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Guns

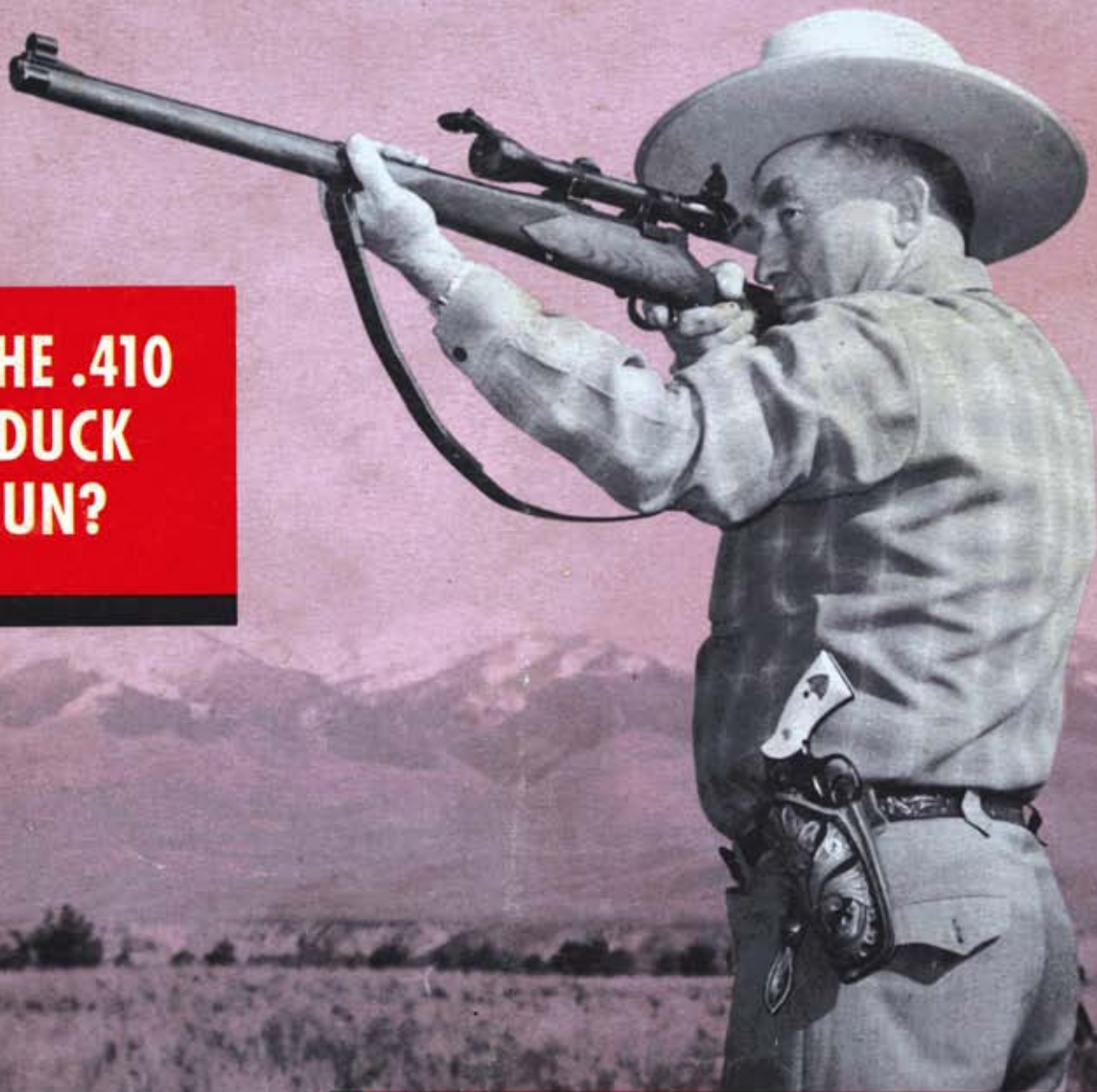
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GUNS OF THE FUTURE

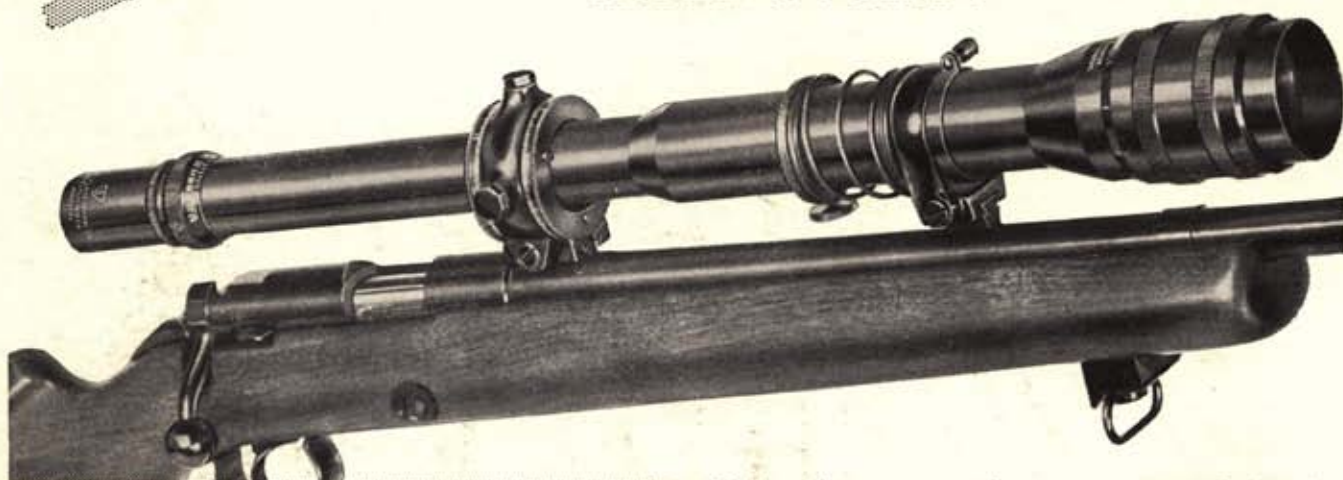
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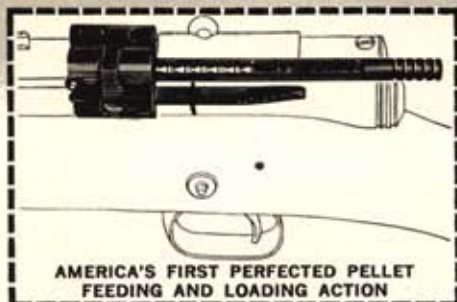
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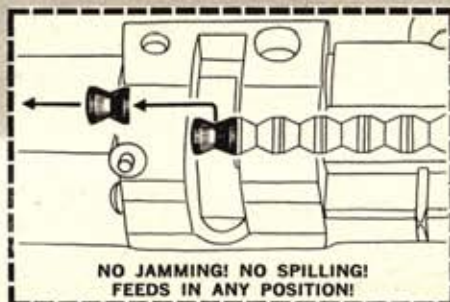
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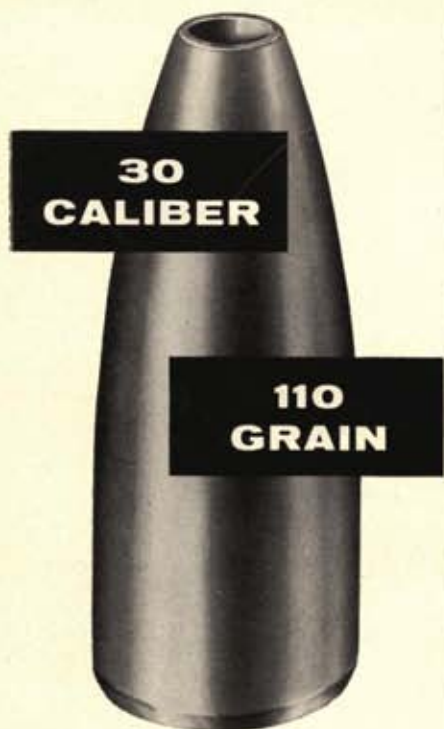
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By TED DOESCHER

I HAVE four favorites: a Marlin .35 carbine for brush shooting with 2½X Bushnell scope in Pachmayr lo-swing mount; a .222 "microgroove" Marlin with 6X Bushnell in Stith mount for varmints and bench rest shooting; a Weatherby .300 magnum carrying a 4X Leupold on Leupold mount which I use for all North American big game; and my Model 70 with 4X Bushnell scope, for long range open country shooting. All four guns have Timney triggers.

MY FAVORITE GUN

By GHEORGHE LICHARDOPOL

I ENJOY shotgunning and hunting hares and ducks near my home in Romania, but in the Olympics when I placed third in the rapid fire match, I used my favorite gun, the Hammerli-

Olympia .22 automatic, fitted with additional barrel weights. My pistol is my favorite weapon as one can always enjoy some shooting with it, even in the city, because we have plenty of indoor ranges.



TRIGGER TALK

FROM FLINTLOCKS to future guns, from tigers to target busting, and from Olympic rifles to fundamental bolt actions, combine with the commercial side of pistol competition and a generous helping of Elmer Keith's inimitable comments on things in general to make something for everybody.

Askins is back with a lively and unusual story on upland bird shooting in Asia; but upland birds with an Oriental flavor, including peacocks! And covertly in the brush paralleling his hunt lurk briefly seen dangers, pythons, wild dogs, and tigers that slink off with his downed birds. But such is life in the far east with Askins.

The old hassle over "obsolete" bolt action rifles is reopened by hunter-ex G.I.-gun crank Erfurth. An experienced gun-crank marksman, with practical know-how of hundreds of different weapons in the field, Erfurth turned a sharp look on the bolt vs lever action controversy.

Florida and future guns will appeal to the technical expert and the competitive shooter. First, for Florida, read Texan Bill Toney's thorough appraisal of the grapefruit circuit, the shooting facilities available in the "sunshine state" (C of C please note). Texan Toney boosts Florida as the spot for a shooting vacation for one very easy-to-understand reason: Florida has done a great deal for shooters by providing fabulous facilities at modest cost. Whether hunting, target shooting, or just basking in the sun is in order, Toney says "Go to Florida."

Future guns are discussed by Col. Robert Rigg. Now stationed at the Pentagon, Col. Rigg disclaims being a "weapons expert," but in his article shows great insight, or perhaps foresight is the better word, on what the pattern of future war may be. His ideas for future weapons at first seem novel; then the reader will gradually realize that there is more to the story than is printed, and that some of these fantastic weapons Col. Rigg describes are closer than you may think.

Also close at hand are the needs of handgunners. Whether tyro or master, you will get some good out of reading Gil Hebard's discerning article on accessories that make for better handgun shooting. Titled "Buying Your Way To Pistol Mastery," Hebard's essay offers dollars and cents advice on equipment which the shooters find helps them to excel. Hebard should know—he is a medal-winning pistoleer, and a gun dealer.

Last month we brought you such diversified "firsts" in gun reading as the Austrian water shooting and "Shooting For Sport in the USSR." This month we offer the Olympic Rifle article (about a sensational new International-type weapon that has reached fruition in the free air of North America) and, for other-minded readers, "How to Shoot A Flintlock" and "Is The .410 A Duck Gun?" Next month and for the years to come, you can be assured that GUNS will bring you the first, the latest, the most complete coverage of guns and shooting.



THE COVER

We don't know what Elmer Keith will do to us when he returns from Africa and finds that we've turned him into a magazine cover model. Neither do we know many men who better deserve to grace the cover of a gun book. So—we give you . . . Elmer Keith.

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

FEBRUARY, 1958

VOL. IV, NO. 2-38

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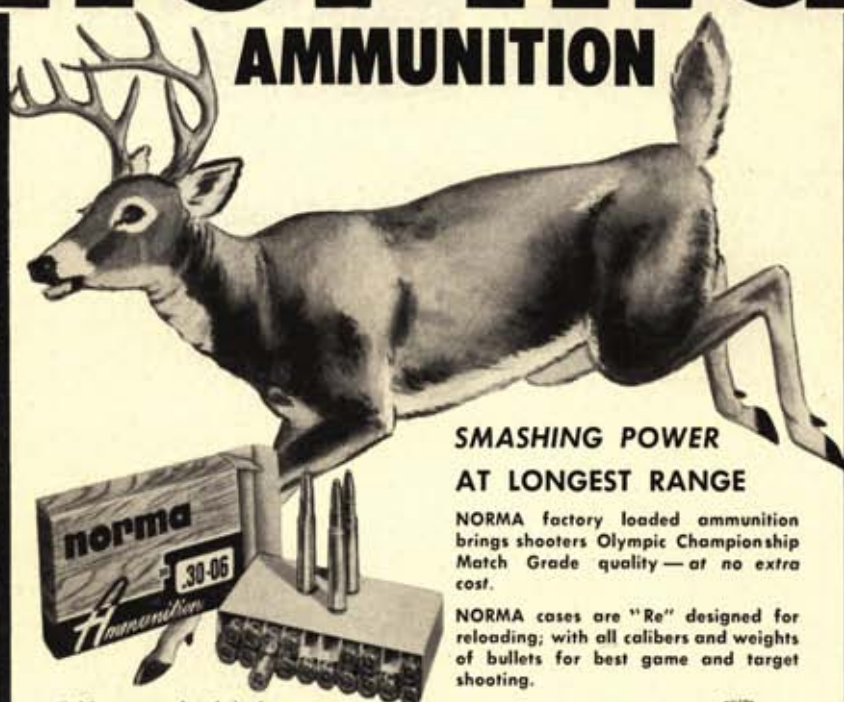


REPRESENTATIVES: NEW YORK, Eugene L. Pollock, 40 East 40th St., New York 16, N. Y., MUrray Hill 5-4740. MIDWEST, Marvin Ginn, 8150 N. Central Park Ave., Skokie, Ill., ORchard 5-6967. CALIFORNIA, The Ren Averill Company, Ren Averill, 232 N. Lake St., Pasadena, Calif., RYan 1-9291; and Gordon Cole, 74 Bret Harte Terrace, San Francisco 11, Calif., PRospect 6-3902.

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GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

◆ When bartender Jack Clark of Lander, Wyo., opened the tavern and saw a crouching mountain lion only four feet away, he did a snappy job of scaling the side of a cabinet. Later, he learned that erstwhile friends had shot the big cat, frozen it into an upright position, and placed it in the bar during the night.

★ ★ ★

◆ Charles Williams, an Australian cattleman, shot off part of his arm after a poisonous snake bit him. He did it because he could not find a knife to cut open the bitten area to let out the poison. Doctors said he undoubtedly saved his life.

★ ★ ★

◆ A tale denied at Fort Benning tells of the fresh inductee on guard duty. The officer of the day comes by, queries him on orders of the day, then asks to see his rifle. Unthinking, the recruit hands it over. "Now what would you do if I told you to get the h... off the post?" asked the officer. The boy thought for an instant, then whipped out his bayonet and hissed "Give it back, damn it! It ain't loaded!"

★ ★ ★

◆ Sudbury, Canada. M. J. Merickel of Wadena, Minn., has won the Grout wolf trophy for the third year in a row by shooting down a total of 66 wolves. His technique is simple. He uses a shotgun while flying low in his private plane. The trophy was established a few years ago by Arthur J. Grout to combat wolves in northern Ontario.

★ ★ ★

◆ Denver, Colo. A man called up police headquarters and told them he was robbing a grocery store. How come? The store owner, Raquel Cordova, was pointing a .38 caliber pistol at him while he telephoned.

★ ★ ★

◆ Detroit, Mich. A merchant reported his hardware store being robbed of two pistols and 7150 rounds of ammunition but there was a wry smile on his face as he told police about it. He explained that the thieves would find that none of the bullets would fit the pistols.

★ ★ ★

◆ Mentakab, Malaya. A young rice planter fought a fully grown tiger with his bare hands in a delaying action until bullets could come into play. Yatib Bin Osman wrestled the tiger for five minutes before friends arrived with guns and shot the animal.

★ ★ ★

◆ Muskegon, Mich. So that there'd be no mistake where he'd gone, Charles Finkler left the three chairs in his barber shop occupied by three mounted deer heads, each wrapped in a barber's sheet. It was his way of letting everyone know he and his two assistants had gone hunting.



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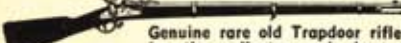


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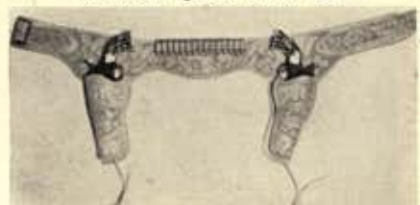
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- ★ **THE FIGHT THAT FINISHED TOMBSONE**, by Tom Bailey—it WASN'T the one at O. K. Corral.
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This is one of the finest jobs of action and barrel fitting for the big gun we have seen. Front trigger is hinged, and rib is matted, with large ivory front bead. The forend is of French walnut, as is the stock. This specimen has a huge beavertail forend which I do not like on a magnum ten, as it is just too large for my left hand to grasp properly. However, it might very well suit a man with large hands and long fingers.

The stock is of well grained, very dense and hard French walnut of high quality and good figure. It is well shaped, with a generous cheek piece and good full pistol grip, and is fitted with recoil pad. Drop is around 1¼ x 3". The heel drop is excessive for my personal liking; I would much prefer a 2" heel drop.

The gun is massive, weighs at least 11 pounds, but shoots like the devil. All bolts of the action seem to be in proper bearing and the ejectors kick the empties well out of the way. Patterns are excellent at all ranges with heavy shot. The left barrel seems to throw a bit the tighter pattern, but the right shoots a very fine, even spread, more like an improved modified. Patterns with No. 2 shot will take geese at 80 yards and beyond if you can hold it on them, and this is the first magnum 10 we have tested that throws good tight patterns with Remington two-ounce BB Shot loads. These Remington BB loads in this Gorosabel gun would be wicked on geese, and the big gun also does mighty good with twos. For some reason, the smaller No. 2 shot give best results in most magnum ten bores, but this particular gun seems to throw either very well.

This action is neatly hand engraved with scroll panels to break up the plainness, and is also case hardened. All told, it is the most shotgun I have yet seen for the money, selling for \$175.00 with plain extractors, and

\$225 with ejectors. I doubt if it could be built in this country for less than \$400. The gun has shown no tendency to lead in the cone and seems to throw the same uniform patterns shot after shot.

The only criticism we have to offer is: the barrels could be much thinner toward the muzzles; a lighter, standard size forend would be better for most shooters; the excellently shaped butt-stock should be given a drop of not over 2¼" at heel; and an even larger, more massive butt plate would add more weight back of the action where it is needed for better balance. The changes would make the gun balance farther to the rear and be faster to mount and get on the target. Recoil would also be reduced, and so would the up lift of the barrels in recoil, thereby allowing a faster second shot.

I have the first magnum 10 ever built; a 10½ pound, 32" barrel gun (Serial Number 500,000) built by Ithaca for Maj. Charles Askins many years ago. I have been shooting it for over 20 years. It has proven the finest pass gun for big ducks and geese I have ever used. This Gorosabel has an even stronger, better fitted action, is not as well balanced, but could be made to balance just as well. We can heartily recommend this big Gorosabel magnum 10 to anyone wanting a fine, long range pass gun for either duck or goose shooting. It is a sportsman's gun, not a game hog's, as it shoots such close patterns that only a confirmed old pass shooter could use it effectively. More fun can be had on a good duck and goose pass with this big gun than with any smaller gauge of shotgun by the man who gets a greater kick out of a few perfect long shots than from killing a couple of limits at close range over decoys.

Target Sights for Sixguns

My choice for the best rear target sight to have fitted to the fixed-sighted sixgun is the S & W micrometer-click rear sight. This can be done by milling out the hog trough that has served for a rear sight in the top of the frame. It is a job for a competent gunsmith or machinist and must be done right, both the long mill cut in the top of the frame and also the cross cut at the rear end of the top strap. Properly fitted, it gives the shooter a really first-class rear sight and does not seriously weaken the frame. It also makes for a much lower sighting plane.

For the front sight one has two choices. A ramp front (like the Williams Gunsight rifle ramp) can be silver-soldered to the barrel and any type of drive-in front rifle sight fitted in (from the well known and well liked Sourdough to the round bead in gold or ivory); or a band can be turned to

fit snug over the barrel to be cross-pinned and silver-soldered in position, and any type blade front sight or bead can be fitted in a slot in the top of the barrel by cross pinning. Such sights will stay put and give the shooter lasting, satisfactory service. Front sight height can be worked out by using a dummy front sight blade and filing down to height as you shoot the gun in. Then a new sight can be fitted to correspond with the proper height arrived at, and you have a perfectly sighted gun with fully adjustable rear sight.

Magnum 16 Shotshells

Back in 1953 I asked Gail Evans of Remington for a 1 1/4 ounce 16 bore load such as we had already hand loaded for many years. Also took the matter up with C. G. Peterson of Remington. Both were very much in favor of such a load and it was not long in forthcoming. However, Remington and also Winchester-Western brought out this fine load with No. 2 and No. 4 shot only. The same load with No. 6 shot was badly needed also, for ducks and long range pheasants. The first 16 gauge magnum 1 1/4 ounce No. 6 shot loads that we know of or had a chance to test were brought out by Federal Cartridge Co. of Minneapolis and these have proven very fine load in every respect. Although the No. 2 shot are fine on geese and No. 4 are good for real big ducks or geese at close range, the No. 6 shot load throws a far denser and better pattern for average duck and pheasant shooting. The new Federal loads threw uniformly good patterns and also gave excellent penetration on the pattern board as well as on ducks and pheasants and crows. Since then, Remington and Winchester-Western plants have also answered the demand for No. 6 shot in these heavy magnum loads.

Shot Sizes for Geese

Over the years we have tried many sizes of shot on geese. For the lesser snow and other small geese or young honkers, No. 3 shot did very well indeed and gave denser patterns than No. 2; but, alas, the loading companies now have dropped No. 3 shot. My old mag ten was regulated for No. 3 shot and averaged, for ten shot strings with both barrels, 93 per cent with Western Lubaloy loads. With No. 2 shot it averaged, both barrels for ten shots, just 85 per cent. On the smaller geese out to 75 or even 80 yards, and for all long range pass duck shooting, I prefer No. 3 shot, but I can no longer get that size loaded. No. 4s are about all done for pellet energy at 70 yards, but No. 3 will kill at a full 80 yards, and we have seen No. 3 Western Lubaloy shot drive clear through to the skin on the off side of big mallards at a full 80 yards.

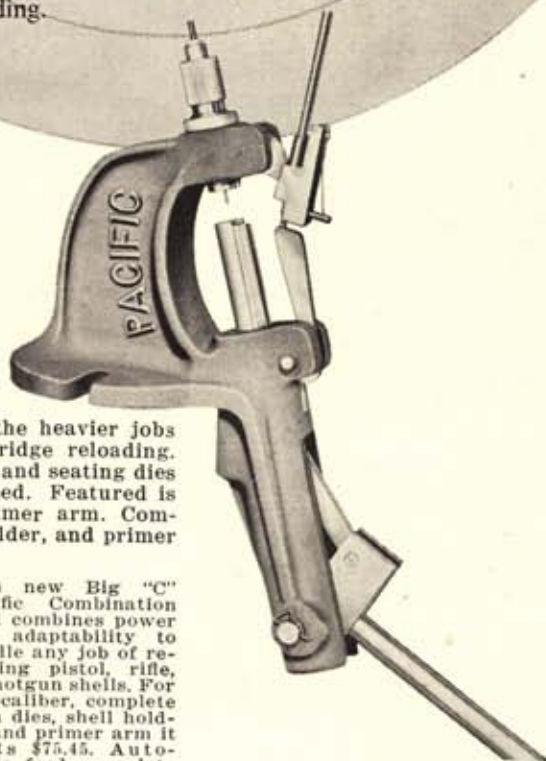
On big, heavy, full-bodied and full-plumaged honkers weighing from 9 to 14 pounds, nothing less than No. 2 shot is effective out at 80 yards and beyond, and then only from the Magnum 10 with two ounces of shot, or from the latest loading for the 3" magnum 12 with 1 1/2 ounces of shot. I have made many doubles with my fine old Ithaca magnum ten bore on big honkers at 80 yards and beyond with No. 2 shot. With BB shot it patterns only 65 per cent, far too scattered for any use at long range. With two ounces of twos, however, I feel at home on a good pass when the big

(Continued on page 41)

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CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shooting Comes High in India

Please allow me to express appreciation for the excellent magazine you are producing. I eagerly await each new issue, as the articles are fascinating, informative, and quite instructive. Would it be possible for you to have an article on how to make a pistol case?

In India, the rifle movement has started very earnestly since 1950, three years after our independence. We have a National Rifle Association of India also. It is doing quite a lot of work, but because it is still in the childhood stage the rifle movement is not gaining the momentum that it should. One problem is that, except for the rich, nobody can afford to have this hobby. The custom duties are very stiff. They are about 66½ per cent of the invoice value, plus a 10 per cent sales and general tax. For example, a Colt Match Target pistol costs here the equivalent of \$130. It is also very difficult to obtain any accessories from abroad. We in India are trying our best to induce our government to scrap such high import duties and though Government has cooperated very much, it is not quite sufficient.

C. K. Vissanji
Bombay, India

... from Australia

I do admire and envy you Americans . . . with all your shooting clubs and associations. Would you please help me find an American of about my own age (17) who would exchange letters with me about rifle and pistol shooting—anything to do with actual use of guns, also stocking, inletting, reloading, etc.? I have all the books I have been able to buy on handgunning, all published in America. Here in Australia we have lots of wild game, including kangaroos, wallaby, buffalo, wild dogs, several varieties of deer, and of course rabbits. I enjoy hunting, plan to do much more.

Peter J. Stevens
Main St., Croydon,
Victoria, Australia

Movie Gun-swifts

I have just reread your January, 1957 issue in which the story, "My Challenge to Hollywood Hot Shots" appeared. I think the story was long over-due. For years now we have read stories on how fast these men are supposed to be. It was high-time someone said put-up or shut-up after reading later issues. I see no one has yet accepted McGivern's challenge. But I am sure your readers are interested in a good follow-up story because many questions were left unanswered. Such as who are the top guns in Hollywood? How does Ed think the top guns of the old west would do against the

modern gunslinger? Who are supposed to be the best gunmen alive today? How do the chances look for the contest of the Hollywood gunfighters?

Also I think if McGivern will watch Hugh Obrien on T.V. he will notice a great improvement in the use of gun facts and history. And are issues of "Fast and Fancy Revolver Shooting" available?

L. D. Galloway
Pittsburry, Calif.

See "The Truth About Hollywood Gunfighters" by Charles MacDonald Heard, Hollywood expert on guns and moving picture gunfighting techniques (GUNS, Dec., '57). And for McGivern's book on "Fast and Fancy Revolver Shooting," see your book dealer.—Editors.

Warning

In a recent issue of GUNS Magazines, there appeared an article on G.I. Carbinés and their use for general hunting purposes. The writer stated that a good load for hunting could be acquired with very little cost to the shooter by taking the standard 110 or 112 grain G.I. bullet and grinding off the tip until lead was showing. The finished product was intended to have mushrooming qualities that would be desirable for hunting small game. The process of grinding off the tip of the G.I. bullet is extremely dangerous and should never be attempted by a novice.

A doctor friend of mine within the last year treated a gunner for facial lacerations and shock, after his carbine blew up. The victim had done just exactly as your writer is now recommending. The victim had filed off the front tip of the G.I. bullet until you could just see the lead showing through. (I saw one of the bullets that had been altered and it was a pretty professional job.) After the victim fired this altered bullet he tried another and this next bullet went through the bore until it reached the metal jacket from the first bullet; hence the added pressure, hence the explosion, hence the injury. Warn your readers not to attempt this grinding operation. Some may be lucky and get away with it. Some may not be so fortunate.

The carbine bullet has a lead core and this core extends to the base, is not protected from the pressure and hot gases. When the tip of the bullet is removed, sometimes the lead core squeezes past and leaves the jacket in the bore and a sure fire accident to the shooter. Only on full-jacketed bullets can this operation be safe, where the base of the bullets are fully covered with the metal jacket.

David J. Maxham
Jersey City, N. J.

In our September "Crossfire" we printed a letter titled "Old Wives' Tale," by T/Sgt. Vern Duchek, quoting Howe and Weatherby as authorities for the belief that this bullet alteration was safe enough. Here is testimony on the other side.—Editors.

GUNS of the FUTURE

**SOUND GUNS, RAY GUNS,
AND BABY MISSILE LAUNCHERS MAY BE
THE SHAPE OF SMALL ARMS
FOR U.S. TROOPS WITHIN 15 YEARS**

By LT. COL. ROBERT B. RIGG, USA



Author's imaginative illustration of U.S. Futurarmy in combat shows infrared-visored infantry reaching area via copter-sleds, using missile-launching auto rifles of light weight to knock out the approaching enemy tanks.

Tunnel warfare will characterize enemy strikes at big missile bases like ICBM where walls of honeycomb gun barrels will fire lethal spray of needles from shotshells, seeking chinks in plastic armor worn by all soldiers.



Infrared battle floods and carbine spot lights are the newest night combat items.



IN SOME DISTANT FUTURE, when intercontinental ballistic missile bases stud the earth, what will be the use for military small arms? Will there be any need for soldiers armed with hand guns?

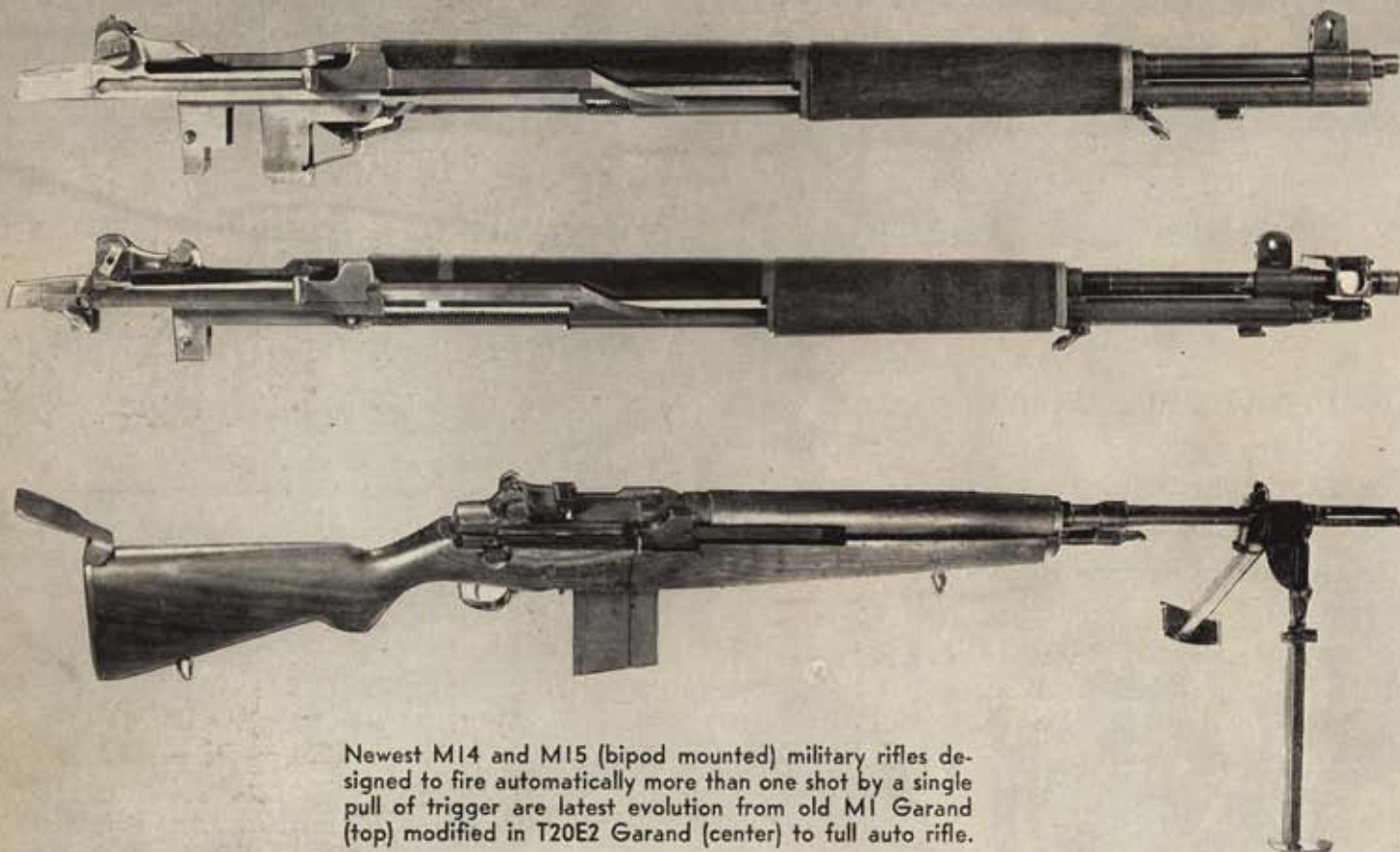
There is growing agreement in military circles that the answer is "yes," that the development of missiles of great power actually lays a heavier emphasis on the role of the combat infantryman and Marine, and that these fighters of the future will use individual weapons. The best guess is that if there is future aggression it will be "bullet and brushfire" warfare rather than the mutual suicide of missile attack.

In the holocaust of future war there will be two breeds of warriors, the hunter and the hunted, each with distinctive protective arms. The hunted soldier will man big weapons like the intercontinental ballistic missiles. He will probably be so hidden underground that it will take more than long-range missiles to find his installation and neutral-

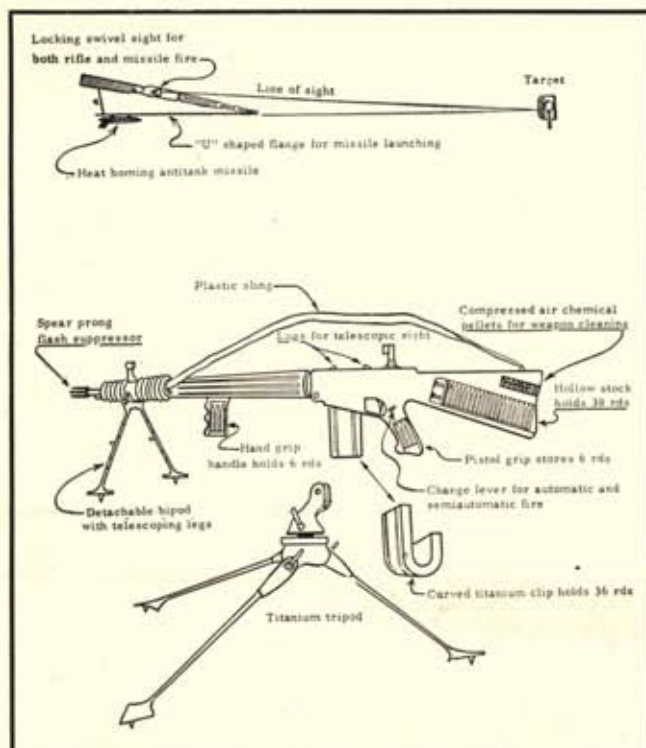
ize it. For every enemy soldier underground, there will be thousands of hunter-soldiers above the earth who will be out to find, kill, and possess. Once under attack, the push-button soldier-technicians will be protected by the most unusual "small arms" in the history of warfare—a panel of guns with one-inch barrels!

This "needle gun" will have thousands of 1" barrels in panels like a honeycomb. The walls of tunnels leading to underground installations such as ICBM bases will be lined with these gun-panels. Aboveground, surface defense will be negligible; the main defense there will be perfect camouflage. Thus, they may be defended from approach on the inside by murderous tunnel walls with yards of "needle gun" panels.

The needle gun shot cartridges will hold short, 1/4" needles. Pre-aimed to saturate human invaders, these shot-gun like panels will be fired by remote control, or set off by pressure of an intruder's foot. Hit instantaneously with



Newest M14 and M15 (bipod mounted) military rifles designed to fire automatically more than one shot by a single pull of trigger are latest evolution from old M1 Garand (top) modified in T20E2 Garand (center) to full auto rifle.



Author Riggs, colonel stationed in Pentagon, sees new missile rifle as advance on new designs like Armalite AR-10.

a thousand needles, a victim will crumble with paralysis from a shocked nervous system. Automatic feed systems would load the guns from magazine tubes. A few soldiers who would rarely see daylight could load and fire thousands of square feet of polka dot walls belching needles of death at targets located by electronic or television locators, by pressing fingers on buttons needing no trigger squeeze.

Body armor for American soldiers will be lighter, and a permanent part of our future warrior's gear. However, there will be areas of the body, such as arms and legs, where body armor may not be complete. These areas could be hit by wall panels of enemy needle guns. This mechanical, last ditch defense in secret bases against any human opponent will force the attackers to use a form of indoor tank. The "tunnel tank" would carry its operators in prone position. One gunner and one gunner-driver would man the tank's rocket launchers designed simply to kill underground push-button troops.

What happens when the doors of the tunnels clamp down and a "tunnel tank" meets more steel than any tank can penetrate? There is no doubt that in such underground warfare a dead-end street will be reached. And it is most probable that, when the giant steel doors come down in any future underworld of close combat horror, there will be doors sliding away to emit the larger guns—plain, open tubes, belching destruction at short ranges.

The pattern of future war is so complex that tunnel warfare—the effort to seize and the effort to defend, inside



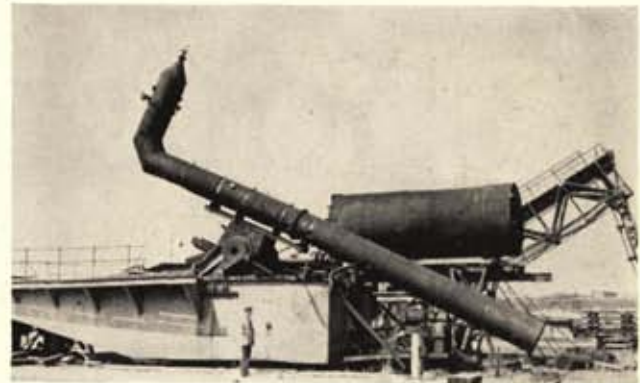
Dardick revolver gun using triangle cartridges, "trounds," is new idea interesting U.S.



Dardick tround is equivalent to .38 Spl., may adapt 9 mm ammo to gun. At right, short German 7.9 was also made of combustible propellant in WW II.



Power from sun may be adapted to new weapons. Solar energy activates helmet-radio for troops in combat.



Among German WWII experiments which may underlie current U.S. research is unsuccessful wind gun which fired "plug" of air, was intended to shoot down aircraft.

the earth, that which is valued, be it nuclear stockpiles or atomic missiles—will be only one facet of such conflict. For every man attacking underground there will be a thousand or more fighting above ground. Then, as always, there will be the need for the weapon that can kill at 1500 yards or 15 feet.

The hunter-soldier of the future, that is, about 1972, will be armed with a fantastic new rifle. This combination rifle and machine gun will also launch missiles. There are signs from current research and development that this Missile-Rifle may come sooner than 1972.

Light as current designs are, the future rifle will be lighter, about five pounds, with a titanium barrel. But it will fire bullets, using a round that requires no ejecting. The disintegrating rifle cartridge is a possibility. The idea is developing in some brains today. Military small arms

are in for a period of evolution which in a decade will look like a revolution. The plural will be taken out of "small arms." Eventually, the U.S. will employ one standard hand-carried military weapon, a full substitute for today's rifle, carbine, submachine gun, BAR, and light and heavy machine guns.

The disintegrating shell case for the future rifle may be a rimmed base with the case itself (along with the bullet) separating from the rimmed end upon firing. In flight, the plastic shell case would burn off the bullet a few yards beyond the muzzle. The rimmed end would have to be ejected or force-dropped through the bottom of the breech. Alternatively, a heavy plastic bullet could replace the present steel-jacketed lead slug. At its base would be a combustible plastic cartridge case that could burn up completely in the barrel. Or, (Continued on page 54)



Dardick pistol converts into a rifle by attaching new barrel and butt stock connected at breech action by shroud.



Speckled ruff around throat marks doves of Indo-China as different from American variety, but they are just as hard to hit.

shotgun shikar,

**BIRD SHOOTING CAN BE HOTLY SPICED WITH DANGER
IN INDO-CHINA, WHERE PYTHONS AND
TIGERS WORK AS RETRIEVERS**

By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS



SAY INDO-CHINA and the hunter thinks of jungles and big, dangerous game. But Indo-China is a bonanza land also for the "upland bird" and wildfowl shooter. Some of the birds are like, some very unlike those you find in State-side upland game country, and you hunt them differently. You hunt them in vastly different company, too. The men who shoot beside you are different, and so are the unseen spectators who lurk in wait for the birds you bring down. But the sport is the same; the differences only add pepper to the stew.

The shotgunner's mainstay in Indo-China is the ubiquitous dove. An intriguing peculiarity is that here he is apparently non-migratory. There are three varieties of doves, and I see them all the way from the 17th Parallel (that demarcation line between ourselves and the Ho Chi Minh Commies of the North) down to the very southern tip of the peninsula. You hear their plaintive "c-o-o-o" throughout the season of the monsoons and in the months of heat and dust; from Tet

until the rice is laid by. A hunting ground likely to furnish an afternoon of lusty gunning in July will be just as good come Fall.

In 1955, in those 27 states of the US where the dove is looked upon as a game target, some 19 millions were bagged. The harbinger of Peace is just as plentiful in this corner of Asia, but by no means were any 19,000,000 shot during '55, or in any other year since Confucious. The Vietnamese do not eat the "Con Coo," nor do they know anything about shooting him. Even if they did wish to hunt him, there are precious few scatterguns and even fewer shotshells in Indo-China. And you can't knock the Con-Coo down with sticks. Blessed as he is by an almost complete absence of human enemies, you'd assume the dove here would be so tame you'd have to chunk rocks to set him a-wing. But not so; the Indo-Chinese version of the Rio Grande flyer is



Coming face to face with man-hating buffalo and hunting tiger, losing dead birds to python and wild dog, finding leopard sign beside waiting jeep, all lent spice to author's shotgun shikar.

with TIGER

Peacock with gaudy five-foot tails are plentiful. Askins' first encounter was both startling and unforgettable.



Not many downed birds escaped author's retinue of retrievers composed of refugee children from Red-held north Viet-Nam. Doves are shot on roads to which they come for gravel.





Jungle cock, found in countless numbers in Indo-China, is ancestor of all domestic chickens. Boy (below) holds prized DA Browning and results of an hour's shoot.

wilder than the Abominable Snowman of Tibetan legend.

Doves are not gunned in old Annam after the time-honored fashion of the Texas Southwest where you wait them out around the sun-down waterhole. Nor do you seek out an inviting Kafir corn patch and walk him up, as in Oklahoma. Nor has the coolie farmer been introduced to the obvious advantages of planting a dozen acres of Georgia blackeyed peas to provide locale par excellence for strafing the streamlined game. Water there is here in such plenty, and these tropics abound in such quantities of grain and insects, it is a wonder the birds fly at all. So—we hunt, not over the watering places (for these are beyond number), nor on the feeding grounds (which are everywhere), but in those few spots where the birds go in search of the fine gravel necessary to their digestive well-being. Here the speedsters flock by the thousands.

After an early morning breakfast, the birds rise by twos and threes and forties and flock in for the dessert, the gravel-and-small-pebble pie. And where do you suppose this places them? Where else than on the half-dozen hard-surfaced roads of Viet Nam. These few highways are built

with a rock and asphalt base spread with tar and strewn with fine gravel. The top layer of pebbles is more prized by a Chinese pigeon than is sunflower seed by his Texas cousin.

Shooting can be done here even along the traveled roads. There is no law against it, and sometimes no car will pass during a pair of days. I make it a practice, however, to find those abandoned stretches of hard-top where the Viet Minh during the eight years of war destroyed the bridges, thus compelling detours. Here there is no traffic at all, and here the "Con Coo" flock in numbers.

I was gunning for doves one rainy morning near M'Drak, some hundreds of miles north of Saigon. The game had proven especially cooperative and I was beginning to feel some twinges of conscience over the mounting heaviness of the bag. Actually, no bird would be wasted; there are always plenty of hungry mouths to feed in Indo-China. What really bothered me was my dwindling supply of shells.

I had dropped a pair of the russet birds—a dove strange to me, with a spectacular saddle-brown upper feathering but otherwise resembling our American variety—and as I walked over to retrieve the brace, I ran a tie with a critter I had never seen before, would not have expected to find any closer than Australia. I had gathered up the first bird and was moving to where I had marked down the second when I came face to face with a dog. Not a fox, nor a jackal, nor a wolf. A dog. He looked surprisingly like the dingo. His ears were upstanding, his face intelligent and he was not very large.

He had neatly retrieved my pigeon. The feathers were hanging out of either corner of his mouth. Backing a step, he whirled and ran. The tail, carried like that of a coyote, was not nearly so bushy as the tail of our prairie wolf, and the body was little larger than that of a Springer spaniel. His hair was short and exceedingly coarse.

I watched the audacious little poacher dash from the secure cover of the dense grass and angle directly across the road. It was not a smart move tactically, but he was safe from my charge of sevens-and-a-half, for I am too fond of canines to shoot even a wild dog.

Later, along the same stretch of abandoned hard-top, I marked a bird down and was certain from the way it folded up that it was dead in midair. I beat the dripping grass and was just in time to see a python, a runty little fellow maybe 10 feet from stubby snout to blunted tail, slithering off, my game all but disappearing into the great splayed mouth. It was evident to me that my gunning had an audience not entirely unselfish in its interest.

While the dove may be non-migratory, we have a snipe, a Wilson's if I've ever seen one, who is most certainly a traveling man. With the coming of mid-October snipe appear in every marshland. We were shooting them one day, Ngo Van Chi and I, and with us was a Moi hillman who acted as our retriever. We had threshed out a low ground and were traversing a stretch of jungle to gain a second marsh. We had gotten into a dense stand of Dao and vine and were making heavy going of it. I had been halted by the octopus-like tenacles of the "wait-a-bit" vine and was slowly backing up—the only effective way for breaking the grip of this jungle nuisance—when I caught the slightest of movements out of the tail of my eye.

Hardly had I swung about when a great bird took to the air with all the shrill complaint of a Dakota ringneck, threshing

(Continued on page 59)

WITH ALL THE EMPHASIS
ON THE BIG MAGNUMS, MAYBE IT'S
TIME WE STUDIED
SELL'S ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION:

IS THE .410 A DUCK GUN?

By FRANCIS E. SELL

IF COLONEL PETER HAWKER, eighteenth century English shot gunner and firearms commentator, could return to the duck marshes today, he would feel right at home. He would hear the same argument among wildfowlers about the proper gauge and shot size for ducks that he heard in the days when Joseph Manton was turning out his beautiful muzzle-loading fowling pieces. There have been no radical changes either in shotgun efficiency or in duck hunters' theory.

True, W. R. Pape of Newcastle, England, took out a patent on choke in 1866. And Fred Kimble, the Illinois market hunter, experimenting along the same lines in the mid-1880's, found just the right degree of choke for his muzzle loading 6 bore, so that, with 1½ ounces of shot, he could put the entire charge in a 30 inch circle at 40 yards. But they are still the same old smoothbore barrels, whether mounted on a beautiful double or on a pump or auto-loading shotgun. The range of Kimble's 6 bore was a full 30 yards—and that is about the extreme range of our most powerful wildfowl gun today.

There has been a trend toward short barrels and less weight—a trend furthered by such world famous gunmakers as W. W. Greener of England, and by such present-day gun makers as Robert Churchill, who introduced the 25-inch barrel double.

The argument, however, about proper gauge for ducks, and proper shot size, goes on very much as in the days of Peter Hawker. And it will still continue just as long as gunners be-

By tailoring the shooting to the gun,
author drops three at 50 yards using
Marlin 20 ga. over-under and No. 6's.





Pothole shooting at 40 yards with light 20, author proves you don't need a Magnum if you take 'em within your range.

lieve that guns and loads and their ballistics with reference to the game sought are the primary considerations for successful duck shooting. Actually, the primary consideration is not the gun but the gunner. No gun or load will transform a poor wildfowler into a good one, regardless of its bore, power, or shot size loaded. And any shotgun, even a .410, will kill ducks if properly handled.

Last season, while gunning the overflow land on a friend's ranch, I marveled at the diversity of shotguns used by the duck hunters. One day there were ten gunners shooting four different types of guns and five different gauges—to say nothing of the many different weights of guns. Chokes

ranged all the way from improved cylinder to extra full. Barrel length varied from a scant 26 to a large 32 inches. There were two doubles, one over-under, two auto-loaders of different makes, and two pump guns of different models. One of the pumps was—a .410!

Years ago I would have had decided opinions against that gunner using .410 gauge on ducks. Now, I am not so sure. The problem of selecting just the proper gauge for ducks is much broader than a casual scanning of ballistic tables would lead one to believe. A hunter must have a gun he can shoot. Never mind that mallard cupping his wings and coming down over the decoys, or that bluebill skimming



Big guns like Charles Hellis & Sons Windsor Model Magnum 12 above have their place where shooting conditions and a shooter's skill justify shooting at ranges beyond reach of smaller gauges and lighter loads. But few gunners get practice needed to take full advantage of Magnum's power.

Heavy loads in standard 12 gauge auto combine relatively light, fast-pointing gun with sufficient reach and power for pass shooting at maximum ranges for most shotgunners.



For decoyed ducks and passing flyers, author uses a 12 gauge auto-loader with a standard Magnum shell and Number 5 shot.

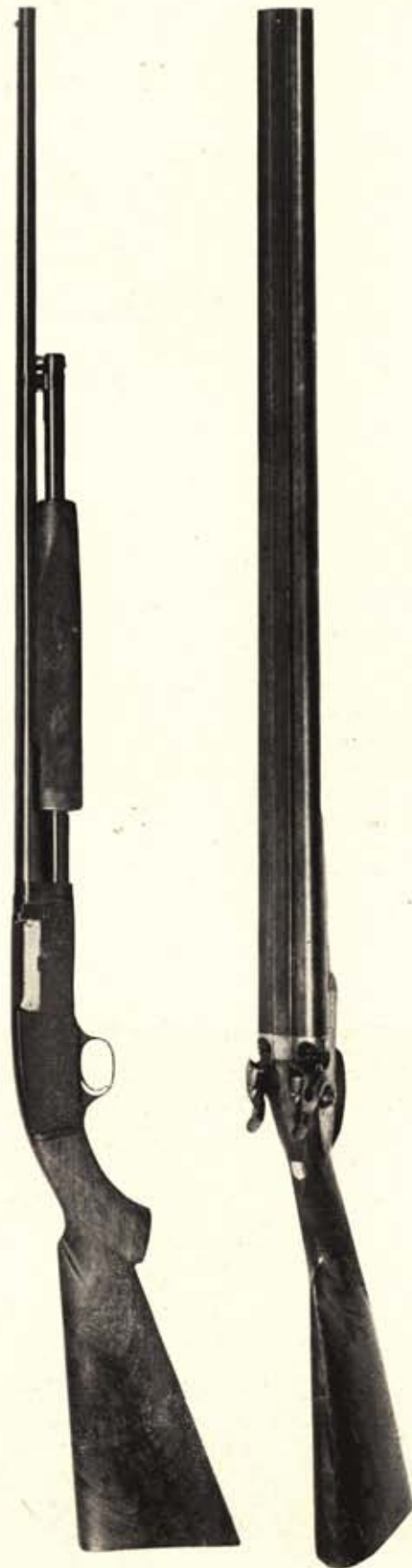
along just above the surface of the water. First, select a gun and gauge you can handle. The rest is easy. And duck shooting, like any other gunning, cannot be reduced to formulae which will show the *best* gauge for all shooters under all conditions. There are too many different types of shooting, too many different types of shooters.

Most of the crowd killed limits on my friend's ranch that morning before the dawn flight was over. Let's see how they did it.

The gunner using the big 10 gauge Magnum bagged a limit of high flying sprigs. He used eighteen shells in taking his legal limit of ten birds. That is nice shooting in anybody's marsh. It seems like a good case for a 10 gauge Magnum as a duck gun, especially if they are decoying a bit wild, or if you happen to be in a place where they come over plenty high.

But let's look a bit closer, at *both* guns and gunners. The average 10 gauge Magnum, with 32 inch barrels, will tip the scales at about 10½ to 12 pounds. That is a lot of gun. Usually it comes choked full and full. It is a *slow* gun, much slower to swing and point than a 12 gauge of 7½ or 8 pounds. The 12 gauge has about five yards advantage over the big Magnum 10 from the standpoint of time used in getting on a fast moving duck. Let a duck hunter with slow reaction time use that Magnum 10, and he will be crowding the limits of its effectiveness even on decoyed ducks. But this gunner using the 10 gauge Magnum on my friend's overflow land, matched his hunting to the capabilities of the gun. He selected a blind well out toward the foothills, where the ducks came over comparatively high. He picked them off at 55 to 60 yards, using 2 ounces of number 5 shot. There was no "dead ducks at a hundred yards" shooting; but there *was* a canny matching of gun to its best potential killing range *and* to the capabilities of the gunner.

That gunner, a good husky hunter, could use the 10 gauge Magnum effectively on the type of shooting he and the gun liked best. He didn't mind the recoil. And his reaction time was fast enough to get on fast moving targets within reasonable ranges even with that heavy gun. He could have occupied a blind close in along the willow lined sloughs, where the ducks came in twisting and turning to avoid the high ash trees, and left in the same manner. But he was too canny for that. There he would have been entirely too slow. He told me that he had learned this by trial and error, shooting, or trying to (Continued on page 57)



It is a far cry from big Greener 10 goose gun of 1850 (right), the Magnum of its day, to light .410 pump at left, but both can score if used right.



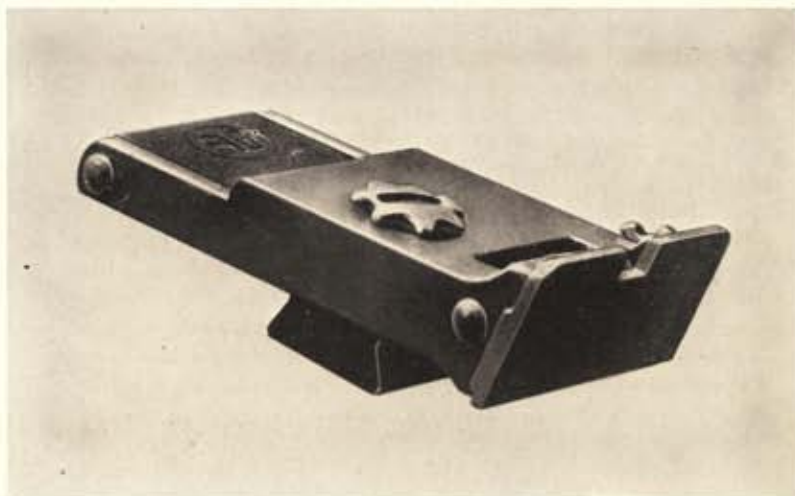
Practical shooter Gil Hebard spots with B & L scope on lid of loaded shooting kit.



Attached to Mitchell shooting glasses is Merit iris piece attached to lens to sharpen sight picture.

BUYING YOUR WAY TO

Among best adjustable sights is SIG type being developed by arms importer Heinrich Grieder of D.C.





Carbide lamp is used for smoking sights to make them stand out on target paper. Smoke does not hurt finish of gun or Lee muzzle brake on .45 automatic. Bottom, Ruger .22 is tested for choice of ammo in Potter machine rest.

GADGETS WON'T MAKE you a master pistolman, but they help.

That they do help is a fact which has changed the target pistolman from yesterday's simple figure with a stock handgun and a pocketful of ammo to today's specialist with customized guns and a 50-pound kit box full of group tighteners of every description. Nothing yet invented takes the place of a truly educated trigger finger, but today's climbing scores argue incontestably in favor of modern equipment. Better guns, better ammo, and better gadgets are the only possible explanations for the growing membership in the fabulous "2600 Club" in pistol competition. Within the past comparatively few years, dreams of scores of 2600 out of a possible 2700 points in a 270-shot match were laughed at like tales of men from Mars. Last year at Camp Perry, a simple 2600 wouldn't even put you "in the money."

The only way to find out just which gadget will help *your* score is to buy 'em and try 'em. I know a man who swears that a simple trigger shoe on each of his three match pistols made him an Expert. Other men try trigger shoes, decide that they shoot better without them. The gadget that tightens my groups may loosen yours, and vice versa. But the right equipment can make a better shooter out of any shooter, and the top shooters know it. It is that simple fact that makes the kit boxes heavy and keeps the patent office and the manufacturers busy.

Let's suppose that you've got (a) the best set of handguns money can buy or (b) the best you can afford or (c) guns that shoot at least better than you can hold them, and confine this essay to accessories calculated to make those guns shoot better. Let's suppose you have a fairly well educated trigger finger, and that you know which ammunition scores best in your guns. What else do you need?

Among the most necessary accessories, I would place adjustable sights, custom grips, a spotting scope, and a carrying case at the top of the list. Adjustable sights are a necessity if you want to move out of the "gravel pit circuit." Some of our target guns come factory equipped with satisfactory sights, but other factory sights lack the precise adjustments required by the serious shooter. Patridge-type sights with a $\frac{1}{8}$ " aperture are most commonly accepted by the present crop of shooters, though $\frac{1}{10}$ " and $\frac{5}{32}$ " apertures have their advocates, par-

PISTOL MASTERY

By GIL HEBARD

IS IT BETTER GUNS, BETTER

LOADS, OR BETTER

GADGETS THAT MAKE TODAY'S

PISTOL SCORES HIGHER THAN EVER?

ticularly the indoor gallery enthusiasts who are forced to shoot in ill-lighted ranges.

The sight will be of more value if it is of the so-called micrometer type. The adjustments must have a minimum amount of back lash, and must be precise enough to allow fine sight adjustments with consistent results. Such sights are available at prices ranging from around \$10.00 to around \$25.00, including a front sight matched with the rear one.

Custom stocks are a must if you are to compete on equal terms with other shooters. If properly constructed, they help to control movement and slip in the hand, reduce strain and fatigue, control recoil, help maintain consistent sighting habits, and facilitate cocking of cylinder guns. Prices run around from about \$5.00 or \$10.00 for "factory" grips to \$15.00 or \$18.00 for "custom" grips tailor-made to your requirements. They are worth every cent of it. If you're handy with tools and want to make your own, you can buy either semi-finished target stocks or inletted blocks at from a couple of bucks to \$9.00.

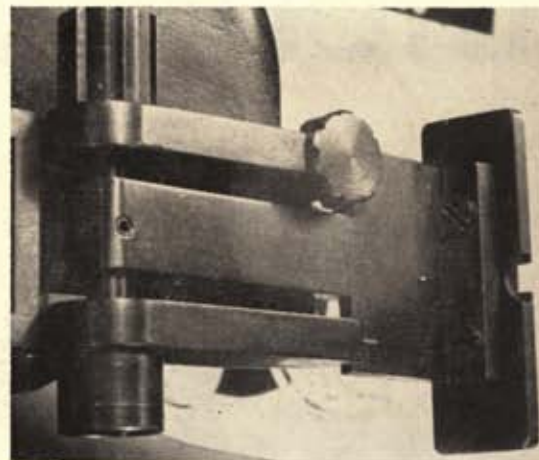
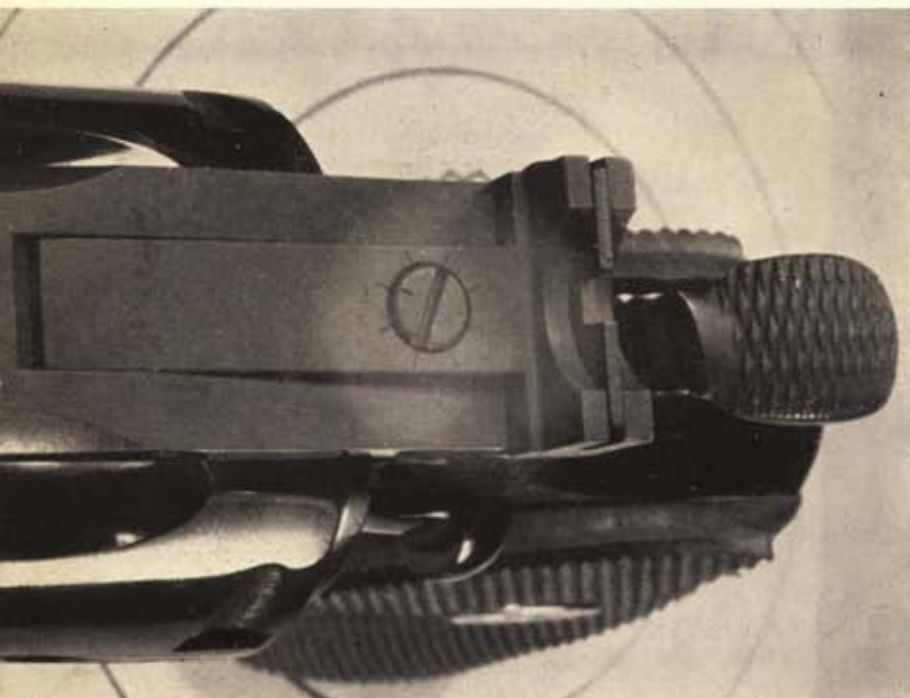
A spotting scope is another of the early needs of the target pistolman, to check shots at slow-fire and groups at timed and rapid. Information so gained is used to correct any misplaced groups caused by change of grip, stance, light, wind, or some other unforeseeable condition. As the job of a spotting scope is to show the competitor where his shots hit the target, the value of a scope is properly judged by the ease with which it makes this possible. Magnification and brightness of field are the prime considerations. Field of view is not so important, as we are only concerned with the width of a target at approximately 50 yards and closer. A longer eye relief makes for easier spotting, especially when wearing shooting glasses. The 20X scope is the most popular for pistol shooting, followed by 25X. There are many excellent scopes on the market today and close examination leads me to believe that you get just about what you pay for.

You'll need some kind of a support for your scope, as

it's practically impossible to hold a 20X scope steady enough to spot shots. Probably the most practical support is a pistol box with some scope-holding device mounted on the lid. A pistol case is a necessity anyway, in that it protects your equipment, affords a method of transportation for your gear, acts as a scope stand and, in general, allows organization of your equipment so that you can go about the job of slamming in tens with the least amount of worry and trouble. Many shooters build their own cases. It takes time, patience, and careful planning to come up with a case that will meet your requirements. If you are not a do-it-yourself addict, excellent cases are offered by a long list of manufacturers, at prices from about \$25.00 to \$45.00, depending on size, appointments, and finish.

Seeing the sights clearly and correctly, is a close runner up to proper trigger control in learning to master the target handgun. There are a number of accessories that may aid one in seeing and maintaining a proper sight picture. Shooting glasses head this list. Even if you are blessed with perfect shooting vision, you still need 'em for that remote possibility of an accident. Protection from a rebounding bullet fragment, powder gas, or a burst gun, remote though these dangers are, justify the small expense of lenses to shield your eyesight. Yellow-tinted lenses are generally recommended to brighten up dull days by eliminating the blue, violet, and ultra violet ranges of the spectrum. It is amazing how effective well made glasses are in accomplishing this brightening effect. It's my personal opinion that a shooter should get also some very light-density green glasses for bright days when you don't need added brightness but do need protection from eye strain. Good shooting glasses are available from about \$8.00 to \$25.00, depending on frame selection and brand. If you wear corrected lens, care should be taken in getting a prescription best suited for the particular problem of pistol shooting. Impress upon your doctor that *clarity of sights* is the all important thing, and that vision at the target is secondary.

(Continued on page 43)



Accro sight on Colt OM .38 (left) is built-in "accessory" adapting basic service revolver to competition shooting. Above (right) is fine Hammerli free pistol sight, an Olympic favorite.



Typical of pistolsmiths is James Clark of Shreveport, La., who uses Colt .45 with his own accuracy job to win national records. Close group was shot at Shreveport match with Micro-sight .45.

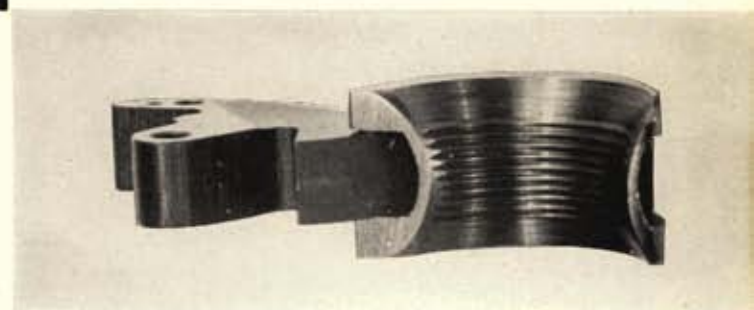
Among trigger shoes to increase broadness of trigger, seemingly reduce weight of pull, is type made by Flag's of Millvale, Pa. Some shoes have adjustable stops to limit trigger back-lash.



Aluminum band and block is Odell scope holder which attaches to inside of shooting box lid; can be fixed rigidly, or may be slid on tracks to adjust for height. Ruger match pistol (right) has built-in muzzle brake, useful even for .22's.

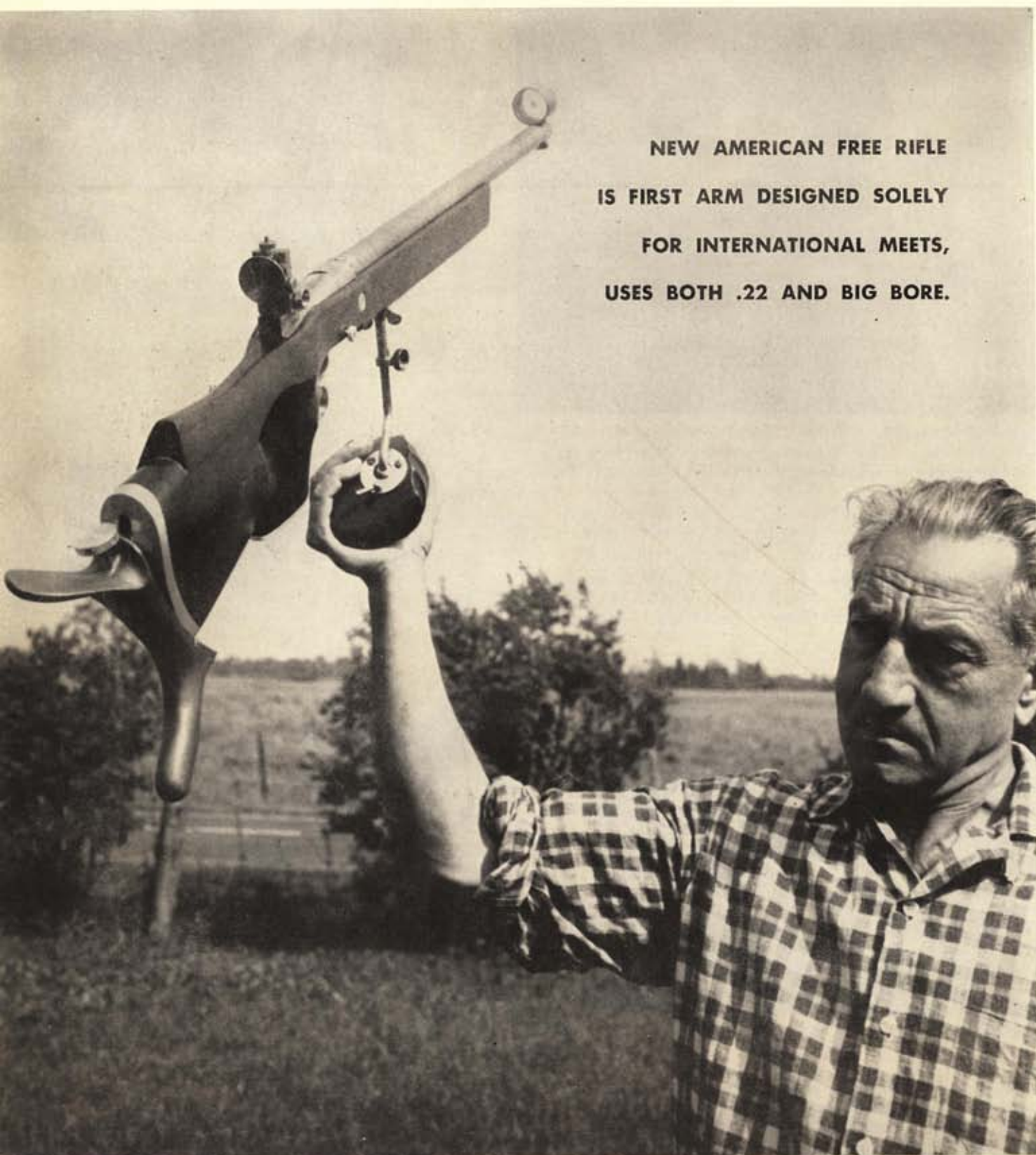


General gun case contains Python .38 and .45 auto plus accessories such as stop watch, glasses, scorecard, and tools.



WORLD'S NEWEST

NEW AMERICAN FREE RIFLE
IS FIRST ARM DESIGNED SOLELY
FOR INTERNATIONAL MEETS,
USES BOTH .22 AND BIG BORE.



Free world's contribution to free rifle design is arm invented by Lazar Yovanovitch (above), who built dual-caliber weapon which Canadians have tested. Palm rest at balance is a special feature.

OLYMPIC RIFLE

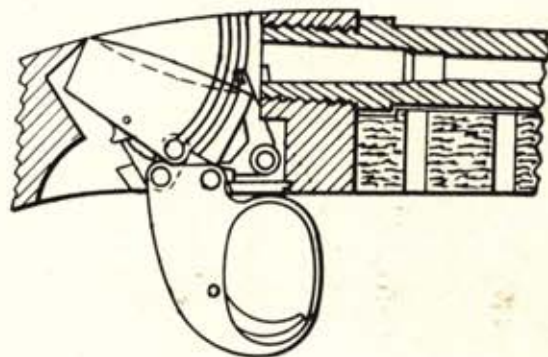
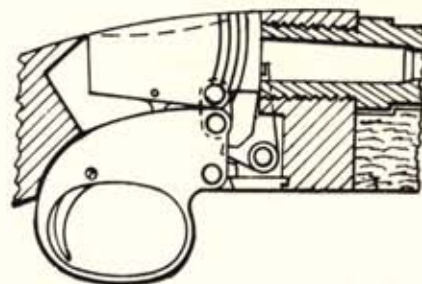
By BUD ETTER

THE OLYMPIC FREE RIFLE has long been neglected by professional North American arms designers. But now a "new" Canadian, Lazar Yovanovitch from Yugoslavia, has crashed the party with a bang! Dissatisfied with imported European guns, he built a free rifle that is startling in its new concepts. Incorporating 35 new features, Yovanovitch's rifle has been designed with comfort for the shooter in mind. Moreover, in all its details one can see the application of match target shooting experience, sound engineering, sound craftsmanship, and artistic talent. The usual run of Olympic-style free rifles is as obsolete besides this new arm as a Model T would be alongside an Edsel.

Mechanically, this new rifle is a surprise to one accustomed to handling our normal run-of-the-mill sporting, target, and military arms. I felt that I was reasonably well acquainted with fire arms in general and with match target and free rifles, but an examination and test firing bout with this new free rifle by Lazar Yovanovitch was a revelation.

Pardon the enthusiasm; you see I have just fired an unbelievable-for-me score of 100—10 X prone on the 50 metre target with this rifle. That is enough to justify a considerable amount of excitement for a "just average" target marksman like myself. The rifle was really *fits*. It is as comfortable to fire as an old suit of clothes is to wear. The balance is perfect. The rifle action is novel and practical. The sights and accessories delight the shooter. The design, the lines, the craftsmanship, and the concept of this new free rifle would warm the heart of any artist. It is a creation as much as it is a rifle.

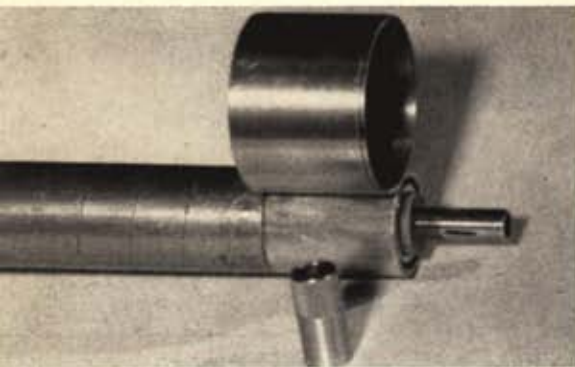
It takes but a minute or two to convert the rifle from an



Dropping block with curved front lugs that cam round into chamber produce action of great strength. Stock holes cool barrel. Link between block and guard loop keeps parts in constant relation but block is actually forced closed by direct contact, pins at rest in line.



Remarkable new free rifle by immigrant Canadian shooter from Yugoslavia has three-way butt plate plus form-fitting adjustable palm rest. Author Bud Etter reports weapon is most comfortable.



New rifle has sights calibrated for International targets with adjustable butt plate, forearm hand rest, and palm rest.

Among 35 new ideas in rifle are .22 insert tube and gas relief slots. Action (below) cocks by finger loop on guard.



8 x 57 mm Olympic 300 metre rifle to a .22 calibre rim fire for prone position 50 metre shooting. The lock time is one-half that of most free rifles. The barrels for big bore and rim fire calibers are fitted with a patented muzzle attachment which gives a better than 50 per cent increase in accuracy to the barrel so fitted. These are some of the high-lights!

The complete rifle weighs 16 pounds. Attachments are provided for shooting in the various positions. The basic action is the designer's own a falling block single shot system. Big bore is converted to .22 by inserting a barrel from the rear of the action, adjusting the firing pin. Attachments such as shoulder hooks, palm rests, hand rests, and sling swivels are all adjustable for position and readily attachable through the medium of screws or spring loaded catches. But above all else, the rifle is comfortable, easily handled in all shooting positions, perfectly balanced, and is a pleasure to shoot.

The barrel is screwed into the receiver. The barrel and receiver assembly are held in the one-piece walnut stock by two long bolts from the rear of the stock and one transverse bolt through the receiver, ahead of the action. The receiver is not the usual "free rifle" modification of a standard action. A heavy tang projects downward at the receiver rear. The pistol grip portion of the thumb-hole stock is based on, and encloses, this tang. The rear face of the tang transmits recoil to the stock. The aluminum butt plate has a recessed longitudinal slot holding a sliding base to receive either of the aluminum shoulder hooks.

These attach over the sliding base, locked into place by a tapered screw with a large knurled head. The shoulder piece for the standing position has two mounting slots to increase the range of adjustment. The pistol grip cap is an aluminum plate so mounted as to provide a stand to support the rifle when not in use. It also is a convenient support when cleaning the rifle from the breech end, or while the .22 barrel assembly is being removed or inserted.

The natural grain of the one-piece walnut stock carries out the lines of the design. The barrel and receiver are a snug fit to the stock, without bedding devices. The forend has an aluminum rail in its underside for attaching the shooting accessories. Holes are drilled through the forend, at the bottom of the rail, to help cool the barrel. Cooling is seldom a problem in free rifles, but this detail is typical of the ballistics engineering know-how that Yovanovitch has put into his rifle.

The big bore 26" barrel we shot was 8 x 57 mm caliber, the outside tinned and lead coated to increase its weight. At the muzzle end, two steps were machined and fitted with the inventor's patented "Ballistic Jet Corrector." The rear step mounts a heavy collar which also carries the front sight. The forward step is machined at a slope, ending in an angled shoulder; the diameter of the step is about $\frac{1}{8}$ " less than the rear step. From the shoulder formed between the two steps a series of holes is drilled into the barrel on an angle, ending in the bottom of a rifling groove in each case. With the collar assembled, the action of the device is three-fold: it reduces (Continued on page 52)

CLIMATE, SCENIC BEAUTY, AND
TOP-FLIGHT SHOOTING COMPETITION
WITH ALL GUNS MAKE
THIS A SHOOTER'S VACATION PARADISE

By BILL TONEY
(Former National Pistol Champion)

Among visitors who compete with top local guns like "Punkin" Flock (left) of Miami are Iowan J. R. Boyd of LeMars and Dorothy Schmidt of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Shooting in the WINTER SUN

THE OLD JOKES about "I wanted to go to the mountains and my wife wanted to go to the seashore, so we compromised and went to Florida" need not be bitter to the shooter, since Florida is a shooter's Mecca. It doesn't much matter what gun you like to shoot, or whether at game or targets. Among the best of the target matches anywhere, for shotgun, rifle, or pistol, are those staged in Florida every winter; and Florida field shooting too offers a wide range of targets.

Few sections of this or any country offer the quantity and quality of competitive shooting to be found in Florida, and fewer still can stage matches in such ideal settings of range facilities and climate. To pistol shooters, the National Mid-Winter Pistol Matches held annually at Tampa have the importance of Camp Perry's official National Matches, with fewer of the general unpleasantnesses. The Miami Flamingo Open Pistol Tournament is also of national importance, with a highly attractive range and very pleasurable shooting. The National Mid-Winter Smallbore Rifle Championships at St. Petersburg and the Sawgrass Smallbore Championships at Miami

Friendly fun is poked at "foreign" shooters by citrus-proud donors of gunsport prizes.

Nationally-known smallbore competitors regularly fire the "grapefruit circuit" during mid-winter where fine ranges such as county-built, privately-sponsored, Trail Glades Ranges near Miami offer sunny shooting to visitors.



HAVE
FUN
WITH
GUNS

see some of the finest precision shooters of America in action. Trapshooters find nothing like the magnitude of the annual championship affair at Vandalia, Ohio, but the Florida chain of winter trapshoots provides a sustained program of good shooting with more than enough competition for most. Skeet shooters have the Florida State and Open Championships, the annual Mid-Winter International Shoot, and others.

The National Mid-Winter Pistol Championships have been held every spring (or late winter) in Tampa for over 20 years. In 1957, there were 563 registered competitors, and many others were turned away to avoid overloading the range capacity. Winning this tournament is as important as winning the official national championship. Since 1939, M/Sgt. Huelet Benner of the Army and Harry Reeves of the Detroit Police, each a many-time national champion,

have been regular competitors. The aggregate course of fire is exactly the same as that used in the official national championships—the familiar 2700-point aggregate, which does a wonderful job of separating the boys from the men. In both 1955 and 1956, the top three competitors passed the 2600 point mark in the grand aggregate, a feat roughly equal to a 9½-second hundred yard dash or a four-minute mile. In 1957, probably because of rough weather, Benner had the only aggregate over 2600.

C. A. (Smitty) Brown, of Tampa, a former police officer and pistol competitor, has been the spark plug of this tournament. He serves as tournament director and is assisted by an experienced, interested, and capable staff.

In 1957, Smitty arranged for Border Patrol officers of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to conduct a two-day school in pistol marksmanship immediately

Club scenery and weather attracts shooter's families to Florida for winter vacation where competitors like Benner, receiving trophy from Mid-Winter Tampa chief Smitty Brown, find scores must be higher to win.



Strong supporters of Florida shooting programs are NRA rep. Frank Wyman and Trail Glades Range founder Clem Theed.

preceding the tournament. The course was designed to benefit both beginning and advanced target shooters, as well as those primarily interested in combat shooting. The instructor staff was unique in the proven ability of each and every man as a competition marksman. Four of the staff had from once to several times shot 2600 or more in pistol aggregates. Every instructor held a pistol classification of master from the National Rifle Association.

The Flamingo Open Pistol Tournament at Miami is another old-timer among nationally important pistol tournaments. I am told that A. T. Kelley, Jr., coined the term "Flamingo Open" years ago. He has been a workhorse in the organization and statistical management of the tournament ever since. It has been held on different ranges in the past, but the last few years it seems to have settled down on the Trail Glade Ranges of Dade County—and

I'll have more to say about the range later. The entry list here is smaller than at Smitty Brown's shoot at Tampa, but the competition is ever present. The ubiquitous M/Sgt. Benner won this tournament in 1956 with a near record aggregate score of 2637, well above any score over the same course ever fired in the Camp Perry national championship.

Trapshooters have their "day" from January to April in the Florida Chain of Winter Trapshoots and the Florida State Trapshooting Championships. The trapshooting chain is an annual series of tournaments which originated in 1935. It is sponsored by the Florida Trapshooters Association, Inc. ATA rules govern all shoots in the chain, and the ATA Four Class System is usually used. Each club holding a tournament reserves the right to reject any entry. In 1957, the clubs at Daytona (*Continued on page 49*)

HOW TO SHOOT A

"IT AIN'T NECESSARILY SO" WHAT YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THE
FLINTLOCK. A GOOD ONE, PROPERLY HANDLED,
IS FUN TO SHOOT, AT GAME AS WELL AS AT TARGETS



Matched pair of flintlock pistols, made in London about 1780, carry folding bayonets and carved butt finials, making them three-way in-fighting weapons.

FLINTLOCK



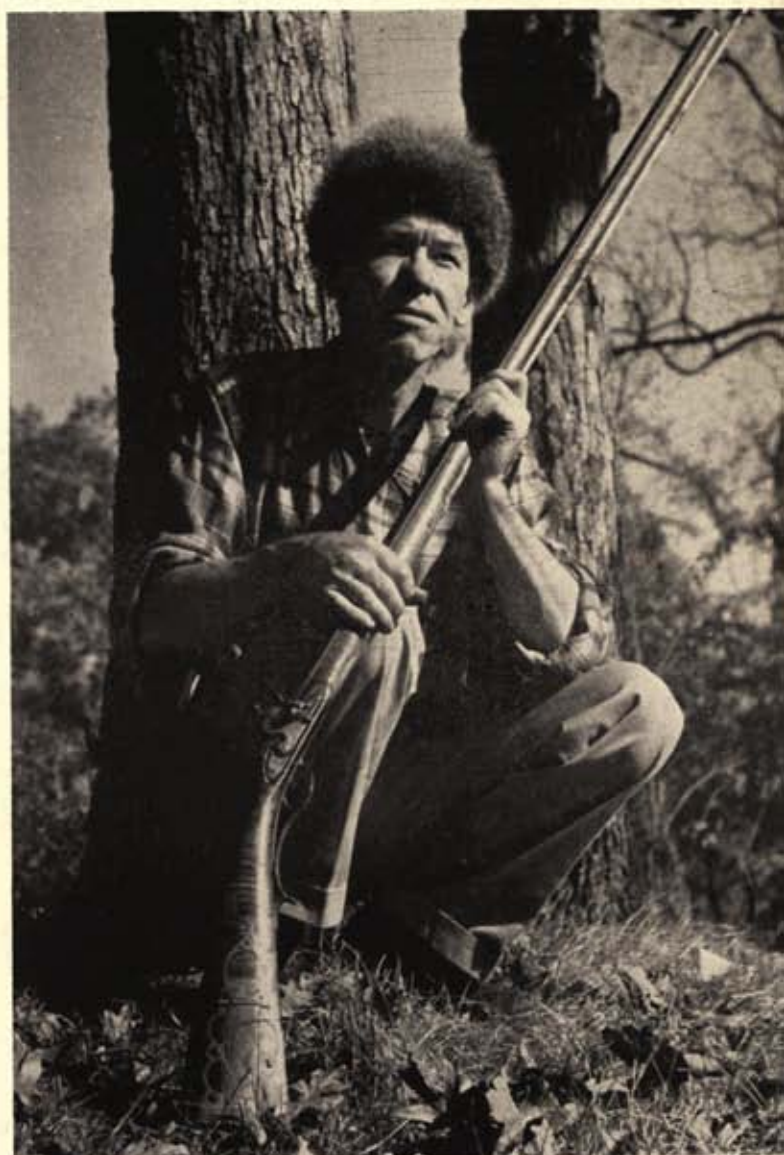
Typical of medium-quality flintlock pistols of 1680 to 1780, French specimen above is modestly decorated but lacks refinements of later, more efficient flintlocks.



By ROBERT HELD*

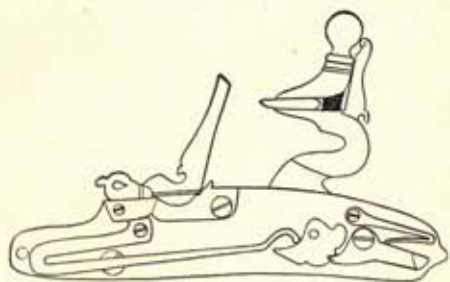
AMONG THE MUZZLELOADING enthusiasts in this country and in Great Britain are a good many thousands who put their antique armament to use not only in organized club meets, but as sporting weapons as well. Ninety-nine out of a hundred, however, use percussion locks; only a very few use flintlocks. This is strange. Without a doubt, percussion locks fire more unfailingly, and faster by a few hundredths of a second, than flintlocks of comparable quality; but flintlocks are vastly more colorful, more fun to shoot, and more challenging to the skill of the shooter.

The main reason is that nine out of ten muzzle-loader shooters do not know very much about the enormous variety of styles, types and qualities among flintlocks, and less about how to make good use of them. There are radical differences among flintlocks of, say, 1675, 1750, and 1800, as well as among military, naval, and civilian locks. Moreover, some twenty-odd variable factors govern the success or failure of ignition and the rapidity with which the shot follows. For example, under ideal conditions the misfire rate of a high-quality English dueling pistol or sporting gun of the 1790-1820 period can be kept as low as one miss in three hundred snaps, and the lock time (i.e., the lapse of time between trigger pull and shot) can be kept within the vicinity of about 1/20th of a second. On the other hand, even under ideal conditions the



Romance of bygone days colors sport of today's hunters who use flintlocks, new or rebuilt, for field shooting.

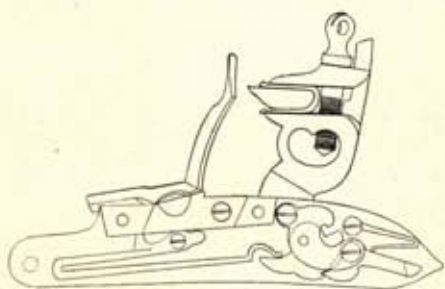
* Author "The Age of Firearms: A Pictorial History," Harper Brothers, New York, 1957.



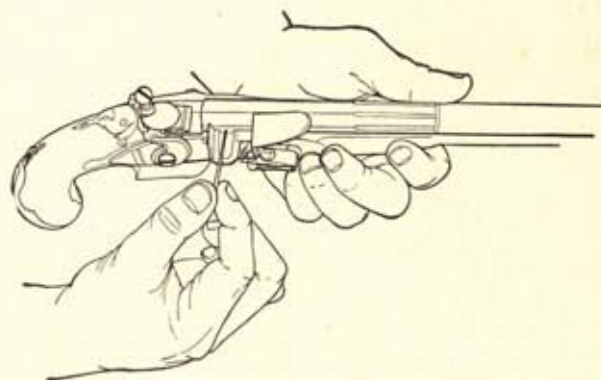
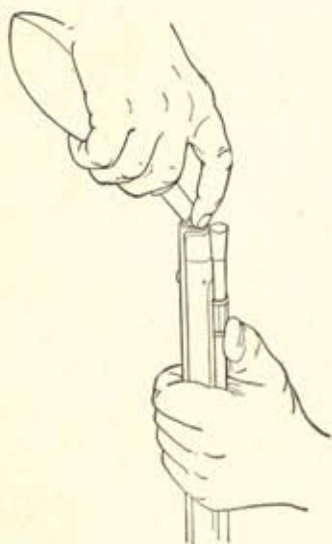
Earliest lock form shows pivoted sear with two cocking notches ("half bent" and full) but no tumbler bearing bridle.



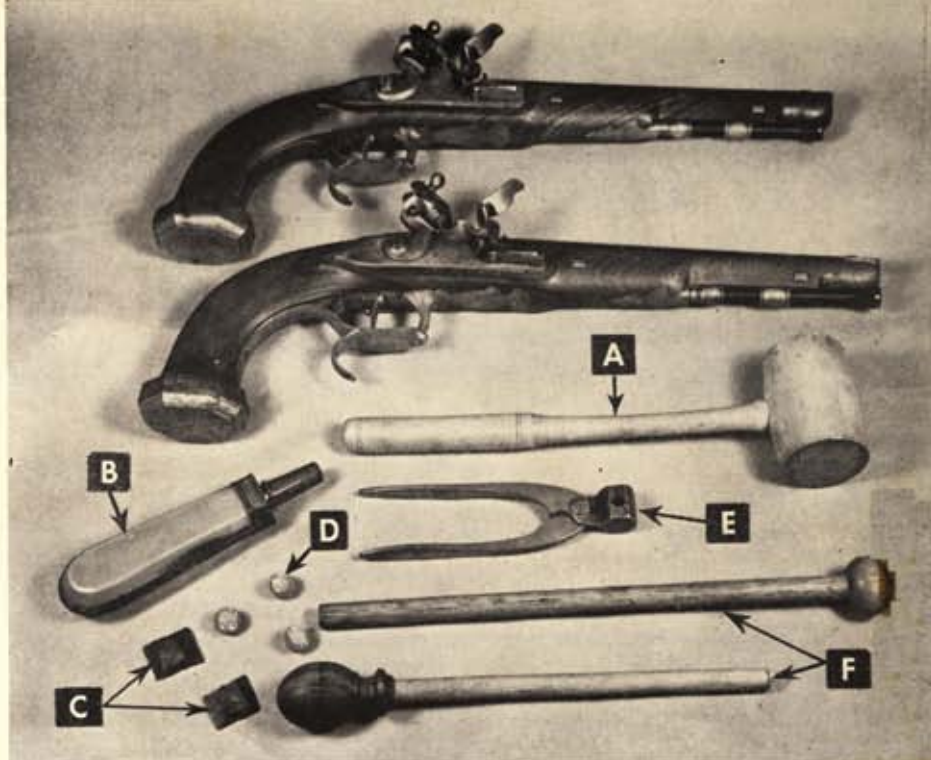
Good quality lock of 1780-1825 used a better, friction-reducing linkage, had curved shield to protect pan from rain.



French carbine lock, circa 1815, had both flashpan cover bridle and tumbler bridle, improving function and timing.



To load, pour proper charge of coarse grained powder (far left), then center patched ball on muzzle and ram home. Next, pick the touch-hole clean of carbon to avoid a flash-in-the-pan.



Napoleon's General Bertrand owned this plain but fine matched pair of pistols, barrels and locks by Kuchenreuter (Germany), stocks made in Paris. Shown are (A) loading mallet, (B) powder flask, (C) flints, (D) bullets, (E) bullet mold, (F) rods. Entire set was carried in compartmented case.



Elegant Joe Manton double flinter is most perfected type, with rain-proof locks having deeply guarded pans and anti-friction spring rollers.

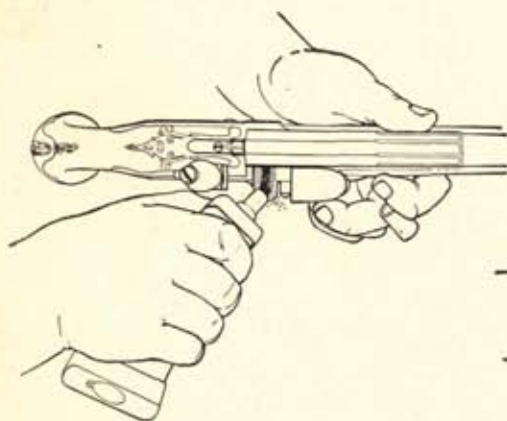
misfire rate of a typical eighteenth and early nineteenth century musket, loaded according to the regulation manual, is about one miss in five or six snaps, and the lock time runs to about 1/10th and often even 1/4th of a second!

The true flintlock, a logical outgrowth of snaphaunces and miquelet locks, seems first to have appeared in or near Paris in about 1630. In its earliest form, which it retained until the end of the 17th century, two great sources of trouble were the eventual bending of the flashpan cover hinge screw, and friction between the lockplate and tumbler which greatly impeded the speed and force of the cock. The tumbler friction slowed the cock's snap; and once the flashpan cover hinge screw was bent, the pancover no longer fitted squarely and firmly on the flashpan so that some or all of the priming was likely to spill out, and water was certain to leak in. As remedies, there had appeared in London and Paris by about 1690 the *tumbler bridle* and the *flashpan bridle*. The tumbler bridle held the tumbler in a vertical plane of rotation and thus prevented serious scraping against the inside of the lockplate. The flashpan bridle anchored the flashpan hinge screw at its head, so that it could no longer be bent askew. These two features became standard on all reasonably well-made locks by about 1725, but of course hundreds of thousands of medium- to poor-quality locks continued to be made well into the 1760's without either or both, especially in Germany and Holland. Only locks with both should be considered by the modern muzzleloading flintlock hobbyist for active service. Locks which lack these refinements are either of such poor quality that their performance will provide neither enter-

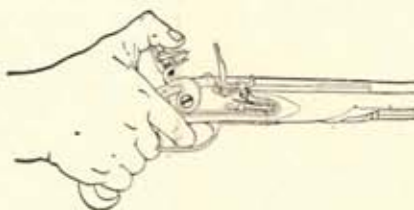
tainment nor usefulness, or else they belong to the relatively rare and dwindling pre-1725 vintage of firearms history which should be preserved in showcases and not be subjected to the danger of breakage in the course of actual firing.

Since a flintlock ignites its priming by means of microscopic globules of steel which the snapping flint has scraped from the battery (or frizzen) and heated to glowing incandescence by friction, it is vital to begin the loading procedure with a knife-sharp, high-quality flint. Not just any flake of flint will do: it must be a gunflint especially chipped (or, correctly speaking "knapped") to produce a flat upper surface, and bevels on the underside at both ends to form a fairly obtuse or dull "heel" at one end and a perfect chisel edge on the other. In Brandon, England, and in a few less productive centers in France and Turkey, the flint-knapping industry is still going strong to supply the millions of flintlocks still in active service in many underdeveloped regions of Africa, Asia, and Central and South America. The yellow or amber variety of flint is the most common and serves tolerably well, but pure black flints are the hardest, last longer and strike more abundant fire. A new yellow flint is good for about fifteen to twenty shots, a new black flint for about twenty-five or thirty. A flint so far worn that it strikes only three or four small sparks which do not dance and whirr in the pan will almost certainly misfire more than half the time.

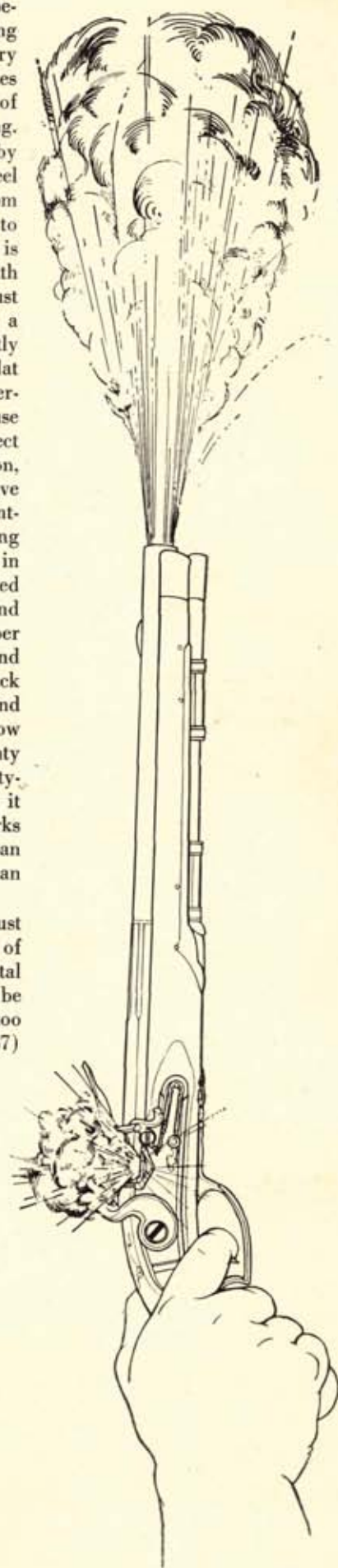
The flint having been selected, it must be screwed between the vise-like jaws of the cock. Here the first and most vital point to remember is that it must be inserted with the *flat side up*! All too often one sees (Continued on page 47)



Prime with fine powder, not too much or too little, and tilt gun to spill primer into contact with main charge.



Finally, snap pan cover shut, cock, and gun is ready to fire. Cloud of smoke at muzzle and breech is typical, lends drama.





Big Bausch & Lomb target scopes gave uniform sight accuracy for testing light rifles and various actions against typical target model shown at center, above.

ARE BOLT ACTIONS OBSOLETE?



Using improvised bench rest and with bolt out for bore-sighting, author gets light bolt action ready for tests.

By H. J. ERFURTH

**HANGING LIGHT SPORTERS
FROM BIG TARGET SCOPES FOR
UNIFORM ACCURACY TESTS
PRODUCED ANSWERS TO
THE WHICH-ACTION ARGUMENT**

IS THE BOLT action obsolete? That question will get you plenty of argument in any deer camp these days. Some gun writers say yes, and apparently so do some of our gun manufacturers, judging by their emphasis on non-bolt action design. Three new models in the lever, pump, and automatic actions have appeared since the war.

Why, after 40 years of dominance in the sporting rifle field, should the bolt gun be losing popularity? Is it losing popularity? Are the slick, new lever and pump guns going to push it aside entirely? Is it true that these lead-squirters "will do anything the bolt gun will do, and give you that much talked about fast second shot to boot?"

To get some of the answers, we rounded up six of the new models covering bolt action, slide, lever and automatic types. We shot them, took them apart, and looked them over critically in the shop and on the range. We talked to hunters who had used them in the field. *And our opinion is that the bolt action is here to stay.* The new models are handy and fast, and they have been adapted to a much wider range of cartridges than ever before; but they will never take over the biggest part of the bolt action field.



Mounts had to be seated extra tight to buck inertia of the heavy scope.

We walked into Armsco gunshop here in Chicago with an armload of the new lightweight lever and pump guns, plus several bolt guns for comparisons. Gunsmith George Pearsall looked at us as if he thought we were crazy when we told him to hang scope blocks for the new Balvar 24's shipped to us by Bausch & Lomb for the test, on those non-target, non-varmint looking rifles, but we insisted. It just about cleaned out Pearsall's stock of scope blocks, but we ended up with six factory-new rifles all fitted with those superb, monster, variable-power varmint and target scopes.

The rifles were all in 6 mm. caliber, either .243 or .244, to give comparable ballistics. The heaviest of the guns was a 26" barreled .243 Varminter, bolt action, which we tagged "Rifle A." List price sans scope but with blocks is \$176.50. One of the lightest was a new bolt action Featherweight .243, "Rifle B," priced at \$129.95 with iron sights. The other bolt action was a little cheaper grade of gun in .244 caliber, "Rifle C," costing \$95.25 with the usual iron sights. All three bolt actions

of course had the two basic elements of Mauser design, a primary extracting cam on the receiver with the bolt handle working on it in opening, and locking lugs on the front of the bolt bodies. A variation of this design appeared in the fourth gun, "Rifle D," which was a new lever action adapted to a wide range of short calibers but used in our tests in .243. Price was \$135.50. The bolt head has three lugs at the front. Rifle number five was an auto-loading sporter with stock line so high the iron sights were virtually useless. Tabbed "Rifle E" for our tests, this gun was characterized by comfortable kick in recoil, and when we got the huge Balvar 24 stuck on top we were able to sight it comfortably. Its price, iron sights, starts at \$134.50. The last gun was a companion rifle in styling, but pump action with sliding forearm. The bolt head is similar to that of its brother automatic, with multiple lugs in two sets on the front of the bolt body. We called this one "Rifle F." It, also, had too straight a stock line until we put on the big Balvar 24. In handling these rifles later with the huge scopes mounted, we had the impression that the rifles were hung from the scopes, instead of the scopes "mounted" on the rifles.

No tuning or adjustment of any sort was done on any of the guns. We wanted to shoot them just as an average hunter would, right out of the box, but with exactly equal sighting equipment. Of course, we were actually handicapping the tests slightly in favor of the lighter guns, because a 6½ pound featherweight obviously gains more from having a two pound target scope hung on it than does the ten pound Varminter.

At the range, we found a nice wind blowing, gusts up to 30 mph and swinging from 4:00 to 7:00. Not the best conditions for making record groups, but you don't stop hunting because the wind blows, so we decided to go ahead with the tests.

As we stacked the rifles in a rack near the shooting bench, the usual small group of kibitzers gathered around. One man, Art Millinger of Kankakee, Ill., who leased the property to the shooting club, spends a lot of time at the range and is a very good shot. We gladly took his help in doing some of the shooting, while several others including young Arvin Levin, son of my shooting partner Ben, took their turns at grouping. The testing was not done (Continued on page 61)

Tests were fired outdoors, under typical field conditions of light and wind, with several better-than-average riflemen manning the guns to get a fair cross section of actual results to be expected from each rifle.



GUN RACK

Machine Gun For The Kids

THOSE "BURP GUN" clickers which young fry rattle so fiendishly outside your windows early Sunday morning are about to have a commercial counterpart, if arms importers Interarmco, 10 Prince St., Alexandria, Va., can clear up a few details with the Treasury Department. Genial Sam Cummings, the laughing Zaharoff of international munitioneering, has uncorked a novel submachine gun, designed by the Swedes for familiarization before issuing live ammo to civilian shooting club members. A version of the Kpist m/45 (kaw-peeest), the arm fires only blanks, but is designed to feed bullet-like blanks from standard Kpist clips.

Because it is only a blank weapon, it should not come under the National Fire-

removed for target practice on the range.

The advantages of these plastic loads with a blank fire submachine gun are considerable. By offering convenient low-cost indoor practice, they enable the citizen-soldier to familiarize himself with modern automatic weapons under "fun" conditions. Target competitions with submachine guns have considerable spectator appeal, too, to those viewers who aren't afraid of the noise. (Lee sonic Ear-Valvs are recommended firing any gun indoors.) Outdoors, the opportunity to handle a real submachine gun under perfectly safe combat-simulating conditions is of great value to soldiers, avoiding those "training accidents" that are so carefully hushed out of the papers, and permits a civilian rifle and pistol club to put on a



New model of Carl Gustave burp gun made in Sweden and imported by Interarmco has special barrel with plastic bullets to give realistic safe practice.

arms Act of 1934 (as amended 1954). Even though it fires blanks as fast as if it were a bullet-shooting machine gun, it does not "fire a shot" nor "expel a projectile by the force of an explosive," as the definitions are in the machine gun act. Currently, because it goes "bang" and shucks out shells, the Treasury word-manglers are holding that this modified Kpist does in fact and in law "fire a shot," even though the word "shot" (as opposed to "shell") has long meant a solid missile propelled from a gun. Apparently the Treasury noisemakers hold that in this case a "shot" must be accompanied by noise, and that the noise alone constitutes a "shot" within the meaning of the Act.

It is a standard Kpist fitted with a smooth-bore barrel slightly smaller than normal 9mm size. At the muzzle is a cone reflector looking like a flash hider. Ammunition fired in this novelty are standard cased 9mm cartridges loaded with a very light powder charge and a plastic bullet that pulverizes to dust against the inside of the deflector cone. At a distance of ten feet, the puff of dust that spurts out when the plastic bullet breaks up is harmless. In case live lead and jacketed bullet ammo is mixed in with the plastic loads, the regular bullet becomes trapped in the barrel or deflector, and the gun stops firing until cleared. The alloy steel deflector lasts at least 10,000 "shots."

A special variation of the plastic bullet load incorporates a small steel ball cast into the bullet tip. Designed for subcaliber practice at targets, the steel BB ammunition can be used at ranges up to 50 yards with "machine gun" accuracy. The deflector is

of Greener shipped us a "GP" to try out. Customs were handled by the post office, so the bill came to exactly \$44.44, including duty and U.S. P.O. clearance charges. Exact price varies slightly due to currency variations. Write first for correct price in pounds, then remit International Post Office money order. Within about five weeks the shotgun will be delivered with a bill for duty, which comes to about \$8 on a \$34 gun.

Bluing is a rich, satiny black. The nicely grained walnut stock has usual flat shotgun checkering over small and forend. The thick-walled barrel is safe for high pressure express loads, but in spite of the metal in the tube, the gun is surprisingly light, about 6½ pounds, and handles very easily. Usual boring is full choke, others on order.

GP takedown is foolproof, simple, and permanently tight. A coin-slot screw on the left receiver side loosens the barrel threads, after which tube and forestock can be unscrewed. Barrels come in 26", 30", 32" and 34" lengths, chambered for 2½" or 2¾" shells. Extraction and ejection of standard U.S. trap loads was sometimes a little difficult in my gun. When I snapped the lever down briskly, it whammed the shell out easily. If I flubbed the motion, the shell hung up and had to be finger-extracted or re-seated, action closed, and then slammed open to get full ejector force. When opened briskly, the shells were ejected okay.

Because of the Martini trigger-firing pin lock, the gun shot like a rifle. Lock time is very fast, trigger pull adjusted to about 5 pounds is crisp and without creep. Making no pretense to being a "top gun," I tried the G.P. at skeet, was pleased to break 21 on the first round. Every bird missed was my own fault, and when I held right and touched her off crisply I scored. Being about as average as 16,000,000 other gunsport enthusiasts with a smoothbore, I found that the GP gun bolstered my ego considerably.

The GP gun will appeal to men who like finely finished firearms. Reliable and strong I don't need to make endurance tests to know that the Martini, in use since 1866 and made in the tens of millions for every country in the world, is satisfactory), well-finished, fast and responsive in handling, the GP will appeal to men who want a better than average field grade single gun. A letter to Mr. Howell at Greener's will bring full details on the GP gun, plus other better quality Greener weapons including their famous pigeon doubles. Importing shotguns by mail is a cinch if the gun sportsman buys from reliable firms like Greener's. Rifled arms, shoulder or hand, will require State Department munitions import license, obtained on applying to Dept. MC, State Department, Washington 25, D. C.

New Greener GP Shotgun

There is a demand in the U.S. shotgun market that the British firm of W. W. Greener, 40 Pall Mall, London SW1, England, hopes to fill. They have created an unusual but practical single shot "GP" (general purpose) gun. It is a solidly-built takedown with the best finish of any single gun of its price range in the U.S. Mr. Howell



Strong modified Martini action is used on British Greener GP gun introduced into American market by mail order. New 12 gauge single shot is well made.



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ELMER KEITH SAYS—

(Continued from page 9)

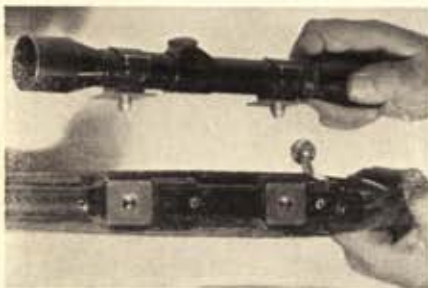
birds come along, and have never failed to do the job. On smaller geese or big ducks, however, I prefer threes with the much higher pattern percentage in this particular lithica. So loaded, it is dynamite on them if you take enough lead and point the big gun right. Strange to say, this gun also shoots very well with Super ten bore 1½ ounce loads and once made a run of 15 mallards with 13 shots. The two extras were fool ducks that flew into the pattern. Shooting was all from 55 to 70 yards with Remington loads, No. 4 shot.

I take a very dim view of the use of buck-shot on geese at any time. There is simply too much room between pellets and too much chance of making a cripple, with little chance of retrieving it.

For my part, I do not care for anything smaller on geese than No. 3 shot and then for the smaller birds and shorter ranges. For general shooting of the big honkers, No. 2 shot have given me very good results. Anything larger has failed through too thin a pattern, and anything smaller has failed through loss in pellet energy and not enough weight of pellet to break the heavy wing and leg bones.

Magnetic Scope Mount

Recently a long-geared individual named Gee, from Phoenix, Arizona, dragged in one of the finest and most interesting scope mounts we have ever seen. Mr. Gee has spent considerable time working out this excellent mount and has it fully patented. He believes, rightly, that the best place for a scope is *off the rifle* in bad weather or when riding horses in rough country, and he set out to design a scope mount that would really permit instant removal or replacement, and do it without changing the rifle's zero. He has accomplished this better than any-



Magnetized base plates are socketed to position scope exactly each time.

one to date, so far as I know; better even than a couple of designs I worked on myself and which were pretty good.

Other detachable mounts require locking levers or locking screws. The new Gee mount has nothing of the sort. The base of this mount is an aluminum alloy casting anchored to bridge and receiver with two large, strong, Allen screws. Into front and rear of this aluminum casting are inset two large magnetized plates with holes ground and polished to perfectly fit the large, sturdy, cone-shaped plugs of the upper mount. The upper mounts are split ring clamps that can be put on any scope without disturbing its moisture seal or adjustment dials. On the lower surface of these two upper clamps is fitted a square, flat, steel plate with a heavy

male center pin with a tapered nose. These are lapped into the female holes in the base for a perfect fit. The magnets in the base are held in place in the casting by Allen screws. There is ample room in the rear end of the base mount for a turn-up peep sight; or open iron sights can be used on the barrel ahead of the scope mount.

To mount the scope you simply start the front or rear male cone into its seat in the base and press down, seating both cones in their corresponding holes in the base. The upper and lower mounts click together under the pull of the magnets, and the scope is rigid enough to take the recoil of any rifle. You can hold the rifle by the scope alone. There is no chance of any change in zero, as it has to go back exactly. We proved this



Gee magnetic scope mounts detach in an instant yet will support rifle.

by firing repeated 10 shot groups, removing and replacing the scope between every shot.

To remove the scope you simply lift up on one end and jerk it off the rifle. It is by far the fastest detachable mount we have ever seen, as well as being one of the most accurate in its replacement. With this mount, one can carry his scope in a leather case when not needed and snap it on the rifle in an instant and know that it has replaced accurately. No screws to turn, no levers to throw, no springs to compress. Just snap it on or jerk it off and the darn thing works perfectly all the time. It is so simple in principle we wonder how it ever went so long undiscovered.

Photos show the pilot model, which is much larger than necessary. Both the upper and lower parts can be made much smaller with the latest and strongest magnets, so that the whole mount will be smaller and neater in appearance. Photo at left shows the Lyman All-American 4X scope with the upper mounts with their split rings, flat plates, and centering pins. Lower base shows the magnet plates and the female holes, as well as the heavy Allen-screw attachment to bridge and receiver. The base portion can also be made much flatter and thinner, permitting lower mounting and lower iron sight line if desired, with smaller and thinner magnets of even more power or magnetism than the large ones used in this model. We gave this outfit every conceivable test and it worked 100 per cent.

Photo above shows the Lyman scope in position on the rifle. Note the excellent position, with ocular lens far enough ahead for those of us who habitually "crawl" a gunstock. Note also the long distance between front and rear clamp arms, with the magnet bases held in front of receiver ring and in front of bridge, permitting perfect positioning for the scope in prone or sitting positions as well in off-hand position. We particularly like the position of the ocular lens where it

(Continued on following page)

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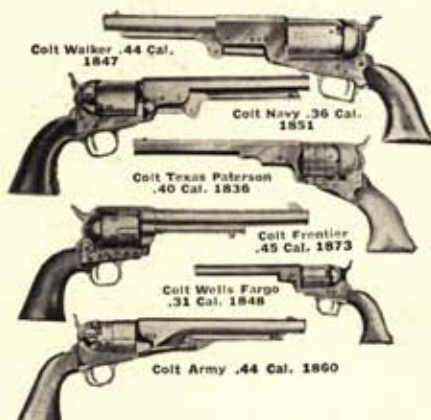


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ELMER KEITH SAYS—

(Continued from page 41)

will not strike the eyebrow in recoil on heavy caliber rifles. Sample rifle tested was an 8mm Mauser, but the outfit has also been tested on .375 Magnums with equal success. Second photo also illustrates the power and pull of the magnets as Mr. Gee holds the rifle by the scope alone. We found you could carry the rifle by the scope if desired. New and much stronger magnets as much as ten times as strong as the ones on this rifle permit making the base mount half its present thickness for a much lower scope mounting.

I have used and tested many detachable scope mounts under every conceivable condition of big game hunting from Mexico to Alaska. The new Gee magnetic mount, in its utter simplicity, accomplishes all the features desirable in a detachable mount better than anything I have seen to date.

The .244 H & H and The Heeren Action

We have been testing the .244 H & H cartridge, made by necking the .300 H & H case to 6mm but with a much more abrupt shoulder and shorter neck. It is a huge case for so small a bore, and far over bore capacity for all our I.M.R. Powders. The British load it with 73 grains of a very slow machinegun powder. The cartridges we tested were hand-loaded by Nathan Bishop, with 73 grains of a very slow powder and 100 grain soft-point spitzer bullets. Accuracy was excellent, grouping into about $\frac{3}{4}$ " at 110 yards from bench rest with a good Bushnell 10X scope. Just what the velocity is I do not know but believe it one of the flattest loads I have yet fired. We sighted it in to shoot about center at 110 yards from the bench rest then turned it on small white rocks about 4" to 5" in diameter at well over 300 yards and it would shatter a rock each shot with center hold, so could have had very little drop in that range. Of course, the high-mounted scope necessary on account of the big objective lens would give considerable compensation, as its axis is so high above the axis of the bore. Nevertheless, its trajectory is very flat. Later we swung the rifle around on a small rock at around 600 yards and noted only a six to eight inch drop. It's a huge case for so small a caliber, but for the man who wants something that shoots flat, we believe this cartridge in a good rifle sighted point-blank at 300 yards would give him about the ultimate for vermin shooting. I cannot see the cartridge for game shooting, for though it would surely kill any light big game if it got into the lung cavity, it would surely ruin a lot of meat. For taking antelope or sheep trophies at extreme ranges it should be excellent, providing the rifleman stayed off the head, neck, and shoulders.

Frank Clark Jr. of Cheyenne, Wyoming, has been importing H & H rifles for this cartridge, but the one we tested was made up by Nathan Bishop and Russ Hightower on one of the Heeren patented Swiss actions by W. Glaser. Barrel blank was by Sam Mays. This is a very peculiar falling-block single-shot action, amply strong for any shoulder cartridge, but with very short leverage for extraction. The front lower corner of the trigger guard carries a spring-loaded latch and you simply hook a thumb on the front of the trigger guard and it un-

locks and hinges downward, the pivot being at the rear of the trigger guard. The action carries a single heavy extractor and I believe this is a weak point, as case extraction was hard even though the load did not seem to have very high pressure. There is no camming action to loosen the fired case in the chamber, and not long enough leverage to exert much force on the extractor. It is not a kicking extractor. The action is very short and neat, beautifully case hardened and with enough very fine hand scroll engraving to break up the plainness, making an attractive looking action. The enlarged forward end of the trigger guard looks peculiar, lacking in beauty and symmetry, but does accomplish about the shortest and most compact falling-block action we have seen.

The upper and lower tangs are integral with the action and the lower tang comes back in a perfect curve for a good full and close pistol grip, but its metal also extends half way up the side of the grip of the stock at its junction with the frame. The upper tang is short and does not come fully back to the comb but carries a through bolt into the lower tang. It would be a very tough action for any amateur to stock properly. But Nathan Bishop fitted this one with a beautifully figured French Walnut stock and forend; fitted it to hair-pinching tolerances. Hightower had fitted a medium heavy straight taper barrel and a full length scope rib of dovetail pattern and his own fixed top mounts anchored to the scope rib with Allen screws. The big Bushnell Chief 10X scope necessitates a fairly high comb stock, but Bishop achieved a beautifully shaped comb and cheek rest on this job.

The trigger has a heavy lever at the rear which, when pushed forward, sets the trigger, making a strong and excellent single set trigger. The safety lever is a very small one on the front right side of the action, flat like the old Jeffery Farquharson safety levers but much shorter and smaller. Its action is also just the opposite of the Jeffery Farquharson lever safety, in that you push the lever down to make the rifle safe and up to put it in firing position.

The forward portion of the small of grip where the stock contacts the frame is very small in diameter, but is practically half steel. It's a shorter, neater action than the Hauck or Farquharson, but I much prefer my long, sturdy, double-extractor Farquharson actions. The lock time of the Heeren is much faster, however, and the hammer fall very short and snappy. It should make up into an excellent free rifle for the lighter 6.5 caliber 300 meter cartridges now so widely used in the 300 meter free rifle matches. I do not know if the set trigger can be given as fine adjustment as some would like, but ignition is very fast indeed, which is a good point for any free rifle used in the standing position.

There is plenty of room on the left side of the action for the mounting of any fine target receiver sight, but any tang sight would be in the way of case extraction and loading. Although Bishop stocked this rifle for bench rest and pest shooting or prone work, this action could easily be stocked for three-position free rifle work and, with a good prong free rifle butt plate adjustable for the three positions, and a palm rest, it would make an excellent holding free rifle for the 6.5mm cartridge. This action costs well over \$100 alone.

BUYING YOUR WAY TO PISTOL MASTERY

(Continued from page 24)

For those with failing or aging eyesight, or those who cannot get a clear sight picture, various optical attachments are available which attach to your shooting glasses by means of a suction cup, to clear up your vision by increasing the focal depth of the eye. These gadgets don't work for everybody, but if they do work for you, you can't afford to be without one. Many find them of great help in gallery shooting where lighting conditions are far from ideal. Some of these devices have an adjustable iris for varying eye or light conditions. They cost from \$1.00 to about \$4.00 and can be worth a lot more.

For another kind of eye protection, there are "blindners" on the market which are made of plastic and fit over the temples of your glasses. They protect your eyes from wind and dirt, keep reflections and side vision from disrupting your concentration. They sell for 35c to 50c a pair, or you can make your own from paper or cardboard.

A precise sight picture is more easily obtained when the sights are blackened. A miner's carbide lamp seems to do the best job of producing a clear, non-glaring, non-reflecting surface. The long jet-like flame allows easy application of the smoke even in a stiff wind and the resulting jet black sight picture is about as perfect as you can get it. The lamp sells for about \$3.00 and carbide cost is negligible. If the carbide lamp doesn't strike your fancy, there are a number of good commercial sight blackeners in liquid form which sell for about 75c a bottle, and the stuff is also available in pressurized spray cans. You need some kind of a small brush to clean your sights before blackening. A dime should buy such a brush; or if you don't want to part with a dime, use an old tooth brush. But get the sights clean, as continual blackening can foul up the micrometer action.

Shading your eyes with a cap can help clear those sights up, too. Get a cap that fits snugly so it won't blow off. I am partial to a large bill type that will provide even illumination or shade at the eye. This large bill also shields your face from those empty hulls that are occasionally ejected your way from the autoloading. Those hulls smacking into your face on a string of rapid fire can be disconcerting.

I have often maintained that if a shooter were deaf, he could shoot better scores. Of course, hearing the firing commands could be a problem; but the crack of guns up and down the line does cause flinching. I guess the only real answer to flinching can be found in Joe Benner's classic remark, "I'm too lazy to flinch." But flinching (at least the flinching caused by noise) can be controlled by controlling the noise blast in your ears. Ear plugs are a big help here, and the more noise they cut out, the better. There are numerous ear plugs on the market or you can use a round rubber detachable pencil eraser, or an empty .38 cartridge case inserted base first into the ear. Use the empty case with caution though, as you may find that you are allergic to the metal.

Without getting into a discussion of custom guns, I would like to mention a few accessories that can be self-installed on your shooting iron and which may help your scores. The trigger shoe is one. Many find

this device, which adds about 50 per cent more area to the trigger, a real help. It seems to lighten the pull and give better control. It tends to keep your trigger finger from contacting the gun frame, which can be disastrous. It is easily installed, costs only about two bucks, and is available for most guns. A further refinement is the shoe with a built-in stop. These sell for around \$3.50 and you will have acquired a trigger stop job that would cost you two or three times that amount if done by a gunsmith. Some of the new target guns are now equipped with wide target triggers, so you won't need a shoe for these.

The .45 and .38 autos can be souped up a little with a recoil buffer and custom barrel bushing. The buffer replaces the guide presently in your gun. It apparently slows the action down a little and takes the sharpness out of the kick. Won't harm your gun in any way; in fact, it will probably increase the life expectancy of the weapon. Shooters of full-load factory ammo are particularly attracted to this device, which is available for about \$3.50. The custom barrel bushing replaces the standard factory bushing and assures the muzzle of the barrel returning to the same position after each shot, with closer tolerances. There are a number of manufacturers of this device and they sell for around \$5.00. They usually require hand fitting to the barrel and gun.

Compensators or "muzzle brakes" are a controversial subject. Do they help scores or don't they? A positive answer depends on many factors, chief one being the acquirement of a good compensator that performs well with a given gun. About the only way you can really determine this is by a machine rest test. However, a good shooter, who understands bench rest shooting with a pistol, can get a good idea of the particular worth of a given compensator.

The main thing they accomplish is reducing of muzzle jump and an apparent reduction in recoil. The reduction in muzzle jump (upward whip) allows more aiming time in the quick fire stages, and the reduction in recoil may solve some of your flinching problem. These two factors can and do help many shooters to consistently better scores. Main drawback is that many of them have a tendency to spread groups slightly, so in this case the shooter must ask himself if he can stand a slight group enlargement in exchange for the benefits he will gain. Of course, if you are one of the fortunates who has a compensator that improves accuracy, then "you're in like Flynn." Only careful testing will determine this. Dave Cartes won both the National .22 and the National Mid-Winter .22 championship with a Supermatic with compensator, just as it came from the factory. Jimmy Clark has set numerous national records with his custom Ruger with built-in comp and also with a factory Mk I Ruger with the detachable comp. The detachable comps are easily installed, low in price (about \$6 to \$8 in .22 caliber) and won't harm your gun if you decide to remove them. Compensators for the .38 and .45 auto sell from around \$11.00 to around \$20.00, some of the higher priced ones incorporating a front sight which materially increases sight radius.

(Continued on page 46)

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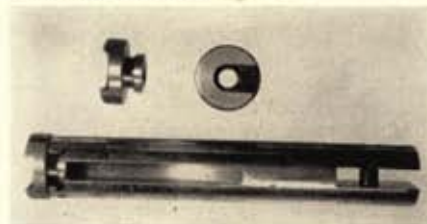
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MARBLE RODS for cleaning every caliber or gauge firearm are of first-class make, sturdy and with jointed sections that screw securely together and don't snap off like a twig if a patch runs a bit stiff. Check on the Marble cleaning kits at your dealer—you'll find them satisfactory. I've used one old brass jointed rod now for eighteen years and it is still serviceable. Takes standard tips, brushes. Take a look at the Marble knives, camp axes while you're there, too. Moderately priced. Write Marble Arms Co., Gladstone, Mich., for catalog.



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HANDY MAGNIFYING TWEEZER for the tinkerer, gunsmith, fly tyer, model builder or anyone working with small parts. The point of the tweezer is always in focus. Should be in hunter's medical kit—just right for pulling splinters, briars and sandspurs, from man or dog. Small to fit pocket or purse. Priced at \$5.00 postpaid, including leather carrying case. Sole Importers, CAP'N BALL, Dept. CE-1, 110 Worth Avenue, Palm Beach, Florida.



ENGRAVED MOUNT for the Browning .22 is now manufactured by the Williams Gun Sight Co., Dept. G, 7300 Lapeer Rd., Davison, Michigan. This new Quick Convertible top mount is beautifully engraved by "old school" craftsmen. The sharp, graceful lines of the artistry match the style of the receiver engraving. Wide ring span reduces overhang of scope and permits individual eye-relief adjustment. The bridge-type construction of the mount provides the greatest possible strength, more stability, and

WITH Guns

greater accuracy. The new Quick Convertible, like the standard Williams mounts for this rifle, fastens solely on the barrel, and allows take-down of rifle for breech cleaning or packing without disturbing the adjustment.



ZENITH CAMP RADIO, a new all-transistor Trans-Oceanic portable, smallest and lightest band-spread short wave portable radio ever built. Runs on ordinary flashlight cells. Eight band reception—standard broadcast, continuous coverage of short wave from 2 to 9 megacycles (150 to 33 meters), international short wave bands. Set is tropically treated to perform even in high jungle humidity. Weight: 13 pounds including batteries. Literature, name of dealer nearest to you, from Zenith Radio Corporation, Dept. G, 6001 W. Dickens, Chicago 39, Ill.



NEW WEBSTER SCALE is Model RWC, same as RW-1 with addition of gold Chain-O-Matic weight attachment. Vertical bar is marked in 1/20 grain divisions, can be read to 1/40 grain, is sensitive enough to weigh and sort primers for extreme accuracy. This model is almost the equal of analytical balances selling for hundreds of dollars, yet gives maximum speed for weighing powder and bullets. Has all the original Webster features, two-way self aligning bearings, removable oil container for hydraulic damper, guaranteed accuracy. New funnel holder attachment holds GUNS powder funnel (not included) to conveniently pour powder in cases. RWC scales \$26.50, funnel holder \$2. At dealers, or literature from Webster Scale Mfg. Co., P.O. Box 718-G, Sebring, Florida.

COMPETITIVE Pistol Shooter, supply catalog is offered for 25c by Gil Hebard Guns, Box #1, Knoxville 6, Illinois. Virtually every type of domestic and foreign target pistol and revolver is available from this firm, including "Accuracy jobs" by James E. Clark and Richard L. Shockey. The catalog also features a complete line of handgun accessories—every conceivable item that a com-



petitive pistol shooter uses, is illustrated in this unique catalog. Of particular interest are several well-written articles on competitive pistol shooting, handloading, and custom handguns by top-flite authorities Joyner, Clark, and Shockey. There is also a listing of National Records and a roster of the "2600" Club. The Catalog is authoritative and well written by a top-flite pistol shooter. It contains a wealth of valuable information for anyone interested in target shooting with the pistol or revolver.



DUXBAK CAMOUFLAGE togs by Utica Duxbak Corp. are made of durable 10-oz. army duck in a mottled pattern that blends into nature's own background, thereby enabling the hunter to get close to his quarry yet remain well concealed. The camouflage fabric is vat-dyed and water repellent, with an important soft "quiet" finish that permits noiseless movement. At dealers featuring Duxbak outdoor wear.

THE "MEDALIST" is a new .22 caliber Crosman Pellgun Pistol, heavily plated in highly polished chrome and dramatically displayed in a hand-polished, mahogany-



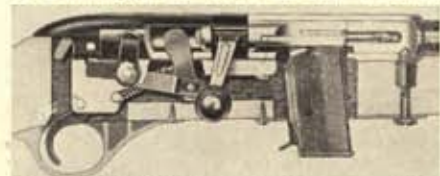
finish heirloom case, a fitted jewel-box setting of rich burgundy-and-white velveteen. Retailing at only \$24.95, this luxury handgun is equipped with Crosman's new Tru-Flyte barrel featuring button rifling and deluxe, rugged target sights, precision-made and mounted. Powered for approximately 50 shots by a single Giant Crosman CO₂ Gas Powerlet, the "Medalist" is covered by a lifetime guarantee. At all dealers.



HODGMAN WADER offers warm comfort and waterproof protection for duck shooting in streams or marshes in the severest weather. Made of Flexible net, laminated rubber coating, has double-thick boot uppers with insulating air space. For catalog of Hodgman's complete line of waders and weatherproof clothing, write directly to manufacturer, Hodgman Rubber Co., Framingham, Mass.



FLAIG'S CIRCASSIAN WALNUT blanks and turned stocks are among the finest specimens of this rare and beautiful wood to be offered in the U.S. in many years. New shipment from Turkey includes grades of cut blanks priced from \$15.00 to \$50; with a few extremely fine patterns and figures up to \$75. This is a dense but light wood. Blanks are oversized for beatertail forearms, high cheek pieces. Turned and inletted, add \$5 to price of blank. All blanks sent subject to customer's approval. Write to Dick Winter, Flaig's, Millvale, Pa. (6 miles north of Pittsburgh) for details on how to order.



NEW HAMMERLESS RIFLE is remarkable Mossberg bolt action .22 clip repeater, a sleek, streamlined new sporting rifle with a concealed interior hammer for sure-fire ignition. Bolt and striker do not protrude through the back of the receiver as on other guns, protection for bolt mechanism from dirt fouling in the field. New rifle comes in Model 342 which has peep rear and military-type front sights, and companion #342K with open sights. Price is only \$31.95.



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BUYING PISTOL MASTERY

(Continued from page 43)

A stop watch is an invaluable accessory to any serious shooter. Its use in match shooting is primarily limited to timing of slow-fire strings where it can be of big help in promoting peace of mind by eradicating the worry of how much time remains to shoot. But it is worth its weight in gold as a training device, in teaching you the all important time intervals at timed and rapid fire. As a shooter's stop watch is not normally subjected to excessive use or abuse, and doesn't have to be a split second precision proposition, the lower priced imports will suffice for even the more critical. These can be purchased from about \$9.00 to \$25.00. One that registers a ten minute interval is your best bet.

Many shooters carry a rosin can or bag in their kit. It is of real value in anchoring a grip if your hands tend to sweat, and it can be a life saver if you are forced to shoot in the rain. Try shooting the big bucking .45 with a wet hand and stock and you immediately appreciate this statement. A shaker-top can is best, as it won't mess up your kit with spilled rosin. Enough rosin to carry you through a season's shooting costs only a fraction of a dollar, and could easily mean the difference between winning and losing a match.

A score book is certainly not a necessity, but it can add interest to the game as well as provide a basis for a scientific approach to your shooting progress. Accurately kept scores, both practice and match, will reveal trends and conditions that are hurting your scoring. It will show you where your strong and weak points are, thus allowing for intelligent practice. Score books that contain enough entries to be of real value to the shooter cost only a dollar or two.

Perhaps you'll want scoring plugs in your kit, or perhaps not. Fact remains, you should be prepared to score targets accurately if called upon to do so. It's an important part of shooting and you owe it to your competitors and to yourself to be accurate both in competition and practice. Scoring plugs are the only answer to those close shots. There are a number available, priced at a few cents to as much as \$20.00.

Another handy accessory is a cartridge box for your target ammo. They are available in plastic from about 70c to \$1.50, and in wood from about \$2.00 up. They are of value in keeping your different loads separated, insuring the loading of five rounds for each string, and for added protection to your pet target fodder.

Add a small screw driver for sight adjustments, a pencil for scoring targets, a small oil can for emergency oil jobs, perhaps a brass cleaning brush and rod for a fast de-leading job between strings, and a rabbit's foot or four-leaf clover for luck, and you have about run the gamut of accessories that you might need in your pistol box.

There are a few accessories not connected with your shooting box that seem to help some competitors. A shooting coat is one. Anything in the clothing line that permits you to shoot in comfort, weather conditions considered, is certainly worth while and should be given serious consideration. Don't forget a light weight rain coat for those rainy days. Many shooters carry light-weight

folding chairs or stools, for comfort between matches. Shooting matches often last from sun-up to sun-down, and if any of these items promote comfort and relaxation without adversely affecting your shooting, then they are probably worth the effort.

Knowing your trigger pull-weight is important to your shooting. Pulls often change with use and they may become so light as to become dangerous or may not meet match requirements. Any change in your pull, either heavier or lighter, can cause your shooting to go sour. A trigger-pull gauge keeps you posted and can forestall the possibility of a disqualification in a match. This worthwhile accessory is available at about \$5.00 to \$7.00 in spring operated gauges, and \$12.50 in the official NRA no-spring job.

Accessories that never see the light of a registered pistol match are necessary accoutrements of many shooters. Training devices would fall in this category. One of the best training aids is a timer that signals the start and stop of either 10 or 20 second time intervals. It allows the shooter to time himself in practice, and is a fine developer of the cadence which is so necessary for good scoring. Price is about \$8.00. Records are available which play back the Range Officer's commands for the various kinds of matches. Commands are properly given and time intervals are accurately recorded. Price is \$3.95. A more elaborate device recently on the market actually turns targets at electrically timed intervals. Of course if you can get your wife to give you commands from the kitchen clock, you've got it made.

Bullet traps may be a little far afield from this discussion of competitive pistol shooting accessories, but they are certainly important training aids when they are needed to provide a place to practice regularly. The best and fastest way to learn to shoot hot scores is to shoot, and shoot plenty. A bullet trap provides this opportunity to practice in your own home or yard. Prices range from about \$10 to \$50, depending mainly on size.

Physical conditioning equipment is included in the necessary accessories of a good many fine shooters. Pistol shooting employs a number of muscles that one normally does not use. Building these muscles up and keeping them in trim can do much to improve your shooting. An 80c grip exerciser can do wonders in building up a firm grip. A magazine cast full of lead will add enough weight to help develop arm muscles while dry-firing. A milk bottle filled with water and hung to the shooting arm will accomplish the same result. A chest pull can help develop back muscles that help support the shooting arm, and there are numerous other exercising devices available to the aspiring pistol champion.

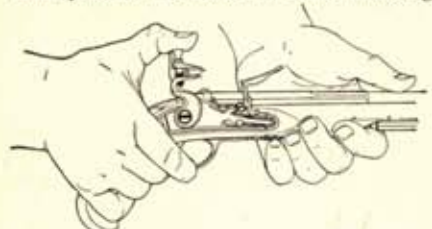
There are many other accessories being offered, some worthwhile, others maybe or maybe not. But I believe that many of the accessories I have mentioned are, if not essential, at least helpful to the fulfillment of a shooter's desire to fire the best possible scores. Other items too might help your scoring. This pistol game is a psychological problem to a great extent, and even if an accessory does nothing more than bolster a shooter's confidence... this gain of confidence can easily improve his scores. As Jimmie Clark, noted pistol champion and gunsmith, once said, "If you think they help you, then they do."

HOW TO SHOOT A FLINTLOCK

(Continued from page 35)

drawings, photographs and even actual flintlock arms with the flint mounted flat-side down, bevel-side up; a more certain way of raising the misfire rate of even the best flintlock to fifty percent could hardly be devised! Gunflints, like all minerals and quartzes, have a definite crystal structure, and the striking edge is chipped accordingly. If the flint is used upside-down, the striking edge will quickly crumble and deteriorate. Moreover, the battery and flashpan cover of a flintlock is a delicately balanced spring-loaded lever, designed to function with maximum efficiency if struck by the flint at a certain point, usually 13/16ths of the way up along the face of the battery. If the flint is mounted flat-side down, the point of impact is lowered, and the efficiency of the battery's fire-striking quality, as well as of the resisting-and-yielding quality of the pancake, are very materially reduced. The obvious consequence is a sharp rise in the misfire rate, and often an upside-down flint will fail to open the pancake.

In order to be held firmly in the cock, the flint must first be wrapped in a fold of leather of suitable thickness. Occasionally one sees an old gun with the flint wrapped in cloth or lead, but these materials are always the additions of modern collectors. Cloth presents the hazard of still-smoldering



Gun at half cock for priming. Close flashpan cover and bring hammer back to full cock to ready gun for firing.

threads at the time of the next priming, so that the entire priming flask may explode in the shooter's hand. Lead does not have the resilience required to cushion and absorb the shock of the flint's impact, so that the slender neck of the cock is almost as likely to break as when it is snapped without any flint at all. Only a U-fold of leather, preferably charred and hardened where it protrudes from the jaws, will do.

When mounting a flint in a lock, it is necessary to determine precisely how far the flint should project from the cock. (Needless to say, the flint must be of a suitable size to begin with. A musket flint will be of no use in a fowling piece, nor a fowling piece flint in a pocket pistol.) The flint should not touch the cap screw, since it would then transmit the shock of the impact directly to the screw and to the cock's neck, nullifying the cushioning effect of the leather fold. But by how much should the flint fail to touch the screw? With the pancake closed, with the flint very lightly held in the jaws and the finger on the trigger, let the cock come slowly forward by thumb until the flint's entire striking edge rests flat against a point on the battery face which seems to be three-quarters of the way up; then (without jarring or dislocating the flint) open to half-cock and tighten the cap screw. Now try a snap. If the pancake flies open like

lightning (it may well get stuck or jammed against the flint), and if the ample shower of sparks whirrs in the pan, all is well. If the cover jams and/or the sparks are few, the flint has to be retracted further into the jaws, or extended outward further, until the function is perfect.

Next, the touchhole must be pricked clear of carbon and other obstructive matter every fourth or fifth shot—the frequency varies with the size of the touchhole and the thickness of the barrel.

Next comes priming. This is a very delicate business indeed, but of extreme importance because, depending on how well it is done, the gun may misfire or fire unfailingly, and the lock time may be imperceptible or a fizzly hanging fire. To begin with, the priming powder must be very finely ground (modern granulation FFFFg or finer). It must be heaped into the flashpan very judiciously. If the pan is over-primed, the pressure of the closed pancake will tend to cake the surface of the priming, so that the sparks are repelled and the priming does not take fire. On the other hand, an insufficient quantity of priming will slide around in the pan and is very likely to accumulate in the bunched-up heap at the pan's outer end, away from the touchhole, where it will "flash in the pan" without firing the main charge inside the barrel. The correct amount of priming fills the pan with a flat, even level to a point just very barely below the pan's upper edge.

Having been loaded and primed, and with the flashpan cover snapped shut, the gun must be tilted a little and tapped once or twice with the fingers to ensure that a few grains of priming have entered the touchhole and have connected with the main charge.

If these rules are faithfully observed, and if the lock is of high-quality workmanship, the gun will fire instantaneously and with a virtual 100 per cent certainty. But other factors are involved in the success or failure of flintlock shooting.

One of these is weather, and atmospheric conditions. Until the last quarter of the eighteenth century, flashpans were made with broad, flat upper edges, on which the equally flat pancake merely rested under the tension of the feather spring. This arrangement was not watertight. Moreover, it was necessary to construct all flashpans with a small vertical lip or flash-shield rising up from the pan's rear edge to deflect the priming flash from being blown directly into the shooter's eye. But while this flash-shield guards against face and eye injuries, it also serves to guide any drop of moisture or rain-water into the flashpan and the priming. By about 1780, however, London gunsmiths had developed the so-called "waterproof" flashpans, which remained the rule until the end of the flintlock period between 1820-1830. Here the underside of the pancake is slightly recessed to fit over the raised upper edge of the pan, and the flashpan bridle and the flash-shield are no longer attached to the pan at all (or only to its underside), but have taken the form of free-standing crescents or wedges. Water is thus guided down the lock-plate rather than into the pan, and the locks can be exposed to a moderate shower for quite some time—and still fire.



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7MM	145, 150, 175	\$4.35	\$8.50
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Wind is equally inimical to flintlock shooting. A fast-snapping lock can be fired in surprisingly stormy weather, in winds up to about thirty-five miles per hour. But slower-snapping locks can fire only in slower winds.

Firing a good flintlock in strong wind will demonstrate that the sparks do not simply fall into the priming, but are hurled with great speed and force. The less the friction in the mechanism, the greater this speed and force, and consequently the faster and more certain the reaction. For this reason the English gunsmiths of about 1775-1780 developed the tumbler swivel link between the mainspring and the tumbler, and the wheel or roller at the end of the feather spring or at the end of the pancake's spur. Like "waterproof" flashpans, both features remained basic to all high-quality or even medium-quality locks until the end of the flintlock era. Parenthetically it may be mentioned that any finely-made flintlock, even one dating from before the period of tumbler swivel links and feather spring rollers, will snap so fast that the gun will go off while held upside down. The sparks will be hurled up and will fire the priming before the priming has time to fall off the inverted pan. A poorly made lock will not do this.

A very frequent impression is that the reaction of a flintlock is something on the order of a second or more while the priming fizzes its way into the main charge. True, if a gun is kept loaded for many days, atmospheric moisture may condense in the pan and cause hanging fires of half a second or more. But all factors being favorable, most good-quality non-military pre-1780-period locks will do their work on the average within a range of 0.050 to 0.100 seconds, while the later "waterproof" and "frictionless" locks will average 0.060 second. In a good flintlock, especially the post-1780 English types, the click of the lock and the roar of the shot are simultaneous occurrences as far as the human ear can tell. The lapse of time

is sufficiently great that a good deal of practice is required for shooting game on the wing; it is sufficiently trivial that in big-game rifle shooting it can be discounted completely for all practical purposes. But it must be remembered that virtually all military flintlocks, and all cheap, poorly-made civilian ones, have lock times of up to a quarter of a second and even more, and misfire rates ranging from 10 to 50 per cent. Rain and high winds render these machines useless.

Volumes can and have been written on the construction of muzzle-loading barrels, smooth and rifled; on their lengths, bores, chokes, pitches, and materials; on the amounts of powder and proportions of powder and shot; on wadding and patches and whatever else goes into successful shooting. These lie beyond the scope of this article. For the most comprehensive study of all aspects of muzzle-loading, the reader is referred to three excellent old works which can be found in most big-city libraries or bought from book-dealers specializing in arms and armor books: (1) *Instructions to Young Sportsmen in All That Pertains to Guns and Shooting*, by Colonel Peter Hawker; London, 1814, and many subsequent editions; (2) *The Gun, or a Treatise on the Various Descriptions of Small Fire-Arms*, by William Greener; London, 1835, and many subsequent editions; and (3) *The Shooter's Guide and Complete Sportsman's Companion*, by Thomas Burge-land Johnson; London, 1814, and many subsequent editions.

In closing, a few words which cannot be repeated too often. Old barrels may have rusted thin in spots. None should ever be fired off-hand until it has been proved three times with a double powder charge while tied to a tree, the trigger being pulled with a string. The fine old English and Spanish stub-twist horseshoe-nail fowling piece barrels were once the toughest, most indestructible tubes that metallurgy could construct; but after a century and more of exposure to the elements, progressive corrosion may have weakened or even separated the twists. If, however, the barrel has withstood three double proof loads, it may be deemed safe.

Old musket barrels, originally so far inferior to fine fowling piece barrels that there is no comparison, may have survived in safer condition because their single lap weld is less vulnerable to progressive corrosion separation. Rifle barrels, heavy German-type smoothbore shot barrels, massive dueling and "coach" pistol barrels, and most heavy brass barrels are usually quite safe—although these, too, must pass the three proof loads before being put into active use. And, needless to say, modern smokeless nitrocellulose powder must never, under any circumstance whatsoever, be used in a black powder muzzleloader. Both the safety and the danger of using antique guns has been greatly exaggerated by many writers. The common sense answer lies in the cautious approach of three double-load proofs—even though the shooter thereby risks the loss of a fine antique!

Whoever will take the time and trouble to become proficient with flintlocks will find a new source of pleasure which will endure for many years to come—and one which will make percussion cap shooting seem extremely pale and boring by comparison.

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SHOOTING IN THE WINTER SUN

(Continued from page 31)

Beach, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Miami, and West Palm Beach held tournaments in the chain. The Florida State Championships were at Sarasota after the close of the winter chain.

Each tournament in the chain attracts about 100 to 150 competitors. This is a far cry from the 2,000 or more who enter the Grand American Handicap each year, but it is good for sociability and enjoyment. There are fewer hotshots who fire from back of the 25-yard line in the handicap matches, but the winners are good. Veteran scattergunner Homer Clark won the chain event at Tampa in 1957. J. R. Boyd won at Miami, and Helen Delmonico was high lady.

Skeet shooting competition is not so extensive as trap during late winter or early spring, but it is available. The Cigar City Gun Club at Tampa holds the Annual Mid-Winter International Shoot, a four-gun skeet aggregate. In 1957, the Palm Beach Gun Club held the Florida State and Open Championships, a four-gun 300-target aggregate, at Palm Beach. Since skeet and trap fields are usually constructed together, recreational skeet is easy to find. Any of the gun clubs can accommodate you.

1957 was the 21st year the National Mid-Winter Smallbore Rifle Tournament had been held in St. Petersburg. It is registered by the National Rifle Association and sponsored by the Florida State Rifle Association and the Sunshine Rifle and Pistol Club. There were 108 competitors, and the 1957 winner was a longtime topnotcher, Ransford Triggs, with a score of 3183-230 X's. Next to him was Joe Steffey, 1955 winner of this tournament, with 3183-228 X's. Other winners during the past few years have been W. P. Sweitzer, J. H. Hollister, J. A. Skeadas, and J. L. Kelley. Mrs. Adelaide McCord, five times the national women's smallbore champion, has been a regular competitor for several years. The competition is definitely topflight, and the American Legion Rifle Range, on which this tournament is held, is very good. It has 100 firing points at the 50-yard, 50-meter, and 100-yard ranges, and 20 firing points at 200 yards.

The Annual Sawgrass Smallbore Rifle Championships, also an NRA registered tournament, takes place on the Trail Glades Range at Miami. This tournament has a smaller entry list than the St. Petersburg matches but the same high level of competition. In 1957, it had 58 competitors from 11 different states. L. F. Moore was top man in the main aggregate with a score of 3189-218 X's. W. P. Schweitzer and Ransford Triggs had 3188 and 3187, respectively. The noticeably higher scores here can be blamed on a sudden flurry of rough weather at St. Petersburg, reminiscent of Camp Perry. Other outstanding competitors in the Sawgrass have been Joe Steffey, W. Phelan, Herb Hollister, and Mrs. Adelaide McCord.

The Tampa Police Pistol Range, site of the National Mid-Winter Pistol Championships, is an outstanding establishment. It has 102 electrically powered, automatically timed and operated targets. The firing line is paved and completely covered. There are a dwelling for the rangekeeper, a spacious clubhouse, and miscellaneous buildings for storage, statistical offices, restrooms, and so

forth. The range is easily accessible by automobile and fairly so by city bus. During tournaments, special buses are run from the downtown hotel area to the range, in addition to regular buses which pass within a few blocks.

The Trail Glades Range 11 miles west of Miami on the Tamiami Trail is the showplace of shooting and resembles a beautiful country club. For many years the pistol, rifle, and shotgun shooters of the Miami area struggled along, each group trying to keep up its own shooting facilities. Time after time ranges had to be abandoned because of immediate proximity of newly built houses, financial burden upon the club supporting it, or for other reasons. From somewhere sprang the idea of a permanently safe, adequate, all-around shooting range supported by and for the public.

About 1952, a quarter section of land was reclaimed from the swamps and sawgrass by Dade County, and such a range was built. Today it is a beautiful establishment with accommodations for pistol, smallbore rifle, trap, skeet, and archery. Several clubs use it, and it is open to the public for a reasonable fee.

Pistol and smallbore rifle shooting are conducted on the same field and from the same firing line. Targets for both types of shooting are easily removable from the field and interchangeable with those of the other type. The firing line is nicely paved and covered by a neat, effective awning. An attractive building immediately back of the center of the firing line adequately houses the chief range officer's stand, the statistical office, and clean, sanitary restrooms. There is a large paved parking lot and, within easy distance of the firing line, an attractive combination clubhouse and coffee shop. A small

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lagoon runs along one side of the range. Shooters have fished in it and taken boat rides on it. Mostly they just sit under the palm trees and look at it.

Suitable buildings provide storage, and to the east of the pistol-rifle range the skeet-trap fields are located. Some shotgunners consider this the best range in the South for their game. All range operating machinery is very modern with automatically timed, mechanical pistol targets and electric traps for skeet and trap.

Awards in the Florida shooting matches run all the way from medals through trophies, merchandise prizes, and even cash. Trophies are of the loving cup, statuette, and plaque variety. Some are of moderate value and are permanent awards; that is, the winner can keep them. Others are more valuable and are of the "floating" variety: the winner this year keeps them until next year, at which time next year's winner takes possession. A few are memorial trophies that are always kept in the clubhouse of the sponsoring club, with each winner's name engraved on it. The merchandise prizes may be firearms, optical or photographic equipment, household appliances, or novelty awards for laughs. Some small cash awards are to be had in the smallbore rifle matches, but the large ones are in the trap shoots. They are large in the eyes of a pistol shooter, but they are not nearly so large as the purses in some of the shoots in the West, and they are not large enough for one to make a living off the matches.

The people who compete in these matches come from all parts of the country. Recent National Mid-Winter Pistol Matches had entries from Canada, Cuba, Canal Zone,

Jamaica, Iceland, thirty-nine of our states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii. Most of these pistol shooters have either a police or military status and compete as part of extensive training programs. Many civilians attend and enter competition purely for love of the sport. The picture is about the same on a slightly smaller scale in the Miami pistol matches but with fewer military competitors.

Smallbore rifle competitors have usually been strictly civilian, dyed in the wool, belly shooting enthusiasts. In 1957, a number of military competitors appeared to be entering the matches as part of their advanced training programs, which have as one of their aims the improvement of our international shooting teams.

The shotgunners hail from various areas. The Mid-West seems to be best represented. They shoot for sport and recreation primarily, even though there are cash prizes involved. Some are active businessmen enjoying trap or skeet during a brief Florida sojourn. Those out of states who shoot through the entire chain of trapshoots almost have to be retired people of no small means. Then there are Florida's own shotgunners who add materially to the entry lists in all tournaments.

Some families have for years made their annual trip to the Florida shootfests a must. David Beggs of Columbus, Ohio, told me that his big-time pistol shooting started at the National Mid-Winter Pistol Matches in Tampa when he was there once on vacation. Since then he has attained a master classification in pistol shooting and has become a very regular participant. He is always

enthusiastically accompanied by his charming wife and husky son. In fact, on the last trip Mrs. Beggs literally broke a leg getting to the matches. She fell in a motel bathtub during their trip southward.

Mothers always have their hands full caring for pre-school age children, but a Florida shooting trip poses no special travel problems such as are found at certain other shoots. Junior may eat where mama and papa eat. He may have a clean, comfortable, safe place to sleep, and in the middle of the night—well, it is just through the door into the bath. Neither papa nor mama will have to stumble through the darkness escorting him to the small house at the end of the block, as at Camp Perry.

When the young ones reach school age, a two or three-weeks trip to any place away from home during the school term is unwise. That lost time may be just enough to put one who is in the running for class honors out of the running. Or, one who is just passing may be just failing after that long an absence. Some of my friends have made special efforts to overcome these adverse effects by obtaining advance study schedules from teachers and insisting on regular daily study by the children while away from home. On my last trip to Florida, I saw some of the gentlemen from Annapolis and West Point with their heads in textbooks between relays at the pistol matches. That gave me more confidence in our military future; but, regardless of age, few students will continue to be students on vacation or at a shooting tournament.

Living accommodations are reasonable and good at all the Florida shooting events. Thousands of tourists are there and a lot

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of hotel rooms in Miami Beach are \$25.00 a day; but you need not stay in a Miami Beach hotel. Florida is a land of tourists and is prepared to take care of them at nearly any economic level. The many tourist courts and hotels offer a wide range of accommodations and prices. I have encountered overly steep rates only when making overnight stops en route. At the tournament cities, it is even possible to get weekly rates in some places. Match programs usually list recommended tourist courts and hotels, and it is always advisable to make reservations well in advance. If you do arrive without reservations, do not be frightened by the first room clerk who tells you that every bed in town is filled. Look around. His is not the only place. On one of my trips, a motel manager told me that the situation was so bad people had been asking permission to sleep in her office on a cot. Within an hour my partner and I had secured a very comfortable twin-bed room at a moderate price. Nothing that you find will be as bad as the tarpaper shacks and other discomforts at the official National Matches.

Food is reasonable and the choice is wide. Shooters should have a hearty breakfast, since they usually eat sandwiches, hot dogs, and other short orders at midday. The evening meal is the big one. Wholesome and delicious dinners in clean attractive eateries may be had for \$1.50 or less. Or, you may spend \$5 to \$10, if you want to splurge.

Match officials of the Florida shooting events are the finest and most experienced in the country. From the referees to the assistant range officers, they know their jobs and know that they know them. Those in direct contact with competitors usually have been competitors themselves. In the 1956 National Mid-Winter Pistol Matches, the four top officials (Chuck O'Connor, Claude Harris, Perry Swindler, and John Schooley) had all together over 100 years of experience in supervising shooting events. Men like this do not have to depend on a militaristic imitation of toughness to carry out their jobs. In their own right they cover the ground they stand on.

Shooters are like dogs and horses to the extent that they sense whether the men giving the orders know their business. The sensing is affirmative with officials such as these, and a friendly tension-free atmosphere is easily created.

Briefly, the Florida shooting events offer you variety, high level competition, excellent ranges, eminently well qualified match officials, courteous and friendly treatment, pleasant living conditions at reasonable cost—and Florida. A lot of people spend a lot of money just for that one last item.

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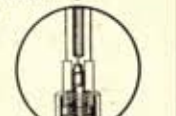


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WORLD'S NEWEST OLYMPIC RIFLE

(Continued from page 28)

recoil, it reduces flash and, most important, it increases the accuracy of the barrel.

The .22 tube also has a "Ballistic Jet Corrector." One of these devices was fitted to a standard barrel during tests at the laboratory of a leading gun manufacturer. The test results (from people with no sales-axe to grind) were "a better than 50 per cent increase in accuracy in the barrel to which the device had been fitted." Official results of test firing with this rifle by U.S. Army test marksmen at Fort Benning are not available, but the testing shooters say that the muzzle device is effective in both roles, as recoil reducer and as an improvement in barrel accuracy. Our own range testing tends to back this up; our results were phenomenal and we give the rifle the credit.

In the .22 device the muzzle of the barrel is reduced slightly in diameter and slots are milled into the bottom of the rifling grooves. A counter-bored nipple is threaded on over the slots and the device is complete. As in the 8 mm big bore "corrector," the increased accuracy is attributed to the relief of gas pressure before the bullet leaves the muzzle, avoiding any disturbing gas action tipping the base of the bullet.

Internationally renowned Canadian free rifle champion Edson L. Warner of Lennoxville, Quebec, has test fired this rifle for inventor Yovanovitch. The rifle was strange to Warner—he had never shot it before. Also, he had just finished a strenuous day of match rifle competition. Add to this the fact that the extractor was not functioning at the time and the fired cases had to be dug out with a screwdriver, so that Warner was a little upset during the test shooting. In spite of all these hazards, he fired a group at 46 meters (50 yards) of .300" x .585", under artificial light on an indoor range. These experiences further confirm the rifle's capability. But we are waiting for further test reports when some of the Canadian shooters who are using the weapon return from international matches overseas.

The action of Yovanovitch's rifle expresses his ideas of the perfect single shot design. At the front of the dropping breech block are curved locking shoulders. Released by the downward motion of the trigger guard assembly, the breech block drops down at the front, exposing the chamber and operating the extractor. There is no block hinge pin for simplicity. It is stronger than the Martini system, because of its front locking feature. The sample rifle has fired thousands of .22 rounds and many hundreds of 8 x 57 mm cartridges and shows no signs of wear.

The breech block connects to the operating guard-lever by a single toggle joint. Firing pin and hammer cock on the opening stroke. When the breech block is swung upward on closing, the locking lugs provide a final loading pressure of one ton through a tapered effect of the locking slots and the lever cam action of the toggle joint. This permits the shooter to use handloaded ammunition which is not full length case resized, and which reduces wear on cases for practice ammunition. The front locking breech is inherently accurate, giving the short action and simple operation of a dropping block single shot, with the strength and accuracy characteristic of bolt action designs. The short action reduces vibration to a minimum. The one action pin retains the whole block-link-guard lever assembly in the receiver and is the operating lever pivot. With the block swung down in load position, the top of the block provides a loading tray to lead the bullet into the chamber. Extraction and ejection are to the right on the pilot model. Left handers will appreciate this. For right handers, the extractor easily switches to the other side so extraction is away from the shooter's face. The action is rapid and can be operated with either right or left hand, with equal ease.

No special extraction tests were run, other than normal target firing. But since rifles of this type are not expected to deliver a rapid rate of fire, we foresee no extraction difficulties. Extraction and ejection of factory loaded cartridge cases appeared to be perfectly satisfactory. Hinging the rear of the breech block below the center line of the barrel (if hinging is the proper term in the absence of a pivot pin) permits the loading of full length cartridge cases in a rifle which retains its short action characteristics. This arrangement also permits breech end cleaning and the insertion of the .22 sub-caliber tube.

Yovanovitch has tried to solve the problem of lock time. His choice of action type provides some basic advantages. To take full advantage of its theoretical benefits he has combined a positively adjustable trigger with a simple sear and a short stroke firing pin. For fast lock time the whole mechanism must be close to the primer and must be permanently adjustable for release weight, and fast functioning time. "Lock time" is a critical feature of a target rifle, measured in thousandths of a second. It is even more critical in Olympic style free rifle shooting, because of the offhand shooting at long ranges. The ideal would be a mechanism to function the primer at the instant the trigger engagement released on getting the right

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sight picture. The ideal has not yet been attained in any mechanism known to us.

The closest approach to ideal lock time is in the rifle designed by Yovanovitch. The distance from the trigger to the primer is two inches. The trigger is positively adjustable within a range from three ounces to three pounds and can be adjusted without special tools. The sear action is positive and fast, it operates on a hammer blow. The measured stroke of the firing pin, from sear engaged position to primer fired position, is 7/32 inches. This is less than half the distance of the shortest known in other free rifles. The total weight of components involved in the firing action (hammer, sear and firing pin) is only 1½ ounces. This is about 1/5th the weight of comparable parts in the rifle of his closest competitor. The light weights and short travel distances of the components reduce lock time and increase accuracy. The trigger is pivoted in two spring-loaded ball bearings, it is free of any play or creep and the pull is absolutely constant at the set weight. One end of the action mounting pin has a screw-driver tip, so even the tool is built in.

Yovanovitch's rear sight is a major improvement over anything previously available for free rifle shooting. The complete sight is adjustable on its milled base and clamps by a knurled-headed screw and a clamping block. The sight is sturdy and well made, with positive click elevation and windage adjustments, and is free of backlash. Previous graduating systems have been arbitrary; this new sight is the ideal for metric distances and International targets. The graduation system Yovanovitch has used is related directly to the dimensions of the International target. Each click of adjustment for either elevation or windage results in an angular correction of 9.3 seconds of angle, equivalent to one quarter of one division on the International 50 and 300 meter targets. This sight design has considerable merit, particularly considering the various sighting systems now used in free rifle shooting. The knurled adjusting screws are conveniently reached from any shooting position, and the sight is a pleasure to use on the range. We shot a pattern similar to holes from a sewing machine needle stitched across the target face as a result of moving the adjusting screws equal amounts between shots. Four clicks moves the main point of impact from line to line on the metric targets.

The front sight is a clear glass disc, mounted in the steel tube on the muzzle sleeve. The glass has a ground center whose diameter subtends the diameter of the circular black aiming mark of the International targets. It does not mask the target but there is a clearly defined front sight. Tinted discs could be used if the shooter desired to reduce glare or gain sharper definition sometimes available through green or yellow filters.

We doubted the efficiency of this front sight prior to test firing the rifle—it didn't quite measure up to our concept of a sight, somehow. After a few rounds fired in sighting and in practice we were sold on the principle; the objection we first thought of was that there would be no reference point to indicate a canted hold of the rifle. Our theoretical objection proved groundless and we completed our testing series firmly convinced that the ground glass front sight is

all a match shooter could ask for. The rifle fits the shooter so perfectly that a canted hold would have to be deliberately introduced. Even then the result could easily be eliminated, provided only that the degree of cant remained constant throughout a series of shots. The line of sight is 1½ inches above the axis of the bore.

The detachable shooting accessories consist of two shoulder hook pieces, a forend hand piece, a palm rest and a sling swivel clip. The shoulder pieces are cast in aluminum; one for prone and the other for kneeling and standing. Either shoulder piece attaches to the butt plate mounting block by a tapered bolt. The standing-kneeling hook has two mounting slots to increase the range of adjustment. Either piece can be adjusted three ways on the butt plate and locked. The designer's creation for the standing and kneeling position shoulder piece is particularly realistic and practical; the broad tang surface supports the butt against the claval and contributes to the most comfortable off hand shooting we have experienced.

The left hand rest for standing is a welcome innovation. Other free rifles have a monstrosity at the balance which passed as a hand rest, but which looked more like a slightly tipsy two bladed aircraft propeller. Now Yovanovitch has produced a practical left hand rest for free rifles that actually fits the hand, can be adjusted three ways and positively locked, and provides the most comfortable support we have yet had the pleasure of seeing and using. The rest can be positioned in the rail under the forend and locked in place, the supporting shaft will telescope to adjust for height, and the palm ball can be tilted or rotated and clamped in any desired position.

The forend hand rest for prone and kneeling shooting is also carved from walnut. This rest can be clamped in any desired position on the forend. The sling swivel bracket may be attached to the forend hand rest or directly to the stock. The rest itself provides comfortable support for the left hand. There is a place for the thumb and a natural grip for the fingers. The front of the hand bears evenly against the shoulder of the hand rest, and the feeling of solid comfort is an inspiration to good shooting, either with or without the sling in position. The design of the hand rest avoids the need for shooting glove or gauntlet superfluous. The same statement could equally apply to the complete rifle with reference to a shooting jacket. With a Yovanovitch free rifle and accessories that fit comfortably, the normal clothing accessories are no longer required. The shooting jacket and glove can at last be discarded.

The rifle is not yet in production. Manufacturers and custom makers have shown an interest in the patented features. But all feel that the market does not now exist for production quantities of even this startling new free rifle, regardless of its general excellence and its marked improvements. The designer is a marksman with International honours, and also a contributor of technical articles to European shooting journals. Yovanovitch has made an exemplary contribution to free rifles shooting by producing his masterpiece. Perhaps the increasing popularity of International shooting throughout the continent will produce sufficient demand for free rifles to induce some firm to make this rifle—we need it.

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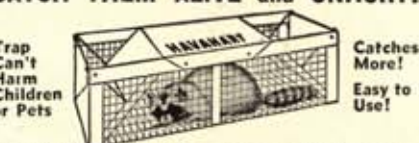
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GUNS OF THE FUTURE

(Continued from page 15)

such a rimless type shell, fitted into a bottle-neck chamber, might be swedged down to bore size as the bullet pulls it along the barrel. Whatever the final qualities of new cartridge developments, in another decade it will eliminate the mechanism and process of shell ejection.

As visualized here, the Missile-Rifle's curved titanium clip contains 36 rounds of ammunition. The hollow fore-grip and the pistol grip holds another twelve rounds—six in each. Extra ammunition, up to 38 rounds, could be stored in other vacant spaces in the butt. This, to compensate for added ammunition weight, is foam plastic, moulded around a titanium skeleton to give it strength for "butt down" flopping on the ground. The type of plastic might be 40 per cent lighter than that used in the Arma-lite foam-stock rifles. Thus the Missile-Rifle will carry more shots than any other hand-held weapon in history, roughly 86 rounds. One variety of clip may be triangle-shaped instead of curved, to contain an even greater number of rounds. The triangular shape would also serve as a rest for aimed shooting. The stock should be straight, with a high sight line. This shape is necessary for a fast-firing full-automatic weapon. (The straight line stock is embodied in the U.S. General Purpose M60 machine gun and its predecessors; also the British EM2 rifle, and the Arma-lite weapon.)

Our Missile-Rifle of the future has a one or two ounce recoil compensator reducing kick by about 90 per cent. This sounds a bit "Buck Rogerish" today. However, American science can take down the kick of a rifle by 90 per cent in the next 15 years if a little more attention is paid to the subject. The present day Arma-lite rifle has a recoil compensator that reduces kick by 40 per cent. The weight penalty is only six ounces. Certainly we can improve on that.

The Missile-Rifle will have a flash reducer, but probably not entirely in the forms known today. Instead, the bullets of this next age may have "gas whips" built into them. This "gas whip" could be a miniature pea-sized capsule of compressed gas in the tail of the bullet. As the bullet passes out of the end of the barrel the capsule of gas will burst, choking out the flame.

If the future bullet carries out a still-flaming shell case, it may be necessary to use a combination of the three-pronged flash

suppressor and some form of "gas whip." The principle of the "gas whip" has been tried, but its main weakness has been that it has raised a considerable volume of muzzle smoke, thereby making the weapon conspicuous in day-time combat. Yet there is a chance that a new gas or chemical can be used. This released gas might also help accelerate the propellant gas down the fixed gas pipe to drive the bolt carrier rearward, opening the breech, cocking the hammer, and reloading. As with the Arma-lite rifle, the breech block assembly would serve as a gas piston cylinder. Precisely made, the Missile-Rifle breech will be secure against dust, sand, mud, snow or water. Such serviceability will be an important feature of the weapon, in whose stock can be carried a few pellets of compressed air designed for rapid cleaning of barrel and bolt assembly in combat. The compressed air capsules can contain a bore cleaning chemical.

The absence of a cartridge case will create one problem, heat, although it will reduce mechanical complexity. The metallic case performs an important function of



Infra-red night scopes make soldiers better night fighters but are already passé.

ejecting considerable heat from the breech, heat which otherwise would be absorbed by the barrel. In the Missile-Rifle, the titanium barrel will be enveloped in a magnesium shell filled with a liquid chemical to cool the weapon. Heat mirage will also be reduced by the high sight position.

What about the missile-firing aspects of the future weapon of 1972? The gun itself will launch a small missile of the heat-homing type. The missile could "zero in" on any tank, truck, heat-producing engine or machine, once launched fairly accurately in the direction of the target. Either armor piercing or high explosive missiles would be available, about six per soldier. The launching device could be a "U" shaped flange on the rifle's right side. With one end

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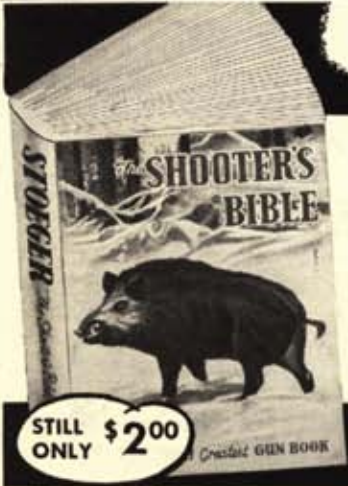
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lifted out and locked to the stock of the gun by a leg, the shooter need not be burned by rocket flash. Sliding a missile onto the "U" flange, the soldier will aim through a locking swivel sight that is twisted into position before firing. The barrel of the gun will therefore point about 15 degrees away from the target as the soldier aims the launching flange by the swivel sight.

Probably the Missile-Rifle will not be equipped with a miniaturized infra-red night seeing scope, although these are under development and have been subjected to field trial at this time. But by 1972, research may have surpassed the nighttime "snooper scope" principle. It is more likely that the American soldier will be equipped with a helmet having a night vision lens in his visor. Helmet-mounted infra-red binoculars are now under development by the Army.

Because of the tactical dispersion in any war fought with atomic weapons, troops will initially engage each other at long ranges. Commanders will be reluctant to concentrate their forces in groups large enough to make practical missile targets. Telescopic sights will be used here. However, once specific units get into a series of fluid battles, there will be a tendency of combatants to get close in to each other. Thus, individual rifles will any future conflict.

Available to the rifles will be soldier-carried bipods, and the combat units will carry extra tripods so as to mount these rifles for machine gun use.

The Missile-Rifle is going to have one other feature of importance. Soldiers and Marines are taking to helicopters, flying platforms, and aerocycles. They aren't going to fly these things without being able to shoot while in flight. So we may expect that the Missile-Rifle will be so fashioned as to be fastened into these air vehicles to fire when in flight. This means the weapon will have to have a sturdy barrel, because when the weapon is locked in to an aerial jeep it will have to fire like a machine gun. This weapon when fitted on to an air vehicle is going to be fed with a king size clip.

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Current U.S. developments must be classified, cannot be discussed in detail. But by taking a backward look at some lines of research which were started by the Germans during World War II, and are not classified, some not-so-wild surmises can be made about the shape of things to come. Certainly requirements for novel weapons will be repeatedly made on Ordnance by the Army Field Forces or other using arm. Some have already followed previous German research.

The German experimental wind gun was designed to bring down an airplane by shooting a plug of air at it. Unfortunately (or fortunately) this weapon produced no appreciable effect on aircraft at normal ranges. However, technicians at Hillersleben Proving Ground did state that the device could break one inch boards at a range of 200 meters. A mixture of hydrogen and oxygen was used as the energy for projecting the air plug.

The HDP Supergun was considered the most spectacular gun developed by Germany. Called *Hochdruckpumpe*, this exotic weapon was designed to fire an eight-foot long arrow-like projectile across the channel at London. This 15-cm. monster cannon was made up of 40 sections with 28 powder chambers distributed along its bore, the successive explosions to boost the 150 pound projectile. Muzzle velocity was 4500 feet per second. One battery near Calais, with a range of about 130 kilometers, was bombed out before it got into action, but tests of the weapon that were completed were considered successful.

As well as high velocity cannon, sound projecting "guns" may come as close as this century will see to the Buck Rogers "disintegrator rays." The Germans had one experimental sound weapon (with giant parabolic projectors) said to have been able to kill a man in 30 to 40 seconds at close range. At greater ranges, about up to 300 meters, American ordnance man General Leslie Simon states in his book "German Research in World War II," "the effect, although not lethal, would be very painful and would probably disable a man for an appreciable length of time. Vision would be affected, and low-level exposures would cause point sources of light to appear as

lines. The general opinion was that the military value of such a device was limited, to say the least, owing chiefly to the lack of range."

The wind gun, the sound gun, the gas-pipe plumber's nightmare of the HDP cannon, did not achieve battlefield success. But they did develop a body of research along unusual lines. Whether such fantastic philosophies are part of current American research plans cannot be published, but it is worth noting that our developments in the ICBM and other missile and rocket fields are based directly on the work of German scientists with the V2's of 1945. Certainly arms development, at Aberdeen, at Eglin Air Force Base, at our other research centers, and by private industry, is not standing still. New guns are needed.

There will be a need for guns that can be moved over ground by remote control to fire out of their bottoms and sides to break open the steel trap doors that shield the up-pointed missiles. But isn't there a cheaper way to neutralize such bases? Yes, if their locations are precisely known, they could be struck by other missiles. But the warring nations may be reluctant to use nuclear missiles—it would mean mutual cremation. And in a slow-developing war, these great missile bases could become the strategic pawns in a struggle wherein both sides would be reluctant to fire them.

But the struggles in, around, and for the big missile bases would only be a part of the conflict in any big war, because opposing military forces would be seeking to destroy each other. In such conflict, or in warfare of lesser proportions, men will meet men for purposes of destruction as well as possession. Missiles can only destroy, but men with missiles and hand guns can possess as well as destroy. Just as there is a future need for missiles, so will there be a future military need for soldier-carried weapons. Land must be possessed, not merely blasted.

If man ever has to fight in the much distant future he will go to war with missile bases at the rear and a small-arm weapon in his pocket or hands. The catapult and the cannon never outmoded the arrow and the rifle. The great ICBM missile will never outmode individual arms.



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ARE .410'S FOR DUCKS?

(Continued from page 21)

shoot, close decoying ducks with his 10 gauge Magnum. He had the best possible duck gun for the type of shooting he liked to do and was by nature qualified to do.

The gunner using the .410 gauge pump also collected a limit of ducks. He used 15 shells in the process, three less shells than the man using the 10 gauge Magnum. Put this gunner out along the foothills where the 10 gauge Magnum hunter shot the morning flight, and he would have been lost. Maybe he would have scratched down a couple of ducks, but he would have put shot in several which would have flown on to die later. But his choice of the .410 wasn't just a casual decision. It, like the 10 gauge Magnum, was a personal solution to a personal problem.

Here, again, a gunner was matching his own capabilities to his gunning. He stayed close in along the river, where the ducks came over the willows very low. He carefully placed his decoys upwind from his blind. And he waited out those 50 and 60 yard shots, until the ducks came in to less than 30 yards. Then, when all these gunning conditions were met, he stood up and fired three shots from a gun weighing about half that of the 10 gauge Magnum, using less than half its shot charge, but also at half the range. In short, this .410 gunner set up shooting conditions which made his small gauge the equal of that mighty 10 gauge Magnum.

But why? Wouldn't a 20 gauge have been more effective? Here again, was a gunner who matched his gun to his own gunning. He couldn't stand recoil or muzzle blast. It wouldn't help him in the least to have another gunner reassure him, telling him how comfortable a 12 or 20 is to shoot. He couldn't take recoil, and he didn't like muzzle blast and no amount of talking could change him. Moreover, he had very slow reflexes and needed a very lightweight gun to speed him up. All this he told me as he explained why he had dropped down through the gauges from 12 to 16 to 20 and finally to the .410. After selecting his .410, he became

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highly critical of decoy setups. He studied flight habits over the marshes he hunted, and he matched the limitations of his gun with shooting conditions where it would be most effective.

There are several points here which all shot gunners could consider with profit. First of all, this man had the problem of lead or forward allowance well under control, and for two good reasons. A duck moving along at 40 to 50 yards height is usually a fast bird. He is covering distance at 40 to 50 miles an hour. Some, like the teal or canvasback, are even faster. This means, roughly, that he is moving 60 to 75 feet per second. There is not one gunner in fifty who can consistently roll singles out of the sky at 55 to 60 yards, even with the best 10 gauge Magnum.

At 20 to 35 yards, however, you have a different duck, so to speak. He is coming in to the decoys. His wings are set, his tail flaired as he brakes, turning up slightly as he breasts the wind. Just a whisper of lead is sufficient, compared with those long leads at 50 to 60 yards. Most times, the width of a pattern covers the necessary lead at these shorter ranges, if the gunner is using a modified choke or an improved cylinder.

Well meaning but not too experienced experts often recommend that a gunner turn to the larger gauges as he grows older, when reflexes are slowed by age. The contrary approach to the problem is much more logical. There will come a time when the gunner using a 10 gauge Magnum will do better shooting with a standard 12 gauge weighing 7½ pounds or so. If a shotgunner finds he is not getting onto his ducks quite so readily as formerly, he had better go to a lighter gun within the gauge he is now using. If he still finds time crowding him on his second shot, drop down a gauge and go to a still lighter gun.

From a 12 gauge, weighing 7½ to 8 pounds, to a 20 gauge weighing a scant 6 pounds, is quite a step. But it is surprising how often it will speed up lagging reactions, clipping off yards from the range at which the gunner is taking his ducks. Never mind the advice you get about the merits of this or that gauge, except as they apply directly to your own individual shooting problem.

For the average duck hunter, a light 12 gauge is an excellent choice. That many gunners have discovered this is indicated by the sale of 12 gauge guns. Yet, after this is said, one may logically add that for some gunners, shooting both duck and geese, a 20 gauge would be even better. It all depends on the gunner himself.

When duck shooting is examined in the light of gunner limitations, the problem of proper shot sizes begin to make sense, too. Why is it that one duck hunter *knows* there is nothing like number 4 shot for all duck shooting, while another hunter, equally experienced, *knows* there is nothing better than 7½ shot? It would appear that the collective experience of all wildfowlers would indicate one best shot size for ducks. And it would—except for the personal equation.

The average duck hunter favors number 6 shot, just as he favors the 12 gauge. The two do make a deadly combination for most duck shooting. But, again, as in the case of the gauges, there are any number of gunners using number 6 shot who would be better served with some other size. For

proper shot size, like proper gauge, depends on the type of shooting.

That gunner using the 10 gauge Magnum out there where the ducks take a long sweep close to the foothills, coming over the blind well up toward the 60 yard mark, has no place for ultra small shot in his gunning. His selection of 5's was a wise choice, and 4's might be even better due to better retained energy. But a selection of proper shot for this shooting doesn't automatically make 5's or 4's the best choice for all situations.

When you bring your ducks in to around 35 yards by careful decoying and calling, 7½ size shot is an excellent choice. By the same token, when you come down in gauge from a 12 to a 20, it is advisable to make a reduction in shot sizes, especially if you have favored 4's and 5's in your 12 gauge. There is an obvious thinning out of the shot pattern in the smaller gauges which should be compensated by reducing shot sizes.

The 20 gauge standard Magnum loading, using 1½ ounces of number 6 shot has 250 pellets in the charge. This same type standard Magnum load in the 12 gauge, using 1½ ounces of number 5 shot, has 255 pellets. When a gunner uses the 20 gauge standard Magnum load of size 6 shot, he has a pat-



tern density about equal that of the 12 gauge with a standard Magnum load of number 5 shot. In exchange for this pattern density, he is giving up about three yards or so of effective range.

Take another example in these same two gauges. This time a gunner is shooting a standard Magnum load of 1½ ounces of number 4 shot in his 12 gauge. Here he has a shot charge of 202, for those long 60 yard shots. Another gunner, using his light 20 gauge, standard Magnum loading of 1½ ounce of number 5 shot, has almost equal pattern density, with a loading of 190 pellets.

True, the 20 gauge gunner is giving up a few yards of range; but by using a lighter gun, he is able to get on his targets about 5 yards faster than with the heavier 12. This compensates for his loss of range.

That .410 gauge gunner, using 7½ ounces of shot, was throwing a pattern density equal to the 12 gauge standard Magnum load of 1½ ounces of number 5 shot, there being 260, 7½ shot in the .410 gauge charge.

All wildfowl gunning problems cannot be solved by going to smaller shot sizes. Sometimes the contrary approach is the solution. Again, it depends on the gunner. When that 10 gauge gunner knocked a limit of ducks out of the sky, he had a balanced outfit from gun to shot size, all carefully matched to his type of shooting. And that is the important consideration. When someone arbitrarily selects the best shot size for your duck shooting, and the best gauge, he has more shooting opinion than experience to back it up. All gauges and shot sizes, as well as degrees of choke, are good selections for duck shooting, if they are properly matched to the hunters using them.

SHOTGUNS IN INDO-CHINA

(Continued from page 18)

a veritable storm of leaves from the branches as he bored through. In a trice he had placed a tree between us while I gaped in astonishment and admiration. That bird had fully a 5-foot tail streaming out behind him, presenting such a picture of winged beauty that I shall not soon forget.

It was a peacock, a great old rooster, regal in full plumage. He had raised within a dozen feet and I could have shot him twice over had I not been so stunned. I was glad afterward that I had been shocked to inaction. Peacock I shot after that, many of them; but the memory of that first great, gaudy cock will ever remain the most vivid.

Snipe, I learned quickly, were found where little mounds of earthen balls the size of marbles dotted the marshland. These infinitesimal hillocks were cast up by a great worm, a worm of the angle family but running magnificently to thyroid. The probing beak of the snipe bored deeply into these mounds and he feasted greedily.

"Ten-lo 'clock, gu'd times shoots s-s-nipes," Chi suggested. "S-s-nipes hungly then. But mus' hunts with sun at black. S-s-nipes have veely blig eyes. When sun shines in eye, no can see hunter."

So we hung Old Sol over our left shoulders and waded into such myriads of upland game as I had never seen before. At times we had Ken, our G-string retriever, seeking as many as five long-bills at one time.

Coursing the marsh, in water of shoe-top depth, we skirted a herd of forty buffalo. The great beasts lifted their heads and regarded us with menacing curiosity. The wind fortunately was in our favor, else we'd have been foolhardy to have trod out thus blithely. Even as things were, we moved with caution, working to the solid wall of the jungle a full kilometer to the west. Then we angled back crowding the tangle of vine and fern and this time approached our birds from a different quarter, but careful, as before, to work out of the sun. In 50 minutes we collected 40 of the zig-zagging aerialists.

Returning to the jeep, I swept the hunting grounds with a warm and appreciative eye. Surely, I told myself, this cannot be central Indo-China. The scene might well have been laid in the Tidelands of Virginia, or the marsh country of Louisiana, or Georgia. Except, that is, for the slowly closing crescent of great backswept horns where the buffalo, getting our wind now and not liking the smell of it, were edging in to give us a closer inspection. You don't have to worry about buffalo in Georgia; and, now that I think of it, might have been except that my Oriental comrades-at-arms didn't look much like Virginia planters, either. Just to accent the difference, as we pulled back to the jeep we inspected the pug marks of a great cat directly atop our tire markings, all made within the hour. "Leopa'd," Chi grunted, barely glancing at the spoor. "Him clum' fin' clipples."

From Saigon south to the Bay of Siam, and from the South China Sea on the one quarter to the unfriendly borders of Cambodia on the other, South Viet Nam is one great rice paddy. During the monsoon it is inundated and the roads fail and all movement, practically, is by water. Here is food, cover, water, and no gunning; everything,

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you could think, to draw annual migrations of millions of waterfowl. Here, I thought, would be the duck shooter's Happy Hunting Ground. And so I frantically gathered shotshells, and waited. And waited. And waited. After a solid year I am still waiting. But I am no longer hopeful.

With everything to offer a wandering goose, we have no geese. With a made-to-order mallard paradise, there are no mallards. True, there are a few thousands of ducks just sixty minutes below Saigon as I write. But the silly things are non-migratory. They don't save this business of winging up to Red China for a few months to take care of this nest-building dodge, then winging back again when the paddies are flowing with rice and food is for the gobbling. Nope, they just stay put, the year around. This has been a great disappointment to me in a land which has dished up very few frustrations in the fields of gunning.

We have also that gaudy progenitor of all barnyard fowl, the jungle cock. He is of a size to be a twin to his domestic Bantam counterpart. As for color, he outrivals Cinemascope, and he flies with a wing-beat that puts to shame the rangiest Dakota pheasant. And he is forever as alert as a Nike search-radar. His mate is a drab, shy little chick in no wise as handsome as her lord but a first-class gunning target for all that. Like

the dove the jungle chicken is much given to searching for gravel along the surfaced roads and it is commonplace to count 50 of them during a jeep jaunt of 25 kilometers.

Sitting over a tiger bait the other morning, in my *mirador* (blind) on the ground and some 20 steps removed from the malodorous remains of two maggot-riddled elephants, I was entertained by a lusty pipsqueak of a rooster whose plumage put to shame the most pristine hues of the rainbow as it caught and turned the first rays of the probing sun. With him was a little harem of six skittish biddies, some of them old dowagers who, like old hens the world over, clucked disapprovingly as they went about the business of getting breakfast, and some young chicks were given to fitting their tails saucily under the Old Boy's nose. The hens seemed to think that the largest and most succulent leeches were to be found in the darkest shadows on the flanks of the puny clearing. But papa explained, with many scoldings and cluckings, that a leopard might even then be lurking in those murky patches. He might have been surprised how far this leopard could reach if I had been armed for something other than tiger.

Another time, I was shooting jungle-fowl on the Plateau of Plei Ku. This tableland, some dozen kilometers north of the village of the same name, is a country that had me pinching myself to be sure I was indeed in Indo-China and not back again near Raymondville, gunning over those vast acres that are a part of the mighty King Ranch.

The plateau where I tramped might well have been lifted from the very center of that famous Texas cow pasture. Here was

a dense but not too dense stand of brush, most surely first cousin to the Texas chaparral. Here was a flatness and a broadness of space that blotted out all comforting landmarks and, unless the hunter was equipped with some manner of built-in radar, might soon have him lost and floundering. Here was the same short but luxuriant stand of what appeared to be Grama grass. And on occasion, when you rounded a clump of brush you found yourself looking right down the throat of the huge and only partly domesticated Asian buffalo—not more startling than coming face to face with the giant Santa Gertrudis beef critters originated and bred by the Kleburg dynasty. Part Brahma, from the high-humped Ganges bovine notable for temper, with a mixture of Black Angus with maybe a dash of Texas longhorn, the Santa Gertrudis looks only slightly less poisonous than the great black buffalo.

But the chickens were there in quantity and I gunned them through a blissful afternoon and until late evening when, with much scurrying, they executed one last concerted assault on the weed-grain and the big-as-your-thumb hairy caterpillars. In minutes my game would have flown to roost.

I had moved perhaps a short kilometer since dropping a single old cock. Gun stilled and treading soundlessly, I edged around a clump, intent on poking into a little clearing that I could see through the trees.

I swept around the last bits of foliage and, gun at the ready, surveyed the brush-free opening. There wasn't a jungle cock in sight—and for good reason. There, precisely in the middle of that two-by-four amphitheater was the biggest tiger I have ever seen!

He stood four feet at the shoulders and

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to the top of his head had at least another 16 inches of elevation. He was as long as a Lincoln Continental and his stripes shone and glistened like he'd just had the works at the corner barber shop.

We were maybe five paces apart. We were so close I could look him in the eye, and I remember thinking I didn't have to look down much to do it. He never once blinked those glittering yellow orbs. They were locked on me like a fix-radar. He just stood and surveyed me, and I stood and surveyed him, wondering if a load out of the Browning would get there in time to blind him.

Five paces is awfully close!

The gun was stuffed with No. sevens-and-a-half backed by a peewee charge of 2 3/4 drams of powder; a load quite popular with skeet and trap shooters but never recommended for tiger. While standing there wondering what Stripes' intentions might be, it ran through my mind that, if I survived this, I'd dash off a note to Val Browning, suggesting he might give some thought to adding another cartridge to the capacity of this new Double Automatic of his; a cartridge maybe of fifty-some-odd caliber!

It seemed a long time that the old Bengal and I stared at each other. In retrospect, I have decided that it probably wasn't more than half a dozen seconds. However long it was, the great cat finally turned his head, a bit disdainfully it seemed to me, and without a backward glance stalked into the bush. Mumbling to himself, perhaps, something about "Just one of those damned humans, blundering around! Not big enough to be dangerous—and not really worth killing. The meat's tough, they tell me. And they do smell something awful."

ARE BOLT ACTIONS OBSOLETE?

(Continued from page 38)

by me alone in a vacuum—it represented a fair sampling of factory rifles of different designs, shot by a small group of better than average riflemen.

There is always some guy around any range who has a shooting coat loaded with patches, and always says "Oh, yea, I got one of them at home, too." This character inevitably showed up and started to comment on the new Balvar scope which I clipped onto the top of the first rifle. Bearing in mind that this fine scope lists at about \$160 each, considerably more than some of the guns we were shooting, it always struck me as strange that such a shooter would own one of these scopes and not have it with him at the range. His eyes bugged a little when we dragged the second scope out of the bag and fixed it tightly on another rifle. His jaw hung when we pulled out the third scope, and as we ranged the fourth, fifth, and sixth scopes on top of the shooting table ready to put them on, his conversation sort of dwindled off to nothing and he shuffled off to bother someone else about "Oh, yea, I got one of them at home."

Because the scopes were big, and fairly heavy we discovered something about the relation between scope inertia and total inertia of the gun in recoil. The scope blocks, unless really snugged down tight, would definitely loosen up. For example, Rifle C, the cheapest bolt action, was very easy to bore-sight—all the bolt guns were simple to bore sight, for that matter. But I wasted nearly a box of shells sighting in before I realized that the scope was shaking loose

because it represented nearly a third of the mass of the gun in recoil. After the screws were really set up tightly in the mounts, no more trouble was experienced. In several trips to the range, often using the scopes as handles to drag the guns in and out of the car by, they stood the test perfectly. No change in scope zero was experienced from rough handling.

We fired the rifles all at 100 and 200 yards, learning what to expect from them, and ended up with our "hunter's test." This is a nine-shot group consisting of three separate three-shot groups, with a wait between each of the three-shot groups for the barrels to cool. This was fired at 100 yards. Final performance of the rifles, with scope magnification allowing no error, was:

Rifle A Varminter, 7/8 inch, center to center of widest shots.

Rifle B Featherweight, 2 7/8 inches, 7 shots in 1 3/8 inches.

Rifle D Lever action, 2 7/8 inches, 7 shots in 1 3/8 inches.

Rifle C Bolt action, 24/16 inches, 7 shots in 15/16 inches.

Rifle E Automatic, 111/16 inches.

Rifle F Pump action, 4 inches.

On the whole, this is not bad work for

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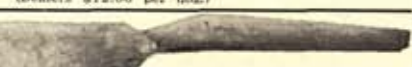


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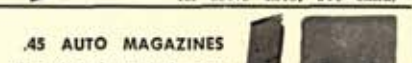
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factory guns using factory ammunition. Even
Rifle F, the least accurate of the lot, is
amply accurate for deer and similar game
at reasonable ranges. However, the accuracy
and power potential of the ammunition these
guns are chambered for is going to be a
strong temptation to their owners to try
them at much longer ranges.

We diagnosed the bolt action Rifle B
Featherweight as suffering from bedding
troubles, a common enough occurrence in any
factory rifle. Right on the bench, we stripped
her down and located several high spots in
the barrel channel. These were evened out
with an old Herter's scraper dug out of our
shooting kit, and the outfit was put back
together. Our groups immediately tightened
by almost an inch; still not quite good
enough. Further examination showed that
the recoil lug was not touching the stock at
all. Since this was a job that required a
little glass bedding, we returned the rifle
to the rack, and turned to the lever action,
Rifle D. It, too, showed high spots on one
side of the barrel channel. Regulating these
new lever guns, with their one piece stocks
tied down with a fore arm screw, takes more
time and ammunition than we had for these
tests, but it can be done. Another of the
same model that we had in .308 caliber was
tinkered by George Pearsall of Armsco into
a true minute-and-a-half-of-angle gun.

The heavy barreled Rifle A Varminter
was one of the few guns I have bought
across the counter that gave dependable
minute of angle groups. The bolt action
Rifle C, despite its lowest price, showed up
better in later tests using the .244 90 grain
ammunition, turning in several groups that
ran under an inch and a half. It would not,
however, handle the 75 grain loads well at
all. The .244 autoloading Rifle E stayed un-
der two inches all through the tests, but
the Rifle F pump gun strung its shots up
and down the target no matter what we
tried. Where do we start tinkering to get
accuracy out of the pump gun? I don't
know, and neither does the corner gunsmith.

This, I think, is one of the main points
against the lever, pump, and auto rifles. The
manufacture of an accurate rifle involves
dozens of critical tolerances, all difficult to
produce without expensive hand fitting. With
the current squeeze between a highly com-
petitive market and rising labor costs, it is
only natural that the action the factories are
most experienced with will, on the average,
be the most accurate. True, some variations
of the other actions have been in produc-
tion for as long or longer than the bolt guns,
but only in brush-gun calibers.

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regulation. It is a rare rifle that will shoot, out of the carton, as well as it should and could shoot. If you do happen to get a bolt gun that is not quite up to snuff, you can turn it over to any gunsmith and be sure that he is working with the action that he cut his teeth on. The more complicated lever, pump, and autos, with entirely new problems for the manufacturer and gunsmith, are bound to be less uniformly accurate than the bolt guns, and more difficult and expensive to work over.

Further, all of these other actions have relatively poor trigger pulls and are subject to variations in forearm tension. These things could be coddled and compensated for on the bench, but they showed up badly in field positions and on moving game.

For the average hunter, then, interested in a rifle that will give maximum performance from modern high intensity cartridges, the bolt action is still tops, preferably in a medium to heavy weight gun.

There is another good reason the bolt gun will be with us for some time. For lack of a better word, let's call it convenience. The handloader, for instance, depends largely on the terrific camming power of the bolt action to insert his reloaded cases, neck sized only. He can resize full length, of course, and he'll have to if he uses maximum loads in the lever, pump, or autos; but it's more convenient and economical, to neck size only.

Then there is maintenance during the hunt. I haven't been so unfortunate as to lose a rifle overboard from a canoe, or drop one in mud or snow, but if I ever do I'll try to make sure it's a bolt action that can be stripped to the last spring and screw with only the tools that can be found in any hunter's kit. I have managed to stumble and ram four inches of snow and mud into the muzzle, pushing it out from the breech end with a switch cut from a nearby thicket. I probably could have worried it thicker from the muzzle, too, as I would have had to do with a lever or auto action, but it was nice not to have to dump all that garbage into the chamber and machinery.

In my opinion, as a hunting rifle, any military bolt action Mauser including the Jap Arisaka is as effective as any of the commercial sporting weapons tested. The bolt action in commercial form incorporates a rather complicated and delicate adjustable trigger which, under adverse conditions, such as dropping it over the side of a canoe, forms a weak link in the ruggedly practical design. The whole purpose of this simple and strong action, reliability, is compromised by fragile foofaraw.

As woodchuck guns for shooting fanatics who maintain their rifles in mint condition,



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MODEL 92 MARLIN	
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(Few other obsolete Marlin barrels, write wants)

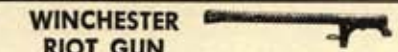


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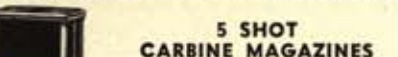


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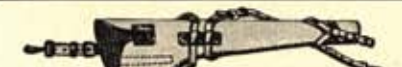
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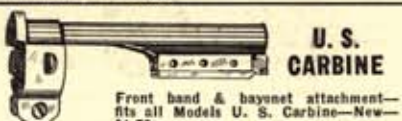
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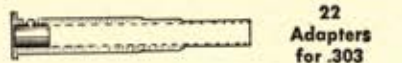
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extra machinery has a definite place. But there is a lot of junk associated with a man in the woods, such as lint and tobacco crumbs, or just plain mud. For rifles which have to sleep around in a half inch of dew in the bottom of the boat, or perhaps be abused by lying on the floor of a car muddied by trackers' boots, delicacy in a firearm has no place. It's convenient, too, to have an action that any competent gunsmith can rebarrel for any cartridge I choose, without the delay and expense of factory fitting.

What about that fast second shot? Isn't there someplace where the bolt gun isn't supreme? Sure, that fast second shot is important, but in most hunting, the fast second shot is most important at close range. The last time I hunted the heavy brush in Wisconsin, I checked out the guns in our drive as we went into the cars. They were: three lever-action M94s, two of the old Model 8 or 81 pumps, one 7.62 mm Tokarev semi-



Erfurth tries "Rifle C" from bag rest.

auto (mine), one vintage Savage bolt action .30-06, and one Savage M99 .303. In the woods, I saw everything from a Colt Burgess .38-40 lever action to a Model '86 lever rifle in .33 caliber. It was all snap shooting pure and simple, with only a rare shot as far as 100 yards. The idea was to tag your deer somewhere forward with that first shot, knock him down and slow him up enough so you could pour in one or two more. Under those conditions the lead squitters had the field to themselves. Chambered for real

brush cartridges and in the hands of men who knew how to use them, they were just right.

But the modern lead slingers are being chambered and sold in calibers with long range accuracy potentials. At least one prominent gun sport publication has called the .243 cartridge an adequate elk and moose cartridge at 500 yards! This is ballistics theory, of course, not practical hunting; but even at common long hunting ranges, say 300 yards or a little more, your second shot becomes almost worthless.

Let's look at this second shot business sensibly. It is true that deer and antelope fired on at extreme ranges do not always explode into action; that they sometimes mill around a bit, trying to identify the source of danger. But a deer, even at a gentle walk, is travelling five or six feet per second, and it takes even the hot shoi .243 caliber 100 grain bullet about a half second to cover 400 yards, which means that you have at least a three foot lead on any moving animal. If your buck really gets his wind up and takes off for California, he may be travelling up to 45 mph., or 66 feet per second, which means your lead on a straight crossing shot will be just 33 feet. Of course, a deer can change his mind and his direction in less than half a second, so even if you have this fantastic lead doped out correctly, it is still easy to miss by ten feet. To make things harder, that super velocity cartridge has lost much of its punch out at these quarter mile ranges, and a hit in the guts will get you just what a hit in the guts will get you from a .25-35 at close range—a tough tracking job and most likely a lost and fatally wounded animal.

If you are hunting in country where these long shots must be taken, your best bet is to get a rifle that will put that first careful shot right in the groove, a bolt action, and practice with it at these extreme ranges. If you, your gun, and your cartridge all do your part, there won't be need for any fast second shot.

PARTING SHOTS



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Swiss Mountaineer Sporting carbine. This is the famous rifle as above modified for hunting use with 22" barrel, stock shortened and refinished, fitted with sling swivel, making a fine 7 3/4 lb. super accurate hunting rifle. Bores are like new.

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The famous rifle much used by the French Foreign Legion. Mannlicher Berthier, 31" barrel handling the powerful 8mm Lebel cartridge, available in either 3 or 5 shot model, each gun furnished with proper clip; a simple, reliable, and sturdy bolt action rifle in very good condition. \$19.95 including 100 rds. of FREE Ammo. Regulation long, thin bayonet, \$4.

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NORWEGIAN KRAG CARBINE

First available to the American shooter, original Norwegian Krag carbine, caliber 6.5mm, 5 shot bolt action, 24" barrel; one of the smoothest working actions ever designed. These fine rifles are very clean but bores look peppery due to use of corrosive primers, but rifles are nevertheless extremely accurate. \$19.95. Military ammo., \$7.50 per 100. Softnose ammo., \$2.95 per 20.

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8mm MANNLICHER RIFLE

8mm Mannlicher straight pull bolt action short rifle modified at European arsenals to handle the standard 8mm Mauser rimless (7.92 x 57) Mauser cartridge as loaded by all American cartridge factories; 24" barrel, 5 shot magazine, redesigned so that separate loading clips are no longer necessary, bores good to very good, \$19.95.

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SWISS VETTERLI RIFLE

Swiss Vetterli bolt action rifle Model 1878, 8 shot tubular magazine, caliber .41 R.F., good to very good condition, \$12.95. Angular bayonet to fit above, no scabbard, \$1.25. Special engineer's model sawtooth bayonet, no scabbard, \$2.95. For model with double set hair triggers, \$15.95.

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GOOD COND. \$19.95

Fires easily obtainable 9MM Luger ammo (Parabellum). Clip included. WW II German Army officer's sidearm. 8-shot. 5 1/4" bbl. **VERY GOOD \$27.95**



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Late model Mannlicher Carcano carbines; caliber 7.35mm barrel, 6 shot magazine, bolt action, very good condition. An inexpensive rifle for the hunter, \$12.95. Special select grade as new \$17.95. Military issue ammunition on clips, 54 rounds, \$3.40. Softnose ammunition for hunting, \$2.85 per 20.

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REMINGTON 7mm RIFLE

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French Model Remington 1902 rifle as above but chambered for the 8mm Lebel cartridge, very good condition, \$22.95, good to very good, \$18.95.



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7mm Mauser cartridge; bolt action cocks on close of bolt, 5 shot magazine. While bores are only fair, guns are still in good shooting order and sufficiently accurate for ordinary hunting ranges, stock marred from use but sound, worth the price of the action, \$14.95. 7mm Mauser military ammunition \$7.50 per 100 rounds. Soft nose hunting ammo; box of 20, \$2.95. Original bayonet for above, no scabbard, \$2.95.

WITH ALL MILLED PARTS



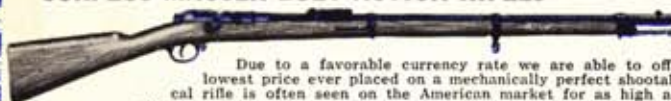
SPECIFICATIONS: Model: '03; Bbl.: 24", 4 groove (not 2 groove); Sights: Famous Springfield sights adjustable to 2700 yds. Windage and elevation; Stocks: Gov't selection American Walnut; Caliber: 30/06; Numbers: all high numbers; Packing: Guns shipped to us in orig. army cosmoline. We degrease and oil lightly. Shipped in heavy duty protective packing case. **ALL MILLED PARTS:** no hurry-up war time stampings. Wt.: approx 8½ lbs.; Ship. Wt.: 10 lbs.

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HUNTERS!

SURPLUS MAUSER BOLT ACTION RIFLES



Cal. 45 (11MM) Mauser 7-shot action rifles made in Germany.

Due to a favorable currency rate we are able to offer you this fine rifle at the lowest price ever placed on a mechanically perfect shootable hunting rifle. This identical rifle is often seen on the American market for as high as \$24.95. As a hunting and shooting weapon it is excellent with superb Mauser workmanship throughout. Boreas guar. N.R.A. Fair to Good. Full European walnut stocks. We have a few guns selected for specially good exteriors which we are selling for \$14.95.

AMMUNITION FOR ABOVE 11MM MAUSER RIFLE, SPECIAL: \$7.50 per 100 rds.

\$9.95

JUST IN: GERMAN ARMY RIFLES



The famous German MAUSER MODEL 88 — 5-shot bolt action rifle, cal. 8MM.

Calibrated sights. Boreas guar. N.R.A. Good. Full walnut stocks, a fine hunting weapon as is or may be easily converted to a sporter. Fine German workmanship. of course. We have a few Model 88's selected for good exteriors which we are selling for \$16.95.

AMMUNITION FOR ABOVE 8MM MAUSER RIFLE, SPECIAL: \$7.50 per 100 rds.

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SPECIAL BARGAIN OFFER: BOTH ABOVE RIFLES

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7.5 Swiss

Others have tried to obtain this but only Golden State can offer this fine original Swiss ammunition for use in Schmidt-Rubin rifles and "Mountaineer Sporters." Others may offer you the rifles but only Golden State has both ammunition and rifles. **Military, \$9.50 — Softnose, \$3.25**

7.62 Russian

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7.35 Terni

You know the quality of our Terni ammunition. We ship it on clips in original boxes. **Military, \$6.00 — Softnose, \$2.85**

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8mm Mauser ".318"

The only ammunition safe for use with the Model 88 Mauser rifle. Has the special .318 bullet for perfect accuracy and safety. Shipped with original clips. May also be used in Model 98 Mausers. **Military, \$7.50**

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8mm Lebel

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11mm Mauser

For use with Model 71 and Model 71/84 "Big 11" Mauser rifles. Also will fit certain rolling block rifles. This is original German manufacture with beautiful paper patched solid lead bullets and is going fast. **Softnose, \$10.00**

11mm Mannlicher

For Model 1886 straight pull Mannlicher rifle and Werndl rifles. Some split necks but all sure-fire with original clips. **Military, \$7.50 — Softnose, \$2.95**

44-40

Original Winchester, 50 round boxes. Black powder rounds with solid lead bullets for use in Model 73 Winchesters and other vintage weapons. **Softnose, \$4.95**

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Manufactured to highest U. S. Government specifications, metal jacketed, non-corrosive, brass cased, in original 50 round cartons. Shoot the best for the price of steel cased ammunition. **\$6.00**

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This has been hard to get for years. We have choice and world famous F.N. manufactured Steyr auto pistol ammunition in original 25 round boxes. **\$4.95 for 100 rds.**

We maintain a complete stock on all commercial, reloaded and surplus military ammo, plus all the "hard-to-get" ammo.



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