

FEBRUARY 1961 50c

HUNTING • SHOOTING • ADVENTURE

# Guns



HOW TO STOP  
GUN ACCIDENTS

NEW PUNCH  
FOR OLD THIRTIES

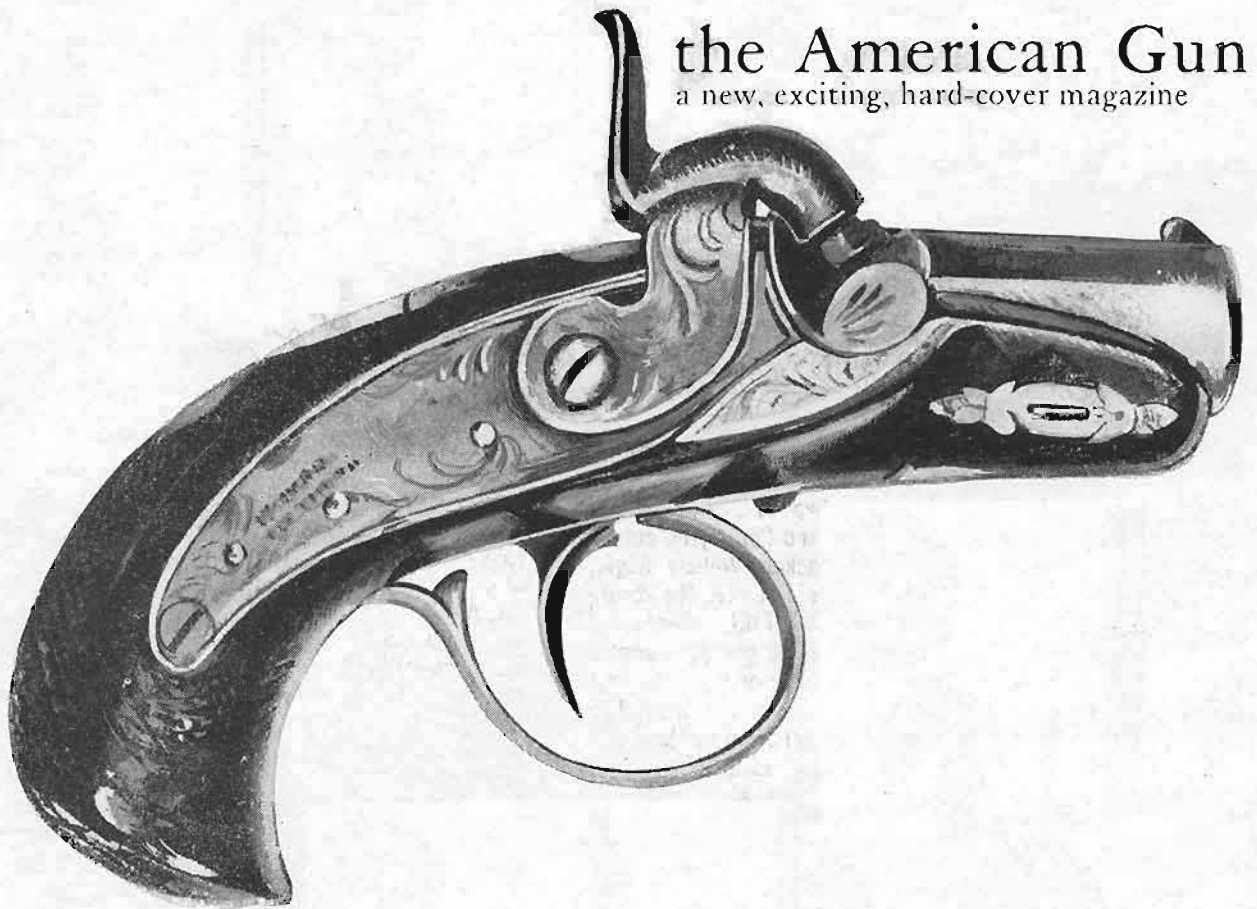


**TOUGHEST TARGET in the SKY**

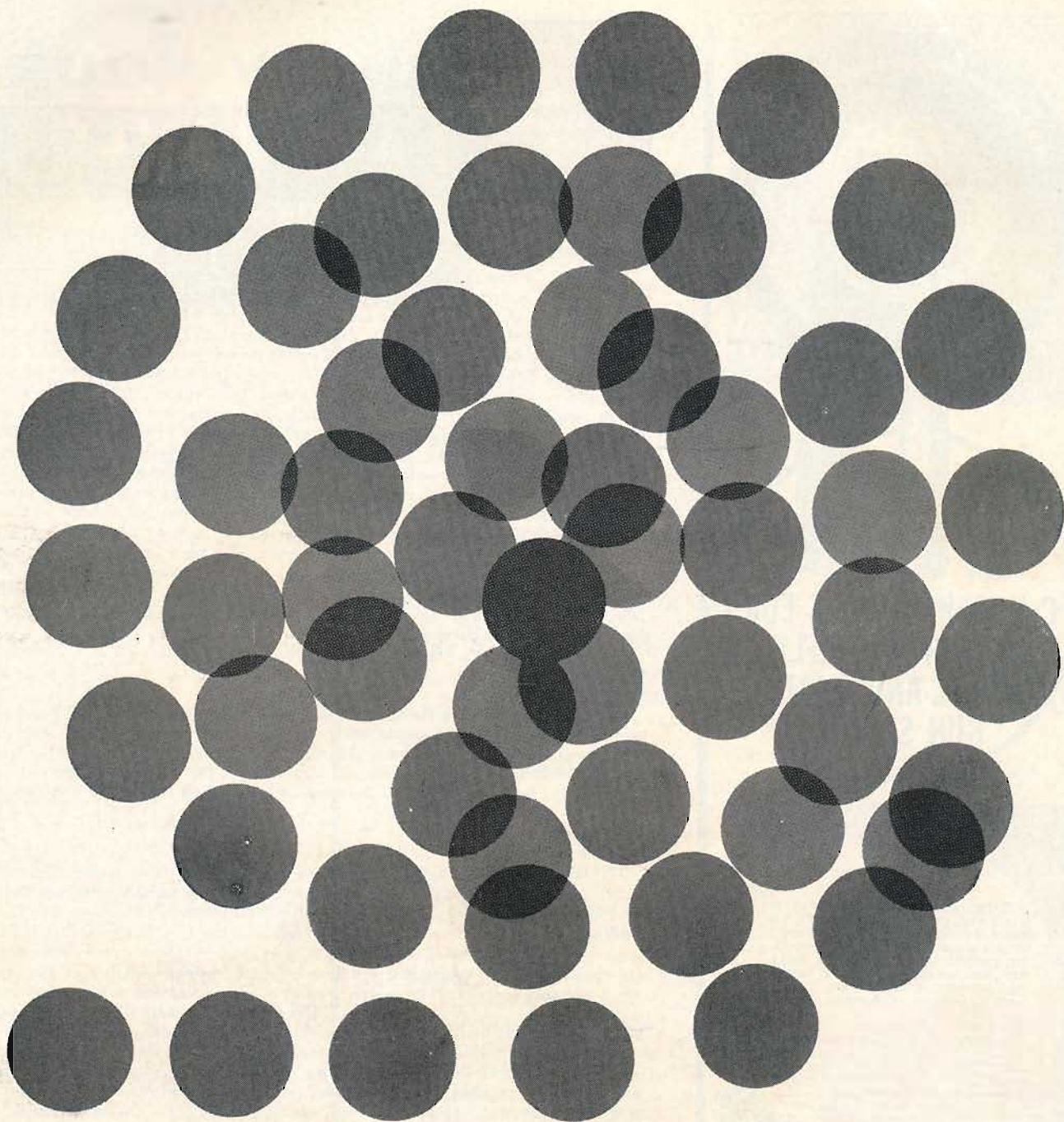


# the American Gun

a new, exciting, hard-cover magazine







Something sensational was bound to happen when men like Larry Sheerin, Herb Glass, Larry Koller, and Don Myrus got together with Lucian Cary, Harold McCracken, William Ruger, James Serven and Roy Weatherby. It was sure-fire. The result: a new concept in gun lore, **THE AMERICAN GUN**, a hard-cover magazine that re-creates the meaning of the gun as a symbol of masculine vigor, of hallowed deeds by the brave, of the defense of life and family, or the excitement of the hunt. **THE AMERICAN GUN** is a four-times-a-year periodical on gun lore, gun collecting, gun history and gun usage. Overall 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ " size, high quality paper, lavish, full-color illustrations, stimulating text... all combine into "trophy" proportions for your library! Let **THE AMERICAN GUN** carry you through our great wars and deadly Indian conflicts — help you share the lives of the hard men who shoot for a living — sweat out the birth pangs of the Brownings, the Colts, the Remingtons, the Winchesters — pick out Custer's hunting weapons, stagecoach armament, and the guns of Lewis and Clark.

Each issue of **THE AMERICAN GUN** will have a main theme — for the first issue it is the Civil War. From the single ball of a sniper's bullet, to the really big cannons that Robert Bruce writes of in "Artillery on Land and Sea", the gunsmoke will rise from **THE AMERICAN GUN**. Continuing features will be big-game hunting, evaluation of modern firearms, book bonuses of excerpts from famous hunting and shooting literature of the past. Yes, everything that has ever had meaning to any man of discriminating taste who has an interest in guns or sports will be presented by gun experts, hunters and collectors in vivid, illustration-packed style.

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## KNOW YOUR LAWMAKERS

**Hon. Price Daniel**  
Governor of Texas

I DO NOT believe that the laws of Texas infringe in any way on the constitutional right to keep arms for protection or for the legal purposes of hunting, collecting, target shooting, etc. We do have a law requiring a person to have a certificate of good character to purchase a pistol. The Attorney General of Texas has recently held this law unenforceable because of a technical defect pointed out by our Court of Criminal Appeals. The Attorney General has called for a new law regulating the sale of pistols. He considers unrestricted sale and possession of these weapons to be one reason for the increasing murder rate. His recommendation proposes the licensing of pistol dealers by the State; banning of sales to minors, persons of unsound mind, chronic alcoholics, narcotics addicts, those previously imprisoned for crimes in which a deadly weapon was used, or persons under the influence of narcotics; and establishing a 48-hour waiting period between the time a buyer makes application to purchase and actual delivery of the weapon. The latter would permit time for a check on the purchaser, as well as providing a "cooling off" period.

Law enforcement officers in our State likewise see a need for legislation to require purchasers of concealed weapons to show that they are law-abiding citizens and providing for adequate records of purchases. In the interest of good law enforcement, I favor such regulation and do not see in it any infringement on the right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes.

**Hon. Buford Ellington**  
Governor of Tennessee

OUR TENNESSEE Legislature will convene in January, but I have not heard of any proposed legislation which would affect the right of the citizen to bear arms. I am sure that if any severe limitation of this right is proposed, the members of the General Assembly will view it with caution, not only because that right is guaranteed by the Constitution, but because many thousands of our people enjoy the firearms sport.

**Hon. David L. Lawrence**  
Governor of Pennsylvania

THERE ARE MANY LAWS throughout our State pertaining to firearms, and the individual and group opinions concerning such laws are as equally numerous. In 1943, the Pennsylvania General Assembly approved what is commonly known as the "Uniform Firearms Act." Permit me to call your attention to the fact, however, that individual possession is not prohibited, but regulated. It is doubted that any constitutional rights are violated, and to the best of my knowledge, the constitutionality of the law has never been challenged in our courts. Pennsylvania, as you know, is a great hunting state—more than one million resident citizens and almost fifty thousand nonresidents participate in this healthful outdoor recreation each year. It seems to me, therefore, that the right to bear arms and the opportunities to enjoy such healthful recreational opportunities should be preserved. During the practical administration of the law, it is often found that changes are warranted, and it is possible that the "Uniform Firearms Act" may, too, require occasional revision to maintain its effectiveness in the best interests of the citizens of this Commonwealth.

**Hon. Paul Fannin,**  
Governor of Arizona

AS A LONG TIME HUNTER, fisherman and supporter of objectives of the National Rifle Association, I have long had a deep interest in this subject. I am familiar with the Second Amendment to our United States Constitution, and I do not wholly agree with the interpretation that has been placed upon it by the United States Supreme Court; i.e., that it is a limitation on Congress, rather than a general guarantee of a freedom or right that extends to all the people of the nation. . . . In Arizona we have a constitutional provision that is much stronger than any other state in the nation. Without mincing words, it guarantees the right of the individual citizen to keep and bear arms for his own self-protection. . . . In the field of firearms laws, I believe ours are fair and to the point. Arizona law does not impair the right of anyone to keep or bear arms; we require parental consent for youngsters under 18 to buy guns and ammunition; we prohibit possession of a pistol by those convicted of a crime of violence until such time as they are pardoned; we prohibit carrying concealed weapons; but beyond those limits we do not go. Our policy has been to protect the right of every citizen to keep and use firearms for lawful purposes, and to restrict only the illegal use of firearms.

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



# Guns

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## THE COVER

Hunter's tales are made of moments such as the one on our cover—those heart-stopping, unforgettable moments when the buck you've dreamed of shows just after you've dropped a small one, when a covey-rise catches you astride a fence, or honkers swoop low when guns are empty. But there are times, too, when everything clicks. . . The question is—which moments are sweetest for reliving?

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75 grains H570	Velocity 3270 f.p.s.
75 grains H870	Velocity 3185 f.p.s.



**140 GR. BULLET**

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Factory load	Velocity 3122 f.p.s.

H570 and H870 powders are too slow burning for most cartridges but work well in the 264 with the heavier bullets.

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75 grains 4350	Velocity 3004 f.p.s.
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70 grains 4350	Velocity 2701 f.p.s.
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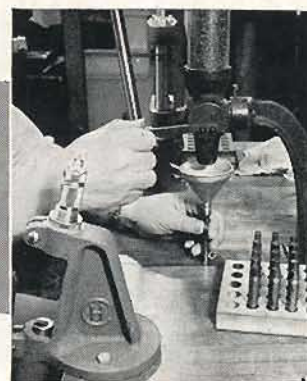


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## HANDLOADING BENCH

By KENT BELLAH



### 30-06 Dope

SHOOTERS CALL the .30-06 the Oh-Six, Naught-Six and other names, mostly those reserved for old friends. After half a century the cartridge is old, but it will still be kicking lively beyond three score years and ten. Most all handloaders own one or more of the rifles, G.I. or commercial, a fine piece or a clunker. A good many million guys have packed one in the game field, drill field or battle field, or all three. The piece has traveled all over the world in war and peace.

Some lads see it as all things in shoulder arms, wrapped up in one package. More is known about it because more research has been done on it. More loads have been worked up for it than any other rifle cartridge in the world. Those who love it have pampered and petted it. Others have over loaded it, converted it, perverted it, and messed it up in grand style, but they still stay with it. Our G.I. cartridges never die. They just fade away, very slowly.

Gun writers are always on safe ground when writing about the '06, so long as they brag on it. Shooters love to hear their favorite piece praised to high heaven, and this is the favorite of millions of men including seasoned hunters, rank beginners, and especially characters who think that all things military are exactly what every civilian needs. How can I write anything new about the cartridge? Everything that can be said must have been written at least ten times. I like a light sporter with the barrel cut to about 22" for fast handling.

Four '06 sporters are in my rack, and I've owned dozens of others. Not one has been my favorite piece. To some chaps that's little short of treason. Maybe I'm kicking a sacred cow. As I'm not a candidate for public office, why not tell the truth? I generally have a rifle for a particular use that I prefer, but I'll admit a .30-06 is a pretty fair piece for all-around use by the average guy. Gents who cuss it long and loud have had it goof on a fine animal that might have been cleanly bagged with a hotter .30 or a bigger bore. More likely they used the wrong bullet for the range, game and velocity, or made a sloppy hit. Let's not blame the cartridge too much if the trouble can be traced to one or more of those factors.

Big bore fans say the hole in the barrel is too small. Hi-V fans say factory ammo is too slow to run in their society. It's too heavy for a light caliber, and too light for a heavy caliber. Trajectory is too curved for a hot-shot. Women, and some men, say it kicks like a mule, which it does if poorly stocked. A "beat" shooter, who was not a

beatnik, called a steel butt plate, "A bad pad, Dad," which describes it pretty well. If you are sensitive to recoil, install a shotgun type pad to reduce the pounding.

Jillions of handloads headstamped .30-06 are not .30-06. Gunsmiths, blacksmiths, and John Smiths have "improved" it, clobbered it, cut it off, blown it out, necked it up, necked it down, and everything else they could think of. American ingenuity and stupidity has been at its best and worse with the Oh-Six hull. Do not sneer at the stupidity. It has contributed to progress and development. Every failure has been worthwhile, and out of every hundred may come something superior.

Wildcat cartridges can cause confusion, or even trouble. Be positive that ammo headstamped .30-06 that you fire in your piece is actually .30-06 stuff. More of these rifles are wrecked than in any other caliber simply because the hulls are the most popular for handloading. Another reason is because so many handloaders try to get .300 Magnum velocity and trajectory. If this is your problem, let's be sensible and purchase a .300 Magnum.

Rifles of the Springfield type with a coned barrel breech have actions that are plenty "strong." However, they do not completely enclose the case web in the chamber like the F.N. action, or enclose the entire case like a Weatherby Mark V action. The weakest link in such rifles is a thin piece of brass exposed near the case head. You'll have a wrecked rifle if a case head blows, although the barrel and action may hold. This generally shatters the stock and forearm, and blows off a few minor parts, including the floorplate. Gas under more than 50,000 pounds per square inch pressure is apt to blow fragments of brass in the shooter's face. Fortunately, very few people are injured, and still fewer seriously. But a few are.

The fault is always an excessive load or a defective case. It can happen with fresh, new commercial ammo, because the giant ammunition manufacturers make a few goofs the same as we hull fillers, although their quality control is extremely high. I do not think you should worry about it, because the odds are greater that you will be injured in your own bathtub, if you are a refined person who uses this dangerous contraption every Saturday night. (Statistics show that several thousand accidents happen every year in bathrooms.)

One case in a trainload may have an invisible internal defect near the head. It might be a bit of foreign material in the brass, or a fold or a crack. In many years

(Continued on page 55)



# RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR HUNTING SEASON! YOUR GUNS KLEIN'S LOSS! SAVE NOW—BUT HURRY! U.S. ARMY MODEL 1917 RIFLES—.30-06 SPRINGFIELD CALIBER

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Elmer  
Keith  
says . . .

### Shooting Preserves

Except for some eight states, there are shooting preserves in every state in the Union. In many cases, these are about the only places where folks can hunt. These shooting preserves use pen raised game birds, so they have no regular seasons and often operate six months per year. They have a shoot fee or a bird fee and are not cheap but very often for the amount of sport and game secured are much cheaper than some regular open season game. Except in the eight states, anyone can find shooting preserves reasonably close to their home, and these may well prove the answer to a lot of fellows with limited time. You can secure a complete list of all game shooting preserves by writing to the Sportsmen's Service Bureau, 250 East 43rd St., New York 17, N.Y.

### New Remington Wads

Remington announces sale of their new polyethylene over-powder wads in 12 and 20 gauge (known as their H wads to hand loaders), at \$5.95 per thousand; also their Mold-tite filler wads in 12 and 20 gauge, 1/4", at \$2.65 per thousand or 1/2" at \$3.25 per thousand. These wads are of proven quality and are the same as those used in the fine Remington shotshells.

### Engraving by Madis

George Madis, 1505 West Doris St., Dallas 8, Texas, turns out some of the most beautiful gun engraving we have seen from a new source in some time. He uses no background, believing in only perfectly executed scroll



Engraver George Madis does regular scroll and also tiny gun sketches.

or floral work. Photos of a 4" .44 S & W Magnum he did for me, and a Colt Derringer .22, show two of his many different styles of engraving. He has one style for collectors, which is simply reproduction of nearly every early pistol and sixgun in tiny miniature on the gun to be engraved. Thus the finished gun is simply covered with pictures in steel of many early model sixguns.

### New Pachmayr Pistol Cases

Pachmayr's new gun case is a beauty, a piece of fine luggage. It has a sunken place in the top into which the leather handle will fold down, leaving a flat top surface. It is covered with a new Pyroxylin material resembling pigskin, and comes in a wide variety of colors: light brown, dark brown, silver, charcoal, maroon, and buckskin. This new covering makes the Pachmayr pistol cases cost about \$2.50 more—or, with an extra lock-and-key back compartment, some \$4.50 more retail.

This fine case has ample room for four target revolvers or auto pistols, as well as an ammunition drawer and compartment for scope in back, with locks and keys for both doors. It is a Deluxe outfit, suitable for carrying the finest target guns to the range, or locking them up for safe keeping. Prices run from \$40 for the five-gun case, down to \$35 for the four-gun case. A new three gun case is in the offing. Lid clamp for scope is furnished.

The only thing I can suggest to improve these fine cases is some sort of strap arrangement over the barrel slots to prevent the guns moving in case the box was turned upside down or on its side. Such a strap, and some heavy felt padding of the gun compartment, might prevent damage to guns if the case was thrown around as in airplane travel. Incidentally, Pachmayr Gun Works, 1220 So. Grand Ave., originated the .45 accuracy jobs, still do a first class job on these guns for finest target competition.

### Dry Firing

With salesmen and individuals all over the country snapping their guns it's a wonder that more breakages do not occur. That they do not, speaks very well for the quality of present day arms.

I get many inquiries as to whether guns should be snapped for practice. Over the years, I have seen many rim fire chambers ruined by dry firing, and have seen many strikers break off; also have seen the hammer spurs break off of many sixgun hammers, simply from vibration stresses in the part from repeated snapping. I have always held and advised that dry firing should be



done only with empty cases or snap caps in the weapon to cushion the blow of the firing pin. Even when empty cases are used, one should not snap very many times on one fired primer. A rim fire case can be turned to give the firing pin a new place on which to cushion, but with center fire, a couple of whacks and the primer is so dented that it offers no further cushion to the blow of the pin. Empty cases should be changed after snapping on them once.

The British furnish snap caps for all their fine rifles and with good reason. They know that, regardless of how fine the steel or how careful the workmanship, snapping on empty chambers will in time break the strikers.

The practice of dry firing has also caused a lot of accidents. Treat every gun as a loaded gun, use empty cases or snap caps, and snap on them just as carefully as with live ammunition as to direction of aim. Your gun will last longer, and fewer accidents will occur.

### Four-Inch .44 Magnum on Deer

Again I killed my annual mule buck with the 4" S & W .44 Magnum, using my handloads of 22 grains 240 and some 250 grain copper coated cast Keith bullets put out by W. G. Murphy, 40 Willard St., San Francisco. The deer was trotting around the mountain, above me, at 200 yards. Held up part of red front sight over rear sight blade and under deer's head. Hit him too far back through liver first shot, but the second shot hit square through lungs behind shoulders.

### .38-44 High Speed

High Speed .38 Specials, loaded by all companies with 150 to 158 grain bullets at a velocity of 1100 feet, are hot loads, brought out for .45 frame guns only. Colts advertise their light .38 Spl. Cobra for this Ammunition. Smith & Wesson do not do so, even though their lightest guns will handle this heavy ammunition. Continued use of these loads would shorten the life expectancy of any light frame gun, but no man in his right mind is ever going to fire any of the real light guns enough with this heavy ammunition to damage the gun, as recoil is too severe. For defense use, the S & W Chiefs Special and Centennial with steel, or the light aluminum frame models, and the Colt Cobra in either type will all handle this ammunition. However, check the aluminum frame models out with different makes, as we found the Chiefs Special would tie up due to Peters Hi-Vel jumping its crimp from recoil.

Having finished a test of 500 rounds each of this ammunition through a Chiefs Spl. aluminum frame 10 3/4 ounce S & W, and 500 through a Centennial hammerless with steel frame, and 500 through a S & W Combat Masterpiece, we know the guns will take the pounding of this ammunition. Rear ends of barrels and cylinders were carefully miked to a ten thousandth before test started, and again when finished, and no measurable change occurred in their diameters.

All three guns digested their 500 quota without measurable or visible damage to the guns. The Combat masterpiece was pleasant to shoot with this heavy ammunition, but the two light guns definitely are not. The 10 3/4 ounce aluminum frame Chiefs Special became painful after the first 50 rounds, and the shooting hand becomes sore

and swollen after a hundred rounds of this ammunition.

Three factors contribute to the strength of these two tiny little Smith & Wesson revolvers and their ability to handle ammunition designed for the .38-44 Heavy duty 45 frame gun. One is the fact that almost no part of the barrel projects back through the frame, and the frame supports the rear end of barrel at its weakest point. Two: the bolt cut comes between charge holes on these five shot revolvers, rather than over the center of a chamber as on all six shot guns. Three: the Smith & Wesson front cylinder or base pin latch further helps hold the cylinder in true alignment.

Western Super-X 150 grain was fired through the Chiefs Special with aluminum frame and 10 3/4 ounces weight, and Peters Hi-Vel through the Centennial hammerless with steel frame, and Winchester Super-Speed through the Combat masterpiece.

In conclusion, we consider limited use of this heavy .38-44 high speed ammunition in any of these light frame guns as perfectly safe, with either steel or aluminum frames in the Smith & Wesson Chiefs Special or Centennial or the Colt Cobra; also in the various K-Model S & W guns. But we do not consider it safe in many of the older light frame guns of both makes. These modern guns all have the finest steels and materials, and are built to take it, but—the human hand was never intended for such abuse!

### Loads For Keith Bullets

Bullets should not be softer than one to 16 tin and lead, and preferably about that  
(Continued on page 63)

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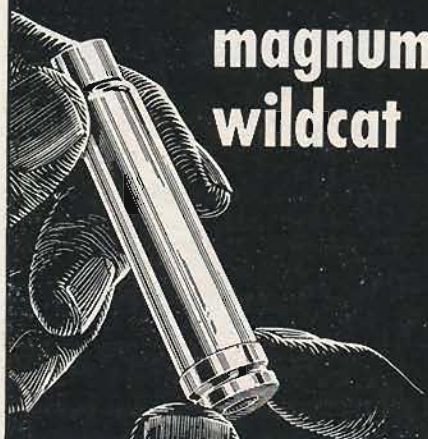
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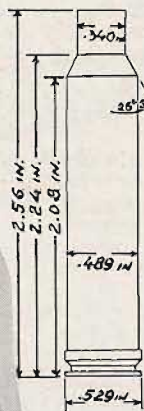
# the norma man tames the .308

## magnum wildcat



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## CROSSFIRE

### Down Under

Thank you very much for printing my letter in the "Crossfire" department of your September issue. The response has been overwhelming. Through the printing of that letter in your fine magazine, I have obtained some very interesting information on guns, shooting, and game of the USA, via letters from your readers.

Maxwell G. Williams  
Launceston, Tasmania, Australia

### Ivory Wanted

I'd appreciate if you or your readers could advise me where I might be able to buy elephant ivory. I had a source of supply at one time, but the man has stopped handling it, due to quality.

William H. Mills  
219 Hunting Towers East  
Alexandria, Virginia

### Come On Over

I read your magazine whenever I can find it, and always enjoy it. We French shooters are so poorly equipped (only small calibers are legal in France) that I spend a great deal of time dreaming about what I could buy, and what I could do, if only I lived in America!

If any readers of your magazine wants to correspond with me, I would be only too glad. Although I would find it pretty difficult to practice your Fast Draw shooting on our conventional ranges without being looked upon as a dangerous maniac by retired colonels and solemn public officials, I would like to know more about it and about other American shooting.

Gilles Cazeaux  
28 Rue George-Sand  
Paris 16, France

### Hunting In Mexico

I just finished reading the articles on hunting in Mexico in the fall edition of your "Guns Quarterly." Brings back many memories. I lived and worked in southern Mexico for over two years, and managed to get in on quite a few hunting trips that covered most of what there is. I think these are two of the best stories I have seen covering southern and eastern Mexico. They are a pretty accurate outline of actual conditions. Most of the stuff people write on this country is full of tourist romance and baloney.

I don't think any body should go down into Mexico any place on a haphazard hunting trip unless they have a full month of time. They just won't get any place. The statement that the Mexicans are not in a hurry is pretty mild. Why should they be?

A Mexican rancher I knew down there hunted a lot and had shot every kind of

animal there is, several times over, including a few large Jaguar. All he used was a .32-20 Winchester rifle. The old .30-30 is plenty of gun for that area. My advice is to travel light when going down there. I think a take-down repeating shotgun with a short barrel and a one piece choke device (12 or 16 gauge) is the best. This isn't perfect for everything, but you will get in a lot more shooting with a shotgun because there are lots of ducks and other birds. I am talking about southern Mexico and the east coast. In the north and west I understand there aren't so many birds and shots are long, so a shotgun wouldn't do the job by itself.

I understand the Mexican government has more than doubled the price of a gun permit this year, but it was so low to begin with that this still isn't much. Here is looking forward to more good reading in the next issue.

W. K. McKeen  
Liberal, Kansas

### Safety Begins At Home

I have enjoyed reading GUNS magazine almost ever since it was first published. It is one of the best that I subscribe to. I am a life member of the National Rifle Association and the United States Revolver Association, and have been for over 25 years. I am also an NRA Certified Rifle and Pistol Instructor and conduct the NRA Basic Small Arms Training School for teen-agers in the safety of firearms.

If more people would see to it that their children acquired the training they need in handling a firearm, there would be less so called firearms "accidents." I also believe there would be less chance for the law makers to figure ways to make laws that would take away our guns. The less reported gun accidents there are, the less support there is for anti-gun laws.

The only way firearms accidents can be stopped is through education. I have been conducting this training school for about four years, and have trained boys and girls from the ages of 12 years and over. All my students get class room instruction and actual shooting instruction on the school's rifle range. The course is conducted for eight weeks of three hour sessions. The school is approved by the National Rifle Association and is highly recognized by a number of youth organizations.

I know there are many organizations such as rifle clubs, civic clubs, police departments and such throughout the country that give training to boys and girls in firearms safety. This is good, but there should be more organizations giving this training, and they should make this training more complete and make safety the most important subject. I



believe that every school in the country should have firearms safety training, the same as they have auto driving education now. It's a "must" in the modern way of life.

Ernest L. E. Hack  
Bristol, Conn.

### Canada Gun Laws

Thank you for the personal recommendation (November, 1960, Crossfire), but I would like to point out that any help I can give harassed gun lovers is a consequence of my status as a lawyer and an officer of the Ontario Revolver Association, to which organization all inquiries or appeals for information or advice should be directed. (Suite #501, Terminal Building, Queen's Quay, Toronto).

The sad state of affairs here in Canada is amply demonstrated by the fact that your magazine, a completely south of the border publication, should be asked to explain Alberta laws to a resident who is getting the local run-around. Surely this indicates how grossly inadequate are the public relations programs of Provincial firearms associations to which such problems should be taken.

However, to answer your correspondent, young Mr. Baldwin, his local Registrar of Firearms is compelled to issue a "permit" by the mandatory wording of Section 93 of The Criminal Code of Canada. The word "permit" is used in error, for no permit is required in Canada to purchase a firearm; however, a Form 44 "Application for Registration" must be obtained before taking delivery of the weapon. This Form contains a short-term carrying permit so that one may lawfully transport the gun from the Vendor to the Registrar and then home. The Criminal Code does not limit applicants as to citizenship, mentality, criminal record or other cause (except that a person under 14 years must have a special permit in Form 45), and no one may be refused an application to register any pistol, revolver or automatic weapon bearing a clear serial number, for he is only trying to abide by our useless, dangerous, time and money-consuming registration laws.

Regarding the letter from "Name Withheld" in Kitchener, Ontario, only two towns in Ontario have implemented this stupid system, and we are assured that fingerprints are taken only to aid in criminal investigation by the R.C.M.P., and the original fingerprint cards are returned unfiled. We would suggest that club members in those areas demand the signature cards be returned.

Obviously we are having our problems here, and I plead with shooters throughout Canada to support and maintain close contact with their various Provincial associations, and to make them stronger, more active and more aggressive, for we gun-owners are fighting a life or death struggle right this minute and there is no room for procrastination or compromise.

Charles E. Hebert, Jr.  
President, Ontario Revolver Association

I noted a letter in "Crossfire" from a young man in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada regarding pistol permits. Permits up there are hard to come by, especially for juveniles, but it is just possible that young Mr. Baldwin might get some shooting in at a recognized club.

Some time ago I noticed another letter

from a Warren Wheatfield in Edmonton and I believe that he is the son of Detective Benny Wheatfield of the city police. I haven't seen Ben for years but I went to school with him a long time ago. This summer I phoned Ben when I was in Edmonton and he was just leaving on vacation so we didn't get in a personal visit. However, he did tell me that his young son was a real gun nut and I understood that he is 15 or 16 years of age.

You might suggest to the Baldwin youth that he get in touch with Warren Wheatfield. I don't have the phone number handy but it is in the Edmonton directory under his father's name. Warren would probably be able to find out if there are facilities in town whereby juveniles may attend a pistol range, as well as requirements for attendance or membership.

G. A. Whitehead  
Portland, Oregon

### Left-Handed Mausers

In your article "Left-Handed Mauser" (Sept. GUNS) you said little is known about the left handed Mauser rifle. I have a 1932 Stoeger catalog which states, "Any of the above model rifles may be had with left-hand Mauser bolt action for \$250.00 additional. The actions are specially forged and of special action steel, entirely finished by hand, heat treated and proofed. Time required to furnish customer with left hand Mauser action, four months."

This catalog also notes that their Mauser actions were made by Mauser-Werke AG Oberndorf a.N. formerly Waffenfabrik Mauser Aktiengesellschaft a.N., and that unless Mauser action or rifle is purchased through them, the agents for the Mauser-Werke, they cannot guarantee the Mauser is genuine.

A possible clue to the scarcity of left-handed Mauser actions is the fact that regular Mauser Rifle prices in 1932 started at \$150.00 and went to \$225.00 for some models, which with the \$250 additional for the left-handed action made quite a tidy sum. (Say, did anyone have \$400 in 1932? I sure didn't?) Believe Mauser system of using lock screws to keep action tight in stock cannot be improved. Thanks for writing an interesting article about an interesting gun.

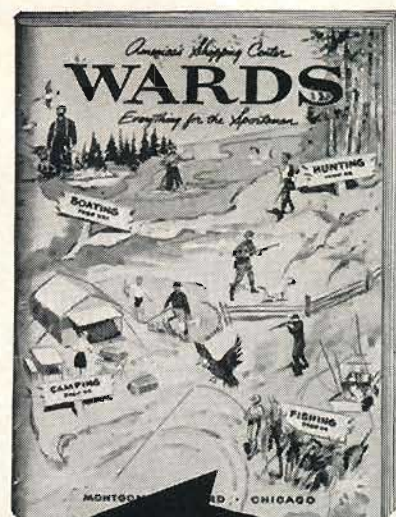
Thomas Sims  
Hirskell, Tennessee

### Book By Dr. Mann

I am writing as a pleased subscriber. I enjoyed reading Mr. Warren Sipe's story on Dr. Franklin Ware Mann, "Father of Ballistic Science." The best part of the article was where he mentioned "The Bullet's Flight" has been reprinted. I have been to my favorite book store, and several others, to order it. They don't seem to know "Standard Publications". Would you please send me the address if you have it.

J. N. Dunbar, Jr.  
Eastchester, N.Y.

"Standard Publications" is the imprimatur of Herman P. Dean, owner of many fine guns and one of the top scholars in the arms literature field. His printing firm is "Standard" but distribution of those books he has made once again available through his reprints is by Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa. If you don't have Stackpole's book list, which is free, you are missing out on reading pleasure.—Editors.



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# How To STOP



Noting low score in hunter shoot is Karl Grund who advises U.S. Forces Rod & Gun Club program.

IT IS SAD BUT TRUE that when we, here in the United States, complain so bitterly about anti-gun legislation, we are prone to forget that much of the blame for it rests squarely on our own shoulders. It is all very well, and statistically true, to say that hunting casualties of about 1.3 in every ten thousand shooters are "infinitesimal—too small even to rate mention in actuarial tables." But even the most infinitesimal statistic is horrifying when it is translated into human lives—between 1500 and 2000 human lives a year, according to best available figures.

Add to this some tens of millions of dollars annually in property damage (dead livestock, smashed fences, burned woodlands) and you begin to see where newspapers and "do-gooders" get their ammunition for their campaigns





# Gun Accidents

By AL JOHNSON

against free ownership and use of guns. These campaigns make me furiously angry, as they do you; but one dead man (or even one dead cow) killed in a hunting "accident" causes more damage to our cause than all our anger can undo—and rightly so.

It's all very well too, and very true, that nine out of ten of the casualties, and 90 per cent of the property damage, are caused by the stupid, reckless, irresponsible "few" who go into the hunting fields for a wild week-end, who don't know one end of a gun from the other, who shoot at sounds in the brush or at anything that moves, other hunters included. Yet we are promoting the shooting sports, preaching that "shooting is fun for everyone," and we are gleeful as we report the tremendous growth of shooting interest.

We love to say that "nearly 19,000,000 men and women bought hunting licenses last year;" but we have so far refused to face the fact that a very high percentage of those men and women are untaught in the basic commandments of gun handling. They are not hunters; far from it. They are far less well informed about guns than the average ten-year-old is today about automobile driving—and the carnage on our highways speaks for itself.

This is *not* a condemnation of hunting, nor of hunters. If it were, it would have been submitted to one of the too-numerous "do-gooder" journals, not to GUNS Magazine. But a head-in-the-sand attitude is foolish when our rights are at stake; and our rights *are* at stake every time stupidity, ignorance or reck- (Continued on page 46)



License applicant has 3 seconds to get off one shot at running boar target moving 65 yards off.



Americans take same tests as local civilians before being allowed to go hunting in Germany.

**COURSES IN HUNTER TRAINING  
HAVE ROBBED DO-GOODERS OF AMMUNITION  
FOR ANTI-GUN PROPAGANDA IN GERMANY.  
LET'S DO IT HERE**





# TOUGHEST TARGET IN THE SKY

By BERT POPOWSKI

**Y**OU'LL WISH YOU HAD a magnum, say a sixteen-inch size gun, after a day with the white-fronted geese playing with you. But it's not magnum shells, it's a magnum-sized portion of hunting sense, that will bag your birds the best. While I'm shooting off the cuff, let me mention how sick I am of some of the columns of tripe that have been written about goose-hunting. But I'll take the risk myself by nominating the wariest bird of all goose-dom for my personal Number One Tough Cookie rating, in the field. On the platter, he's Number One but not tough; smallish, tender and tasty. The great gray Canada honkers don't rank with my nominees, nor do any of their lesser white-checked cousins. And the blues and snows are the idiot relatives of the goose clans, scarcely sensible enough to require any more skillful decoy than some wind-flapping hunks of newspaper. If "silly as a goose" was derived from any wild species, it must have been invented for the blues and snows. For my nominee—and I'll see he's elected—for that No. 1 spot in goose hunting are the white-fronted geese.

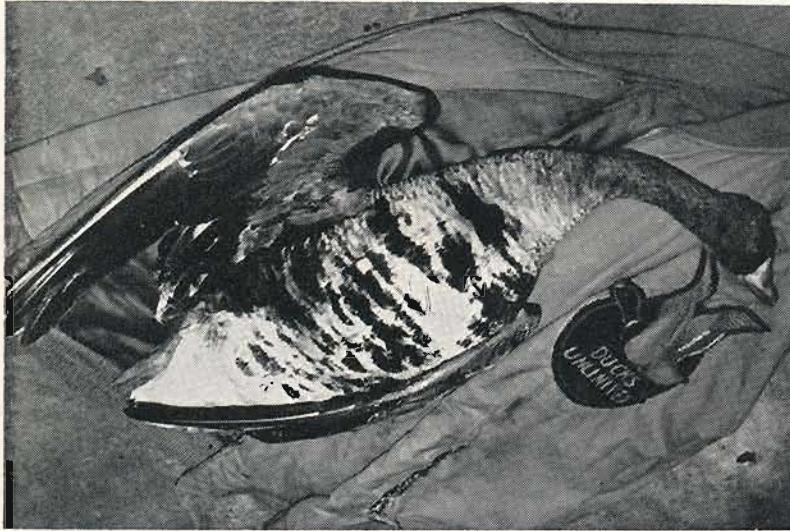
Locally called gigglers, speckle bellies, barred brant, laughing geese, they have a host of other names bestowed in the heat of shooting by hunters who haven't connected. Regardless of nomenclature, they've contributed more trials and disappointments than all other species of wild geese combined. They are so unpredictably wary that they furnish the most rigid and exacting tests of all waterfowling.

White-fronted geese are not numerous, as compared to other species of geese. They are also classed in the all-





**TOUGH BUT TENDER, TAKING LOTS OF  
SHOOTING SENSE TO BAG, ARE GEESE  
THAT MAY STILL GET THE LAST LAUGH**



Not big, but not often shot, barred brant lies by Ducks Unlimited patch showing author gave to conservation. At right, Popowski hefts giggler which did not laugh last.



embracing term of "wavies;" which means they are lumped with the blues and snows in general designation. But that's only because they fly in somewhat wavering lines, migrate before the full brunt of harsh weather sets in, and have bills and feet which resemble those of blues and snows. Finally, they frequent the same general flyways that their idiot relatives prefer.

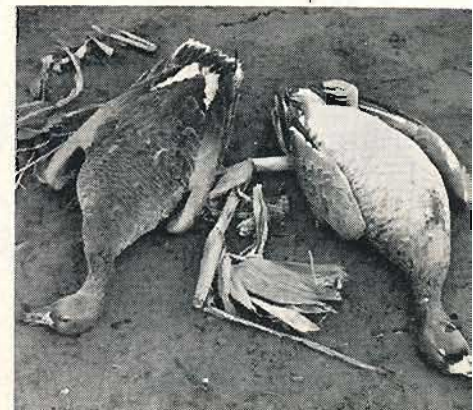
But that's where their resemblance to the non-Canada-type geese ends. They fly apart from all other geese, generally in flocks of two or three families of their own kind. They do not feed with other geese, either. Thus, setting up for them generally means you're gambling on getting into white-fronted geese, or will get into no geese at all.

Finally, and this is important to any waterfowler whose Little Pearl of the Kitchen must be shown some evidence of hubby's prowess, they are the least predictable of all geese. But, when Hubby bags one, they are also the very finest eating of all geese, very comparable in flavor to small-grain-fed mallards, wild-celery-fed canvasbacks and red-heads, or the tiny butter-fat teals. Properly and lovingly prepared, they are a gourmet's delight.

But that delight comes only after you've bagged your white-fronts. And there's the rub. For they're wily as black mallards, agile in the air as partridge—especially if a good wind is blowing—and finicky and choosy as all get out in their choice of feeding fields. The hunter who bags a pair of white-fronts in a morning's exacting hunt has achieved a goal that is reached by few avid waterfowlers.

Let me cite some examples. A hunting friend who has a magnificent goose-hunting spot near the Missouri river, and has killed many score Canadas, was in his pit with me one morning when a brace of white-fronts swung in. I was there merely because of his express invitation.

"Gad, they're little," he murmured, as we peered through tumbleweed fringing the pit while they made their final in-range pass. "Look funny, too!" he added, when he saw their speckle-mottled breasts. Then, when the morning's shoot produced that pair, far-strayed from their normal flyways, plus a pair of the grosser honkers, he, to my vast delight, chose the Canadas. They'd (Continued on page 39)



Not truly of brant family, young white fronts have duller marks on bodies but show feathers above bill giving birds their common name.



**KURD TRIBESMEN OF IRAN KEEP RUGGED  
INDEPENDENCE WITH GUNS IN SPITE OF LAWS**



Unconquered Kurds still hold mountain fortresses; captured four T-34 Russian tanks in 1946 with horsemen. Below, 9mm Star is prize gun of Kurd in Sardasht.

# *Guns on the Kurdish Frontier*



Nonte in Kurdistan.

By CAPT. GEORGE C. NONTE  
U. S. Ordnance Corps







Yankee-made Colt .45 has been restamped by Iran gunsmith with Farsi number characters.



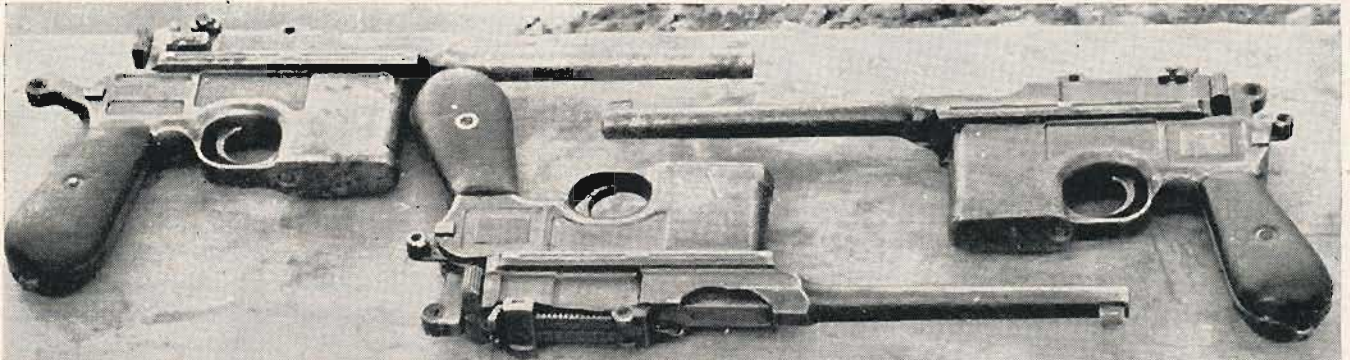
Tribesman risked life by pulling trigger of solid-shot flare gun.



Big horse pistol is not for show: black powder is popular on frontier.



Handsome Smith & Wesson made for Russian cavalry when taken from Kurd was loaded with cut-off .303 rounds.



Military model Mauser in 7.63mm caliber is treasured by Kurds who rub them carefully clean with fresh sand.

WHERE FOUR NATIONS join, Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Russia, there is a "fifth nation," whose inhabitants owe their allegiance to none of the other. These nomadic tribes of horsemen are the Kurds, and to them Kurdistan is home. There, a good wife may be purchased today for a good Mauser and a bandolier of ammo (but the Mauser had better be good).

Legend has it that the Kurds are descended from a woman-buying foray sent to central Europe centuries ago by an early Persian potentate. Unfortunately, the expedition took longer than he lasted. Rather than chance the unknown quantity of a new despot, the members of the expedition and their several hundred female captives retired to the Zagros mountains and settled there. In doing what naturally followed, they produced the present day Kurdish tribes. Some truth is lent to this legend by the fact that blue-eyed blonde Kurds are not unknown, even though most are rather dark in complexion.

Whatever their origin, the Kurds have earned, and rightly so, an enviable reputation as fine fighters. Not too many years ago, inter-village fighting and occasional small wars were popular pastimes. The old timers I have talked

to tell glowing and hair raising tales of their tribal sport some forty years ago. A few months of wandering through the hills here have led me to believe at least a portion of the stories. Numerous people will, in normal conversation, mention having lost members of their families in "the fighting." A dozen gaily garbed, heavily armed and well mounted horsemen galloping over the ridge suddenly into your path just at sundown can give a man an interesting moment or two until he is certain of their intentions.

I can only speak of the Iranian Kurds from recent personal experience, for the growth of police and military forces have drastically curtailed their fun. You just can't hardly find a good fight any more. Some of the ancient strongholds such as the Khaneh and Nagadeh areas were only brought under control in the last fifteen years or so. Prior to that time, he who entered there was not assured of coming out again. Even today some of the wild mountain areas are guarded with crumbling mud brick fortifications, reminders of more zestful days. These areas are only lightly patrolled by small teams of Gendarmerie, and an occasional cavalry troop on a training march. The inhabitants are still free to do pretty much as they please, and the distant





Few Lugers called "Parabellums" by Iranians are carried by Army Police.



Iranian officer holds Kurdish Kar 98, sold by Germans intriguing in mid-east.

crackle of rifle fire is still heard echoing through the mountains now and then. One officer who operates an Army Recruit Training Center says he prefers the Kurds as soldier material because "they move faster and shoot quicker."

It is only natural that such a people with a long history of the love of battle, treasure weapons highly. Ownership has been made difficult but not impossible by governmental decree. This only serves to add spice to the game. Any self-respecting village will have arms and ammunition enough to raise and equip a troop or so of light cavalry should the need arise. I have talked with one Khan (chieftan) who states that he can field five thousand light cavalry in less than forty-eight hours, should he feel inclined to do so. Facing them would not be a pleasant task, even though their armament is limited to rifles and sidearms.

There are, of course, some groups and individuals armed officially by the Army. Local military commanders with whom they have formed allegiances of a sort issue them standard rifles and ammunition. They receive Czech 98/29 rifles and carbines in 7.9x57mm calibre. Some pistols of assorted types and makes are issued, but no heavy or automatic weapons.

The majority of the Kurds are prohibited from owning any arms, other than small knives and shotguns. This prohibition just seems to make the game more attractive. Rifles and pistols of all types will be found in almost any village that you care to enter. Casual visitors will not normally see them unless they are well known to influential villagers.

Weapons range from venerable old Mauser Model 71 single shots to modern military rifles from European manufacturers. Revolvers and pistols of the earliest cartridge types will be found alongside the latest Spanish and Belgian export models. Lee-Enfields and Moisin 91s will be found in profusion, reminders of the years when England and Russia occupied most of Iran. (Continued on page 42)



Motly array of scrap iron from Kurdish captured arms in umbars (depots) of Imperial Iranian Army ordnance includes some of rattiest once-noble Mausers in existence. Curved knife is traditional sidearm of tribes.





## AMERICAN BANDIT'S GUN FOUND IN BRITISH GUN SHOP REVEALS EXCITING PAST HISTORY

# TRACING A BANDIT'S GUN

By COLIN RICKARDS

**T**HE BATTERED .44 was a bandit's gun, a killer's gun—and now, it is a collector's gun. Behind this ordinary-looking Colt .44-40 Single Action Army Revolver, is a story of blood and sudden death: the death of a man because of it, and the death of the man who used it.

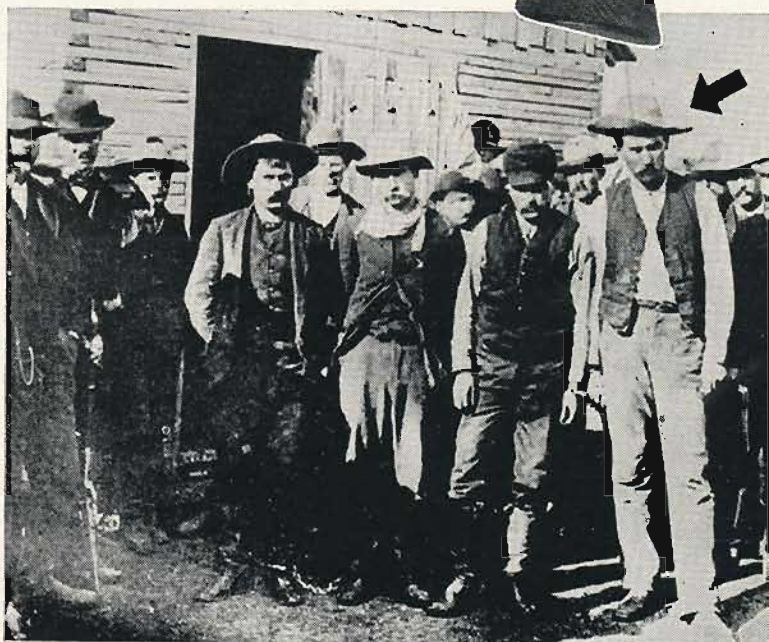
In the summer of 1883 Benjamin F. Wheeler, Assistant City Marshal of Caldwell, Kansas, walked into Hulbert's Gun Store in Caldwell and bought a gun. It was just an ordinary pistol, no fancy-work or engraving, for Wheeler was not that vain. It was to be a functional weapon on which his life might depend.

But on the back-strap, as his sole concession to vanity, he stamped: "Ben Wheeler, Caldwell, Kansas, 1883;" nothing more. And, for ten months, wherever Wheeler went, the gun went too.

Wheeler was a big man—he stood 6 feet 2 inches in his socks—and a dependable one. He backed City Marshal, Henry Newton Brown in every play he made, and between them they kept Caldwell in check.

But, he was a man with a past as well. Born Benjamin F. Robertson in Rackdale, Milam County, Texas, in 1854, he grew up on his father's ranch there. By the time he was twenty, he was the local wrestling champion and had grown into a hulking, gawky lad; wild perhaps, but not basically bad. Then in a fist fight with another man, young Robertson mangled his adversary so badly that it was thought he would die.

(Continued on page 53)



Tall Ben Wheeler turned from cop to crime, used Colt in now-historic bank robbery. Grips were replaced on S.A. No. 98218 in cleaning which revealed name marks.

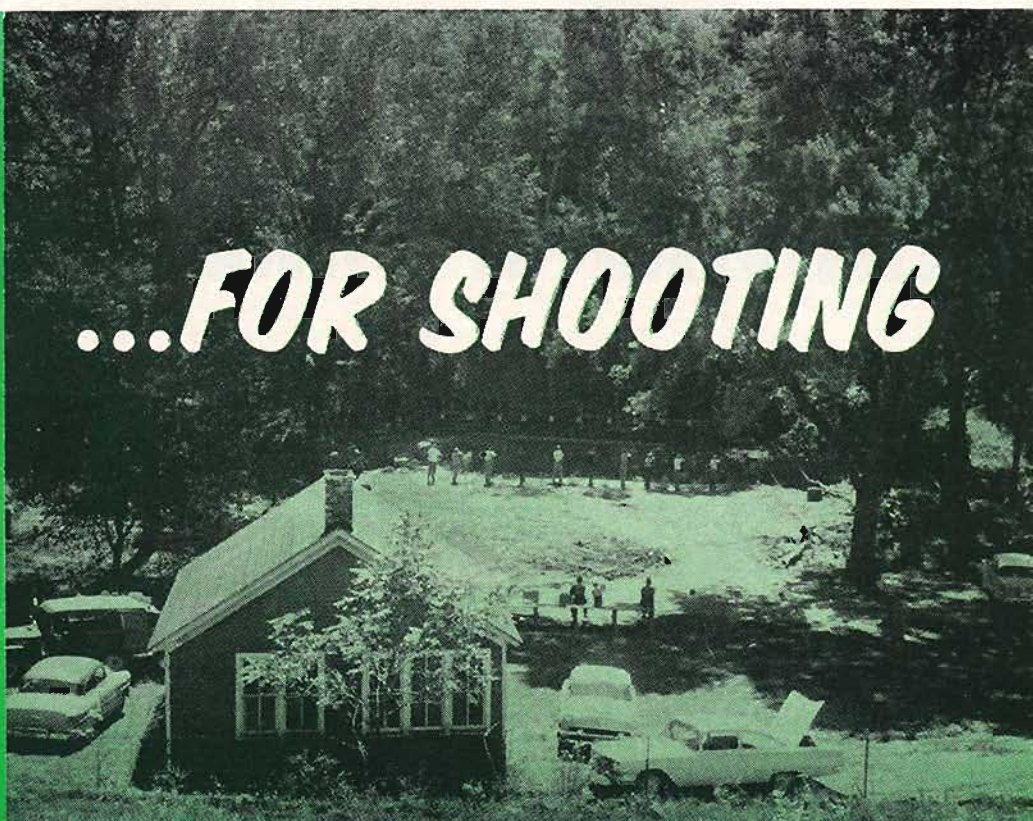




# BACK TO SCHOOL



# ...FOR SHOOTING



## AN EMPTY "LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE" SOLVED THEIR WHERE-TO-SHOOT PROBLEM

By JAMES E. BIE



Grandsons of pioneers go back to school learning to shoot, in school house now abandoned for academic pursuits. Ray Peterson tests kids on nomenclature.

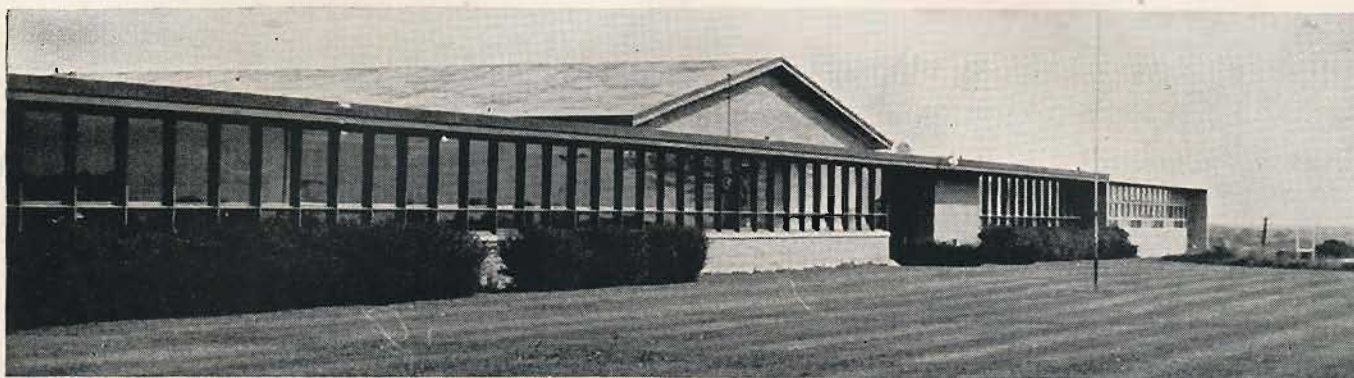
**I**F EVERYONE in the school yard seems to be carrying a rifle, and some of the "kids" look a bit too old for grade school, you might suspect trouble. But then again, you might just be passing a school house in Wisconsin that has been converted into a club house by an enterprising group of riflemen.

Such an occurrence sounds fantastic in these days of emphasis on education and shortage of classrooms, but a careful analysis of the situation proves the logic. The number of children in school—the post-war baby crop we hear so much about—is greater than ever. It just isn't possible to instruct them by the old methods or in tiny, one-room schools scattered about the countryside. School districts have been forced to consolidate and enlarge, operate in larger more modern buildings, and find ways for one teacher to do the job of several.

As a result we can expect better school systems and better education for our children. Sportsmen in Wisconsin, however, are beginning to realize a totally different and unexpected benefit. Those old, one-room country school houses—abandoned when the new school was built "in town"—can be converted into pretty good gun club facilities.

A typical example is the Fennimore Rifle and Pistol Club. Fennimore is a town of less than 1,700 people in





Big new school at Fennimore put country one-room school houses like Plum Valley out of business. Idle building and land was ideal for conversion to sports use.

southwestern Wisconsin. The club itself is not too large, with 23 senior members and 14 boys. But weekends will find them working or shooting on their own range at the Plum Valley School. Father A. W. Heindl, pastor of St. Mary's Church, is secretary of the club and one of the hardest workers. He admits, "We've got a long way to go before the club house is in the condition we want, but our range gets lots of use. That is where most of our work has been concentrated."

With members pooling both mental and muscle power, the club has cleared an area facing a steep hill for its small-bore range. There is also plenty of room for parking and for score-keeping activities. A more complicated task called for diverting a natural spring on the side of the hill, changing the course of a small stream, and bridging it.

Much of the credit in Fennimore goes to Wayne L. Owen who made a rash promise when he became scout master two years ago. He told his troop (consisting of just five tender-feet), "If it looks like we are making

good progress after our first year, we'll organize a junior rifle club."

When the size of the troop doubled, and then doubled again, the boys reminded Owen of his promise. Since a scout is always truthful, he had to produce. With the help of Dr. E. C. Howell, who owned the land, and the local American Legion Post, which negotiated a life-time, no-charge lease for it, the Fennimore (*Continued on page 62*)



Enthusiastic at getting range land, clubmen built backstops, felled log for foot bridge. Shooting over stream gives full 50' needed.

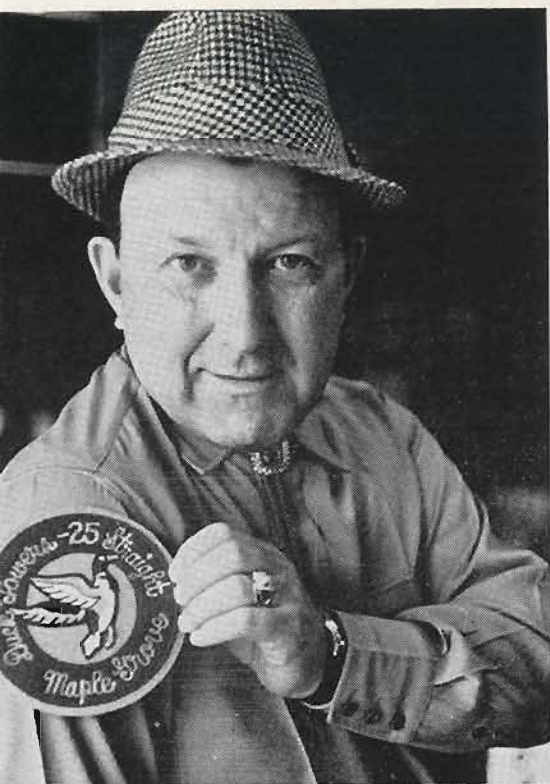
Tom Taber helps Billy Doan at natural spring while Mrs. Jim Bray keeps watch. Nylon 66 is liked by smaller kids because it's light.





By JERRY CHIAPPETTA

# DUCK HUNTING—



Clay-dusting skeeter Frank Rose only gets to hold coveted 25-straight patch for a minute, vows next time he'll top present 23X25 to keep it. Bird sails out high, just enough ahead of Rose' Browning to stay whole.



# WITHOUT DUCKS

**CLAY DUCKS THAT QUACK  
SEEM ALSO TO DODGE AS THEY  
SLANT AWAY FROM HIGH  
TOWER TO FOOL THE EXPERTS**

**T**HE TRIGGER IS COLD as your finger rests lightly in the shotgun's guard. Sharp, powdery snow stings your face and hands. Shortly, the ducks will be moving over at about tree-top level and you'll have to be quick to bring one down. You stamp your feet a couple of times to keep the blood moving and take the sting out of your toes. Your wait is short.

There! You hear the familiar quack of the ducks. Off to the right, coming straight over, is one target. It's going to be hard. The gunstock is cold and hard against your cheek. But it feels good to be ready to shoot again.

Lead. More lead. Swing. Pull. Dang it, missed again!

There's another! The quack, quack, quack, this time is coming from your left. Another target swings through the bare treetops. This is easy this time, you think. Just shoot it like you would the high house from a station six in skeet. It works! You score and feel about as good as you did the first time you knocked a blackbird from the back fence-post with that old single-shot .22 years ago.

The singles are past; now here come the doubles. There's a "quack" off to the left, and almost at the same instant, another is heard coming from the starboard. What action! Soon, your blind is littered with 25 empty hulls. Maybe you've made 10 or 12 hits. If so, consider yourself lucky.

For this is "duck" shooting without ducks. This is a new type of shooting game that can have you in a sweat even if it's five above zero, as it was the day we tried out the duck tower shoot at Maple Grove Gun Club, a gun enthusiast's shangri-la near Mount Clemens, Mich.

Thanks to the inventive genius of sportsman Doug Prevost, shooters from throughout South-eastern Michigan are flocking in to sharpen up on the towers for real hunting.

Doug was once a foreman in a tool and die shop in metropolitan Detroit. He was nuts about the



Chet Crites, who once shot own airplane that tried to fly away, has downed 77-straight at Duck Towers but is sometime National Skeet Champ. Maple Grove duck blinds are natural.





Author, Maple Grove owner Doug Prevost, and Frank Rose argue Superposed vs Single Auto merits for duck-skeet.



Not shooter's preconditioned "Pull!" but quick raucous quack of passing ducks, recorded, signals trap release.



Attractive club room and store, and attractive helpers, make Doug's Maple Grove favorite hangout for shooters.

outdoors, mainly hunting and shooting. After his tour with the U.S. Air Force, he decided the area needed more and better facilities for hunters and shooters. He set out 12 years ago to do something about it.

Today, near U.S. 25 and 21-Mile Road four miles north of Mount Clemens, he has set up just about everything imaginable for the shooter, and some facilities you wouldn't even dream of. He has Michigan's only Olympic Skeet range, a rabbit run, a number of regular skeet and trap areas, and rifle and pistol ranges to handle hundreds of shooters at a time. Inside the club house, Doug services firearms, sells shooters accessories and handloading outfits.

With all the shooting at Maple Grove, you'd think it would take a lifetime to tire of it. But Doug, always seeking something new, exciting and challenging, set up his duck towers. One is in a 50 foot high tree and the other is about 25 feet up in another big tree. He built a control panel behind the shooter's blind and from that one panel he can start the sound of quacking ducks coming from either tower.

Shortly after the sound of the ducks is heard, you can expect a target to come zipping out. The shooter doesn't call "pull" or "go."

Each "duck" flies a different pattern. The automatic traps change their flight pattern after each target is released, so each time you shoot the duck towers it is different and it keeps the shooter on his toes.

There seem to be just enough branches and tree tops between you and the duck towers to make you work for each hit. Some shotgunners thought it would be too difficult because of the wide range of shooting. The choice of guns can be difficult too.

Chet Crites of Detroit holds the record here with 77 straight. Chet, an ex-national skeet shooting champion presently ranked 16th in the World, used an over/under 12-gauge with both barrels full choke. Frank Rose, a Royal Oak, Mich., shooter and hunter, is another top-notch skeet man.

On the day Rose and I tried out the towers, he got 22, 20, and 23X25 with a Browning over/under 12-gauge skeet gun. He had trouble on the long shots. Ains Borsum of Baldwin, Mich., is one of the few shooters here who holds a 25-straight patch.

Borsum, we must point out, holds the 28-ga. long-run national record at present. Tom Rakish of Mount Clemens, a pretty good trap man, tried the towers the same day this writer was there with his cameras and Model 11-48 skeet gun. Rakish, like Rose, had a Browning over/under, but he had his trap gun in the 12-gauge. Tom was getting scores of 12X25 and 16X25, and was proud of them.

I had to really bear down to come up with scores of 12X25, 10X25 and (hurray) 16X25. This was the first time on the towers for Rakish and me. Rose admitted later he shot the towers once before. Frank, in fact, had come to me excitedly one day when he first heard about this new type of shooting. We shoot on a winter skeet team and, for a change of pace, he thought it would be a banging idea to try the towers.

It was cold, but a good day for the towers, because the weather had eliminated the occasional shooters and only the most rugged souls were out. Frank and I met Rakish at Maple Grove's coffee shop and decided that three different kinds of shooters would make an interesting test. Between us we burned up nearly 500 (Continued on page 62)



# New "Sling" For David



Victorious Israelis compare their gun with Egypt's m/45 SMGs from Sweden. UZI gun can fire big grenades.

By I. IRVING DAVIDSON

**B**ORN IN COMBAT, the UZI 9 mm submachine gun designed and built in Israel has proved well adapted to the needs of fighting men. Tried by the fire-fights of the 1956 Sinai Campaign and continual border raids to which Israel has been subjected for the past ten years, this weapon has risen from relative obscurity to prominence in several armies of the world. The UZI is adopted by West Germany's "Panzers," and the Netherlands. Fabrique Nationale of Belgium has named the UZI as the submachine gun they would market as a combat and sales companion to their famous Browning-FN Light Automatic Rifle. There was a rare tribute to this unique military product of a young nation, and an even greater tribute to the system which





produced Uziel Gal, the novel chopper's young inventor.

The origin of the UZI (from Gal's first name, pronounced "oo-zee") stemmed from a lack of submachine guns felt by the Jewish element in Palestine in the mid-1940s. Jewish nationalists sorely desired such weapons, preparing for their pending fight for the hoped-for future State of Israel. Homemade submachine guns of the Sten type were secretly produced. Among the many practicing this illicit manufacture was young Uziel Gal, born in 1923 in Germany, but for most of his years resident in Palestine. He came to public notice through a British Court Martial, having been caught making SMGs, and was sentenced to seven years in prison.

After he had served only a short part of his prison sentence, the United Kingdom decided, with the help of world opinion, to withdraw from Palestine. In so doing, they released the majority of the imprisoned Jews. Shortly after the English withdrew, Palestine was invaded by



Officers graduating from tank school in Israel on parade carry First Model UZIs with wooden stocks



Latest model compact SMG built by Israel Military Industries has folding stock for tankers.

Egyptian and Syrian troops. Young men and women immediately sprang into the fight for survival. As recorded by history, Israel was declared a nation on May 14, 1948. Then, with its hastily-formed civilian-type army, Israel proceeded to hold, and shortly thereafter, to defeat three invading Arab armies. The war came to a close with an uneasy truce in the autumn of 1948, with Israeli forces pushing hard on the heels of retreating Egyptian and Syrian troops.

Despite the hard-won victories, after the cease-fire it was realized that unnecessary losses had been suffered by Israeli forces because of a lack of arms with which to defend themselves. It was avowed at this time that the first order of the day, in building the new nation, would be to obtain or manufacture the best possible weapons with which to defend themselves. At least in the field of small arms, it was declared there would never be a shortage. Immediate work by Uziel and other Israeli technicians



Girl soldier carrying UZI examines French-marked ammo case among \$50,000,000 of arms lost by Arabs.





Check-stock gun is gift to Gen'l LeMay of SAC which is testing UZI for Air Police use. Stock extends quickly to help accurate aiming.



Germans of new Panzers feel for parts in rapid blindfold test of UZI's easy assembly.

started. With newly-purchased machinery, production began in 1951 of a submachine gun which, in design and function, leaves little to be desired.

Considered were safety, and ease of handling, as well as low-cost construction. The location of the magazine feedway in the handgrip is a desirable feature. It provides firm support for the magazine, sometimes a weakness in other types of these guns. The magazine can also be easily changed at maximum speed, even at night, according to the principle of "hand finds hand."

The point of balance is directly above the pistol grip. This design advantage is especially valuable when the gun must be carried or fired from the hip with (Continued on page 48)



Aiming for key defense role in "brush fire" wars with armor, Uziel Gal's 9mm burp gun rides with Israel tank major.



# WINCHESTER-LEE: SO MANY, AND YET—SO FEW

By WARREN SIPE



Elusive Lee Winchester 6mm has low survival rate, is little known to collectors but one is still used in Peruvian jaguar hunt 1954.

THE WINCHESTER LEE rifle—invented by that same James Paris Lee whose Lee-Enfields have been made in the millions—is one of gun collecting's rarities. Of a straight-pull bolt design unlike any other ever made, in 6mm High Velocity caliber, the Lee Navy Rifle is "romantic," and rare.

Since 1954 when I first became curious, I have seen not one advertised for sale by a major gun firm and only two by individuals. Nor have I seen one in a collection, nor one offered for sale at a gun show. This rifle was made from 1896 until 1903, and Winchester closed out all the parts in 1916. The one I own is an early job and is marked on the receiver ring in three lines: U.S.N./No 3963/N.C.T. They went all out in those days, for the N.C.T. stands for N. C. Twining, Ensign, U.S.N., the inspector. How many of these N.C.T.





Sharp-looking Marines with relief party aiding Americans in Chinese Boxer Rebellion in 1900 move out as company column of twos, bayoneted Lee rifles at "right shoulder arms."



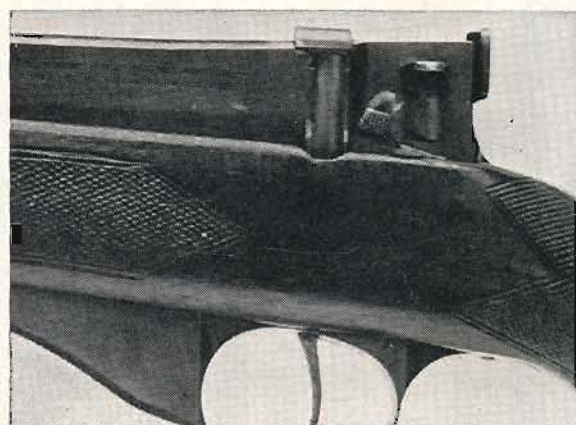
Author's daughter Carolyn checks out straight pull bolt on sporterized surplus Lee. Winchester made only 20,000.



**LEE STRAIGHT PULL RIFLE IS ONE OF RARE WINCHESTERS LITTLE KNOWN TO ANY COLLECTOR**

swatted his initials on, is sometimes confused by collectors. Some say 10,000 of these were made; others "about 15,000." Tom Hall, Winchester historian, says 20,000 in all is the correct figure, of which 1700 were originally made as sporters by them. Compare this total with M1866—120,101; M1873—720,610; M1876—123,211; M1886—159,900; M1892—1,002,305; and M1894 now pushing the three million mark. Even the Model 1895 Winchester, skyrocketing in value and demand, reached 425,881 including military arms shipped to Russia, and the desirable Hotchkiss rifle made by Winchester totalled 84,500.

When the Navy discarded their muskets, sporting goods houses bought them, sporterized by chopping the full length



Design unique among American guns had square section bolt with big back shoulder to lock it. On left rear of receiver was small safety, bolt stop.





Inventor James P. Lee, who also designed Lee-Enfield, made wooden model at Remington before Winchester successfully underbid on Navy production order.

stock, added a ramp front sight, a quick checkering job, and a block of wood so the grip could be enlarged. Officially, both at Winchester and in the Navy, the rifle is known as the U.S. Navy Model 1895, Calibre 6mm or .236. Ironically, the rifle was engineered and developed by Lee at Remington for the Navy but after acceptance by the Navy as a regulation design, a production contract was let and Winchester underbid and got it.

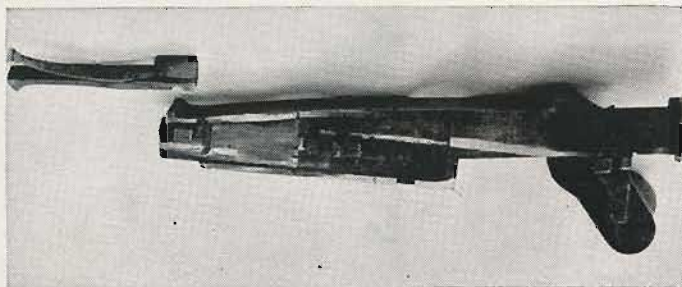
Knowing relative values for the other Winchester collector rifles, we can now pause to consider how many of the scarcer Lees may possibly exist today.

In 1895, a Naval Board meeting at Newport, R. I., awarded the contract to Winchester for the Lee straight pull rifle. Actual assembly of the weapons began in the late fall of 1896 and among ships equipped with them for use in the Spanish-American War were the *Vicksburg*, and the *Maine*. Knowing the *Maine's* role in history, we can assume that at least some of the rifles perished with her. Forty only were salvaged and sold by Bannerman; their serial numbers are appended.

A second factor determining how many of these rifles are around today is that the only pugnacious powder available in 1896 was made with a nitroglycerine base, and terribly de-



WRACo claims only 1700 original sporters were made but G.I. guns were sporterized for retail sale.



High velocity 6mm Lee cartridge was years ahead of its time; .243 is heir today. Locking shoulder of bolt was wedged tight by recoil, making fast-acting, certain but sturdy high power design.



structive to a rifle bore. It always seemed to me that a small bore is harder to keep clean than a larger one. Certainly it is harder to get into with fragile quick-to-bend rods and mighty small cleaning patches. At any rate, for a given amount of destructive gases, in a small bore, there is a greater concentration of these gases, and with that a greater concentration of heat; and it is longer lasting, being slower to cool. With such ruinous powder and with our modern nitro solvents not yet available, it is highly probable that more than average of the Lee Navy barrels were ruined, and the rifles junked.

With this, one can now believe that the Lee Navy was born with something less than a silver spoon in its mouth. And indeed it (*Continued on page 57*)





## NEW NORMA CASE OFFERS MAGNUM POWER IN STANDARD .30-CALIBER RIFLE ACTIONS

By NILS KVALE

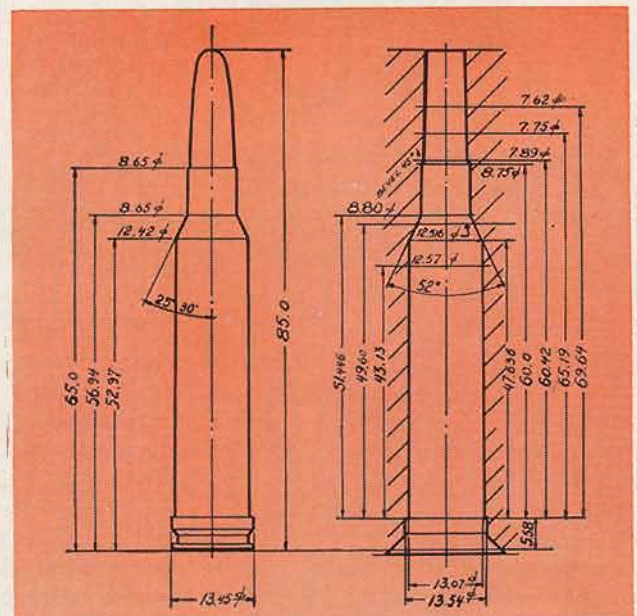
THE TRUE "GUN BUG" will relish the bounce and the attention-getting accuracy, even the big "bang," of a magnum rifle. But hampering those of us who search for the "most" has been a difficulty in the high costs of actions, either altered or original, long enough to take those big cartridges. And the idea of nibbling out the metal behind the recoil lug to enlarge the magazine length has never seemed a good idea. Neither does notching the top of the receiver for the bullet point, as some of our English rifle-making friends do. These defects led to the design of "short magnums"—often the old reliable belted .300 H & H case chopped off. This would fit standard shell holders, and had its advantages in reloading.

Now, many wildcatters found designing a new case exciting: making tools, collapsing cases in dies, burning fingers during annealing, and getting the face blackened by gas leakage while carrying out the intricate fire-forming operations. But undoubtedly a larger number of shooters have neither the experience, the equipment, nor perhaps the time, to grind special reamers and make a major project of special rifle work. (Continued on page 44)

# New Punch For Old Thirties



Kvale worked out .308 Magnum to give rifle enthusiasts more power in short case. As peak pressures are high, start loads low.





# The Old Maestro Tells WHAT MAKES A SIXGUN SHOOT

By ELMER KEITH

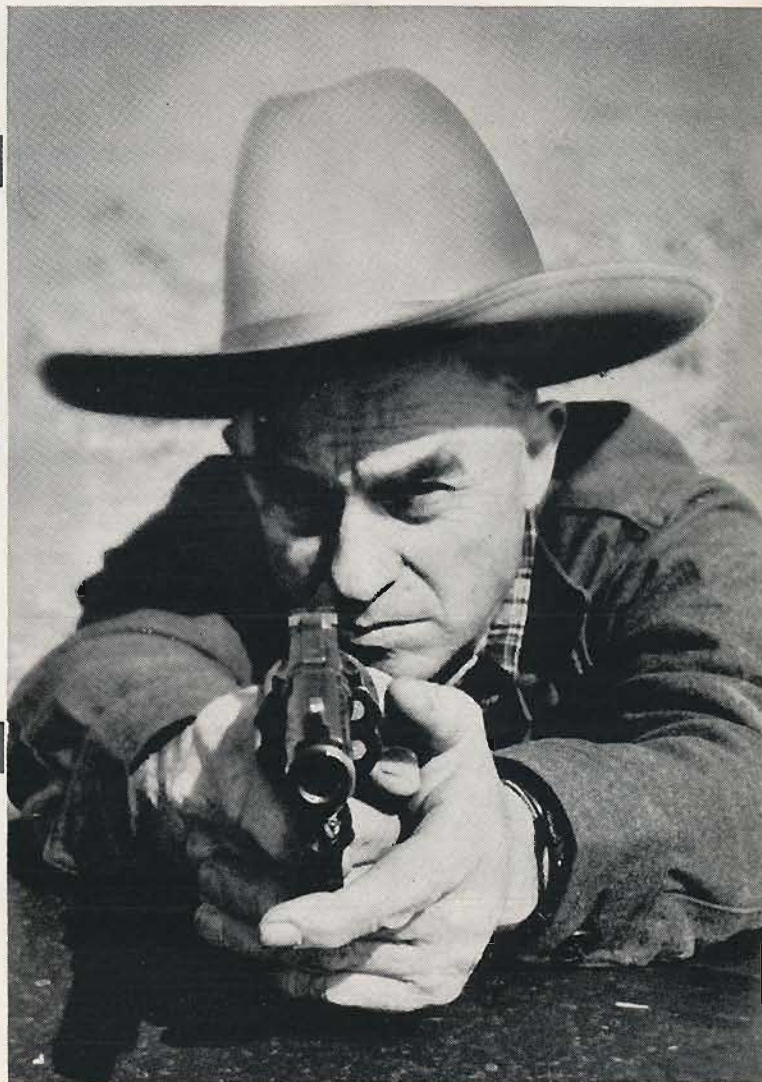


Ratchet must be renewed if worn much.



Inspect rear of barrel where it is weakest for splits. Pin below barrel aligns cylinder.

AN AMAZING NUMBER of handgun shooters, even those with considerable experience, are totally ignorant of the fairly elementary basic factors that make or break sixgun performance. At least that is the impression I get from the questions that pop up time after time in each month's mail. This is a sad state of affairs, because only by knowing these factors—their cause, effect, and cure—can a sixgunner get the most out of his gun and ammunition. Handgun performance depends first on the gun and, second, on the loads used in it.



Notch in line with flute shows chamber is not weakened, as by notch on thin section of wall.

Perhaps most elementary of all the factors in handgun accuracy is the fact that the axis of each revolver chamber must be perfectly aligned with the bore, locked in perfect alignment at the time of discharge. Sixguns vary in accuracy according to how well the chambers and the barrel line up at full cock.

Getting that perfect alignment is one of the major headaches in revolver manufacture. Makers make a rough check on cylinder alignment by pushing a polished steel rod down the barrel from the muzzle. The rod exactly fits



the bore (or lands), and the feel of the rod as it enters the cylinder chambers will reveal any bad misalignment. But this is not close enough for finest accuracy. Boring six holes through the steel cylinder so that the chambers are exactly parallel—so that the center of each chamber is exactly the same distance from the axis of the base pin—and then making each of those chambers lock into exact alignment with the axis of the barrel, is not easy. That it is done as accurately as it is done is a near miracle, yet certain individual guns of the same make and model will not lock up as accurately as others, and in some guns, certain chambers lock more accurately than other chambers in the same cylinder.

An expert who knows what to look for can make a very careful check of chamber alignment by throwing a strong light through the hole in the recoil plate with the gun at full cock, or by placing white paper behind the cylinder. Often, a little judicious fitting of the bolt in the cylinder cuts will bring a chamber into perfect alignment with the bore. Certain chambers may still align better than others, and those that do not line up perfectly will never be as accurate as those that do. Some shooters even mark the "best" or "worst" chambers in their guns, and use only the "best" chambers for extra slow-fire target accuracy. You get about what you pay for in sixguns, as in everything else, and you will find better lock-up alignment, hence better accuracy, in revolvers that cost more money. Used guns should be even more carefully checked for alignment, since wear can easily reduce the alignment built into it at the factory.

The chamber throats of most revolvers are from .001" to .005" larger than the groove diameter of their barrels. Some tolerance here is necessary to permit the cartridges to enter the chambers freely. The most accurate revolvers have minimum tolerance. When fired, a lead-alloy sixgun slug upsets to fill the chamber throat and thus seal off the pushing gas. It must then swage down in the barrel throat

or cone to fit the bore of the gun and perfectly seal the grooves. If the chamber throats are excessively large, this swaging down causes greatly increased pressures. Also, if the bullet has upset to several thousandths over size of the groove diameter, some deformation of the slug may occur when it enters the barrel proper. This cannot help accuracy, as the bullet may be thrown out of balance. Any misalignment of chamber throat and barrel axis will also cause shaving of lead on one side of the bullet, throwing the point off center.

The best alloy for most sixgun loads is one to sixteen tin and lead alloy. This is soft enough to upset freely to fill the chamber throats, yet hard enough to hold and maintain its original shape when entering and swaging down to fill the grooves. Pure lead tends to squash out like putty, deforming the bullet and causing pressures to mount. Cast bullets should never be so hard as to resist upset in the chamber throats, or gas will escape past them, often plating the front of the cylinder and causing leading of the barrel throat. Factory-made alloy bullets are usually too soft for best results; tend to lead the gun badly in high speed loads like the .357 Magnum. Copper coated factory bullets are much to be preferred for this reason. Heavily jacketed bullets do not upset to fill the chamber throats, nor do they always completely fill the grooves, and for this reason jacketed bullets like the .45 auto will wear out a revolver barrel in about 5,000 rounds. The same is true of jacketed bullets in the .38 Special and .357 Magnum. If the jackets are made thin enough to allow the pressure to upset them properly to fill the chamber mouths, then gas is not lost past the bullet and less wear will occur on barrel throat and there will be less erosion on the front of the cylinder.

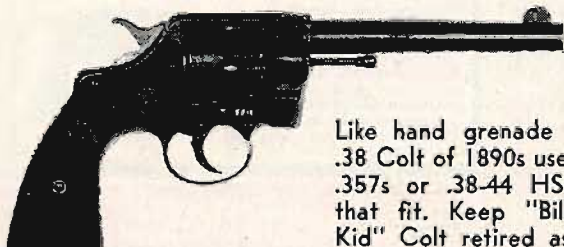
This is the reason I do not like gas check cups on revolver bullets. A hard, heavy, gas check cup cannot upset to fill the chamber throat and may be thrown slightly off center when the forward portion of the slug upsets to fill the throat of the chamber. If the (Continued on page 50)



Ratchet star fit in mortise affects cylinder side-rock.



Check headspace in .45 autos and watch for barrel bulges in new or used arms.



Like hand grenade is old .38 Colt of 1890s used with .357s or .38-44 HS loads that fit. Keep "Billy the Kid" Colt retired as relic.







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## VZ24 BRNO 98 MAUSERS!

Cal. 8MM



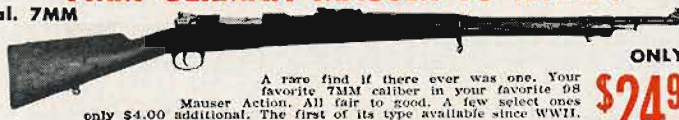
The famous VZ 24 short 98 Mauser in great demand by gunsmiths who know. Priced at a fantastic 'below-action-alone' price—and in fair or better condition. Truly, he who hesitates is lost on this bargain.

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## 7MM GERMAN MAUSER 98 RIFLES!

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Cal. 8MM



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## M94 SWEDISH MAUSER CARBINE!

Cal. 6.5MM



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Cal. 6.5 Italian



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Cal. 7.62 Russian



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9MM LUGER (NEW, NON-CORROSIVE)	\$6.00
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6.5MM JAP (M.C.)	\$6.00
6.5MM ITALIAN IN CLIPS (M.C.)	\$5.00
7MM MAUSER (M.C.)	\$6.00
7.35 ITALIAN IN CLIPS (M.C.)	\$5.00
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7.62MM RUSSIAN (M.C.)	\$6.00
7.65MM (.30) MAUSER (M.C.)	\$6.00
30 M1 CARBINE	\$5.00
30-06 U.S. M2 BALL IN 5 rd. CLIPS	\$6.00

30-06 BLANKS	\$4.00
30-40 Krag (M.C.)	\$5.00
303 BRITISH MILITARY	\$7.50
303 BRITISH BLANKS	\$4.00
8MM GERMAN MAUSER ISSUE (M.C.)	\$6.00
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42 COLT BERDAN RIFLE (M.C.)	\$10.00
43 (11MM) REMINGTON (M.C.)	\$5.00

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7.65 MAUSER SOFT POINT (20 rds.)	\$5.45
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(Those few with asterisk (\*) above are partially shootable but fully componentable.)

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Cal. .30-06



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Cal. 7.5 SWISS



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### ROYAL ENFIELD No. 1, Mk III!

Cal. .303



The best dollar for dollar value ever. The famed British Royal Enfield at an absolute give-away price. Order now before these are gone forever. Fair to good condition. Bayonets only \$1.75.

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### CUSTOM ROYAL ENFIELD No. 4 SPORTERS!

Cal. .303



A professional military conversion by the world-famous Cogswell & Harrison gunmakers of London and at a fantastically low price. Insist only on this superb model.

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### JOHNSON SEMI-AUTO!

Cal. .30-06



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### RUSSIAN MODEL 91!

Cal. 7.62 Russian

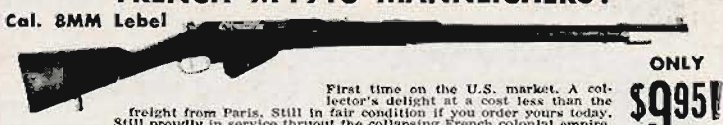


Stupendous! The 1900 Olympic Biathlon Masterpiece—the rifle that won five out of the first six places during the Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley. Fair to good condition. A few select ones at only \$3.00 more.

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Cal. 8MM Lebel



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Cal. Italian



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L. 10.35MM!

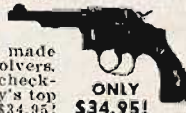
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Cal. 7.65MM

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# CBs Lick The Noise Problem

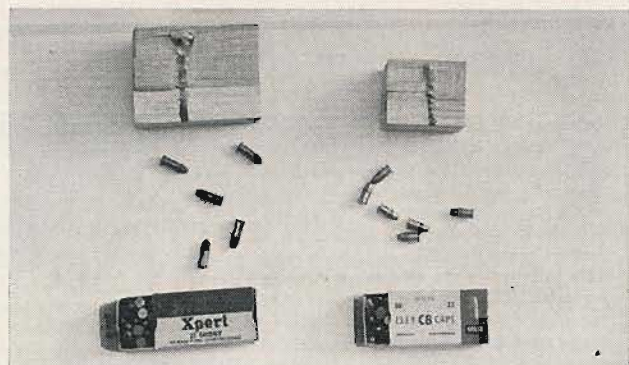
By CLYDE G. HOWELL



Howell's tests of .22 CB (Conical Ball) caps in K-22 gave surprising accuracy at 25 feet, good group at 50 ft. (left target.) In pine, CB punched  $1\frac{7}{16}$ " in to Short's  $1\frac{15}{16}$ ."



Little Mauser at short range gave good groups but penetration of .22 CB was lower than from handgun (see above).



Contrasted to .22 Shorts, imported C.B. Caps gave low report. Howell got one rabbit without scaring another! K-22 tests (above) penetrated more than rifle.

**M**OST OF THE GUNS and new cartridges introduced in recent years have put the accent on power and gilt-edged accuracy. Experts, both amateur and professional, have tested and matched loads to a particular gun for peak performance. All this is fine. Super-accurate and clean-killing guns and loads fill the needs of both target range and field. But—

While we've been gaining better guns and loads, we've been losing the places to shoot them. The old vacant area at the city limits is now a suburb. Farms where conditions are right and permission is available are not as common as they once were. The average guy—the target shooter who needs regular periods of practice, and the plinker who likes to burn a box or two of .22s with his family and friends on a Sunday afternoon—have found that places to shoot are no longer “just around the corner.” And even .22 caliber shooting on a basement range can arouse criticism in thickly populated areas when the family upstairs, or next door, have other interests.

What's the answer for the guy (or gal) who wants to do some inexpensive, concussion-free, yet accurate shooting with the .22 rifles and handguns they now own but get to use too seldom?

Maybe one answer lies in a nearly forgotten little .22 caliber cartridge called the CB cap.

Old-timers can remember shooting CB caps years ago. They never were popular with me, because the mixture of black and smokeless powder then used in them caused fouling. The extensive cleaning necessary after each firing made it easier to go “just around the corner” to the places then available where regular .22 ammo could be fired. Other shooters must have felt as I did, for CB caps faded completely out of the shooting (*Continued on page 41*)





# Pull!

BY DICK MILLER

**S**HOOTING COLUMNISTS have one fault in common with other sports scribes and technical writers. More often than we should, we use technical jargon, or the vernacular of the subject, about which we write.

When we do this, we fire blanks for some of our readers, and wild shots over the heads of others. I'm not downgrading the intelligence and knowledgeability of you readers. Any writer realizes that his stuff is read by readers with a wide range of background and interests. We all know that shooting columns, for example, are read by people who neither shoot nor hunt. An undetermined number of readers of outdoor columns get their outdoor experiences vicariously by reading columns devoted to outdoor subjects. It makes sense to conclude that since these readers are not active participants in shooting sports, they don't understand all the terms a shooter would use.

For a case in point, let's assume that since "Pull!" is principally devoted to trap and skeet, most of the column's readers are familiar with all the terms used. But, what about the pistoleer, the small-bore fan, the bench rest bug, or the game hunter whose eyes stray through its pages?

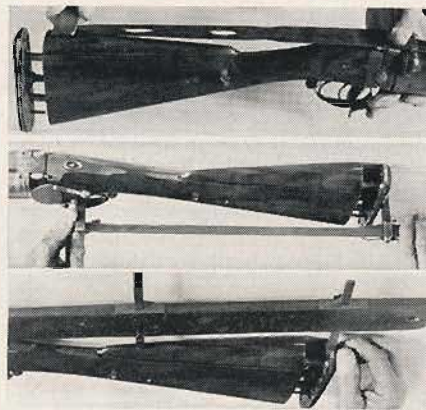
It's not unreasonable to assume that even the skeet shooter, who has not shot trap, might be a little vague about the meaning of such terms as "16-yard," "handicap," or "doubles." A trapshooter who had never fired at a skeet target might wonder exactly what was meant by "outgoer" or "incomer" or a "four-gun event." Readers who were not familiar with either skeet or trap might be a shade confused by all those terms. Shooting columnists speak glibly of "straight" and of "crooked" guns, and of "drop at heel," or "toe."

My fifteen years in the retail firearms business taught me that dealers, as well as writers, use jargon on people who do not always know what the terms mean. The customer will rarely reveal that he does not know what you are talking about. The retailer holds an advantage over the writer in that at least the blank look of the customer will sometimes indicate that you have fired a blank.

Not long ago I advised a trapshooter that he might like some "light" trap loads. The look he gave me prompted me to ask if he knew what I meant. His answer indicated that so far as he knew, all trap loads were light as compared with most field loads. He did not know that trap loads are marketed in two styles, the regular three dram load, or the so-called "light" 2½ dram load. I have learned that it does little good to tell a new shooter that his gun is too "straight" or

too "crooked" if he does not know what the terms mean.

Not every shooter is completely aware of the terms used in this sport. I lost \$1000.00 because of such a failing. In 1954 I broke a score of 98 in the Preliminary Handicap on Thursday of Grand American week. I broke the 98 in events of 24-24-25-25, which means that I broke 24 out of 25 on the first two of the 4 trap fields used to record the necessary 100 targets, and broke 25 straight, without a miss, on the last two fields. The last 50 straight made me a contender for the Ford Purse, but what this meant I did not properly understand. So, when I fired my



Checking adjustable try-gun for length of pull, drop of comb at front and heel, a gunsmith can insure fit of new gun.

first 25 targets on Friday, I did not exert any special effort. I relaxed, thinking that I had my day on Thursday, and that this day didn't matter too much. What I did not know was that I was in a shoot-off with 10 other men for a prize of about one thousand dollars.

When I broke the last 50 in the same event the following year (1955) some more knowledgeable shooter mentioned that I had a chance to win a Ford Purse. He did not know how or why, just that by breaking 50 straight, I had a chance. I immediately buttonholed at least a dozen shooters, and not one of them knew just how the Ford Purse was won. Finally Art Stifal, the great veteran Illinois trapshooter, explained the system

to me, and I went out on Friday morning and concentrated on each shot. This time I won, because I knew what I had to do to win.

To carry this discourse further, many people who ought to know better do not distinguish between the clay target games of trap and skeet. I have heard shooters tell of shooting "skeet" at a gun club where I knew no skeet range was available, only trap. Still other people call all clay targets "skeets." I recently had a letter from a man expressing his pleasure at breaking five "skeets" in a row. What he had done was to break five clay targets thrown from a hand-trap. He was shooting neither trap nor skeet, and was breaking clay targets, not "skeets."

Since I hold the theory that most people will enjoy shooting more if they can "speak the language," here is a glossary of terms which might be expected to be used in these pages:

**Trap:** A clay target shooting game in which the shooter fires from five positions 16 or more yards behind the trap. Targets are thrown at various angles unknown to the shooter. The birds (clay targets) travel approximately 50 yards. The average target is hit, on the rise (as it goes up) about 35 yards from the shooter. In competition, the shooter fires from each of 5 stations, five shots from each station, 25 shots comprising a complete "round."

It was originally called "trap" because live pigeons were held in traps and released; flying up to be shot. Hence the word may have one of several meanings. As a game, it is "trap shooting." The device today which propels the clay targets is a "trap," whether mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, or a simple arm-lever hand trap. And shotguns stocked and adjusted for longer-distance clay target shooting are "trap guns."

**Skeet:** To equalize shooting competition with field guns, a group of sportsmen developed a program of shooting "round the clock," each shooter having the same series of shots. The game was called "Skeet," a word of Scandinavian origin meaning "to shoot." A round of skeet for one shooter is 25 shots. The normal skeet squad consists of five men. Two targets are shot from each of the eight stations; one from the high house and one from the low house. Doubles are then shot from stations 1, 2, 6, and 7. The 25th shot is called the "optional" and is a repeat of the first miss.

If the shooter breaks all 24, he can call for any target he chooses as his "optional" shot. Usually, the optional is taken by a shooter who has not missed as his last shot, and from station 7.

Guns for skeet are characteristically short in the barrel, because of the sudden changes of shooting direction required (as when two birds from opposite directions cross in doubles) and are also open-bored, a good spread of shot being better for quick hits.

**Trap house:** The shelter for a mechanical



Typical trap single gun shows straight stock lines and long elevated rib to reduce heat-haze on viewing flying targets. Stock comb raises head height.





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throwing device which throws clay targets (sometimes called "birds" or "pigeons") into the air.

**High house:** The traphouse at left edge of a skeet field (post 1) from where targets emerge at a point ten feet above ground.

**Low house:** The traphouse at the right edge of a skeet field, (post 7) where targets are released at a point 3½ feet above ground.

**16-yard:** An event or division of trapshooting in which all contestants shoot from a point 16 yards behind the forward edge of the traphouse. All targets go away from the shooter.



Stance at trap is more  
"rifle-like", less easy,  
than loose-swinging pose  
of skeet at close clays.

**Handicap:** A trapshooting game in which shooters are assigned or earn shooting distances behind the traphouse, varying from 17 to 27 yards, in official competition. Handicapping is a device to equalize shooting ability. A beginner may shoot from 18 yards, while a more proficient shooter would be at a greater distance, up to 27 yards.

**Doubles-trap:** A trapshooting game in which two targets are released instead of one, with shooters standing at 16 yards.

**Doubles-skeet:** Shots at two targets which are released simultaneously, one from each end of the field, high house and low house.

**Long run:** A string of targets not broken by a missed shot.

**Four-gun event:** A skeet tournament in which contests are offered in each of four gauge classifications: all-gauge (12 gauge or shooter's choice), 20 gauge, small gauge (28 gauge or 3-inch .410 shells), and sub-small (2½" .410 bore guns and shells).

**Outgoer:** Shot in skeet taken at a target going away from the shooter.

**Incomer:** A shot in skeet taken at a target coming toward the shooter.

**Straight gun:** A gun with little drop in the stock.

**Crooked gun:** A gun with more than usual drop in the stock.

**Drop:** The distance between a line drawn parallel with top of gun barrel and the "heel" or "comb" of a gunstock.

**Heel:** The top edge of the butt (rear) end of a gunstock.

**Comb:** That portion of a gunstock nearest the face.

**Toe:** The bottom edge of the rear end of a gunstock.

**Drop a target:** miss a shot.

**Professional trap or skeet shooter:** A shooter who receives his principal income from an arms or ammunition manufacturer.

**"Pull":** A word used by a skeet or trap shooter to ask an attendant (called "puller") to release a target or targets. Also, as "length of pull," the distance from center of butt plate to middle of trigger.

**Hand-trap:** Device for throwing clay targets by hand, rather than using a spring-operated or mechanical apparatus.

**Clay target:** Cupped clay disc used as a target in shotgun or smoothbore rifle games.

**Smoothbore rifle:** A solid bullet firing shoulder arm having no rifling (spiral grooves) cut in the barrel. This is an oddity—sometimes found in Ohio and New York State—made sporting "rifles" of the 1850s. Designed for short-range bear hunting, to fire ball; and also shot for birds.

**Choke:** Constriction in the end of a shotgun muzzle designed to hold a mass of shot together until it reaches a target.

**Full choke:** A barrel constriction designed to give best results at distances of 45 to 55 yards.

**Modified choke:** The same for distances of 35 to 45 yards.

**Improved cylinder bore:** Same, for distances of 25 to 35 yards.

**Skeet bore:** The same for distances to 20 yards; very open or cylinder bored.

**Trap gun:** A gun specially designed for trapshooting, usually having less drop than skeet or field guns. Since most trap targets are rising, best results usually come from a gun having a tendency to shoot high. The straight stock in most cases will cause a gun to shoot high, above the line of sight.

**Skeet gun:** A gun especially designed for skeet, usually having more drop than a trap gun, for point-blank aiming.

**Field gun:** A gun designed with field shooting conditions especially in mind, in most instances lighter and having more drop than a trap gun.

**Cover a bird:** To so aim as to seem to cover the target with the muzzle, usually done to compensate for the "climb" of a target.

**Lead (pronounced lead):** To aim in front of a moving target, so as to intercept its path with your shot.

**Black out a target:** To raise the gun muzzle so that it appears that the target is concealed by the muzzle—synonymous for "cover a bird."

**Come unglued:** Have a bad day shooting.

**Compensating device:** A choke-control designed to vary the effective range or pattern of a shotgun (pattern-spread of the shot charge).

So, now that you're sharpened up on all this special lingo, you'll know what to say when some fellow shooter at the club hails you with "High there, what's the good word?"



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## TOUGHEST TARGET IN THE SKY

(Continued from page 15)

feed more people without question; but they wouldn't be the tender- and sweet-meated birds that my friends and I enjoy.

Another time, Lloyd Fox of Omaha and I got a hurry-up call that the canvassbacks were in. We packed and were on our way within the hour. While we drove hundreds of miles and then slept a few hours, a baby blizzard blew the cans out of the country. It also sent huge flocks of mallards wheeling hungrily over the cornfields in search of high-calorie food. With them flew a handful of small flocks of Canadas, also hungry for corn.

We made a plain blind setup, without decoys, in a sheltered field, and were in place before dawn. Mallards swooped and swung on every side even before shooting time and, by the time the legal minute had arrived, they'd piled into the far edge of the field by the literal hundreds. I was on the point of tearing a sizeable tumbleweed out of our blind to use as a camouflage shield in trying to stalk them, when a pair of white-fronts came flying hard across the field.

They came so fast and unexpectedly that we dropped only one of the birds. Of course the shooting spooked the mallards but, during their swing to find another undisturbed field, they edged our blind and we dropped three big drakes out of the flock's tail-end birds.

When I retrieved that fully-feathered adult goose I knew the survivor would return. For white-fronts, even more so than the Canada honkers, are very loyal to their mates and their parents. They'll haunt the premises where a mate has vanished. None of the lesser geese will do so.

Sure enough, an hour later, the survivor came back, keening its call for its missing mate. Although it was 60 yards high, by combining our shooting and hitting it several times, we bagged that one too.

White-fronted geese are not nearly as durable birds under shotgun fire as are the lordly Canadas. In fact they're about as easy to kill as full-plumaged Mallards, or the little white-cheek-patched Hutehins geese. But the trick is to fool them into coming within shotgun range; any shotgun range. In their willingness and tendency to feed apart from all other species of geese, and thus swing wide of decoy setups, they're fearfully frustrating.

Take the case of Charley Kirkpatrick, a goose hunter of over a half-century of experience. Every year he gets a score or more of Canadas by the very simple expedient of setting up in feeding fields into which honkers have been dropping in for grub for the past half-century. Charley even uses full-bodied decoys, draped with the skins of honkers he bagged many years ago.

But, until the early 1940s, he had never slain a white-front over many hundreds of decoy setups; he just hadn't had the oppor-

tunity to cut into a flock. Then, one day when Morgan Drake and I planned to set up for them, and had a field that two of us couldn't adequately cover, we invited Charley and his hunting buddy, Howard Lacey, to join us. And that was the morning that Charley downed a pair so fast that he had both birds hanging in the air at the same time. None of the rest of us got so much as a sniff at that flock, which made just one swipe at the feeding field which they'd used for the three previous mornings.

That same season Morgan Drake and I got into another flock; one that had been regularly alighting and feeding in on a wind-swept hillock of plowed ground. Bits of volunteer greenery and a few protruding heads of barley provided the essentials for their daily breakfasts. It was a horrible place to set up, with wind-swept dirt swirling into our ears, eyes and noses, and down our collars. Too, the wind that morning was razor-sharp with cold. In our exposed location we nearly froze, before the cheerful, laughing "wah-wah, wah-wah, wah-wah" of our game assured us they were coming.

That flock went by fully 100 yards high, passed us at three-quarters of a mile, then turned and began to fight their way back against the solid push of the wind. It seemed turned and began to fight their way back to their pet dining table. But when they got there, they were low, and within excellent range. Nevertheless, it took five of the fastest shots we ever fired at geese to drop our limits. My second bird, rearing up to let the wind get full purchase against its furiously pedaling wings, was hit so lightly with two shots that it wobbled off 150 yards before it grounded. This was the one and only time in my life that I saw two hunters bag a limit of white-fronts out of single flock.

... Or take the time I took Dr. Paul Bunker and his boy along on a dawn goose shoot. We were after snows, which means this was an early-season hunt. We didn't even know there were any white-fronts in the country. But, our setup made and all hunters well hidden, the first flock that came in was of two dozen white fronts. They came in 50 yards high and just hung there, inspecting the setup and the adjacent premises.

Since this was their first goose hunt, I waited for Doc and his boy to shoot first. But, when the ideal moment had passed, I yelled "Shoot!" and swung my pet Ithaca. The birds had started to break out of flock formation by then and we were very lucky to scratch down two of them. That flock acted as if it hadn't ever been shot into, the one and only flock of white-fronts I ever saw that behaved so carelessly.

One of the toughest white-fronted shoots I've ever encountered was during a day of bitter cold, though no snow had yet fallen. The wind was positively cruel as we set up in Ralph Herseht's field; the same Herseht

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who is Governor of South Dakota. The flock we got into that day was of late-season birds.

The gale was so strong that Morgan Drake and I placed our decoys 100 yards upwind. The birds came out high and wide, and rode the wild wind almost a mile to our leeward before they turned. Then, rising and falling and wavering from side to side, they began to buck the wind toward our decoys. They didn't reach the decoys by 200 yards, which put them fully 100 yards to our leeward; a wide landing that's no unusual performance where white-fronts are concerned. For the moment it seemed as if that flock was completely beyond our reach, yet we desperately wanted at least a pair of those fine eating birds. With the way weather was building up, it would be our last goose hunt of the season, our last chance to score.

But both Morgan and I are hunting shrewd in pulling off hairline chances at game. Although 60 yards separated us our thinking ran in the same groove: we had to halve the range in order to have a reasonable chance. That didn't mean crawling up on the birds, for the moment they saw movement they'd flip out of there like shot-stung mallards. And, with the wind to expedite their get-away, two or three seconds was all it would take.

So I got my legs under me and, stealing a glance at Morgan's hideout, I suddenly saw him bulk slightly out of cover. The next moment we were on our feet, sprinting down on those geese as if we were running a 100-yard dash. I don't recall exactly how close we got. But, since the geese had to come into the wind a bit for take-off, we cut the range to at least 60 yards; maybe 50.

It was barely enough. The white-fronts rose in a flaring jumble while we were still on a dead run. But our first two shots slammed out in unison and two birds fell. We emptied our guns of their three-shell limits but no other geese fell out until the flock had flown perhaps 200 yards, when a third bird fell sharply out of it, and raised a sudden puff of dust that was instantly whipped away by the wind. If we both hadn't had our eyes glued to that departing flock we might never have seen that bird.

White-fronted geese admit a distinct fragility under shotgun fire. In this they greatly resemble the snows and blues, or the tiny-bodied and white-cheek-patched Hutchins geese. And they are about the same body size as snows or blues; an eight pound white-front is a whopping big one, with far more of them falling into the 5½ to 6½ pound average for mature birds.

This small body size definitely invites the use of finer shot sizes than are generally used for goose hunting; and by shot sizes I don't mean buck-shot, which no sensible goose

hunter will use. To my mind buck-shot is direct invitation to wild long-range shooting, causing unretrievable cripples.

I've taken approximately the same number of white-fronts with Number 4's as with 2's, though a couple have fallen to Number 6 shot when they happened in on me during the course of cornfield shoots of mallards. And if Short Magnum loads of Number 6 shot are available I'd as soon use them as either standard or Magnum game loads of Number 2's or 4's. The greater shot pellet content of those loads will, if such shells pattern well in the shotgun used, outweigh the over-all killing effect of the more open patterns the coarser shots invariably produce. There are exceptions of course, in barrels expressly bored to handle the coarser shots with exceptional pattern density, but such barrels are few and far between.

I'm equally opinionated when it comes to suitable goose-hunting gauges of shotguns. I don't care for magnums in either 10 or 12 gauge simply because they're invariably heavy and thus clumsy gung. I feel that many, many good shots are missed because hunters can't swing these bazookas fast enough to catch up with their game. Thus, they are behind their targets of the moment, though they occasionally kill the second or third bird behind the one they're aiming at.

Hunters who know their guns and use them well need nothing more potent than the standard chambered 12-gauge shotguns. That presupposes they also take their game within reasonable ranges and don't shoot at everything in sight. And, of course, I feel that such sub-gauge shotguns as 16s and 20s have no place on a goose hunt, unless they're expressly bored to handle at least 1½ ounces of shot. Then, they're not standard 16 or 20 gauges.

I've no quarrel with the expert users of magnum shotguns of the larger bores. But ownership of such guns doesn't automatically make any hunter an extraordinarily improved game shot. The average magnum owner has little conception of the potential of his weapon; he often uses the same lead on birds at 60 yards as he does at 40, when the proper lead at the longer range ought to be double that used at 40 yards. And, on nearly horizontal shots, the additional drop of the shot charge at long range is often the reason for "misses," cripples.

Good and effective use of the magnum shotguns is really a very specialized kind of gun handling, especially when the range gets out beyond 50 yards; and when it gets out there to the 75-yard range, at which so many magnum users occasionally kill game and thus suspect they ought to do it regularly, not one magnum user out of 20 knows enough of the ballistics of his shotgun to personally perform up to its potential. Infrequent kills at such ranges just encourage a lot of wild shooting, in the hopes that it will happen again. Meanwhile, cripples are numerous, wasting valuable game.

Certainly white-fronted geese, being easy to kill when hit well and none too numerous in Continental population totals, should be hunted with the idea of clean kills primarily in mind. They do not require outsized gauges of shotguns, hurling massive charges of coarse shot sizes, to reduce them to possession. But they do require more goose-hunting know-how than any other species of geese on the Continent.

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## CBs LICK THE NOISE PROBLEM

(Continued from page 36)

picture in this country.

But CB caps are back now, imported from some European makers; and they are no longer gun-foulers. With non-corrosive primers and smokeless powder, they have no greater fouling effect than any other .22 ammunition, so far as I could tell during fairly extensive tests.

These tests came about when GUNS editors suggested that I try out these midget loads to see if they might not fill the gap between regular .22 ammo and the spring-air-gas bracket of shooting. Frankly, I was skeptical. Remembering past experience, I didn't much like the idea of fouling up pet guns with loads in which I had little interest; but the idea of firearms practice sans objectionable racket did interest me, and I sent off for a supply of ammo. Now, after testing a respectable lot on my basement range, around farm buildings for pests, and in the field for small game, I have nothing but kind words for this returning prodigal. Surprisingly to me, these tiny cartridges speed their 30 grain lead bullets truer, smack them home harder, than I ever dreamed was possible. They have their limits, of course; but within those limits, this is a usable load.

Our first question was, "What will they do on the targets?" With a box of CBs, a few official NRA 50-foot targets, a single-shot .22 caliber Mauser-Werk (a gun of which I am especially fond, and so are the kids), and my Smith and Wesson K-22, I headed for the basement range.

Firing five-shot groups on each bullseye from a distance of 25 to 50 feet, the results were astonishing; at least, they were to me. In the first place, the report was almost negligible, little more than that of an air rifle. Fact of the matter is, no one upstairs knew what I was up to. Secondly, several five-shot groups were as good as I am capable of shooting. Other groups showed an occasional flier. I am not too sure about those fliers, but since they occurred when hold seemed to be as good as average, for want of a better excuse, the blame was placed on the CB Cap.

Convinced that the caps were capable of fine scores at average basement-range distances, the next experiment naturally was to find just how much "wallup" they packed. Since soft pine boards seem to be the favorite for testing bullet penetration, I first ran tests on a piece of soft straight-grained 2x4.

I think this came as the greatest surprise of all. The 30-grain CB smashed its way through better than half of the block—one and five sixteenths of an inch, to be exact, from entrance to point of extreme penetration. Since wood varies so much in density I used the same piece to determine the penetrating power of the .22 short. Its extreme penetration—one and seven-eighths inches.

Next came tests on one-inch soft pine boards. Shooting was done this time with the K-22. Results were comparable percent-

age-wise. The CB penetrated 17/16 of an inch; the .22 caliber short 1 15/16. Possibly all this proves is that a bullet will sail to a greater depth through one-inch boards than through a solid mass. Anyway, there it is; take your pick.

I had no doubt now that the little CB, traveling at a rated 725 feet per second, held the potential energy to crumple farm pests or small game. However, another test still remained before giving them a try. How would they perform in revolvers?

On an official NRA 50-foot slow fire target, but leveling off at but one half that distance, I sought the answer with a string of five. All of the holes could be covered with a dime. They were off-center (sights were not changed from the 50-ft. setting), but that didn't matter since I wanted group effect. With a corrected sight setting, I rattled off 25 more. None of them strayed beyond the nine ring, and—there were no fliers. Another 25 shots still showed nothing in the way of stray shots.

Turning to the rifle again, we collected wide shots now and then. By "fliers" I do not mean really had strays; but once out of 25, maybe 50 shots, one hole would wind up perhaps a bullet's length from the others, enough to knock an otherwise perfect score for a loss of a point or two. Why? I still don't know. My conclusions, purely academic and objective, are that they perform better in short barreled guns at medium ranges. Whatever the reason, they are still mighty accurate on a whole.

Now with complete confidence that I could hit where I was looking and that the ammo dealt a good punch, I started off on English sparrows. The little slugs howled them over, feathers flying, as well as any non-expanding .22 caliber bullet, at ranges up to about 60 feet. But let's face it. They just won't reach out nearly as far as a .22 L.R. with any degree of accuracy. Their power is limited. Their range is controlled.

Forty to fifty feet seems to be an all-around good shooting distance. I have a hunch the majority of plinker-shooters rack up the largest percentage of their hits with any .22 rifle or pistol within these ranges. And the average shooter is the person I had in mind while running these tests. Were they accurate at normal shooting distances? Of what killing power were they capable?

Scouting about for larger and tougher game, I came quite by accident face to face with a full-grown rat. One shot sent him spinning. Upon examination, I found the CB had caught him high in the chest between the front legs and had ranged diagonally downward through the chest cavity. Rats are tough little vermin to stop dead in their tracks. It takes a well placed bullet to do the job unless a hollow-point is used. (That's one advantage of the hollow-point wherever it's used, it covers up a batch of minor errors that would otherwise amount

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to lost game. It helps save face for the hunter, and it prevents needless suffering of the hunted.)

Next we had to find out what kind of rabbit cartridge it would make—as if I didn't already know. To save meat, every small-bore hunter I know takes sitting game "head on" and seldom if ever shoots cotton-tails beyond 50 feet. No discredit for the CB here. It does the job neatly and quickly. At this point, I experienced an unusual happenstance, one made to order for my experiments. Another bunny some fifteen feet adjacent apparently wasn't even disturbed by the report of the CB fired from the K-22. I am almost positive he would have stripped his gears getting under way had I been using .22 long rifle cartridges.

One other test still awaited the CB Cap. It was one I wouldn't have tried if I hadn't already convinced myself of the CB's power. Every now and then a hog-raiser finds he has a "runt" on hand. A runt is a pig that eats like a hog yet remains a bantam-weight. Almost always he is disposed of before weaning time, but sometimes soft-heartedness gives him a second chance to make the grade. It doesn't pay off. This one weighed in the neighborhood of 40 pounds.

I decided the CB was capable of the job

at hand. I backed it up, of course, with a cylinderfull of .22 long rifle hollow-points. But the CB did the job: one shot to the brain from a distance of about ten feet. Understand, please, that I do not recommend CB's for game as large as this. We're leaving enough cripples in the woods and in the fields as it is. This shot was for testing purposes only, and it was fired with absolute knowledge of where and how the bullet must hit. The CB is *not* for 40 pound animals of any kind; but it does show surprising penetration.

The conical-shaped CB Cap is supplemented by two other cartridges in the same category. One shoots a BB; the other is loaded with fine shot. Although I slighted these other loads somewhat, I did test them to my own satisfaction—and found them inadequate for the type of work they conceivably might be used for.

The shot cartridge, so far as I am concerned is a "crippler." I shot a dozen or more English sparrows from distances of 15 to 30 feet. Many of these shots were taken on the wing and, although they folded promptly at the report of the gun, I found that too many of them were still alive some minutes later. One was sprayed liberally about the head and neck, which naturally

caused instant death. Two or three others taken "head on" while perched on tree limbs were apparently dead by the time they hit the ground. Shot penetration through feathers of the breast averaged somewhere around one-half inch but if wing feathers were in the way they barely penetrated the skin.

There are enough shot in the little CB cases to lay out a rather impressive pattern when shot from a smooth-bore. My Remington single-shot will plant around 90% of the shot in a 10 inch circle at 50 feet. But when these same shot are pushed from a gun with rifling, they become so crazily mixed up that the pattern suffers badly. If shot cartridges are to be used, it seems only fair to keep shooting distance at a minimum and to aim for the head.

With the conclusion of these tests and before resting my case, I would like to make this prediction. I believe we will be seeing more and more of these cartridges as time goes by, on basement ranges, where noise is annoying to others, and especially for teaching gun-shy members of the family that shooting is fun.

CB Caps remind me of that well-known slogan of the late Teddy Roosevelt. They "Speak softly," but for their size, they carry a big punch.



## GUNS ON THE KURDISH FRONTIER

(Continued from page 18)

These old clunkers are worth up to 6,000 Rials (\$80 U.S.) on the clandestine market. A mint Model 98 Mauser in 8x57mm calibre will bring as high as 20,000 Rials (\$263) on the same market.

Quite a few percussion arms are in use for hunting, along with a fair number of European combination guns. The former stay in service because they present no ammunition resupply problem. Iran furnishes some of the finest Sheep, Ibex, Boar and Duck hunting to be found in the world. Where else can you sit in one spot and sight 118 Red Sheep in a single afternoon? Just about any cartridge arm that has come out of Europe may be found in the loving hands of the roving tribesmen.

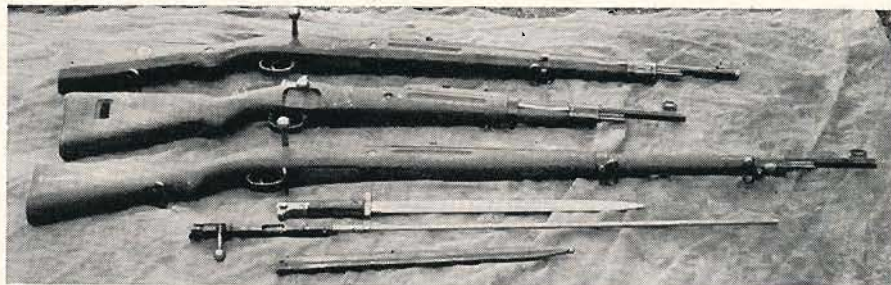
A recent jeep trip through the Sardasht area, along the Iraqi border (long noted for the quality of its fighting men) showed the following weapons in the hands of the local citizenry: Lec-Enfields, Russian Model 91s, Mauser 71s and 71/84s (some converted to 8x57mm) Model 98 Mausers from all over the world, including one with Paraguayan markings, New Czech 98/29s, French Leblers, Japanese 6.5mm Arisakas, Pattern 14 Enfields, and a scattering of all sorts of sporting arms. Pistols were just as varied, including Walther PP and PPK models, Russian Nagants, Swiss Service revolvers, Turkish Kırkales, Astras, Stars, Llamas, lots of assorted Brownings, miscellaneous French pistols, one fine old Smith & Wesson .44 Russian model and assorted British and European revolvers.

Many of these weapons must occasionally be concealed for long periods of time. As a result, many of them show signs of burial and other types of hiding. In spite of a few rust spots thus caused, they all appear to be ready for instant service and are the pride and joy of their owners. In the more remote areas, standard Kurdish male dress includes a pistol belt and holster along with a bandolier or belt full of rifle ammunition. They

have apparently adopted the Boy Scout motto: Be Prepared.

This profusion of types and calibres causes the owners no small problem in ammunition resupply. It would be an Ordnance Officer's nightmare. There are no handy corner gunshops where one can drop in and pick up a box of his favorite fodder with no trouble. With the guns prohibited, it follows logically that the ammunition is also very closely controlled. Except for .22 rimfire and shotgun ammunition, nothing can be purchased legally on the open market. Even the shops in the country's capitol do not stock center-fire rifle and pistol ammunition. Of course, there is always a way to get what is wanted. With good 8mm ball ammo worth the equiva-

quality components and modern tools, but with improvised tools and components of doubtful value. Even the components are likely to be home made. As I write this I have an excellent example of improvisation before me. It started out as a standard round of .303 British ball made by Kynoch. The rim has been filed off. Our unknown shooter then filed a groove around the head that would accept the extractor of a Model 98 Mauser. Without further ado he fired this round in the trusty Mauser. Being of good quality, the brass withstood the strain of swelling to fill the chamber under the slightly sub-normal powder pressure as the undersize bullet sped down the barrel. Our intrepid rifleman hoarded his brass and later re-



Czech-type rifles are Iran's second line behind International Harvester MIs. Three lengths are in use, from Brno, Mauser, and also made in Tehran Arsenal.

lent of half a dollar per round, a pack mule loaded with same will do right well for his owner. Owners of 8x57mm rifles are not really too hard up. This cartridge has been the official service round of Iran for many years prior to the adoption of the .30-06 a short time ago. Because of this, it is fairly well circulated and the right people can always dig up a good supply.

Handloading of a sort is often resorted to in order to keep some of the older, odd calibre arms in service. This is not loading as you and I know it, with plenty of top

loaded it. First the primer was removed and the pocket altered to take a large Berdan shotgun primer that is sold here. The neck was sized down by forcing it part way into a hole drilled in a piece of scrap steel. The primed case was charged with some unidentifiable powder. Lacking any suitable bullets, this fellow filed all the marks off a fired 8mm bullet that had been picked up at the scene of some friendly little affray and used it. It is seated in the neck with a cant of about 7 to 10 degrees and is crimped in place, apparently with a pair of sidecutting pliers. A



few random punch marks have been added to reinforce the crimp. The result is pretty rough looking, but I have been assured that this stuff makes very nasty holes in two-legged targets so long as you get close enough before pulling the trigger to make sure it hits the right place. I will take their word for it. I have gone as far as to chamber it in several Mausers on hand to see if it would actually fit (which it did) but that is as

to augment their ammunition supply, that all fired cases are very carefully counted when any troops are firing their weapons. The brass is then immediately smashed flat, piece by piece, to make sure that it will not find its way into the hands of individuals who will reload it. Things are likely to go hard for any soldier who does not produce a fired case for every round that he has fired.

As already indicated, there are no center



Mauser-made Luger is one of few marked with word "Mauser" in Farsi on toggle suggesting those using Roman letters are spurious. Circle is Persian lion.

close as I intend to come to shooting it.

This type of last ditch reloading is not confined to rifle ammunition. The A4 Smith & Wesson mentioned above was, when seen, loaded with .303 cases cut to length, charged with black powder and sporting a non-descript lead bullet that had evidently been cast in some sort of home made mold.

Numerous 11x60R and 8mm Lebel loads have shown up in the ammunition confiscated by the Army. Some of them are black powder and round ball loads. The most important consideration is that the load propel a bullet down the bore with a satisfying amount of sound and smoke. The army is sufficiently concerned about this method the tribes use

fire loading tools available for rifle and pistol cartridges. Shot shell tools are available. They appear to be close copies of the types sold in the U. S. forty or more years ago. Some tools of Russian make are to be found. Primers, shot, wads and powder are for sale as are solid brass shot shells of fairly good quality. The latter item sells for about forty cents each in 12 gauge. Caps, black powder and lead are to be had for the users of front loaders. I have seen some primers and caps that appear to be local manufacture. Quality was not too good and the tribesmen seem to prefer the RWS primers which find their way across the border.

The above ingenuity is not confined to the creation of ammunition alone. It produces some wierd and wonderous results when weapons are desired but not to be had on the market. I recently examined a Parker & Snow U. S. musket of Civil War vintage. How it got here is beyond me. Nothing remained of the original arm except the barrel and lock plate. A huge hand-forged hammer and rough poplar stock had been fitted to the barrel and lock. The barrel had been cut down to about 25 inches in length and bored out to a diameter of about .700" It may have looked queer to these eyes, but the owner-shooter assured me that it regularly brought in partridge, pigeon and duck for the family cooking pots. What more could be asked?

Another interesting item is a single shot .45 calibre pistol found in the brilliantly colored sash of a friendly horseman met in the mountains. The maker was an unknown hill blacksmith with a faculty for reducing a mechanism to its barest essentials. One piece of pipe forms the receiver and a second piece comprising the smoothbore barrel is brazed into one end of it. An ejection-loading port is cut into the left side of the receiver. The breech block is a piece of round stock that slides freely inside the receiver and is backed up by a heavy coil spring. With the latter in place and under compression, a heavy plug is pinned into the open rear end of the receiver. An operating handle made from a stove bolt is threaded into the breech block and rides in a slot cut in the top of the receiver. A notch is filed in the right side of this slot a couple of inches back from its forward end. To load,



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the handle is pulled back, carrying the breech block, and turned down into this notch. A round of .45 ACP is dipped into the chamber and the gun is ready to fire. If the muzzle is elevated, the round will fall out.

Firing is accomplished by grasping the gun in the left hand by its welded-on grip and nudging the operating handle up out of the notch with the thumb. Apparently the maker of this piece was left handed. The spring drives the breech block forward with considerable force and the round is fired by a small nib on the block's face. Presumably, the residual pressure and the lack of any locking device cause the empty case and breech block to be blown back. At least I am told that this is what happens. So far I have not been able to work up much enthusiasm for test firing this item of ordnance either.

I am told that quite a few similar guns are in service and that "they are very good guns and many people use them and they are slow." Other field expedients are known. Several of the old Model 71 and 71/84

Mausers have been fitted with very crude barrels and box magazines to adapt them to use with the 8x57mm cartridge. Considering the fact that WW 2 German 8x57 ammunition of all types and condition is floating around, I would not care to insure the life of their shooters. The village smiths are very resourceful and will return any weapon to some degree of serviceability, no matter how bad it looks.

In a situation like this, it is only natural



Sub-caliber device like Erma .22RF converts Tehran 8mms for practice.

that a man's social status is influenced by the quality and quantity of his weapons. Because of this, individuals are constantly on the lookout for better armament. No price is too high to pay for a choice item. I have been told as I mentioned, that there are still isolated spots where a new Mauser and a belt of cartridges will get you your pick of the village belles. This seemed like a good thing to check into, but one should not tempt himself too much. After all, I have become pretty fond of that FN sporter I have.

Firearms are never referred to collectively as guns. A rifle is a rifle, a pistol or revolver a pistol and a shotgun a shotgun.

While the Kurds must be regarded, at least technically, as law-breakers in their continuous effort to maintain private ownership of arms, they are to be admired for their singleness of purpose and resourcefulness in doing so. There ought to be a lesson in this for all of us. There are many individuals who would place the same restrictions on everyone of you at home in regard to ownership of firearms. Think on it next time you clean your guns.

## NEW PUNCH FOR OLD THIRTIES

(Continued from page 31)

These fellows, too, know everything about handloading, and have for years wanted to "do a little magnumizing." These facts summed up call for just one thing: A factory-finished wildcat case in magnum size and in a popular caliber, for which barrels, bullets, powders and primers are readily available in all corners of the world, plus, of course, chambering reamers and reloading dies of high quality. There would be nothing "new" in such a cartridge case, its main and only advantage being its availability.

Yes, one could have designed a special case, unlike anything else. The machines would have taken care of the production, raw materials are available in all dimensions, and the tooling had to be made up from the beginning anyway. But what would be the advantage? The right thing seemed to be to stay on the paved road, and use the .300 H&H case head.

With the .358 Norma Magnum cartridge already available, nothing was better for answering the wildcatters' demand, than just neck it down to the most popular caliber. This has been the .30 caliber since the advent of the .30-40 and .30-30 cartridges during the early nineties.

In designing the factory-finished wildcat case, it was decided to retain the shoulder angle of the .358 Norma Magnum, 25½ degrees, and keep the same shoulder height. Since the neck of a cartridge case should at least have the length of one caliber to insure a good grip on the bullet, the overall length of the case was increased by approximately one millimeter, to 65 (7.62 x 65mm). The taper of the case body was kept the same as with the .358, obtaining the largest possible powder space.

All this added up to a good, sensible case design from several points of view. There has been a lot of discussion among gun bugs regarding, for instance, the shoulder angle of a case. Various shoulder angle experiments measuring the breech pressure and bullet velocity have, to the best of the author's knowledge, more or less shown that a lot of time used for these discussions might just as

well have been saved for better purposes. The road always seems to make a bend back to "somewhere between 20 and 30 degrees." Cases can be made with less rejects, (read: at a lower price) and with less chances of wrinkles, folds or splits in the necks, which sooner or later would cause trouble.

It is obvious that a short magnum case, designed for use in the standard-length rifle action, can never compete in powder space with the considerably longer magnums, like, for instance, the .300 Weatherby. But it can, with its less body taper, be handloaded to velocities in the .300 H&H class, partly because this case in its standard factory loadings is not brought up to the full capacity a handloader would like to use.

The shoulder height of the new factory-finished wildcat case was purposely kept a little larger than that of most of the popular wildcat cases of similar type, thereby providing for an easy way of making these, too. Usually, a slight touch of soapy water or other suitable lubricant and one run through the wildcat resizing die is all that is needed. Since the belted case does not provide any

headspace problem, the first firing will take care of the rest of the forming.

Since the powder capacity of the factory-finished wildcat case is much the same as with some of the earlier .30 wildcats, loading data used for the latter will apply with only small adjustments. Generally speaking, one might say that as long as the loading data were worked out for a case with less powder volume than the new one, there should be no risk in using the same loads. It is, however, always recommended to start off with a couple of grains less, and work upwards in standard fashion. Following is a table of loading data worked out with the American Modern Bond pressure gauge and three pressure barrels of standard .30 caliber bore dimensions. Two of the barrels gave exactly the same results, while the third, for some unexplained reason, showed slightly lower pressure readings. The table was therefore based on the data given by the two barrels first mentioned. All pressures and velocities are averages of ten-shot strings, velocities taken with similar 23" longbarrels mounted in machine rest.

### Loading data for the .308 Norma Magnum

Powder	Load grs.	Load grams	Press. psi	Press. at.	M. Vel. f/sec	M/Sec.
<b>110 grain round nose bullet</b>						
4064	67.5	4.375	48100	3293	3106	1038
4064	68.5	4.440	50375	3428	3484	1062
4064	69.5	4.505	52350	3562	3622	1104
4064	70.5	4.570	53720	3655	3694	1126
<b>130 grain pointed bullet</b>						
4064	66.0	4.280	50380	3428	3380	1030
4064	67.0	4.340	52100	3545	3464	1056
4064	68.0	4.410	53900	3667	3516	1072
<b>150 grain pointed bullet</b>						
4064	65.0	4.210	48880	3326	3156	962
4064	66.0	4.280	51140	3480	3219	981
4064	67.0	4.340	53500	3640	3271	997
<b>180 grain pointed bullet</b>						
4350	69.0	4.470	48000	3266	3006	916
4350	70.0	4.535	49500	3368	3055	931
4350	71.0	4.600	51100	3477	3087	941
4350	71.5	4.635	52600	3579	3116	950
<b>220 grain round nose bullet</b>						
4350	65.5	4.245	49320	3390	2687	819
4350	66.5	4.310	52000	3538	2720	829
4350	67.5	4.375	53820	3662	2746	837



What will probably surprise an experienced wildcatter is that loads he has been using for years will be in the 55 to 60,000 pounds per square inch class; maybe even higher, when compared to those shown in the table. It is an interesting fact (the reason for which the author has never been quite able to understand), that few reloaders ever bother with making up a pressure gage. The wildcatter works up his loads, watching for the "usual signs of high pressure," such as a sticking case or a blown primer, apparently not even considering the fact that a top grade brass case can take some 20,000 psi more than a less good one before popping the primer. One might perhaps say that as long as the case holds, it is not too dangerous to fire 70,000 psi loads, but the important point in this connection is "as long as." The old saying that a chain is no stronger than its weakest link also holds true for a rifle, and the weakest link in the rifle undoubtedly is the flimsy cartridge case, made from brass material, which is much weaker than barrel and action steel. Pressure guns, even quite simple ones, would probably kill off many of the poison loads used by some wildcatters before any damage was done. Due to their large powder capacity in relation to caliber, modern magnum cartridges will need comparatively slow-burning powders. This is especially true when heavy bullets are used to obtain a high sectional density, and thereby high remaining velocities at long ranges. While many fine rifle powders currently available on the American market would work excellently with the factory-finished wildcat case, the well-known DuPont 4064 and 4350 powders were those available for tests. A decided advantage of canister powders such as these is the very small difference in characteristics from lot to lot.

It is always interesting to study a ballistic table where loads, velocities and pressures are given. To give the handloader an idea about where the pressure and velocity go in this case, a variety of loads using the same powder are shown for each bullet weight. Purposely the loads were chosen in the upper pressure register, and several loads giving higher pressures than the safe limit of 55,000 psi were tested for comparison purposes. Let these loads be a warning to everybody who has the habit of trying to find out where the primer pops, and use those below 55,000 for good health and a long happy life. The game won't be able to tell the difference, and the target will very probably tell that somewhat less velocity gives somewhat more accuracy.

It will be seen that 4064 was chosen for the lighter bullets. With the 110 grain bullet, the case full of powder gave 53,720 psi of pressure, and nothing more could normally be done with 4064. A faster-burning powder, like, for instance 3031 would have brought the pressure closer to the 55,000 mark, but without much gain in velocity. Of course, a great many interesting tests could have been carried out to watch velocities and pressures with various powders and loads. Shown in the table are only a series of what might be regarded as good, sensible loads within the normal area of the cartridge.

Due to the higher resistance offered by the heavier 130-grain bullet, the 55,000 psi mark is passed already between 68.0 and 68.5 grains of the same powder. An additional grain of powder adds another 1000 psi, and from there on the pressure curve skyrockets.



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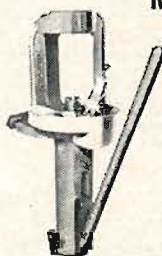
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Next bullet weight tested was the 150 grain, still with 4064. 55,000 psi is passed with a load between 67.0 and 67.5 grains, another half grain ups the pressure 900 psi, almost as much as a whole grain with the 130 grain bullet. This, of course, is due to the higher bullet weight.

With the 180 grain bullet, the pressure would naturally rise even faster when using the 4064 powder. We therefore switched to the slower-burning 4350, and found a couple of good loads in the 50-52,000 psi area. The trouble is that the maximum capacity of the case is reached already at 71.5 grains of this powder, and the pressure is still only 52,600. A slightly faster, or a slightly denser powder would have brought the pressure up closer to 55,000 and have taken in the last few feet of velocity. Probably about one half grain more of 4350 is all that is needed, and a different (flat-based) bullet may well permit this additional load, still without compressing the powder. It should be mentioned at this point that both 130, 150 and 180 grain bullets used in these tests were pointed boattail types, seated to give a free boring of 3-4 millimeters in the standard

chamber.

From the data on the 220 grain bullet, which, like the 110 grain, was a flat-based round nose type, it can easily be seen that the 4350 powder well covers the usable range of loads. 55,000 psi is reached with between 67.5 and 68.0 grains, while another half grain ups the pressure to above 58,000.

A final word about pressures. Guns are always different, even though being of same manufacture and apparently the same. The unavoidable manufacturing tolerances which go into every man-made product will make one rifle digest a higher load than another, and, judging from velocities, the breech pressure will vary quite a bit from one gun to another. It might be that some guns will take the highest recommended loads in this table (Warning: Nothing exceeding 55,000 psi is recommended) with less signs of pressure than others. The main thing is to play safe in handloading. Should a rifle for some reason show an excessively flattened primer or similar abnormality, cut that load by half a grain or so. The case will last longer, and the velocity probably is still that shown in the table.

## HOW TO STOP GUN ACCIDENTS

(Continued from page 13)

lessness puts the gun on trial.

All over the classroom I can see hands raised to give me the answer; and I know the answer that will be offered: education. Make every person learn about gun safety and hunting safety before you give him a license. You have to pass tests to get a driver's license; handle hunting licenses the same way... Sure; education is an answer—and I can prove it. But don't go 'way! There's another question, and a tough one. This is a big country, and "close to 19,000,000" is a lot of hunters! Or would-be hunters. How do you provide the education?

In proof that education is an answer, have a look at West Germany, the German Republic. Here, in an area of some 97,000 square miles, are some 50 million people—of whom upwards of 70,000 are hunters. Note that I now say "hunters," not "would-be hunters." This change in wording is at least more or less justified by the fact that no hunter is licensed in the German Republic until he has been searchingly examined by a board of at least five crusty, suspicious, professional or experienced amateur hunters who use a point-scoring system to determine whether or not the applicant has the know-how to be turned loose in the woods.

Result? In the past nine years, never more than nine hunting accidents have been recorded in the German Republic.

How does this compare with the casualty record here in the United States? If you are a mathematical wizard you may already have exclaimed, "But that's almost exactly identical, percentage-wise, to our own record!" It is. But wait. By actual records, the average German hunter spends 127 days, or parts of days, in the field. Statistics show that the average hunter in the United States hunts 14 days per year—and this surprised me; I would have guessed that the average license holder would hunt not more than three or four days at most. But let's accept the records. If he is in the hunting field 14 days per year, the United States hunter hunts just over one-tenth as much as does

the German license holder. On the basis of man-days of hunting, Germany's casualty record is nearly ten times better than ours! Add to this the circumstances of a packed population (50 million in a land area almost exactly the size of Missouri, which is 19th in our list of states in point of size), where villages are seldom more than two miles apart and there is a dwelling behind every tree, so to speak—and you begin to get some concept of the effectiveness of the German method.

What is the German method? In keeping with German character, it is rigidly thorough. The license applicant must attend at least 24 three-hour classroom lectures conducted gratis by old, experienced hunters. He must study an assortment of magnificently illustrated hunting and game manuals. And he had better listen and study well, because he will next undergo a searching two-hour oral examination covering the paramount academic points of hunting, wildlife habits, game management and conservation, and safety. If he flunks any part of the test, he must wait one year before trying again. I saw one stalwart six-footer cry when he was dismissed.

Questions deal with the habits of the shy, prolific 40 pound roe buck and his doe; the awesome red deer stag; the rare and elusive auerhahn, or capercaillie; the nomadic, nocturnal wild boar; the valuable hare; partridge; pheasants; the Alpine chamois; wild pigeons; ducks and geese; predatory animals such as the fox and badger; predatory and protected species of hawks and falcons.

Great emphasis is given to the correct identification of cloven hoofed game and of characteristics which determine whether a buck should be shot because of inferior traits, or spared to reproduce a strong blood line. It's a rare day when a German exposes himself to the contempt of his colleagues by firing at an animal which should have been preserved. Would that this could be said of American hunters, who leave autumn



woods reeking with the disgusting stench of putrefying spike bucks and does illegally shot?

The German insistence on careful identification and appraisal of game pays off in terms of safety. A search of the German Hunters' Assn. (*Deutsche Jagdschutz Verband*) records disclosed that not even one man was mistaken for an animal. Compare this to the 1956 U.S. casualties when 55 per cent of the accidents in big game hunting were "identification errors." Identification error means, all too often, shooting at sounds or at unexplained movement.

After having successfully proved that he has acquired the book learning, there are still two practical phases of the test which can spell a would-be hunter's downfall. His mentors take the embryonic nimrod into the woods where he identifies tracks, which direction they point, whether the game was running or walking, and then proceeds to name the flora which supplies food for the different species. How many Americans, even those who claim to be experienced hunters, can pass such a test?

Providing he has weathered this grilling, the license applicant enters the final phase: a demonstration of his ability with shotgun and rifle. A 50 per cent rate of failure here is not unusual, and woe to the otherwise qualified student if he lets the muzzle twitch anywhere in the direction of an examiner or another license candidate. The bellows of the irate, often white-haired examiners can be heard in the Carpathian mountains when this happens. The weapon is summarily taken away from the crestfallen student and he is told, "Go home and knit. You're no hunter."

Baron Friedrich von Göttingen, the state head of hunting in North Württemberg, explains, "We deliberately put pressure on a beginner. While he is demonstrating safety, questions are hurled at him from all sides, trying to fluster him. A hunting license in Germany is a treasured document, and a man who does not crack under the strain of examination is unlikely to break in the excitement of the hunt."

The novice is next taken to a hunters' shooting range, where, within the limitations of man-made reproduction of hunting conditions, he must show that he can hit a game target sufficiently often to be trusted in the woods or fields. Twelve rifle rounds and fifteen shotgun shells are the minimum expenditure of ammunition.

The rifle course consists of shooting without benefit of sling from the prone position at a sitting fox target 110 yards away, with scoring rings scaled from ten to zero. Three rounds are fired. The shooter then advances to a broadside roe buck, also at 110 yards, identical in size to his live counterpart. Three shots are fired from the standing position, using a vertical post support in lieu of a tree trunk which might be found under actual hunting conditions.

Next, the Germans fire off-hand at a wild boar silhouette at the same 110 yard range. Little beads of worried perspiration begin to smear the foreheads when these targets are trundled in for scoring, for here is where the ugly zeroes begin to appear.

With twitching fingers, they next re-load to shoot at a running boar 65 yards distant, with just three seconds to mount the rifle and get off a shot before the pig's tail vanishes behind a barricade. This is where

a man learns whether he is or is not qualified to shooting at running game.

Next, casing their rifles, the tyros are taken to the Olympic trap range, where fifteen targets are thrown from any one of fifteen angles from thirteen yards. The shooter has two shots to smash the bird, but the inexperienced gunners seldom recover a miss on the second shot. Eight points are allowed for each break.

The combined point total is a minimum 160 out of 240 scoring points. It's a dangerous myth to assume that Americans, traditionally gun minded though they are, could handle this course easily. In September, 1959, a picked team of Americans was pitted against five German squads at Dusseldorf. There were six chastened Americans when they saw the final tally of their last-place 1185 points, well below the average German score of 1243.

Lessons learned under the critical gaze of the examiners are not readily dismissed when a man has earned his hunting license. A later provable infraction of weapons safety reported to state hunting authorities can cause the suspension of a license for varying periods, depending upon the magnitude of the transgression. No amount of politicking will get it reinstated until he has, so to speak, served his sentence.

Americans stationed with the U.S. forces in Germany who want to hunt there are obliged to pass a condensed version of the Germans' hunting test. Some of them rail against this, but the safety record of American hunting in Germany is impressive. There has been only one serious accident among American hunters in Germany in the past three years. Property damage is unheard of, and shooting the wrong animal is a rarity. Air Force Reserve Major John Weir, who took a special course to qualify as an instructor-examiner, says, "Some of the applicants are dubious, if not outright rebellious, when they begin the school. But every one of them returns for the second class with eager anticipation. They didn't know, as I didn't what the outdoors has to offer. The dismaying question is, why do we have to come to Germany to learn?"

The answer is not a simple one, by any means. Here we have, not 70,000 but somewhere between 15 and 20 million hunters to handle. A high percentage of them hunt in states other than their own, or hunt at home and in another state or states. States with heavy game concentrations get an influx of out-of-state hunters doubling, trebling, and even quadrupling Germany's 70,000—and they all come within a day or two days of the opening of the game season. One state game warden says, "There simply aren't enough qualified shooters in my state to process the out-of-staters in the given time. And I can't turn them away; they're the main source of the income that supports game conservation."

Yes, education is the answer. But it is not an easy answer. It is more than unfair, it is unreasonable to blame our failure to answer it on the laws, or lack of them, or on the game protective agencies.

The best answer I have heard to date was given me by a judge in a southwestern state. He said, "It is our constitutional right to own guns. But every right carries with it a responsibility. With the right to own property goes the responsibility to respect prop-

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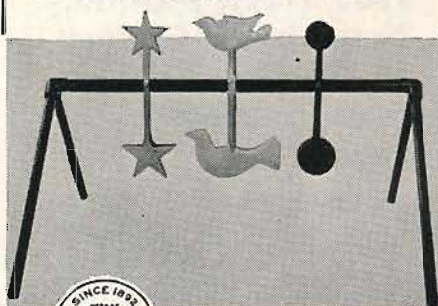
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erty ownership. Parents are duty-bound to teach children not to steal, not to destroy property, to respect the rights of others. Parents should be duty-bound also to teach their children how to handle guns properly. Just as schools supplement parental efforts toward safe automobile operation, so should schools help develop a child's skill with other tools and gadgets he will encounter in his everyday life—including guns. Some parents, and some schools, do this. It works. But most parents and most schools don't do it—and there's our problem. Gun ignorance and gun recklessness, like juvenile delinquency, begin at home. The cure must start there also. It is not a state problem, either to correct or to prohibit. It is a problem that

each of us must face, at home."

I think that is our answer. Perhaps we should spend less time screaming about rights, more time teaching the kind of gun use that would rob our enemies of the newspaper headlines they use against us. In the words of a leading gun promoter, "Guns don't kill people; people kill people. Accidents don't happen; they're made. Nine hundred and ninety-nine times out of a thousand, they're a product of ignorance, lack of experience."

Ignorance, lack of experience, can be deadly diseases—but they're curable. And you're the doctor. Or if you're not, you could be. What is the state of gun health in your community?

## NEW "SLING" FOR DAVID

(Continued from page 27)

one hand, thereby relieving the firer's second hand for any eventuality.

The UZI functions with the usual blow-back action bolt. Its heavy mass prevents the breech from opening rapidly until pressure in the barrel has fallen.

There are no external moving parts during firing. After cocking the gun, the actuator knob is returned to its original position by a spring, and remains there during firing. A slide connected to the actuator knob prevents dirt from entering through the cocking slot.

The bolt and general design are unusual. A short over-all length is obtained by extending the barrel into the receiver and by machining the bolt to permit a recess for the barrel. This feature permits the weapon to be extremely compact, and yet have a

comparatively long, ten-inch barrel. This recessed bolt with its "telescoping feature" surrounding the barrel on three sides helps to hold the weapon steady and prevents upward climb during automatic fire.

The UZI, a square weapon in shape, is almost completely made of heavy gauge stampings. The extensive use of stampings and heat-resistant plastic makes manufacture of the weapon extremely simple. The UZI also has an unusually quick barrel-removal system. If a barrel becomes worn, or needs cleaning, one need only unscrew the barrel-locking nut by hand, and the barrel slides out.

The majority of the many types of sub-machine guns now in use have serious defects in safety. A primary offender is the unsafe current U. S. calibre .45 M3A1 sub-machine gun. Personnel have often been the victims of accidental shootings during parachute operations, or when falling or jumping from vehicles. In the case of the M3A1, if the ejection port cover is open, a shot may easily be fired because of any of the above-mentioned "shocks;" or a cold finger slipping out of the cocking groove on the bolt, during the cocking action, will frequently cause an accidental discharge.

The UZI is provided with a double safety device which allows the weapon to be handled when loaded without the risk of a shot being fired involuntarily. For this reason, it is free from the type of accidents to which other weapons in this class are generally prone.

The applied safety, located within easy reach of the firer's thumb above the hand-grip, is actuated by the fire selector button which, when set to the rear of the automatic and single shot position, blocks the trigger. The grip safety, on the other hand, acts on the sear to prevent cocking or firing until the grip is grasped. This safety feature is particularly desirable, as the weapon cannot accidentally fire because of a fall, incorrect handling, or an incomplete cocking motion.

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by Israeli Military Industries, the UZI has acquired enthusiastic supporters. Some would like to see the UZI introduced into particular sections of the United States Armed Forces. Where space is a scarcity, the UZI, with its compact length of only 18 inches, would be the logical choice for such roles as racking in tanks, armored personnel carriers and airplanes. For guards, of any type, the UZI is ideally suited, since it can be easily handled with one hand.

The introduction of the new series of selective fire rifles for NATO (M14 rifle, FN Light Auto Rifle, Armalite AR-10, and CETME Assault Rifle) is probably the greatest argument used by advocates who believe the submachine gun is no longer necessary. The fact remains, which many choose to ignore, that these new rifles cannot, because of a lack of space, be placed in the tanks, or handled by men in the various vehicles which are currently being incorporated into our ground forces. Suffice to say, there will always be a place for the UZI type of weapon.

Even in the event of a major atomic war, no other type of weapon would offer greater potential for national survival. Under such conditions, the submachine gun would become the primary weapon of the people. Due to its simple design, the UZI is ideally suited to mass production and could thus be issued to the entire population. Only short practice is required to learn to handle it with complete confidence. As the danger of a major war diminishes, due to the threat of mutual atomic annihilation, we still have the constant threat of small, local conflicts, civil wars and "police action."

In Israel, where every citizen learns to handle a weapon even before he has a thorough command of the language, the development of this weapon has brought about comparatively new tactics which may affect the security of all nations. These tactics utilize extensive night movement and infiltration. They must be considered by anyone and everyone concerned with the defense of this nation.

The lack in the United States Armed Forces of a compact, first class, up-to-date weapon which utilizes ammunition compatible to our NATO allies, for the tanker, truck driver, pilot or guard, is most acute.

The problem of ammunition for our pistols and submachine guns is another question which the United States will have to face up to in the near future. The UZI is designed to fire the 9 mm. Luger (Parabellum) round. All of our NATO allies have adopted this cartridge for both their pistols and submachine guns. Nine mm. ammunition is available anywhere in the world. The United States is the only country within NATO which has not adopted this cartridge. Cooperation and standardization with our NATO allies would seem logical.

The extensive testing which the UZI has undergone within NATO and its recent adoption by West Germany and Holland, are good indications of the coming trend. It is the considered opinion of many experts that the incorporation of the UZI for specialized roles within our Armed Forces could only serve to give the United States citizen-soldier a better chance if the cold war turns hot.

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## WHAT MAKES A SIXGUN SHOOT?

(Continued from page 33)

gas check cup was large enough to fill the chamber throat on some guns, it would be too large to load in the case without distortion and would be much oversize for the bore and would raise pressures. A notable exception is the new factory Remington and Peters .44 Magnum bullet, which does not have a true gas check, but has instead a part jacket of thin material that covers not only the whole base band of the bullet but also the lower grease groove. This places enough soft lead inside the cup to force the thin metal to upset to fill the chamber throat. It seals off the pushing gas, but it also raises pressures when it enters the barrel throat. The same charge of powder with an even heavier 250 grain bullet of one to sixteen tin and lead content shows lower pressures.

A tolerance of .001" to .002" between cylinder throat and groove diameter of barrel is plenty in a .38 caliber revolver. Even in a .44 or .45 caliber, I would prefer not over .003" and .002" would be better. Military revolvers have often been chambered larger than commercial arms to insure certain and easy loading of the cartridges when dirty. I have seen some of them with throats .005" larger than groove diameter. These were made for jacketed .45 auto bullets, that would not upset in the chamber throats. The less permissible tolerance at this point the better, if we would start our sixgun slug in line with the axis of the bore.

The length and diameter of the barrel throat is also of utmost importance to best accuracy. This varies greatly in different makes of guns even of the same caliber, and no set rule seems to have been established. We have seen some .357 Magnum revolvers, made just after the war, with excessively long, large throats. Their bullets upset until little semblance of their original shape remained. They emerged from the gun as just a hlob of lead. These guns leaded excessively, due to the fact the bullet was soft and upset to so much greater diameter than the bore before it finally entered it and swaged down to fill the grooves. Just enough chamfer is needed to prevent spitting and to insure the slug entering the bore without shaving off lead.

Barrel and cylinder clearance should be between .003" and .005". The smaller figure is for the smaller calibers, and the larger should be maximum even on .44 and .45 calibers. I prefer around .003" on all guns and have had some fitted as close as .002". These worked well with smokeless powder but were a bit too close for black power.

At best, a sixgun slug has a long jump from its seat in the cartridge case, through the cylinder throat and barrel cone, or throat, into the bore. The less jump the better. Many revolver cylinders are much longer than their cartridges. Notable examples are the .45 auto and auto rim, the .455 Eley, and in some models the .38 S & W. These bullets have a long jump from chamber to barrel. That is the reason I designed my line of bullets for Lyman Gunsight Corp. with a wide band of full groove diameter to be seated out of the case. This wide band in front of the case helps to true up the cartridge in the cylinder and line up the bullet in the chamber

throat before firing, and also helps to cut down the length of the free jump of the bullet from case to barrel throat. Many years' use of these Keith bullets have proved the theory correct.

The greatest strain on a sixgun bullet occurs just when it first takes the rifling. Examination of fired bullets will show some slippage of the rifling on the front band of the bullet. The slug drives ahead until it is caught by the full width of the lands and started on its spinning course up the bore. That is the reason I prefer two wide bands on the front bearing section of my bullet—to enable the lands to grip the slug better. If this forward band could be of hard jacket metal it would be even better, as this would grab and hold the rifling even more effectively.

I am a firm believer in bullets of exact groove diameter before firing. Bullets that are three or four thousandths over size before firing raise pressures much higher with the same powder charge. We have seen cylinders in old guns with throats actually smaller than groove diameter, and these guns were seldom accurate except with cast bullets. Pressures were high and some of them ruptured from heavy loads. Accuracy will be higher if the slug is groove diameter before firing. The cutting in of the lands and their displacement of the bullet metal insures a perfect gas seal and filling of the grooves.

The weakest points on a sixgun are the thin chamber walls, the bolt cut right over the center of the charge hole, and the rear end of the barrel. Excessive loads will usually bulge the chamber out into the bolt cut, or will bell or crack the rear end of the barrel, where it projects through the frame. In either case the cylinder or barrel is ruined. Solid head cases are best for all heavy loads, as they have more metal in their case walls at critical points. For those who experiment with high pressure, high velocity loads in revolvers, only .45 frame guns should be used, and these preferably in .32-20 to .357 Magnum calibers, because they have thick chamber walls and thick walls where the rear end of barrel projects unsupported through the frame.

Using the wrong load in an individual gun can cause poor handgun performance. No one should ever try to develop heavy loads like the .357 Magnum or .44 Magnum, or even heavy loads in the .38 Special or .44 Special, with our hot, fast, pistol powders. Such powders as Bullseye, No. 5, No. 6, and No. 5066 are all fast burning and are splendid for light to normal loads, giving very good velocity for low pressures; but try to develop a heavy load with them and pressures mount much too fast. Unique will stand heavier, higher velocity loading, but even it is too fast for maximum loads in these cartridges. Only 2400 Hercules should be used, as it is much slower burning and will develop far higher velocities for lower pressures. The old fallacy of short cases being best in revolvers has now been pretty well exploded. Short cases, while fine for fast powders like Bullseye and light to normal loads, are much too short to hold a proper load in these calibers for high velocity. Only the longer .32-20, .38 Special,



.44 Special and .44 Magnum will give ultimate high velocity results with normal pressures, and these preferably with Hercules 2400 powder.

Some solid head cases, because of thicker walls, cut down internal capacity too much for high velocity loads. In the case of the .44 Special, the old balloon head case with protruding primer pocket is more efficient than the new solid head case, because the new case has so much thicker walls that it cuts down powder capacity. Solid head cases are, however, wonderful in .357 Magnum, .44 Magnum, and .45 Colt, as all have plenty of capacity, and the thick walls and heads of these cases help protect the very thin chamber wall under the bolt cut. Five-shot revolvers like the S&W Chiefs Special and Centennial are better in this respect, as the bolt cut comes between chambers like the Colts, rather than over the center of the charge hole and this helps enable these very small light revolvers to handle High Speed .38 Special factory loads.

Hollow base bullets also add to the powder capacity of the cartridge case, yet give the shooter a bullet with long bearing surface in the rifling, best for extreme accuracy. Hollow base bullets are hard to cast true, but they swage very easily. In casting them, the metal in the moulds must be allowed to cool longer than when casting flat base bullets, else releasing the mould may cause the hollow base plug to pull the side of the hollow base and throw the base band out of round. Properly cast and sized, they are just as accurate as any flat base bullet, permit the same or slightly increased charges on account of the greater air space, and offer the most perfect gas seal in the chamber throat of any sixgun bullet. Many have claimed they greatly increase pressures. We have not found this true when the chamber throats were in right relation with groove diameter and the gun did not have an excessively large or long barrel throat. If chamber throats are very much over size, or if the barrel chamfer or throat is excessively large and long, then hollow base bullets can and will cause higher pressures. This is due largely to the thin walls of the hollow base swaging out in the barrel throat.

We do not favor hollow bases at all for high velocity loads in very short barrel guns, such as the 3 1/2" .357 S & W Magnum. Muzzle blast is very high with heavy loads in short barrels, and it will flare the hollow base to some extent after the bullet leaves the muzzle, if the barrel is much under 4" in length. Flat bases are best for short barrel guns.

Cast bullets of Keith or other design may be had already sized and lubricated, ready to load, in most calibers, from Mar-Mur Bullets, 40 Willard St., San Francisco, Calif., or Wisler Western Arms Co., 205 2nd St., San Francisco, Calif. Bullets can be had either plain cast and sized, or copper coated at slight extra cost. Both work fine at all velocities, but the copper coated are best in the .357 Magnum and the .44 Magnum.

Flat pointed wad cutters are seldom accurate beyond 50 yards, and usually show some tippage even at that range. We much prefer a bullet with long bearing surface and a long point of flat point design for long range accuracy. When lighter weight is desired, it can be had in the same bullet design by adding the hollow point or hollow

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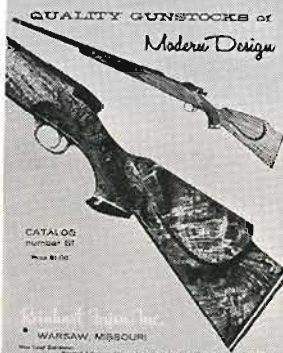
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base. Hollow points are fine for velocities of 1000 feet per second, for blowing up pests or maximum destruction of tissue with a limited amount of penetration; but solid bullets or hollow base are better for maximum penetration on heavy game.

Leading impairs a handgun's performance and is usually caused by too soft a bullet, too heavy a load of hot fast powder that fuzes bullet bases, or by oversize bullets. Very hard undersized bullets can also cause it, as can excessively large chamber or barrel throats. Insufficient lubricant can also cause leading. We have never had any leading troubles with our handloads in many guns and calibers, but do often encounter serious leading with soft factory bullets and loads, especially in Colt guns where the groove diameter of a great many .38 Specials and .357 Magnums runs only .354" and the chamber throat diameter runs a full .360". This combination, with a soft factory bullet, is bound to lead the gun. The lubaloy or copper coated bullet is the best answer to the problem when they can be had in factory loads. When these same Colt guns are reloaded with bullets cast one part tin to 16 lead and sized down to .354" to .355", they show much less leading; and when copper coated bullets are used, as put out by Mar-Mur, still less leading occurs.

In reloading for any double action gun, six fired cases should always eject simultaneously and easily. If the cases show any signs of sticking in the chamber, then that load is too heavy for the particular gun. All cases should be full-length resized when reloading, and the mouths of the cases should be very slightly belled so as to remove all traces of crimp and so the new bullet will seat straight and without shaving of lead. The expansion of the resized or new cases alleviates some of the pressure on the chamber walls. Cartridges should fit fairly close in the chambers but still loose enough to revolve freely. Any tight case that is not pushed fully into the chamber will bind on the recoil shield and throw undue work of the hand and ratchet of the cylinder. Only full-length resized cases will expand uniformly when fired and give the slug a chance to properly line up with chamber throat and barrel. In heavy loads, and in all guns with slightly oversize chambers, the cartridge case will expand more on one side than the other and, if only neck resized, will cramp the case in the chamber enough to throw the slug slightly out of line.

Pierced primers are caused by too heavy a load, or by a firing pin that is too long, too pointed, or rough. The pin should put a good deep indentation in the primer, but the indentation should be round and perfectly concave in the bottom of the indentation. If the pin is too long, it may pierce the primer, letting gas to the rear. This in turn will further gas-cut the nose of the firing pin. The nose of the pin should be stoned and polished perfectly smooth and convex in shape. Too sharp a point will also pierce primers.

In old guns, the recoil plate may be worn until the firing pin does not properly fit it, and primers with heavy loads may flow back in the hole at the side of the firing pin. A new recoil plate should be fitted. Some firing pins also strike off center, and these should be replaced.

For the competitive target shooter, long barrels will usually pay dividends. They give longer sight radius and more accurate aim. The shorter barrel may be just as accurate, but it is harder to aim accurately. The only exceptions to this rule are when the long frame affects the balance of the piece, or when aging eyes cannot accommodate to the longer sight radius. Some men can hold a long, muzzle heavy gun steadily, and others cannot. The gun should hang right for the shooter's strength and grip. If too muzzle heavy, the long barrel may be a hindrance instead of a help. The Oldster, whose eyes will not focus both sights in exactly the same plane, is sometimes benefited by using a shorter barrel.

For the hills and game shooting, the longer barrel is best because it gives higher velocity and the longer sight radius so necessary in exactly placing your bullet. There is usually ample time to bring the gun into action, and the long barrel will give you longest sight radius and most accuracy.

Since this is sort of a mulligan stew of sixgun facts anyway, let me answer a couple more questions while I'm at it. Many shooters ask why they can't rechamber .38 S&W caliber guns to .38 Special. This doesn't work, for the reason that the S&W cartridge is larger in diameter than the .38 Special and its bullet groove diameter is a full .360" as against .354" (in Colts) and .357" (in Smith & Wessons) for the .38 Special. This conversion requires replacement of both barrel and cylinder.

Many also ask about rechambering .455s to .45 Colt or .45 auto. The .455 Eley guns can be nicely rechambered to .45 Colt if the headspace is increased for the thicker rims. New Service Colt .455s can also be converted to .45 Colt or to .45 auto or auto rim. S&W .455s run a full .457" groove diameter, but the Colt guns are usually around .451-.452". This makes the Colt guns okay for the .450" hard jacketed .45 auto bullets, whereas the large bore of the S&W lets gas slip past the bullet, causing loss of power and accuracy.

Still others ask about rechambering Colt and Smith & Wesson 1917, 1950, and 1955 target revolvers to .45 Colt. With the Colt New Service, this works out well; but I do not advise rechambering S&W guns with their tight .450" groove diameter for .45 Colt bullets which, from the factory, usually run .454". This has been done many times, but it means resizing lead under pressure.

Some also ask about using .357 Magnum cartridges in their old Army and Navy .38 Long Colts whose cylinders are bored straight through. Many have actually used .357 Magnum ammo in these guns and, for a wonder, the guns survived it. The only reason they didn't blow up is that the guns have a groove diameter of .360", and the .357 bullet lets a lot of gas escape past it before it upsets enough to seal the bore. If this didn't happen (and it might not happen), it could mean soft music and flowers. Don't do it!

The long and short of it is that it takes a good gun, and good ammunition properly mated to the gun, to produce top handgun performance. If the gun is right for the job, and the load is right for the gun, the right shooter can make a handgun perform wonders. Ignore any one of these factors, and you can expect nothing better than low-level performance.





## A BANDIT'S GUN

(Continued from page 19)

Like many others before him, he changed his name and fled his native state to escape the wrath of the Texas Rangers and the dread State Penitentiary at Huntsville.

The youth who went down in history as Ben Wheeler fled to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where as Ben Burton he worked in a saloon. Later he went to Indianola, Nebraska, and married a local girl, Alice Maude Wheeler, under the name of Burton in the Fall of 1881.

But Robertson-Burton had an itchy foot. When spring came he saddled up and rode away from his wife, taking only her name as his.

And it was as Benjamin F. Wheeler that he rode into Caldwell, Kansas, in October 1882. The city police force at that time consisted of B. P. "Bat" Carr, City Marshal, and Henry Newton Brown, Assistant Marshal. Carr signed Wheeler on as Acting Assistant Marshal for the last two weeks of October.

Wheeler was discharged from the police force on November 2, but was re-appointed as Assistant Marshal when "Bat" Carr resigned in December. Henry Brown became City Marshal.

Wheeler and Brown made a good team. Through successive re-appointments, they kept Caldwell fairly quiet and peaceful, despite two killings for the next eighteen months. But both men were restless and the wild streak was only just below the surface.

Together they planned to rob the Medicine Valley Bank, at Medicine Lodge, Kansas. It had never been held up before, so Brown and Wheeler felt it would be ripe for the picking.

At 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 30th April, 1884, in a blinding rainstorm, four men rode into Medicine Lodge from the west. They tied their horses outside and three of them went into the bank.

While Ben Wheeler and John Wesley covered bank cashier George Geppert and bank president E. Wiley Payne, Henry Brown rifled the petty-cash drawer. Then he turned his attention to the safe.

As he stepped toward it, Payne leapt past him to slam the self-locking door. But before he could reach it, Brown's gun roared and Payne crashed to the floor wounded in the shoulder and back.

While the bandits' attention was focused on Payne, cashier Geppert, with more courage than sense, jumped to the door of the safe and slammed it. Ben Wheeler's bullet caught him in the chest and flattened him on the floor, dead.

The Reverend Friedly was walking past the bank on the opposite side of the street, and at the sound of gunfire ran down the street shouting:

"The bank's being robbed. The bank's being robbed."

Marshal Denn, in a nearby livery barn, dropped his curry comb and rushed into the street, gun in hand. He opened fire on the gang's horse-holder, Billie Smith. The bandit fired back and drove the lawman to cover just as Brown, Wheeler and Wesley ran empty-handed from the bank and leapt onto their horses. With Smith following, they

(Continued on page 55)

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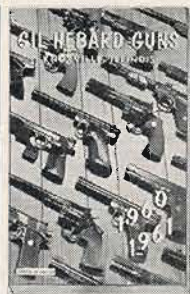
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(Continued from page 53)

headed south. Within a few minutes a twenty-man posse was on their trail.

The weather, which Brown had welcomed before, now was against them. When they rode into the town the heavy down-pour had kept men off the street and covered their tracks from Caldwell. But their horses were jaded and soon Wheeler's animal became bogged down fording a creek. The posse was freshly mounted and soon began to gain.

Wheeler was mounted behind Smith and his weight slowed them down. So, with the posse rapidly gaining, Brown made a last stand in Jackass Canyon. After two hours seige they were forced to surrender.

In a gripping account of the robbery the Medicine Lodge *Cresset* said: "Ben Wheeler, the man who fired the shot which killed George Geppert, is a large powerfully built man, sandy complected and with rather an open countenance. His action yesterday, however, showed him to be perhaps the most cold-blooded murderer in the gang."

The four were installed in the large tank-like cells that Medicine Lodge was then using as a jail. They were not to be there for long. The *Cresset*, while protesting about "mob law," told the story of the lynching in a later edition.

At 9.00 p.m. on 1st May a masked mob

surrounded the jail and took the keys from deputy guarding it. The cell doors were thrown open and the four men ordered out. Henry Brown came out on the run and managed to cover nearly two hundred yards before the local butcher stopped him dead in his tracks with a load of buckshot from ten feet range. In the melee, one of the mob firing at Brown, shot Wheeler in the chest. But the lynchers showed no mercy to the wounded man. Wheeler, Wesley and Smith were marched to the hanging tree, now in the Medicine Lodge Park, and told to say their prayers.

"Wheeler at the last showed great weakness and begged piteously for mercy" the *Cresset* reporter wrote. It was to no avail, and he was hanged beside his two companions.

As I write this, Ben's pistol lies before me. It looks just like any other Colt's S.A. 44-40, with its 5½ inch barrel and its Colt grips. Battered perhaps—a heretic, in years gone by, used the butt as a hammer and the marks are still visible—but otherwise in good condition.

It is now owned by English gun collector Harry Leah of Todmorden, Lancashire, who bought it from a British gundealer.

How it came to this side of the Atlantic is anybody's guess.



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## HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 6)

of examining many cases I've found several with invisible defects. Stresses accumulate at a corner or crack to cause a rupture. Example: Note how wallpaper cracks worse at the corners of windows and doors. Paperhangers reinforce these areas. The dangerous part of a cartridge is the head area. Far more than 99% of case defects can be detected by careful inspection. Split necks, and such, are not dangerous.

Any handloader worthy of the name will carefully inspect each and every fired rifle case before reloading it, especially around the head, flash hole and web. If a primer decaps or seats too easily the case should always be discarded, and deformed so it will never be reloaded again. For beginners, let me caution that a crack near the head, a faulty or cracked web, or an enlarged or chewed out flash hole, means the case is dangerous and should never be reloaded. If it isn't deformed there is always the possibility that you or some other person will accidentally reload it. If you save discards to sell for scrap brass (which makes a little money every year) a good way to mash the mouth is to use your loading tool for a press.

Excessive charges for a particular gun, with your components in your reloads, account for nearly all troubles that otherwise careful, sensible handloaders experience. Speer Handbooks, for example, list reliable data that cost much time and money to assemble. Every load was safely fired in one or more rifles, but they are not a prescription for your particular gun. Always, ALWAYS cut a heavy charge by 10% or more with identical components, and carefully work up in stages.

This applies to loads in Lyman's Handbook, or other data, including mine or your best friend's. Some charges are too hot in my guns, and some can be safely increased. When you change any component, or even

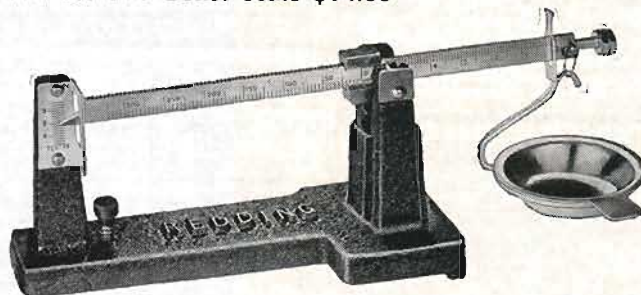
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any lot number of any component, loads may be identical, or they may change a little or much. Stay with known components that can be duplicated with reasonable uniformity. A friend recently bought a new lot number of cases, the only component changed in his favorite load. High pressure resulted because vents were larger than in his old lot.

Different lots of canister powders vary a little, but not enough to be dangerous unless you are loading too hot. Mixed powders, or assortments of various lots from G.I. or commercial ammo, can be dangerous, even for experienced reloaders. The same for duplex loads. Don't mix a dab of fast powder for an "igniter charge" with slow powder. Modern primers are hot enough to kick off any small arms propellant *pronto*, and powders overlap in burning speed. Salvage powder sold by Hodgdon is what the label says, and he supplies data. Work up his top tested loads, the same as with any others. Factory loads are always adjusted to fairly uniform pressure and velocity, which takes care of any variation in component lot numbers. Handloaders must work up to obtain safe loads with the desired accuracy.

Good as the '06 is for most use, it lacks Swift velocity, .222 accuracy, .257 Weatherby trajectory, .243 lightness, and the smashing power of a .375. Even if you have this battery of rifles, you probably have at least one .30-06. Max case length is 2.488" and 2.488" will clean up most hulls. Post war G.I. brass is excellent. Those made in war time are old, and some may be below standard quality. I like fresh brass. Military ammo is fine for practice, but not for game. A.P. stuff is accurate and won't harm your barrel.

In theory, a 170 to 180 grain bullet is best,

but it doesn't always work thataway, like some other theories. The average deer hunter will find a fast expanding 150 grain pill best. Most makes shoot well. One little trick to get a fast, hard punch for a better knock-down is to use a good, fast expanding .30-30 bullet. I believe the best number, or at least the best I've tried, is the Norma Match Grade .308 Soft Point, Flat Nose, in either 150 or 170 grain. Made for slower .30-30 velocity they are quite deadly with moderate .30-06 charges.

The 150 grain works beautifully with about 49 grains 4064 for around 2,800 feet per second. Or you can reduce it 2 or 3 grains for still lighter recoil and a real punch. The 170 grain may work better at close range in light brush, using 2 or 3 grains less powder. These are not hot loads in the guns I've fired, using G.I. hulls and CCI primers. They are as destructive as you need for deer at moderate range, more potent than many pointed pills at higher velocity.

A dandy long range load in my *Coltsman* is a 150 grain Speer with 60 grains 4350 and CCI primers in Super-X cases, at 3,000 f.p.s. Work up this charge. The 150 grain Nosler Partition bullet works dandy with the same components, or substitute a worked up charge of 53 grains 4064.

Nosler "H" type bullets are excellent at Hi-V for deep penetration with fast expansion of the soft nose. The 180 grain is a favorite for larger game, with powders like 4350 and 4831. Speer's charge of 57 grains 4831 at 2,512 f.p.s. works well with Speer and Nosler pills. This is not a max. charge. Nosler pills cut right through some sumac to hit a target without deflection, in my tests.

The .30-06 has bagged some very large

game with 200 grain or heavier bullets. I think a hotter .30, or a bigger bore is better. Lyman's max. charge of 56 grains 4350 with a 220 grain pill is a bit hot in one of my rifles. I'm not unhappy, because if I go after the heaviest U.S. game my .300 Weatherby Magnum, or .300 Apex, will go along.

What about accuracy? Don Holmes, North Saint Paul, Minnesota, swages bullets in Bahler dies. His 175 grain, made with RCBS 1.200" jackets, have a nose cavity nearly one caliber deep. This gives a long bearing surface for the bullet weight and length. Testing in bad weather, Don's best group with a Model 70 N.M. at 200 yards was 1.25". His load was 49 grains 4895 with CCI primers in G.I. brass.

I agree with Don that one of the best cast bullets is the first gas check design, the old Krag pill, Lyman's 308284. Don won a 200 yard cast bench match with this pill cast hard, backed with 31 grains 4895. This shoots well in my *Coltsman*, that isn't at all temperamental with cast pills. Some guns are, and you have to adjust the charge to the gun and the bullet. You can cut this charge as low as 29 or go as high as 39 grains.

Don has shot groups as small as  $\frac{3}{8}$ " with Lyman's 308334 and 19 to 20.5 grains of 4198. This is one of the best powders for cast bullets. My *Coltsman* grouped in about 1" with the latter charge the first try, which is darn good accuracy from a sporter. Primers were CCI, cases G.I.

When I see cast bullets group in 1 minute of angle or so at 100 yards, (something many riflemen think is impossible,) I wonder why more cast rifle bullets are not used for practice. They plink about as well as any and cost almost nothing. They are dandy for small game and varmints at moderate range, but jacketed pills for big game hunting are so cheap that I do not recommend cast bullets for such use. They are wonderful for economical practice.

Some chaps are wild about light .30-06 pills for varmints. Speer's max. charge for their 110 grain bullet is 58 grains 4064 with CCI primers in G.I. hulls. You get a whooping 3,391 f.p.s. that even Hi-V fans admit is fast. For a lighter load, cut the charge 3 grains. You'll have more velocity than a .222 with more than twice the bullet weight, and over 50% more muzzle energy than a Swift. Varmints come apart at every seam and joint. What more do you want? This is one reason the Oh-Six is called "the best all around rifle."

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## THE WINCHESTER-LEE

(Continued from page 30)

was, for there were still other factors that contributed to it not getting its proper share of respect. High on this list is the fact that the world was far away—at least fifty years away—from appreciating its construction and capabilities.

Let's look at the scene about the turn of the century. My father was shooting a single barrel hammer Shattuck shotgun and hand loading full length brass cases. The sportsman grocer on the corner below me, a fairly well-to-do gentleman, traded in his .25-20 for one of the bigger .32-20s. At once he became the talk of the settlement, and the envy of every member of the deer club.

He let his customers view it through the glass top of his already packed notions case. No one was permitted to handle it and as for me, a brat of ten, I was meted one of the new, mighty cartridges to touch briefly. As I ran an amazed fingertip across the smooth and highly polished brass the grocer, with the wisdom of Solomon himself, said, "Why, boy, that damn bullet weighs a whole hundred grains and will go out at 1300 feet a second and will tear a hole as big as your fist in a deer. Chust you imagine that, vill you? The .30-30 hadn't gotten back as far as to where the roads crossed, and as for the bolt action, Ach yes, when it was even mentioned, the speaker lowered his head and scoffed at it for being too slow.

And, you know, that was one of the things that damned the Lee, because it was a bolt action. Just after World War I, the bolt rifle was given little or no affection. It was only after 1945 and a second World War and when the rifle industry was struggling to get back into civilian production that the shooters accepted the Enfields and the Springfield and the liberated rifles and we had a glorious era of wildcats. Only then did one dare to stand up and be counted and lay a sympathetic hand on a bolt without insulting the sacred memory of Buffalo Bill and Ned Buntline and Diamond Dick.

Thus, from birth, the Lee Navy was at a disadvantage. The only other bolt action of any efficiency was the Krag-Jorgensen, and they were not plentiful. Even during the war it was rare for a National Guard unit or a volunteer outfit to see one, let alone have one in the field, and there were but few for the Regular Army men. There were, therefore, no champions to bring home the message of the bolt action after the Spanish-American War.

The world—our world—was not ready for performance such as the Lee could deliver either. The original factory load with a 135 grain bullet left the muzzle with a keen velocity of 2460 feet per second. Later, in November of 1897, Winchester did better than that by substituting a 112 grain bullet and the speed went up to an unheard of 2571 fps. And while that may seem mediocre today when comparing them with the 3500 fps of the modern hot 6 mms, compare that speed with the Express load of the .30-30 which is only 2410 fps.

The 135 grain bullet in tests penetrated 62 dry pine boards of 3/8 inch thickness. When several calibers were tested by the government, the old reliable .45-70 at 400 yards had a penetration of only 10 inches while the .236 at 700 yards still found its way

through 23 inches of the same wood. We weren't ready for such figures; we didn't understand the action of light bullets, for we were still a nation of pumpkin rollers. We failed to exploit them.

We should, at this point, know something about the man who produced so advanced a rifle and cartridge. The Lee Navy was the brain child of James Paris Lee who, born in Scotland in 1831 and educated in Canada, came to the United States and soon became a naturalized citizen. In 1879 he patented the box type magazine and thereby opened up an entirely new path for high powered rifles, because now cartridges could safely be carried in reserve, free of the danger that came with a sharp pointed bullet resting smack against the primer of another cartridge as stored in a tubular magazine. This box type magazine was a part of the Lee Navy.

The action, being something new (and we always have trouble destroying the inertia of custom) was looked upon a bit dubiously. But it was sound.

It was fast to reload, for now all one had to do was to place a thumb on the top cartridge in a clip and with a downward pressure strip the cartridges into the waiting magazine. The bolt then, with a single thrust forward, locked automatically into place without turning.

And it was locked well. The bolt could not be opened unless the arm was fired or, at least, released by pressure on a separate thumb lever located low on the left side of the receiver. In firing, the action worked on the camming principle and the recoil thrust was downward, tightening rather than exerting any opening force on the bolt itself.

The safety was positive. It was located back of the bolt release (also on the left side of the receiver) and was in a handy position. It was strictly manual, for it had to be actually forced on into a protecting position by a deliberate push of the thumb. It was of the firing pin lock type, excellent for both military and sporting use.

To remove the bolt for cleaning, again one

had to have determination because in the design nothing was left to chance. Located as the farthest forward of the controls, the unlocking bar had to be pushed aside somewhat, and then forced down. After that, the bolt slides freely and the extractor comes with it. One had to catch the extractor so that it wouldn't drop and be lost.

In use, when ejecting a fired cartridge, the bolt rises (without turning) with the pull and the extractor follows in a groove for about two inches and, when the slack has been taken up, extracts the empty.

In line with the fact that the Lee was a weapon well ahead of its time, the cartridge is considered by Winchester as being the first successful rimless cartridge ever designed—a major "first." The factory loads are today, for the collector, highly prized showpieces. The first .236 as put out by Winchester was a rimmed job and designed for the Blake rifle. Should a collector have one of these, he must guard it like one watches over a Paterson. The Lee .236 is a long slender affair that attracts attention by its slimmness. These were listed in Winchester's catalogue as follows:

(Continued on page 61)

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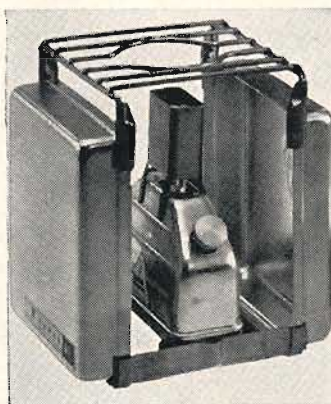


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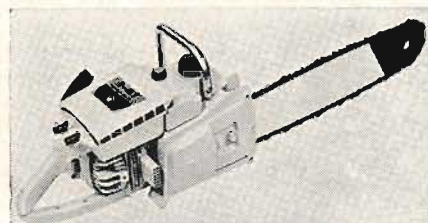
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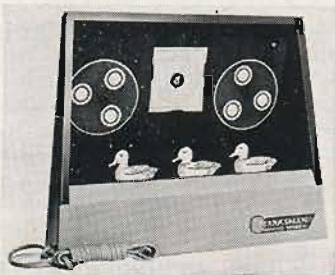
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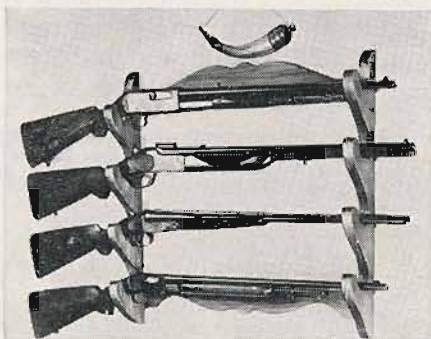
# WITH Guns



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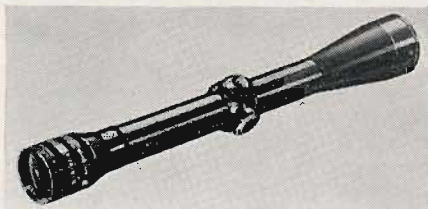
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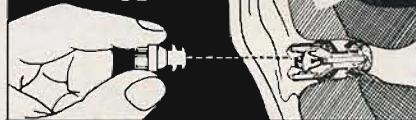


ically sealed and nitrogen filled to eliminate possibility of fogging. The 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ X is designed for big game hunters; the 4X is an all-round scope for experienced hunters and shooters; the 6X Bear Cub features a magnification range known for brilliance and clarity of image. Bear Cub Scopes are manufactured by Redfield Gun Sight Co., 1315 So. Clarkson, Denver, Colo.



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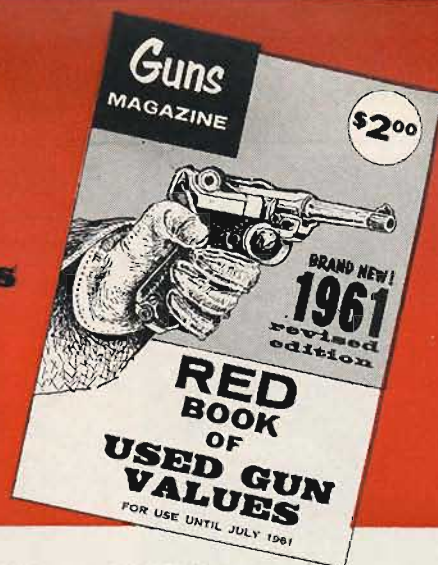


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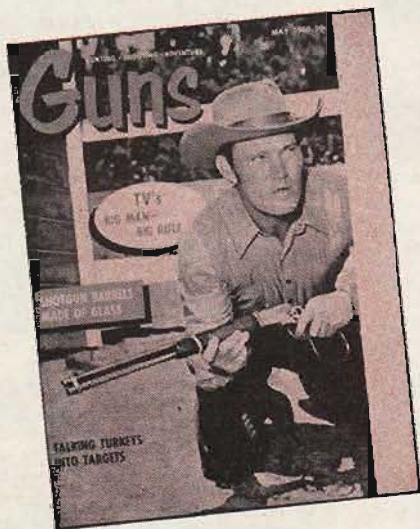
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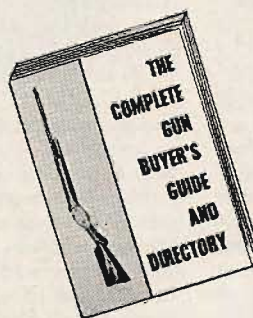
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(Continued from page 57)

November 1894 to January 1896 inclusive:

.236 Navy rimmed case steel jacketed bullet, 135 grains.

June 1896 to March 1897 inclusive:

.236 Navy rimless case, steel jacketed bullet, 135 grains.

November 1897:

6 mm Navy, rimless case, steel jacketed bullet, 112 grains.

March 1898 to about 1935:

6 mm Navy, rimless case, full copper jacketed or soft point bullet, 112 grains.

But all was not beer and skittles for the original loads. The bullet was a round nose design and not famous for accuracy. But after the factory loads were no longer available—after 1935—the calibre became a dream for handloaders.

But first, the wildcatters tried something else. Right after World War II when sporting rifles were scarce, many went to rebarreling. The .257 Roberts with a pressure of about 45,000 PSI and the 7x57 Mauser with a pressure of about 42,500 became the favorites. Incidentally, the Koozer Gun Shop, Box 1146-R, Douglas, Arizona, still does this work. The original barrels were nickel steel.

But the reloaders were fascinated. The first problem, of course, was brass, so get out your slide rule and finger off the dimensions of the original case.

Case length .....	2.335
Overall length .....	3.110
Dia. at head .....	.445
Dia. at shoulder end of neck...	.2798
Dia. at mouth .....	.2768

The .220 Swift case comes closest to these figures although its length is 2 3/16 inches against the 2 11/32 of the Lee. That lets a gap of 5/32 but experience shows that where one does not try to get the most out of a load, there is no burning or erosion.

Some custom loaders make brass for the Lee from two other cases. One of these, Mr. Gust A. Ostrom, 3155 40th Ave., Minneapolis, Minn., loads these with either an 85 grain or a 100 grain spitzer bullet. His last quoted price was \$5.90 for twenty.

Should you want to load your own, while no data exists on actual velocities, the spitzers are proper and one can gradually work up to using 35 grains 4350 (nothing faster).

Bear in mind that your particular rifle, if you're lucky enough to own one, may have been kicking around for some time, so it is best to proceed slowly and then not go much over the 35 grains. This should produce a load as good or better than the original load; certainly, more accurate. Part of the trouble with the original loads was the round nose bullet which would not stabilize in the extremely fast twist in the barrel. With reloads, accuracy will be good to 200 yards and one can't expect much from any 85 grain bullet over that. Generally the bullet, even in a small animal like a chuck, breaks up inside and often turns things into jelly. And with conservative loads, one never hears a complaint from a landowner. The original Navy musket weighed 8.5 pounds while the sporter weighed in 7.5. The recoil with the factory loads was only 7 pounds.

We now have come to several other "firsts." The Lee Navy had the fastest twist of any commercial rifle, a full turn in seven inches. And no other military weapon, before or since, has been made in so small a calibre.

It is a bit difficult to scope the Lee. When

the bolt is pulled back it rises in opening; therefore your scope must be high or a bit forward in an uncomfortable position. A side mount could be used, or a simpler scope employed, one with a straight barrel.

Truly, the Lee is a paradox. It is a collector's item of the higher magnitude for when its rarity is understood, it will be sought out. At the same time one can have his cake and eat it too for while he is waiting for the values to increase, should he be one of the fortunate ones, he can handload and need never hang his head in shame.

### Lee-Winchester Straight Pull Rifles from USS MAINE

Early in 1900 Francis Bannerman, "ordnance, war relics, military goods", bought at Navy Department auction 40 of the Marine Lee Straight Pulls salvaged from the wreck of the USS Maine. The blowing up of this ship in Havana harbor precipitated the American-Spanish War. These rifles were later sold at a premium price, due to their

historic value. As their identity today in some cases may be lost, we reproduce below through courtesy of Francis Bannerman Sons, now of Blue Point, Long Island, the serial numbers of 6mm rifles, Lee Straight Pull, from the Maine:

9978; 7178; 8582; 6525; 5994; 7380; 7760; 6868; 6479; 4694; 8464; 7281; 7850; 73; 6174; 8138; 8486; 6943; 7131; 8267; 3867; 8527; 8873; 8808; 5808; 9582; 6938; 9332; 8333; 6917; 7151; 7680; 6483; 5399; 5960; 2357; 9076; 9820; 6472; 6547; 7027; 6455; 6799; 8409; 8700; 6107; 9622; 4957; 6627; 7367; 8586; 7825; 9722; 8328.

These serials are copied from page 62, Bannerman catalog of 1933, but appear in many of this firm's catalogs later on as a curiosity page, after the rifles were all sold. Bannerman's price on the Maine Lee rifles, \$40. None are now for sale.—Editors.

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## DUCK HUNTING WITHOUT DUCKS

(Continued from page 24)

rounds of ammunition and still couldn't decide what kind of gun, bore or action would do the most damage to Doug's "ducks."

Tom tried it first. He commented before he started that it "looked easy." By his second box of 25 he was eating his words. He was red-faced and nearly in a sweat. Frank was next.

It took him 25 shells to get "limbered up." On his second try, he dropped 20x25, a good score for this shoot and especially good considering it was cold as a well-digger's pick and windy as a ladies' card party.

I've already reported my great scores. What I can't put down is my blood pressure. Shooting through the trees and swinging that autoloader at all kinds of crazy angles, takes a lot out of you. I didn't do much duck hunting last season because of a long Canadian moose hunting trip, so I can "excuse" myself.

This sport is really challenging. You step into the blind and shove in two shells. The high tower is on the right about 40 yards away, and the low house is an equal distance to the left and slightly deeper into the woods. The blind is situated between a woods and a cornfield.

You give the operator the nod, then look out—and listen. You are on your own from here on until every last hull is heated. You look to the tower that has the first squawk to find out where the bird is coming from. The first 16 targets are singles and the last eight come in four pairs.

The recorded duck quack is your cue for action. They don't usually hesitate, although they (the operators) can make you wait for a short time to keep you looking. Then it comes.

My first one was a low tower bird. Picture a giant clock: it sailed from 10 o'clock back across my left shoulder, not an especially hard shot if you were prepared for it. It caught me off balance because I was facing straight ahead at the time. At the first sound I turned quickly and brought up the '48. I hadn't turned enough and was really

screwed around when I shot, and missed.

Before the smoke from your gun drifts upward very far, another "quack, quack" comes from the high tower and it's the same kind of shot, only from 2 o'clock back over the right. I spun farther this time and clipped it.

Just about the time I thought I had the hang of it, the danged birds started flying in different patterns. By then I had burned up 16 rounds and was into my doubles. Now, there's a squawk, squawk here and a quack, quack there and there a squawk, here a quack and everywhere a squawk, quack—dammit anyway. How did I get involved in this? Bang!! Bang!! Blew two more shots.

This is the type of shooting you never tire of; at least, none of us did. It's downright pure fun, and honest education if you think you know how to shoot. Some readers might argue this point, but I look at clay target shooting and consider it important for two main reasons. First, like I've said, it's good fun. Second, it's good to sharpen you up for the real thing—hunting. If I was to list a third reason for taking part in clay pigeon shooting it would be competition.

In duck tower shooting, you have fun first, get good practice at targets at all kinds of angles, and third, you can keep score to compare it with others on a friendly basis. But in the tower shooting, each shot is like each duck you bag. It's individual and separate in itself. You don't come home from hunting and say, I got four but shot eight times?

Here you learn a very important thing that you don't get in skeet or trap as we shoot it today. Here, and in some other animated hunting-type setups, you learn good gun handling. For a young or beginning shooter, this is most important. Bringing that gun up quickly from field-carrying position, learning to swing it quick and sure, and learning to lead properly—these are also important.

Here at the duck towers you learn all these, practice gun safety and good gun handling, and have a doublebarrel of fun when you duck shoot without ducks.

## BACK TO SCHOOL . . . FOR SHOOTING

(Continued from page 21)

rifle range was in business.

Elsewhere in the state groups and individuals are converting school houses into fishing clubs, hunting lodges, and private residences. Leo Hilfiker of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction says, "In October of 1959 there were 1,691 one-room schools operating in Wisconsin. By October of 1960 the number dropped to about 1,200. The rest have been abandoned as far as education is concerned." He pointed out that during the past several years, between 300 and 400 schools are closed each year as one large, centrally-located facility replaces as many as five or six country schools.

The use of abandoned schools for shooting clubs has some remarkable advantages. While the building at Fennimore is probably more than 100 years old, most of the schools are newer and are in fairly good shape. In all cases there is some kind of heating and toilet facilities. It is rare to find one without water—even though in some places the

"faucet" might have a handle three feet long and require some up-and-down pumping to get your drink.

There is seldom any worry about neighbors objecting to the noise since there are seldom any neighbors. The average school yard covers from one to two acres of level land. If more is needed it might be possible to acquire it from the adjoining farms. If the school is in good hunting area, the surrounding farmers are likely to be members of your club—or in any event, they should be willing to cooperate with a legitimate gun club which will promote greater respect for their property and safety for their animals. Much of the land in Wisconsin is hilly and provides natural backstops behind the targets. This will not be true in every case, of course.

There are several good ways of locating schools which might be available for your own club activities. You may already know about buildings that have been abandoned in



your locality. If not, take a drive down some of the country roads and you'll probably spot several of them.

Of course, that's the more adventuresome way of doing it. The easiest method is to call on the city, county, or state superintendent of schools who is nearest to you. If his records are up-to-date, he should be able to tell you in just a few minutes the exact location of any schools abandoned in recent years.

When you've found the school you want and are satisfied that the terrain and location suit your club needs, there is one more important step to take. Have a qualified person make a thorough title search. In some cases the land for schools was acquired many years ago from farmers with the stipulation that the land and any buildings on it would revert to him or his descendants if it ever ceased to be used for school purposes. Be sure you are protected with a clear title.

The cost of your new club facilities will vary with the local circumstances and with the condition of the building. Schools in Wisconsin have sold for as little as \$500 while others, with central heating and good plumbing, went to private individuals for as much as \$2,000.

If your club is one of the many in the nation that would like a club house and a good place to shoot, it might be wise for you to go back to school. If you are fortunate, you may find a situation similar to Wisconsin where the three R's of reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic can be replaced by a fourth—the rifle.

## ELMER KEITH SAYS

(Continued from page 9)

temper except for 1917 .45 auto rim, 1950 target .45 auto S & W, and 1955 Target S & W .45 auto. For these .45 auto rim guns with their very shallow rifling, temper of bullets should be one to ten tin and lead, and copper coated is even better.

Frist, the .38 Special Keith Ideal bullets No. 358429 in 173 grain, and 358431 in 160 grain hollow base, and 358439 in 160 grain hollow point. Size all bullets .357". Full-length resize all cases, and crimp well in bevelled crimp groove. For the lighter frame .38 Special revolvers, use 3 grains Bullseye or 5 grains Unique with the 173 grain, and 3.5 grains Bullseye or 5.3 grains Unique with the two 160 grain Keith bullets. These loads are also good in 2" barrelled guns, especially the Bullseye loading. For heavy frame .38-44 and .38 Special guns with .45 frames (like the Colt, Ruger, and G. W. Single Actions, the New Service Colt, and the various .45 frame S & W guns), use with the same three bullets a charge of 13.5 grains of Hercules 2400 for the heavy load.

For the .357 Magnum (except in the Smith & Wesson Combat Magnum. I do not believe in loading that light frame gun as heavy as the regular S & W .357 Magnum or the Highway Patrolman.) Best to use above .38 Special heavy loads in the Combat Magnum. For the regular .357s (Colt, Ruger, and S & W, all on .45 frames), use the above bullets and sizing, and crimp barely over the front band. Lubricate both grease and crimp groove. The copper coated bullet is again the best for heavy loads. For the 173 grain solid, use 14.5 grains 2400, and for the two 160 grain bullets, use 15 grains 2400. Be sure the inside expanding plug is small enough so it lets cases fit tightly on a .357" bullet.

For lighter loads in the .357 Magnum revolvers, use 3.5 grains Bullseye or 5.5 grains Unique with the same three Keith bullets.

Next, the .44 Special. Use same bullet temper as above for the various .38 Spls. and .357 Magnums. Size all bullets .429", and crimp well in the heavy crimp groove. Full-length resize all sixgun cases. For the best accuracy, the Keith Ideal bullet No. 429421 in 250 grain weight, or its two variations, Ideal 429422 235 grain hollow base, or Ideal 429421 with hollow point to also weigh around 235 grains, should be used. For a light load, use 5 grains Bullseye. For a medium target load, use 7.5 grains Unique. For the heavy load, use 18.5 grains Hercules 2400 in old style balloon head cases, and 17.5 grains 2400 in the new solid head cases. The old cases are the more efficient in .44 Spl. caliber.

For the .44 Magnum, use same bullets and sizing as above, and again the copper coated slugs are best for the heavy loads. Full-length resize these heavy cases, and be sure the inside expanding plug is not larger than .423". As small as .420" works very well, as you must have a very tight friction fit of bullet in case before the crimp is administered if you would prevent bullets from jumping their crimp. Use the same Keith bullets as for the .44 Special. For a light load, use 5 grains Bullseye for gallery, and for an outdoor moderate target load use 8.5 grains Unique. For the heavy load, use 22 grains 2400 with the 250 grain solid Keith, and a maximum of 23 grains 2400 with the two Keith 235 grain bullets, the hollow point and hollow base. The above 250 grain load gives 1400 feet velocity with just under 34,000 pounds pressure and less than 3,000 pounds variation, and is far more accurate than the factory load. It is also an excellent killer on anything, and accurate to extreme long range. It is my favorite sixgun load.

Next, the .45 Auto Rim cartridge. Bullets should be very hard, and copper coated helps to hold the rifling, which is shallow in these guns. Bullets should be sized .451" to not larger than .452". Keith 240 grain 452423 is very good, but I prefer my .45 Colt bullet, Ideal 454424, sized down to .452" in the .45 Auto Rim Case. Light loads are listed in all catalogues for the .45 Auto Rim, and you can use from 3.5 to 4.5 grains Bullseye or up to 5 grains Bullseye maximum for very short barrelled guns. Also, 5 grains No. 6, or 7 grains Unique.

For the heavy load in the .45 Auto Rim revolver cartridge, you can use my 240 grain bullet if preferred, but I prefer Ideal 454424 250 grain .45 Colt sized down to .452" and cast not softer than one to ten tin and lead, or copper coated Load 7.5 grains Unique with

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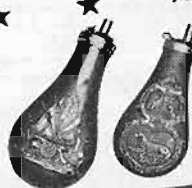
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