

# Guns

MARCH 1956 50c

AMERICA'S  
PRETTIEST  
SHOTGUNNER

WHAT'S WRONG  
WITH  
TARGET RIFLE  
SHOOTING?

FINEST  
GUN MAKERS  
ON EARTH





**FOUND IN EUROPE** COMPLETE WITH SHEATH  
**OUTLAWED HITLER JUGEND DAGGER...** \$5<sup>95</sup> postpaid

Identical to pre-1939 official ceremonial dagger of Hitler's Youth (Jugend) Corps. Assembled post World War II, now illegal in Germany. The legendary Hitler Jugend carried this knife when the desperate Nazi government threw thousands of these fanatic youths into the battle of Berlin. 9 1/2" overall with a fine steel blade. Checkered black grip has

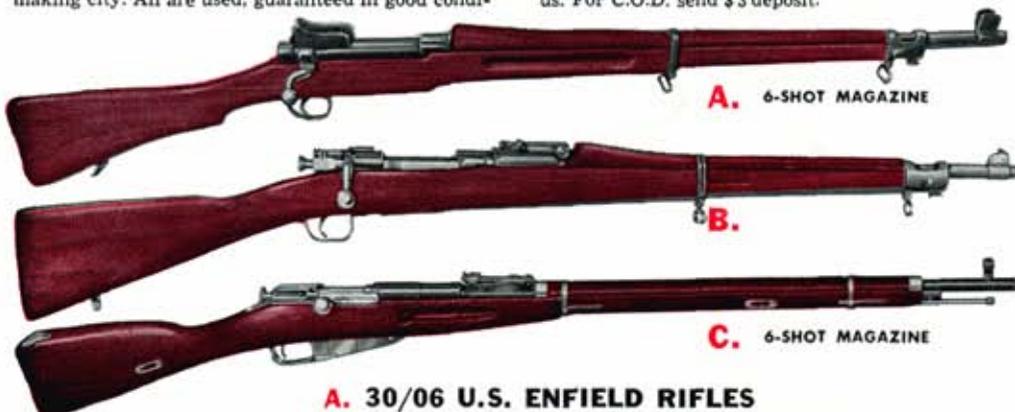
Nazi swastika (black on silver) on red and white diamond, the German Jugend insignia. A small lot found by our agent was imported by us from Europe. Sheaths are black steel and leather. Rare collector's find, an excellent hunting knife.

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

**ANTIQUQUE ROYAL SPANISH CAVALRY SABRES** \$9<sup>95</sup> ppd.

**Genuine Toledo Blades**  
 Includes original hand made steel scabbard as shown. We have made a limited find of authentic antique Spanish Cavalry Sabres. They are just over three feet long overall. Blades are engraved with the Royal Spanish crown with "Toledo," major Spanish arms center and over 1000 years the world's leading sword-making city. All are used, guaranteed in good condi-

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



A. 6-SHOT MAGAZINE

B.

C. 6-SHOT MAGAZINE

**A. 30/06 U.S. ENFIELD RIFLES**

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

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

**B. FABULOUS U.S. SPRINGFIELD RIFLE FIND**

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

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

**C. HUNTERS! CONFISCATED RUSSIAN RIFLES**

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

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

**8MM MAUSER AMMO \$5.50 per 100**

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

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

**24 CARAT GOLD TRIM DUTCH NAVAL DIRK**

AUTHENTIC and exclusive dress dirk of Officers in the Royal Netherlands Navy. Mint condition. Cross Hilt and pommel are heavy 24 karat gold plate. Curious ivory-like grip, fine steel blade, both sides hand etched—intricate dolphin and anchor emblem with

other designs showing influence of ancient Spanish occupation of the Netherlands. A large dirk—14" long. Completely rust and saltwater corrosion proof. A rare connoisseur-collector's item. Beautifully hand-made in the tradition of finest centuries-old European workmanship and quality. In extremely limited numbers. Send Check, Cash or Money Order. No C.O.D.'s. For U.S. A.P.O. and F.P.O. airmail add 80¢ per knife.

**\$6<sup>95</sup> postpaid**



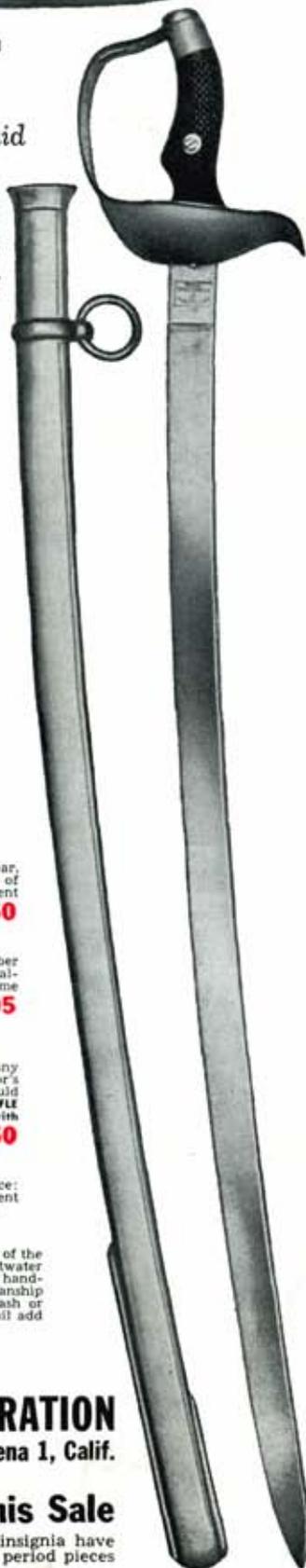
**TO ORDER:** Send check, cash or money order. All arms and ammunition shipped F.O.B. Pasadena. Knives and swords are postpaid. California Residents add 3% state tax.

**GOLDEN STATE ARMS CORPORATION**  
 119 Armory Bldg., 1165 E. Colorado Street, Pasadena 1, Calif.  
 DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

**We Certify That No IRON CURTAIN Country Benefits By This Sale**

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

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



# SHOOTERS...COLLECTORS

WINFIELD brings you America's greatest gun buys, from all over the World. All sold on a liberal money-back guarantee that assures you full satisfaction and protection on every purchase.



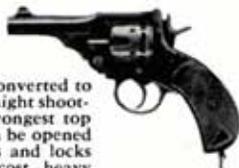
**COLLECTORS!**

## SWISS VETTERLI RIFLES

Latest model Swiss Vetterlis in very good to "mint" condition. Turnbolt action. Twelve shot (10 in tubular magazine, 1 in chamber) Caliber—.41, Swiss, r.f.; Length—52"; Barrel—33.2"; Wt.—about 10 lbs.; Rifling—4-groove, 1:26" twist. Bayonets approx. 2 ft. long made in Solingen of fine Swedish Steel—with 18½" sabre blade and saw tooth back. *Very rare.*

Swiss Vetterli Rifle. **\$13.95**  
Bayonet with leather scabbard, metal tips (sold only with rifle). **\$3.95**

## BRITISH COMBAT WEBLEY REVOLVER



Favorite of the British Tommies, converted to .45 Caliber ACP. Hard hitting, straight shooting, it embodies the finest and strongest top breaking design ever devised — can be opened with a flick of the thumb. Closes and locks solidly. A standout gun for low cost, heavy caliber plinking or home defense. *Webley, converted to .45 ACP complete with 2 half moon clips, "Very Good"—\$16.95; "Good"—\$14.95*

Ammo: Caliber .45 ACP, 230 gr. 100 rds.—\$6

**NOTE:** Enclose signed statement, "I am not an alien, have never been convicted of a crime of violence, am not under indictment or a fugitive. I am 21 or over."



## BOYES ANTI-TANK RIFLE

...R.B.M.1, Caliber .55 Inch (14.5 mm). No collection is complete without it. Most powerful rifle ever issued to any modern army. Used devastatingly by the British Infantry in WW II. Shoots 926 grain, armor piercing projectile. Cal: .55; Length 63"; Wt. 33 lbs.; 5-shot mag.; adjustable bipod; Recoil-dampening muzzle brake; thick, soft, sponge-rubber recoil pad. Accurate. Powerful. A thrill to fire.

*Gun complete with all above-described equipment F.O.B. Los Angeles (packing incl.)... \$74.95*

Ammo: (with purchase of gun only) Per box of 10 rds.—\$7.50

## WINFIELD ALSO BRINGS YOU THE FOLLOWING HARD TO GET AMMUNITION...

|  | Per 100 Rounds |
|--|----------------|
| 6.5mm x 53R for Dutch Mannlicher Sporting, Military Case, American Primer, 156 gr. Norma Bullet... | \$19.00        |
| 6.5mm x 53R Military, 160 gr., Brass Case, Berdan Primer   | \$ 7.50        |
| 8mm (7.92), Mauser, Military, Brass Case, 154 gr., Berdan Primer                                   | \$ 7.50        |
| .303 British, Military, 174 gr., Large Berdan Primer   | \$ 7.50        |
| .310 Martini, British Factory Fresh, 120 gr. Lead Bullet, Berdan Primer... (\$7.35 for 50 Rds.)    | \$14.70        |
| 7mm (7 x 57) Mauser, Military, German made, Berdan Primer... (\$5.50 for 60 Rds.)                  | \$ 9.15        |
| .45 Colt (Long) 250 gr. Bullet (Copper), American Primer   | \$ 6.90        |
| 9mm Luger, World's Finest, Swedish, 116 gr., Berdan Primer   | \$ 8.60        |



## GENUINE REMINGTON ROLLING BLOCK RIFLES

Winfield now has the last known supply of these famous, much sought after weapons. Accurate and effective for big game or target, their smooth dependable actions are used in many fine hand-smithed specials. Rifle, Caliber 7 mm (Wt.—9 lbs.; Barrel—30"; Overall—45"; Grad. Rear Leaf Sight) Good cond... **\$16.95** (Collectors: A few in "mint" cond. \$5 add'l.)

Ammo: German Military 7 mm rimless, 60 rds. in clips — **\$5.50**  
U.S. made 7 mm sporting (175 gr.) 20 rds.— **\$4.30**

Rifle, Caliber .43 (Wt.—9½ lbs.; Barrel—35"; Overall—50½"), Good condition... **\$16.95**

Ammo: .43 (11 mm) Spanish Mauser, for Rolling Block Rifle (385 gr. bullet, American Primer, Dominion, New) 20 rds.— **\$4.40**. Military issue, box of 20—**\$1.95**. Genuine Remington Bayonet (state for which rifle) with metal scabbard — **\$2.50**

Free history of the Remington Rolling Block sent with rifle.

**JOHNSON AUTO-LOADING SPORTERS.** Greatest fire power big game rifles. Lightest recoil. Built-in 10 shot rotary magazine. (5 shot optional) Sporterized from famed Johnson combat rifle. Barrel 22"; O.A.L. 45½"; Wt. about 9.4 lbs.; Grad. Rear Peep Sight; "Swivel type" safety.



## CUSTOM SPORTER

Available in Calibers .30-06, .270 and 7mm., New 6-groove, 1:12" twist sporter barrel. Highly blued finish. Gold beaded ramp front sight with removable, protective hood. Walnut stock, Monte Carlo Cheek Piece (R or L hand), full pistol grip and recoil pad. **\$159.50**

**STANDARD SPORTER.** .30-06 only. Same as custom sporter but with no glare blued finish, stock as above but no Monte Carlo Cheek Piece. **\$129.50**

Either of above with Weaver K-4 Scope installed—**\$69.45 Add'l.**

Ammo: .30-06 military 100 rds.—**\$7.50**; sporting 20 rds., **\$3.90**

Free Brochure on Request.



## MARTINI MARKSMAN

A light weight, low cost, accurate rifle with fine balance and handling qualities. Original issue stock. In .32 Special Winchester Caliber it makes a wonderful beginner's big game rifle. .357 Magnum (and .38 special) Caliber... **\$37.50**. .32 Winchester Special Caliber... **\$28.50**

Specifications (general) Barrel—25"; Wt.—5½ lbs. (Approx.); O.A.L.—40½"; Single Shot; Grad. Rear Sight; Rifling—5 grooves, 1:20" (.357 Magnum, 6 grooves, 1:14".)

Ammo: .32 W'in Special, 20 rds.—**\$3.20**;  
.357, 50 rds.—**\$4.40**; 38 Spec. 50 rds.—**\$3.70**.

## ORDER NOW ON WINFIELD'S MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

Order any gun — any item — from Winfield — on a 10-day money-back guarantee. If for any reason you are not entirely satisfied simply return your purchase for prompt refund in full.

Order with confidence. Send \$5 deposit with C.O.D. orders up to \$50; \$10 on C.O.D. orders over \$50.00. All guns and ammunition shipped express charges collect. Orders filled same day received. (California residents add 3% State Sales Tax to your remittance.)

# WINFIELD Arms Corporation

Dept. 3-G  
1006 S. Olive St., Los Angeles 15, Calif.



**Center-fire** high-velocity power and Micro-Groove\* accuracy—that's the world's best varmint-busting combination. You get both for the first time in the Marlin 322.

**The silky Sako** miniature-Mausser receiver makes the 322 as slick a rifle as you've ever handled. Trigger is adjustable. Receiver has integral bases for low 'scope mounting. Rear peep sight is adjustable for zero impact at 100 or 200 yards. Ramp front sight has hunting bead and detachable hood.

**3-shot clip.** Selected walnut stock is expertly hand-checked, has high comb for 'scope use.

**Gun editors** everywhere call the Marlin 322 the most accurate rifle of its caliber! See it—handle it—at your dealer's!

\$129.95 (Slightly higher west of the Rockies. Price subject to change without notice.)

\*Patent Pending

THE NAME FOR GAME

**Marlin**

FINE GUNS SINCE 1870



# CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## 30-30 Controversy

In the last issue of GUNS I note with interest the comment by George Wray of Milwaukee condemning the 30-30 for deer.

In 45 years hunting experience, I have found that the 30-30 is an exceptionally good deer rifle, not only with myself but with a vast number of hunters in New York and Pennsylvania. Sure I have seen a deer get away after being hit with 30-30 bullets. So have I seen them do the same with a slug from the 348 in them too, which only proves that it isn't so much the caliber, providing it is not in the class of the 22s, but where the bullet is placed.

M. J. Crandall  
Randolph, N. Y.

In reply to George Wray's letter in your January '56 issue, we would like to comment very fiercely upon it.

First:—We would like to know how a deer with its hind quarters blown off could run over a hill a mile away.

Second:—Those Wisconsin deer must have armor-plated skulls or Wray was shooting an improved daisy BB gun.

Third:—Why didn't he lever a few more shots at said deer while he was running over that hill.

Speaking of hogwash, we think Wray's letter was a prime, Class A 1 example of same. Maybe he should switch to a 10 gauge Magnum with 00 Bucks, Open Bore. At least he would get the hind quarters. Of course we realize it takes all kinds to make a world. Especially hunters and gun nuts.

Terry Roley  
Jinx Crandall  
Jack E. Barlow  
Kenneth A. Hill  
Camas, Washington

## Are Pistol Champs Alcoholics?

Just read your article in the January issue by Col. Charles Askins—"Are Pistol Champs Alcoholics." Just who is this fellow and how many quarts of booze did he drink before he wrote the article?

Ted Clines  
Canton, Massachusetts

As a competitive pistol shooter, I want to tell you that I think Askins' last article—particularly the title—is in very bad taste. Just what is that clown trying to prove? Granted, his point about the stuff being consumed—so what! Everyone has a good time and enjoys it (and not just the champs). But from what I've heard about your boy from some of his Texas acquaintances, C. A. wasn't happy at a match drunk or sober unless he was winning and he would do any-

thing to win. Except for you-know-who we like your magazine very much. Keep up the fine articles on old and rare guns. Could also use some constructive articles on competitive shooting, both rifle and pistol.

Jack McPhee  
Corona Del Mar, California

## In Defense of Askins

I would like to come to the defense of Col. Charles Askins, after the attack from reader Hans Roedder on his article on the Luger in the July issue of GUNS. Mr. Roedder should make one simple test, and he would see why the article by Col. Askins is based on sound theory and sound practice. The comparison of the wound channel in a 12-inch square block of gelatin would show why the Luger is a poor military arm.

Tests on cadavers and live cattle were performed by Col. Louis A. La Garde and Col. John T. Thompson. These tests confirm Col. Askins' ideas on the Luger. Mr. Roedder should read Col. La Garde's book "Gunshot Injuries," or Gen. J. S. Hatcher's "Textbook of Pistols and Revolvers," to see why the Luger is rated as it is by Col. Askins.

Facts brought out in the books are confirmed by the experiences of Col. Askins in shooting wild horses. Yes, I am aware that our troops will not be shooting at wild horses, but the fact that the Luger was far down the list in effectiveness is interesting. The statement that the Luger is easily the most accurate of military handguns will cause many raised eyebrows. The barrel-light Luger hardly tops the list.

Don H. Banning  
Rockport, Texas

## Rifle Into Pistol

In the December, 1955, issue, there appears an article "Converting A Rifle Into A Pistol," by Alfred J. Goerg. I believe that Goerg is subject to the Federal Firearms Act here, in that he has a rifle of larger than .22 caliber with a barrel length of less than 18 inches. The law states "that any firearm which was manufactured as a rifle, and sold as a rifle remains a rifle regardless of whatever alterations may have been made upon it . . ." This fact should be brought to the attention of your readers before someone else makes up one and gets picked up by the Treasury Department for having an illegal weapon in their possession. If Mr. Goerg had used the Remington rolling block pistol action instead of the rifle action he would be all right. As it is he is guilty of manufacturing 'firearms' in the federal sense of the word.

Larry S. Storett  
Biggsville, Illinois

# MY FAVORITE GUN

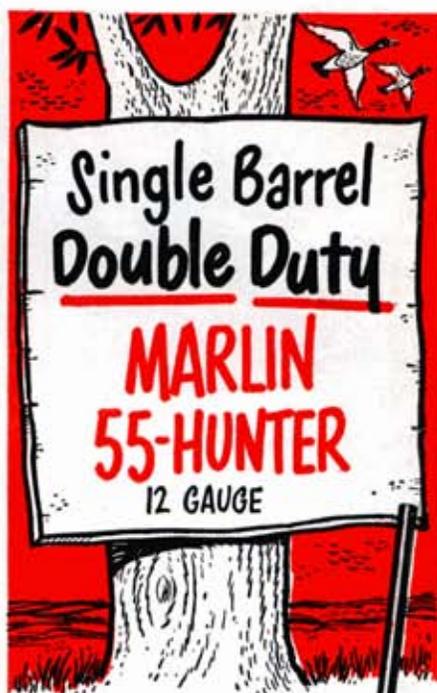
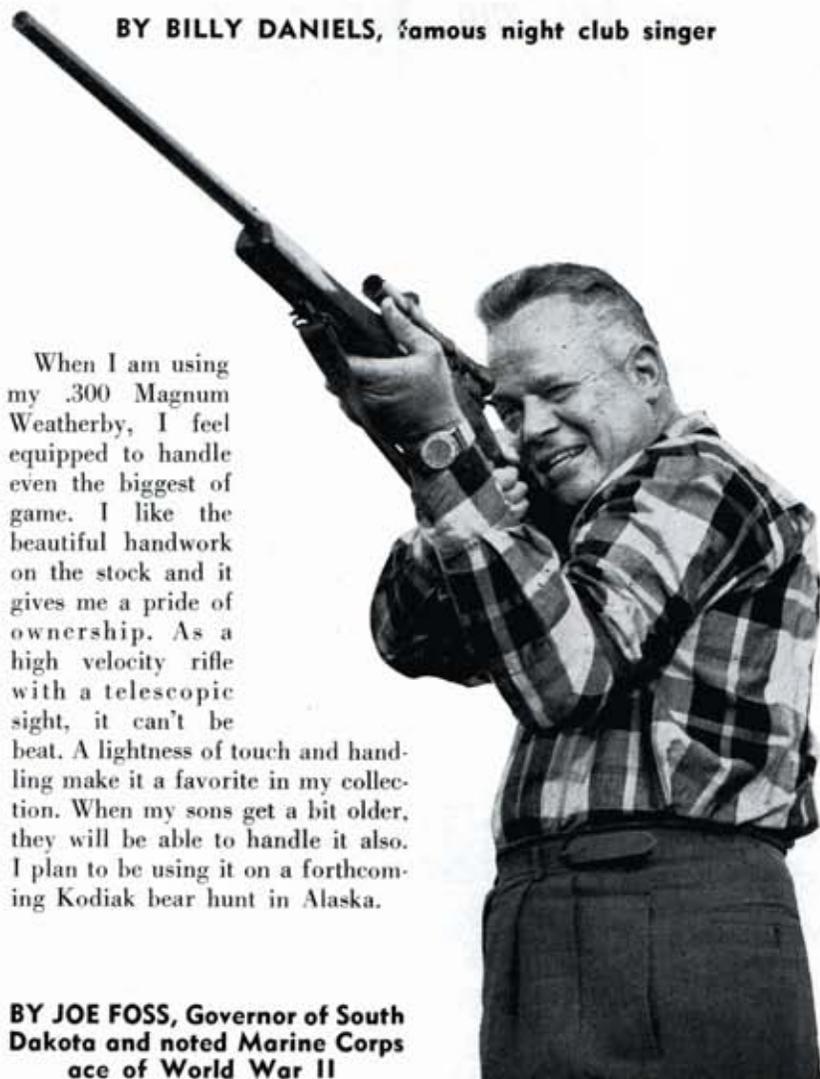
BY BILLY DANIELS, famous night club singer

When I am using my .300 Magnum Weatherby, I feel equipped to handle even the biggest of game. I like the beautiful handwork on the stock and it gives me a pride of ownership. As a high velocity rifle with a telescopic sight, it can't be beat. A lightness of touch and handling make it a favorite in my collection. When my sons get a bit older, they will be able to handle it also. I plan to be using it on a forthcoming Kodiak bear hunt in Alaska.

BY JOE FOSS, Governor of South Dakota and noted Marine Corps ace of World War II



Right now, I am using a Winchester Model 70, .300 H & H, for big game hunting such as elk and bear. However, for all-around use, I prefer the .30-06 for deer and antelope hunting. It offers a great variation of weights and slugs. I use light loads for antelope and heavy loads for bigger game and brush shooting. For the hunter who can afford only one gun, I can enthusiastically recommend the .30-06.



The 55-Hunter bolt-action doubles as an excellent scatter gun and a high-accuracy big-game gun!

When you go after deer and bigger game with rifled slugs, you aim through the Lyman 40 SM receiver peep sight, for top accuracy! The 55-Hunter is factory-drilled and tapped for this sight. It's instantly detachable, for close range shooting, with a flick of its locking lever.

The dependable, handle-able Model 55 has a 2-shot clip, giving the gun a capacity of 3 shots. Barrel is 28" long, full choke. Has patented Marlin double extractors, for positive extraction and ejection. The recoil-absorbing system is new and improved, and a high-quality recoil pad is provided.

Only \$31.95! (Slightly higher west of the Rockies. Price subject to change without notice.)

THE NAME FOR GAME

**Marlin**

FINE GUNS SINCE 1870

MARLIN FIREARMS COMPANY  
Dept. G-36  
New Haven, Connecticut

Please send me your catalog with complete descriptions and photo illustrations of all Marlin Guns. Also send me a pack of (check preference)  single- or  double-edge Marlin Razor Blades. I enclose 10¢ for handling.

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Street.....

City..... Zone..... State.....

*modern aircraft design*

*made this  
new handgun  
possible!*

This ultra-modern model of America's most popular .22 auto-loader has a forged frame of the same durable metal that forms the backbone of our fastest planes and guided missiles.

Sport-King *Lightweight* weighs over half a pound less than the all-steel model. Easy to carry, perfect year-round companion for the outdoorsman. Same dependable performance that has made Hi-Standard handguns the choice of the champions. See your dealer and take your choice of two Sport-Kings, plus six other famous field and target models.

\$43.75 Sport-King *Lightweight* or all-steel. 4½" or 6¼" interchangeable barrels; extra barrel \$8.00.

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HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

Write for folder 60.



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CHOICE OF THE CHAMPIONS

**World's Largest Distributor**  
**SIGHTS**  
**WHOLESALE**  
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**FAST - ACCURATE SERVICE**

**ALL MAKES - COMPLETE STOCK  
SIGHTS - SCOPES - MOUNTS**

Prompt shipment from stock of all orders,  
small or large!

Dealer Inquiries Invited

Write Regarding Your Sight Problems

Free Technical Service

To Gunsmiths and Dealers



O.S.E. Stand  
Without Scope

The new O.S.E. Scope Stand has been produced to supply the demand for a reasonably priced scope stand that is rugged and absolutely dependable.

**\$13<sup>95</sup>**



**THE ORIGINAL SIGHT-EXCHANGE CO.**

**"Gun Sight Specialists"**

**P. O. Box J-4**

**Paoli, Pennsylvania**

# GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

□ Mr. and Mrs. Will Appleman of Three Rivers, Mich., have been happily married 70 years—but Mrs. Appleman says that, actually, 66 years would be more like the time they have been living together. Mr. Appleman, says his missus, has spent, all told, counting all his hunting trips, four years of their matrimonial existence in the woods with a rifle.

\*\*\*

□ In San Antonio, Texas, chicken farmer Scott S. McKay complained to police about the poor aim of the new crop of dove hunters. In two weeks they killed 100 of his chickens and peppered his \$8,000 palomino horse with shotgun pellets.

\*\*\*

□ Hunting deer near Nakusp, British Columbia, Charlie Daust was chased up a tree by six bears. He killed four of them, wounded another and the last one ambled away. Daust explained that six bears chased him after he shot and missed a deer, which leaped over a mound into the group of bears.

\*\*\*

□ A long hidden vigil of revenuers at the site of a moonshine still near Tuscaloosa, Ala., came to an abrupt halt when shots from an agent's pistol gave the lawmen away. The agent explained he had to shoot a rattlesnake that crawled into his hiding place.

\*\*\*

□ Police weren't quite satisfied with the explanation of a Denver man that the pistol and rifle in his car were for hunting rabbits. They wanted to know what a meat cleaver and a machete was doing in the auto, too. "Oh, that," explained the Denverite. "That's to take care of mountain lions I might run into while hunting rabbits."

\*\*\*

□ The first woman to collect a bounty payment for shooting a wolf in Okfuskee County in Oklahoma is Mrs. Dorothy Hendrix, who saw the animal prowling in her backyard, grabbed a pistol and shot the critter five times. She then snipped off the ears and collected a \$2.50 bounty.



# \$1,000,000 Gun Sale!

"Just returned from visiting almost every country in Europe and the Far East, folks, and have bought up \$1,000,000 worth of rare, unusual weapons of all descriptions. These imports were bought at LOW foreign prices, with good old American dollars, so that I can sell them to you at TREMENDOUS bargains, because of our great purchasing power. Remember, if you don't see what you're looking for in this ad, send \$2 for our huge Gun Collectors Photo Catalog, which gives complete descriptions, prices and information of over 20,000 guns we have for sale. All styles, types and makes, both new and used, antique and modern, now being sold at LOW prices you can afford." Hy Hunter.



**AMERICAN CO2 LUGER .22 CAL. SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL:** New Repeater - High Velocity CO/2—powerful 8 shot repeater. Perfect balance and reproduction. Economical, uses all standard CO/2 cartridges, .22 caliber, with revolutionary new firing principle. Target adjustable sights. Automatic residue drain. FREE! \*Extra high power cylinder. \*200 rounds of ammunition. \$24.95

**MIGHTY MIDGET REVOLVER .22 CAL.**  
Brand new. Beautifully made. Fine precision Revolver. Cylinder holds 6 cartridges. Fires new .22 Remington Rocket or any .22 short or long ammo. Both single & double action. Perfect for home, camping, target practice, etc. \$19.95

**"THE GUN THAT WON THE WEST"**  
**FRONTIER SIX SHOOTER. BRAND NEW!** The only replica of the original famous Frontier Six Shooter in appearance, feel and action. Made of the highest quality aircraft type steel. In .22 Caliber, 5 1/2" barrel only. Fires short, long, or long rifle ammo. ONLY \$69.95. Send 50c for our BIG FRONTIER SIXSHOOTER PHOTO CATALOG, which gives complete information, prices, etc., on .22 to .45 caliber Frontiers.

**ENFIELD .410 SHOTGUNS:** Very rare and unusual. Looks exactly like an Enfield .303, but really a .410 gauge single shot. Used by British officers in India for bird shooting. \$21.95

**SMITH & WESSON .38 Cal. Revolver. 6" bbl.** The standard model of the military and police service. A beautiful weapon that will give years of dependable service. Fine condition. Now offered for the first time at this low price. \$29.95  
**S & W TYPE SPANISH REVOLVER: Breaktop .445 Cal.** Good condition. A powerful gun you don't see in many collections. A real buy. \$9.95



**LITTLE ATOM PISTOL**  
The world's "showiest" small pistol. Gold plated with pearl grip, ramrod, and a capsule of blanks. \$2.95

**DEN SPECIAL LONG GUNS:** I just corralled 5000 guns from all over the world, representing darn near every country you ever heard of. While they last, I'll ship you — 1 for \$12.50, 2 for \$20, 3 for \$25. No two alike.

**SCOTLAND YARD GUNS**  
"I horse-traded a stable full of guns from Scotland Yard that they've been lifting off of thugs and scoundrels for the last fifty years. Some of them are guns I never heard of. They aren't in mint condition, but I can guarantee that they were kept inside all this time, not out in the yard. I'll ship you these guns with a notarized personal letter from me verifying their origin." Hy Hunter  
2 different guns \$17.00 3 different guns \$23.00 (f.o.b., Burbank)



**FRENCH SECRET SERVICE POLICE GUNS:**  
"Here is a rare collection of guns that were taken from French criminals over a period of the last 100 years, by the French Secret Police called the "Surette." For years stories have been written of romance and strange tales of the French Secret Police. Here are some of the guns that made the "action" in these stories. With your guns, you will receive a personal notarized letter from me verifying their origin." Hy Hunter.

**MAUSER 95 ACTION**  
This short action is used with great success in building sporting rifles such as the 300 Savage. 7 MM Mauser, .35 Remington, .308 Winchester, .257 Roberts, and other calibers. Add 50c for each action to cover postage. \$13.95

**MAUSER 98 ACTION**  
Standard long action that is used to build sporting rifles in the following calibers: 30-06 Springfield, .270 Winchester, .300 Savage, .308 Winchester, 7 MM Mauser and many other calibers. Add 50c for each action ordered to cover postage. \$18.95

**U. S. SPRINGFIELD RIFLE 45/70 CAL.**  
This is the rifle the Indians used in fighting the white man during the late 1800's. Fair condition.  
45/70 Cal. Rifle \$37.50  
45/70 Cal. Corbine \$44.50

**BAYONETS**  
These make beautiful wall decorations for dens or gun room. Collected from all parts of the world. 3 different kinds, only \$10.00

**MAUSER RIFLES**  
8 MM Cal. fair to good condition. excellent hunting rifle. Used by the Germans in the 2nd World War. One of the finest of the high powered rifles. \$29.95

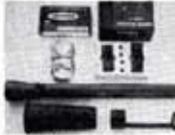
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MARCH  
1956  
Vol. 2  
No. 3-15

# Guns



MAGAZINE

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William Heckford, engraving room foreman of England's famous Holland & Holland gun works, decorates the breech end of a pair of shotgun barrels. He wears two pairs of spectacles, the extra one for increased magnification. Photo by Zoltan Glass.

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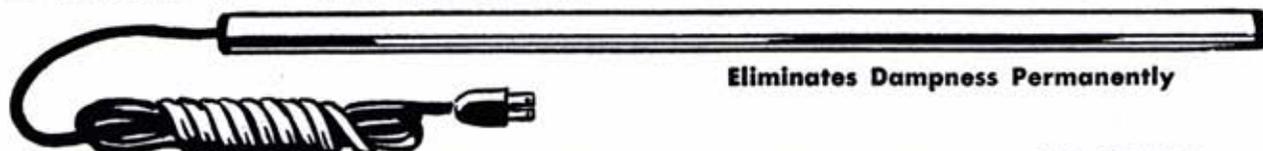
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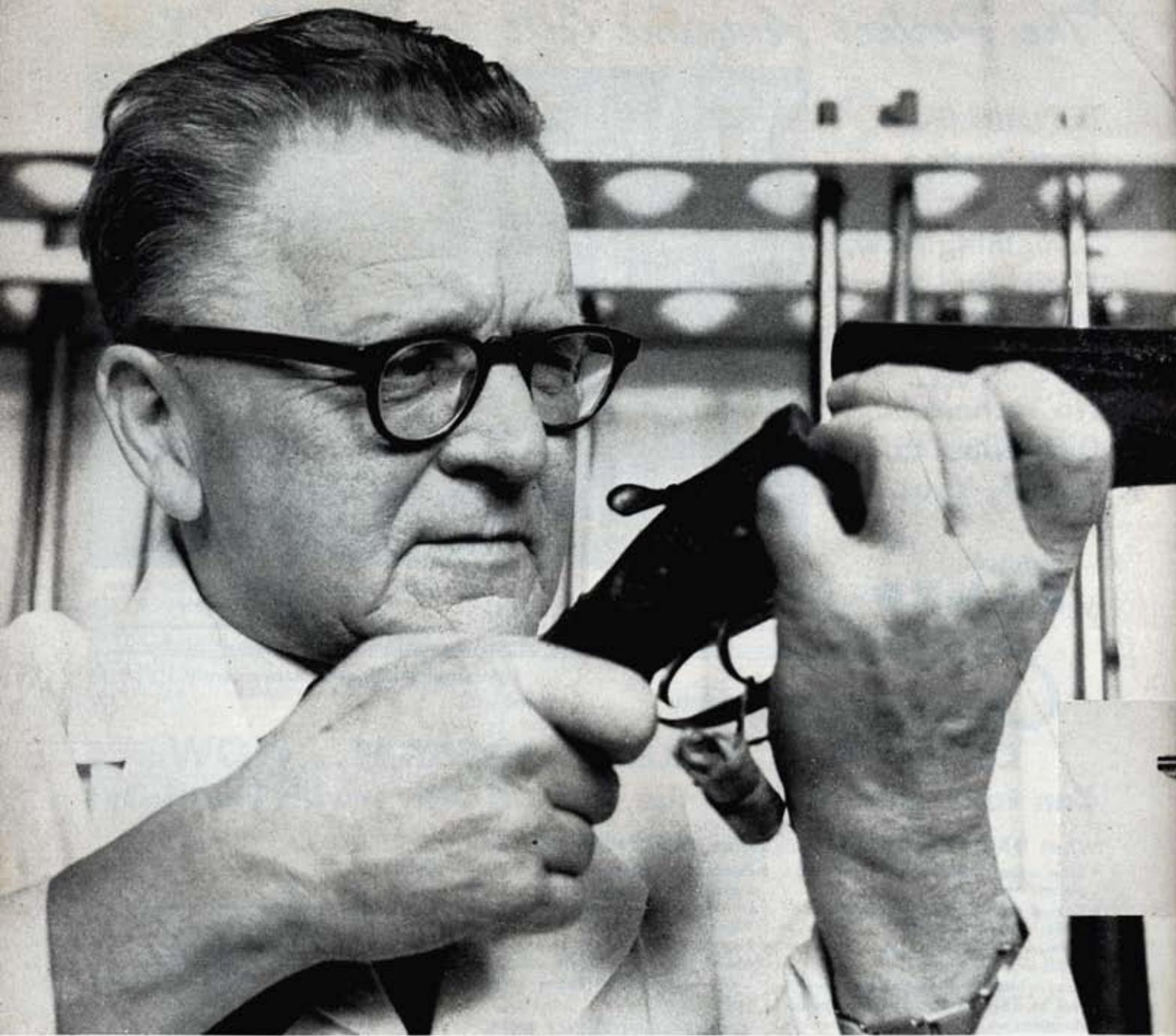
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My favorite Gun Dealer is \_\_\_\_\_



Responsibility for final okay of Holland & Holland perfection lies with manager Walter Jacobs who inspects each gun.

Unpretentious salesroom on New Bond Street in London is world headquarters for the best in English gunmaking.



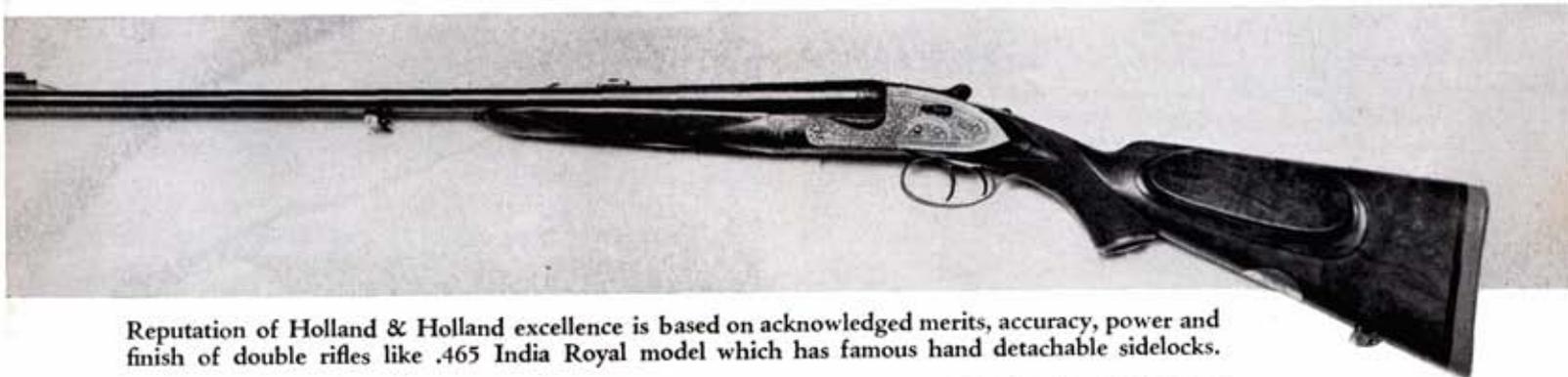
Old factory building several miles from store is where force of skilled workmen build the Holland gun.



# FINEST GUN MAKERS ON EARTH



Basic tool used in the construction of Holland's gun-making masterpieces is the file—thousands of them.



Reputation of Holland & Holland excellence is based on acknowledged merits, accuracy, power and finish of double rifles like .465 India Royal model which has famous hand detachable sidelocks.

**DISDAINING MODERN MACHINES AND USING PRIMITIVE CHISELS AND FILES, HOLLAND & HOLLAND MAKES BEST GUNS IN WORLD**

By WILLIAM B. EDWARDS

**I**N A DINGY, red brick 19th Century factory building slanting up Harrow Road near London, with primitive tools and worn-out equipment that an American back-alley mechanic would be ashamed to own, there are made today the finest guns produced anywhere in the world.

Relatively modern barrel drilling machines stand idle on the oil-soaked wood floors, while the gun makers of England's famous Holland & Holland shop work hunched over their gun parts, chopping away with chisel, hammer and a file. Their utter disregard for the niceties of machine manufacturing can be from only one cause. Each and every man there, from works manager Walter Jacobs on down to the lowliest apprentice, is in his own special way a genius and an artist.

The royal family have found Holland guns suitable as gifts to their peers in many parts of the world. The prince-

Simple machine cuts finish forged steel block to stage where hand work completes action body in building gun.





Their muzzles plugged with clay, a set of two barrels is brazed in gas furnace which joins them at breech lumps.

doms of India are liberally sprinkled with gift sets of Holland guns. Former King Farouk of Egypt received a magnificent pair of double 12-bore Hollands from King George VI in 1937 as a wedding gift—something of a shotgun wedding as it turned out.

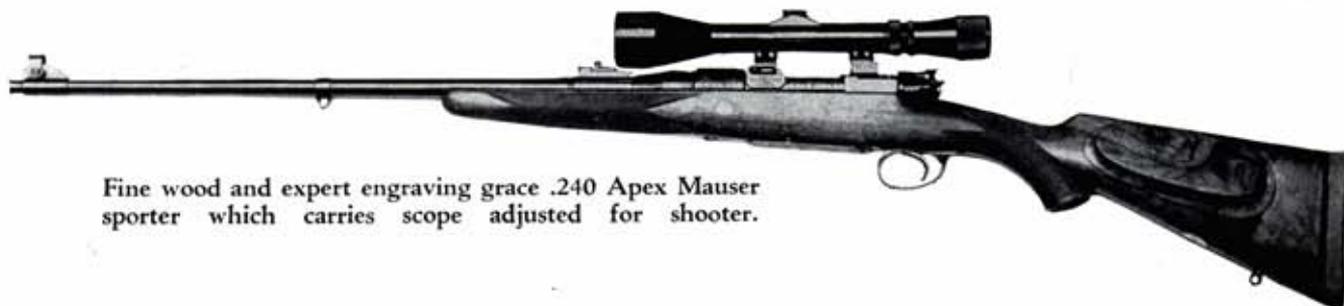
Patrons of Holland & Holland are the great, wealthy and noble from many lands. Customer names are highly confidential. Once in writing about an obsolete black powder express in my collection, works manager Jacobs advised me that he would only tell me "in strict confidence that your rifle was made for a Mr. Van—about 1890." Respecting his confidence, I omit the name. More than that he would not say, though the roster of satisfied customers for the famous works includes distinguished sportsmen: H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, Mohammed Ali, prime minister of Pakistan, King Hussein of Jordan, and H. M. Bao Dai of Viet Nam. Handicraft experience of 54 years is being lavished on a Smith & Wesson revolver now being decorated by William Heckford, engraving foreman, for the King of Iraq. An-

other customer who displays a Holland "Modele De Luxe," the creamiest of the "creme" in gun making, is the Ecole des Armes at Liege. The Belgian center of gun making is an historic rival of the English gun trade. There, a "best English gun" serves as the model of perfection toward which the young gunmaking students aspire.

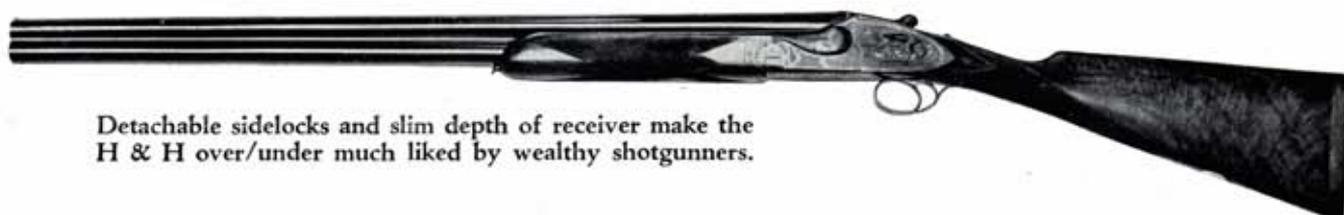
On the stocky shoulders of Walter Jacobs, factory manager, rests the responsibility for the perfection of a Holland gun. Each gun is made by hand, and the last hands each one passes through are those of Jacobs. He has long experience as an action fitter, and critical judgment of gun making in all other branches of the art.

Each gun which leaves the factory, whether of the relatively inexpensive Mauser rifle type at about 90 pounds (\$270), or a better double rifle at £350-400 (\$1200), is personally checked by him. He knows where faults are to be found, but rarely does he have to set aside a gun for anything more serious than perhaps a screw-slot filed a few thousandths too wide.

With over 30 years experience at H & H, Mr. Jacobs has



Fine wood and expert engraving grace .240 Apex Mauser sporter which carries scope adjusted for shooter.



Detachable sidelocks and slim depth of receiver make the H & H over/under much liked by wealthy shotguns.



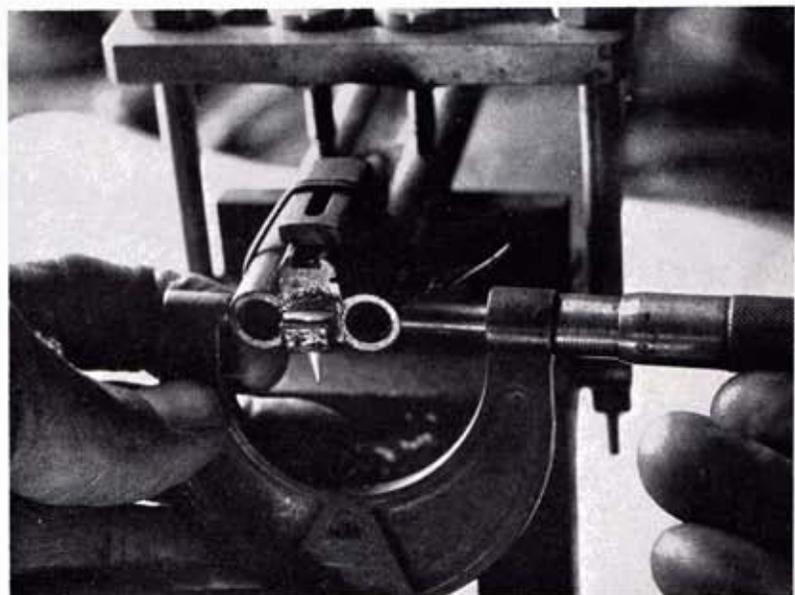
Smoking breech face of barrels shows bearing points.



Bright contact spots are filed and breech resmoked to fit.



Shotgun chambering is done with rude hand reamer.



Soldered barrels are regulated by micrometer reading.



Mauser rifle sights are blank until notched for shooter.

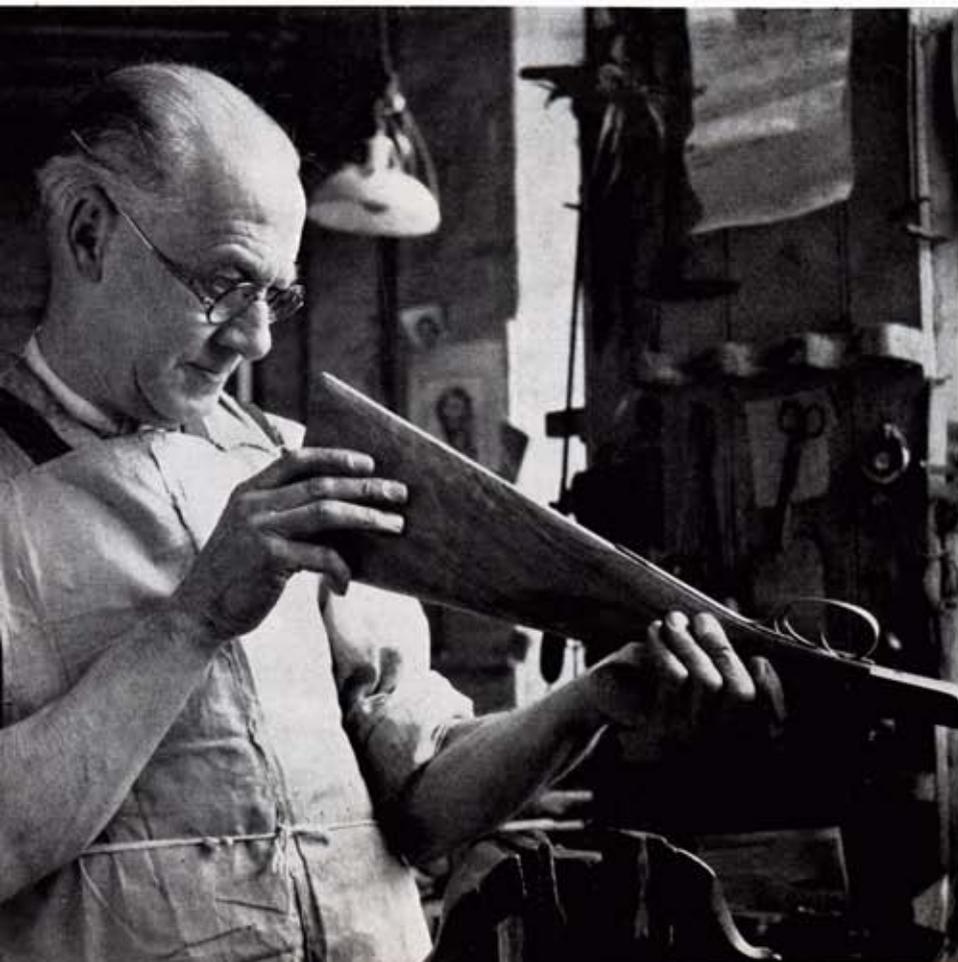


Barrels are polished with emery cloth on point of tool.



Lapping to smooth bores is done while barrels are held in century-old vise as workman steadies free ends with cotton waste protecting hands.

Stockmaker Arthur Harris checks fit of trigger plate inletted into fine French walnut which is one of the famed hallmarks of H & H quality.



a wealth of stories to tell about H & H. Once an order came from a French nobleman before the war for a pair of guns. Hitler went on the march and 12 years passed. Recently the Frenchman showed up and half-jokingly inquired if his guns were ready? Out came the account book, and the answer, "Quite ready, sir."

Embarrassed then, the Frenchman explained that he no longer had the money to pay for them. "Lucky," Jacobs gruffly muttered, "because I'd just sold one of 'em."

Other goods manage to lie around the factory "office" for a slightly-longer time. Used as a paper weight on Jacobs' desk is a tiny Colt derringer pistol made about 1912, nickel and blue, and in mint condition. "It was here when I came—no, I don't think we care to sell it."

Two more guns lie in a long glass case at the end of the room. Both are rare, desirable collectors' items. Nobody seems to know who owns them. One is an almost unique Pedersen .276 semi-automatic rifle made by the Vickers firm in the early 1920's, of a pattern which was considered once for adoption over the Garand by the U.S. Army.

H & H is honored by royal patronage, sent guns to Farouk from George V.





Individuality of an H & H gun or rifle is carried even to scope sights, which are calibrated by shooting out on range.

The other is a gun which has come in for repair, a huge Mars 9mm automatic pistol. The parts of this valuable collector's item are scattered all over the shop. Holland's attitude towards collector's guns is reflected even in treatment of their own wares. I stopped in at their unpretentious, almost shabby New Bond Street showrooms, and spoke with Albert Madell, who has been with the firm since he started as an office boy 35 years ago. He is a member in good standing of the Long Sufferers Association, to which only members of the gun trade for over 25 years are admitted.

"Have you any old Holland guns for sale? Black powder expresses or guns taken in trade?" I asked.

Madell replied enigmatically "Oh, I'm sorry you didn't come in last week—we just sent the last lot to our shooting grounds."

Nonplussed I asked if I couldn't go up there and take a look at them—I might want to buy the lot.

"I'm afraid you couldn't do that, sir," he replied. "You see, we are building a new floor in our shooting pavilion and we have used the guns to *reenforce the concrete.*"

That concrete floor at their Northwood shooting grounds where many old Holland guns are entombed has become the foundation for fitting new Holland guns. Since its construction hundreds of shooters have stood on that grave of Holland's past being fitted with a "try gun" by coach Albert Price, who has 55 years experience at gun fitting. Price shares responsibility almost as important as that of Jacobs, for on the careful measurements he takes from the adjustable try gun depends much of the customer's skill and satisfaction with a gun which fits him as neatly as a suit of Bond Street tailoring.

"American gentlemen tend to (Continued on page 44)

Action maker Frank Hill, who has never worked from a blueprint, shows mechanism to apprentice Roy Connell.





# AMERICA'S PRETTIEST SHOTGUNNER

PETITE, PRETTY CAROLA MANDEL IS AMAZING COMPETITOR WHO HAS BEATEN MALE AS WELL AS LADY SHOOTERS TO WIN NATIONAL OPEN

By JAMES CRANBROOK

Gallery of trophies has been won by Carola Mandel, whose shotgun skill won her renown as top shooter.



THE WIND scudded puffs of dry snow across the stubble field, and overhead grey clouds hung low over the pigeon ring. My fingers were numb as they gripped the cold trap forestock of the double Parker 12, waiting in the lee of the clubhouse for my turn. Some 50 yards distant at the shooting point, a slim figure of a woman stood in red checkered slacks, a thin jacket, and with a long-beaked cap on her dark hair. With her arms raised, alert, poised, the over/under Browning at her shoulder, she called: "Are you ready?"

An affirmation came from the trap operator, protected from the wintery gusts inside his trap-release house. Then she called: "Pull."

As the flyer rose and its pinions swept the air in deep beats, the Browning cracked: Bam! Bam!

It was a perfect shot, and later, a top score, for this was Carola Mandel. A tiny girl hardly over 100 pounds wringing wet, she has risen in six years from novice plinking obscurity to prominence in every skeet tourney in the nation.

Token of her remarkable status in the skeet world was when she became the first woman to capture the national 20 gauge open championship, beating all male as well as female competitors. The defeated men pinned on badges reading: "I.B.B.B.C. Club," meaning "I've Been Beaten by Carola."

In 1955 she became the first woman in history to hang up an average as high as .990 on 1000 or more registered targets with a 12 gauge, or any other gauge gun. She again was the shooter with the highest average among the women for the year. Her record in the four guns was:

12 gauge: 1238 x 1250 for .990  
20 gauge: 877 x 900 for .974  
28 gauge: 943 x 1000 for .943  
410 gauge: 866 x 1000 for .866

She has come a long way in the gun world since she began shooting competitively in 1949. The Senora Carola Elvira Maria Panerai y Bertini Mandel, to give her full name, has achieved more than just records; she has a reputation as a true sportswoman as well as the prettiest shot-gunner to be seen on any American range. This high tribute was paid Carola by editor George White of the Skeet Shooting Review:

"She is one of the finest competitors I have ever known in sports in more than 30 years as a metropolitan daily sports editor. I know of no one more charming or more gracious. As for heart, they don't come any greater, as was evidenced in the 1954 Nationals at Waterford, Mich., when she had the misfortune to break her foot and, obviously in much pain, she went out two days later and became the first of her sex ever to win a national open championship beating men and women alike with 100 straight in the 20 gauge event."

Perhaps one of the most striking single measurements of Carola's skill as a shotgunner was the listing of her scores under "1955 Winners in Top Classifications" in the Skeet Shooting Review. In the middle of the page "Mrs. Carola Mandel" headed 44 lines of type, tallying over 40 wins or top scores for 1955.

Carola loves every minute on the skeet field. The spirit of competition in these contests of shotshell skill is the attraction the sport has for her. Yet if you did not meet her on the shooting grounds, you would never guess that

Carola practices with her Cutts-Comp equipped Remington autoloading shot gun at Lincoln Park Club in Chicago.





With her custom-stocked L. C. Smith, Carola relaxes beside pile of shells she fired in winning gun club shoot.



Complete safety is assured with Carola's guns at home as she cleans each gun after firing and must unload it.



Recent nomination as one of Chicago's Ten Best Dressed Women is only one of many awards won by shooter.

the charming, reserved and beautiful lady to whom you were being presented was in fact one of the world's foremost athletes. Token of another element of Carola's versatile personality is her recent nomination as one of "Chicago's Ten Best-Dressed Women."

Carola has been interested in shooting since she was a small girl of 10. "My big brother—oh, he was much older than me," she spoke in her clear voice with an engaging touch of Latin accent to it, "he taught me to shoot. He was captain of the Cuban national pistol team, and he gave me a little Smith and Wesson, one of the .22 revolvers on the light frame. He would teach me how to shoot this gun, you know, and it was a lot of fun."

But sometimes Carola would get on her big brother's nerves. Then he had a cure for that. He gave her a rubber ball and told her to squeeze it, to develop her grip for pistol shooting.

"I was surprised," she smiled, "to learn this is good practice and is done by pistol shooters today in training. But it is not much for the shotgun."

Actually Carola got into shotgun shooting after marrying Col. Leon Mandel, Chicago department store owner who is himself an accomplished shooter.

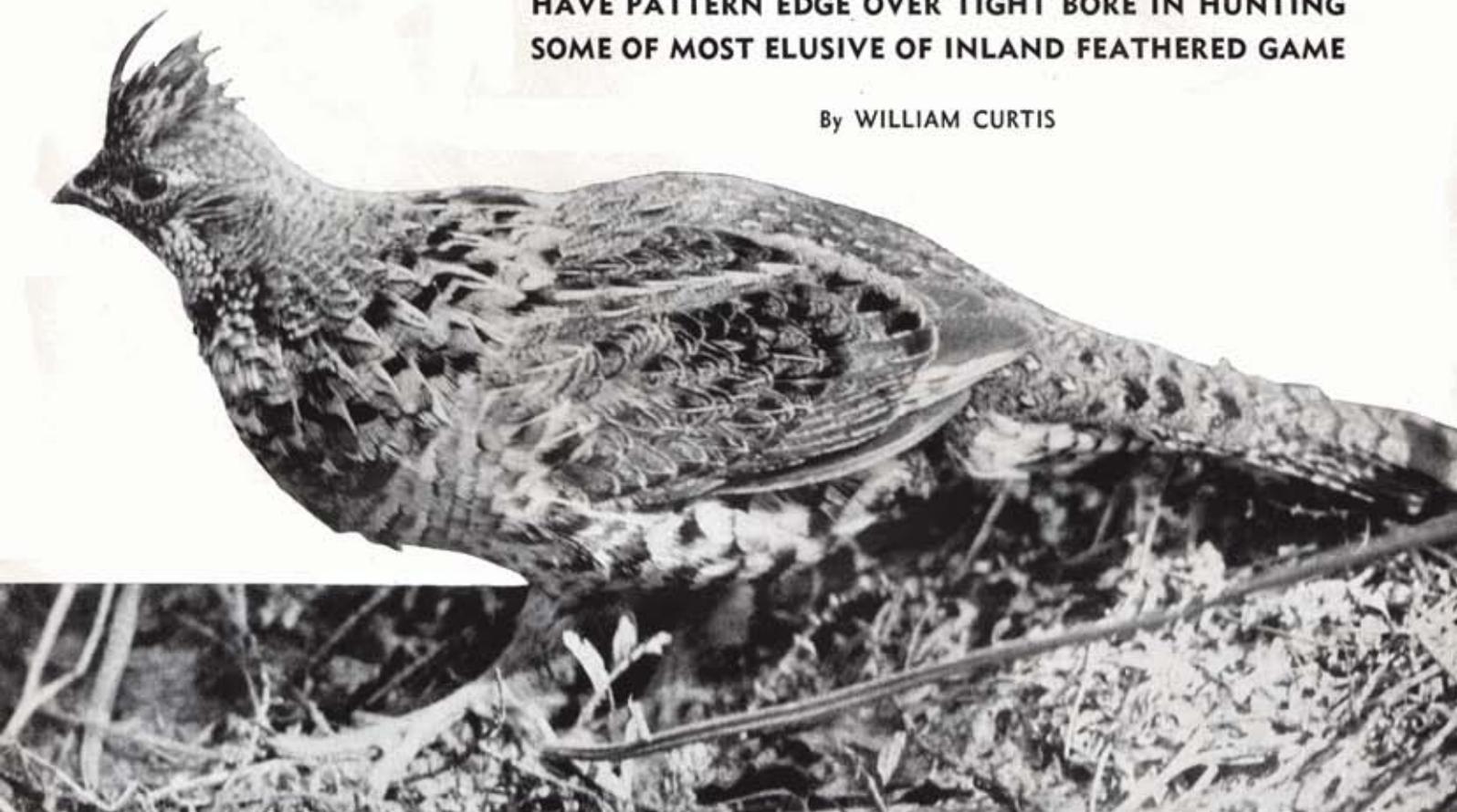
The colonel relates: "We had just been married, and Carola had liked shooting, so I thought she might enjoy it again. We were on a trip through the Carribbean, a scientific expedition for the Field Museum. I got Carola one of those 'Mo-Skeet-O' shotgun outfits, the smoothbore .22 bolt action rifle. She used it in collecting small birds and mammals for the expedition, and pretty soon I realized she was not just any ordinary plinker. So I got her a 20 gauge shotgun—and then the trouble started."

Carola laughed at the memory of the trouble, but it wasn't so pleasant at first. She *(Continued on page 39)*

# GUNNING GROUSE

MODIFIED CHOKE OR IMPROVED CYLINDER SHOTGUNS  
HAVE PATTERN EDGE OVER TIGHT BORE IN HUNTING  
SOME OF MOST ELUSIVE OF INLAND FEATHERED GAME

By WILLIAM CURTIS



Big ruffed grouse has gained reputation of being the most difficult to hunt of a family of sly and wary birds.

Double automatic Browning with single barrel is suitable for grouse if choked improved cylinder or modified, or may be fitted with adjustable choke.



**T**HE GROUSE IS to the inland shooter what ducks are to hunters along water. Favorite of all upland birds hunted in America, the several kinds of grouse manage to bracket the range of intelligence—some of them are the stupidest birds that ever flew down a gun barrel, but others prove themselves among the most elusive of all feathered game.

The grouse is found from the highest peaks of the Rockies to the hardwood ridges of the east. The western sagebrush plateaus and the stubble fields of Canada and the northern states all boast some member of the grouse family. And boast they do, for the grouse is highly prized by the scattershot enthusiasts.

Most gunners rate the ruffed grouse at the top of the list. I'd sort of agree with them. The first time I hunted old Ruff, I was soon mumbling in my beard. My partner flushed the first



Grouse are found in the tall pines, or in open sage country in desert.



Big Blue grouse, the Franklin or the ruffed (two small birds above) may overlap in feeding areas so lucky hunter can bag specimens of all three.

grouse I ever shot at. Through the golden willow thickets along Idaho's famous and remote Selway River, I had spent many happy days in pursuit of quail and the crafty ringnecks. When my partner flushed the grouse through a mass of willows and berry vines and shouted "bird coming out," I expected to be warned by the whirr of hard-driven wings. This old boy was a fooler. Ruffed grouse usually thunder up, but this one was trying the silent exit. Listening for wing music, I caught a fleeting glimpse of my quarry winging its way through the willows silent as an owl and almost out of sight.

Swinging after him, I brought down a shower of leaves and twigs a good two feet behind my speedy target. I soon learned that a 30-inch full choke barrel does not prescribe the right dose of ruffed grouse medicine even with No. 7½ or 8 shot. The birds are almost always located in dense thickets with snap shots at close range your only chance. I shot 8 or 10 times and scratched down one bird.

A modified choke or improved cylinder or even the cylinder bored shotgun, a very short range job, will perform much better than a tight-bored gun. Ruffed grouse are larger and harder to kill than quail, but the close shooting calls for a quickly expanding pattern, although you risk crippling birds unless you pass up the occasional long range shot. The various devices, with which you may instantly adjust your choke to any type the occasion calls for, are rapidly gaining favor. These are mighty handy for the guy who does a wide variety of shotgun hunting but can only afford one gun.

Ruffed grouse are widely distributed. In some areas he is affectionately known as the "Pat." In many parts of the west the hunters refer to them as pheasants, native pheasants, brush pheasants or ruffed grouse. British Columbians have labeled this bird the willow grouse. One thing they all agree on, however, Mr. Ruff is the king of his tribe no matter where he is found or what name he is tagged with.

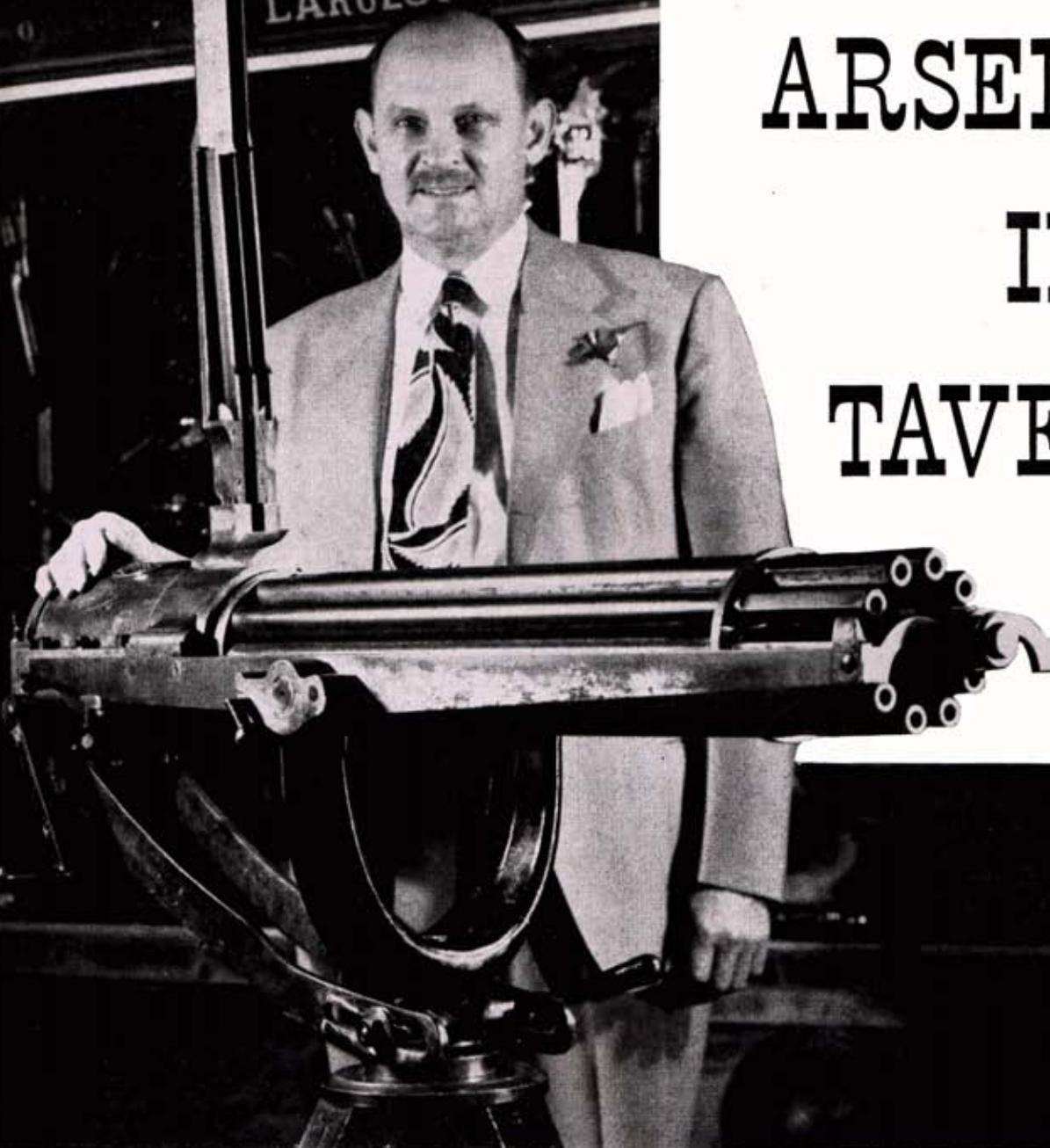
Even in remote mountain areas (Continued on page 56)

End of successful grouse hunt is preparing bird first reported by Lewis & Clark expedition for mighty fine eating.



LARGEST COLLECTION in the U.S.A.

# ARSENAL IN A TAVERN



Rare 10-barrel Gatling gun is treasured by collector Andy Palmer at his Military Inn as a possible relic of Custer battle.

**IN COMBINATION RESTAURANT AND MUSEUM, ANDY PALMER HAS ONE OF LARGEST PRIVATELY OR PUBLICLY OWNED GUN COLLECTIONS IN WORLD**

By HARVEY BRANDT

**A**NDY PALMER is a man who has managed to have his cake and eat it too. At the Military Inn on the intersection of Telegraph, Warren, and Military Drive in Dearborn, Michigan, he has managed to combine the happy pursuits of eating, drinking, and gun collecting into a fascinating but highly profitable cake. Each year the government gets a big slice of this "cake," but there is plenty left over for Andy to continue his enthusiastic gun collecting. Now totalling over 10,000 guns, Andy's collection is one of the largest privately or publicly owned anywhere in the world.

A visit to the Military Inn is one project most gun folks get around to sooner or later. Thousands of people have dropped in on Andy from all parts of the country, and some from abroad. He offers a diversified fare of food and drink for the night clubber and after-theater group. For the gun nut, a few hours spent there seems like minutes. If you stop for lunch, you're likely to find that dinner time has come before you know it.

The outside of the inn is imposing. A medieval design with a single castellated tower dominating the corner, the



Interior view of the vast main hall of the Military Inn shows display of game trophies and machine guns.

building was put up in 1949, but the bricks are more than a century old. They come from an old landmark of Detroit, the Detroit Arsenal, which was an important depot in the defense of the "West" against Indians during the Black Hawk wars in the 1830's. Some of the buildings were still standing in 1949, when the city cleared the land to install a parking lot. Andy bought the huge old oak timbers and handmade bricks.

Ground was broken for Andy's building in 1949. A short time later Andy's whole vast collection was hung on the walls or used in decorative patterns within the inn. To the guest who is not expecting the sights of thousands of guns festooned from the rafters and garnishing the doors and walls, the experience is a startling one.

Andy's abiding love is his affection for the history and legend of the old west. He has the distinction of having served on the jury that hanged Jack McCall, Wild Bill Hickok's assassin. Actually, the jury was chosen to reenact the trial in connection with the Deadwood, South Dakota, annual publicity festival "Days of '76". While holding a poker hand of "aces and eights," since called the "dead man's hand," Hickok sat playing cards with his back to the room. His habitual seat where his back was protected had been taken by another player. Many historians have mused on the small chance of fate which made Hickok accept the change without protesting. While Hickok was engrossed in the card game, Jack McCall, a liquored-up buffalo hunter and sometime contender for



Inn's ceiling is covered by Andy's Civil War carbine collection, while modern 20mm cannon stands at pillar.

the many "Champion Buffalo Hunter of the Plains" titles then floating around, took a shot at him.

McCall was eventually brought to trial and hanged, and Andy enjoyed the re-enactment of this historic scene in Deadwood. Perhaps even more he enjoyed buying a .32 Smith & Wesson tip-up revolver in the town of Spearfish, S. Dakota, about a half hour's drive from Deadwood. The actual gun was carried by Wild Bill at the time of his death.

Another interesting relic owned by Andy is the pepper-box, a bar-hammer Allen six-shooter, which Mark Twain had when he was "treed" by the buffalo.

While Andy has bought many interesting guns on his travels, most of them come to him directly over the counter. He has several books of gun prices on hand, and answers the embarrassing question of "what's it worth?" by referring the gun owner to some standard volume. Some people have fantastic notions of what a gun is worth, while others set the figure "high," expecting to be knocked down in price, and are surprised when their demand is paid at once.

A young and attractive widow brought in an unusual confederate revolver a while ago. It has become Andy's favorite gun. It is a fine specimen of a Rigdon-Ansley Confederate Colt. "If I had to give up all my guns, I think I'd part with this one last," Andy says.

"When the woman came in here, I saw right off it was valuable, but I didn't know what to offer her. If I made it too low, she might think I was trying to cheat her, and



Military Inn frequently plays host to distinguished visitors such as Michigan Governor G. Mennen Williams, who is looking over Colt allegedly used to shoot Jesse James.

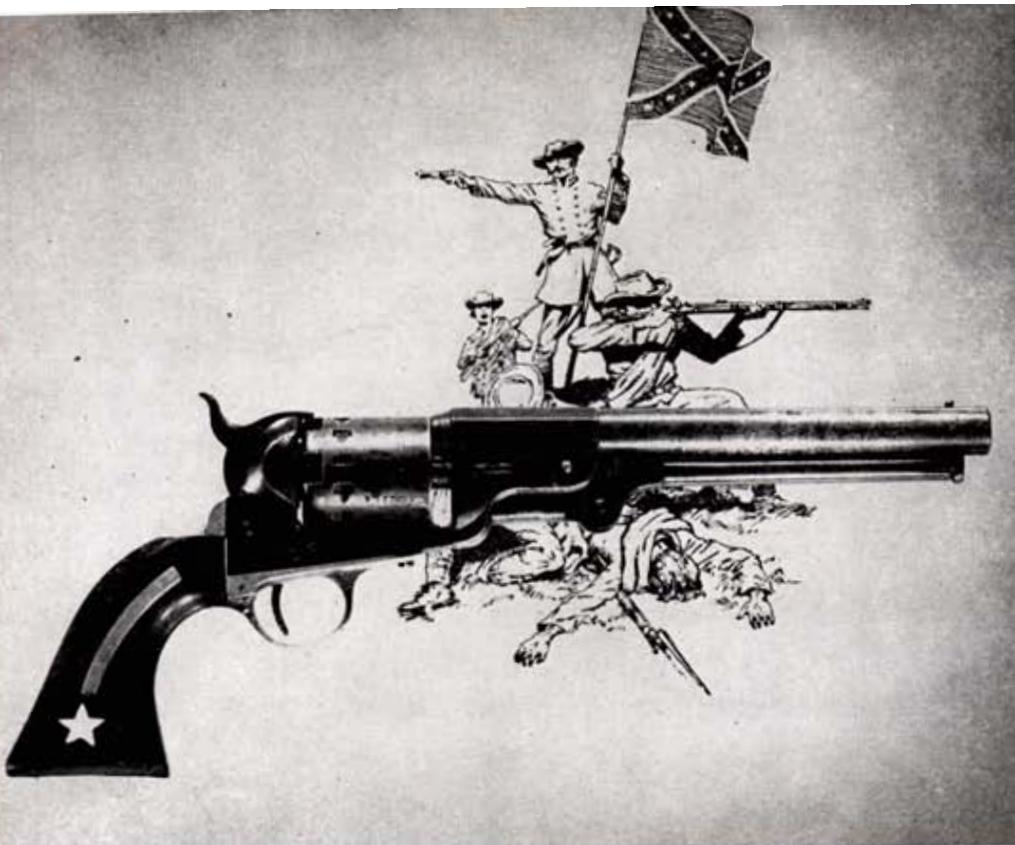
if I made it high, even though it might be much more than she expected to get, I might never buy it."

Then an "out" was offered. The woman asked if he would "sell the gun for her," explaining that she was a journalist and writer by profession. Andy thought it over and then said: "Tell you what I'll do. You leave the gun here for a few days. But meanwhile, I'd like you to write a piece about the Military Inn which I can use in a brochure I'm getting up." The young woman agreed to do this. After a couple of weeks had passed, she returned with a short article about the inn. Andy paid her \$35 for the article—and the gun.

The revolver is a .36 caliber copy of the common Navy Colt, made in Augusta, Ga., by Charles Rigdon and Jesse

Television's "Annie Oakley," Gail Davis, sights original Annie Oakley's Colt which Andy has in Inn's collection but which he now doubts was ever used by her.

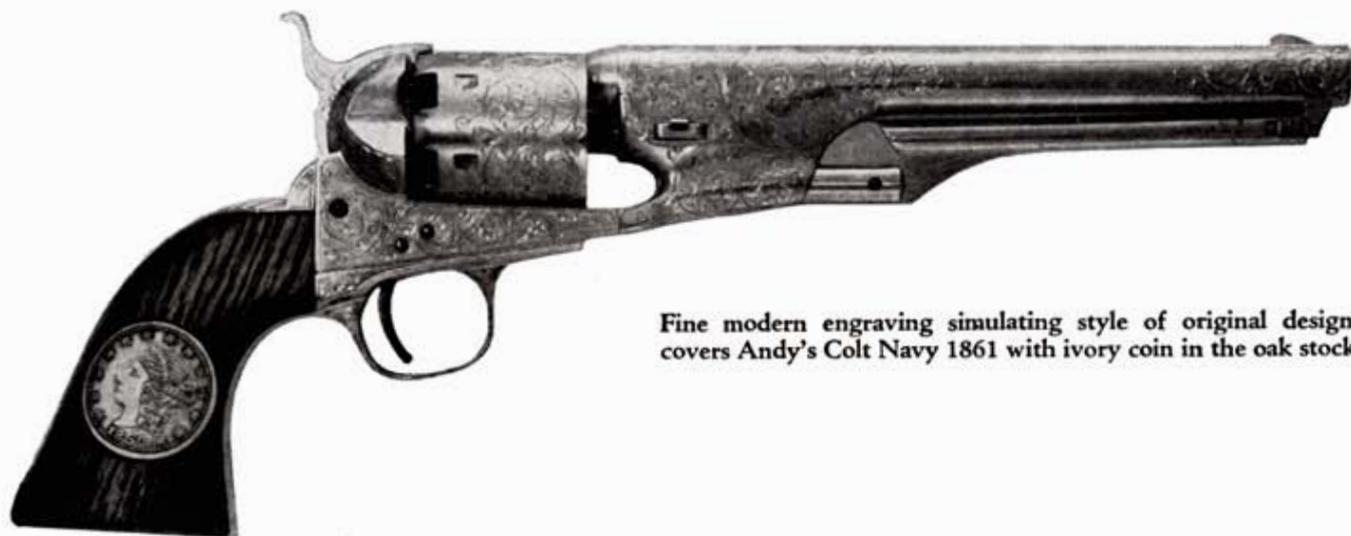




Andy's favorite gun is fine Rigdon & Ansley Confederate-made "Colt" revolver used in Civil War. Andy bought gun from descendant of gunmaker.

Ansley for the Confederate States army about 1864. The great-grandfather of the woman from whom Andy bought the gun was a workman in the Rigdon-Ansley factory. This gun had just been assembled when Union troops clattered into the courtyard of the shop. Hidden under some trash in the loft, it was saved from confiscation. Eventually it travelled to Yankeeland where it is now the prize display of the Military Inn.

This rare revolver, along with the silver, platinum, gold and diamond decorated Tiffany Smith & Wesson of motor-car magnate James W. Packard, the fine heavy-barreled Hawken rifle owned by Jim Bridger, and many other valuable and interesting arms, was almost destroyed by a fire which temporarily closed down the Military Inn last year. Most of the guns were saved with little or no damage, but 204 guns were a complete loss, and the stocks on about 400 others were badly charred and smoked. The glass cases protected most of the handguns, but the hundreds of Civil War carbines, some of them rarities like the Remington split-breech carbine and Colt revolving car-



Fine modern engraving simulating style of original designs covers Andy's Colt Navy 1861 with ivory coin in the oak stock.



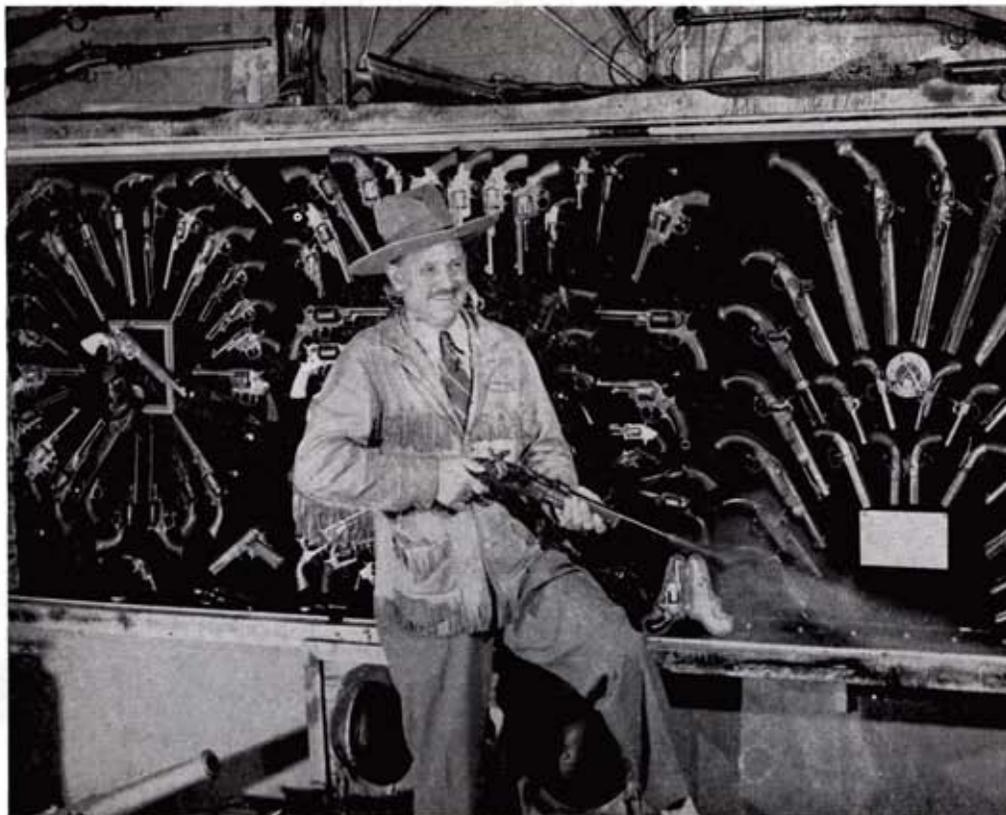
Andy's "Volcanic" lever pistol, forerunner of the Winchester, was designed by Horace Smith who founded Smith & Wesson.

bines, were high up in the rafters and caught the heat and smoke as it rose to the roof.

An unused room on the second floor was set aside as a workshop. Machinery was moved in and several gunsmiths went to work around the clock to repair more than \$60,000 worth of permanent damage had been caused by the fire. Old guns, long supposed "unloaded," were completely stripped for cleaning and repair and many were found to have been charged. A long Arabian miguelet musket, decorated with ivory and silver bands, was disassembled and found to have been loaded with square cut handmade shot, chopped with a knife from sheet lead. From other guns over a gallon and a half of lead was recovered. Apparently none of the guns went off because of the heat, but it proved the importance of the idea that you should "always treat a gun as if it were loaded."

I mentioned to Andy the discovery by a man downstate of a roll of bills inside the handle of a pistol he bought for a few dollars.

"I haven't (Continued on page 48)



Combining flash with time exposure got odd photographic effect of Andy firing gun with hammer cocked but shot making smoke and light at the muzzle.



Auto maker Packard's Tiffany-engraved "Perfect" .38 (above) has unique ivory grip. Theme of the old west runs through most of showcase displays (left) at the Military Inn.



**BEAVER HAT**



TRAPPER



TRAP FOR A FOX PASTY



TRAPPING BEAVER

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 IN 1822. IT WAS USED BY HIM IN HIS  
 TRAPPING AND FUR TRADING OPERATIONS  
 IN THE WEST. IT IS NOW IN THE  
 COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
 IN COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND.

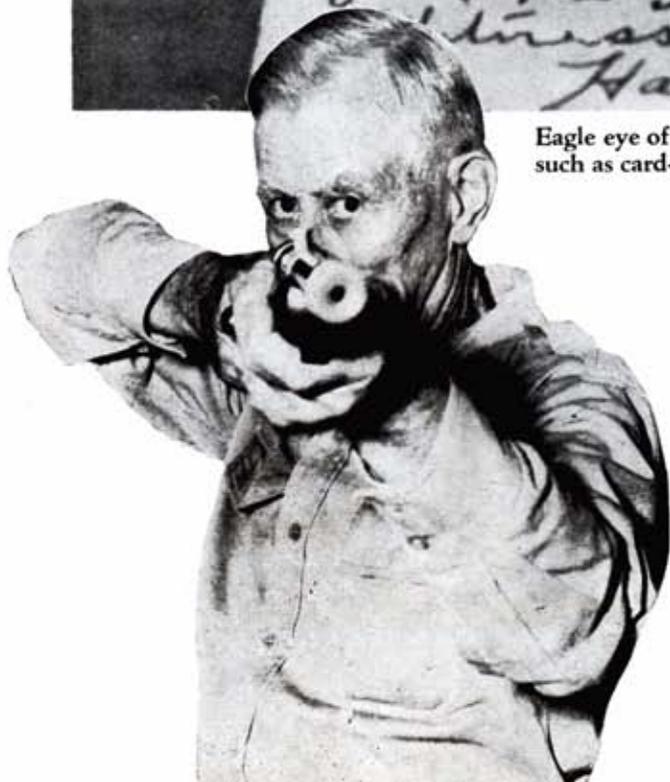
# HE SPLITS CARDS AT 100 YARDS

NOW 76 YEARS OLD, COLORADO'S WILLARD CHAPPEL STILL HAS AMAZING EYE AND CAN HIT PLAYING CARDS OR BREAK MATCHES WITH RIFLE ON HIS RANCH

By ALLYN H. TEDMON



Eagle eye of 76-year-old William Chappel makes possible feats of marksmanship such as card-splitting which many a younger man would be hard pressed to beat.



HE HANDED ME the target. It was a playing card glued onto a white piece of cardboard. The bullet had split the playing card on edge square in two. It was his second shot with a .30 Springfield from a bench rest. The range: 100 yards!

Yes, that's right. Willard B. Chappel is 76 years old and splits playing cards, breaks matches, and makes other seemingly impossible shots with a rifle way out at 100 yards.

When I was a kid and about every boy owned a rifle and was quite a good rifle shot, my brother and I used to try to split a bullet on a knife blade and hit the edge of a playing card. But not at 100 yards. I'd guesstimate, now, that it might have been 15 feet, but regardless of the distance we split mighty few bullets or cards. Doing the same thing at



Friction-tape wrapping of Chappel's Springfield sporter minimizes barrel vibrations and contributes to accuracy.



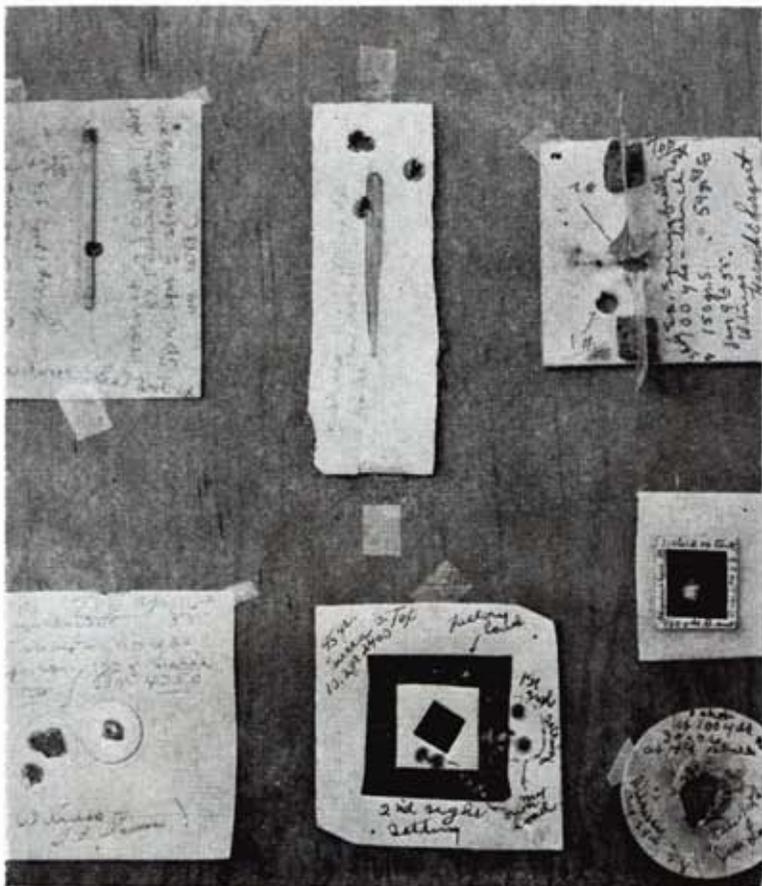
Venerable sharpshooter's gun collection is strictly functional, from Camp Perry Colt to old Smith & Wesson.

100 yards is practically "every day" on the home ranch where Will Chappel lives, east of Pueblo, Colorado.

I was present when a shooter visiting Chappel visibly doubted the tall tales that were being told by the "regular members." To settle the argument Chappel offered to light a match at 70 yards with his Model 70 K Hornet and the 8X Fecker scope. The fellow just scoffed at the idea. The little Hornet bullet touched off the match and the flame jetted back onto a sheet of white paper located behind it. The astonished witness gawped for an instant and then exclaimed: "Chapp, I want that match. I'm going to keep it."

Recently when local rifle enthusiast Jim Barker was delivering gasoline to the "home ranch," the conversation drifted to rifle shooting. Chappel made the crack that he could hit a green grape at 100 yards with his .30-06. As usual with all the uninitiated, Barker only laughed, that kind of a laugh that insinuates somebody isn't telling the truth. A green grape was selected from the vine and glued to a white piece of paper, and installed at the 100 yard target butt. The bullet hit a trifle high. That is, it wasn't a pinwheel, but the grape vanished and the paper was smeared with grape juice. Barker just couldn't believe what he had seen with his own eyes. "I told him that barrel is as good as they make," Chappel later told me. "And it is, too."

Chappel talked to me about these 100-yard "impossible" shots. He said in all seriousness: "No man alive can time after time split a card at 100 yards with any gun. Heck, I have a cigar box full of results of shots made on small objects such as a Hornet or a .38 Special case. They were glued to a piece of cardboard and were hit. And I have fired any number of other shots that just missed." As an example of what he calls a miss, he showed me a card with an ordinary wooden match stuck to (Continued on page 38)



Chappel's remarkable shooting with ordinary sporting rifles is well attested to by many targets such as five-shot 100-yard Springfield group (lower left) kept on display board.

# THE GUNS

FABULOUS REPUTATION AS MARKSMAN WAS EARNED BY CODY WITH ORDINARY STORE-BOUGHT RIFLES BUT TIME AND NOVELISTS TAMPERED WITH FACTS TO CAST DOUBT ON HIS AMAZING SKILL

By WILLIAM C. L. THOMPSON

Winchester .44/40 Model 73 carried by Cody was used in bringing thrills of buffalo hunting (below) to spectators.



# OF BUFFALO BILL

"**C**HAMPION BUFFALO HUNTER" was the proud inscription on the .44/40 carbine. The gold-plated receiver glittered in the sunlight as the officers of Fort McPherson, Nebraska, presented it to youthful William Frederick Cody, known as "Buffalo Bill."

The feat which earned Cody this special rifle came in a shooting contest he had won over Custer's favorite guide, Buffalo Bill Comstock. Cody took his name pretty seriously, bestowed in jest while he was shooting animals for the Kansas Pacific Railroad. With buffalo hunter William Comstock claiming the same cognomen, there was bound to be a clash. A hunt was arranged to show which was the better man.

When the Cody-Comstock hunt began, the whole fort turned out to see the affair. Comstock started in with a fusillade from his Henry .44 repeater, and his buffaloes began to run. Cody, armed with the slower-loading Model 1866 .50 caliber "Lucrezia Borgia," was more methodical. On his horse "Brigham," Cody kept apace of the lead

buff and dropped him with a close shot, turning the herd slightly. As another buff dropped to the Springfield report, the herd began to mill. Running constantly in a huge circle, Cody managed to kill 38 in a comparatively small time. Comstock's animals had taken to their heels and were strung out. He downed 23 over a space of several miles.

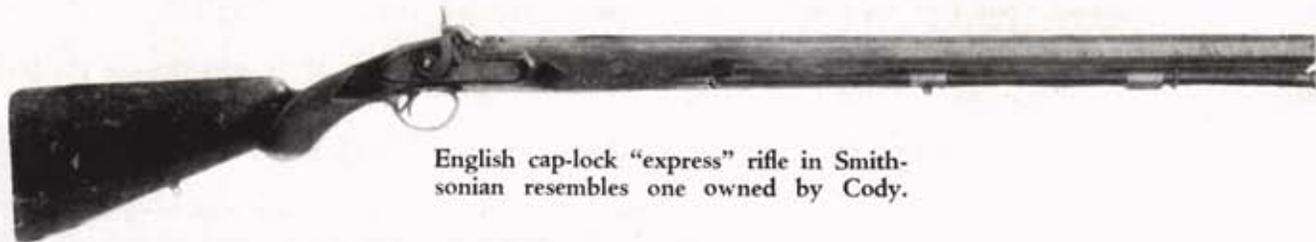
In the afternoon Cody kept the lead, indulging in some bare-back horsemanship which made onlookers exclaim that he rode "as if he couldn't help it." As a dog herds sheep, Cody on his horse, "Brigham," brought a huge buffalo bull thundering over the prairie towards the spectators. Yelling like an Indian, Cody kept at the side of the buffalo until both were about to smash through the crowd. Men and women scattered in alarm as Cody brought "Lucrezia" up to the shoulder of the buffalo and a quick shot dropped the bull at the spot where his audience had been lately assembled. Brigham was snubbed to his haunches, lathered in sweat, and Cody waved his rifle tri-

Hold-up of Deadwood Stage was feature of Wild West Show which was presented in Madison Square Garden. Backdrops were phony but rifles and pistols used by cowboys temporarily working for Bill Cody were real.





Gaudy shirts and magnificent saddles contrasted with Cody's plain Winchester.



English cap-lock "express" rifle in Smithsonian resembles one owned by Cody.

umphantly aloft. "Buffalo Bill" had given his first wild west show and truly earned his title.

The fancy '66 carbine was the first of many Winchesters to be owned by Buffalo Bill, but he earned his reputation as a scout and frontiersman with plain, ordinary weapons sold in the stores, or obtained "as issued" from some army post. His favorite buffalo gun named "Lucrezia Borgia" was a .50/70 Springfield Model 1866 military rifle.

Battered and worn, the gun was treasured by Cody to his last days as a relic of the summer of '67 when he earned his name. Cody hired several hunters and outfitted a couple of wagons to fill a contract for meat with the Kansas Pacific Railroad. For \$500 a month Cody agreed to supply 12 buffaloes a day as fresh meat for the section gangs.

In the one season he accounted for 4250 animals bringing to 4862 his total over an 18-months period. Old Lucrezia had been given a good workout in 1866, but in '67 it seems Cody fired hardly a shot at a buffalo, yet it is on this record his title of "Buffalo Bill" rests! Mostly he looked after the business from a reserved table in Drum's Saloon at Fort Hays. Conspicuously placed, in gaudy frontier buckskins to catch the eye of gentlemen, as well as the ladies, young Cody had a fine capacity for liquor and could be counted on to show the hospitality of the west to a listener. He loved an audience.

The .50 Springfield figured in many of Cody's real adventures on the frontier. He shot buffalo, Indians, and an Army mule with it! Given a remount mule at Fort Dodge, Cody prepared to ride back to Fort Larned, Kansas. The mule was willing but when Cody stopped and dismounted to drink from a creek, the mule jerked loose from the reins and trotted away. Cody followed the mule toward Fort Larned, a distance of 35 miles.

Cody was understandably irritated, especially since he had already been riding for nearly three days on this one courier run with little rest. "'Now,' said I, 'Mr. Mule, it is my turn,' and raising my gun to my shoulder in dead earnest I blazed away, hitting the animal in the hip. Throwing a second cartridge into the gun, I let him have another shot, and I continued to pour the lead into him until I had him completely laid out. . . . He was, without a doubt, the toughest and meanest mule I ever saw, and he died hard. Taking the saddle and bridle from the dead body, I proceeded into the post and delivered the dispatches."

Lucrezia was also used to shoot two horse thieves with the same bullet. Racing away from Cody, the two thieves on horseback came into line at the instant the rifle was discharged at the rearmost man. The ball passed through both, killing them.

By 1872 Cody was on the way up, though he hardly

dreamed of the heights he was soon to reach. A trip to Chicago and New York had whetted his taste for the luxuries and lights of the east, and he considered seriously becoming a coachman for some wealthy New Yorker. Then instead the splendours of the east came to him and Grand Duke Alexis paid the West a visit.

The Grand Duke of Russia in January, 1872 arrived at North Platte on a special train with Generals Sheridan and Custer to sample the thrills of buffalo hunting. Riding Bill's horse, Buckskin Joe, the Duke killed eight buffalo. One of them, he was persuaded, had fallen to his revolver shot at a hundred paces. Cody treated the party to some of his own style of shooting.

Throughout the many accounts of Cody's buffalo hunting, there recur stories of instant one-shot kills. Incredible it might seem, until one looks at his weapon. The .50 caliber rifle fired a 450-grain bullet with 70 grains of black powder at about 1500 feet per second muzzle velocity. Over a range of several hundred yards this velocity and energy fell off considerably. The cartridge has long been obsolete for any purposes, hunting included, but the terrific smashing effect of an ounce of lead at 1500 f.p.s. was enough to put even a buffalo bull out of action. Fired at ranges so close the flash would scorch the hide, the total energy of the bullet was delivered effectively.

Cody's rifles survive in museums at Cody, Wyoming and Denver, Colorado, and in private collections. Early photos show Cody riding and shooting with a plain grade Model 1873 Winchester, full octagon barrel, and apparently .44/40 caliber.

Later when he made money, he went whole hog and bought some finely decorated guns. Oldtimers at the Winchester plant used to recall the periodic trips Colonel Cody made to New Haven to supervise the purchase of rifles and ammunition. Although he (Continued on page 51)



M. C. Clark now owns Model 66 carbine presented to Cody when he defeated Comstock for "Buffalo Bill" title.



Bought by Colonel Cody in 1895, lavishly engraved Winchester was later owned by Rev. George D. Snyder.

Portrait of Cody in 1872 showed him with rifle given by Earl Dunraven.



Cody in "Scouts of the Prairie" in Chicago, used rolling block Remington.



Colonel Cody with Wild West Show was garishly dressed, wore ivory Colts.



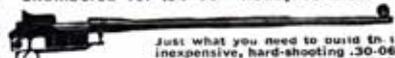
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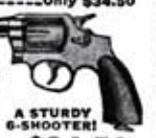
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**CARTRIDGES**  
QUIPS QUOTES & QUERIES

By STUART MILLER

### Navy Size Mystery

MANUFACTURERS OF CARTRIDGES usually print labels with the idea of giving the user some information. It is seldom that the original package doesn't clear up any mystery over type or purpose of a cartridge. One of the most puzzling items I have run across in a long time appears in the original labeled packet, which proudly argues that the cartridges are "Explosive Tip" and fit the "Navy Size" models of "The Colt Arms Co.'s Revolvers." But the label carries no manufacturer's name, no patent dates, and there we stop. Paul Foster of New Haven sent in a little information and the photo. I have

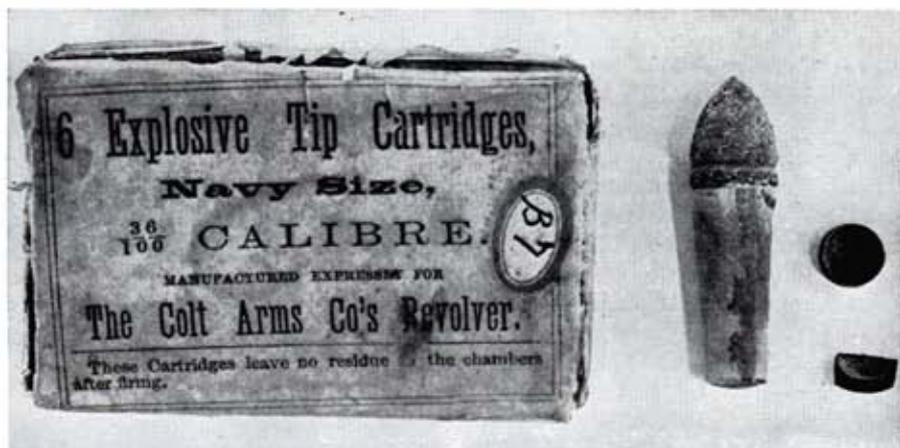
This might have made a cheap variety of the Thuer patent cartridge, but the weight of the cup and other factors eliminated that possibility.

If you have any information on this item, or even some real good theory, please let me know so that I can pass it along. Like the old Camel cigarette advertisements of the early 1930s, used to say . . . "It's fun to be fooled, but it's more fun to know!"

### Question Marks

"What happened to all the small arms ammunition that was left over at the end of the Civil War?"

—G. S., Cincinnati



compared it with photos of over 50 different cartridge packets and do not find either expression used anywhere else.

The cartridge itself is mysterious. Paul has taken apart a damaged specimen and reports that, except for the gun powder (which is not compressed) there is no explosive involved in the cartridge. The paper is the light neutral-colored type found in the percussion revolver cartridges. The bullet is solid lead and weighs 135 grains. The only unusual feature is the copper cup which forms the base of the cartridge. The paper is fastened to it. This is a heavy copper cup, shown in cross section in the photograph, and there is no priming compound in it, nor is it pierced with a flash hole. Where is the much advertised 'Explosive Tip' and how does it work?

It has me stumped. My first theory was that this was a defective batch and the copper cup was to be the primer.

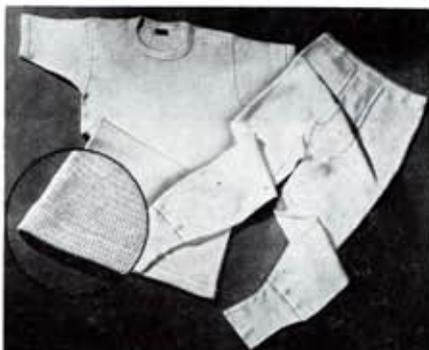
What to do with the vast amounts of cartridges left over was a problem that plagued the War Department for many years after the war was over. After the close of the war, much of the ammunition that was not in good shape was salvaged for the lead and powder. Much of it was put in storage in the various depots and arsenals and held as military reserve.

In a couple of years they started disposing of the "army surplus," including some ammunition, through public auctions. Most of the stuff was disposed of in huge quantity lots, with accompanying government red tape, and the returns weren't too satisfying. Finally Congress passed an act that allowed Ordnance Department to sell any arms and ammunition that they had declared unserviceable, obsolete, or just not necessary to the country's defense. It was this act and the Franco-Prussian War that allowed the army to dispose of ammo to the French.

# The Gun Shop



**NEW FITZ GOLD-BOND TEN-O-GRIP.** Fitz Firearms Accessories has just announced a brand new grip molded of high impact Fitz Duramite in their own shops. With interior bridge-girder construction and radial buttresses that confer shock resistance and structural strength to all stress points, the Ten-O-Grip carries a gold bond guarantee of replacement in case of breakage from ANY CAUSE. This is the first and only hand-gun grip carrying such a printed guarantee, according to the manufacturer. The grip is made in these colors: butt walnut, flame-grain rosewood, African ebony, elephant ivory and mother-of-pearl. Made to fit S&W K, Combat, M&P Sq. Bt., .357 Magnum, Highway Patrolman, Outdoorsman, .44 and .45 Target; also, Colt Officers Model, Official Police, Trooper, .357 Magnum and Python. All retail at \$6.95. Jobbers and dealers are invited to write for prices. Address Fitz Firearms Accessories, Dept. G-3, P. O. Box 49702, Los Angeles 49, California.



**NAVY'S ARCTIC FABRIC NOW IN MEN'S UNDERSHIRTS, DRAWERS.** New lightweight undershirts and drawers for hunting, fishing and skiing in all sorts of weather. Made in a U. S. Navy-developed cotton fabric especially constructed to give warmth without bulk in far-below-zero temperatures. Soft woven in a unique three-dimensional pattern, the fabric doesn't itch, is unusually absorbent and may be worn indoors or in mild weather without discomfort. Designed jointly by members of the under-

wear industry and the research and development staff, Naval Clothing Depot, Brooklyn, New York, the new thermal fabric has been rigorously tested.

The new shirts and drawers can be machine-washed and tumble-dried. Won't shrink or stretch. Sold in better men's shops and sporting goods stores. Priced at about \$5.00 for the short sleeve shirt, and \$6.00 for the long sleeve. Drawers are \$5.00. Made by The Allen-A Company, Piqua, Ohio.



**"THE LUGER PISTOL . . . ITS HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT,"** is a new book recently announced by FADCO. Written by Fred A. Datig, the book reveals scores of little-known facts and carries many rare photographs of the Luger pistol. There are 55 full page, clear photos of original pistols showing dates, coats of arms, proofs and other markings. Shipped postpaid and insured for only \$7.50. Send check or money order to FRED DATIG, Dept. G-3, Box 3183, Olympic Station, Beverly Hills, Calif.



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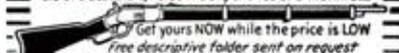


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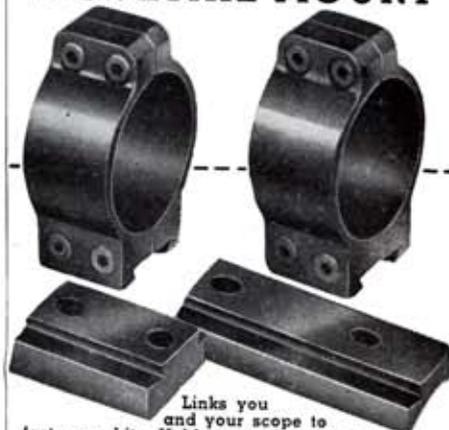


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# WHAT'S WRONG WITH

**WHETHER BIG BORE OR PEEWEE .22, OUR TARGET SPORT SUFFERS FROM UNINTERESTING BULLSEYE TARGETS, AWKWARD SHOOTING POSITIONS AND LACK OF SPECTATOR APPEAL**

By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS

**T**ARGET RIFLE SHOOTING in the United States is about as popular as birth control in India.

Despite the fact that we have more than 16,000,000 hunters, there is a most astonishing lack of enthusiasm for punching little round holes in paper targets. The bullseye with the average rifleer is a good deal like last year's love affair; it's old hat. It's like the gal who has been around too long and all the glamor has rubbed off. True, there is a little target shooting going on but it is mostly among the military. The game among civilians is about as moribund as Sunday afternoon in Topeka.

We used to be a nation of riflemen. During World War I we earned for ourselves no small measure of renown for the lethal musketry of our fighting men. The lads of '18 were given little time to learn the fine points of gun pointing. They didn't need much coaching. Most of 'em were shooters before the Hohenzollern laid their first U-boat keel. Not so now. More



'Belly-flop shooting position, used by U.S. marksmen, is strained and awkward, takes sore muscles to master.

# TARGET RIFLE SHOOTING



than half the young fry inducted these days have never had a shooting iron in their hands.

Why this deterioration from a country proudly bred of riflemen, to a situation that finds our 19-year-olds traveling from cradle to induction and never once with a gun in hand?

The reasons are multitudinous but among others is the utterly uninteresting, unglamorous, dull and stultifying target game we play.

We are belly-whopper shooters. We get down on the old navel and wallow around in the dirt and wear callouses on our elbow. The belly-flat position is called the "prone" and it is supposed to be good clean fun. Actually a more strained and unnatural pose could scarcely be dreamed up. It takes a long time to master and many a sore muscle in the learning.

Whether with big bore or the peewee .22, the belly-down position is a must. If Mister Gallup polled the 16 million shooters of the nation tomorrow he'd find more interest in the Thursday afternoon camel races of the Shah of Yemen than in either of our target-shoot games.

In all honesty, big bore target panning in this cen-

Unnatural prone position used by shooters in National Matches is hard on shooters, takes away from glamour of shooting and has contributed to lack of interest in target game. Value of formal prone position for military purposes is considered negligible.

Use of hunting rifles only for target shooting is proposed by author Askins, former match champion, who uses Model 99 lever-action Savage in field. Lever action is most popular hunting gun, but mainly bolt action rifles are used by National Match competitors.





Static, unimaginative bullseye targets at National Matches bear no relationship to any actual objects that are hunted.

tury has never been much shakes as a sport. The .22 pip-squeak, however, was different. Once it was as lively as the proverbial cat on a hot tin roof. But that was yesterday. During the decade since the WWII blood-letting it has gone to the bow-wows. The possibilities of a revival are pretty dark. Why?

The answer is "too much work." To grovel in the dirt, or if the weather be inclement, in the mud, lost its glamor. Too, the rifleman plinked away with the howitzer that hefted a dozen heavy pounds but gave forth with the most sissified little s-p-l-u-t you ever heard, hardly enough report to convince the slightly deaf the gun had exploded at all.

The game had its beginning at Sea Girt in 1919, hard on the end of the first great war. Now, somewhat coincidentally, it has all but flickered out on the heels of this last conflagration.

Someone dreamed up a bullseye as a target eons back and we have been plugging away at the thing since. As a mark it is about as zestful as holding hands with Aunt Hetty. It bears no resemblance to any part of a game animal and the same is true of the human enemy. No small part of the dearth of enthusiasm for rifle shooting today stems from this utterly dreary aiming point. If the mark could be a charging Kodiak, or a fleeing whitetail, or even a perky woodchuck it would spurt interest. But nope, our fathers and our grandfathers pegged away at the round blob of black so by God we must.

What is needed is a complete overhauling of the entire



Competition in .30 calibre matches is strictly limited to expensive match-grade Winchester 70 or tuned-up National Match Garand rifle. Ordinary hunting rifles would not have a chance at Perry.

shooting structure. We should flush our bedraggled old bullseye down the latrine, take long and searching looks at the ranges we fire over, the positions we shoot from, and the hardware we use. The aim—to come up with a refreshingly new target sport.

Before this can be done, a great deal of soul-searching is in order. We must ask ourselves, "What do we like most to shoot?" Do we want to bang away at paper targets or do we want a mark that gives forth with a loud clang when it is hit. Do we want it to smash or splatter pleasingly or put forth a puff of smoke when the center is pierced? And do we want to shoot from here to hell-and-gone or do we want to limit our powder burning to game-taking ranges, say up to about 350 yards? And finally what kind of guns shall we trigger?

Because we strive for the ultimate in accuracy our target shooting has been confined quite narrowly to the most precise of all our rifles, i.e. the bolt action. Are these rifles necessarily the most popular? They are not! Last year and for years before, the shooting iron that outsold all others was a lowly carbine, a lever action .30-30.

Are any matches scheduled for this, the most popular of all our high-powers? Don't make me laugh, Buster! Any recruit so utterly naive as to go to a shooting match with his trusty thutty-thutty saddle gun would be ridiculed off the range.

And what of the pea-shooter matches? Are these fired with the .22 pump repeater and autoloaders, the little rifles that everyone possesses? You bet your bottom peso they are not!

Should the aspiring marksman decide to go in for .22 target panning, he has a fine, broad choice of exactly two American shooting irons. Yep. One built by Winchester and the other by Remington. The rifle, regardless of make,



Lack of spectator appeal at matches is pointed up by tiny bullseye targets. Even competitors seldom watch others.

will cost him upwards of a hundred bucks and the telescopic sight which is a cannot-be-avoided accessory will cool an additional century note. Absolutely no other rifle of .22 persuasion has a look-in.

Isn't it about time we overhauled the most American of all sports and rewrote the rules so that the millions of owners of handy plinking .22s can be encouraged to compete? If the game is not to perish entirely, it had better be done—and now! It's later than we think.

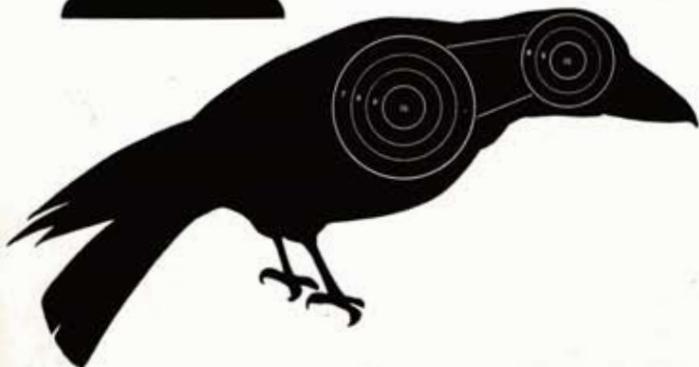
Any sport to attract new blood and thus flourish must contain a sizable dollop of spectator appeal. Target shooting is about as lively as an afternoon in the main assembly of the UN. The looker-on sees no action, no movement, is aware of no tenseness, watches in vain for something to be smashed, for just a small measure of carnage. A more dreary affair can scarcely be imagined.

The sport needs to be jazzed up. Targets have got to run, crawl, fly, leap, flap or charge. They must appear and disappear, or fire back, or give forth with an anguished cry, or burst, or a light must go on at the firing point indicating a hit, or in some manner enliven the business so that the individual looking on has the feeling that here is a game that is loaded with fun and action.

We evolved, probably about the time Gen. Santa Ana made a hero of Davy Crockett, (Continued on page 41)



Attempts to make more lively plinking targets are being made by some arms companies, which now place bullseye on the vital areas of varmints for scoring purposes.



## HE SPLITS CARDS AT 100 YARDS

(Continued from page 27)

it, at which he fired three shots from the Springfield Sporter and one from his Model 70 K Hornet. One bullet from the .30-06 creased the match stem just  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch below the head. The Hornet bullet cut a half moon from the upper left-hand bullet hole. None of the four shots fired missed the head of the match by over  $\frac{3}{8}$ ths inch, measuring from rim of bullet hole to match head. On a small-bore record target used for 50 yard shooting, all four would have easily cut the ten ring. I'd be satisfied to "miss" like that all the time.

As to his system, Chappel told me: "For a target when using my  $2\frac{1}{2}$  power Weaver, I use a piece of white paper 3 inches wide by 4 inches long. By placing the object I want to hit squarely in the center of the sheet of paper and adhering to the same type and size of target card, in time I have learned just what the sight picture should be. Then with a load that does not produce 'flyers' there is no mystery about getting on. Of course the barrel must shoot where you look.

"The sight is first adjusted on a blank card same size. When the impact is center—and sight adjustment is very necessary, otherwise it would require one or two sighting shots—you make the record shot on a same size card."

Chappel almost cut his teeth on a rifle barrel. He spent his teenage years on a ranch in the upper Huerfano River country in Colorado, where game of all kinds was plentiful back in the '80s. After graduating from high school he enlisted in Company A, First Colorado Volunteer Infantry, and spent 1898 and 1899 in the Philippine Islands fighting Bolo tribesmen. Then came two years studying journalism at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where his greatest reward appears to have been the priceless friendship of the late C. W. Rowland, the greatest bench rest rifleman of all time.

I had always marveled at the wonderful eyesight possessed by Charley Rowland, who could without eyeglasses read a newspaper held touching his nose out to the length of his long arm. Chappel has this same priceless gift, so it is no wonder that his favorite hunting sights are "the old reliable Lyman rear peep with a large aperture, and the clearly defined ivory bead front sight."

"Of course one must have clear eyesight to make the most out of this combination. I have such eyesight, and for running shooting the Lyman can't be beat. But when you get as old as I am, if you have no hobby you may as well be in purgatory with a broken back. I have the greatest hobby in the world—shooting the rifle for fun.

"Half a century ago I used to go over to Charley Rowland's private range in Boulder and watch him load that old .38-55-285 with loving care. It really wasn't a .38, rather it was maybe a .37 or a .39, something that he and Harry Pope had worked out. He would first put on the false muzzle and push the ball down to that certain right spot; fill the 'Everlasting' shell with just so many grains of a light brown smokeless powder; slip the shell in behind the bullet and then lie down on the inclined platform that he used at that time; then sight through his long-tube scope at the 200-yard target. Ten successive times I'd

watch him do this, and then walk down to the target and cover all ten shots with a silver dollar. It was Charley who repeated to me, over and over again: 'No matter how close you hold, that final touch-off of the trigger is the whole thing in rest shooting.' You yourself, I'm sure, have shot four shots in one hole at 100 yards, and then rolled the last one out  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches. That's my trouble despite all of Charley's teaching. Charley was a wonderful guy.

"While I was attending Colorado University, taking journalism," Chappel told me as he poked a match into the bowl of his pipe, "my sidekick had a special target rifle built in .40-70 caliber. It weighed about 50 pounds and was for bench rest shooting, only. One day he sent me a group made at 250 yards and wrote that if I could beat it he would pay my fare to Connecticut to shoot partridges. If he beat me I would pay his fare to Colorado to shoot deer.

"It was a devilish tight group and I figured it was too rich for my blood. But when I showed it to Charley Rowland, he said: 'With my rifle you can trim him.' So he brought out a barrel from his flour mill and set it up 50 yards beyond his 200 yard target butt, and after we filled it with dirt, he tacked up the target. It took me several different trials but one afternoon—it was misting at the time—I beat my Connecticut friend's group by about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. My group was a shy 3 inches. It tickled Rowland that I'd bested the gun he called 'big artillery,' with his rifle.

"I have done lots of hunting," Chappel reminisced, "and prefer it to shooting at a paper target. Am sure my daughter Mable Ann can beat me at the latter, but she can not beat me at a running deer." He cherishes some of the guns he used years ago for hunting.

Chappel still has the old double-barrel, muzzle-loading smoothbore. It is a beautiful piece made by Dossel of Suhl—even the screwheads are engraved. He also has the mould that cast the one-ounce round ball with which he killed his first deer in Michigan near 70 years ago.

"And by the way," he suddenly exclaimed as he yanked his pipe from his teeth. "I killed my first mountain sheep with a little .44 caliber rim fire Howard, hammerless single shot carbine lever action."

"A Howard?" I said, thinking hard.

"Yes, a Howard," he replied laughing. "Maybe you never saw one? Looked like a little cousin of the Savage '99 Model. The rounds used were the .44 Henry rim fire, 28 grains of black powder and a 200 grain pure lead ball. The gun was plenty potent on deer and I killed many with it at ranges from 30 to 100 yards. Never had a deer get away that I used this pip-squeak on. But today they tell you such a gun is 'wholly inadequate'. Maybe so," he chuckled.

"If I was to say here how many deer I have killed since 1885," he continued, "some one would want to list me as a game hog. However, in those days wild meat was the eating meat on every pioneer's table. The rules that prevail today—and excellent rules they are—did not seem necessary in those early days. When I was born people thought

that the millions of buffalo could not possibly be annihilated. Times change and rules change. Today I adhere, as should all of us, to the rules of the game."

Several years back when bench rest shooting began to take hold in earnest, a shooting friend presented Chappel with the rest now in use at the home ranch. It replaces the old one and provides a place "where friends of mine who like this type of shooting can participate in really hot competition," he told me. "From this present rest I have seen a good many quarter inch five shot groups made at 100 yards. Two years ago the wife of my friend Art Olson shot a 1/16th inch group with a Varminter, at 100 yards of course, using a 25 power scope, at 10 o'clock the evening of July 20th, 1953, by the light of a big bulb at the end of a long cable. Also many groups of five shots have been made at 200 yards that were under the one inch mark; several less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch."

Chappel's pet rifle is an 11 pound Springfield, star-gauged sporter that came to him as a birthday present from a buddy in Company A, who had remained in the service after their hitch in '99 in the Philippines. The barrel was carefully selected from many and at the present time is wrapped with tape to reduce vibration, and has a Herter recoil reducer fitted to its muzzle. The stock is a lovely piece of Circassian walnut. The serial number is 1392302, and after extensive use during the years the wonder of it all is that the barrel is apparently as accurate today as when it left the armory.

For card splitting Chappel uses a Weaver K 2.5 scope. He has replaced the regular crosshairs with a reticule composed of three fine needles, their points being set 7/1000 inch apart. In actual sighting there appears to be about 1/16 inch clearance between the needle points which in use circle the unobstructed point of aim. Chappel told me: "This is a top-hole sight on running game, and I have killed many hawks flying with it and one wild goose. But I beat that last fall when I hit a flying turtle dove. The load I used was 59 grains of duPont 4350 powder and a 125 grain Sierra ball. The old Sporter can still shoot, provided you point her right."

The .30-06 Sporter with which he does most of this spectacular shooting is admittedly a very exceptional weapon. But if the rifle is exceptional, so is the grand old rifleman himself. When I hinted that probably some doubting Thomas would pop up and call me, and him a pair of liars, if this stuff was ever put into print, Chappel threw back his head, said calmly:

"For those who may doubt my being able to 'split the card' or 'cut the match' at 100 yards, I can only say that any of these doubters may come to my bench rest, put up their ten dollars to back their judgment, and if I can't hand them a card with a rip in it, I'll pay them my own ten pesos."

"In how many shots?" he cut me off. "Well, I won't promise to do it first shot, but they won't wait too long."

Apparently that's all there is to splitting a card or breaking a match at 100 yards with a real he-man's rifle, provided of course that you have a barrel comparable to the one on this 1925 vintage .30-06 Sporter, that you have a scope reticule that clearly defines your point of aim without obliterating it, that you have the ability to hold and press the trigger as C. W. Rowland taught Chappel to do. ●

## AMERICA'S PRETTIEST SHOTGUNNER

(Continued from page 18)

explains: "That gun kicked so hard, and made my shoulder all black and blue. I decided then that I would never touch another big gun again."

The woman who is tops among skeet-gunners in the nation once refused to learn to shoot because the gun kicked too hard! I could hardly believe it, imagining to myself a picture of the huge pile of shotshells she has fired since she overcame that objection back in 1949. The colonel had the answer:

"The gun she used didn't fit her. It was all wrong, just one I had borrowed to let her try it out. I decided to get Carola a gun which would be right for her, and had an L. C. Smith double stocked to order. She needed a little coaxing, but at last she agreed to try again. That was the first hurdle, so to speak."

With a properly stocked gun, Carola found the kick, which so many people complain about, didn't bother her at all. "Oh, I don't say it was easy, sometimes it was really tiring, but I learned one thing which I think is very important. I rest. And I don't work too hard.

"Sometimes I would shoot over at the Lincoln Park Gun Club. It is only a short distance from my home. Sometimes I would shoot three or four days in a week. Then I would shoot in some local, friendly match on weekends with people I know."

"How many shots would this be, Carola?" I asked her.

"It is not how many, but whether it is fun that counts. I would shoot a round of 25 with each of the four guns, then shoot maybe a hundred on the weekend. Sometimes when I found something not quite right, when I needed to smooth out something in my swing or my lead, I would work with that gun until I had it right. But I did not shoot too much. The most important thing is that you should not be forced to shoot. You should only shoot when you want to shoot. Maybe some people, these men who have much strength and can shoot many times without fatigue, these men may shoot much in practice. But as soon as you feel that you have to shoot, and that you are only shooting because you think you must shoot—then, is the time to stop."

Mrs. Mandel is among shooters one-in-a-million because she consistently and carefully is in training for shotgunning every minute of the time. Naturally temperate, she neither drinks nor smokes. This is not because she has any strong convictions against it—but rather Carola simply doesn't like to smoke or drink. She prefers to get reasonable and unhurried rest, instead of staying up at all hours and treating the shotgun tournaments as one big circus.

"The shooters who are at the top, and who stay at the top, are shooters who train, who watch their habits and don't overwork," she says.

Training is important to Carola's success.



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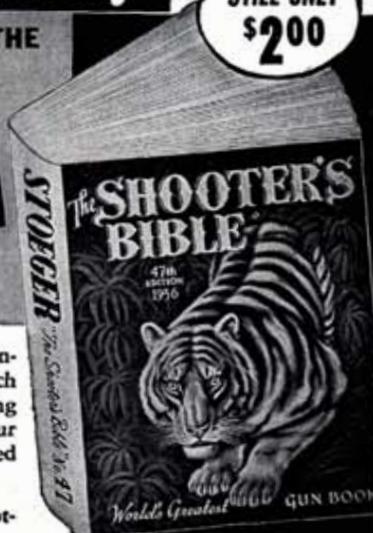
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Equally important is another truth, which she discovered early in her shooting. At one of the first registered competitions she entered, she shot against Sgt. Glen Van Buren, three times national 12 gauge winner who used a common Government Issue shotgun with none of the fancy frills or sights or ribs so often considered necessary by shooters.

"I learned this thing from watching one man shoot. I don't think he even knew he had taught me the lesson, but it was important. Watching Sergeant Van Buren use that Army shotgun, and he won with it, too, I made up my mind to keep with one gun until I learned how to shoot it, to change myself, not always be changing the gun. I think that is very important. I have owned some guns I liked, and some I didn't like. People think I have many guns, a big gun collection, but this is not true. I have a few guns, and they are the ones I use all the time. I don't believe in this always changing the gun or the stock or something, after the shooter once gets a gun that suits him.

"In fact, I have so few guns—I'm ashamed to say this, but I don't even have a gun room in my house. The guns are all packed away now. I keep them in hard leather cases. I think this is important, too, because you never know when your gun may get bent. A barrel is bent very easily, and if you have a gun with a choke or a compensator on it and the barrel gets bent, even just a little, then you cannot shoot and hit anything. It is very discouraging to travel a long distance to a meet and find the barrel of the gun is bent. So I keep them protected in heavy cases—it is the only way.

"I clean all my guns, too. You know there is this new ammunition that keeps the guns' barrels from rusting, with grease in the wads which coat the inside of the barrel. Many people don't bother to clean their guns after shooting nowadays, but I think this is bad. I always clean my guns, because you may never know when some rain or a bit of snow or dirt may get into the barrel.

"Another thing, which I don't feel the manufacturers of ammunition stress enough, is the safety. If you have the habit of cleaning the guns after shooting, there is no possible way you can put away a gun and have it loaded. When I have cleaned my guns, and Leon's guns, too, I know everything is safe."

"She's right," the colonel laughed. "I made her realize that if she was going to learn how to shoot, she was going to learn how to take care of the guns. She does it so well that she cleans all my guns, too . . . and you know, that might have been part of the reason!"

Petite and pretty, Carola Mandel is a lot of woman, with an almost shy modesty that contrasts strangely with her nation-wide renown. Her friends, whether they be competitors or not, respect and admire her.

She comments, "I think I like shooting just because it is fun, and because I'm good at it. I think anyone tends to like doing something he is good at. Before I started in competition shooting, I was just practicing for something to do and sometimes it didn't seem important. My husband is a very good field shot and sometimes we would go out hunting. He kept wanting me to try to shoot skeet in competition, and one day I did."

Carola has been shooting ever since—and consistently shooting in championship style.

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH TARGET SHOOTING?

(Continued from page 37)

our own set of bullseye targets. These bulls are measured in inches and our ranges are set off in yards. The very moment we put foot outside the continental limits of the U.S.A. we find no one gives a tinker's dam for either our target or our ideas of how far to shoot at it. As a matter of cold, disagreeable fact, our international competition invariably inform us that our targets are lousy and our distances too, and if we are to play the International game we'll shoot metric targets and metric distances. We always agree, meekly.

At Caracas Venezuela, in November of 1954, we got embroiled in a trifling and small-time powder burning for nothing more important than the championship of the world. These world titular affairs are whipped up by the International Shooting Union and are staged bi-annually; the last previous competition was held in Oslo in 1952.

We trekked down to Caracas very cocky with a hand-picked squad of rifle and pistol marksmen, selected after months of tryout and elimination. They were the very best we could muster, and you could hear the team executive clear back to Keokuk when he proclaimed: "We'll take 'em like we did at Oslo two years ago."

When the cap-bustin' was finally cleaned up, we most decidedly were not in the driver's seat. We were, to put it succinctly, nursing on the rearmost seat. We'd been had. Took. We suffered, unquestionably, the most God-awful licking an U.S. team has ever known. The Soviet team walloped us coming

and going in team events and singly. It was most ignominious.

A major reason for our stunning loss to our mortal enemy is directly attributable to our knuckle-headed persistence in clinging to out-of-step targets and goofy shooting distances. Despite the fact that it has been a year or more since the Caracas catastrophe, there has been no indication that anything will be done to switch to metric targets and metric distances and thus better prepare ourselves for our next meeting with the Communist team.

I do not contend that the International target game is the answer to our ills, but it has many things about it that are commendable. For instance, shooting is done at 300 meters (approx 330 yards) which is sensible from any direction. In the first place, most of our game—and our enemy when we become embroiled in war — is killed at this or shorter distances. Again, it is infinitely easier to find and build a shooting range that is only a little more than 300 yards in length than to launch the ambitious and well nigh impossible proposition of searching out, purchasing and, finally, constructing a range of 600 or 1000 yards, though these distances are old favorites of ours.

The International game lays stress on off-hand shooting, a stage in the foreign sport that we almost invariably dump because of our adherence to the belly-flopper stuff. As a second stage the metric permits the kneeling position, an extremely practical stance for either game field or battleground. Inter-

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national shooting does include the prone position. Approximately a third of all the powder burning is given over to this gravel-agitating posture, sort of a fillip for the lads who just must get down and wear their beltbuckles shiny. Metric shooting won't revise the target game, but it would be a long step on the return road if it were vigorously encouraged.

The rifle shooting sport is administered by the National Rifle Association, the parent body of the rifle and pistol marksmen of America.

Before WWII the membership was 55,000. Directly after the shooting was over, strength jumped to about a third of a million. This may be attributed to the fact that millions of young fellows got a gun in their hands for the first time and they liked the feel of it. They liked it so much that they cast about when out of uniform and discovered much to their elation that there was an organization especially created to further their new interest. They joined and shot for a time. Then enthusiasm waned. Today membership in the NRA is going downhill.

I am certain the NRA directors are concerned about this loss of membership. Certainly it is difficult to understand how a nation that boasts 16 million shooting men can only muster something less than two per cent of this number as target marksmen. That alone should be sufficient indication that the game needs a good rejuvenation.

The situation, in all honesty, is not desperate. Far from it. True, the civilian contingent has been dropping off steadily but more recently the Army, Marines and Air Force have commenced intensive competitive match

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shooting. Here lies succor, and a chance for rejuvenating the shooting game. The military make possible the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, each year, and at scarcely no expense at all the NRA can participate. As long as there is an annual revival of the Big Matches, there is hope.

The arms companies have the wherewithal for the development of new targets, ranges, courses of fire and guns. Such mighty organizations as the Olin Mathieson-Winchester combine have research and development facilities capable of whipping up a shooting sport so new it would bedazzle the most hard-shelled old belly-flopper on this or the other side the Mississippi. Only drawback is the probable attitude of the arms peoples.

Present sales to the target clan represent such a piddling part of the annual take that the company big wheels would need a lot of persuasion before they could be induced to put their research people on anything as problematical as originating a new shooting game. Sales to those 16,000,000 hunters are so sweetly profitable, why diddle around with a little fraternity that whangs away at paper?

A shotgunner named William Harndon Foster didn't wait for some company to act. In 1926 he invented a new and quite original shotgun game. As a clay target trap shooter for many years, he became dissatisfied with the sameness of the game. He observed that regulation trap attracted very little new blood, it was in a state of advanced stagnation, and it became apparent to Bill Foster that something needed to be done to give the game a much needed shot in the arm. He proceeded to do that very thing. His game, once it was known to the shotgunners of the country, was an overwhelming success. It caught on like wildfire. So intense did interest grow that a national magazine conducted a contest to find the new sport a suitable name. Skeet it was called, and it flourishes to this day.

The game was originated neither by an association of marksmen nor by the arms and ammunition manufacturers. It was the brain-child of a sportsman who was dissatisfied with shotgunning as he found it, and was determined to do something to better the situation. There is no reason why some bright young chap today cannot find a similar answer for our expiring rifle sport.



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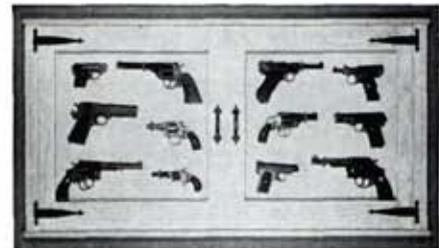
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(Continued from page 15)

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hold with the left hand too far forward," comments Price. This is probably a hang-over from trap shooting, and hinders the quick up-throw necessary if a fast bird is to be taken from the tower. Cast-off, drop, and length are all adjusted on the try gun until the customer knows that it is his own fault for a miss, not the dimensions of the gun. The individual dimensions all go onto the order chart which accompanies the gun from rough metal forging to its completion in a plush case. It is at the Harrow Road factory that the rough metal forging becomes a fine gun. Basis of the gun is the action body, a chunky forging of solid steel. Action-maker George Stidworthy is typical of the men whose understanding of gun steel is almost inborn. He has machined actions for 30 years, and has never used a drawing or a blueprint. Actions for side-by-side double shotguns and rifles, and the increasingly well-known H & H over-under, are made in the shop. Imported Mauser and military Enfield actions are entirely remodeled to accommodate the special cartridges used in their heavy caliber magazine rifles.

Some power tools are used in action work, but the most important single instrument of the gunmaker is the file. Hundreds of shapes and cuts of files are used to finish the action. Action filer Frank Hill has never used a drawing in his 54 years experience of action making. Today he teaches the same skill to teen-age apprentices, youngsters learning the business from the butt plate forward.

If the action is the heart of a gun, its bar-

rels are the limbs. A double gun starts out as a pair of rough steel tubes, threaded and plugged at one end for provisional proofing. They are sent to the proof house where each barrel is overloaded and fired. If no fault is found, they are stamped with the mark of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers of the City of London, and returned to the factory. The outside of the rough blank is grooved at intervals, which act as guides. The metal between the grooves is filed and the outside of the barrels gradually tapered. Wired together, with the bores checked to see if they are parallel, the breech lumps are then brazed.

Shotguns are fitted to the actions and definitely proofed, a second safety test with an overload, before the insides of the barrels are finished. After proofing, the barrels are bored with a "spill bit." The rotating square blade, sharp along one edge, has a wooden bearer underneath and together they must just fit the bore. Paper shims are inserted between blade and bearer to cause the sharp edge, lubricated with lard oil, to shave out a chip of the patent "Hykro" (high chrome content) alloy steel. The last few thousandths of an inch are finished by lapping the bore. Abrasive paste smeared on a revolving lead plug mirror-polishes the bores.

The top and bottom ribs and spacing pieces are soldered between the barrels, a delicate operation since the thin tubes might warp and destroy many hours' labor. The outsides of the barrels are finished with finer and finer grades of emery cloth, backed up with wooden blocks to shape the emery to the deep curves and corners of the barrels and lugs. Chambering the shotgun barrels is done with a hand tool, a simple chambering reamer with a brass pilot, turned by a hand vise.

After checking out the fitting of shotgun barrels, I asked Jacobs about regulating rifle barrels, since big double rifles are Holland & Holland's greatest claim to fame. He replied by making an appointment out at the shooting grounds, where all shotguns and double rifles are regulated during manufacture. There is a gunsmith's shop at Northwood, and the guns go through the work in the white, rifled and sighted, ready for final finishing.

Regulating a double rifle is one of the mysteries of the armorer's craft. Like most such secrets, it is really quite simple in theory—the mystery comes with the doing. Regulating a double rifle is strictly a handicraft art, cut and dry. The result is that most double rifles are not capable of making 100 yard groups that even a child with a toy .22 would accept. Occasionally a double rifle will exist which will throw two shots, right and left, into the same hole at 50 or 100 yards. Such a gun is a prize, a gem, a treasure. It is also the darndest luck.

Double rifles are regulated for a specific cartridge, bullet and powder load. If a double is once got to shooting well with one combination, vary any one of the ingredients and the grouping abilities of the rifle will change. H & H rifles are carefully made and as good as any, but they will not group with a properly bedded factory-made Mauser sporter for accuracy. The reason lies partly with the highly-stressed nature of double rifle barrels, and the vibration characteristics of the tubes as bullets of different weights and velocities

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are fired down them under varying conditions of temperature—"cold" barrels heating up.

Double rifle barrels are brazed solidly together at the breech lumps and cannot be shifted there. They are set up with a slight convergence of bores depending on the caliber and load. At the muzzle a wedge plug is fitted, held in by hard solder. Around the muzzles is iron wire, twisted tightly over the front sight ramp (integral with the rib) and holding the muzzles together when the solder is hot.

Such sharpshooting experts as Clifford Potty, gun and rifle regulator, who is a "new boy" with only 33 years of service at Holland's, do the shooting and regulating. Firing carefully from a rest, using the customer's choice of bullet and charge, Potty shoots a group at 50 or 100 yards distance on a target and the grouping qualities of both barrels are evaluated. To alter the grouping, hot irons are inserted into the muzzles to fuse the solder. When it is soft, the width of the muzzles is measured and they are wedged out or squeezed together as desired.

When the rifle barrels finally shoot correctly, they are finished off and the solder scraped away. My own Holland 450/400 has the muzzles counterbored  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to protect the rifling. Folding leaf sights are fitted to the top rib. The filing of the "V" notch is done by the regulator, according to the shooting of that particular gun and cartridge. Holland's prefers to have the customer shoot his own gun if possible. The shooting grounds' guest book will list recurring names of gentlemen who came out from London weekend after weekend until their guns were just right. No

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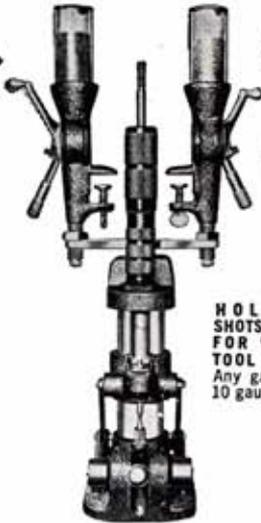
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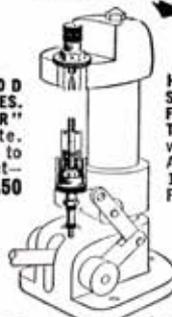
HOLLYWOOD "TURRET" RELOADING TOOLS. Shown at left side set-up for shotshell reloading. Below set-up for rifle or pistol reloading. A fast versatile production tool.

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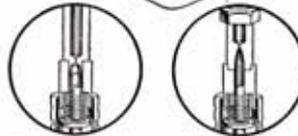
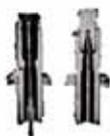
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LOOK!! HAND GUN HUNTERS! JUST LABORATORY TESTED. HARVEY 127 Gr. JUGULAR JACKETED S.P. 357 Magnum Velocity 1951 fps. Over 1000 fp Energy. 114 Gr. JUGULAR JACKETED H.P. 2025 fps. Over 1000 fp Energy. ALSO for 38 Special at lower velocities. READY FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY. Loading tables furnished. All bullets packed 100 to box.

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**TOUGH, PLIABLE  
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Will not wear out. STOP!! — rattling, dirty and damp cartridges. Calibers .222 Remington thru .390 Magnum. Holds 20 cartridges, only \$1.50 each. Postpaid. ENCLOSE REMITTANCE. NO C.O.D.'s.

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sportsman, particularly one going to the colonies, would think of accepting a rifle unless he had tested it first . . . and, as they say, thereby lies a tale. . . .

Frederic Courtney Selous, characterized by Theodore Roosevelt as "the greatest of the world's big game hunters," after many delays received a new rifle barely an hour before his train was due to leave for Dover, en route to Africa. He wanted to take the rifle with him, a heavy double express, but not without testing it. Yet he lived in crowded Regent's Park. Glancing out the second story bedroom window, he observed a chimney an estimated 100 yards distant. Running the sash up, he placed the rifle on the sill and fired five quick shots from rest. Through his glasses he studied the group on the brick chimney, where the red had flaked off with grey lead splash, and considered it acceptable.

Meanwhile, a small crowd of excited neighbors had gathered in the street below, while a policeman started towards him as he left the house.

"Yes, I did hear the shots," the old hunter replied to the questions. "It seemed to come from a room above," he added as he hurried into his waiting cab and left for the station, his rifle tested to his satisfaction.

Stocking a new rifle is done to try gun measurements. Stock maker Arthur Harris is a kindly man who can be aroused to anger on one point only: he will not be hurried. For 55 unhurried years he has made gunstocks at H & H.

Jacobs ushered me into a cool, dry room at the factory, holding their supply of French walnut stock blanks.

**50 Power — 50MM  
PRISMATIC  
SPOTTING SCOPE**



**AT A LOW PRICE \$23.95**

**Includes Scope, Tripod  
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**SPECIAL**—7x50 Zeiss type Central focusing Binoculars with case—\$24.50, plus 10% Fed. Tax, postpaid.

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808 - 59th St. Brooklyn, N. Y.

"There's not another store like that in all England," spoke Jacobs with awe in his voice, "and probably nowhere else in the world. Those blanks can't be duplicated, the trees are all gone. And when those blanks are all gone. . . ."

I watched as Harris, his stubby, careful fingers lovingly caressing the fine grained wood, worked on inletting a butt blank. The action body had been joined to the wood, so perfectly that I could have believed they grew together. As he set in the lock plate, one of those quickly detachable lock plates for which H & H is known, it seemed as if I were watching magic. Many a shooter has for the first time in his life learned to shoot really well when he has used a stock built exactly for him. The Holland user has Harris to thank.

Holland's magazine rifles are Mauser sporters using machine-made actions from Belgium and Germany. Rifles in the white are sent to Northwood where scopes and sights are fitted. An individual touch is the H & H method of calibrating scopes. Elevation and windage dials are left blank and are calibrated by shooting. A scope with dials so marked will not show the same changes if fitted to another rifle, or with different ammunition, or possibly even being used by another shooter. A Holland gun, even the "machine made" rifle, is as intimately personal as a much-loved mistress.

Final decoration of a Holland gun, unique tool-room creation sculptured from steel, is a tedious and painstaking job, yet it reflects only a fraction of the cost. The famous India Royal model double rifle is one of the most beautiful forms in the gun making art. Perhaps the highest accolade of all is that it looks like a gun. Fine English scroll work or perhaps more massive yet precise carving and chiselling decorate every metal surface. The breech is then finished in color hardening or the grey white "brushed bright" surface.

Progressiveness has for a century been a keynote of Holland's operations. Henry Holland, founder of H & H in 1835, was a practical gunmaker who in addition had achieved notice as a shooter and sportsman. Through the years, the firm concentrated on achieving a reputation for accurate double rifles, although shotguns and punt guns were also made.

Inventions introduced to the trade by H & H included important developments. The adjustable stock "try gun" for fitting a customer before making the stock of his gun, and the ball-and-shot "Paradox" gun, firing a solid bullet with surprising accuracy in a gun also adapted for shot, were "firsts" with H & H. Some inventions were bought from outside the firm, but Henry Holland was himself recognized as an expert designer. His anti-doubling single trigger for guns and rifles was simple, foolproof and durable beyond ordinary needs.

The reputation of H & H was built by good public relations in the 1880's which is to say, they worked cooperatively with a magazine. This publication was J. H. Walsh's "The Field," one of the leading gun-sport publications of the day and still published as a "society" sheet. "The Field" conducted a series of rifle competitions and H & H won all of them for accuracy from the .296 Rook Rifle caliber on up to the No. 4 bore elephant rifles—an achievement which was proudly

blazoned on their arms as "Winners of all The Field rifle trials."

An important associate of H & H in those days was W. G. Froome, then well-known as a rifle regulator. His skill in shifting the muzzles of the double rifle barrels was directly responsible for such accuracy achievements as groups at 100 yards, with the .500 Express, of ten shots in a rectangle 3" by 3.4". This is commendable sporting rifle accuracy even by today's standards, though a modern double rifle can hardly be expected to do much better. With single barrel Mausers, better shooting was possible. H & H introduced the "Magnum" concept in rifle cartridges, with their .375, .300, .275, and .240 series of rimmed and rimless belted cases.

At the turn of the century, H & H won acclaim at the St. Louis Exposition and the Grand Prix at Paris. In 1907 a .465 India Royal hammerless put 7 shots in a postage-stamp sized square 1 1/4" by 1 1/4" at 100 yards. Their .240 "Apex," widely approved as an ideal deer-stalking load, pushed a 100 grain bullet along at about 3,000 feet per second. The date? Why, back in 1919!

"The Field" was invaluable for broadcasting the development of this important load, which compares favorably with the most recently introduced .243 and .244 cartridges of Winchester and Remington. With the .240 Apex, groups of about 6" square at 300 yards were shot in the Mauser action rifle. These test groups were with ordinary light weight rifles, some of them of takedown design. The Mannlicher actions made by Steyr in Austria were also used by H & H for their sporting rifles. A single shot falling block rifle was built to handle a wide range of cartridges. The Martini rifle was sold in military and sporting styles. Heavy punt guns, weighing two hundred pounds and used for duck flock shooting, were made.

The name "Holland & Holland" appears on revolvers, although they never constructed any. Early Adams and Tranters, and later the entire Colt and Webley series, were sold through their London showrooms. The catalog stated "Shot and regulated by Holland & Holland, if desired." Their personal touch was available even on a machine-made gun!

Today things are different. Generally, Holland's shuns publicity. The use of a Holland & Holland shotgun in the recent Anne Woodward shooting case in New York in which an ex-chorine wife accidentally shot her society husband must have rocked the firm to its foundations. But those foundations are so idly bedded in principles of fine workmanship which are synonymous with the name. Although even Jacobs will admit, sadly, "A Holland & Holland gun isn't what it used to be," the balance, style and finish of a new Holland gun leave nothing to be desired. Such perfection is achieved with equipment and methods which seem to be as old as the gun trade itself. In 1835, when H & H was founded, the dean of modern gunmakers, Joe Manton, died. Manton guns are still treasured by the English connoisseur, though their usefulness is past these two centuries. Manton guns were noted in their day for being harder shooting with less recoil and more regular pattern than any others. Verifying unsigned Manton barrels became almost a trade with some gun experts. The mantle which old Joe laid down in 1834 was picked up by Holland in 1835. They wear it well today. ●

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5-SHOT Carbine Magazine for hunting in most states, new design brings mag. bottom flush with housing, giving neat appearance, \$2.45 ea. 30-SHOT Carbine Magazine, new, as issued, \$4.95 ppd.

**GARAND RIFLE CONVERSION KIT**

reduces to 5 shots, only way to make Garand fully legal for hunting in "five shot" states, (easily installed & removed), set, complete with special follower & 2 five shot clips, \$3.95. Extra 5 shot clips, 95c ea. Standard 8 shot clips, \$2.00 per dozen.

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New stocks, ready to install. \$4.95, stripped of metal, new handguards, set of both complete with metal, \$2.50—Buy a matched set and save—all three pieces \$6.95 (Write wants for other Garand parts).

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**.45 AUTOMATIC (ALSO FITS MANY OTHERS) GENUINE LEATHER CARRYING CASES**—as issued to honor guards etc. Lucky purchase makes this low price possible. . . . .

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**MODEL 94** set of new hammer complete, main spring & main spring screw—only \$1.75 ppd.

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**NEW! 22 CALIBER RIFLE BARREL**

(23", .508 on threads, 1" at shoulder, tapering to .562 at muzzle). In white, fine 1:37 steel, suitable for rim or center fire—good heavy barrel with guaranteed accuracy . . . \$3.95 plus 40c postage. Same barrel, smooth bore for shot cartridges, \$2.95 plus 40c postage.

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Finest 4130 steel, 4-groove, 1 1/16" at shoulder, 1/8" on threads, 1-turn in 10 standard rifling. A good heavy-tapered, turned barrel at less than 1/2 production cost! Only \$4.95 plus 40c postage. Will not fit receivers with over 1 1/16" thread.

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Limited few for M 35 tip-up pistols in .22 cal. (1 1/4" from hinge pin to breech end). New, in white, unchambered, unpolished out, without extractor. Under pre-war price 6", \$7.50; 8", \$8.75.

**★ MARLIN BARRELS ★**

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| .38-.55 Caliber,                   |         |
| 24" full octagonal . . . . .       | \$12.50 |
| 26" full oct. (takedown) . . . . . | 16.50   |
| 26" round Takedown . . . . .       | 12.50   |
| 30" round Carbine . . . . .        | 8.95    |

**32-40 Caliber:**

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 26" full octagonal . . . . . | 12.50 |
| 26" half octagonal . . . . . | 12.50 |
| 26" round Carbine . . . . .  | 8.95  |

**FOR MODEL '92:**

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| .32 Cal. Rim or C.F.:        |      |
| 26" full octagonal . . . . . | 9.95 |
| 24" round . . . . .          | 7.00 |
| 26" round . . . . .          | 7.50 |

**.45 CALIBER PISTOL BARRELS**

Brand new, straight lengths, 3 1/2" x 8", for extra long and/or fancy barrels. Supplied chambered for .45 auto or unchambered, state which . . . \$3.95 ea. — or 2 for \$6.50. (Name barrel, smooth bore for shot cigs., \$1.75 ea.)

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Ramp sights as shown, ridges on ramp make it no glare—in white, .525 I.D. Note design that permits use on any rifle by turning end of barrel to .525 assuring smooth appearance. Also makes fine pistol sight.

Each 95c—Extra Special \$9.00 per doz. \$65.00 per 100

**SIGHT RAMPS**

Machined to fit most rifle barrels, (.550 to .680), in white, no cheap ramp surface. Hand. Dovetail, can be mounted with screw or soldered. Also flat base for oct. barrels, state type wanted. SPECIAL: 100 ea. \$5.50 doz., \$38.50 per 100.

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Fits all rifles, standard dovetail base, internal red post. Front sights are always handy to have Special: 4 for \$1.00. (Dealers: 100 sights for \$16.00—regular retail \$1.00).

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2 oz. (2 gun steel) . . . . . \$1.00 ppd.  
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Never before has an achromatic telescope sold for anywhere near this amazing low price! You get clearer, sharper pictures at all powers because of the super compound Achrom Lenses. No color, no fuzz. Variable eyepiece adjustable to 20, 40, or 60 power. Lower powers excellent for target shooting and wide angle viewing. Higher powers for long range and Astronomy. Guaranteed to spot .22 holes in the black at 200 yds. Guaranteed to bring distant objects, people, planets, etc. 60 times closer. 5 bakelite sections, trimmed in gleaming brass—3 precision lenses. A precision American made instrument, unconditionally guaranteed. Carrying case included. Send only \$6.98. Cash, check or money order. We pay postage. Criterion Co., 333 Church St., Hartford, Conn., Dept. T&A2

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**GREAT WESTERN** Single Action Guns—most cal. in stock.

Send for FREE CATALOG. Address Box 360-G.

**SOUTHWEST CUTLERY & MFG. CO.**  
Montebello, California



**ARSENAL IN A TAVERN**

(Continued from page 25)

ever been that lucky," replied Andy, "but I have found names and addresses of girl friends of the original owners inside some of the guns, scratched on the plastic or rubber grip plates."

One really controversial gun in Andy's collection is the ivory-handled Colt Frontier .45 with which Jesse James is supposed to have been shot.

With a wry smile, Andy says: "Yes, I read the article in GUNS by Carl Breihan about the Smith & Wesson .44 being the gun with which Jesse was shot. To be perfectly frank, I don't know what gun did it: I wasn't there to see the shooting. But I do know this much, my gun sure attracts a lot of attention and comment, and as long as there is any doubt it stays right there, labeled as 'the gun that shot Jesse James.' I have photos which show Bob Ford, Jesse's cousin and killer, with an identical gun. Even court records of those days are not 100 percent reliable, and I have it on pretty good authority that my gun is the one which was used."

Liquor and guns have a long association with Andy's background. As a young man trying to make a living in prohibition Chicago, he had a cut rate cigar store at Madison and Halsted streets. The place was a front for a bookie joint with seven wires in the back, but Andy kept his nose clean and was only interested in cigars. He had to explain this once, too, to a zealous plainclothesman who leaped the counter to grab him when the cops made a raid.

Later he became more established as a landscape gardener running two trucks and a couple of helpers. Then one job went wrong. He contracted to build a bank of earth and after a hard rain the hill slipped away. Fixing that took his cash. When the crash of 1929 came he had to sell his trucks.

Next best thing to owning a business was being a partner in one, so he and a friend got into a "blind pig," location not specified. Running a speakeasy in the days when alcohol flowed freely and blood flowed almost as freely was a pretty good way to make money, and Andy prospered. Repeal found him ahead of the game, with enough money to expand, and an interest in guns.

When did Andy get interested in guns?

"I've liked guns since I was a boy," he relates. "My first gun was a Stevens—not a Favorite, but one of the little single shots. My first new rifle was a Stevens, too. I had a Springfield caplock musket or rifle, and a Brown Bess flint musket when I was small, so they rate as 'firsts,' too, I suppose. Had a shotgun, Belgian gun it was, that broke underneath." Andy went on in his brisk, choppy manner, his words a little hard to hear through his mustache. "First gun that really stands out in my mind was a Starr revolver, first one I ever saw."

Since then Andy has acquired many Starrs, as well as hundreds of other varieties of American revolvers. Andy does not yet own a Walker Colt, but friends rib him about his ads trying to buy one. He pictured a drawing of a Colt Walker revolver in a little booklet on the inn printed a few years ago. His standing offer is "Andy Palmer Will Pay \$50.00 and up for Colt guns like the one pictured above. These guns have to weigh over 4 lbs." Since the heavy Walker pistol is worth around \$2,000 in ordinary condition and much more in fine shape, the offer makes me wonder how many fellows weighed their Walker pistols when they decided to sell to Andy, and then cancelled the idea because some of the barrel had been sawed off and the gun weighed less than four pounds!

Such optimism as wanting to buy a Walker for \$50 has led Andy into buying many fine guns at reasonable prices. He picked up a somewhat battered Marlin Model 1892 .44-40 rifle in downstate Ohio and hung it on the wall of the inn. A stranger stopped by and after looking over the guns and downing a drink or two became curious about the rifle, asked Andy where he had got it. Then, without handling the rifle, he told Andy (who had not bothered to examine it critically) that the gun was smoothbore.

And then the story came out. The visitor had been with the Wild West Show at the time Annie Oakley and Pawnee Bill were featured attractions. He told Andy that the Marlin was a gift to Annie from Pawnee Bill. The story goes that Annie would miss a shot or two infrequently at aerial targets, enough to make her feel badly. Pawnee Bill bought the Marlin and had it bored smooth for shot, but Annie didn't want to use it claiming it would be cheating. Bill argued that he would tell the audience.

At the afternoon show when Annie was to perform she learned Bill had "neglected" to state Annie was using a smoothbore gun. She staged the first sitdown strike right then and there, and sat on a bale of hay in the middle of the arena. Pawnee Bill smoothed things over and at the evening show Annie went on with the crowd knowing her "rifle" was smoothbore.

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Andy loves history with his guns. The sometime wife and mistress of frontiersman Doc Holliday, Long Nosed Kate, died under mysterious circumstances. It seems she had been kneeling on a bar stool and leaning over the bar when a single shot pistol fell behind her from a bystander's pocket and she was killed. Nobody could find a mark on her, and then someone pried open her mouth and the bullet fell out from behind her teeth. The story goes that she was shot behind and the bullet wound up in her mouth. Andy spent months and travelled over 6,000 miles until he had documented to his satisfaction that the .44 Hammond bulldog pistol he owns was the one which shot Long Nosed Kate.

Two of the most spectacular ornaments at the inn are Andy's Gatling guns. One is the common 10-barrel .45/70 model with the barrels exposed. The other is the Navy model 1883 with a brass casing over the barrels. One of them, the early model open barrel gun, has quite a history.

According to reports, General Custer had Gatling guns along with his troops on the ill-fated Black Hills expedition. He did not take them with him up the Little Big Horn, supposedly because they were too cumbersome to go with his mounted troopers. The firepower of those Gatlings would have spelled the difference between victory and defeat that day, but they remained behind still boxed as they had been shipped from the arsenal.

"Indians captured the wagon carrying the two guns," Andy explained to me. "According to the story, one of the cases was broken open but the savages couldn't make head nor tail out of the ten-barrel gun in a box. Disgusted, they heaved it into a river. The other gun, still in its box, was later recovered and shipped back east. Finally I bought it—the gun Custer had but didn't use!"

Andy is very proud of his gun, and has fitted it to a replica tripod Gatling stand. Apparently it was remodeled since its return

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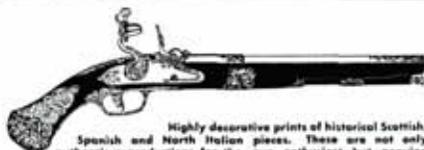
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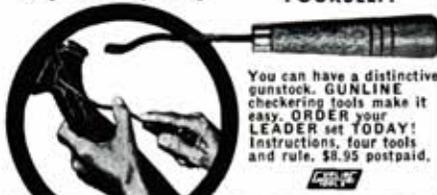
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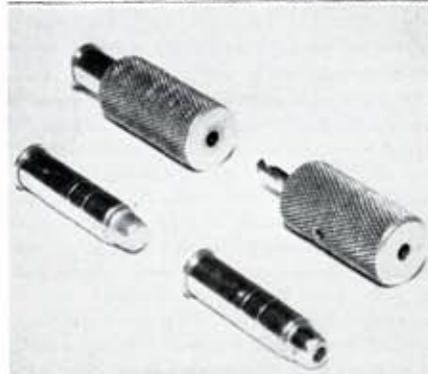


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## THE GUNS OF BUFFALO BILL

(Continued from page 31)

he was not a paid Winchester exhibition shooter, he did as much as Theodore Roosevelt to popularize the Winchester for peacetime sporting use, after the Indians had been pacified.

Three interesting Model 1873 Winchesters exist, possibly all purchased on the same trip east in 1895. Then Bill Cody was the toast of a thousand cities and the friend of a dozen kings. The first is a deluxe pistol gripped .44/40 rifle #494993, with the scene of Buffalo Bill running a buffalo engraved on the left side and a standing buffalo on the right. With blued octagon barrel and casehardened lever, the receiver, forend tip, and buttplate are gold plated. The worn forend tip shows how Cody placed his left hand well forward, like a trap shotgunner, to swing and lead the thrown glass balls. The rifle shows much normal wear, and may have been Cody's favorite in later years.

A second rifle was bought by Cody, an engraved deluxe straight grip rifle adapted to shoot .22 shorts. Its serial number of #472556 places it in the same year's production of 1894-5. A buffalo head is carved on the sideplate. The .22 Short caliber is said to have

been so Cody could fire blobs of mercury. The metal drops would break up on contact with the air and act like small shot to break balloons. A third rifle is also in this production bracket, #492982. It is also .44/40, but in plain finish and typifies the majority of the Wild West Show weapons. Some of these rifles, according to old photographs, were shotgun butt weapons for easy handling while on horseback.

On this same trip east Colt's presented Buffalo Bill with a "special Target single action with pearl handled and gold plated cylinder." The backstrap was inlaid "Col. Wm. F. Cody." In that year the long-handled low-hammer revolver shortly christened the Bisley Model was introduced and known briefly as Colt's Model 1895 Target revolver. It is possible the Cody gun was an early issue of this single action or Frontier variation. There was precedent, for Cody had used Colt's revolvers for years, and some were fired in his shows. Major Gordon W. Lillie, "Pawnee Bill" and an associate of Cody's in the Wild West Show, in 1891 had ordered several pairs of Frontiers .44 caliber "with smooth bore barrels, slightly choked." In

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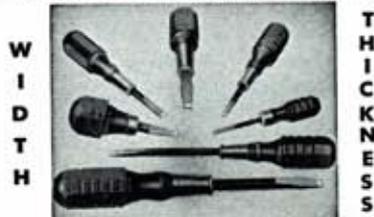
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these guns Cody and other sharpshooters of his troupe fired bird shot, not bullets.

Cody's use of shotshells has been bandied about to detract from his skill. Originally Cody and Doc Carver did use bulletted cartridges. That was for the first performance. When the greenhouse owner eight blocks away handed them the bill for broken windows, they switched to shot cartridges.

Cody had a difficult act. He would shoot from horseback, galloping around with an Indian 15 yards ahead who was tossing up confetti-filled glass balls. The colonel would break these with shots from his gold plated Winchester as fast as they were thrown. Sometimes the "trap boy" would stand on the ground and throw up two glass balls, and Cody would snap two shots out of his lever gun as he rode past. With the shotgun on foot, he broke clay birds with spectacular regularity.

A rival marksman charged that it was easy to shoot them "with a rifle loaded with shotted shells, and that's how Cody does it." Wild West Show ringmaster Frank Richmond indignantly published a rebuttal, clinching it with a brave bit of lying.

"And I positively assert," he wrote, "that the feats (of Cody's marksmanship) are accomplished with a 50-caliber Winchester rifle, shooting 50-caliber solid head cartridges, containing no shot, and furnished by the Union Metallic Cartridge Company." The idea of Colonel Cody firing .50-95 Winchester Express solid bullets up into the air while performing in, say, Madison Square Garden, somehow doesn't seem probable.

Actually the colonel's cartridges were the .44/40 W.C.F. shot cartridges with a thin paper bullet which dropped off from the shot

charge after it left the muzzle, but did protect it from leading the rifling. The charge was about 20 grains of black powder, a half-charge or "midrange load" and 1/4 ounce No. 7 1/2 chilled shot. At 20 yards, the average range at which Cody shot the glass balls, the pattern was about two to three inches across. According to young Johnny Baker, styled by Cody himself as "Champion Boy Shot of the World," it was as difficult to get on the target with shot as it would have been with a single rifle ball. Small shot was less dangerous to spectators and actors.

Earlier, when Cody had been enlisted by publicity man Ned Buntline to appear in a Chicago play, Buffalo Bill fluffed his lines and instead spoke some words about his guns. The audience liked his gun tales and it was then that shooting became as important in his theatrical career as in his frontier exploits.

It was a feature, too, of the books he wrote.

"I am sorry to have to lie so outrageously in this yarn," he once told his publishers. "My hero has killed more Indians on one war trail than I have killed all my life. But I understand this is what is expected of border tales. If you think the revolver and bowie knife are used too freely, you may cut out a fatal shot or stab wherever you deem it wise."

The exaggeration of the border tales has come down to us as fact. Like so many tall tales, the habit of debunking has so thoroughly confused the facts about Buffalo Bill that many people doubt he could hit the broadside of a brick wall if it fell on him.

A shooting match is mentioned in a debunking article in 1928 between Cody and another frontiersman. The time is not stated,



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except it was at Fort McPherson. Cody may have used his pair of buffalo bone handled Colt's Frontier Six Shooters, .44/40 caliber, 7½" barrels, nickel plated, which he picked up about 1881. Serial numbers 54057 and 54070, they date from the early days of Bill's career as a showman. Major Luther North watched the exhibition of skill:

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"Like as not you read in Bill's autobiography where he and Belden shot a match. That match was the *limit*. They were both half stewed when they started, and after each shot at the target they would adjourn to the sutler's store (it was at Fort McPherson) and take a drink or two. The target was a piece of white paper tacked on a soap box about two feet square and about half the time they missed the box, to say nothing of the paper—shooting at 50 yards, not 100 or 200 as Bill says. Belden beat him.

"I ain't holding that exhibition up as a fair sample of either his or Belden's skill, for they neither of them could see the box after a few shots."

George Flint, long time showman and a close associate of Cody's in the old days, looked over this account and then cautiously observed: "I venture to say that is not true." Flint knew Cody from his heyday as a showman and shooting performer, and he

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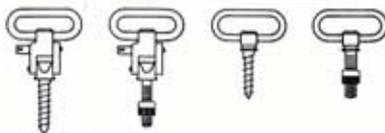
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knew that drunk or sober Cody was a marksman of great skill.

His own show program heralded Buffalo Bill with grandiose phrases, which came pretty near to being the truth:

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"To be such a marksman is only the result of years of necessity for exercising the faculties of instantaneous measurement of distance, acuteness of vision—in fact, an eagle eye and iron nerves—to think quick, to resolve, to fire, to kill. As a hunter these gifts have rendered him famous, and gained him plaudits from admiring officers, noblemen, sportsmen and competitors in the chase, and compelled the respect and fear of his implacable Indian foes."

Stripped of the plaster and the gilding, the playbill words described a "natural shot." Having lived a life out of doors, much of the time on horseback, and gifted with coordination, trained in an active life, Cody had the happy faculty of hitting what he

aimed at. In a discussion about his shooting, Cody volunteered:

"There is no rule than I know of. You see, the brain, the eye and the trigger finger must all work with the same impulse. When everything is just right if it's within range you kind of feel the object you shoot at rather than aim at it. This is especially true of shooting from the back of a galloping horse at a moving object. All of a sudden you feel rather than see that your gun is just right. Your finger seems to have touched the trigger of its own accord, and you know that you have made a hit. I couldn't teach a man how to do that, though if he had the stuff in him, he'd pick it up, just being along with me."

Cody once used to terrify his wife by shooting coins from the fingers of his kids. As a gesture to the many freeloaders who surrounded him, he would wager to hit a silver dollar thrown into the air, loser to buy the drinks. Sometimes he could shoot the coin, and sometimes not. Colonel Cody was noted for paying for the drinks.

When Buffalo Bill died in 1917, it was not the end but the beginning. The straight-shooting, hard-riding westerner of fiction could be traced directly to Cody. He rode like a centaur, "as if he couldn't help it," and was a marksman good enough to show up well in the same ring with Annie Oakley, Frank Butler, A. H. Bogardus, Doc Carver, and others whose forte was their shooting. Cody, the showman, was no fraud; it's just that the truth about Buffalo Bill was always a little stranger than fiction.

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## GUNNING GROUSE

(Continued from page 20)

seldom visited by man, these birds are naturally more wary than the blue and Franklin grouse found in the same neck of the woods. I did learn one secret to success in hunting the ruffed grouse in the western mountains. If I could find ripe bearberries or raspberries in September, the pats were usually close by.

The blue grouse, also known as dusky grouse, and a similar-dressed cousin, the sooty grouse, live among the rooftops of our country. The big, slate-blue boys like the fir and pine ridges of the Rockies. The darker sooty grouse are found from northern California to Alaska. They get by the rough, snowy winters of the high country by staying in the tree tops feeding on buds and fir needles.

Blue grouse are regular browsers at times, and I stumbled onto a patch of long, narrow-leaved brush that they were gorging themselves on every evening about sundown. Behind the brush was a steep, rocky rim lined with firs and larch. I soon learned I could herd the birds near this timber then rush them. Many would proceed to fly up in the trees. When I would rock the grouse out of the limbs, they always sailed out on the far side, diving over the rim.

The action was fast, and any bird high-balling down out of a tree is a mean customer for me to smack. I've scored lots better averages on ducks or dove. When flushed from the ground, the shooting is almost identical to pheasant gunning.

I've found a full choke barrel and 6's a good blue grouse combination. They are big birds and tough cookies. I saw one killed

once that weighed exactly 5 pounds although they'll average much less. They wise up plenty fast when gunned heavily, and, often, the hunter needs a load that will reach for a bird.

Another member of the family found over much of the blue's range is the Franklin's grouse. They are slightly smaller than the blue grouse and darker in color. Both upper and lower parts show some blackish barring. The blue grouse sports a dark tail with a wide, bluish band near the end, while the Franklin is the only grouse with white mottling along the upper tail coverts. Ruffed grouse have black bands near the end of their tail. Hunters often are confused by the various species where their range overlaps.

The Franklins are seldom as numerous as their blue cousin, and are the real "fool-hen." They seem to rarely ever profit by the mistakes of their brethren. They sit around very stupidly until one by one the whole flock may be clobbered by the indiscriminate pot shooter.

I've heard hunters claim that when a flock takes to the trees, you can begin with the bottom bird and can pick every one off. However, if you wallop the top one first, he will flutter from branch to branch, spooking the rest of the unwary creatures.

Strange as it may seem, rifles also account for many of these birds. They are generally hunted "incidentally" by the elk and venison chasers, as are the blue grouse. Natives sometimes refer to the Franklin's grouse as "pine-hens." Their habits are similar to other mountain grouse.

The sharp-tailed grouse is a favorite gamester of the Great Plains, also found in the West and Northwest. He is drably garbed in grayish brown with white and buff markings. This chunky grouse is often hunted in the stubble fields, brushy creeks or in the sagebrush.

The largest and one of my favorite species

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is the stately sage grouse or sage hen, as they are commonly known. They are found from British Columbia down through most of the western and Pacific Coast states. Once their numbers were badly depleted, but careful management is bringing them back in some of their former haunts.

Several years ago I hunted sage hens out of Bodie, California. Behind this old ghost town was a long canyon or valley. Sloping, sagebrush-studded ridges scarred with rocky ledges climbed from the valley creek-bed. I have a hunch the sage chickens were shading up under the runty willows that lined the trickling creek. For I ran smack into one of the heaviest concentrations of these birds I've ever found.

It was early September and warm. On opening morning the valley rocked with gunfire as if a small war had broken out. Big sage chickens were zooming up the brushy slopes everywhere. I watched one sail into a dense stand of sage. They get wild and smart quick. This one got up a good 35 yards away and was probably 45 yards out when my load of chilled 6's rattled against his caboose.

Hit hard he slanted down, but managed to stay in the air for 500 yards. I had to run him down, and finally shoot again to salt the cuss away. Later, when I picked the bird, I found he had been well centered in the pattern—just simply too tough to be knocked down easily.

A big, old cock will weigh as much as 8 pounds, but the young or females run between 3½ and 5 pounds. It's a lot of bird anyway you look at it. I decided then and there for future sage hen hunts to carry a full choke gun and No. 4 shot to go with it. I've never been sorry about this decision. Smaller shot will drop the big fellows okay until they begin flushing wild. Then you need something that connects with a wallop.

The many varieties of grouse are seldom numerous in any region, but remain scattergunner favorites wherever they are found. If you find them before they find you, out with your shotgun. You'll have a good chance to connect with a lively game bird, and a mighty tasty dish later for supper.

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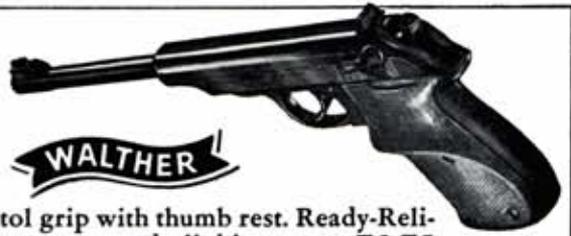
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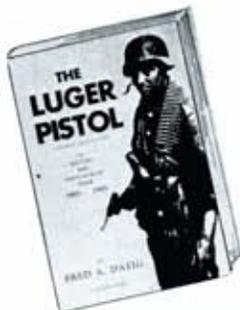
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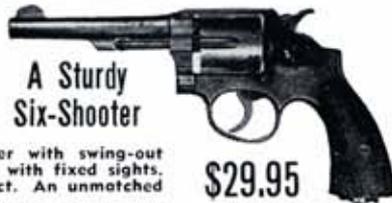
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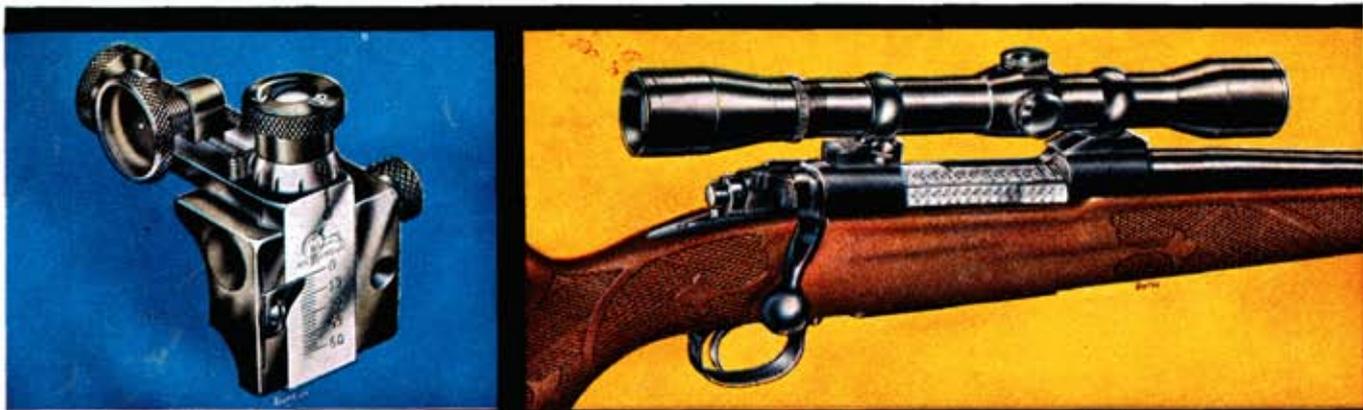
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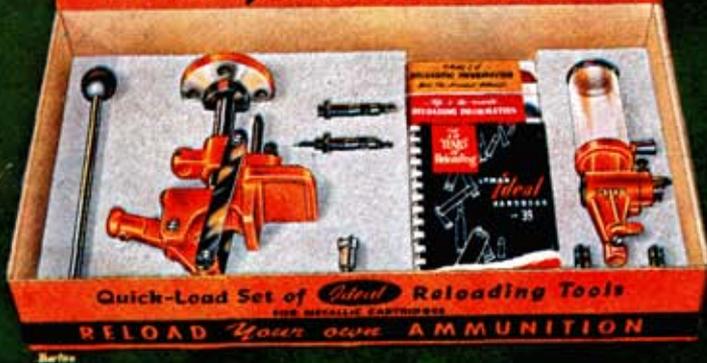


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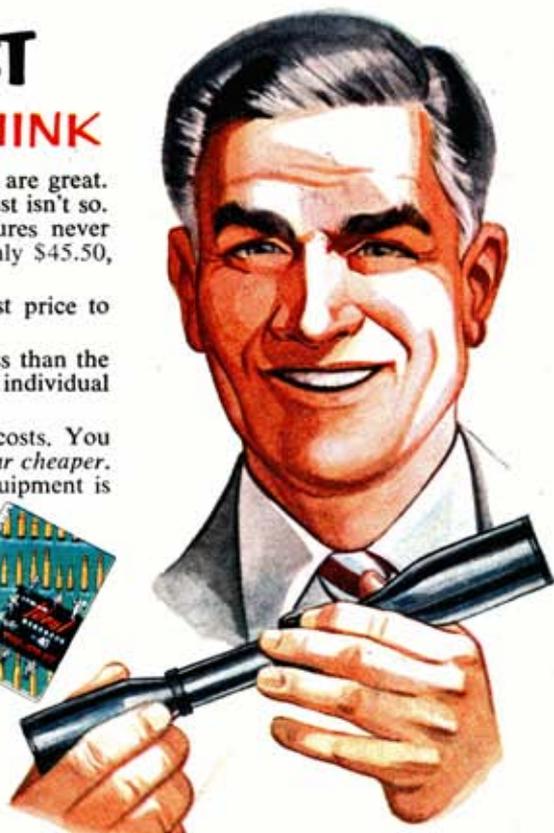
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