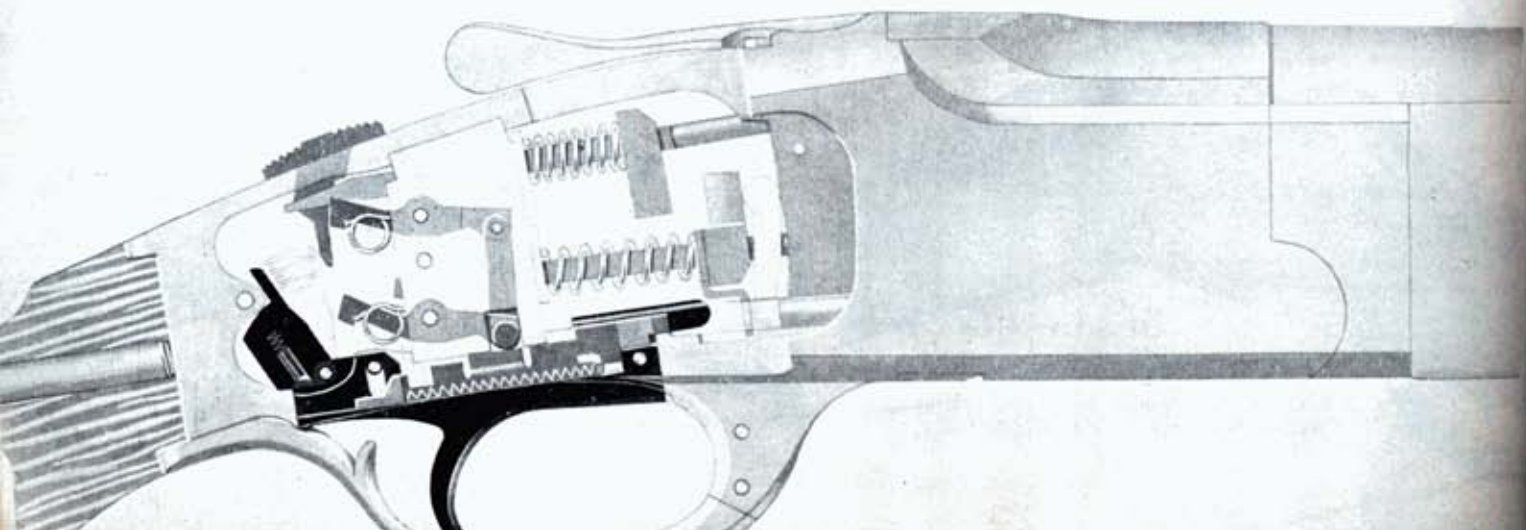
With many of our magazine squaw guns, both the automatics and the pump repeaters, the hands are not in line at all. The left hand is compelled to grasp a forestock only slightly smaller than Kate Smith's thigh and this drops it below the trigger hand. When this occurs the gun is constantly pushed upward and the "pointing out" ability of the weapon is alarmingly affected.

Fine double shotguns possess the "hands-in-line" factor and for that reason are excellent game killers. But I am not especially wedded to the side-by-side double for it has a number of fundamental faults despite its good

points. For one thing the fast wing-shot does not see the front sight; he is only aware of a blur at the muzzle. In effect what he is doing is using the last three or four inches of the business end for a front sight. When that front end is as broad as the two muzzles of the conventional shotgun, it is far too broad for me. I simply cannot be precise with such a gun.

Again we habitually fire the right barrel first. This causes the gun to recoil in that direction, due to the arrangement of the tubes and the support afforded by the gunner's shoulder. To recover from this first shot means the marksman must not only fight the weapon back down but whip it to the left to compensate for the direction taken during recoil.

Anti-doubling inertia weight of Marlin Model 90 ST prevents involuntary firing of second barrel in recoil.

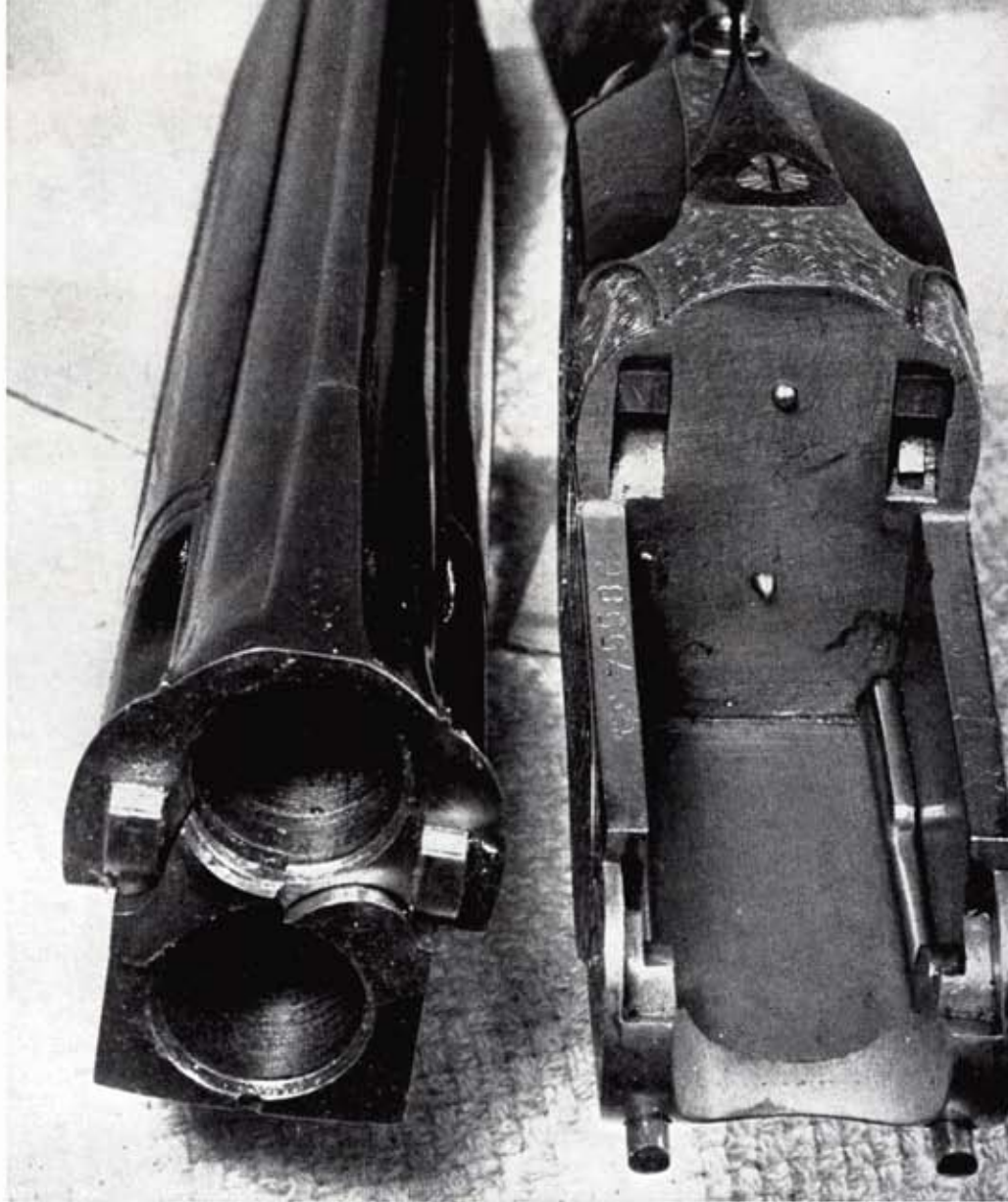


These are very elementary shortcomings of the double barrel shotgun that will live with the weapon as long as it is made.

It was once that all doubles had small and graceful forends. These were little more than splinters of wood and after shooting his way out of a hot corner, the hunter would complain that his hand was burning. As a cure we went overboard for beavertail forends. Those great globs of wood hung beneath the tubes protect the shooter's hands no matter how fast he may fire but they also very markedly do harm to the good balance and handling qualities of the weapon. Just as occurs with the magazine repeaters, the big beavertail throws the hands out of their vital alignment and once this occurs the gun-and-gunner team perform in something less than top form.

The over/under has its tubes arranged in vertical bank. The under barrel is invariably the more open bored and it is fired first. Because of the remarkably low position of this under tube it develops less *apparent* recoil than any gun of like gauge. This is due to the absence of upward turning motion on the part of the gun. So neatly does the shoulder absorb this kick, due as I have said to the axis of the bore being in line with the support, the recoil is remarkably light. This being the case the gunner does not have to fight his weapon back into alignment and can get the second shot off much more quickly and more effectively.

Virtue this may be but it by no



Westley Richards action holds barrels with lever-moved locking blocks in frame.

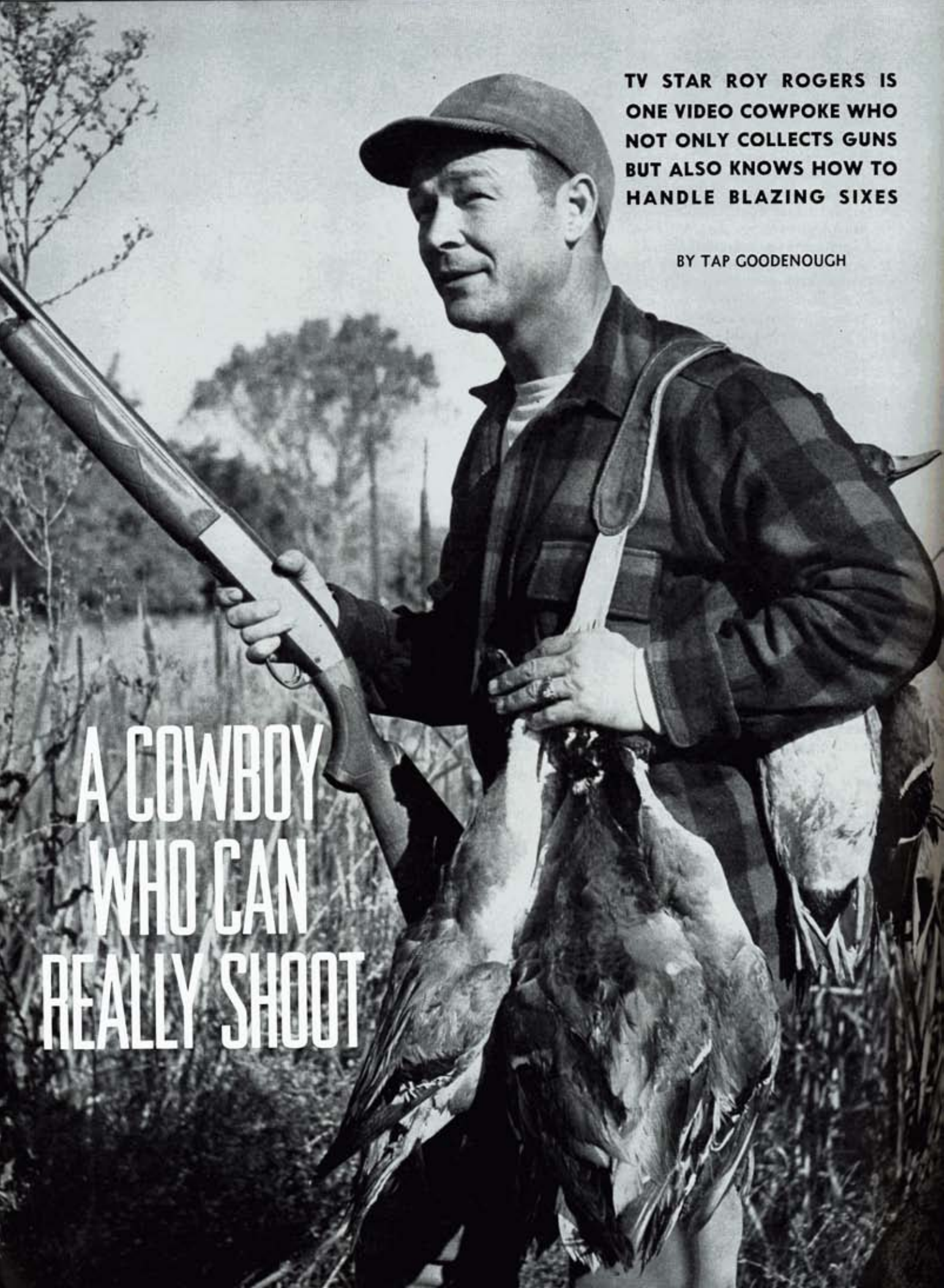
Both Author Askins (right) and his father, distinguished Captain Charles Askins whose writings are familiar to older shooters, prove merits of the O/U.



means ends the case for the over/under. Due to the arrangement of the tubes, the forward hand wraps itself about the lower one. This is a most ideal arrangement. The higher the forward hand can carry about the barrel the more accurately the gun can be pointed. This, undeniably, accounts for the precision of the top-and-bottom model.

Not only do we see the hands retain their "in line" relationship but they both are carried just as high as it is possible due to weapon design. Therein lies the secret of the good shooting qualities of the glamour gun of the shotgun family.

I conducted a long series of exhaustive experiments to determine which type of gun would deliver the shot-charge to the center of the target in the shortest time interval. I fired 25 shots with each of three repeaters, two pump guns (Continued on page 43)

A black and white photograph of Roy Rogers. He is wearing a dark plaid shirt, a dark cap, and a vest. He is holding a shotgun in his right hand and has a large deer head mounted on his back. He is standing in a field with trees in the background.

TV STAR ROY ROGERS IS
ONE VIDEO COWPOKE WHO
NOT ONLY COLLECTS GUNS
BUT ALSO KNOWS HOW TO
HANDLE BLAZING SIXES

BY TAP GOODENOUGH

A COWBOY
WHO CAN
REALLY SHOOT

HE'S THE KING of the television cowboys, and the kids watch him regularly every Sunday afternoon. Guns blazing, eyes gleaming in determination, he bags badmen with his trusty shootin' irons with the same skill he displays leading a cock pheasant with his equally trusty Model 12 shotgun. He's Roy Rogers, but he's no synthetic gunman. Roy Rogers owns over a hundred guns of every description, and he is an excellent shot with all of them.

At 43, weighing a fit 165, Roy has hunted since he was a boy. Adept with all types of weapons, he takes great pride in his collection of firearms, modern and ancient. Stepping into the Rogers' pleasant home in Marysville in the verdant San Fernando Valley of California is a visit to the home of a real gun enthusiast. In nearly every room are guns and more guns, many of them resting on decorative racks made from deer hooves brought back from many hunting trips.

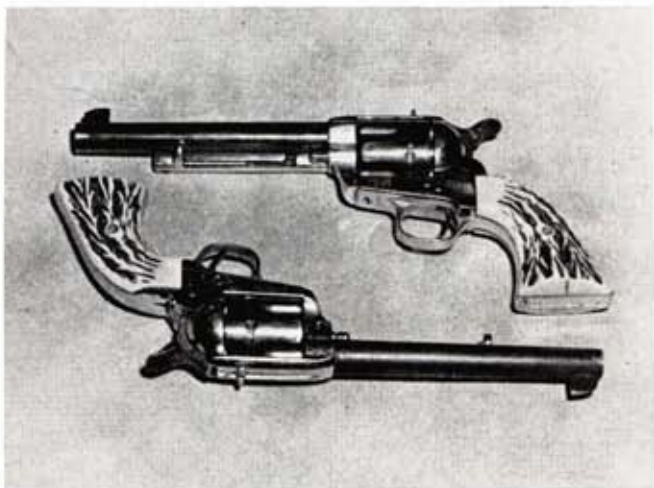
For deer, Roy prefers a Model 70 in .257 Roberts caliber. He knows and loves guns, and accurate shooting off-stage as on is almost second nature to him. That .257 has accounted for many a deer. For varmint and small game, there's a .22 Hornet. Every gauge of shotgun is displayed. Roy and Dale hunt with a matched "husband and wife" pair of Winchesters, Model 12 in 12 gauge. For ducks he has a Remington 11-'48 Sportsman automatic, a good serviceable grade of gun.

Which is Roy's favorite?

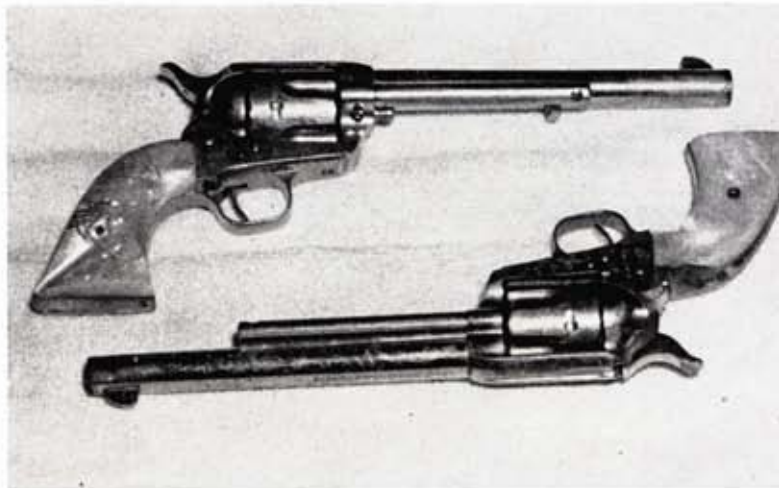
"I'm quite partial to my .270 sporterized Enfield," he smiles, looking at least 10 years younger than his age. "A friend, an expert gunsmith, rigged



Cowgirl Dale Evans and cowboy Roy Rogers often park their horses at the studio and take out across country with their Model 12s for a day's hunt.



For movie shooting Roy uses a brace of Frontiers which have been chamber-sleeved to fire .22 rimfire blanks.



Pride of Roy's pistol collection is the pair of pearl-handled Colts from the "101 Ranch" show, once Buffalo Bill's.



it up for me. He made a special stock of walnut with fancy designs on it. Best of all, that stock was measured to fit me perfectly, so it's always a joy to hunt with this Enfield."

Roy's pet pieces are the two perfectly-matched .45 Colt Single Action revolvers he uses when touring with the world championship rodeo. The 7½-inch barreled weapons were presented to the famous cowboy by Colonel James Eskew of the old 101 Ranch Show.

"These revolvers are invaluable," says Rogers. "They were owned originally by the one and only Buffalo Bill, who really used them in gun fights—or so the legend goes. They're ornately carved. Very accurate, too. I've used live ammo in them, shooting rabbits to keep my aim sharp."

This outdoorsman does a considerable amount of handgun shooting on small game. Quick on the draw, he can blast the head off a snake at a reasonable range.

His favorite shotgun is a .410 Model 42 Winchester.

"For years, I hunted with a 12 Magnum," states Roy. "Then I shifted to the .410, staying with it ever since. I found that too many hunters were using veritable cannons on ducks and geese, ruining the birds for eating. I prefer the .410 because of its action; I can get on the target faster with it, too. My own model has a long bore, allowing me to load with three-inch shells. Some say the shot

Roy's deer gun, Model 70 in .257, sports Weaver K4 scope. Hunting practice gave Roy 25 straight first time at skeet.





TV fans accustomed to seeing guitar-twanging cowboys would hardly recognize Roy as he sets out decoys.



Honored member of Roy's household is his favorite dog, Trig, a Weimaraner retriever named after his horse.

pattern's too small, but it's large enough for my purposes."

About five years ago, Roy discovered his top hunting aids: Weimaraners. This breed of gunning dog originated in Germany some 125 years back. Roy borrowed a pair from a pal, shaking hands with success when afield or in the woods. So he decided to raise his own canines.

"In my opinion, Weimaraners are the best for all-around hunting dogs," enthuses the gun collector. "They can do anything: point, retrieve, trail, work under all kinds of conditions and cover. They're never vicious, making fine

and loyal pets. The average Weimaraner is fairly large, males going from 65 to 85 pounds, with the females ranging from 55 to 75. Smooth in gait, the dogs are great stalkers.

"Never have had trouble training my Weimaraners," adds Roy. "They've been very cooperative, learning quickly. And they seem to love guns from the start of their schooling. This breed is growing more popular in this country, although the Weimaraner Club of America has established a high standard, (Continued on page 51)

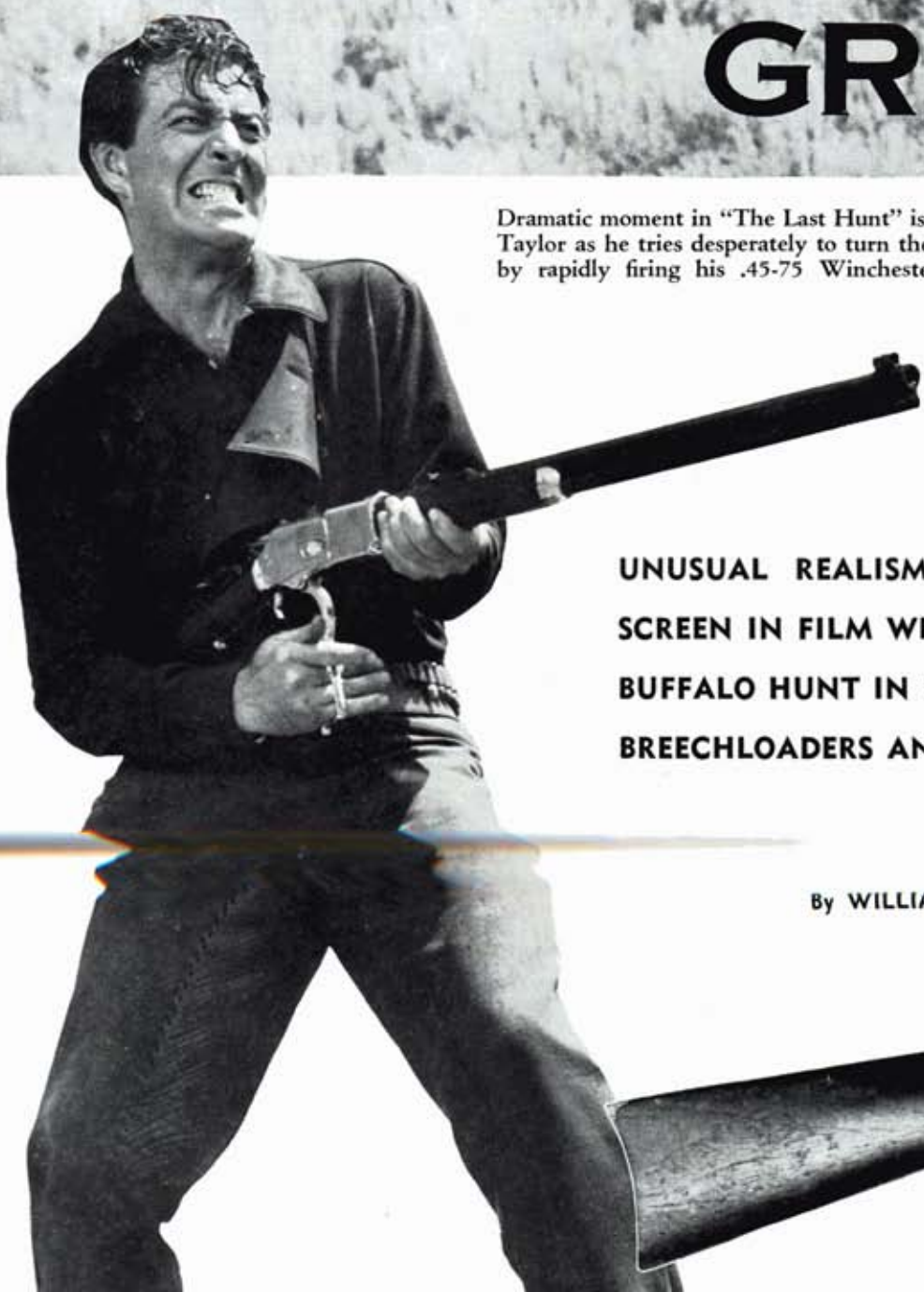


Work with young people's group teaching safe rifle shooting is activity of which Roy Rogers is proud.



HOLLYWOOD'S GREAT

Dramatic moment in "The Last Hunt" is vividly portrayed by Robert Taylor as he tries desperately to turn the leaders of buffalo stampede by rapidly firing his .45-75 Winchester Model '76 repeater rifle.



UNUSUAL REALISM IS BROUGHT TO
SCREEN IN FILM WHICH DEPICTS LAST
BUFFALO HUNT IN 1883 USING SHARPS
BREECHLOADERS AND WINCHESTER '76

By WILLIAM B. EDWARDS

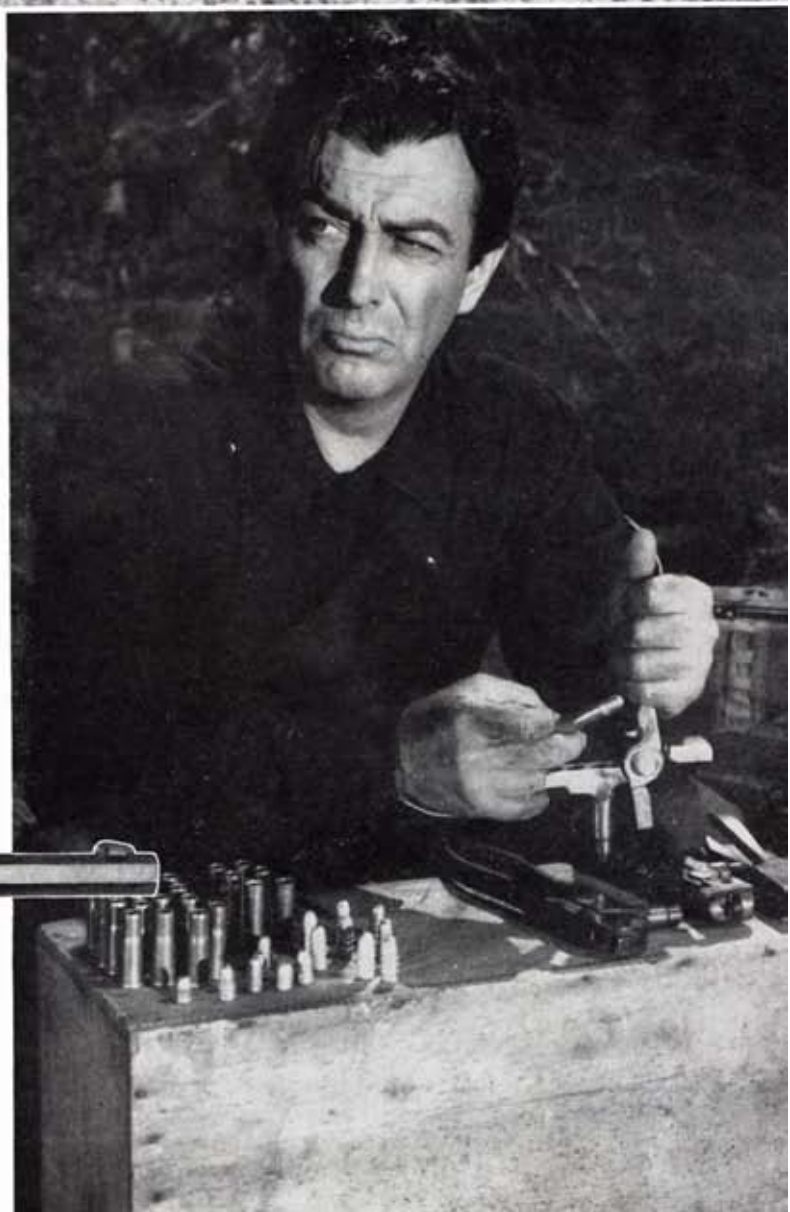




BUFFALO HUNT

ONCE A MIGHTY EMPIRE stretched from sea to sea, a land vast and broad with flat prairies reaching to high crags whose granite fingers were tipped with snow. Some 800,000 red men lived in this land, lived with their brothers, the buffalo. Today they are gone, the buffalo well nigh exterminated and the remnants of once-proud Indian tribes living on reservations as tourist sideshows. The annihilation of the Indian and the buffalo was not accomplished by white men's superior strategy or firepower. They were destroyed by the slow, methodical cadence of booming Sharps rifles in the hands of 10,000 buffalo hunters from the Rio Bravo to the icy headwaters of the Missouri. The Indian was doomed with the killing of the buffalo, for the American bison was his commissary.

The last days of the buffalo hunting are gone. Hide hunters of the 1870s and 1880s swept the Great Plains clear of the ponderous, shaggy-humped animals, and left heaps of bones for fertilizer makers to salvage. Now in the never-never land of Hollywood, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has produced a realistic film in which modern hunters can see the incidents and action of a buffalo hunt. Titled "The Last Hunt" and based on the prize-winning novel by Milton Lott (which in its turn was based on the excellent book "The Buffalo Hunters" by Marie Sandoz), MGM's picture has swung the Hollywood balance toward truth



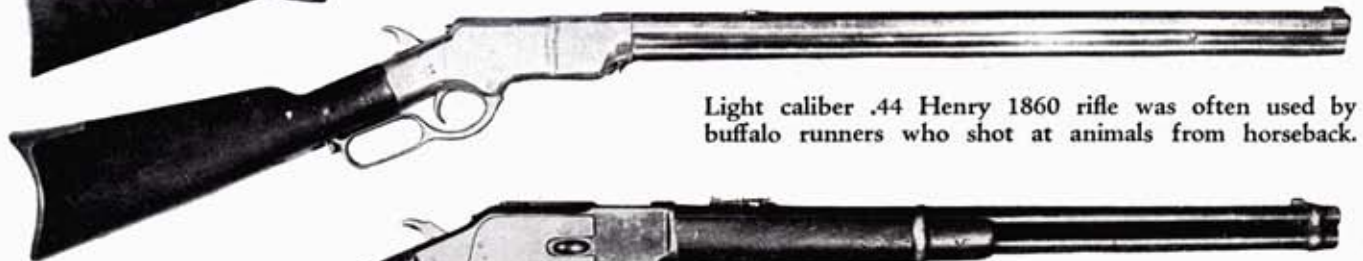
Holding Ideal tong tool with which he has just made a .45-90 load for the Sharps, Robert Taylor's scene showing reloading is unique in Hollywood films. Sharps .44-77 (above) from Freund of Cheyenne also used handloads.



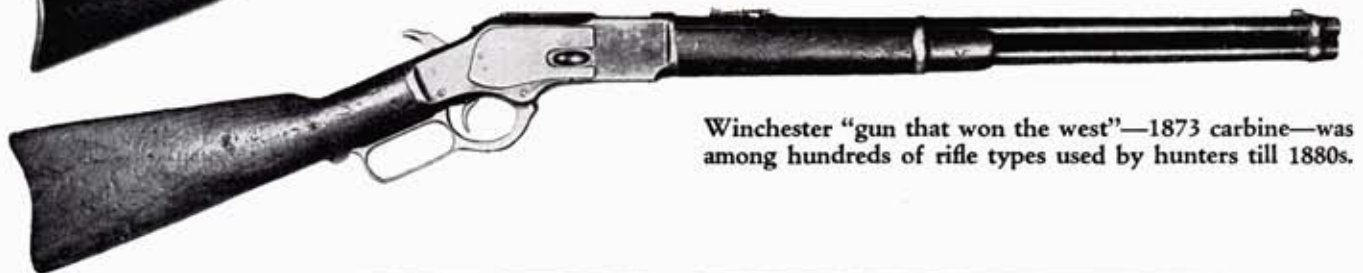
Mrs. Bill Tilghman, wife of the late famous frontier marshal, buffalo hunter and plainsman, holds Tilghman's Sharps "octagon sporting rifle" with double set triggers which hunter used in setting record kill of 11,000 buffalo. Tilghman stock has rawhide repair.



Typical Sharps rebuilt by famous gunsmith F. W. Freund of Cheyenne has new custom stock and slenderized action.



Light caliber .44 Henry 1860 rifle was often used by buffalo runners who shot at animals from horseback.



Winchester "gun that won the west"—1873 carbine—was among hundreds of rifle types used by hunters till 1880s.



Repeating '73 and '76 model Winchesters were loaded by gate on side, could be easily handled by horseman.



Middle joint of Winchester 76's toggle lock is collapsed by moving finger lever forward, draws bolt back.



Taking careful aim with his big Sharps rifle from a fork rest, Stewart Granger has established a "stand" in cover near a waterhole where buffalo drink, from which he will shoot carefully until small herd is all killed.

and authenticity. Filmed in the rolling hills of the Custer State Park near Cody, Wyoming, "The Last Hunt" shows western fans sights of buffalo hunting long since disappeared with the frontier.

The Custer Park protected herd of 1500 buffalo which roams wild was recruited as "extras" for the film and as "stars" for some of the action. Shooting buffalo from a "stand" figures in the picture, as well as a buffalo stampede which makes all previous Hollywood attempts at this line with Herefords and whitefaced steers seem tame as a bag race. Stewart Granger and Robert Taylor play the leads as professional buffalo hunters in 1883, killing the last remnants of the northern herd. Both Taylor and Granger are really big game hunters, the former in America, and Granger in Asia and Africa. Last year Robert Taylor received the Winchester "Sportsman of the Year" award. Although no strangers to guns, the stars found the ones they use in the movie somewhat different from their usual batteries of pump shotguns or English double rifles. These guns are the Sharps heavy single shot rifle and the Winchester Model 1876, weapons once widespread in the hands of the hide hunters.

According to MGM, guns of the period are used so "there thus can be no complaints from gun experts among theatregoers when they see the rifles employed in this picture." While producer Dore Schary and writer-director Richard Brooks spent much time in research to be sure their picturization of the Lott book was true to the days of 1883, some things seem a little inconsistent. Two Winchesters of the 1876 model were bought from an

antique dealer and renovated by the Winchester factory. They were thoroughly cleaned and dismantled with new wood supplied where necessary. The receiver, trigger, lever, hammer, firing pin and butt plate of each rifle were nickel plated. MGM studio technicians altered the feed mechanism so they would fire with blank cartridges. Two rifles were obtained so that in the event of damage to one, filming could continue uninterrupted. Oddly, one of the studio publicity photos shows Bob Taylor in a blizzard with a Winchester carbine, an 1873 model, not usually considered as a buffalo rifle. MGM also went out on a limb with some of the handguns. Viewers will be surprised to see Taylor carrying in one 1883 scene a Colt New Service revolver of 1898 with false round pieces added to the frame and a phony ejector rod added to simulate a Single Action.

On the Sharps rifles, MGM stuck close to the pattern needed. Two Sharps octagon barreled sporting rifles were obtained on loan from a southern California arms dealer, and their arms collection was complete. An unusual touch with both Winchester and Sharps is that the long-range tang rear sights were fitted, and are used by Taylor and Granger during actual shooting in the movie.

The long-range Sharps rifle held virtually undisputed title to being the buffalo rifles of the plains. Civil War veterans remembered accounts of Colonel Hiram Berdan's expert 1st Regiment sharpshooters armed with Sharps rifles and among the first guns used for buffalo hunting were the Civil War Sharps guns. The linen cartridge

breech loaders were converted to take the then-new 1866-7 .50 caliber metal centerfire Government shell, and many of these guns so chambered came to be called the "Big Fifty." This was apparently a popular designation and not to be confused with the later .50—3¼" case centerfire express loads put out by Winchester.

The Sharps had behind it a long record of use at extreme ranges. The buffalo hunters found it an excellent gun, because the heavy octagon barrels absorbed the tremendous heat of firing black powder loads and allowed fairly rapid shooting. It was only a single shot breech loader, but with a strong mechanism, which permitted heavy bullets and powder charges. One old hunter who worked out of Miles City, Montana, recalled: "The rifles were nearly all Sharps, .45-70, .45-90, and .45-120. Dan Levalley had a .44-77 Sharps and there were a few Winchesters. My best luck was with a .45-90. Dan said his best gun was the .44-77 which there weren't very many of this caliber."

There was one basic Sharps rifle used. The many calibers make a headache for any arms student and must have created problems right there on the spot. All riflemen used reloading outfits which consisted of a mould, de- and re-capper, case sizer, and bullet seater. Sometimes patch cutters, lubricators, powder scales or measures, and false muzzles were used—the latter very rarely. Buffalo hunting for meat had been common for many years using the heavy Hawken and other short-barreled, plain finished muzzle-loading American rifles of the Indian trader and frontiersman, but the hide hunter carried



Through the rail centers went tons of hides, shown here being weighed for shipment. Eastern factories used leather for machine belting and upholstery.

along a whole reloading laboratory. With all the millions of shots fired in movies since "The Great Train Robbery" in 1903, "The Last Hunt" is probably the first time reloading is shown on the screen.

The buffalo hunter's evenings were spent around the campfire running lead and loading fodder for the next day's shooting. Two or three hundred cartridges might be prepared by each hunter, and yet early afternoon of a successful next day "stand" would catch him with but one or two shots remaining. Tom Nixon gained a certain fame by killing 120 animals from one shooting position in a day, but ruining his Sharps rifle from over-heating at the same time.

Long range and high velocity demands of the hunters created a "wildcat" race among the ammo developers. One of the most popular cartridge designations—the ".40-70," indicating a .40" bore firing 70 grains of powder—appeared in six or seven popular makes and over a dozen different chamber dimensions. No two ".40-70s" would interchange unless you knew whether it was "Maynard," "straight," "bottleneck" or some other variation. To satisfy the demands for more bounce to the ounce, the .40-90 was designed, twenty grains more powder backing a 370 grain paper patch bullet. Both the Sharps Straight and the bottleneck case is to be found in this designation, non-interchangeable. Making allowances for the thousands of army .50 and .45 Springfields, the war surplus Starr, Sharps, Spencer, and other carbines and Ballard "Pacific" or rolling block Remington rifles in use among the hunters, probably the .40-90 was the most important single caliber. Regional preferences, like the .44-77 were noted. (Continued on page 54)



A good horse and heavy caliber Model '76 were essentials to hunters running buffalo.

WHY NOT SHOTGUNS FOR THE ARMY?

OLD CORN SELLER COULD BECOME MOST
IMPORTANT INFANTRY WEAPON IN
STOPPING OVERWHELMING CHARGES OF
MASSED ENEMY

By MILTON F. PERRY

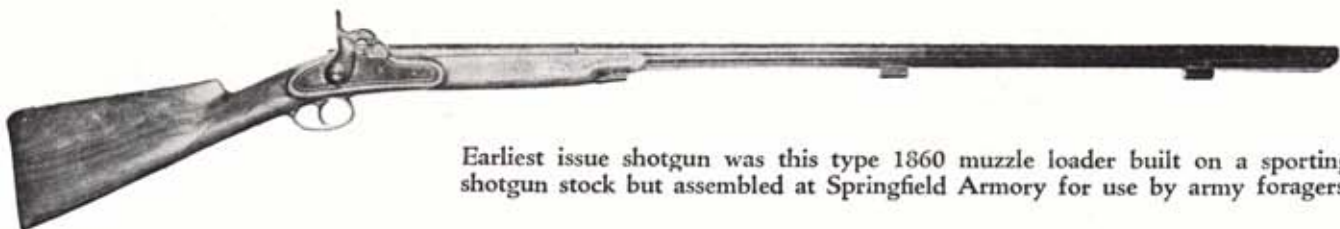
Winchester trench gun in 12 gauge
with 20 inch "riot" barrel length and
bayonet is effective military weapon.

NINE SHOTS with each pull of the trigger! Forty-five shots in three seconds! A cyclic rate of fire greater than a BAR, and accuracy enough to hit a man with at least one shot from a burst at 150 yards . . . quite a weapon? New? Not one bit . . . it's a gun the Army has used since the late 1850's, and one which every crowded countryside deer hunter knows—that old favorite, a shotgun loaded with buck shot.

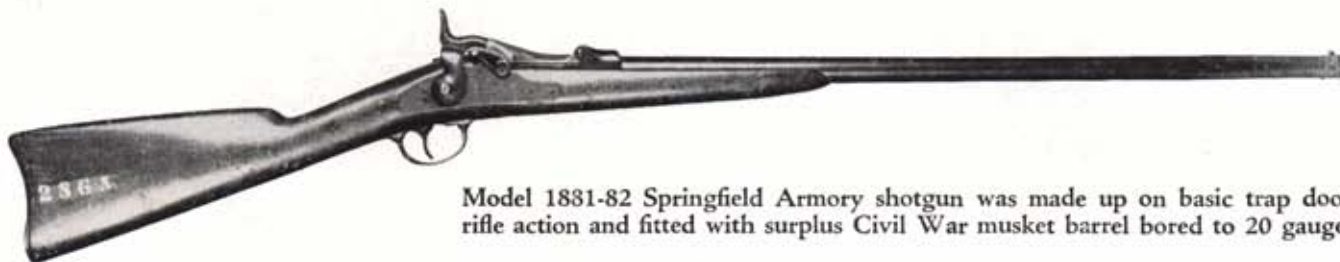
In modern guise the old corn sheller may become our most important infantryman's weapon, converting the Americans from a "nation of riflemen" to what they really are: a nation of shotgunners. A 20" barreled trench gun, either with an adjustable choke or cylinder bore, could be the weapon of the future. Against massed charges like the Chinese hordes which poured over our

Air Force gunnery training has included skeet shooting from moving truck.

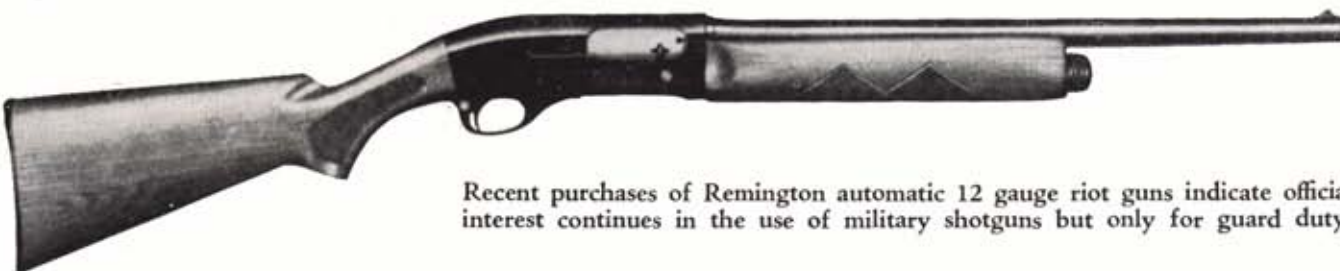




Earliest issue shotgun was this type 1860 muzzle loader built on a sporting shotgun stock but assembled at Springfield Armory for use by army foragers.



Model 1881-82 Springfield Armory shotgun was made up on basic trap door rifle action and fitted with surplus Civil War musket barrel bored to 20 gauge.



Recent purchases of Remington automatic 12 gauge riot guns indicate official interest continues in the use of military shotguns but only for guard duty.

lines in the Korean war, the effective firepower of a buck-loaded shotgun would act as a man stopper beyond all belief. The soft-lead .30-caliber buckshot load with its yard-wide pattern of nine round balls would virtually cut a man in two at any range where it could be used.

The Army is missing a bet now, but in other days we weren't so squeamish, and men are alive to tell tales of their trusty Model 97 trench guns, and the time they stopped the Hun offensive.

In 1917 we were as unprepared as a nation could be. In the emergency, General John J. Pershing studied the characteristics of trench warfare to determine how and what training methods we needed. One thing stood out: massed attacks on small fronts. Heavy concentrations of fire in these areas were about the only thing that could effectively stop such assaults. Pershing foresaw the value of the shotgun in combat. The

ideal light weapon to provide the needed cones of fire, it also was a weapon we could produce quickly and whose fundamentals are easy to learn.

For a decade the army had been using a repeating shotgun—the Model 1897—produced by Winchester. In addition, the Remington firm was also equipped to handle large orders. Both quickly went into action.

The Winchester "trench gun" was the most popular. It had a 20-inch barrel protected by a metal hand guard and took the regular M1917 bayonet. The tube magazine held five rounds, and a sixth could be placed in the breech. A total of 19,196 were produced by Winchester alone.

The most effective trench gun ammunition against attacking infantry was found to be a hefty cartridge filled with BB or 00 buckshot. Over 24 million rounds of the stuff were made by us during our short belligerence.

With the utmost secrecy, trap shooters were re-

Shotgunning in dummy bomber tail assembly develops high skills of coordination needed by Air Force gunners.



cruited, trained in a hush-hush program, and rushed overseas. At Chateaux-Thierry modern shotguns fired with world-wide reverberations, though the public did not know it until afterwards. A German attack was imminent; and it was the drive of 1918. Americans were rushed to bolster the line: marines, infantry and shotgunners.

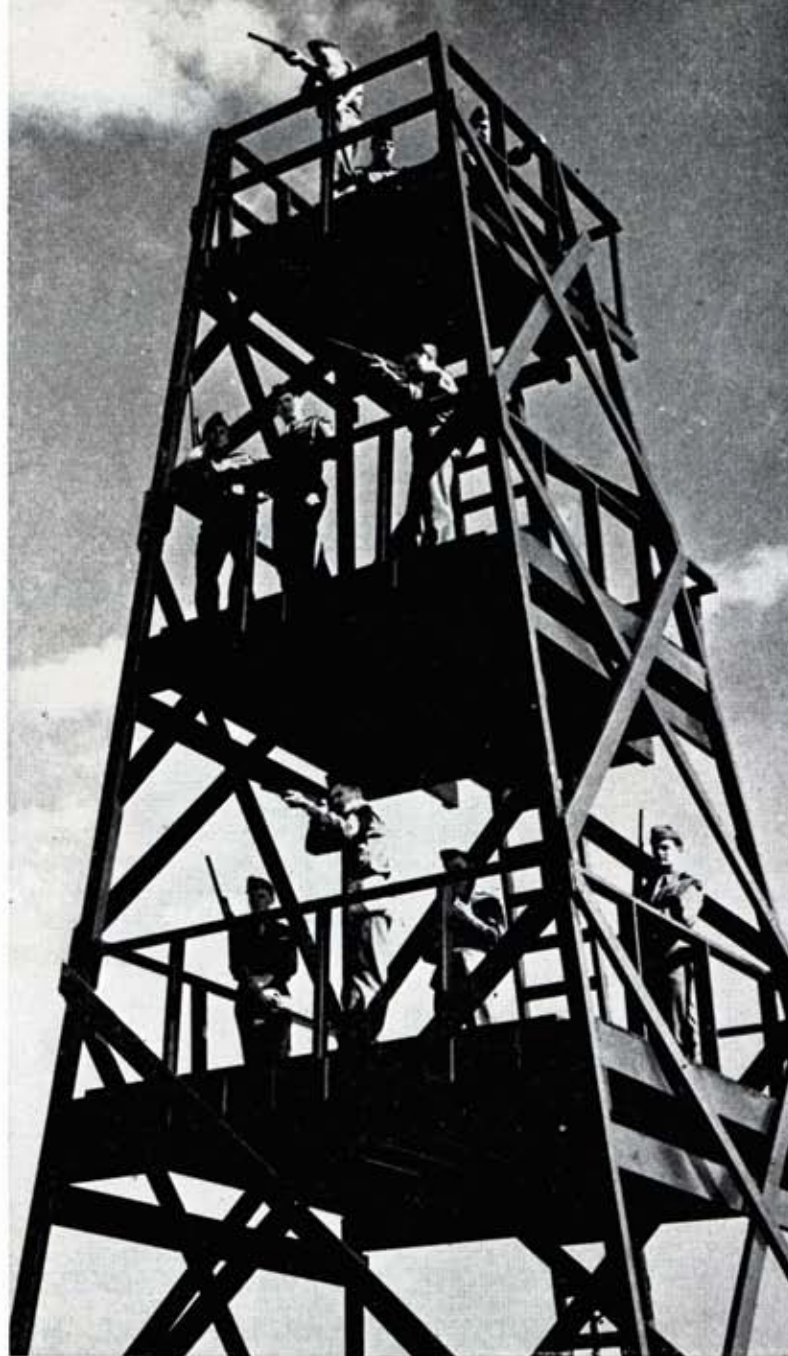
In outposts ahead of the main line of resistance we placed some of our very best trapshooters—men who could hit a flying bird upon instantaneous reflex action. In the trenches was a unit composed of those who had shot at sporting meets back home. Breathlessly they awaited the assault.

Their first warnings were German "potato masher" hand grenades lobbing through the air. Few landed, as most of them were exploded in the air by the experts in the outposts. Upon the failure of the grenade attack, the enemy launched a mortar attack. Again the trap shooters proved their worth, deflecting the slowly arching bombs. Finally, a vast gray wave of the Kaiser's best surged forward.

As the enemy moved across No Man's Land, our outposts retreated and joined their comrades in the trenches where they determinedly awaited the attackers.

Withholding their fire until the enemy was within 50 yards, our shotgunners sent a withering hail of shot through their massed groups like a scythe cutting through a stand of wheat. The Germans were completely unprepared for such a punishing wall of fire. The searing blast stopped the onrush completely. The well-drilled infantry wavered, retreated and finally broke before the storm. Never in all of the operations on the Western front had there been anything like it. Machine guns fire only in short bursts and end up shooting high. Not the shotgunners. They sent an unbroken chain of shots across the churned earth of the battlefield without a pause. Not only did they break up the assault, but very probably saved the battle itself.

National Guard of New York uses shotguns on maneuvers, planned complete rearming with shotguns before the war.



Coordination for gunners was learned by Air Corps cadets in skeet shooting from multi-level tower, simulating combat.

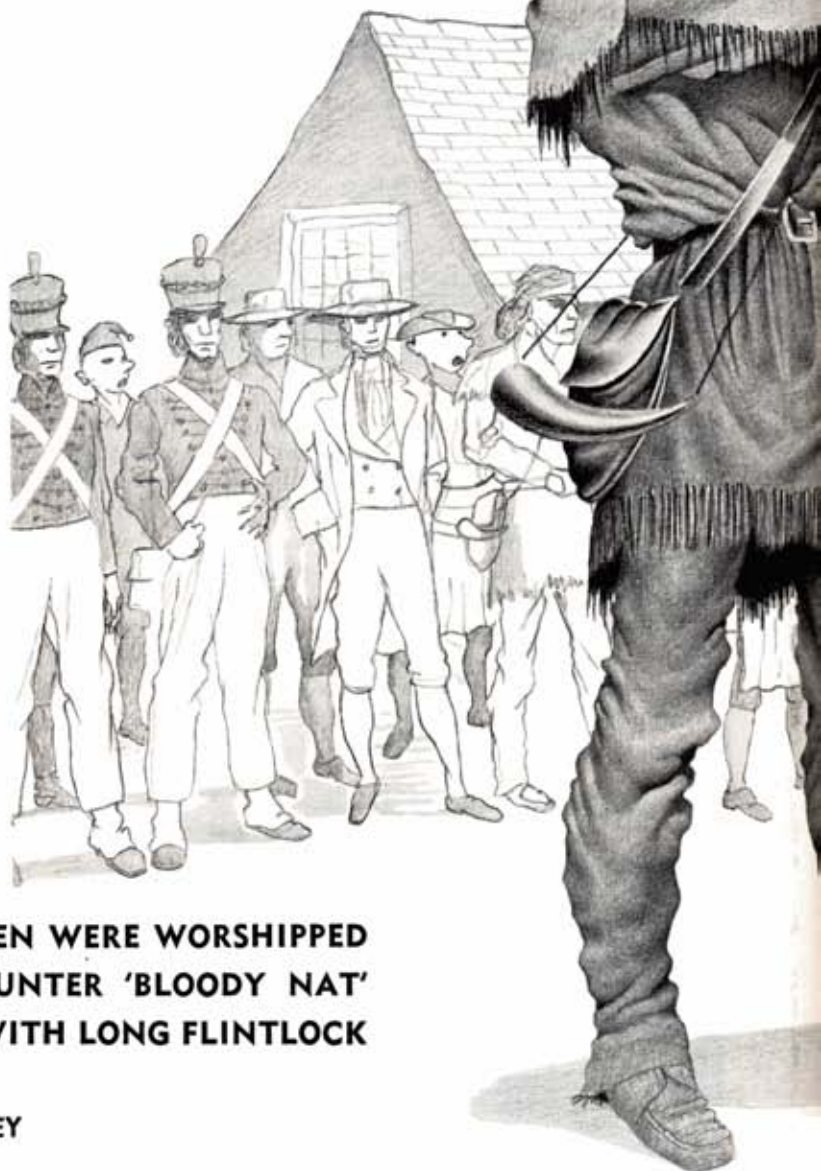
Back in the training camps we had discovered that every buckshot round spewed over an area some nine feet high and three feet wide, and perforated a two-inch board at 100 yards. Even at 150 yards at least one slug usually hit a man-sized target. What was even more important was that a shotgunner, firing from the hip, with a loader beside him could get off as many as fifty shots a minute—by simply twitching the trigger and pumping.

America's secret weapon found many other combat uses during the war. At this same battle one ground gunner knocked down a low-flying German observation plane. Others shot enemy messenger pigeons and German-trained pigeon hawks attacking Allied birds. Airmen took the scatterguns aloft to shoot at balloons and planes.

The morale of the already-weary German army took a sharp nosedive. It got so bad that on September 19, 1918, Secretary of State Lansing received from the German government a long cable protest- (Continued on page 58)

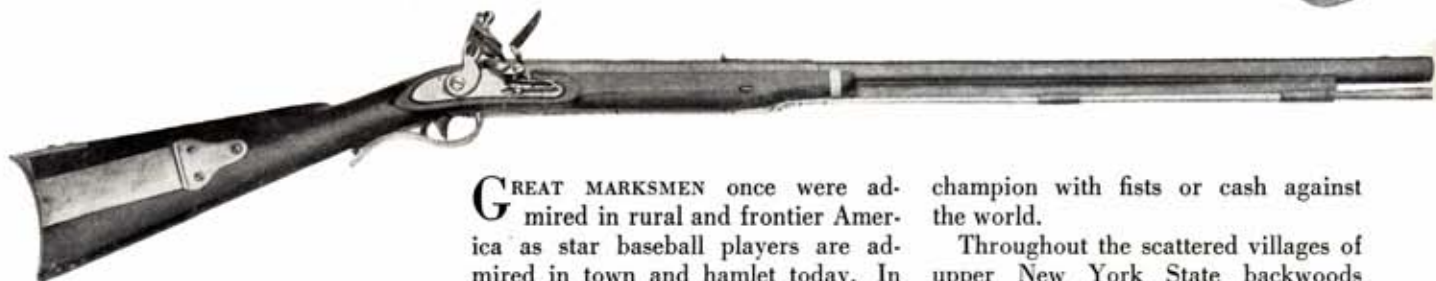


SHOOTING CHAMP OF THE FRONTIER



**COMPETING IN DAYS WHEN MARKSMEN WERE WORSHIPPED
LIKE TODAY'S BASEBALL STARS, HUNTER 'BLOODY NAT'
DEMONSTRATED AMAZING ABILITY WITH LONG FLINTLOCK**

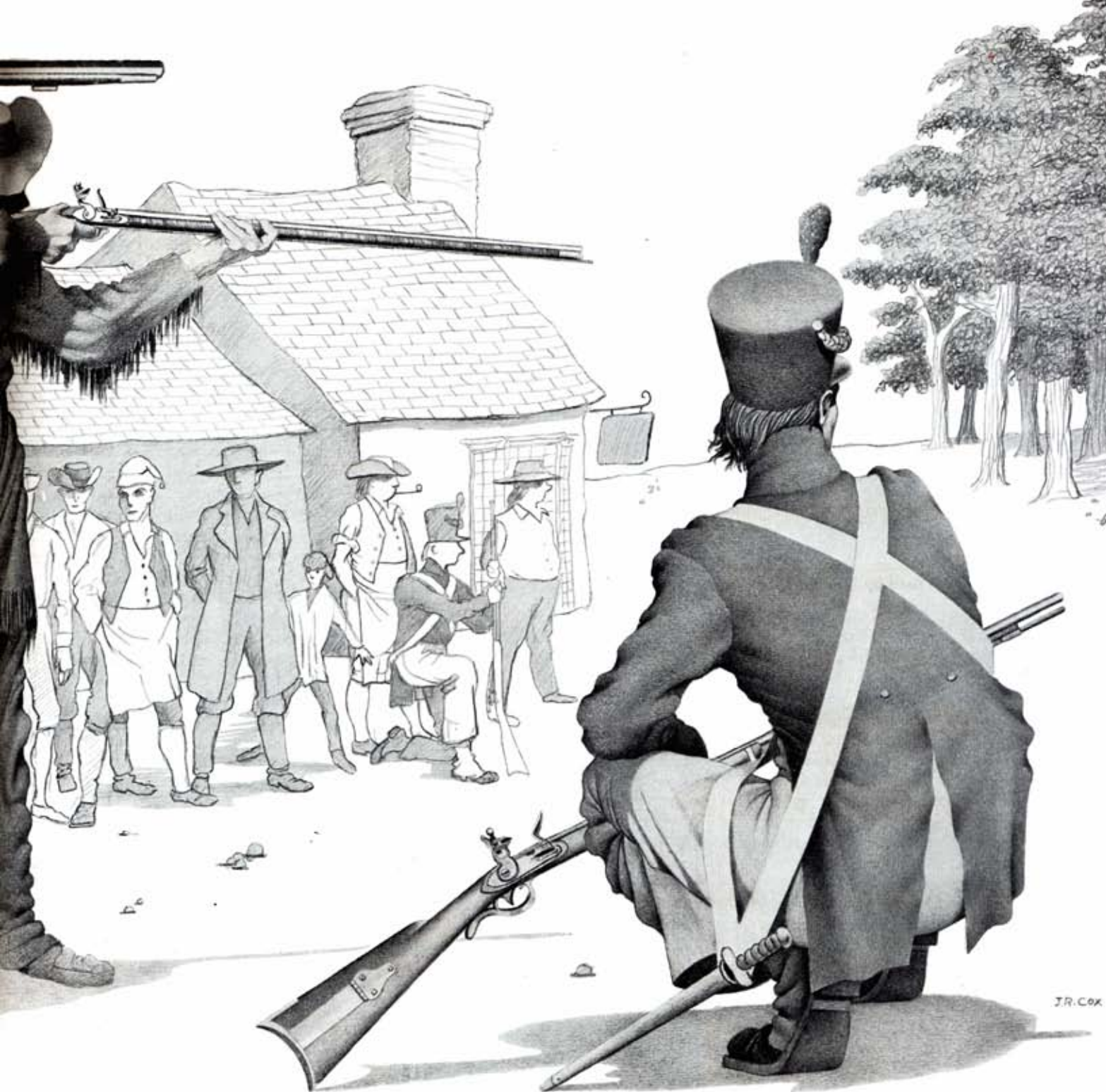
By NORMAN B. WILTSEY



GREAT MARKSMEN once were admired in rural and frontier America as star baseball players are admired in town and hamlet today. In the early 1800's, Daniel Boone still lived, and the glorious deeds of Morgan's riflemen at Saratoga and Cowpens in the Revolution were not forgotten. Each small, remote settlement boasted its local sharpshooter—and stood ready at all times to back its

champion with fists or cash against the world.

Throughout the scattered villages of upper New York State backwoods country, a sour-tempered professional hunter named Nat Foster was the idol of the populace. Nicknamed "Bloody Nat" because of the incredible number of deer he slaughtered yearly for the markets of Schenectady and Albany, Foster was anything but a proper



As "Bloody Nat" leveled his Kentucky rifle (top left), Sergeant Robinson of the New York Volunteers stood easily by, holding his Harper's Ferry rifle (bottom left) which he shot in competition against noted New York backwoods hunter.

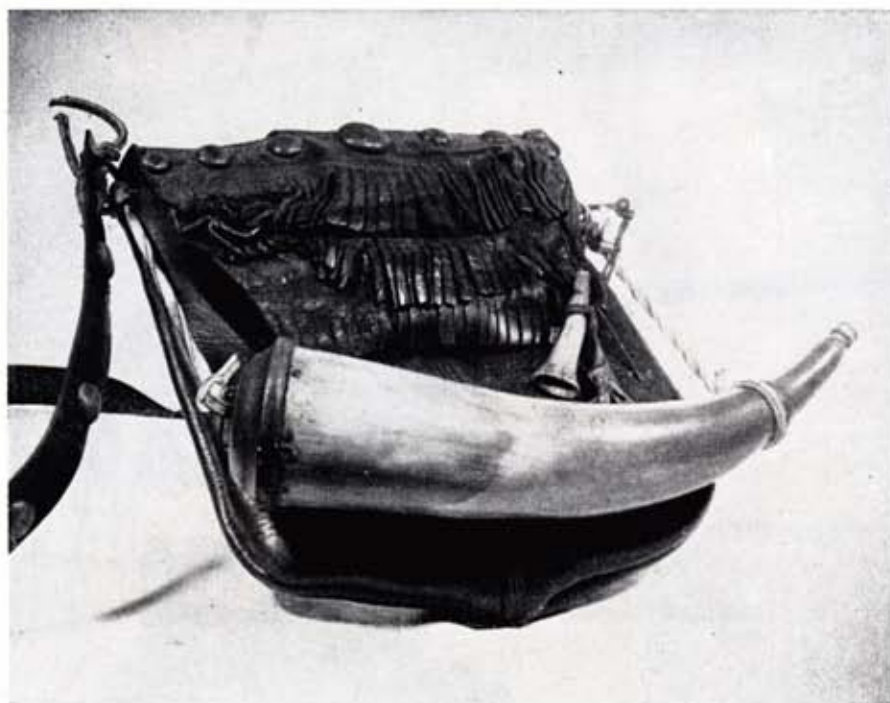
model for the youth of America. Yet he could do one thing better than anybody else around: shoot his long flintlock rifle with amazing artistry and precision. In 1814, Nat performed brilliantly in a rifle shooting contest that still is discussed with awe by the natives of Herkimer County of upstate New York where the famed match occurred.

The United States was at war with

England in that summer of 1814. Captain Henry Forsyth's "A" Company, 13th New York Volunteers, en route from Albany to the Niagara fighting front, marched into the village of Manheim, Herkimer County, on the hot afternoon of July 15. The tired men dropped their packs at the captain's barked "Disperse," stacked their weapons around the flagpole on the village green, and made a bee-line for

the taproom of the Pig 'n' Whistle.

The spring-cooled hard cider proved potent as well as thirst-quenching, and the revived militiamen quickly got to boasting of their individual prowess with shooting-irons and of the remarkable exploits of their company champion, Sergeant John Robinson, in particular. Sergeant Robinson, according to his vociferous comrades, was merely the "best goddam marksman in



Typical of frontiersmen's shooting accessories was the combination bullet and patch pouch used by "Bloody Nat" Foster in backwoods shooting match of 1814.

the hull State o' York!" Robinson modestly accepted the accolade.

At this point in the boisterous proceedings, a tall, lean gent at the bar set down his half-emptied mug of applejack and turned to object. One thing led to another, and soon the militiamen were neatly suckered into challenging the lanky scoffer to meet Robinson in a shooting match. The challenge was accepted with suspicious alacrity. Only then did Bloody Nat Foster reveal his identity.

The contest was held at noon of the following day in a clearing at the edge of the forest. Every male inhabitant of Manheim over the age of six, plus the entire militia outfit of a hundred men, attended the "rifle shootin'." Gay holiday spirit exhilarated the audience. Dogs barked, kids raseled, cider and applejack flowed like water, and everybody but the penniless small fry managed to scrape up a dollar or two to bet on the contestant of his choice. "A" Company loyally emptied its collective pockets of silver to bet on Robinson and the townsfolk to a man backed Bloody Nat. Captain Forsyth and Lieutenant O'Neill dug up the side bet of \$50 in hard money demanded by Foster; for Nat made it unpleasantly clear that he wouldn't pull trigger unless the stake went up.

The match was to consist of three separate shoots. Each man selected one type of shoot, the third to be determined by the flip of a coin. Foster,

as the challenged marksman, had first choice and picked a speed shoot of five rounds per man fired at a six-inch mark at 50 yards range. Sergeant Robinson chose a block shoot of five rounds per man at 100 yards. The third shoot, as decided by a coin flipped by Captain Forsyth, was to be a peg shoot of five rounds per man fired at a six-inch cross-mark at 75 yards. Both men agreed to shoot off-hand on all tests.

For the speed shoot and the peg shoot, two suitable trees were blazed with axes at a height of five feet above the ground, and each blaze carefully



Rustic rifle targets of paper and charred wood were real tests of skill.

smoothed off with a keen-edged hunting knife. Centering one blaze, a circular mark was smeared on with wet gunpowder measured to exactly six inches in diameter. Centering the other blaze, a six-inch cross-mark was applied—also in wet gunpowder. Then the marks for the block shoot were set out: pine blocks split to about six inches square with their surfaces blackened by charring. The various distances were meticulously paced off by Master Job Evans, jovial proprietor of the Pig 'n' Whistle acting in his usual capacity of village referee—and the rival marksmen were ready to start throwing lead.

Sergeant Robinson used a rifle instead of the usual military smoothbore musket of the period. Robinson's weapon, a half-stocked .54 caliber Harper's Ferry, was shorter and heavier than Foster's long-barrelled .38 caliber Kentucky rifle.

Bloody Nat led off in the first test—the 100 yard block shoot. The tall hunter loaded his rifle with swift precision, charging the piece with powder from his big horn, driving home the ball in its greased linen patch with one deft thrust of the hickory ramrod. A dash of priming powder in the pan from the smaller horn, and Nat was ready to fire. The long rifle swept to position, froze at the level for a split-second before the marksman squeezed off the hair-trigger and sent the ball on its way. The first block spun backward from its fence-rail perch, and the townsfolk whooped in triumph.

Firing in rotation, Sergeant Robinson knocked off his first block—and "A" Company raised a roar that threw the dogs into hysterics and set the crows to cawing and circling in the woods.

Four times Foster hit his blocks—and four times Robinson matched him shot for shot. Nat missed his fifth shot. The crowd was silent as the soldier took aim. Robinson was over-deliberate; he too missed.

Tensely the audience watched while the referee examined the marks. The shoot would go to the man whose ball struck nearest the exact middle of each of his four blocks.

Intently, referee Job Evans studied Foster's blocks placed side by side with Robinson's. Finally he straightened up, waving his arms for silence. "The winner of the block shoot," he announced dramatically, "is—Robinson!"

The howl the soldiers sent up prevented any- (Continued on page 64)

OUT-OF-SEASON DUCK DINNERS



Recipe may read "brown well" but hunter knows it first should be "Browning Twelve" when duck passes gun on way to become "Glazed Duckling Montemorency" (right), as served in exclusive Hotel Ambassador's Pump Room in Chicago.



IF YOUR FREEZER IS JAMMED FULL OF DUCK AND YOU'RE TIRED OF DIET OF ROAST FOWL, CHANGE-OF-PACE RECIPES ARE GOURMET DELIGHTS

By HARRY BOTSFORD

THE SHOOTING'S all over for the year but the hunting season is well-remembered for fat dividends that now have the freezer bulging. Ducks, ducks and more ducks, the wife complains. After all, when you've had roast duck so many times, it's no longer a treat and that freezer's just bulging and so is your waistline. The wife acidly informs you that all that freezer space devoted to ducks could well be holding more important items like steak.

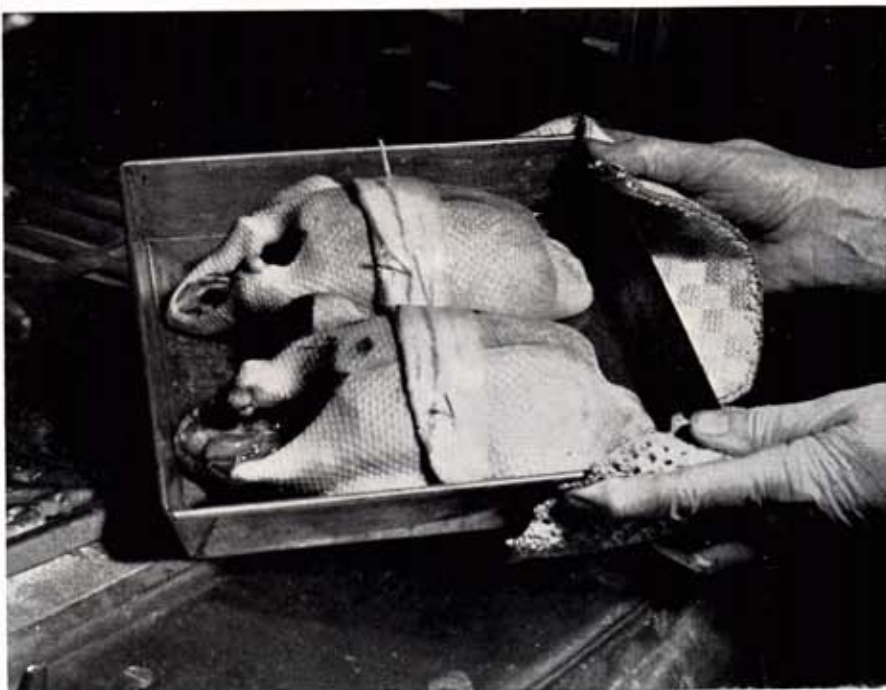
There's a limit to how many times you can feed on roast

duck, the wife beefs. "Before you know, we'll all be quacking instead of burping at the table," she informs you with a feeble attempt at humor. If you have come to that pass, lend an ear while I tell you of duck delights you never dreamed of. One of these I learned while out on one of innumerable duck safaris I've enjoyed.

This particular day the camp cook's edict was implacable but he tempered it with a few crumbs of solace. "You all eat them sandwiches I fixed you for lunch. I'll fix up



Feather plucking chore can be speeded by applying hot wax to remove down.



Ducks prepared for roasting can be given added zest by stuffing with cut, green vegetables and topping with bacon strips before putting pan in the oven.

some hot coffee to go with 'em. They's good samwiches. Comes supper, I will pervide you with sumphing extry."

You didn't argue with Parsons. His word was law around the duck lodge, and he was a superlative cook. The game warden came in, sort of oozed through a pea soup fog that had ruined our shooting for the morning. He had no solace to offer. "Latest weather report is that the fog won't clear until tomorrow morning," he said shucking his dripping raincoat.

"Sit right down, Mr. Kennedy," Parsons invited. "Have a plate for you real quick, sir!"

Wild mallards and orange slices is standard recipe which can be made into happy surprise with gravy boat (left) full of "duckling chaud froid sauce."



The warden ate broiled ham steak and fried eggs, plus hot biscuits. Parsons knew that it paid to be hospitable to the warden, even encouraged him to partake of some stimulant before he ate.

We grumbled, got into lighter clothing, a poker game and a table of bridge started. Fragrance seeped in from the kitchen, undeniably duck, but with nuances of other oddments. Our hunger was whetted to razor edge when he called us. Thus, a foggy day helped to introduce us to Braised Mallards, a trick he said he had learned from Mme. Begue in New Orleans, a statement I doubt, but the end result was superlative.

Mme. Begue's Braised Mallards

3 fat mallards	1 cup chopped
duck livers	canned mush-
1 cup chopped	rooms
onion	1/2 pound lean
3 tablespoons	salt pork
parsley (dry)	1 large clove of
2 tablespoons	garlic, diced
dried chives	3 tablespoons
3 egg yolks,	chopped
beaten with	celery leaves
1/3 cup	1 tablespoon
brandy	dried chervil
chicken broth	dash of nutmeg
	and thyme

The ducks were cleaned, the ingredients mixed into a stuffing, the birds were loosely stuffed, securely trussed. Next came the braising sauce.

Heat 1/3 to 1/2 cup butter and olive oil in equal parts in a large iron Dutch oven, add 1/4 cup chopped carrots, the same amount of onions, celery, green pepper, 1/2 cup raw veal that has been run through (Continued on page 61)

FITTING A NEW RIFLE BARREL



Finished barrels may require a whisker turned off breech to correct headspace before screwing into the action.

FINISHED CHAMBERED BARRELS SOLD BY SPECIALTY MANUFACTURERS ALLOW AMATEUR GUNSMITH TO ASSEMBLE HIS "CUSTOM" SPORTER AT HOME

By HAL HARTLEY

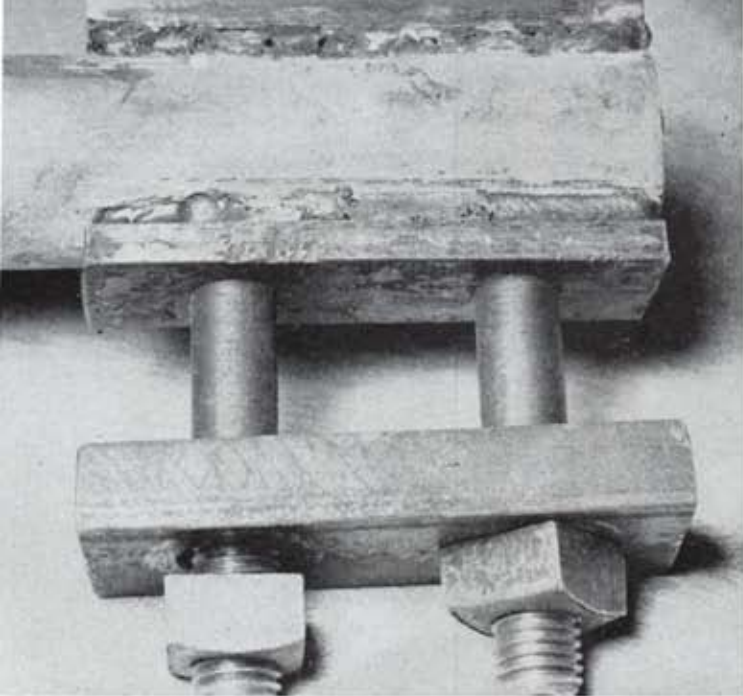
FITTING A BARREL to a sporting rifle is looked upon by many people as one of the great mysteries of the art of gunsmithing. Established gunsmiths are often way behind in their work, and prices on that mumbo-jumbo known as "headspacing" added to the cost of a good barrel blank often make price-conscious shooters shy away from a new barrel "until maybe next year." Actually there is nothing mysterious about barrel fitting, and with deer season past it might be a good time to check over that GI Mauser and determine if maybe it isn't worth putting on a new barrel.

Barrel makers such as G. R. Douglas will supply barrels that are finish turned and threaded for the action, whether Mauser, Enfield, Springfield, or something else. I have owned and used a number of guns with Douglas barrels and have never known of a poor shooting one. If you want to build a gun, such finished barrels greatly simplify the job.

Perhaps you don't own a GI Mauser? There are plenty of actions around for as little as 15 to 18 dollars. New commercial FN actions can be bought at retail for a little more, and are improvements over the old '98 Mauser in

Used inexpensive GI Mauser or commercial FN action (right) can be made into accurate rifle with new barrel.





Simple construction of action wrench if welds are clean and strong will save many dollars in amateur rebarrelling.

metals and design. Choose the action you like best. Select the cartridge and the type barrel you want. Douglas makes them just about any size, shape and weight, and in most popular calibers. He also supplies many of the "wildcat" sizes.

You will need a vise to hold the barrel when you fit it to the action. From scrap steel and a few bolts you can easily make a simple and inexpensive one. The base plate is 9"x5"x $\frac{3}{4}$ ". At each corner it has a $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole so it can be bolted to a heavy timber. Two $\frac{7}{8}$ " machine bolts, 6" long are in the center, 4" on center and the heads are electric welded on the back of the plate. When you fit this plate to the top of your workbench you will have to chisel out



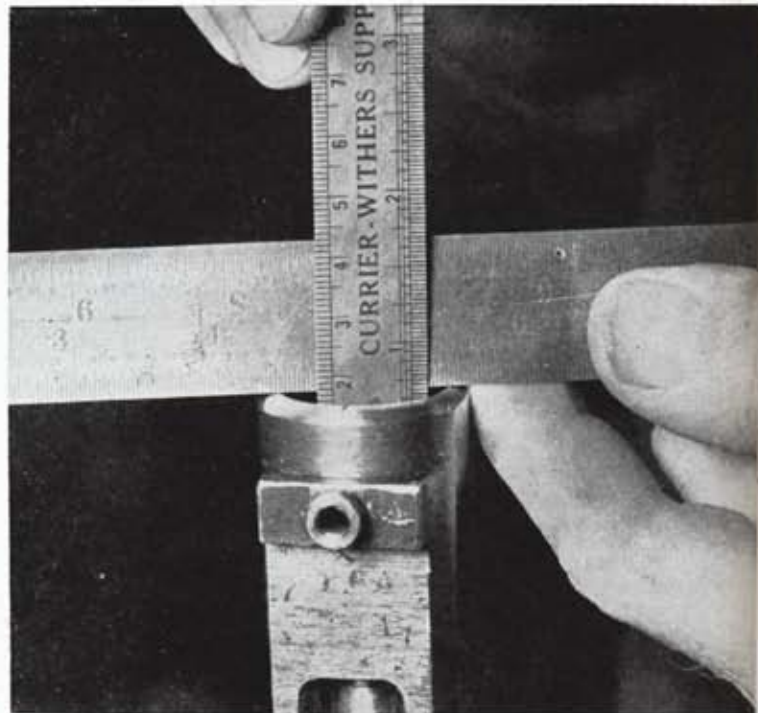
Barrel must be gripped solidly and without slipping in hardwood vise jaws which have been inletted to fit it.



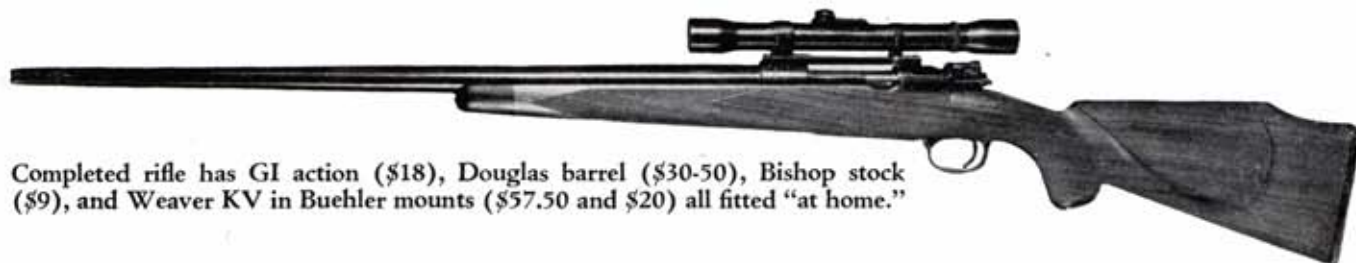
Barrel and receiver threads must be clean. Toothbrush and "carbona" will dissolve grease and remove grit.

enough wood to clear the bolt heads. The top plate is 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x4"x $\frac{3}{4}$ ". The holes in it are 15/16", which help to make it easy to slip over the bolts.

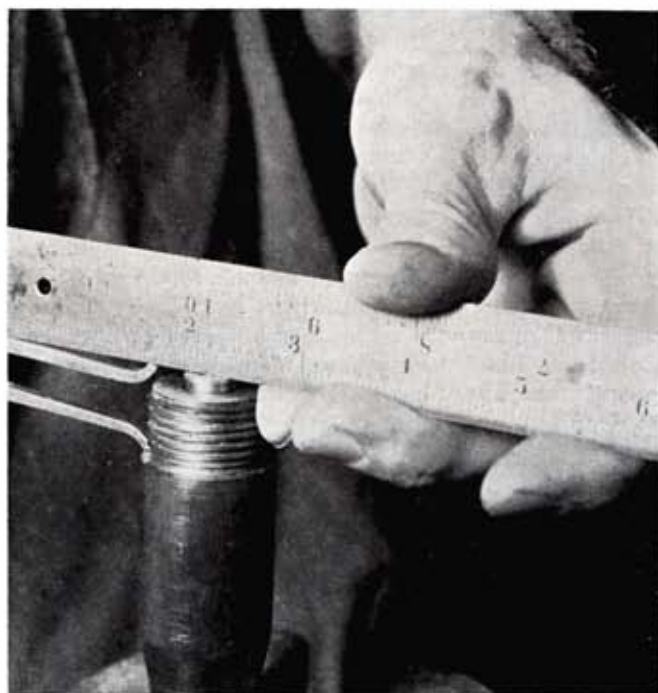
You will need to build a wrench for twisting the action on and off the barrel. One can be made of a piece of pipe 30" long and 2" in diameter. On the top and bottom sides are welded pieces of steel 5"x2"x $\frac{1}{4}$ ". These give added strength, keeping the pipe from buckling and giving more bearing surface to the top of the action when it is fitted in the wrench. The two bolts are $\frac{7}{8}$ " and are 6" long and are welded, to keep them from turning. The clamp plate is 5"x2"x $\frac{3}{4}$ ". The bolt holes are 15/16" and are spaced 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " on center.



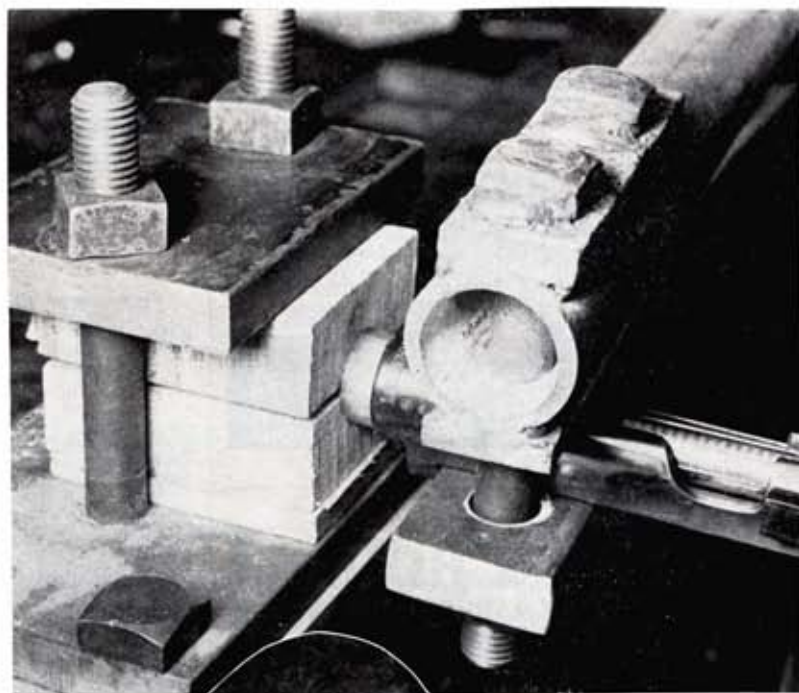
Measurement from bolt face with bolt in "locked" position is critical in adjusting shell headspace of barrel.



Completed rifle has GI action (\$18), Douglas barrel (\$30-50), Bishop stock (\$9), and Weaver KV in Buehler mounts (\$57.50 and \$20) all fitted "at home."



By using cartridge and shim with careful measurements as headspace gauge, barrel can be assembled safely.



Wrench and vise built from scrap works as well as factory tools.

The action must be thoroughly cleaned of all grease, grit and scale. Be especially careful to get the bolt lugs, bolt face and lug bearing surfaces in the action clean. Use a tooth brush and alcohol to clean the action threads.

You must have something to hold the barrel in the vise. Wood blocks will do the best job and will not scar the barrel. Get two 1" thick blocks at least 4" long and wide enough to fit snugly between the bolts. Carefully bed the barrel to almost half the depth in each block. If you will use hard wood, such as maple, and bed the barrel *across* the grain there will be very little chance of it splitting in the vise.

The barrel should screw into the action with a smooth and snug fit. If you can turn it in with your hands to the last two or three threads it is just right. Occasionally you may find a barrel that won't quite start. Then you must chase the threads on the barrel with a fine, three-cornered file. Always take the metal off the barrel threads, never off the action. Go carefully on the threads and try the barrel in the action fre- (Continued on page 64)

North Carolina stockmaker Hal Hartley used simple methods in building fine varminters he shoots.





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By STUART MILLER

The Interchangeable 40-70's

A box of 40-70's, Please."

This request today would bring a blank look and the assurance that if they ever were manufactured, they aren't any more, and why not buy a good gun, like a 30-30? This same request made, say 75 years ago, would have brought the prompt reply, "Sure thing, but what kind do you want, Sharps, Winchester, Ballard, or what?"

There has never been a "caliber" with more non-interchangeable cartridges to its credit, than the 40-70.

With the exception of the Win-

chester Model 1886 (5th from left) and the Ballard Repeating Rifle (3rd from right), these cartridges were all intended for use in the then-popular single shot target and hunting rifles. The 40-70 Winchester was the last one to be brought out, and is the only one that was commercially loaded with smokeless powder and soft point or metal patched bullets. The rest were furnished in either paper patched or grooved lead bullets, and used black powder. These were expected to be re-loaded by the shooter, often many times.

target rifle. These rifles were made by the Providence Tool Company of Providence, R. I., and was named after the famous "What Cheer" target range nearby. This is the smallest of the "What Cheer" series which also included the 40-90 and 44-95 "What Cheers."

The 40-70 Percussion Maynard is another of the rare ones of this lot. It is believed that this caliber was first introduced in their Model 1873 series of center fire cartridges. However, when the load proved so popular, a few barrels and cartridges were made for use in the earlier "Model 1865" Per-



cussion Maynards. These used a percussion cap on the nipple of the gun, and drive fire through a small flash hole in the center of the rim, igniting the powder charge.

Despite the fact that a 40-70 was supposed to use 70 grains of black powder as propelling charge, this wasn't always the case. The 40-70 Sharps Straight cartridge were usually commercially loaded with 65 grains of powder, while the 40-70 Ballard used 72 grains of powder to do the job. This 70 grain powder load seems to have been a popular one and was used in several calibers. The smallest was an experimental 32-70 U.S. Navy rifle that was made by Winchester, then came the 38-70 Winchester Model 1886 repeating rifle, then the mess of 40-70s we have just gone over; next the long lived 45-70 and 50-70 Springfield army rifles and carbines, and finally the 52-70 Sharps military rim fire rifle cartridges.

The entire line-up as shown is, from left to right: 40-70 Sharps Necked, Model 1882 Maynard, Ballard, Sharps Straight, Winchester Model 1886, Peabody "What Cheer," Ballard, Model 1873 Maynard, and percussion Maynard.

The shortest cartridge is also one of the rarest of the set. This was for the "What Cheer" model Peabody-Martini

(Continued on page 46)

GLAMOUR GIRL

(Continued from page 21)

and an auto. I then set off a full box of cartridges with each of three side-by-side doubles and finally wound up the shooting stint with an equal amount of firing from three over/unders. The time interval was an important factor and this I carefully measured with the use of an electrical timer which was activated the instant the gun was moved from a low hunting carry. The shooting distance was only 23 yards as I was simulating upland shooting. All the weapons were light, open-bored models.

The over/under not only won the speed trial end of the tests but placed the center of its shot charge nearer the very center of the pattern sheet.

Time for the over/under based on the 75 shots and taken as an average was 24/100th second; for the conventional double 27/100th second; and for the 75 rounds with the three magazine shotguns was 32/100th second. This shooting required three intensive weeks and I fired only three-quarters of an hour each session sometimes commencing with one gun, sometimes with another.

The ability of the over/under to get the shot off more quickly and accurately is an indication of its inherently perfect design.

Some over/unders from the standpoint of perfect design are better than others. I do not mean from the consideration of durability or safety but from the matter of better pointability. This factor hinges on the design of the receiver and more specifically from the location of the locks. These locks, essentially, spell the difference.

The over/under, when it was first designed, was locked up like the run-of-mill shotgun, i.e. the locks were incorporated on the under barrel and took the form generally of two under lugs. This was fine and made for a very strongly latched up breech but the fly in the pie was that it made a very deep action. This is objectionable. The receiver that has great depth simply will not shoot on a par with the shallow action. It is a matter again of positioning the hands too far below the axis of the bore.

The over/under with the most shallow action ever seen in this country was the Remington Model 32 O/U. It was discontinued before World War II. This gun had a sliding wedged cover that locked the barrel at the top. There were no under bolts and for that reason the receiver was the most shallow it was possible to design. Remington ceased the manufacture of the Model 32 because it was a costly proposition; shot-gunners have been crying ever since. It is still eagerly sought by wing gunners in the know and now fetches some astounding figures. Alex Kerr, one of the truly greats of the skeet shooting world, has been a long time user of the Remington.

The most sturdy of all O/U actions is the Merkel. It originated in Germany and has been copied by manufacturers all over Europe. Today it is the action that is incorporated in the handsome AYA (Eibar, Spain) over/under shotguns; likewise it is copied at Ferlach, Austria, and is seen in this country in the shape of the Continental over/under. Certain Italian gunmakers also follow the Merkel type in building their receivers. This action incorporates not one

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under bolt but two, arranged in line. The top barrel has extensions machined on it through which pass separate bolts. This is called the Kersten fastener. Either the under-bits or the Kersten fastener would be sufficient to lock up the weapon but you cannot convince a European gunmaker.

"The customer will not accept your product," Agustin Aranzabal, president of the mighty Aguirre y Aranzabal Arms Works in Eibar, Spain, told me, "unless it has a multiplicity of bolts on it." Unquestionably this has influenced the popularity of the Merkel action.

The two under bolts are machined as an integral part of the lower barrel. These bolts accept tapered locking lugs which continue to bite deeper and deeper as the surfaces of the bolt recesses wear away. It is an action that will never shoot loose. The Kersten fastener is in a great many respects very similar to the Greener crossbolt except that instead of a single bolt passing through a single extension, there are two.

I object to the Merkel action as being the poorest of the lot. It is too deep. The two great under bolts lengthen the action from top to bottom and this is undesirable from the standpoint of the perfect design. It tends to drop the hands too low.

I much prefer another action. This is the over/under receiver as made by the English. Such firms as Purdey, (who now have incorporated Woodward), Westley Richards, Holland and Holland and the small firm of Boss & Co., have designed and manufacture a superposed shotgun that has eliminated the under bolt. The gun locks up by the utilization of lugs that are machined into the rear face of the barrels. These lugs then enter the standing breech through openings cut there. Such a design makes for the most shallow action of all.

This type of lock up has gained scant favor on the continent. It is accepted in England and the over/under enjoys popularity there. But your German, Spaniard, Frenchman or Italian has scant use for such a system. He believes the two tiny lugs that constitute the major portion of the lock will never keep the gun tight, and besides he believes it is dangerous.

Actually it is not and the Woodward, H&H or Westley Richards will handle any progressive burning load and continue to remain tight and sound over the years.

The graceful outline of these superb shotguns is a joy to the shooting man's eye. The very ultimate has here been reached in providing a flat, shallow action that permits the highest possible position of the hands. I have a Westley Richards over/under that will account for more upland game than any shotgun I have ever used. I account for my good shooting with this gun simply because it is the nearest approach to the perfect shotgun yet found by me.

Unfortunately an English O/U from one of the best makers will cost upwards of \$1200 bucks in Audley Square, London.

I am having made the only 10 gauge over/under that I believe has been manufactured during recent times. It will weigh 13 pounds and will chamber the 3½ inch 10 gauge cartridge. I intend to fire 2 full ounces of lead. This gun is being made for me by Aguirre y Aranzabal (AYA) in Eibar, Spain. The action will be the Merkel type

Matter of Fact

BY EDWARD A. JOSEPH



TWICE A MONTH EACH SUMMER
A GROUP OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MEN KNOWN AS THE
WESTMORELAND RIFLES
LIVE AGAIN THE
DAYS OF THE LONG RIFLES AND
COON-SKIN CAPS OF
COL. JOHN PROCTOR
WHOSE GROUP OF FIGHTERS
ORIGINATED THE FAMED "RATTLESHAKE FLAG."
MEMBERS SHOOT ONLY
ANCIENT
MUZZLE-LOADER RIFLES
AT THESE MATCHES, VYING
FOR A TROPHY HORN
FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE
ANDREW W. MELLON

ONE OF THE FIRST FORMULAS
FOR
GUNPOWDER
VERIFIED BY HISTORIANS
BY A MONK
MARCUS GRAECUS
WRITTEN IN
GREEK
SPECIFIED "ONE PART QUICK
SULPHUR, 2 PARTS
WILLOW CHARCOAL, 6 PARTS
SALTPETER."



THIS WAS A POWERFUL
GUNPOWDER
FOR WEAPONS
MADE
EVEN AT A
LATER
DATE

GUNS SOLD IN THE EARLY DAYS THAT
HAD TO BE SHIPPED
WERE TAKEN TO THE CANAL BRIDGE,
A BOARD LIFTED FROM
THE FLOOR,
AND THE PACKAGE DROPPED ONTO A BOAT
AS IT PASSED UNDER

**THERE WAS NO BILL
OF LADING —**



THE GUNMAKER TOOK
DOWN THE NAME OF
THE BOAT AND NOTIFIED
HIS CUSTOMER BY MAIL
SO THE LATTER WOULD
KNOW WHICH
CRAFT WAS
BRINGING HIS
GUN

and the gun will sport two triggers. Barrels will run to a length of 30.5 inches and will be full choke. I intend to use this howitzer entirely on geese and believe it will regularly kill a goose when loaded with BBs at heights up to 70 yards. At any rate I propose to see.

In 1952 I was shooting live pigeon in Madrid with some Spanish amigos and chanced on a Browning 12 over/under in a Madrid "armeria." I examined the gun and quickly noted the barrels were pitted beyond hope of reclaiming them. I inquired the price and found I could possess the piece for the equivalent sum of \$40. I bought it.

I tossed the stock away. It was one of the narrow comb, sharp-featured European abortions, seen on many smoothbores before the war. I had a stock maker in Eibar fit a handsome piece of walnut, properly checkered. As the gun had two triggers and as I am partial to a single, I sent the action to John Val Browning at the plant in Liege, Belgium, and John Val installed the single trigger. Then I carted the receiver up to Unceta, the pistol manufacturer in northern Spain and had it engraved. After this the pitted and worthless barrels, together with the action, made an ocean crossing.

I shipped the gun to Ernie Simmons of Simmons Gun Specialties at Kansas City and Ernie did a job! He cut the 12 gauge barrels off just at the forward end of the chamber, bored out and enlarged the stubs and into them he fitted two 16 gauge tubes. These barrels came from Winchester Model

12 pump gun assemblies. Once the tubes were in place, he completed the jointing. To finally make the job complete, he added the Simmons raised ventilated rib.

The completed over/under is the only 16 gauge Browning extant. It weighs about 6¼ pounds and is a deadly executioner on bob white, doves, snipe, and other close rising uplands species.

The over/under is tomorrow's shotgun. It is popular today; it will be increasingly so in the days ahead. The trend is to two-shot smoothbores, as evidenced by the Browning "Double" automatic which appeared last year. Curtailed bags, shortened seasons, restricted hunting sites impel a selection of a shotgun that provides more sport while surely accounting for the relatively few chances the sportsman gets. The over/under is the answer. Here is a gun that points more naturally, swings more surely, is lively and responsive in the hands of the discerning marksman.

Don't Miss

**WHAT'S WRONG
WITH TARGET
RIFLE SHOOTING**

By Col. Charles Askins

In the March Issue of GUNS

WHY MORE HUNTING MEANS MORE DEER

(Continued from page 17)

deer and several does. At that moment the gun was loaded, but a "cease fire" call came. We waited till the stag and his friends had crossed the firing lane. Then, while the echoes of the .60 caliber test shot echoed from the trees, I watched as the stag unconcernedly stooped his head to grab a mouthful of tasty weeds, and majestically stalked off into the brush.

Many of Aberdeen's thousands of acres are off limits to all personnel. Recently I drove past a good-sized woods marked "Danger—explosives" and protected from the road by a fence. Years ago World War I ammo dumped there had been condemned as too dangerous to move. The district had been roped off, but the deer loved to frolic in the woodland glades.

Some of these Aberdeen deer must have moved on up into Pennsylvania. Last summer I saw a cruel example of too many deer. While bowling along the Pennsy Turnpike near the Bradford interchange, I passed between high rock cut walls. A stag with a broken right hind leg was struggling to climb the sheer stone. He didn't have sense enough to go to the end of the cut and cross the fence there, and fear and pain had made him frantic.

Stopping, I considered shooting him right then, for I had an Ithaca 12, a .357 Ruger "Blackhawk," a Holland & Holland 450/400, a Remington .22, two Walther PPKs in .22 and .32, and a Colt conversion unit on a .45,

with ammo to match. But while I was trying to decide which one of these to use, my wife pointed out that a bullet might ricochet or scare the deer into the path of a passing car. Instead of getting out, I drove on a mile or two to the turnoff and phoned the state police. Then I went back to the spot where the deer had been.

It seems somebody else got the same idea. A truck had stopped and the driver had crossed the road and tried to catch the deer and cut his throat. The deer in a dying lunge flung himself out into the path of a passing Plymouth and mashed in two hundred dollars worth of grille and fender. At that moment the police car arrived, and the deer was taken aboard for a trip to the food locker and then the orphanage.

This incident depressed me. If I had acted instead of driving on, the Plymouth owner would have been saved the repair. But more to the point was the pressure which put this deer onto the highway, a terrible danger to motorists, and a living—and dying—example of deer overpopulation, caused by not enough deer being killed annually by hunters.

The situation is bluntly stated by E. L. Cheatum, chief of the New York bureau of game: "Nature harvests its game if man doesn't—and in a very wasteful and cruel way."

Treating deer like any other crop, raised and controlled for the benefit of mankind,

is the only logical solution. Where game census records and reports of competent field men indicate an oversupply of deer, immediate steps should be taken to authorize early hunting seasons, legalize does and take other measures along sensible lines.

The deer parks of foreign nobility have professional game keepers in constant attendance. The numbers of the deer herds are always known, and the deer population is kept consistent with the available food.

Deer need to be treated as ordinary livestock, the sick ones separated and the healthy ones allowed to thrive and reproduce. With the destruction of natural predators and the creation of larger food supplies, deer are increasingly on the upswing in numbers. Already the increase has become critical and involved the relocation of deer from one part of the country where they are pests to other parts where they can live in the wilds.

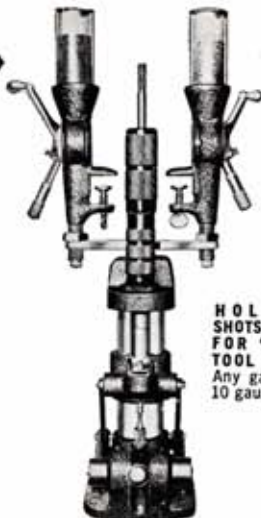
We need more hunting to thin out the excess deer, so that whole herds won't be destroyed by starvation and disease. We need laws to serve as a framework for increased hunting privileges to millions of deer hunters. ©

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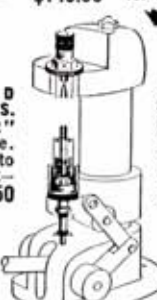
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"Buffalo Bill was a Man of Deadly Aim—with Any Weapon and in Any Emergency."

A man once asked Colonel Cody how to become a great shot and Cody replied, "There is no rule that I know of. You see, the brain, the eye and the trigger finger must all work with the same impulse. When everything is just right and if it's within range, you kind of feel the object you shoot at rather than aim at it. This is especially true of shooting from the back of a galloping horse at a moving object. All of a sudden you feel rather than see your gun is just right. Your finger seems to have touched the trigger of its own accord and you know that you have made a hit."

How could Buffalo Bill Cody chalk up such incredible feats of marksmanship in his Wild West Show under the exhausting pace of his daily living? As Courtney Riley Cooper said, "It was an eternal gamble whether the show would exist simply through the absence of human endurance necessary to stay awake twenty-four hours out of twenty-four."

And Gordon Lillie, an old friend of the Colonel's said, "I never was so disappointed in my life. He had been sleeping on the floor of a tent in some hay, his hair all matted. And he was drunk. Colonel Cody was drunk every day for our first five weeks out."

"The Legend of Buffalo Bill"

Read the truth about Buffalo Bill and his fabulous life in William Edwards' article in the March issue of GUNS Magazine.

Was Buffalo Bill really as good a marksman as you've always heard? What single event in his life started his famous reputation at the age of eleven? William Edwards tells you all about it in his fascinating article, "The Legend of Buffalo Bill." And this writer knows what he's talking about. For he's examined original documents that show the full glaring truth about Buffalo Bill and all the other fabulous, heroic and fascinating western characters. Don't miss his true-facts story in the March issue of GUNS Magazine.

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CARTRIDGES

(Continued from page 42)

Per Original Box

With the current interest in collecting sealed and labeled boxes of cartridges, you often encounter the phrase, "Per Original Box" in dealers' lists. Too often the seller fails to mention the number of cartridges per box. It is surprising the different numbers of cartridges that have been packed in American-made cartridge boxes, in addition to the traditional boxes of 20 for rifle shells, 25 for shotgun shells and 50 for small cartridges.

The smallest number that I have seen was in a labeled box of 4 of the .58 caliber Shaler Sectional Bullet Musket cartridges of the Civil War. Next came the boxes of 5, used for many of the larger buffalo rifle cartridges, and some pocket Colt revolver cap and ball packets. Most percussion revolver cartridges and lately .30 carbine blanks were put up in packs of 6. Magazine capacity of repeating military arms made it practical to pack the military Spencer rim fires in boxes of 7. Six of these boxes were packed to a carton and the 8mm French Lebel Rifle cartridges, made here in World War I, were put up in boxes of 8 rounds. Boxes of 10 were often used for old buffalo rifle cartridges.

In order to get two cylinder loads, many of our army revolver cartridges of the 1870's and 80's were packed 12 to a box. U.M.C. packed some of their 7.65mm Mauser rifle cartridges—five to a clip—in boxes of 15. During World War I, some of the 45 ACP's were packed in half moon clips of 3 for use in revolvers, 24 to a box. Besides shotgun shells, many of the commercial Spencer rimfires were sold in the "square pack" boxes of 25. Boxes of 100 were common in the early 22s, and are still found in the BB and CB Caps.

The most that I have seen per box, were some boxes of 250 rounds of 22 gallery shorts. Now Remington has just come out with a "flat pack" of 28 cartridges, and so it goes! A collection of a box of each capacity is an interesting sideline, and one that is not too easy to assemble.

Question Marks

"I recently heard of some '303 Savage Miniature' cartridges. What are these, some kind of sub-caliber load, or what?" A. N., New York City.

I am afraid that they are not as interesting as they sound. This was just a trade name for some short range loads that the Savage Arms Company put out years ago. I have a couple of boxes of these. One of these is marked on the end "Savage No. 6 Miniature metal covered." In the advertising on the label the company assures the shooter that their smokeless powder is free from nitroglycerine, and cannot freeze!

I also have the same type cartridge with the lead bullet and called "Savage No. 4 Lead Miniature." Both are head-stamped "S. A. Co., 303 Savage." These cartridges were at one time popular for target shooting, and for shooting small game with a deer rifle. All the major companies put out these reduced charge cartridges, but Savage seems to have been the only one to use the term "Miniature." They generally were called "Short Range Loads." ●

HOW IT BEGAN

TO FIRE On the surface, there seems no logical reason why the term to fire should be applied to activities so diverse as setting off a weapon and dismissing an employee. Two long and tangled streams of speech contributed to such strange use of a single expression.

Hand guns of the 14th century were equipped with touch-holes; in order to discharge such a weapon it was necessary to touch it with a torch of some type. Such a literal method of firing was slow and clumsy; improvements came rapidly. Pieces of slow-burning wick were substituted for flaming torches, and the touch-hole was moved from top to side of the weapon.



Equipped with a pan to hold finely-ground powder, such a splendid new gun could be ignited with a spark. Though use of actual fire was slowly abandoned, the colorful term was retained to stand for setting off a weapon in any fashion.

Meanwhile, gun talk was becoming entangled with the vocabulary of stevedores. For centuries, men had reserved "discharge" to stand for the job or unloading a ship—or relieving it of its burden. But since the act of firing sent the cargo of shot from a weapon, the sea term attached to gunnery. About the same era, it became customary to use "discharge" in connection with relieving an employee or officer of his position—or charge.



RIFLE Gun experts do not agree concerning the place or date at which the rifle was conceived. Firearms had been in use for several generations before anyone thought of devising a method to give a spinning motion to the ball. Gaspard Kollner of Vienna is sometimes credited with the invention that revolutionized gunnery. Others say the idea originated with August Kotter of Nuremberg. Whoever was responsible, it took shape within the quarter-century that followed the discovery of America.

French artisans had already used the term *rifler* to indicate scratching or scraping grooves in metal. So it was natural that this expression should



attach to the cutting of grooves in the bore of a cannon. This proved so effective that the practice was soon extended to muskets. Marksmen differed widely in their views concerning the right amount of twist to be given the bullet. Hence early rifling varied from a half turn in three feet of barrel to a full turn in two feet.

—WEBB GARRISON

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GUN RACK



By H. Jay Erfurth

New Ruger Blackhawk

A YELLOW and black package of dynamite was dropped on my desk a couple of months ago, and today I'm alive to tell you about it. I may not be alive by next month when Bill Ruger reads this, because the gun was a new Ruger Blackhawk and I rusted the hell out of it.

Yes, the gun was a new Blackhawk .357 revolver with 4" barrel and ramp front sight. The Micro adjustable rear sight put the gun into the class of target revolvers. The single action shape makes it first and foremost a cowboy gun, yet the whopping power of the .357 cartridge cries that it is a service gun.

I looked it over. The rounded gate and larger frame size made it exactly like an old Colt flat top target Single Action. The aluminum handle frame wasn't quite as well polished and the color was black, not blue. This was caused by the need to anodize the aluminum a matching color to the black steel gun, and the general effect was good, fair enough at \$87.50. But the thought re-

curred to me: it's a cowboy gun, and a target gun, and a service caliber gun. Now just what is the Blackhawk really useful for? What is the place of a single action "cowboy gun" in our modern world of fast-firing, automatic and speedy pump guns of all kinds? Why offer a single action revolver in a service caliber at all? The answer was right there, in the fact that the Blackhawk, for all its target sights, is also a service gun. Bill Ruger styles it "the ultimate development of the single action." This is a big phrase, and a big claim, but the Blackhawk is a pretty big-sized gun—would it uphold the claims?

A service gun is, logically, built for service. Anybody can make a fragile, delicate, complicated firearm capable of driving tacks at a hundred yards, but not many gun designers have the plain ordinary brains to build a gun that will stand up under rough use and abuse. I knew by looking at the Blackhawk that it would have reasonable accuracy. Whether it would compete with a 300 H & H Magnum at 1,000 yards was

beside the point: as a service gun it should easily have better than service accuracy. Anyway, I wouldn't have a chance to get to the range for a couple of weeks. What, then, could I do in studying this "ultimate development of the single action" in the meantime?

I could use it. But that meant shooting. What else? Well, I could *abuse* it. Years ago the Army invented the "rust test" to check out single action guns. The old Colt, prototype of the improved Ruger, stood the test pretty well. But the Ruger . . . ?

With a twist of paper soaked in carbon tetrachloride, I wiped the exterior of the gun to remove the surface film of protective oil. Removing the cylinder I smeared vaseline inside the chambers, and also inside the dry, clean barrel. Next, with cylinder in place, I dropped the Blackhawk into a pan of warm water in which I had dissolved about two tablespoons of common table salt. Wrapping the gun in wet newspaper, I set it on the window sill. It rained that night.

Gradually a handsome mottling of rust formed. After about ten days, I took the revolver and operated the mechanism once. Not enough rust: the cylinder could still be coaxed around. With a few drops of corrosive nitrate bluing solution in the barrel-cylinder contact, cylinder pin and screws, I presumed it would freeze up correctly. One slight deficiency was noticed in design at that time, in the arrangement of the trigger spring plunger.

This is a small plug fitted into the root of the trigger guard, and is seen bearing against the trigger at its back. This actuates the trigger and sear like the old flat spring inside the frame of the Colt guns. Pushed by a coil spring, this type of plunger is easy to freeze up by rust and neglect. It pushed back into its housing easily when I first fooled with the cylinder, and then stayed there, stuck by corrosion.

After three more days I felt the poor old Blackhawk had had enough rough treatment. I had with every success horribly duplicated the condition of a famous Colt of yesteryear which was widely blurbled once in advertising. This Colt revolver was lost in the autumn on the prairie, and found after the spring thaws many months later. When new caps were put on the nipples (it was a percussion gun), all the charges went off. The inference is that the Colt was not damaged particularly by lying in the weather for a few months. The Blackhawk looked as miserable as that Colt must have been. Ruger's pride was an almost solid mass of rust. The aluminum handle frame was good as new, except where it had contacted the steel and picked up some chemical reaction. Otherwise, it was pretty sad all over.

With the monster I made a grand entrance to the range. One of the younger shooters looked at it and said, "Oh, an antique?" Several of the older shooters looked at me as if they wondered a trifle at my sanity—they were too late: I had wondered about that myself long before!

A box of full-load Remington super-speed .357 Magnums was ready. I swung out the loading gate easily. But the cylinder would not move around even though I tried to shift it with both hands, not using the hammer

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and pawl to force it, but wrapping one hand about the flutes and trying to wiggle it loose. With the handle of a hammer I rapped the outside of the cylinder some smart taps and then checked it. The cylinder could be coaxed around and the time it took was less than the time writing about it.

The gun rocked handsomely when the first shot went off. It struck in the black at 20 yards, about a "close" eight. The rest of the shots went off one by one. I had to ease the cylinder around each time, and with my thumb push the trigger forward so it would catch in the hammer notch. With each shot, small puffs of rust flew up from the chamber walls.

By the tenth shot, the cylinder was free although with a dry, porch swing sort of squeak to it. Fifty shots went through without any trouble, with the one exception noted, that the trigger plunger was stuck back inside the handle housing and the trigger had to be manually "sprung" for each shot.

Ejecting was a bit stiff at first. The exposed slot of the ejector housing had been liberally sprinkled with salt on several occasions, but the spring was not damaged. After hitting the rod head with the hammer handle (any solid piece of wood would have worked as well) the rod worked freely. All cases ejected easily except one chamber had some slight roughness in it. As a service gun under the most adverse conditions, the Ruger Blackhawk stood the test better than its counterpart of three-quarters of a century ago. (It seems to uphold the boast, "The ultimate development of the single action.")

A part of the plunger still protruded from the aluminum trigger guard roots. Disassembly of the gun was not easy, but was accomplished with a little sweat. Close fitting screwdrivers are an essential when stripping a rusted gun! A little Coca Cola poured on rust-frozen screw threads also seems to help in loosening the corrosion. Liberal dosing with penetrating oil followed, and eventually with some grunts and effort all the guard and action screws were removed and the gun reduced to its parts. In taking out the cylinder pin, which was stuck in the cylinder hole, a punch had to be used. The frame cross latch was unscrewed and then a drift punch set against the rear of the center pin (hammer removed) and with a mallet I whaled the bjezus out of it. Grudgingly it slid forward and the cylinder came free. A liberal going over with fine steel wool cut the rust and cleaned up the inner lock parts. The trigger spring plunger was pulled out of its hole and cleared so it worked freely.

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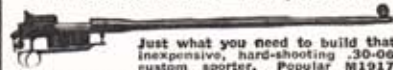


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CHURCHILL'S SHOTGUN BOOK by Robert Churchill (Knopf \$6.75)

The name of Churchill is one which resounds with well-earned glory in the rolls of British gunmakers. Churchill's controversial introduction in the 1920's of the "XXV" gun, a light double fowling piece with 25" barrels, aroused considerable comment among gunners who had always advocated longer barrels for shotguns. From this early introduction to American shooters, Churchill has now progressed to full-fledged authorship with this basic shooting reference, his "Shotgun Book." There are many books on shotgun shooting. Some cost less, others cost more. The merit of this one is that it is written in an easily-read style by a practical gunmaker. Churchill combines in one person the knowledge of guns and their structure, and a fundamental knowledge of shooting, seldom equalled by anyone in the field. His notes on "hands" and gun mounting are especially interesting as they relate to the side-by-side double shotgun. English preference is uniformly for the side-by-side double, while American preference swings pretty much to pumps and autos. Yet good doubles are made and sold in America, and a proper consideration of their merits and differences is brought out in this book.

FIELD & STREAM TREASURY edited by Hugh Grey and Ross McCluskey (Holt \$5)

Stories by the greats of American outdoor writing sparkle from the pages of this important collection of short articles. There is much of humor, good sense and timeless yet timely gun information crammed into 350 pages of materials which has once appeared in Field & Stream. Throughout the magazine's 60-year history, such writers as Zane Grey, James Oliver Curwood, Stewart Edward White and Irvin S. Cobb, shared honors with more recent penmen like Corey Ford, Larry Koller, Robert Ruark and Harold McCracken. Articles on outdoor sports by these men and many others are compiled into one book under the able editing of Hugh Grey and Ross McCluskey. Of interest to GUNS readers will be articles such as "A Visit with Sergeant York," in which Alvin C. York, famed World War I rifleman, plays host to the author Elmer Ransome at a Tennessee mountain turkey shoot. The "Treasury" is varied fare, some fish, some fowl, some bigger game, but all interesting.

HUNTER'S CHOICE by Alexander Lake (Doubleday \$3.50)

Alexander Lake combines the happy coincidence of African experience with a flair for writing which is seldom found in the hunting and gun field. These tales of African adventures are derived from Lake's work as a professional white hunter over the years

before and after World War I. While African hunting has changed somewhat since the days Lake writes of, his notes on calibers and shooting conditions are exceedingly timely. Although not written to be a debunking book, some of the stories offer unusual slants on commonly accepted ideas about African game. The noble lion, in Lake's experience, is a fast and deadly animal when aroused. But most of the time, he is too sleepy to be aroused! Lake found it often necessary to throw stones at lions in order to make them lively enough for some of his camera hunting clients. On one occasion, the animals were so tame that Osa and Martin Johnson placed their picnic cloth nearby and had lunch while a family of lions looked on in mild curiosity. Not always are lions so passive: Lake has also had careless hunters clawed by them or saved in the nick of time. The many incidents in this wholly readable and interesting book will keep you absorbed in its pages from cover to cover.

GUNS AND HUNTING by Pete Brown (A. S. Barnes \$1)

Pete Brown is gun editor of Sports Afield and this little book combines in "pocket book" convenience many of his good recommendations in that field. Not planned to be either basic or comprehensive, this handy volume is a good introduction to the "science and art of shooting."

CALIFORNIA GRIZZLY by Tracy Storer and Lloyd Tevis (University of California Press \$7.50)

Unquestionably one of the most dryly diverting books to be published is this allegedly scholarly study of the California grizzly bear. I say "allegedly," for while a great deal of research has been done in the preparation of this natural history, there is very little which is dull or pedantic about it. The authors have scraped up some dillies of anecdotes from the forgotten but not lost lore and legend of the now-extinct beast. For example, the chapter on Indians and bears considers the counterpart of the European werewolf, the werebear. "According to the northwestern Maidu (Indians), the validity of the existence of such creatures could be ascertained by anyone willing to go up to a grizzly and pull the skin down over its head. Frequently a man would be found inside. A Pomo who attempted thus to rob two presumed werebears of their power made the mistake of attacking real grizzlies. He was a great warrior, however, and managed to come out of the ensuing fight alive." To paraphrase the movie reviews, I would say this book is for adults, mature young people, and just about anybody interested in bears, hunting, or California and the west generally.

ROY ROGERS

(Continued from page 25)

striving for owners with special qualifications."

For another hobby—and hunting aid—Roy raises coon hounds. He always hopes that his hounds will prove to be excellent trackers and trailers, endowed with much courage and honesty.

"Coon hunting is good sport," says he. "I get a kick out of following my hounds, especially when hearing that distinct 'tree bark,' indicating that a critter has been treed. Coons are often fierce fighters, so I try to shoot them as soon as I reach the tree. They've been known to inflict serious wounds on both hounds and hunters."

According to Roy, coon dogs must be made. In other words, he starts the training at seven months, taking the pups afield then, with older and experienced dogs as the tutors. Some pups begin treeing at the end of the first chase, while others need several seasons of work.

"I've learned that no hunting dog can acquire knowledge while tied up or in a pen," advises Roy. "They need as much actual work as possible. In a way, this is good training for the hunter, too, who often profits by following his dogs. At the same time, he should be improving his own marksmanship."

Among feathered targets, wild turkeys are Roy's favorites. He delights in seeking the wily birds on the vast King Ranch in Texas, where they're in abundance as a rule. He uses his .22 Hornet on them, with a telescopic sight.

"In Texas, the law says you must hit the turkeys in either the head or neck," says this idol of American youngsters. "That's a sound law, making for better conservation and sportsmanship."

Rogers feels that wild turkeys require specialized gunning methods, bolstered by years of experience.

"They're among the most difficult of all game targets," opines Roy. "Naturally shy and alert, these birds generally share their forest habitat with deer, causing them to be very suspicious and sharp. The turkeys are strong and swift. Smart, too. They can run as fast as 30 miles per hour in short sprints! And they'll often run rather than fly, especially if there happens to be thick cover nearby. When going into the air, turkeys leave the ground like pheasants, usually heading for the nearest treetop. I think they're harder to hit on the ground, since they zig and zag in baffling manner, almost like a shifty halfback carrying a football downfield."

The Californian emphasizes that hunters must know their game when seeking wild turkeys. And this means all habits and characteristics. Needless to say, sharpshooting skill is also a requisite.

"We rarely use dogs for turkeys," Roy says. "They won't lie to a bird dog, running or flying away at once."

Here are some more of Rogers' hints on goblbers:

When hunting them, be certain that the birds are in that particular area. Look for signs, which are made by scratching, throwing up the leaves and trash in whole wind-

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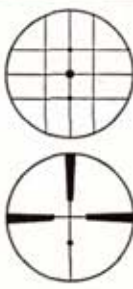
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rows. And the birds' washes can be detected in sunny, sandy and secluded spots.

The gunner must be ready for the turkeys to change their range suddenly. The sight of a man can cause this, although gun shots don't always frighten them, strangely enough. Calls can be employed effectively. And patience is needed more than anything else in this quest.

"Yes, I like my .22 Hornet for wild turkeys," grins Roy. "However, in some states, you can use shotguns. There are hunters who choose a 16 gauge, others taking a 12. I have friends who have found that a 28-inch or a 30-inch barrel offers the most carrying power. For size of shot, No. 4 is very good."

The Western movie star hopes to try for wild turkeys this winter between the making of films. He enjoys eating them almost more than any other kind of birds or game.

Next to wild turkeys, Roy goes for pheasants with dog and gun. That's where his finely-bred Weimaraners enter the sporting scene. And Roy is convinced that this breed is far ahead of setters or pointers in this pastime.

"There's excellent pheasant hunting near my home in Marysville, California," says he. "As I've already said, I use a .410 Model 42 Winchester for these birds. It's just the right weapon for me."

What technique does this nimrod utilize?

"I leave it up to Trig, my most experienced Weimaraner," he replies. "That dog, as you can guess, was named after my faithful horse. Well, he's very dependable and consistent, going about 30 to 50 feet ahead of me."

Swinging an empty shotgun on an imaginary pheasant, Roy adds: "When Trig hits a cock, he freezes like a sledgehammer, but when he points a hen, his tail jiggles a little. He will hold a point as long as you wish. Good retriever! And his mouth is as soft as a baby's cheek."

A crack wing shot, Roy took up skeet shooting seven years ago.

"Really, I'm not boasting," he says, "but I shot a perfect round on my first attempt. All I did was to shoot in the same way that I always had for ducks and birds."

This man of many guns advocates that all hunters gain invaluable practice on skeet or trap fields.

"That's the best way to learn the proper leads," he declares. "I've noticed so many duck hunters missing shot after shot because they weren't leading in the right way. And that applies to shooting at a running deer, as well. Yes, indeed, more skeet shooting means less ammunition wasted on hunting trips. My wife, Dale, has done some skeet shooting. It helped her to bag more game."

A versatile athlete, this horseman, hunter and dog-breeder. Although it's not known generally, he's a regular Robin Hood with bow and arrow.

"An old archer taught me the game in my younger days," he says. "Believe me, it takes more skill to hit the mark with an arrow than with a bullet!"

Seems that Roy had tried his luck at hunting wild boars on the huge Ala Sal Ranch outside the Santa Barbara Mountains some time ago. He downed a couple of the ferocious animals with a high-powered rifle, then decided to go after them with his bow!

With hounds to hold the boars at bay, Roy killed three big ones with well-aimed arrows.

"It was very exciting," he recalls. "And very dangerous, too. Those boars will charge a man, so you can't afford to miss if you don't want to be gored by the tusks. One came at me so fast that he didn't fall until he was only 25 feet from me!"

The handsome cowboy has also slain bears with bow and arrow, finding them to be fairly easy targets.

As advice to today's hunters, Roy urges everyone to get away from the crowded places, since the gunning pressure has mushroomed in recent seasons.

"Know your weapons thoroughly and how to handle them," he advises. "If everyone did, there would be fewer accidents. I even think that tests should have to be passed before licenses were issued."

As a lad of nine, Roy started hunting on his family's farm at Duck Run, 12 miles outside of Portsmouth, Ohio.

"Dad gave me an old 12 gauge shotgun," he recalls. "On my first jaunt, I managed to knock off a big, old rabbit. But the kick from that gun knocked me right on my pratt! What a kick!"

Roy Rogers has gone a long way since those boyhood days of one old shotgun. Today he owns almost every kind of weapon under the sun. Remember this when you watch him again on television or motion picture screens. Remember, too, that he may be shooting blanks in these plays, but he can use live ammo with the best of 'em. Unusual for a movie cowboy? Refreshing, we'd say.

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BUFFALO HUNT

(Continued from page 30)

Shooting buffalo was a sport different from anything experienced by the eastern hunter. Two methods of taking them were used, shooting from a stand, or running them down on horseback.

Stand shooting was the method used by professional hunters to get the greatest possible number of hides with the least effort. The buffalo seemed to be naturally a stupid animal, and when shot with a clean kill would fall in his tracks. Other times he would walk a little distance until internal bleeding finished him. An experienced hunter would ride with his hide wagon and his four or five skinner and teamster partners until he spied a suitable small herd of animals. Stalking on foot was fairly easy, although the buffalo would sometimes stampede if they suddenly winded a man. A slight hill or rise in an otherwise flat prairie was a choice spot to lie and shoot from.

By carefully picking off only those animals which were restive and tried to wander away from the herd, an entire group of 70 or 80 animals or more might be shot and killed within easy rifle distance of the "stand." Ranges were from under 100 yards to perhaps as much as 500. There are accounts of much longer shooting with Sharps and other rifles.

A satisfied Sharps customer was hunter R. W. Snyder of Buffalo, Kansas, who took his share of over 3,000 of the southern herd between November of '71 and the summer of '72. He wrote of the Sharps: "The gun, I must say, is a success—and the Pet of the Plains—in fact, has no equal, to my knowledge. I killed twelve buffalo with it in thirteen shots, the third day after it arrived, which is much better than I have ever done with any other gun." His next letter related: "The man that I sold my old .44 to, killed 119 buffalo in one day with it. That beats me with my big 50—as 93 is the most that I have ever killed in one day." The "big 50" was probably the .50-70 loaded with a three-groove lead bullet of 457 grains weight, specially put up in "re-loading shells." The patched bullet in the same 2½" case weighed 500 grains.

Snyder wrote a final letter of commendation to the Sharps rifle makers, toward the close of the shooting in June of 1872: "My gun has given entire satisfaction, and the rifling in the barrel does not appear to be worn any, although she has been fired about five or six thousand times, and has killed about three thousand buffalo."

An eastern rifleman, the noted long-range shooter John Bodine of Highlands, N. Y., found the Sharps just right for his needs, too. "It is the best long-range rifle which has yet come under my hands, and I think is capable of very superior work at one thousand yards. I think I could batter down a brick house with your gun at a thousand yards. It breaks stones in the wall like a sledge hammer."

This shock ability of the long, heavy Sharps bullets at upwards of half a mile gave rise to some interesting attempts to see "how far she'll throw a ball 'thout stretching the brith." Charles Youngblood, who is mentioned frequently in western writ-



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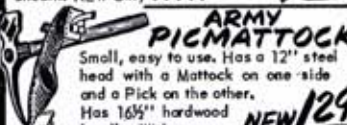
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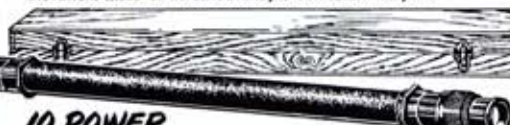
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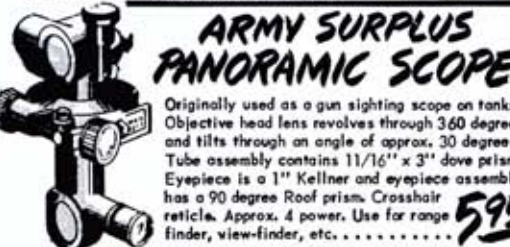
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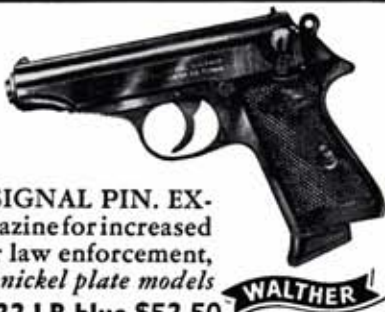
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ings, and who published a narrative of his hunting experiences, tells of shooting a buffalo at over two miles range with a Sharps. For the record, this is 3400 yards, verging on the extreme range of modern military rifle bullets and a lot farther than any ordinary shooting of the times. If such a shot ever did occur, it must have begun as a fluke, indiscriminately shooting at a distant herd of animals, and ended up by being the talk of the frontier for months after. A good part of the two miles was doubtless mistaken distance judgment compounded by riding horseback over broken terrain.

Another more possible incident occurred at the famous battle of Adobe Walls in Texas. Here, in June of 1874, a band of 28 hunters, including Bat Masterson, later famous as a sheriff, were besieged by Indians. Billy Dixon, already known as a scout and frontiersman, gained lasting fame by firing hopefully at three Indians "fully a mile off" and hitting one. After a wait of a few seconds while the bullet passed the distance, he was pleased to note one Indian fall from his horse and the other two in much alarm pick him up and ride away. While there was never any real proof that Dixon's heavy Sharps did the job, it was generally believed that his shot had reached the mark by guess and by gosh.

One man destined to make his mark in frontier history missed by a short while being among the group besieged at Adobe Walls. He was Sheriff Bill Tilghman, to whom goes the dubious credit of having shot the greatest number of authenticated hides in one season: 3300. His hunting total was 11,000, and 7500 of these were shot with one Sharps octagon barreled sporting rifle which started out as a .40 caliber gun. So intensively was it used that Bill returned it to the factory for rebaring to a larger caliber, for which he handloaded. The Sharps had a 24-inch barrel, neither short nor long for the period. While some specially ordered buffalo rifles weighed as much as 18 to 20 pounds, and were fired from a Y fork shooting stick, Tilghman's was a common factory sporting rifle, No. 53858, weighing about 8½ pounds.

The grip was damaged in 1874 while Bill was hunting near Medicine Lodge, Kansas. His horse suddenly shied and Bill, caught off balance, slipped off. The gun caught his fall and the stock split. Calling his frontiersman's ingenuity into play, he cut a strip of green rawhide from a freshly killed buffalo and completed a field repair which has held like iron for many years. The green hide, drying and shrinking, held the wood in a viselike embrace. The broken stock is today as sound and good as when it first left the factory.

Tilghman used his Sharps for years, but by the late 70s retired from buffalo hunting for more lucrative fields. In 1878 Tilghman, Bat Masterson, and Wyatt Earp went buffalo hunting for sport. Wyatt liked to use a short barreled 12-gauge shotgun, loaded with a single 1½ ounce slug to each shell. This sort of weapon was contrary to popular opinion which backed the Sharps, but at fifty yards, Wyatt never had much of an argument from a buffalo and he did have two quick shots instead of just one. This trip the trio returned to Dodge City without having seen a single buffalo. Their route over a few days of hard riding had covered the country a hundred miles west of Dodge

City, then south into Oklahoma to the Cimarron. The scenes of the best buffalo hunting of a couple of years before were destitute of a single animal worth shooting! Only their whiting bones remained to suggest the multitudes which once roamed these plains.

Shooting more bullets in a day than many a veteran had fired during his war service was a costly matter. Bullets were cast from raw lead bought at the forts and sutlers posts. The experimentation which arose from the need to handload was an important phase in the development of the super-accurate match rifles which rose in popularity after the buffalo were all gone. The Ideal Mfg. Co., now operated by the Lyman Gun Sight Corp. of Middlefield, Conn., used to sell the Ideal "Everlasting" brass shell for reloading. Thicker and of slightly more sturdy construction than ordinary shells, the Ideals occasionally had rifles specially chambered for them. The Sharps cases were advertised as being "virtually indestructible" and cited an experiment at their armory where a case had been reloaded over 500 times without damaging it. This was somewhat extreme: usually cases could be reloaded five or six to a dozen times without much happening, except a gradual stretching which made the loaded rounds seat hard in the chamber.

To overcome this difficulty one of the buffalo era's greatest gunsmiths, "Freund & Bro.," designed modifications to the Sharps. Two extractors were fitted instead of one, and a rocking motion was imparted to the modified breech block so that the cases would be shoved forward by lever power as the gun closed.

For some time before the joining of the railroads at Promontory Point, Utah, F. W. Freund advertised as "Gunmaker to the Union Pacific Railroad," and often set up shop in a tent at the current rail head. He supervised the freight car load of 1,000 .50-caliber Springfields which the U.P. kept forward with the section gangs to ward off Indians and kill the buffalo which at times thundered along the iron ribbons and threatened the safety of the Iron Horse itself.

Making capital out of a capital nuisance, the railroads ran excursions. Eastern "sportsmen" shot buffalo from train windows, and when they wearied of this relaxation, could always slake their thirsts in the diner. Professional hunters hit the big time in guiding parties of shooters. Visiting European royalty discovered in the pursuit of the American bison a thrill of the chase long since disappeared from the park-like forests of Europe. Buffalo Bill Cody and Doc Carver

were products of this fabulous era when monarchs like Grand Duke Alexis of Russia and the Prince of Wales toured under honor escort of troops of cavalry and sportsmen-generals. Some of the visitors used American weapons.

An Irish hunter, J. Mortimer Murphy, recorded a running buffalo hunt from horseback: "But before I fired the third shot the bullet got jammed in the Winchester rifle which I carried, and no amount of pushing and cussing could extricate it, so I was compelled to halt to get it out." Writing before 1880, it is possible that Mr. Murphy used a large caliber Model 1876. The earliest of this model were issued without a dust cover slide, probably in a hurry to get a rifle into the market large enough to handle buffalo before they were all shot up by Sharps and other guns. The dust cover was a piece which protected the delicate sliding mechanism from dust contamination, and the rifle could be carried with a loaded chamber, hammer down, and slide closed, perfectly safe from dirt or damp. Without a dust cover, the cartridge carrier or elevator could easily get jammed by the slightest dirt. About 700 to 800 of this coverless pattern were made, and all but about 300 returned to the factory to have it added as it definitely was a necessity under frontier conditions.

Other hunters used revolvers at short range. George Catlin, the English artist who toured the Americas, used a Colt Pater-son revolver with which he ran buffalo.

Running buffalo required good nerves, fair aim, and a horse of great skill and wit. The running buffalo was capable of tossing horse and rider over his back as with a side twist of his horns he would catch the horse in the chest and spill his guts. Running as opposed to stalking was strictly for the hunter un-equipped with a powerful rifle, or for the sportsman who liked to exercise with his shooting. Probably one buffalo was killed running as against a thousand by still hunting.

"The west owes much to the hump-backed beef," wrote cowboy artist Charlie Russell who with a passionate tenderness captured the spirit of the west on canvas. "The Rocky Mountains would have been hard to reach without him. He fed the explorer. The great fur trade wagon trains felt safe when they reached his range. He fed the men that laid the first ties across this great west. There is no day set aside where he is an emblem. The nickel wears his picture—damn small money for so much meat. He was one of nature's biggest gifts and this country owes him thanks. . . ."

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WHY NOT SHOTGUNS FOR THE ARMY?

(Continued from page 33)

ing our use of the shotguns. In precise language, we were informed that the Germans regarded shotguns as contrary to Article 23 of the Hague Convention, which deals with the laws and customs of warfare. Any American so unfortunate as to be captured with one, the cable continued, would be immediately put to death.

The decree referred to the clause stating that all weapons causing "unnecessary suffering" are "specifically forbidden" in warfare. Lansing replied promptly, and said that the United States did not interpret this ban as embracing shotguns. He warned the Germans we had no intentions of giving them up and stated that for any American they executed, we would make "instant reprisals" upon prisoners in our custody. Lansing's stern language served its purpose, for not one doughboy was shot in such a manner. Nor did we stop using shotguns. In fact, during the last month of the war, Winchester put two new models in production.

As something more than a mere emergency item, the shotgun in World War I was one of the most important single things connected with our winning the war.

During the second World War scatterguns were widely used by our armed forces, but not in combat. The requirements of global war produced another special type. For air-men forced down in the Pacific, two special shot cartridges for the .45 caliber automatic pistol were developed. Known as the M12 and M15, they were provided especially for shooting seagulls and small game. About an inch and a half long, they contained around 125 tiny shot in a red paper jacket. Fired from a pistol with a new barrel, these miniature shotshells were much less accurate than if shot from a worn bore. With a worn bore 87 percent of the shot would strike a 30-inch target at 20 feet, but with a new barrel, about 80 percent reached the target.

Recently the Air Force developed the "M6 Survival Rifle," an over/under with a .22 rifle barrel and a .410 shotgun bore, both mounted on an aluminum frame. The stock folds and the gun fits into a kit 2" x 15" in size when taken down.

During the Korean war as in the second World War, we again, officially, refrained from using shotguns in combat. But there are stories of their use by individuals lucky enough to have had a sawed-off shotgun handy when some gook hopped into his foxhole.

Just why we have not used them is a mystery, but it has been our policy since 1918. Inquiries result in replies consisting mostly of vague references to the Hague Convention, and others simply state that "the conditions did not warrant their use." So far as the Hague agreement goes, the only clause that can conceivably be applied to shotguns is the same Article 23 the Germans unsuccessfully invoked in 1918. Nowhere is there any ban of shotguns as such.

Does this mean that we belatedly admitted that the Kaiser's government was right after all? And that shotguns are "inhuman" weapons? Seems odd, in view of the fact that many military rifle bullets are deliberately designed to be unstable and tip

on impact, creating wounds greater than might be expected from their small caliber. Surely a load of buckshot is no more "cruel" than a lacing of machine-gun bullets across the belly?

If the "conditions" in Europe didn't require the use of shotguns, they certainly would have been valuable in Korea, stopping those massed charges of close-packed Chinese infantry. A miss would have been impossible against such a mob. The son of one very famous American general considers that the scattergun would have been very useful over there, and others share his views. But he must be nameless. So far the shotgun advocates seem to be junior officers only, and they want to rise a little higher in rank.

Shotgunning techniques were very important in 1941 when we started building a truly modern Air Force. We discovered then to our chagrin that we knew little more than a duck hunter about aerial gunnery. Basing our training methods on those used by the British, we inaugurated a new "Basic Gunnery Course." Skeet and trap experts were recruited and sent to isolated airfields where enormous ranges had been hastily built. Here poured civilians to be molded into gunners.

Most of the youths had never even seen an aircraft machine gun, much less fired one. Still, in only a few weeks they emerged, familiar with the parts of the Browning aircraft machine-gun (they could even strip and assemble it blindfolded) and its sighting and tracking requirements. The shotgun was instrumental in their training.

All hunters know instinctively that it is necessary to "lead" a bird in flight to hit him. The same is true—only a thousand times more complicated—to score a hit on an enemy airplane. There's a whole of a difference between a pigeon flying by at 25 MPH and a plane doing 400 plus, yet it has been with a pigeon that we began training our aerial gunners—a clay pigeon, that is. The fledgling airman is handed a shotgun and told to shoot skeet.

Their first actual experience with a gun was a pleasant surprise to most. They were taken to the skeet range, told where to expect the birds to fly and how to shoot them. With each succeeding phase of the training program, a new problem was placed before them. The "graduation exam" took place riding in a chair mounted on a truck bumping over a tortuous road, the skeet birds whizzing in unexpectedly from different directions at varying speeds.

After the war, a battery of psychologists studied the skeet program. They learned, for instance, that on a simple course, (like the average peacetime range) each gunner quickly attained a peak of hits that could be improved only by regular and constant practice. Yet, when machine-gun-type ring sights were placed on the muzzles of the shotguns, an immediate upward trend was noted—the greatest gain being on the "blind" courses where the shooter did not know when or where to expect the target. The tougher the course but better the sights, the most marked the improvement.

Modern fighter aircraft fly pretty fast. Electronic equipment has taken over sighting, and officially the Air Force states: "Practice in manual leading is no longer necessary with the new automatic computing sights. Therefore, formal training in skeet shooting is no longer given to Air Force gunners." But the latest of Air Force weapons, rapid fire 20mm and 37mm cannon, are mechanical attempts to put into practice the shotgun principle: a pattern of many shots rapidly delivered to a small space and time. Volley firing is back in use.

The shotgun as a weapon has been important since the days of the Revolution. George Washington called them "swan drops," a musket load of one ball and three to six buckshot. During the Indian campaigns of the Florida wars, from 1815 to 1845, "buck and ball" was regular issue for brush fighting. Shotgun-armed Confederates such as Bedford Forrest's cavalymen loaded as much as 12 buckshot in a barrel. General Sherman was convinced that "war is hell" after he had a single buckshot pass through his left hand.

Rifles became general issue during the 1840's and almost entirely superseded smoothbores by 1855. To the Army's surprise, it was discovered that the smoothbore musket had been very important in frontier foraging for it served as a shotgun. As a result early in the 1860's Springfield Armory constructed our first official "shotgun." A regulation 1842-type musket lock and barrel was fitted to a handsome "custom" shotgun stock with checkered grip and pewter tip. It was an official model, intended to be issued to company foragers. Only a few of these guns were made.

The wars with the Plains Indians resulted in another model being designed. The heavy military rifles were pretty big for grouse or prairie chickens, and lighter shot shooting guns were needed.

Col. J. C. Kenton in the late 1870's came up with the obvious answer: a 20-gauge smoothbore barrel fitted to the regulation "trap door" Springfield rifle action. Two pilot models made from reamed out .58

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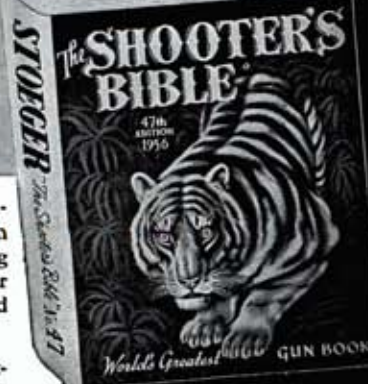
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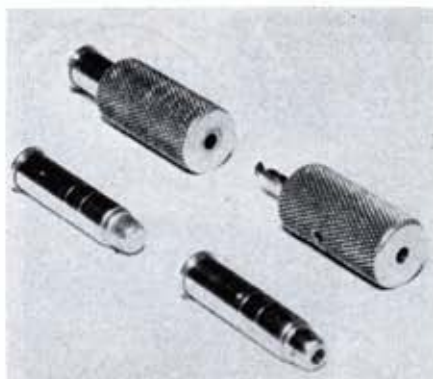
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musket barrels passed "government tests" in 1881 with good records. The tests are not stated: probably the Arsenal commander at Springfield and his shooting buddy went out on the Connecticut River and bagged a few ducks. Between 1882 and 1885 a total of 1,376 of this "Shotgun No. 20" or "Model 1881" were made at a cost of \$8 each. Two were issued to each company serving west of the Mississippi, and while their users were not busy lifting Injun scalps, they served to take a toll of wildfowl along the same flyways shot over each autumn by modern gunners today. Rugged and dependable, as late as 1904 when it was "retired," it was the only shotgun for which the government provided reloading components.

At the present time 30 different types of shotguns are being used by the Army. Some are cylinder bored, others choked, and all are either pump—"trombone action"—or auto-loading models. None are full automatic.

Three general types are in stock. The skeet gun has a 26" cylinder barrel, the riot gun has a 20" cylinder barrel, and the trap gun carries a 32" full choke barrel. Nine models are obtained from Stevens, six from Winchester, three from Ithaca, three from Savage, and nine from Remington. Most are similar to regular commercial guns.

"Full automatic" is the vogue in weapons design now. This nation is engaged in more weapons research than ever before in history. We are at a turning point like that moment just before some unsung caveman made the first bow and arrow. In this new pattern of arms and technology, what new role may be assigned to a fully automatic shotgun is anybody's guess. But remember the next time you take your trusty old corn sheller from the closet you are holding, not only a fine hunting gun, but a weapon you just might need to rely on if we ever have to fight another war. ●

SHOOTING CHAMP OF THE FRONTIER

(Continued from page 36)

body from hearing the score. Foster scowled darkly and stalked over to see for himself. Evans waved down the crowd and yelled: "Score: Foster: One near-center, two off-center, one quarter, one miss. Robinson: One near-center, three off-center, one miss."

Bloody Nat made no protest, grimly taking his place beside the grinning Robinson in readiness for the peg shoot.

The sergeant led off this time. A small white chip flew from the mark at the booming roar of Robinson's heavy rifle—and a grizzled corporal jumped in the air, cracked his heels together and crowed like a rooster in his delight. The spiteful crack of Foster's Kentucky answered immediately. The match continued until each man had fired his five rounds. Again the crowd buzzed with excitement as Job Evans marched importantly forth to make the tally.

Inserting pegs in the bullet holes of each contestant's group, the referee stretched strings around the outside of the pegs. Robinson's string measured eight and three-eighths inches—a fine score. Foster's string measured six and one-half inches—and, for the first time in the match, the surly hunter cracked a smile.

The match was now even; the decision rested with the speed test. Contestants started off together in this spectacular shoot, each firing as rapidly as possible. Each marksman got set for the feat by placing six well-pared rifle balls in his mouth until needed. Long practice rendered virtually automatic the operation of pouring the approximate powder charge into the rifle barrel without conscious measurement. Dropping a shaved ball on top of the powder (the shaving eliminated the necessity of ramming and the saliva held the ball in place when the piece was leveled), the shooter settled the charge and primed the weapon in one motion by smartly rapping the breech with the palm of the hand and forcing powder into the pan.

Hunter Nat Foster outclassed the soldier Robinson at this kind of fast, short-range trick shooting. Loading and firing with amazing speed, Nat hit his mark for the

sixth straight time while the cursing, fumbling sergeant was dropping his third ball down the barrel of his piece. Reloading his rifle, Nat turned at once to stakeholder Captain Forsyth to collect his \$100 without waiting for the referee's official verdict.

Forsyth paid off upon receiving Job Evans' okay, and promptly offered Foster a salary of \$30 a month "with meals at the captain's table," to serve under him as a civilian scout for the duration of the war with England. Rude Nat churlishly refused the captain's generous offer, growling that he did not approve of "white men fightin' each other like a passel o' heathen redskins!"

Seething with humiliation over his defeat, Sergeant Robinson reacted violently to Foster's slighting remark. Grabbing Nat by the collar of his homespun shirt, the husky Scot shook him roughly, bellowing for a rope to "string the traitor up!" The hunter twisted away from Robinson's grasp, drew his knife and lunged viciously, slashing the sergeant's uniform sleeve and pinking his forearm.

"Stop, you fool woods-runner!" barked Forsyth—and, surprisingly, Nat obeyed. The captain picked up Foster's fallen rifle and handed it to him. "Get out!" ordered the disgusted officer. "Fast!"

Long rifle thrown threateningly forward, snarling defiance at a hundred men, Bloody Nat backed away into the woods. Within the shelter of the trees, he whirled and vanished like a shadow. ●

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DUCK DINNERS

(Continued from page 38)

the meat grinder, 2 cloves, 10 bruised peppercorns, 1 bay leaf, salt and pepper. Cook ingredients over high heat under stirring until the mixture is browned, then stir in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chicken stock or diluted consommé and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of white wine. Lower heat and simmer for 15 minutes.

The ducks are browned in equal parts of butter and olive oil, placed in the braising kettle, the cover clamped on tightly. After simmering gently for 1 hour or until the ducks are tender, they are turned several times. With them, serve cranberry sauce, a mound of mashed potatoes with rivulets of golden butter coursing down the sides, a salad of sliced tomatoes, hot corn bread.

Chinese Duck

The experienced duck hunter richly earns all of the duck dividends that are possible. Knowing that a diet of roast wild duck falls after a few days, he yet realizes the basic meat is without peer, and a change-of-pace is indicated. Among other things, the duck-hungry citizen, male or female, can turn to an ancient Chinese recipe, one that stems from Old China, and it has a mysterious goodness that is worth tasting.

Rub 2 cleaned and whole ducks inside and out with a half lemon and plenty of salt. Insert in each cavity 1 slice of fresh ginger, 1 small green onion, 1 tablespoon dry sherry, 3 aniseed. Steam the birds in a covered steamer for $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 hours, or until tender but firm when fork-tested. Remove ducks to a rack to drain for 30-40 minutes. Rub with a mixture of $\frac{1}{2}$ cup soya sauce and 6 tablespoons dark brown sugar. Fry in 380 degree fat for 5 to 8 minutes, or until the skin is richly colored. Serve and savor!

Cold Roast Duck

This is for 6 people. Simple and very good. Rub the interior of 3 ducks with salt and lemon juice, season the exterior with salt and pepper, place the ducks in a shallow roaster, pop into a 475 degree oven for 15 minutes, reduce heat to 325-350 degrees, roast for $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 hours, or until tender, basting frequently with pan juices. Remove to a platter, let the ducks cool. They are best when served at room temperature. Carve and serve with a sauce made of pan juices, a little Worcestershire sauce and a glass of tart jelly, served very hot. This one will make the purists happy.

Duck Salad

If there's leftover roast wild duck, put it to use. Cut into small cubes, mix with chopped celery hearts, about half the volume of the roast duck. Add chopped fresh tarragon to mayonnaise, not enough to disguise the flavor of the duck, a pinch of dry mustard, a couple of tablespoons of dry sherry, beat until mixed, correct the seasonings, toss the duck in this mixture.

Roast Duck on Toast

Roast the duck in a 450 degree oven for 20 minutes, reduce the heat to 350 degrees for 45 minutes, baste with melted butter and lemon juice. Remove and let cool somewhat. Cut lengthwise slices from an uncut loaf of bread, spoon over them the juices of

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the pan, brown lightly in the oven. Cut breast slices of the duck, place on the bread, cut each slice of toast in 4-inch lengths, serve as small sandwiches. With the duck sandwiches, a rasher of broiled Canadian bacon, boiled onions, and an endive salad.

Sugar Lake Ducks

2 ducks	1 bay leaf
4 tablespoons Madeira wine	6 sliced, medium mushroom caps
2½ tablespoons tomato paste	1 diced, canned pimento
2 tablespoons potato flour	¾ diced, sweet red pepper
1½ cups chicken broth	1 teaspoon grated orange rind
salt and pepper	3 peeled medium tomatoes

Disjoint the ducks, rub with lemon juice and salt, brown in vegetable fat. Add the wine, reduce the heat for a few minutes, remove the duck pieces, add tomato paste, blend in the potato flour, add chicken broth and bring the mixture to a boil, then return to the skillet, simmer until the meat is almost tender, then add mushroom slices, pimento, green pepper, orange sections and grated orange peel, and peeled tomatoes, sliced. Cook gently until the vegetables and fruit are very tender, correct seasonings. Place duck on warm platter, cover with the rich and delightful gravy.

Salmi of Duck

2 tablespoons butter	¼ teaspoon thyme
1 small onion, diced	½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
4 green onions, sliced paper-thin	2½-3½ cups leftover roast duck
½ pound sliced mushrooms	1 cup claret
2 tablespoons flour	2 tablespoons finely chopped celery
1 cup diluted consommé	12 large pitted olives
1 tablespoon minced parsley	salt and pepper

Saute onions (both types) and mushrooms in the butter, dust in the flour and stir until you have a smooth and brown mixture. Add claret, stock and seasonings, stir and simmer for 15 minutes. Add the duck (previously cut from the bones, cut into ¼-inch dice) and olives, bring to a boil, correct seasonings—turn into a hot platter, garnish with squares of fried mush.

Glazed Duckling Montmorency

Roast duckling until tender. When cold, remove breast and bones. Fill breast with a mousse made from remains of the meat (mousse recipe below).

Coat the breast with a brown Choud Froid sauce (recipe below) and decorate with truffle, glaze with aspic and set in refrigerator so that mousse may harden.

Surround with cold pitted Mosella cherries, poached in Bordeaux wine.

Duckling Mousse

Chop very fine the dark meat of duckling in 1 oz. butter, 2 tablespoons rich cream, ½ oz. gelatin, season with a few drops of lemon juice, salt & white pepper to taste. Blend in the yolk of 1 egg.

Duckling Chaud Froid Sauce

To 1 pint of duckling gravy, add white boiling, 1 teaspoon of gelatin or aspic, 2 oz. of Madeira or port wine. When luke warm, cover duckling.

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FITTING A NEW RIFLE BARREL

(Continued from page 41)

quently. Put the barrel in the vise and see if you can turn the action all the way on. If you can't you will have to chase the threads all the way to the shoulder. It's possible to crack an action if the barrel is too tight, but it must screw up snugly. No sloppy fit will do here.

The next operation in fitting the barrel to the action is to get the proper headspace for the cartridge you have chosen. If you can't get headspace gauges, use cartridges for a gauge. Get a box each of Western, Winchester, Remington and Peters cartridges. Clean the chamber carefully and try the cartridges to see if they will drop out easily. Be sure the bullet doesn't contact the rifling and cause it to stick. The reason for trying cartridges of different brands is because there is likely to be a slight difference in dimensions and you don't want to headspace too closely on a minimum cartridge and find that you have trouble closing the bolt on those of another brand.

Remove the firing pin from the bolt, so as to do away with any chance of an accidental discharge, and fit the bolt in the action. Place the action in a vise and be sure the bolt lugs are fitting snugly against the bearing surfaces in the action. Place a straight-edge across the face of the action and measure the depth of the face of the bolt. Place a cartridge in the chamber and measure the distance from the barrel shoulder to the back surface of the cartridge. Douglas leaves ten thousandths to twenty thousandths excess metal on the barrel shoulder which must be removed to get the proper headspace. You must also measure from the action face to the inner ring in the action. The barrel face must not contact the inner ring before the barrel shoulder contacts the action face. It is possible to file the barrel face and barrel shoulder so as to get the correct headspace, but this calls for some master filing and most of us aren't masters. Likely you have a machinist friend who will help with this part

of the job. If he likes guns, so much the better; he will be more careful. Set the barrel in a lathe, and remove less metal than you think is needed. Go carefully here.

Screw the barrel into the action tightly enough to require putting just a bit of your weight on the wrench. Now get a safety razor blade and break off a piece that will fit between the face of the bolt and the head of a cartridge. A Gillette Blue blade will make four thousandths to five thousandths of an inch. Remove the bolt and place the piece of blade on the bolt face as a shim and place a cartridge on the blade. The extractor will hold the cartridge in place. Insert the bolt and cartridge in the action and close the bolt. If there is no feeling of tension as the bolt is closed the barrel must be removed and more metal taken from the shoulder and possibly from the barrel face. Screw the barrel into the action again and try the bolt and cartridge. If you feel tension when you close the bolt remove that cartridge and try one from each of the boxes, still keeping the piece of razor on the bolt face.

Now remove the bolt and get on the end of the wrench and put all your weight on it. Get that barrel as tight as you can. This should turn the barrel ¼" to 5/16" and will likely take up the thickness of the razor blade. Now try some cartridges without the blade. If one out of ten shows some tension when you close the bolt you have done a first class job. There is no extractor cut to be made on a Mauser. If you should re-barrel a Springfield, Enfield or Winchester M.70 you will have to make a cut. You can locate it properly and cut it with a file.

There are a few general hints to keep in mind as you go along. You should sprinkle powdered rosin in the grooves of the barrel blocks to keep the barrel from turning when you tighten the action. Put a few drops of oil on the vise threads and use a large monkey wrench to tighten the nuts down. Tighten them until the wood blocks fairly groan. I weigh 180 lbs., and I can bounce my weight on the end of the handle without the barrel turning. The barrel must fit the blocks well and it's necessary to use the rosin. You should use a piece of sheet copper or sheet lead between the top of the action and the wrench to keep it from being scarred. The clamping plate fits the flat surface on the bottom of the action and the nuts need only be tightened enough to insure against any rolling tendency. Some rosin will stick to the barrel, but this can be easily removed with fine steel wool. The barrel should be fitted in the wood blocks so that there will be less than one inch between the vise and the action. This does away with any chance of springing the barrel when it is tightened in the action.

Anyone with some gun knowledge and a smattering of mechanical know-how can do a first class job of fitting a barrel to an action and can do it in less time than it has taken me to write about it. The wrench and vise should cost less than ten dollars. It takes about an hour to make them. If you are in a hurry for a gun you can do this work and get a certain pleasure in doing it. Just go carefully and pay attention to the fundamentals.

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