

HUNTING • SHOOTING • ADVENTURE

Guns

Bill of Rights

Congress of the United States

begin and held at the City of New York on
Wednesday the fourth of March one thousand seven hundred

THE Convention of a number of the States having, at the time of their ratification, declared that the powers of the federal government should be limited to those expressly delegated to it, and that the rights of the people should be reserved to the States or to the people themselves.

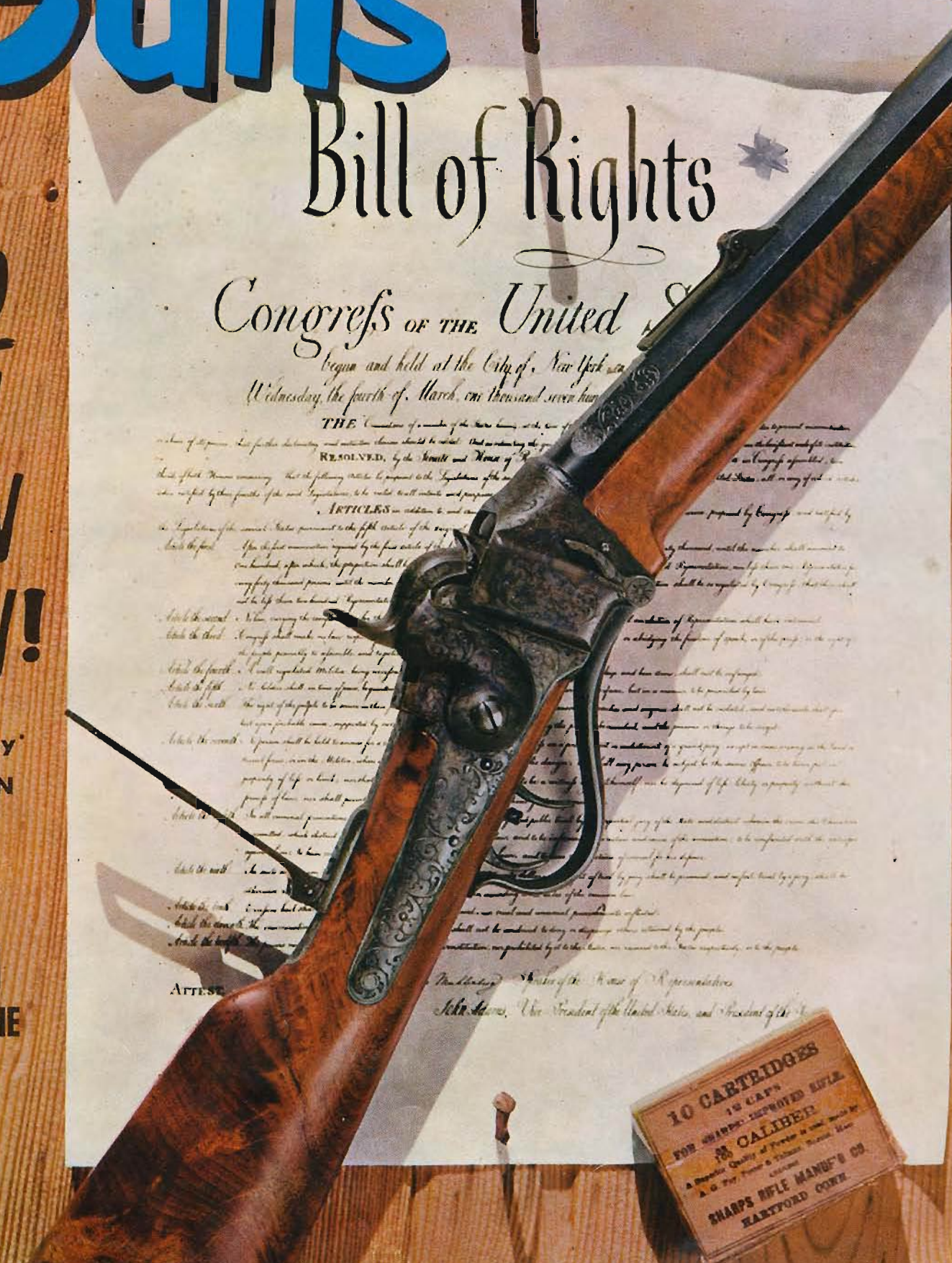
RESOLVED, by the Senate and House of Representatives, in Congress assembled, That the following articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, to be ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, by Conventions, or by the People, in order to ratify the said Constitution, with amendments thereto.

ARTICLES in addition to, and amendment of the Constitution of the United States proposed by Congress, and ratified by the States.

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By
E. B. MANN

THE
TRUTH
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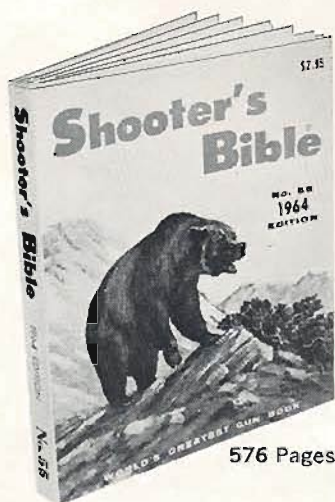
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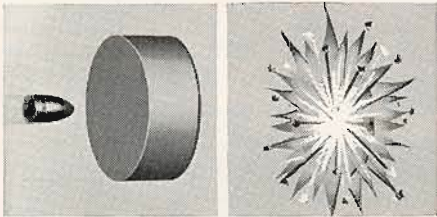
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KNOW YOUR LAWMAKERS

Congressman John M. Ashbrook 17th District, Ohio

Thank you for your letter concerning your interest in firearms legislation. I firmly believe in the validity of the Second Amendment and do not question the Constitutional right of every citizen of the U. S. to bear arms peaceably. It seems to me that, if any legislating is necessary on this matter, it should take place on a local, and not national, level.

I am interested in the present attempt to legislate the possession of firearms in the District of Columbia and will watch these proceedings closely.

Thank you again for giving me this opportunity to express my views on this very important matter.

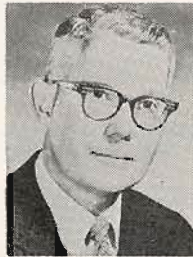


Senator Joseph S. Clark Pennsylvania

Thank you for asking me for a general statement for publication in GUNS Magazine.

If at any time you wish my views on specific legislation before the Congress affecting your readers, I will be happy to give them to you.

Congressman John B. Anderson 16th District, Illinois



In earlier eras, the privilege of bearing arms was one which served to distinguish the noble from the commoner, the freeman from the serf. The recognition of it in the Constitution of the United States as a right inherent in all men equally stands as a landmark in man's struggle to attain individual dignity and some measure of security from arbitrary governmental action.

While experience has indicated that minimal measures are necessary to protect society from those members who have abused this right, it still stands for the basic principle of equality, and all of us are entitled "to keep and bear arms" for our own protection and for legitimate sport.

Congressman Laurence J. Burton 1st District, Utah

I believe that the Second Amendment to the Constitution very clearly states the Constitutional right of all Americans to have and bear arms. As an American who owns and enjoys the use of guns, I am opposed to any legislation which would restrict or tend to take away from me that right.

Common sense tells me that the proposed legislation would not materially help our police force to control crime. Criminals, by their very nature, are prone to disobey laws and would obtain firearms anyway. The people who would be penalized are those who obey laws and who do not need this type regulation. Laws of prohibition have proved ineffective in the past, as the problems they create are always far greater than those they seek to overcome.



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

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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THE COVER

High-grade, long range Sharps sporting rifle and the original box of cartridges are set against the background of the Bill of Rights that guarantees us gun ownership. Ektachrome by Dick Friske, Pacific Island, California. Friske is not only a noted collector, but also is a well-known professional photographer in Hollywood.

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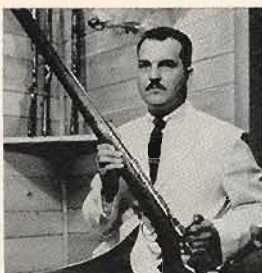
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**QUESTIONS
and
ANSWERS**

By **GRAHAM BURNSIDE**

Questions submitted must carry a Shooters Club of America number or must be accompanied by one dollar. Questions lacking either number or dollar will be returned. If you want a personal answer, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Army Special

I have a pinfire revolver which I believe to be Belgian. The cylinder and frame are nicely engraved, and it has ivory grips. The lettering on the cylinder is ELG with a star. It appears to be about .32 caliber. Also have one pinfire shell with a hole in the case on the left side of the pin. Any reason for the hole?

I am trying to find information on a Colt revolver marked "Army Special," in .32-20 caliber. Was this weapon specifically ordered for the army for any particular use?

Wm. F. McClintock
Pinellas Park, Fla.

The Colt "Army Special" was introduced in 1908. It took the place of the "New Army" and "New Navy" revolvers.

Later the "Army Special" was renamed "Colt Official Police". Counting the newer versions of the same revolver, it was made in the following calibers: .22 long rifle (1930), .32-20, .38 Special, 41 Colt—and a few experimental revolvers in .25-20 Winchester.

The product was a commercial item and its use by the military would be incidental to the name "Army Special."

Your Belgium pinfire revolver is probably of the 7 mm size. Maybe someone tried to deactivate the cartridge specimen that you have.—G.B.

Military Conversion

Would you please tell me what currently available military bolt-action rifles are suitable for conversion to .243 caliber.

James C. Schultz
Deerfield, Ill.

You could use a number of actions, but my advice would be to use a Springfield or a Mauser, and my choice would be to pick a military Mauser of a good year. There are many good Mausers available on the market today.—G.B.

Remington New Model?

Your article "Guns at Gettysburg" struck home with me. I have what was sold to me as a New Model Remington revolver, but I have some doubts about it. The picture on page 17 of August GUNS looks exactly like my sidearm, with a cone front sight which appears to be soldered on the barrel. Mine not only isn't marked "New Model," there are no markings other than the serial number

on the butt (100556), "W" on the left side of the frame, "B 99 47 A" on the back of the cylinder, and "SA" on the side of the cylinder.

The frame is rather crudely finished, not rough, but the curved surfaces show file marks, indicative to me of hand rather than machine finishing. The left grip has an inspector's stamp with three initials that are indistinct. This gun appears to be original and I don't think it has been tampered with. Can you identify this gun and estimate its value? It is in good condition.

William Blackman
Loudenville, N.Y.

I would guess that you have a Remington "New Model" that has lost some of the markings over the years. This is the usual case when such a gun is investigated.

If the head of the cylinder arbor does not fit back into a cut in the frame—but merely fits to the frame—then you have the 1861 Army revolver—which is scarce.

The 1861 model is easy to spot. There will be a noticeable amount of distance between the barrel and the loading lever in the 1861 model.

I could not possibly evaluate such a questionable specimen without a careful examination.—G.B.

Armalite AR-102 for Civilians?

I would appreciate knowing if it is possible to purchase an Armalite AR-102 semi-automatic rifle for civilian use. In the GUNS REDBOOK they are listed in caliber .308 at the price of \$180.00. I have never seen one advertised and I'd like to know if they are for sale to civilians.

A2C Donovan B. Wolcott
Orlando AFB, Florida

I see no reason why the .308 semi-auto Armalite rifle cannot be purchased. I suggest you write directly to: Armalite, 118 East 16th St., Costa Mesa, California.—G.B.

Damascus Barrels?

I have a 12 gauge double shotgun with 32" barrels marked "Royal Damascus Belgium." However, the barrels are fluid steel, and this doesn't make sense to me. How can I tell if they are really Damascus or fluid steel. Is this gun safe to shoot with smokeless powder loads?

Fred Schweizer
Scappoose, Ore.

I have seen shotguns that had a Damascus finish to the barrels that were actually fluid steel—but I have never seen barrels marked "Damascus" that were not.

If your gun has fluid steel barrels and is in sound condition you may safely use stand-

ard velocity smokeless shells in the piece, but I'd check very carefully to determine just what you have before you use it.

When Damascus barrels are disengaged from the gun and hung by a wire—and rapped gently with a hard object, they will make a dull sound. Fluid steel barrels will give forth a fairly clear ringing sound when treated the same way.—C.B.

Sterling Shotgun

I would like some information on a shotgun that now hangs over my fireplace. It is a 12 gauge double with the following markings, "H. T. Sterling," "Machine Made." The barrels are Belgium laminated steel. The stock is in good shape with a metal butt plate and brass shield inlaid in pistol grip butt. It works fine, and I used it until about five years ago with low brass shells.

Harry W. Carter, Jr.
Oil City, Penna.

Although you say the marking is "H. T. Sterling" the tracing you sent looks to be H. J. Sterling.

At any rate the piece was made and proofed in Belgium and its continued use could be very unfortunate.

The only listing I can find is of an "H. G. Sterling" and nothing is known of this man. It would appear to me that Sterling—with whatever initials—was only a retailer who sold Belgian shotguns. He may have operated in this country or in England.—C.B.

Leech & Rigdon

I have a Leech & Rigdon Confederate cap and ball revolver. This gun is in shooting condition as I have fired it many times. It was necessary to replace the wedge, hammer, and seating lever to make the gun serviceable. Authentic parts were used.

The serial number "96" is stamped on the gun in four places. Would you advise me of the approximate value of this gun?

R. M. McPherson
Akron 13, Ohio

Where you found "authentic" or original parts for your Leech & Rigdon revolver is a mystery to me, but however, a proper restoration of the piece makes good sense.

Such a revolver is worth \$400 or better depending upon the per cent of original condition. Some confederate pieces have sold for as high as \$750 because they were in "as issued" condition.—C.B.

Collector's Item

I have a Winchester Model 97 Pigeon Grade shotgun in excellent condition inside and out, and tight all over. The stock is curly Circassian walnut with diamond inlays. The gun is factory engraved, 12 gauge, with 30" full choke barrel.

Would you advise me if this gun is a collector's item, and its approximate value.

R. J. Derrick
Canado, Texas

A Winchester Mod. 1897 shotgun in pigeon grade—and all still original—is very definitely a collector's item. I cannot give you an evaluation without examining the piece to be sure that the fancy work is of factory origin.

My 1907 Winchester catalog shows a

"Pigeon" grade shotgun, Model 1897, for \$100 and better. The engraving of the shotgun shows no inlays (?)—C.B.

Common Cartridge

On a recent trip to Arizona I found a rim-fire cartridge case that appears to be of .38 caliber. The only marking it carries is an "H" on the case head, signifying a Winchester cartridge. I would like to know during what years it was in production, and whether it actually is of .38 caliber.

Richard J. Ryan
North Royalton, Ohio

The .38 rim-fire, both long and short, were first loaded by Winchester in 1873. They were dropped from the line during the WW II era. Stocks of .38 rim-fire ammo are still to be found and the specimen is very common.—C.B.

Caliber for Alaska

I have an FN Supreme 400 Series action in .375 H&H. I wish to have a gun made up using this action. I plan to use it on large bear and moose in Alaska, and it could be my luck to get in a tight spot at close quarters.

Do you think a .375 Magnum Improved (Ackley) would be sufficient or should I go to a .404 B-J Express (Barnes-Johnson)?

Benjamin F. Murphy M.D.
Buffalo, New York

If the .375 Ackley improved magnum is not adequate under the circumstances you describe it will be because the man in question is not putting his shots where they count.

An enraged brown bear can walk through a hail of .600 nitro rounds that miss and nick him.—C.B.

G-43 Ammo

In the near future I am going to buy a German G-43 (Gewehr) semi-automatic rifle. I noticed it was given the caliber 7.92 mm.

I would appreciate it if you could tell me the difference between this cartridge and the standard 8 mm cartridge normally associated with the Mauser rifle and carbine.

There is very little difference between the diameters of these two bullets. They seem to me to be the same cartridge, or is there a distinction between them?

Daniel A. Gazry III

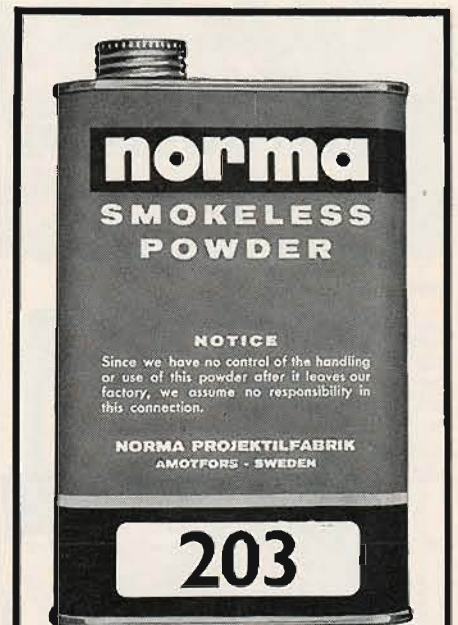
The 7.9, 7.92, and 8 mm Mauser cartridges are all one and the same. The G-43 will, or should, function with our commercial 8 mm Mauser ammo.—C.B.

Shotgun Disassembly

I need detailed instructions for assembly and disassembly of the Winchester Model 42 shotgun. In particular, the removal of the bolt, trigger, sear, hammer and other parts from the receiver. Can you refer me to a source?

Bruce S. Farquhar
Wilmington, Delaware

Your best source: Bob Brownell's "Encyclopedia of Modern Firearms." Shooters Club of America membership entitles you to a discount.—C.B.



YOURS?

It could be. The Norma 203 rifle powder is the most widely used in Norma factory loaded ammunition. It's a medium burning powder and can be found in many popular medium sized cases such as those used in the .30-06, 303 British, European 7 and 8MM's. The 203, like all ultra-modern Norma powders, is extremely clean burning, affording maximum bullet velocities with a minimum in breech pressure and barrel wear.

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201

Fast burning, but slower than the 200. Used with lighter bullets in medium sized cases or with some big caliber cases where large bore volume must be filled quickly with gases.

204

Slow burning powder for cartridges with large case capacity and/or heavy bullets in relations to the caliber. Excellent for the .270 Winchester, the .300 H&H and also for a wide variety of necked-down wildcat cartridges.

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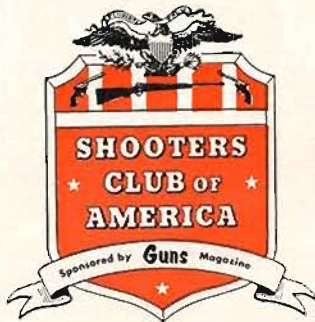
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NEWS from the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

Reprinted below is a letter written to the members of the United States Senate commenting on the so-called Dodd Bill and its several amendments. The letter was written by S. Daniel Juliani who resides in Connecticut. We strongly urge every SHOOTERS CLUB member and GUNS reader to write his congressman—tell your lawmakers how you feel about restrictive firearms legislation.

"Dear Senator _____,

With all the earnestness at my command I respectfully ask that no change be made in the Federal Firearms Act, in the National Firearms Act or in any other law whatsoever, which would place any responsible and trustworthy person at the mercy of a police official.

It is my understanding that at least one of the amendments being proposed and pressed would make unlawful the interstate shipment of a firearm to any person whose affidavit is not verified or authenticated by a police official—indeed, by the highest local law enforcement authority in his community.

How can a police official properly assume this added responsibility? Where is he to get the money, the quarters, the investigators and other personnel, and the equipment to handle the job? Just what protection does an honorable, responsible, trustworthy person have against irresponsible, arbitrary or capricious actions on the part of a police official—or indeed, against inaction, or refusal to act, on the part of a police official? Who will be able financially to maintain his rights, to contest harassing and improper tactics?

While I agree that firearms should be kept from any person having a record or reputation of being less than a responsible and trustworthy person (especially from a habitual criminal, drunkard, narcotic addict, mental incompetent, subversive, or a fugitive from justice), and while I agree that the sale of firearms to juveniles should be subject to parental consent, I am opposed to the registration of firearms and to anything which would permit any police official to act as the guardian of my actions or to substitute his judgment for mine.

Further, I am opposed to anything which would interfere with, restrict, or prohibit the acquisition, possession, or use of firearms by any responsible and trustworthy person for the lawful purpose of personal defense, sport, recreation, education or training.

In view of the terrible tragedy in Dallas we are in an emotionally charged atmosphere. But, that is the very reason for thinking things through and not acting hastily. What is needed is light, not heat; and reason, not hysteria.

It seems to me that proponents of extraordinary firearms restrictions are missing the target—they are not getting at the cause of the problem! What is being done to institutionalize mentally ill or potentially dangerous persons? What is being done to keep criminals in prisons until they are safe—truly safe—to be let out in public again? It does no good—indeed, it harms the law-abiding—to place undue restrictions on firearms and yet treat mentally ill and the criminals with kid gloves. Our problem is people, not guns!

If we work on getting the mentally ill and the wrongdoers out of circulation—and on keeping them out of circulation until they are rehabilitated—we will be directly on target.

This is the need, and it is a terribly pressing need!

I urgently, earnestly, and respectfully ask for your help."

Act now against these firearms bills...

Here is a list of proposed firearms legislation pending in our nation's capitol. Write your Congressman . . . your Senator! Use the form letter shown on the opposite page. Encourage all your friends to take similar action! Fight bad gun laws now! **S. 2345 (by Sen. Hugh Scott, Pa.)** would make it unlawful to ship firearms to any person who does not have a written certificate executed by a law enforcement officer. The certificate would include information on probable use of the firearms and any criminal background.

H. R. 9239 (by Rep. Richard Fulton, Tenn.) would make it unlawful for any person who is under indictment or who has been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year, or a fugitive from justice, to receive firearms in interstate or foreign commerce. Also, it would be unlawful to ship firearms to any person who has not submitted a sworn statement to effect that he is at least 18 years old and not prohibited by law from receiving firearms.

H. R. 9315 (by Rep. Charles S. Joelson, N. J.) would require firearms shipped in interstate or foreign commerce to be consigned to the recipient through local law enforcement officers. The FBI would set standards for the guidance of local officers. Shipment of firearms or ammunition to criminals or fugitives would be illegal.

H. R. 9327 (by Rep. Charles M. Teague, Cal.) would require that firearms shipped in interstate or foreign commerce to individuals be delivered through local law enforcement officers.

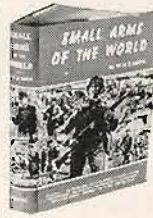
H. R. 9347 (by Rep. Seymour Halpern, N.Y.) would make it unlawful for any seller to deliver firearms without written notification to the carrier involved. The carrier could not deliver firearms in interstate or foreign commerce to persons under 18. It would be unlawful to ship firearms to any person who has not submitted a sworn statement that he is old enough, and not legally prohibited from receiving firearms. The sworn statement must be certified by local law enforcement officials.

H. R. 9348 (by Rep. Wayne L. Hays, O.) would prohibit interstate or foreign shipment of firearms to anyone other than licensed dealers and manufacturers. Prohibits shipment of firearms by U.S. Mail.

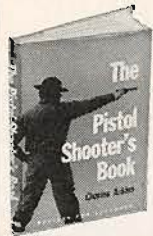
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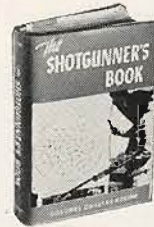
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HANDLOADING BENCH

By KENT BELLAH



THE MAYVILLE ENGINEERING Company has an enviable reputation in the shotshell loader field. Many people consider all MEC loaders "a best buy" of their type, excelled by none. The tools show clever design by people familiar with shotshell reloading. They are trouble-free, with high quality control. MEC model numbers are a rough guide to the number of shells you can process per hour under good conditions.

How accurate are the numbers? Pretty accurate. You can, after practice, load at a higher rate of shells per hour for short runs, although I don't recommend it. There are no "bugs" in their loaders, and no special tricks in loading. Advertising claims are a bit conservative. MEC loaders do exactly what MEC claims, plus a bit more. All are simple for a novice to operate. Directions are well illustrated and very clear, an important detail badly slighted by some makes.

MEC's 310 loader is worthy of consideration by both hunters and target shooters. It's faster and more versatile than a 250, and worth the extra price. For \$69.95 you get a sturdy tool that will give satisfaction for many, many years. The automatic operation of the charge bar throws powder and shot at exactly the right time with uniformity. You can't goof!

The charging mechanism is simple, synchronized, and works perfectly. We goofed it with pliers. Failure is detected immediately and easily adjusted. You can quickly disconnect the device if for some special reason you want to operate the bar manually. Try it, and you'll never be happy with manual operation! MEC's 310 combines the speed, for practical use, of a progressive loader, plus the versatility of a fine single-stage type.

You can quickly change to a different gauge. With only 3 working stations you can add a \$3.50 Starting Head for plastic tubes, or a \$4 Resizing Ring & Guide for zinc cases.

Powder and shot hoppers are plastic bottles that tilt for refilling. They provide space to write the charges for the bar in use, to prevent errors. Screw caps keep the bottles closed when not in use. A custom loader cut the bottoms out of the bottles to save seconds in refilling for steady daily production. You probably won't need this. It's handy to keep several extra bottles filled and marked with the powder type and shot size.

MEC loading data, included with each tool, are excellent. Charges are thrown with fine uniformity. Powder bulk varies slightly from lot to lot, so the actual weight thrown by MEC bars may vary slightly from the bar figure, as with any bar. This makes very little difference ballistically, generally too little to detect. You can eliminate it by using one lot number of powder, or buying powder in large containers. MEC urges handloaders not to alter their bars. They want you to get fine results.

If you know what you are doing you can bush them for smaller charges or ream for larger ones. File off MEC's number and stamp your charge on the bar! Check 20 charges on scales *with the bar in the loader*. MEC makes adjustable charge bars, but make few claims about them. Fixed bars are best.

The only goof you can make is using the wrong powder or bar. Check your bar and powder type twice, as for any tool. MEC data list standard loads, with the approximate wad column for high or low base wad tubes. Don't try to "improve" the loads.

No visual checking is necessary when loading. If the handle pull feel is abnormal, check the direct reading wad height & pressure gauge. It will indicate if the wad column is off, the base wad blown out, debris in the tube, or other faults. These fine features insure factory quality inspections during actual loading. MEC dies and crimpers have correct specs for perfect reloads. Workmanship is excellent.

A novice may feel MEC's finest versatile loader has more speed than he needs. It doesn't. The speed is in the tool, not the operator. You can load as slow as you please. Vital operations that can't be speeded include component inspection and sorting, plus opening, storing, and other odds and ends. This fast, versatile, highly efficient machine is well worth the extra cost for a novice or expert.

• • •

In my September column I said Federal shells had a shorter reloading life than some makes. Comparative tests with a different tool indicate this isn't true. We got 3 good reloads, with a maximum life of 8. Many people reload tubes too many times for uniform ballistics. Three is enough. Actual life depends on your tool, and how closely you want to duplicate factory ballistics.

D. L. Cooper, the exhibition shooter, claims he isn't a shotgunner. I gave him 4 boxes of Monark T122 Target loads. He placed first and second in a trap shoot, using his Remington 870 TC, winning two nice gun cases. He gave me the cases, which proves it pays to have friends who can shoot.

Commercial ammo makers have our problems, only magnified a thousand times. Target shooters are very critical. None will find fault with Federal Monark 38 Match ammo. Federal's first lots, not labeled Match, was mediocre. Their next 3 lots of Match stuff shot extremely well in a test barrel and a S & W 38 Master. One lot, A36 A 2 SWM, mentioned before, shot one 50 yard group in 1.1", and the others stayed under 2.0"—the worst being excellent. It's embarrassing to admit my reloads won't quite equal Federal's Match ammo average. The ability of an ammo maker is, to some extent, reflected in their 38 Match ammo. Much of the accuracy, or lack of it, depends on the bullets.

Federal rifle ammo is excellent. Of course we can reload for better accuracy, or for our needs, same as any make. In my glass bedded Browning .243 their 80 gr. S.P. shot in 1.5" at 100 yards, with good blowup. Federal's 100 gr. "Hi-Shok" fired in moist sand at 200 yards indicates it's A-OK for any .243 game. Federal's .222 load in my Sako Sporter shoots smaller 5-shot groups, with good blowup. The rifle-ammo combination is dandy for running jacks. Sample cases in both calibers took test loads in the 60,000 psi range.

• • •

R. L. Shockey, 1614G S. Choctaw, El Reno, Okla., is one of the nation's 3 great pistolsmiths. Custom pistol production totals near 2000. He started tool and die making in 1928, and full-time pistol work in 1954. Shockey started competitive pistol shooting in 1936, doing his pistolsmithing and making his reloading tools, mastering all 4 fields. His custom pistols and dies will bring a premium in later years as superb examples of American art in metal work.

Shockey's "Perfection" Tungsten Carbide sizers in .38-.357 and .45 ACP are correctly named. No finer has ever been made. Guaranteed for 500,000 cases some have sized over one million. They outlast several dozen ordinary sizers. Sizing is faster, easier, and nicer, with brass and nickel cases beautifully burnished. T-C is so hard and smooth it doesn't need lube, and can't gall or scratch. Made in standard thread or Star type, finished in durable gun blue, sizers are \$22.50 postpaid from Shockey, or a few dealers, including Gil Hebard Guns, Knoxville, Illinois. Gil's big \$1 catalog of everything for hand-gunners lists Shockey's custom pistols and dies.

Shockey sizers have a decapper and expander that bells the case mouth slightly. You can resize, decap, expand and prime in one operation. I like a bit more bell, so I back out the decapper a bit, to size and decap only. This permits cleaning and inspecting primer pockets before expanding and priming in the next operation.

There is only one right way to use these dies. Screw the die down to touch the shell holder in the up position, then back the die out one to two turns. One turn generally eliminates a sharp ring on the solid head of the case. If you haven't used one before, you'll be amazed how easily dry, unlubed

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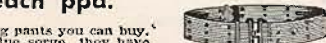
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15-Shot Clip, **\$1.00 ea. ppd.**
30-Shot Clip, **\$3.50 ea. ppd.**

cases can be sized, and how beautifully cases are burnished. T-C dies are by far the cheapest in the long run, and they make nicer looking ammo.

Texas Plater's Supply, 7220 S. Lancaster Rd., Dallas 16, Tex., sell compact plating sets for handguns and small items. Do they really work? Yes, if you follow the simple instructions! The \$15 Gunsmith Special is the best buy for nickel, silver, or gold plating. Copper undercoat is included, necessary on ferrous metals, but not on brass or copper. You'll need 2 (or 3) telephone dry-cells that last for many hours. Intended for gunsmiths, reloaders will find many uses for them in the home.

Check your sizing dies with silver plated cases, that contrasts nicely, showing up roughness and irregularities pronto. The idea works by firing plated rounds to check chambers, and silver also shows discoloration where brass won't. Silver or nickel is good to plate case head faces to identify one lot of brass, or a particular load, and it's permanent. You'll think of many other uses.

The only trouble you may have will be trying to plate over rust, oxidation, dirt, or oil. It can't be done. You plate with an electric brush dipped in compound, but it isn't like paint. Polish the surface highly for a brilliant plate on dies, etc. For a satin finish on small tools do not polish the surface highly. This is best for mikes and similar tools. A light stroke makes a light plate, hardly measurable, where dimensions are important, and you don't want the plating to build up. Use a heavier stroke for heavier plating.

When the old Cramer moulds were in production they were fine ones. SAECO, long noted for superb metal work, took over the firm. The new SAECO-Cramer moulds are even better than ever. They are fully custom quality, with beautifully cut cavities. Handles are long, large and cool, with an adjustable joint correctly adjusted at the factory. Light is not visible between the heavy, closed blocks. The heavy blocks insure uniform castings and are held in perfect alignment by large guide pins. The heavy cut-off plate won't warp or spring and mates perfectly with the machined blocks. The 3 sprue cutters mate perfectly with standard dippers or SAECO's fine Thermostat Controlled Electric Furnace, or other furnaces.

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THE FRONTIER GUNSHOP

BY JAMES M. TRIGGS

PIONEER AMERICAN HANDGUNS:

Smith & Wesson Schofield Revolver

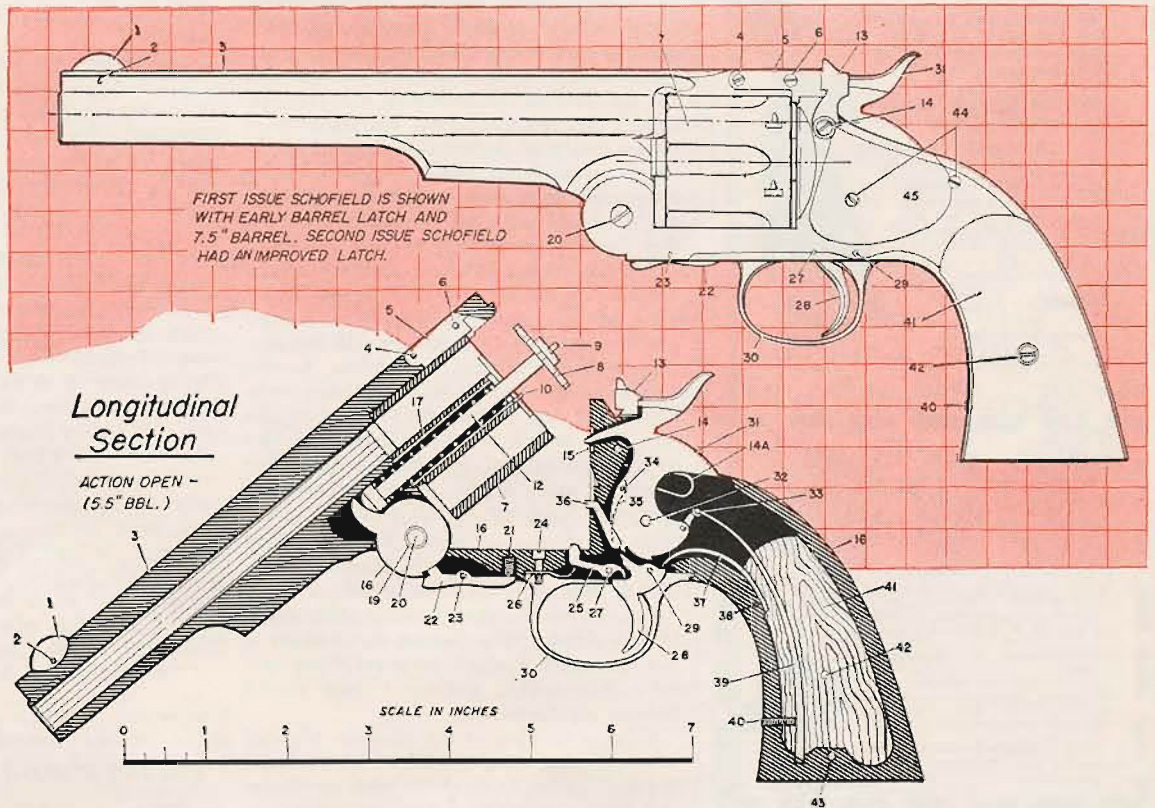
IN 1869, SMITH & WESSON was faced with the necessity of developing a large caliber handgun. For many years, Smith & Wesson had held the important Rollin White patent on the bored through cylinder for the metallic cartridge. In 1869, the patent was expiring, and other arms manufacturers were now ready with cartridge models for the frontier markets of the day.

Smith & Wesson's new revolver was the big, .44 caliber "American" model based upon the W. C. Dodge patents which covered the opening of the frame behind the cylinder and pivoting the barrel and cylinder assembly at the front of the frame, a latch being employed to fasten the top strap of the barrel securely to the frame. Simultaneous ejection of the cartridges was another outstanding feature of this patent.

Some .44 "American" revolvers were sold to the U. S. Government, but the first sizeable Army order was not made until 1874. The new model was produced in .45 caliber and featured an improved latch designed and patented by Major George W. Schofield. Between 1874 and 1879, 8,285 of the "Schofield" S&W revolvers were manufactured for the Army, very few of this model having been made for civilian sales. Some of the civilian models extant today, notably those bearing the Wells, Fargo & Co., stamping are especially desirable as rare collector's items.

Disassembly of the Schofield revolver is as follows: Lift barrel catch (13) and open action. Remove joint pivot screw (20) and push out joint pivot and friction collar (19). Pull barrel assembly (3) free from frame (16). Cylinder (7) can be removed from barrel after removing cylinder catch (5).

Remove guard screw (24) and pull trigger guard (30) down and out of frame with stop spring (26). Remove barrel catch screw (14) and side plate screws (44). Tapping on frame will loosen side plate (45) to allow its removal. Remaining lock parts are easily removed from frame. Disassembly of extractor mechanism from cylinder is not recommended.



PARTS LIST

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Front sight | 10. Steady pin | 19. Friction collar | 28. Trigger | 37. Trigger spring |
| 2. Front sight pin | 11. Extractor stem | 20. Joint pivot screw | 29. Trigger pin | 38. Trigger spring pin |
| 3. Barrel | 12. Extractor spring | 21. Pawl spring and pivot | 30. Guard | 39. Mainspring |
| 4. Cylinder catch screw | 13. Barrel catch | 22. Pawl | 31. Hammer | 40. Mainspring strain screw |
| 5. Cylinder catch | 14. Barrel catch screw | 23. Pawl pin | 32. Hammer stud | 41. Stocks |
| 6. Cylinder catch cam screw | 14A. Barrel catch spring | 24. Guard screw | 33. Stirrup and pin | 42. Stock screw |
| 7. Cylinder | 15. Recoil plate | 25. Stop | 34. Hand spring pin | 43. Stock pins |
| 8. Extractor | 16. Frame | 26. Stop spring | 35. Hand spring | 44. Side plate screws (2) |
| 9. Extractor stud | 17. Base pin | 27. Stop pin | 36. Hand | 45. Side plate |
| | 18. Lifter | | | |

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Mauser, M96 (Swedish)
Mauser, M98/1g. Receiver Ring
Mauser, FN
Mauser, FN, Series 400
Remington, 1903
Remington, 1903A3
Remington, 1917
Remington, M721*
Remington, M722*
Remington, M725**
Savage, M110R**
Savage, M110L**
Smith-Corona Springfield
Springfield, U. S. 1903
Springfield, U. S. 1903A3
Winchester, 1917
Winchester, M70
Winchester, M88
Winchester, M100

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CROSSFIRE

Second Amendment Article

Thank you for the article "The Second Amendment Is Not Enough," which I read in GUNS Magazine (January 1964). Such an article was long overdue and it is to my own discredit (and those like me who did not have the courage or strength of their convictions to write such an article) that information such as you have presented has not already been printed.

Your article says that the Second Amendment has been infringed upon in spite of its "clearly stated purpose." Our founding fathers clearly stated the purpose and everyone understood it at that time; however, the amendment is interpreted today to mean that we are entitled to maintain our National Guard, and nothing else! This opinion or interpretation is shared, I'm afraid, even by our Supreme Court justices—guided to this interpretation by a well-meant but sadly misguided belief that by controlling firearms they can control crime.

For this reason, I believe that the Second Amendment should be retired and in its place should stand a new Constitutional Amendment—one that is clear (if not concise); an amendment impervious to the erosion of present and future anti-gun legislation. The new amendment might start like this: "An armed citizenry, being necessary to the security and continuation of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

Fred W. Klohn
Ravenna, Ohio

I have just finished reading Mr. E. B. Mann's article, "The Second Amendment is Not Enough". I think it a very fine and informative article, and one I think should interest all Americans.

Being a member of the Shooters Club of America, also being a Life Member of the National Rifle Association, and an owner and shooter of guns, I have long followed, and participated in, the struggle to keep our Constitutional right to own and bear arms, to keep in effect a "Free" America.

I am writing to express my thanks for the endeavors and successes of the Shooters Club in this vein. I also wish to express my sincere interest in, and whole-hearted support for your proposed "pro-gun" legislation. Please do keep me posted on the progress made in this new concept. You may certainly count on my support in any way possible in your efforts.

Paul E. Moring
Cincinnati, Ohio

In the light of the tragic events of November, your article "The Second Amendment is Not Enough," was most timely. It is a statement of belief that, if fostered by every gun owner, would tell the non-shooting people of the U.S. that we are not fanatics, bigots, or hate lobbyists. That we, as much as anyone else, would do anything in our power to prevent criminals from getting firearms. I hope that Mr. Mann and GUNS will carry through with this to provide the shooters of America with leadership and clear thinking.

R. Rosevell
Minneapolis, Minn.

May I take the liberty of most earnestly commending you on your fine article on the Second Amendment in the January issue. In suggesting that we all take the offensive in favor of a Pro-Gun Law, you hit the nail on the head. Anything I can do to help, please do not hesitate to command me.

George N. Vitt
Wilton, Connecticut

Already, in the wake of the most regrettable death of President Kennedy, the hysterical shrieks of the anti-gun factions are being heard in this area. Last night, in the *Halifax Mail-Star*, there was a typical editorial in which, as usual, the instrument, and the ease with which it was acquired, were condemned, with little thought or word being given to the assassin.

I have, of late, had to discontinue my column "Trigger Talk" in the Shearwater (RCN Air Station) "Navalaire," due to the press of my naval duties, but I am determined that this editorial shall not go unanswered, and so I am planning to come out of "retirement," at least temporarily.

R. A. Watt
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Pen Pal Wanted

Just a few lines to let you know how much we of "Down Under" appreciate your fine magazine GUNS. This book is in very great demand by the shooting cranks in Australia. I would like very much a pen friend of about my own age (17 years) who is also interested in guns and shooting. I am a member of five rifle clubs including a .303 military club.

Bruce P. Martin
63 Alderley Ave.
Alderley, Brisbane,
Queensland, Australia

Shooters Club

I am a member of the NRA (have been for

many years) also a subscriber to GUNS for about five years. I could not make up my mind whether to join the Shooters Club of America or not. This past weekend our President was assassinated by three shots from a surplus rifle... and already the hounds are baying for tighter gun laws, etc. Uninformed citizens and newspapers are beginning to beat the tom-toms attempting to sway public opinion. I decided to join your Club after seeing (the enclosed) article from the *Honolulu Star Bulletin*.

Edward S. Poniatoskie
Kaneohe, Hawaii

Canadian Pistol Laws

From reading American shooting publications, it would appear that Canadians are a very repressed group when it comes to the possession of handguns.

On the contrary, it is easy to purchase a pistol. I have been told by dealers that 16 is the lower age limit. This is possession as opposed to carrying. A carrying permit (Form 42) is generally issued to a bona fide club member for target purposes, 18 or over. This varies in different localities, though.

This season, handguns may be used for hunting in Ontario, provided the hunter has the proper credentials. This is the first time this has been permitted—probably the American influence.

I think there is nothing repressive about the law—any law-abiding citizen is able to own handguns.

Richard Smith
London, Ontario
Canada

Perrin Information

In your August, 1963 issue, the article "Those Perrin Revolvers," by Graham Burnside stated that the author could find nothing on any man or company by that name. A week ago I came into possession of a cased Perrin revolver with all of the loading tools. What might be of interest to you is the following, which is printed in gold letters on the lid of the case:

L. PERRIN Btn.
RUE LAFFITTE 51
A. PARIS

The revolver is .44 caliber, and is fully engraved with acorns and oak leaves all over.
A. F. Kelley
No. Chelmsford, Mass.

Promoting SCA

Please send me a supply of promotional brochures and application blanks to the Shooters Club Of America. I plan to attend the joint meeting of the Tennessee Gun Collectors Association's Nashville and Chattanooga chapters on December 1st, and wish to make these available to patrons at the show.

I feel that only in offensive strength of groups like the SCA and NRA can the United States continue to be a nation of riflemen, and can the American heritage of the gun be preserved.

Donald C. Gibson
Nashville, Tenn.

Right To Bear Arms

In your November issue of GUNS I read a number of opinions on the right to keep

and bear arms. I can only add that the American people were given this right many years ago, and no person or persons should be allowed to alter in any way, shape or form, the second amendment to the Constitution.

I have a few guns that I have collected in the past few years, and I hope to continue to collect guns. We are free people in this country. This is part of our freedom, so let's preserve it. I hope to see more opinions in your future issues—including mine.

Lawrence Keen
Ronkonkoma, New York

Keep reading GUNS Magazine for new developments.—Editor

You're Welcome

Just read your editorial in the January issue of GUNS and it's real good. Thanks a million. I've already heard from one guy, and I'm sure that many people have not read it since the magazine is just out.

Johnny Stewart
Waco, Texas

State Constitutions

One aspect of this anti-firearms mess that you, and others, have failed to bring to light is this:

The U.S. Supreme Court says that the 2nd amendment is a limitation upon the power of congress and the national government only, not upon the states. According to this court ruling, the right to bear arms is not a right guaranteed by the Constitution. The states are restricted in their regulation of arms only by the provisions of their own constitutions.

It is interesting to note that 14 states have no constitutional provision protecting the citizen's right to bear arms.

It seems to me, then, that it is important that we get to the legislators of these 14 states to provide such a provision for the people of their state.

Frank Fremmer
Cleveland, Ohio

Write Now!

I am a new reader of your magazine, and would like to make a suggestion. I think that many more people would write their congressmen supporting sensible gun legislation if they knew where to write. Why don't you list the names of congressmen and their addresses.

I like your magazine very much, and hope you will keep up the good work.

Richard F. Denton
San Diego, California

GUNS Magazine has, for years, printed various legislator's views on the firearms laws. Either your legislator has been listed, or he will be in a future edition. Your local library or city hall will give you the names of your legislators. Address: Senate Office Building (or House Office Building), Washington, D.C.

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By ROBERT M. PRICE
and E. B. MANN

EDITOR'S STATEMENT

The article "The Second Amendment Is Not Enough" (Guns, January 1964) brought a flood of letters. Most praised our stand, a few called us unrealistic, even naive. To all who wrote us—thank you!

It is true that a pro-gun law might not be enactable. But it is a step in the right direction. A pro-gun law proposal will show that we are capable of constructive thinking, that gun owners and shooters are not unrelenting or unreasonable fanatics. The introduction of a pro-gun law will remove shooters from their defensive position, provide us with an offensive—a stand that we have been lacking for too long.

The Shooters Club of America offers this pro-gun law proposal. It is not in its final form. It will need considerable work before it is acceptable to all. We want your ideas and suggestions. The law will be yours—help us write it!

AN ASSASSIN, allegedly a man who came back to the United States because they would not let him own a rifle in Russia, fired three shots that killed a President, wounded a Governor, plunged a nation and the whole civilized world into mourning—and, coincidentally, did more to jeopardize the American constitutional right of civilian gun ownership than any subversive effort or any fanatic do-good individual or group has done in half a century of anti-gun propaganda.

No conceivable law could have prevented the assassination of the President. We know that. Sane thinking men everywhere admit it. The man who wants to kill is not concerned with law; he plans to break the most severely punished law of all, the law against murder. And he will find a weapon. Yet those three shots triggered by a cowardly assassin have made every shooter, every gun owner in America, the target of a wave of fuzzy-thinking hysteria that threatens not only his sport but his right to own arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment.

There are some who have advised us, "Go slow with your pro-gun effort. This is no time to stick your necks out!" But we think that this is a time when united, concerted, aggressive action is not only needed—it is essential if the shooting sports, even the shooting industry itself, is to survive!

When General Karl von Clausewitz, all-time world authority on the theory and practice of warfare, stated that the defensive must win at every point, whereas the aggressor need succeed only at his objective, he stated a fact that is directly applicable to our war against anti-gun legislation—and is specifically applicable to this present situation where gun ownership stands accused.

In the past, we won many legislative battles—but the war went on. We won here, won there—then turned, like some great animal harassed by wolves, to fight in another direction. Today, the wolves are on us more fiercely than ever. If we fail now, the fight will end . . . forever.

We believed in the shooting sports, in the right of every citizen to own guns, *before* that tragic day in November; we believe in them now. We were outspoken in those beliefs then; we see no reason to be silent now. Rather, we believe that now is a time when we must all be *more* outspoken, more aggressive, than ever in the past.

Let's take the offensive! Let's "forget to duck," for a change, and come out punching! The puncher may, probably will, get bruises, but he wins a lot of battles!

And we are strong! We are strong, and we are not without weapons. We have the strength of numbers—35 million gun owners in the United States—and we have the ballot as a weapon. We have other weapons: magazines

LAW-NOW!

ready and willing to publicize our cause—friends in high places ready and willing to present our case, if we give them a case to present—industrial giants who must surely support our cause in their own interests—and national organizations designed and manned to guide us in an aggressive war as they have so far guided us in the defensive one.

We are too strong to be ignored, too strong even for the wolf-packs howling around us now—if we use our strength. This is no time for head-in-the-sand hope that “if we ignore them, they will go away!” It is a time for us to weld our strength into a mighty fist with which to stroke, not parry; with which to attack, not defend. We need aggressive action.

We need a pro-gun law . . . now, as never before!

We need a pro-gun law on the national level—because only with a law at the national level can we eliminate the bewildering maze of contradictory state and local statutes that reduce the Constitutional right of gun ownership to the whim of a police officer or political appointee.

We need a pro-gun law that will make it difficult for the criminal (but not difficult for the law-abiding citizen) to possess firearms, and that will inflict severe additional punishments for the use of a gun in any crime.

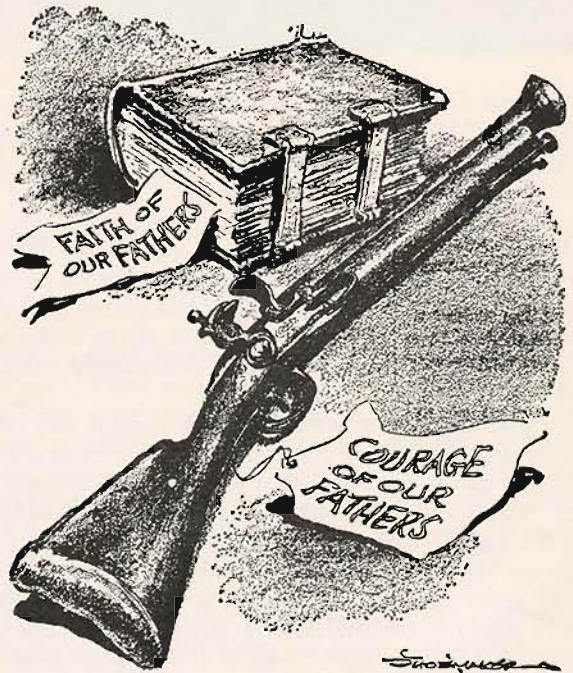
But—the law should unequivocally affirm that the right to own guns shall not be denied or infringed to any law-abiding citizen, that it is a right inherent in citizenship, subject to forfeiture only by the criminal or anti-social acts of the individual himself.

The law must be predicated on the legal concept that a man is innocent until proved guilty, not on the concept seized upon by autocrats and dictators that a man is guilty until he proves his innocence. A man should not have to prove his right to own arms; he should have that right until it is proved that he is undeserving of it. He should have that right, not at the whim of a police officer, not as a favor from a politician, but as a *right*, inalienable unless forfeited by his own action.

We need a uniform, affirmative, national gun law if only because such a law would force anti-gun interests to attack us at one point, on ground of our choosing—instead of at many points chosen by them to suit their strength and our obvious weaknesses.

Our worst weakness in the past has been our lack of unanimity of purpose. Shotgun people (users and makers alike) have maintained remarkable indifference to laws attacking handguns, or rifles. Hunters have been little disturbed by laws preventing the installation of target ranges in urban areas. Target shooters have been unconcerned, even approving, of laws and publicity condemning the newer sport of fast draw. Shooters in one area have fought

WE NEED THEM BOTH



—Courtesy "Chicago's American"

bitterly against anti-gun action in that area—and failed to help carry their victory into other areas. We are strong—but not so strong that we can afford to be divided. Each of us needs the other. The ballot of the newest member of a fast draw club is exactly equal to the ballot of the national skeet champion, or the national trap champion, or the national rifle champion, or the world's greatest hunter, or the top pistol shooter.

We need each other—and we need aggressive, affirmative action to replace the desperation of self-defense.

How should such a law be framed? What should it say? What should it attempt to do?

These are not easy questions to answer. Perfect answers will not be arrived at over night, or in a month, perhaps not in a year. But we can at least suggest some methods, and some desirable objectives.

The law should be drawn from the experience and wisdom of the leaders of the firearms industry, the shooting organizations, the enlightened leaders of law enforcement—and the thinking shooters of America.

A PRO- GUN LAW- NOW!

The law should either repeal and replace the National Firearms Act, or should so completely amend it as to change its tone and intent into an affirmation and guarantee of the Second Amendment instead of the backhanded apology for and restriction of that Amendment, which in effect it now is.

The law should guarantee the right, present and future, of citizens of the United States to buy, own, transport, sell, trade, and shoot firearms within minimum regulations consistent with the public safety. It should define "consistent with the public safety," and should stipulate that its own minimum regulations are maximum regulations, not subject to other interpretation—that is, that the regulations may be made less restrictive by any state, but not more restrictive except by amendment at the national level.

The law should not require the citizen to own guns or to develop skill with them, but should encourage him to do so because an armed and arms-trained citizenry is and should be an essential part of the national defense against the usurption of power by enemies without or within—that an armed and arms-trained citizenry is essential to our ability to create, and create quickly, the massive civilian armies which are our traditional means of defense—and as such, an economically sound alternative to the expensive necessity of the maintenance of a huge standing army.

In recognition of the above national advantages, the law should stipulate the allocation of federal funds (in sums many times greater than those now available) to the Director of Civilian Marksmanship for the development of shooting facilities (ranges) and the promotion of a national marksmanship program on a scale commensurate with the national need, not as a pittance subject to what happens to be left in the national petty cash box! At the discretion of the national agency, such a program or programs could be aided and directed by accredited non-profit civilian shooting organizations, with the cooperation of the Armed forces, in much the same manner now in effect, but on a considerably larger scale, including programs for all arms and all interested shooters.

The law should recognize, and state, that it is a well-proved fact that laws prohibiting or restricting the possession of firearms by law-abiding citizens are useless in the

prevention of crime, that they do not prevent possession and use of guns by criminals, that they merely lessen the citizen's power to protect himself against the criminal.

Yet the law should have teeth. It should provide strong, even harsh penalties for the use of a gun (or weapon as defined within the law?) in any crime (or in specifically defined crimes?). It has been suggested that the use of a gun in a crime should automatically make it a federal crime, to be handled by federal law enforcement agencies and federal courts. This, in the feeling of some, would be a deterring factor "because the criminal fears federal law more than state or local law." It has also been suggested that the use of a gun in a crime should automatically double the penalty attached to that particular crime, and should cancel the convicted person's eligibility for parole or reduction of sentence.

It seems apparent that both the guarantees and the penalties should be from the national level, if only for uniformity. Judge Bartlett Rummel pointed out long ago ("A Court Case of Consequence," *The American Rifleman*, August, 1960) that there is no uniformity on either score today. He points to a United States Supreme Court decision that the Second Amendment is a limitation upon the powers of the Congress and the national government only, and not upon that of the states. According to the court the right of the people to keep and bear arms is not a right guaranteed by the Constitution . . . (and that) the meaning of the second amendment is that the right shall not be infringed by Congress.

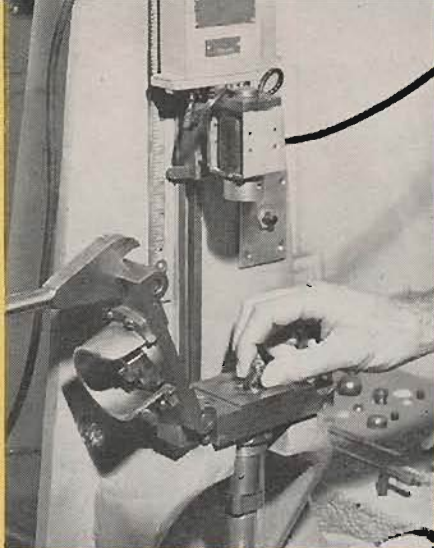
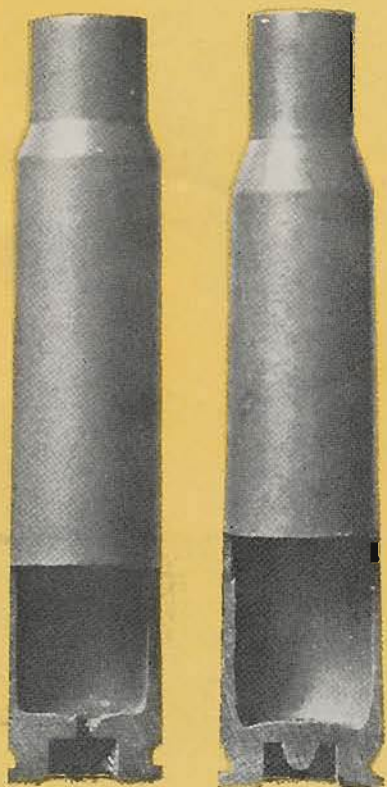
"The states (Judge Rummel continues) are restricted in their regulation of arms only by the provisions of their own constitutions . . . (and) 14 states have no constitutional provision protecting the right to bear arms."

This decision is, in the opinion of most arms-minded people, a shocking perversion of both the spirit and the letter of the nation's basic legal document. The lack of guarantees of the right of private gun ownership in the constitutions of many states speaks louder than any words for the necessity of a strong affirmation of those rights from the national level. And that affirmation should somehow be made to cancel out and reverse that decision and any similar decision by any court whatever that so grossly misinterprets the plain intention of the Bill of Rights.

By the same interpretation, only the federal Congress is prevented from infringing or revoking *any* of the rights guaranteed under the Constitution! A state, or a county, or a municipality, could arbitrarily revoke, for instance, the right of free speech or any other right, to suit any local whim or fancy! How fantastic can we get?

What a national pro-gun law should say about carrying weapons for personal defense (carrying openly, or carrying concealed) is a point on which even the most ardent advocates of a pro-gun law arrive at strongly contradictory opinions. One says, "The gun is his; he has a right to carry it as he sees fit until or unless he forfeits that right by abuse of it." Another says flatly, "No! The wild and woolly days when men may have needed to carry guns because law was non-existent—are gone. The right to have a gun in the home for defense, or to have a gun in your car for defense, is one thing; but let's not make ourselves look like a bunch of TV Wild Bill Hickoks or Matt Dilons!"

Still a third says, "Let's not ask for more than we can reasonably hope to get. The idea of 'every man a walking arsenal, would turn many against (Continued on page 60)



The Tinius-Olson drop tester, in use at Cascade Cartridge Company, shown (left) with the cartridge holder in the open position. At right, the ball of known weight is ready to be released and dropped onto the firing pin.

PRIMERS: Little Package -Big Punch

By GEORGE E. FAIRCHILD

MODERN DAY Boxer primers are an ingenious product of chemical and engineering skill we take for granted. Not many reloaders or shooters realize these miniature "bombs" are a precise assembly of considerable complexity and fabulous efficiency. The component parts workmanship is of the order of tolerance found in fine cameras, watches, and similarly assembled items. How amazing then that they cost the reloaders and shooters less than one cent.

The primer cup is formed from a brass strip, meticulously dimensioned and controlled metallurgically. The cup is formed by a punch press, its thickness precisely controlled or the cup will be too high or too low. It must be of the proper hardness or the result will be a too hard, insensitive primer or a primer that is too soft and subject to puncture by the firing pin.

CCI primer mixtures contain five or more chemicals in laboratory controlled proportions. Lead styphnate, a violent explosive, is the initiator. Tetracene may be used as a sensitizer. Fuels can be powdered aluminum, boron, zirconium, or other materials. Various nitrates are oxidizers (*Continued on page 62*)



An open shutter photograph of the primer flash of a CCI Magnum #450 small rifle size primer.



Flash of a CCI Magnum #250 primer shows the hot incendiary particles penetrating to ignite the entire powder charge.

Elk Herd Control in Custer State Park



Guide-driver Lee Ingalls enticed a bull elk to come out of timber with call. Bob Scott, with rifle ready, approaches his 6 pointer.

IS CONTROLLED HUNTING THE ANSWER TO THE SURPLUS GAME PROBLEM IN STATE AND FEDERAL PARKS?

By BERT POPOWSKI

AFTER A TWO YEAR recess from all hunting, outside of game sanctuaries and, specifically, surplus herd reduction by butchering within Custer State Park, South Dakota reinstated elk hunting during the 1962 season. But this hunt was unusual in several ways, and might well point the way to sensible reduction of surplus game species in many sanctuary areas where they are increasing faster than natural or introduced habitat can be provided to support them.

Had some similar plan been introduced 20, or even 10 years ago, the American public wouldn't have been treated to the debacle which accompanied the butchering of Yellowstone Park elk during the winter of 1961-62, when 5,000 of this grand game species was assassinated by Park butchers. The pace of this slaughter was reduced somewhat during



Guide Lee Ingalls glasses a stand of Ponderosa pines, in an attempt to locate legal elk for his two hunters.



There's lots of help around when loading a bull onto the Jeep wagon for the ride to the lockers.

the following winter but the two-year kill still represented a tremendous removal of natural wildlife species from sporting hunting.

Actually, there's little to choose between the records of South Dakota's Custer State Park and Yellowstone National Park except in the magnitude of their respective elk kills during the past decade. During the ten years preceding 1963, both Parks were doing a certain amount of butchering of elk and selling the meat for cash, or donating it to outlets which could do them no political harm. Let's look at the unusual aspects of the 1962 South Dakota hunt.

First, this hunt was confined to Custer State Park, an area that had always been held inviolate as a game sanctuary. That is putting it quite crudely for, though sporting hunting was *verboten*, elk had been shot by Park officials and the meat sold for profit for many preceding years.

Second, although the original Park Board and, later, the Game Commission, had the authority to open the Park to sporting hunting ever since 1927, such hunting had always been previously denied the general public. The powers-that-be had always insisted that the income derived from the sale of butchered elk meat was essential to the continued operation of Custer State Park.

Third, only 60 elk were to be taken during the hunt, and in the interests of maintaining the Park's reproductive capacity, only antlered bull elk were legal game. Further, since the State holds its limited licenses for residents only, on all species of game in short supply, this hunt was strictly for South Dakota residents.

Fourth, the 60 licensees were selected by a lottery drawing, precluding later charges that any had been issued to pre-selected VIPs. That was a precaution based on previous performances, when notables had been allowed to help in herd reduction for the sake of the resultant publicity.

Fifth, the 60 duly licensed hunters were split into three groups of 20 each—based on each licensee's personal preference as to the first, second or third hunting period. Each group was entitled to hunt for just five consecutive days; another wise precaution, intended to stifle any charges that some South Dakota big-wig might be given extra time to fill his elk tag.

Sixth, the 20 licensees who hunted during any one five-day period were split into four teams of five hunters and furnished an experienced guide to direct their operations. This was only one of several rigid controls intended to insure against hunters getting lost, doing any wild shooting at game—elk or otherwise, or running into trouble in promptly and properly field-dressing their game.

Seventh, any bagged game was immediately field-dressed, loaded aboard the four-wheel-drive vehicles or their trailers, hauled to the Park's locker plant, hosed free of blood, then hung in a large cooling room. It is doubtful if, in the history of big-game hunting, so many kills received such prompt meat-saving attention.

Eighth, the guides kept in radio-telephone contact with each other so that, in case of any emergency, they could call on each other for help.

Ninth, the hunters were carefully briefed and rigidly supervised so they would spend their shots on bulls separated from mixed-sex herds, preventing non-legal animals from being accidentally hit. The (Continued on page 45)

A graphic lesson in how not to haul home an elk if you want edible meat. Game should be skinned and quartered.



BUSTING the wild THUMB-BUSTER!



Revamped Ruger Single Six with the rifle bead front sight, new, lower rear sight, and Bisley style grips.

By WALTER RODGERS

FOR GETTING MEAT AND KNOCKING OVER VARMINTS, THE .22 SIX GUN WILL DO VERY NICELY

LOOKING BACK on my years, the trail of guns that I have left behind meanders a powerful lot. The guns that I've worn out, and those that I've turned out to pasture, would make quite a collection today. But, remember this; my gun battery never exceeded one rifle and one belt gun at any one time.

In the past, my gunning jobs have varied—changes in environment calling for different types of gun work—and many times I had to make-do with a smoke-pole that wasn't designed for the job I had to do. In those days, I would have been downright amazed to see a man with more than one gun; his one gun was sufficient for any occasion. Then, even more than today, the main subject of controversy was: Which is the best all around gun? Rangers, hunters, and trappers sat up late around many a campfire arguing this one, but never reaching a conclusion.

Strangely enough, ballistics seldom entered into the argument. If someone had asked me about the velocity and trajectory of any particular load I was using, I would have figured that he was speaking some foreign lingo. My gun hand was already slowing up with age before I heard about those things, and I finally figured out what happened the day I got caught in a Texas blizzard and had to depend on my S&W .44 single action for meat.

My hands were cold, so I wrapped them around the handle of that long barrel belcher, and levelled it on the head of a mule-eared jack rabbit at approximately fifty yards. To my surprise, my jack loped off unscathed. Another jack, sitting in direct line beyond him some fifty yards farther out, collapsed when that pumpkin-ball bullet slapped him across the top of his head. That high looping

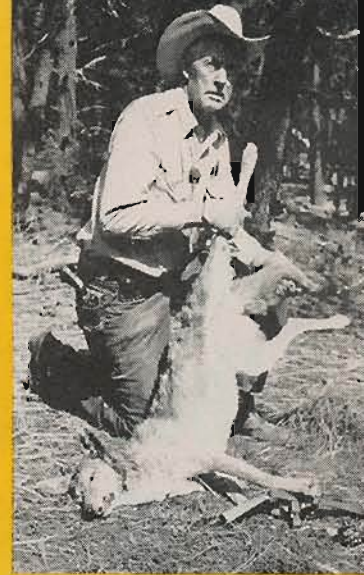
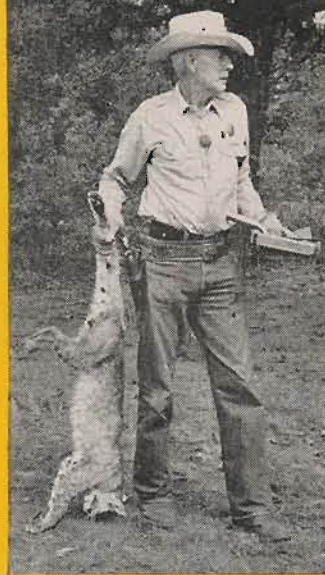
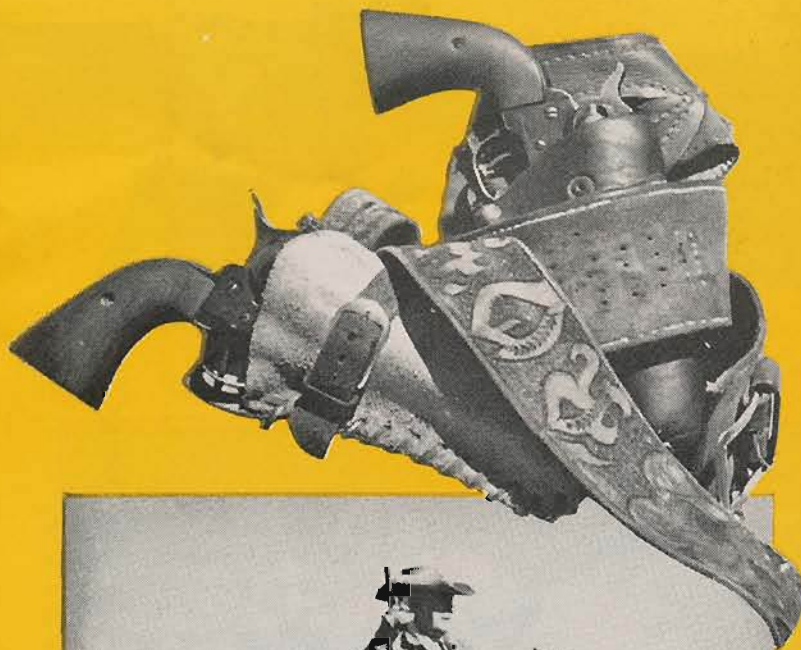
slug must have passed at least a foot above my line of sight, where the jack I aimed at constituted a mid-range target. I thought I was shootin' high, and wondered how it happened, while I gnawed the tough meat off the bones of a rabbit I hadn't even shot at.

Later experiences taught me that no pistol length barrel can replace a rifle. However, there are some jobs that must be done with a belt gun, if they're done at all. Being in predatory animal control work, most of my work today comes under this classification, and I have a shooting chore almost every day.

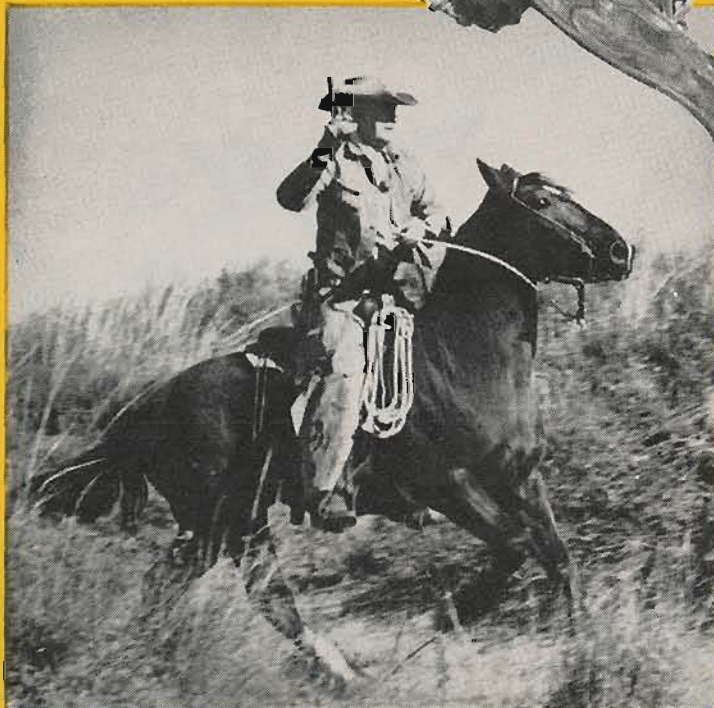
With the exception of a now-and-then shot at a running coyote at varied distances, the bulk of my shooting needs are dispensed with easily, and inexpensively, with the lowly .22 rim fire. The variety of guns, both rifles and pistols, handling this popular load is as wide as the plains of the great southwest. There are some factors that must be considered in selecting the smoke-pole that will be your constant companion: right make, shape, model, and size. I want to commend Colonel Charles Askins for his hearty recommendation of the .22 caliber pistol, in his article "Three Gun Battery" (GUNS, Oct. 1962). Whether a man is equipped with a whole battery of guns, or just making out with one gun, the 22 RF is indispensable.

While the autoloader, in many models and makes, is the easiest belt gun for the beginner to master, I must go back to consideration of those factors governing my own peculiar needs. Mine *must* be a thumb-buster—a single action. Me and the Colt's Single Action Army six-shooter practically "grewed up" together.

When a man's hand has been (*Continued on page 65*)



Loaded with bobcat and trap kit, author's hands are full, even without rifle, and he depends on his belt gun. Deer-slaying coyote, running with the trap was stopped with one .22 hollow point.

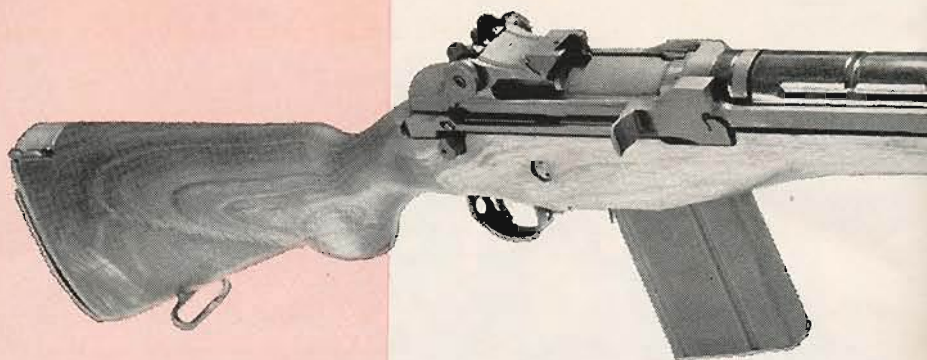


Spending most of his time in the saddle, the author wears his Single Six constantly, and in his job as a predatory animal controller, he gets many opportunities to use it.

Author's son, Joe Rodgers, trapped this outlaw bruin, and dispatched it with one .22 LR hollow point bullet from his ever-present Single Six.



The Truth About the M 14!

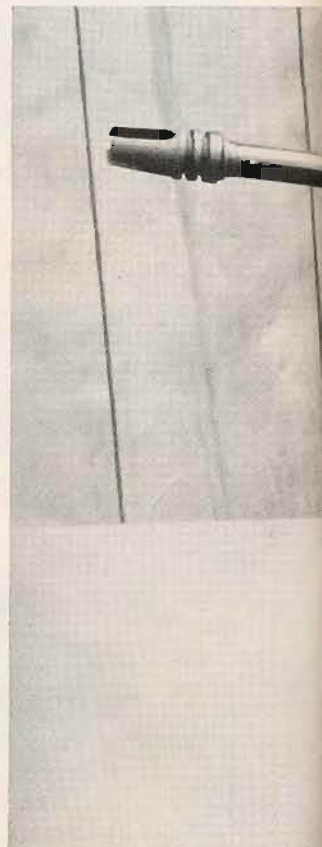


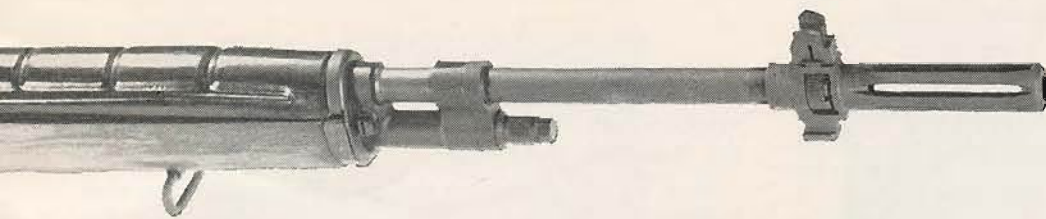
After extensive tests, M 14 was heralded as "best available."

By R. A. STEINDLER



Handling of the M 14 and M 1 is demonstrated in picture above. The box magazine, primary target of its critics, gives M 14 poor balance.





THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL GUN EVER ADOPTED BY THE U.S., THE M 14 IS THE WHIPPING BOY OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC

IS THE MUCH-TOUTED M 14, the Army's latest infantry rifle, the miserable piece it is claimed to be by men who have used it? Is it true that Pentagon brass is beginning to dislike their own brainchild? The M 14, the ungainly looking cousin of the M 1 rifle of yesteryear, has made for as much controversy as the atomic bomb did in the 40's. What then, is the truth about the M 14 and the newly adopted M-16, better known as Colt's AR-15?

The M 14 was born out of necessity. The old M1 with its limited eight rounds firepower, its weight of 9½ pounds, and the fact that it fires only semi-automatically, made a change necessary. It should be remembered that the M1 and the M 14 are infantry arms, that the concept of the infantry soldier's use in combat is that of a rifleman who handles his arm so that he can achieve maximum effectiveness at a maximum range. This harks back to the 1,000 yard combat ideas of the early 1900's.

The second world war and the Korean conflict clearly showed that this concept, though essentially still valid, had

to be re-examined and re-evaluated. The 1,000 yard rifle was simply not suitable for the brush fighting that was rapidly becoming a part of modern warfare. Aside from the rifle problem, another logistic problem became noticeable. With the increased use of special forces, guerillas, paratroopers, and various sorts of commandos, equipment had to be reduced in weight, had to be increased in mobility, and firing power had to be stepped up. Neither the M 1 nor the M 14 could easily be adapted for this type of close-in fighting.

The development of the M 14 as the standard Army rifle was done at the taxpayers expense. Cost of research and development for the M 14 is variously guesstimated from \$65,000,000 to \$130,000,000, with some "educated guesses" setting the price tag at more than twice the latter figure. The fact remains, that the Army has bought between 1.25 and 1.4 million M 14's, and that no new contracts for the rifle are now being let to any of the companies which made the M 14, Winchester-Western, Harrington & Richard-



Lightweight AR-15 is being delivered to Army with grenade launcher, clamp-on bipod, and a web sling.

M-14



The 5.56 mm bullet of the AR-15 goes clear through the car bumper and it does not upset on contact.



Lightweight Colt rifle can be fired semi-auto and full auto. Training of rifleman takes little time.

son, and Thompson Ramo Wooldridge were the prime suppliers, with a limited number of M 14's being built at the Springfield Arsenal.

Why did the army stop ordering M 14's? As one high ranking Pentagon officer told me: "There are just that many guns we can use, and there is no use in stockpiling several more million rifles at the present. The plants that built the piece are not being torn down, and if need be, they can be put back into operation quickly and efficiently."

What are the facts behind the AR-15 and its acceptance by the Air Force and the Army? In the middle of the 1930's, several European nations began looking at their 6.5 mm rifles and some of them began work toward a bigger caliber service cartridge and a rifle that would handle the cartridge. The U.S. had stuck to the .30 caliber cartridge, but after WWII, some gun designers, backed by high military brass, began a serious study of smaller cartridges. In the search for a light-weight, small caliber, semi-automatic arm, the search narrowed down to a .22 caliber bullet. The late Richard Boutelle, then president of Armalite, was persuaded to look into small caliber guns. Boutelle, an enthusiastic gunner and ballistics buff, put Eugene M. Stoner to work on a survival arm. The upshot of this was the AR-10, the twin sister of the current AR-15, but chambered for the 7.62 mm NATO cartridge. One of the proponents of the small caliber, semi-automatic rifle was Air Force General Curtis E. LeMay, a crack shot and hunter, who, unlikely as it seems, is also a small arms expert. The first batch of AR-10's was made in Holland, and the AR-15 with its sub-caliber cartridge was a natural development.

For years the Army, several arms companies, private individuals, and Ordnance research had been working with various make-shift small arms that would fire a small caliber cartridge and would do so under the gruelling conditions a military arm must be exposed to. A number of designs were tried, but all of them failed, either in function tests or in bullet performance. Stoner, instead of starting with the weapon and then fitting a cartridge to it, began with the cartridge.

The .222 Remington had been an instant success with hunters, and the cartridge, handled by a competent rifleman in a good rifle, had taken bigger game successfully. The 55 gr. Sierra boattail bullet in the .222 Remington case was named the .222 Special, and later was dubbed the .223 Remington. Though not interchangeable, the .223 Remington case is almost identical to the .222 Remington Magnum, and it is the cartridge that is now being used in the AR-15. By the way, the (Continued on page 48)

BALLISTICS OF THE 5.56 CARTRIDGE

	Velocity	Energy	Drop	Mid Range Traj.
Muzzle	3250	1300	—	—
100 yds	2905	1035	1.75	0.5
200	2550	795	7.65	2.1
300	2210	595	18.98	5.4
400	1885	430	37.56	11.1
500	1590	310	66.30	20.6



Jim Clark, driving a Lotus Climax, won the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.



A firm believer in preventive maintenance, in guns as well as racing cars, Clark uses a cleaning rod often.

Jim Clark-

RACER AND GUNNER

GRAND PRIX WINNER LIKES

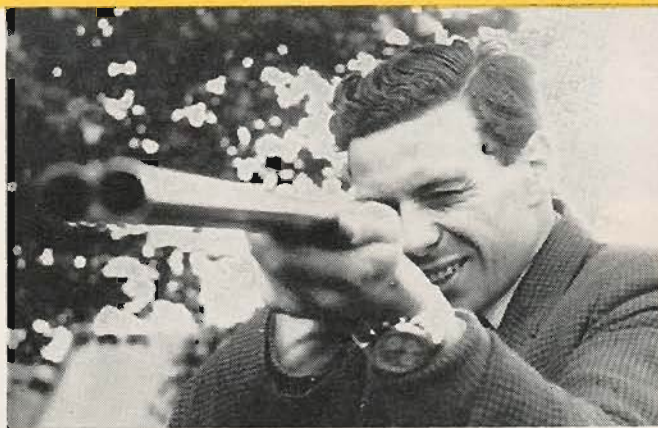
FAST CARS AND HUNTING FAST GAME

By ALAN T. BAND

TO JIM CLARK, Grand Prix racing champion, there are two kinds of projectiles. One is the small but powerful Lotus racing car that is triggered by his foot on the gas pedal, the other is the load of shot from his favorite double shotgun, released by his trigger finger.

Jim Clark's story reads like a modern day testament. When he reached the age of 15, Jim left school and went to work on his father's farm as shepherd tending the flock. But, unlike his biblical counterparts, he was not trained in the use of the sling. Instead he spent a good part of his time developing his skill with an Evans & Purdey 12 gauge double shotgun which belonged to his father. Before too long, Jim was competent enough to take his limit of grouse, pheasants, rabbits, and hares on the 1200 acres of shooting rights owned by the Clark family.

As he grew older, Jim took over the management of the farm which he runs today—when he's not driving in one of the many world-wide Grand Prix races. Since he has turned professional, his racing activities are no longer the hobby that supplies needed relaxation and stimulation, and for this he now turns to shooting.



In his isolated, country farmhouse, located not far from Edinburgh, Jim leads a quiet life with only his elderly housekeeper to cater to his needs. Some refer to him as an introvert, but the fact is that Jim prefers the quiet life of his farm to ease the tensions that are part of the rat race of a speed champion.

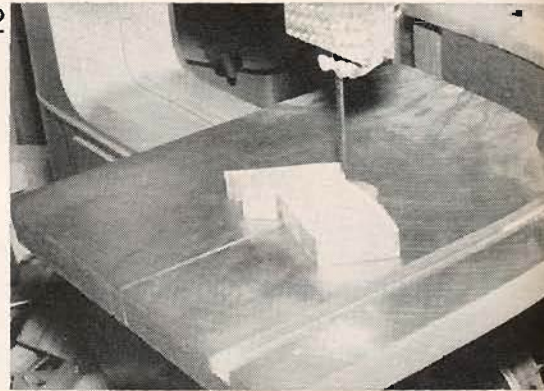
When at home, like most farmers, Clark rises early. If he thinks there's a fox in the vicinity, he'll grab a handful of shells (usually whatever the local gunsmith had in stock) and his faithful 12 gauge double. Then he'll take to the fields to stalk his prey.

The Evans and Purdy Jim now owns is a very treasured acquisition since, at one time, it belonged to the Lord Forteviot of Perthshire, Scotland. (Continued on page 52)

**TARGET STOCKS FOR YOUR HANDGUNS
IMPROVE THEIR APPEARANCE AND HELP YOUR SCORES**



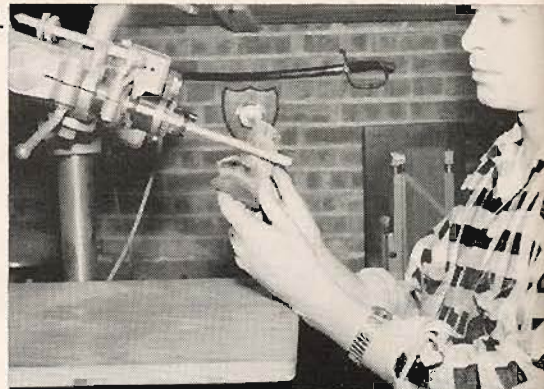
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3



4



Made to fit your gun and your hand, these custom stocks may be the answer to your shooting problems, and add much to the looks of any handgun. The three steps: outline sawing (2); fitting (3); shaping (4), if done carefully, can provide you with a pair of custom grips you'll be proud to own and show.

MAKE YOUR OWN Target Grips

By RAY WILLAS

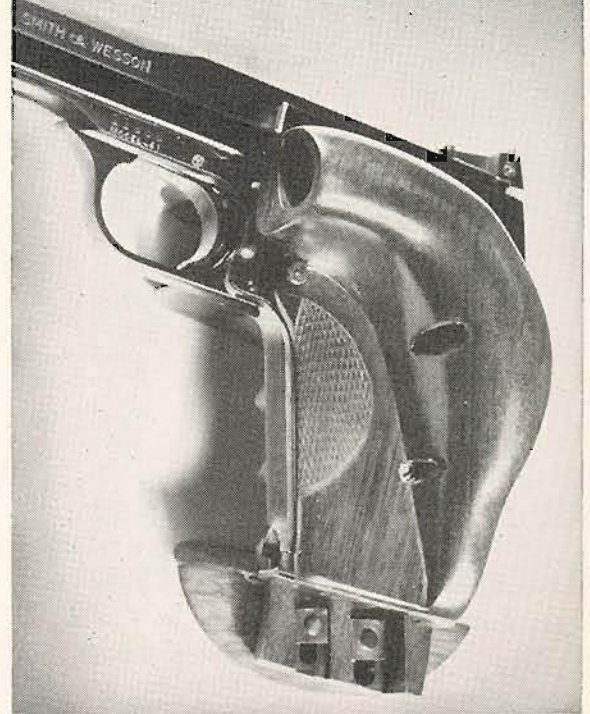


Photo above shows how palm rest is attached to right grip panel with two Allen head bolts and square nuts. Below are the three parts of the grips; finger grooves, checkering are optional.

EVERY SHOOTER has, at one time or another, fondled a custom-made gun, dreaming that some day he might own it or one like it. However, most of us are financially unable to make this dream come true.

In the case of handguns, custom grips can not only improve the looks, they should, if properly made, improve the performance of the shooter by improving his ability to shoot it more accurately. One of the basic principles of pistol marksmanship is this: The gun should be gripped exactly the same way each time we fire a shot. The surest way to achieve the same grip every time is with properly fitted stocks that conform to your hand in such a way that it is uncomfortable for you to hold the gun in any grip other than the correct one.

Properly fitted custom grips can be purchased from a number of prominent stockmakers—or you can make them yourself, and this is not as difficult as you think. I used a Smith & Wesson Model 41 for my project, but the steps outlined, with minor modifications, will apply to almost any automatic pistol or revolver.

First you select the type of wood you wish to use. I used amaranth (purple heart), mainly because I had a suitable piece at my disposal. There are many kinds of wood that can be used effectively, rosewood, maple, cocobolo, vermilion, and walnut to name a few. I recommend walnut, chiefly because of its availability in the size needed for this project. In any case, use only a hardwood.

Next remove the stocks that are presently on the gun. Examine the inletting very closely. This will give you an ideal pattern for the ones you are about to make.

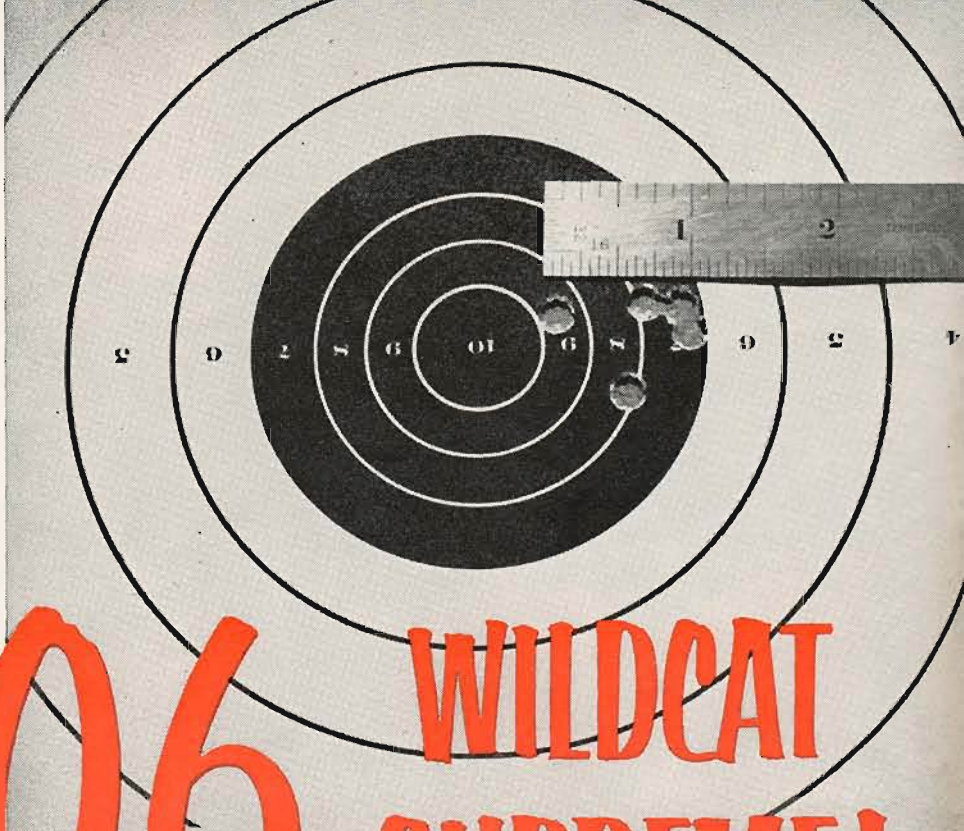
Using the old stocks as a pattern and enlarging these to incorporate a thumb rest and trigger finger support, you will know the approximate size of the piece of wood needed, about 14" long, 6" wide, and 2¼" thick. You should have



no difficulty purchasing this at a local hardwood lumberyard, especially in walnut. Be sure the grain runs the length of the wood, for superior strength.

With stocks removed, place the pistol on a stiff sheet of paper or cardboard, and trace an outline of the butt, leaving a margin of ⅛" below the slide for operating clearance. The outline of the left hand side should extend about ¾" beyond the back-strap, so that there is sufficient wood for a thumb support. If you intend to have an adjustable palm rest, allow an extra inch in length on the right blank to permit the attachment of the rest; more about this detail after we have covered the making of the grips.

After the grip patterns are (Continued on page 57)



THE

.25-06 WILDCAT SUPREME!

**IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR LONG RANGE ACCURACY AND VERSATILITY,
THIS WILDCAT MAY BE THE ANSWER TO BETTER HUNTING**



The .25-06, from a bench rest, shot the 100 yard group above. Load used: 100 gr. Hornady with 58 gr. of 4831.

By ROBERT J. KINDLEY

NOT MANY CARTRIDGES have survived as long and as well as the .25-06. In fact, the .25-06 is so accurate and shoots so flat, that I would list it as the top varmint cartridge—either commercial or wildcat—that is available today. I'll go even one step further, and say that it is the best long range cartridge, and when loaded with a slow burning powder for a flat trajectory, it is unbeatable.

The .25-06 has been around a long time. A. O. Neidner designed and developed it in the 1920's. Neidner, acclaimed as one of the top gunsmiths and "wildcatters," took a .30-06 case and necked it down to take a .25 caliber bullet. He made reamers for this cartridge, chambered a rifle for it, equipped himself with loading dies, and the .25-06 was born.

At that time serious varmint shooters were looking for a cartridge to drive a .25 caliber 100 grain slug at a higher velocity than that attainable with the .250-3000. The .25 Neidner was hailed as their answer. Results, however, were disappointing. Velocity with the 87 grain slug was in the neighborhood of 3100 fps, hardly more than the .250 Savage. Accuracy was very good, but excessive metal fouling was experienced and throat erosion occurred after several hundred rounds. Consequently, the .25-06 lost its popularity.

Neidner's basic cartridge design, an '06 case with the same 17½ degree shoulder, was sound. Experimenters just didn't have the right fodder to feed this new wildcat. Using the old #15½ and #17½ powders, the .25-06 was badly over-bore capacity. Both of these powders were the old tin-based types which accounted for the excessive metal fouling, and varminters set the .25-06 aside in favor of smaller capacity cases. One of these was the necked down 7 mm case which was eventually to become the excellent .257 Roberts.

Immediately after World War II, serious varmint shooters began to recognize the long range potential of a good, well-balanced 100 grain .25 caliber bullet. Looking for a maximum capacity case in which to load it, the old .25 Neidner was a natural. Results were amazing. Fed a husky charge of slow-burning powder like 4350 or surplus 4831, the .25-06 surprised a lot of long range varmint shooters.

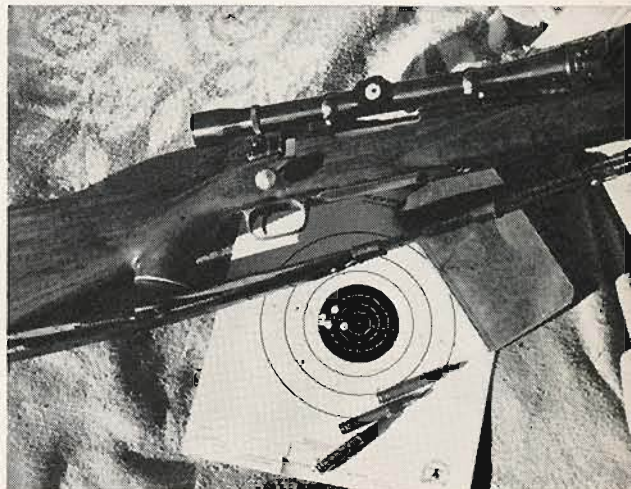
Experimenters immediately tried to "improve" it. Case bodies were straightened. Shoulder angles were varied. Some gunsmiths tried 30 and 40 degree shoulders. Others even "ventured" and rounded them. However, from a trajectory-accuracy-barrel life standpoint, none of these so-called "Improved .25-06's" would out-shoot the original Neidner design with the 17½ degree shoulder.

The majority of these "blown-out" cases were sadly over-bore capacity for a .25 caliber. Consequently, barrel life suffered drastically. I know of one .25 magnum that lasted just slightly over 400 rounds, then the barrel was shot out. On the other hand, my standard .25-06 has digested about 1500 rounds without any sign of throat erosion. It still groups any good 100 grain slug inside an inch at 100 yards.

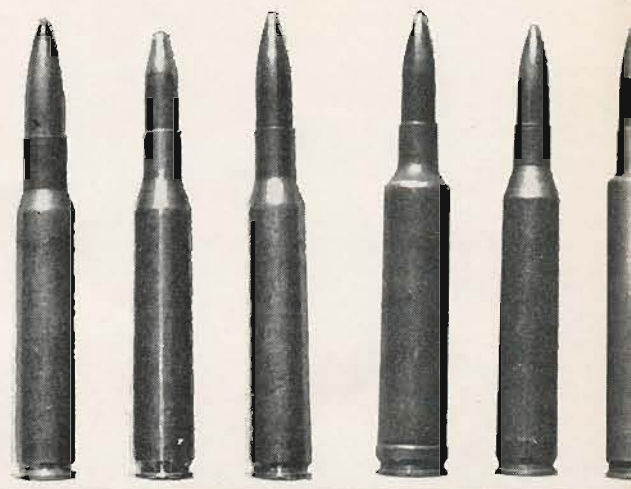
There is an optimum amount of powder you can burn efficiently in a given bore diameter. The extra 10 or 20 grains crammed into a "blown-out" or magnum case doesn't buy enough increase in velocity over the regular .25 Neidner to warrant its use—especially at the expense of barrel life. The .25-06 has just about the maximum case capacity with the slow burning powders for efficient use in a .25 caliber bore. With it you utilize the amount of powder fully to attain high velocity without excessive pressures or short barrel life. (Continued on page 54)



That the venerable .25-06 is deadly on big game in addition to varmints is shown here.

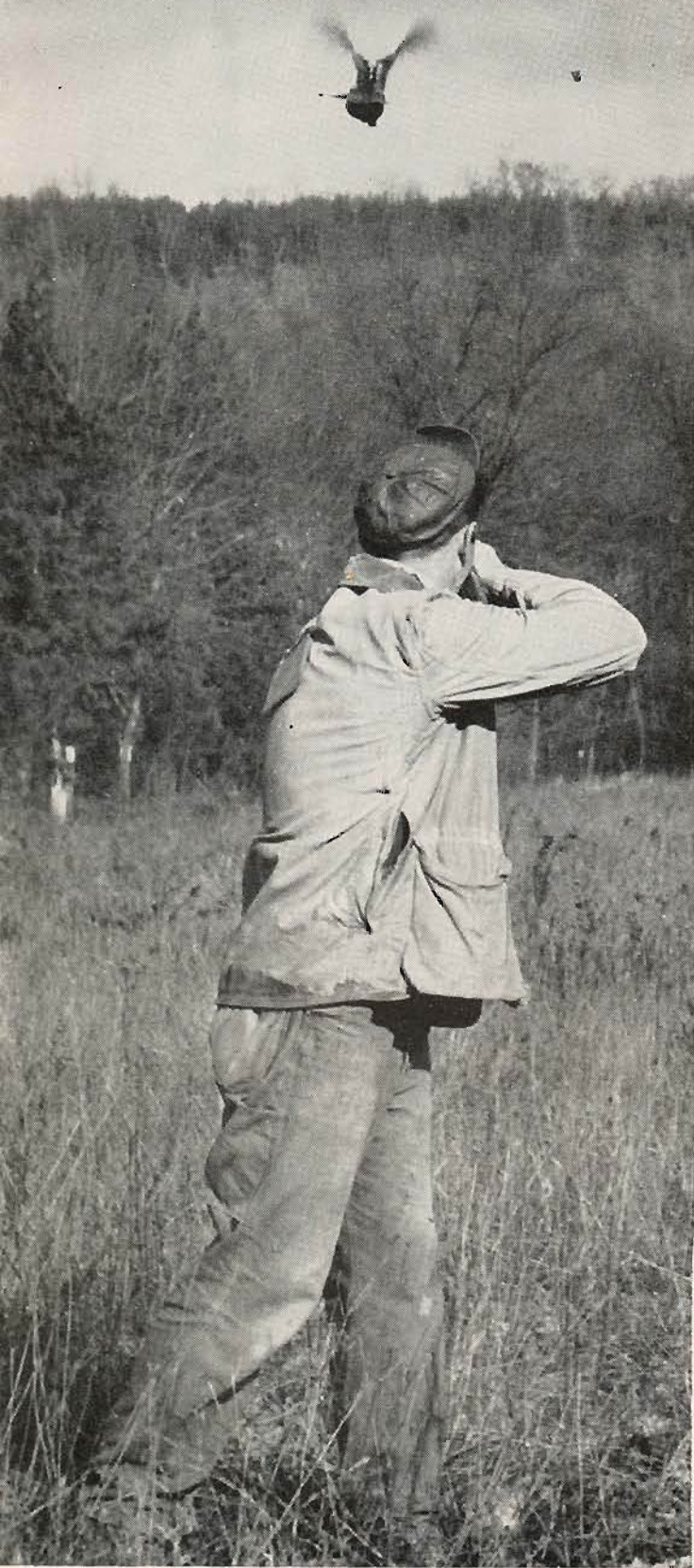


Author's minute-of-angle group shot with .25-06 custom Mauser rifle fitted with Weaver K-8 scope.



Cases are, left to right: .30-06, 180 gr. Sierra; .25-06 Neidner, 100 gr. Hornady; .270, 130 gr. Sierra; .257 Weatherby; another .25-06; a flat shouldered .25-06 with barrel life of 500 rounds.

SHOTGUN FACTS and



A full swing like this is only productive when the shotgun is light — and is properly fitted.

IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF WHAT GAUGE YOU USE, BUT CAN YOU HIT 'EM?

ONE OF MY most hilarious memories of shotgunning is that of a man with whom I used to hunt in Florida. He was neither better nor worse than average with a shotgun—on the first shot. But he had more enthusiasm for noise and gunsmoke than any man I ever knew. And, like the man who named “near beer,” he was a damned poor judge of distance!

This was before the day of the three-shot restriction on shotguns, and my friend carried a five-shot 12 gauge automatic. We shot together in the grey dawns and late evenings, over harvested but still food-worthy peanut fields, where whitewinged doves came in to feed. It is axiomatic that doves cost more shells per bird than almost any other bird hunted, but this lad's bill for shells must have been staggering: his system was to fire five shots every time he brought the gun to his shoulder, regardless of range, unless the bird came down sooner! He wasn't a hunter to pattern after, but he had fun; and I can still hear the fast, excited boom-boom-boom-boom-boom of that shotgun, and next an equally excited voice bellowing, “Git yander, you thus and such! Yippee-e-e! I never touched him!”

Every season, wherever game birds are hunted, there is a lot of that kind of shooting—not necessarily five fast shots at one fast-dwindling target, but shots equally wasted, at birds completely outside the effective range of gun and shooter. It has been my good fortune to shoot, now and again, with really top-flight shotgunners, men who really could stretch shotgun ranges; but I have never yet seen anything to disprove a statement made by one of those very gunners, that “For 99 men out of a hundred, shotgun range *ends* at 50 yards. Anything beyond that is a combination of luck and wishful thinking!”

We hear and read a great deal about magnum guns and magnum loads that will kill anything that flies out to 70 or 80 yards—and it is undeniably true that both guns and loads are being improved from year to year. But neither magnum bores nor magnum loads nor long barrels guarantee kills at extreme ranges, even ballistically; and ballistics are a minor part of the problem. The fact is that not one hunter in a thousand today ever gets enough shooting at live targets to become expert enough at range estimation, estimation of speed and angle of flight, or expert enough at gun pointing, to take advantage even of the ballistic potentials of his gun and load.

I know that there are guns which, in the hands of certain gunners, do make kills fairly consistently at ranges well beyond the limits I have mentioned. Some of those gun-and-gunner combinations are active today.

Fred Kimble, one of the greatest of the great old-time wild-fowlers, had a gun—a 6 gauge muzzleholder with a 36" barrel full choked by Kimble himself—with which, shooting 1½ ounces of No. 3 shot, he could and did consistently kill high, fast-flying ducks at ranges up to what he, and many witnesses,

FANCIES

By JAMES J. CULLAN

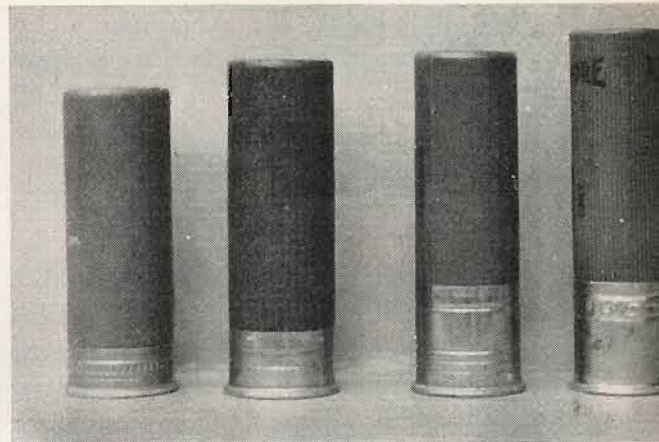
called "80 yards or more." But Kimble himself wrote in 1936, "There's no such thing as an 80 yard shotgun today," and added, in effect, "nor ever will be again, because they're not needed." He said that this was a good thing "because no man now can possibly get the amount of shooting experience necessary to use that kind of a gun."

Kimble himself was practically (if not actually) a professional; a man who shot, for high stakes, every day of every season (and they were long seasons in those days!) for many years in the midst of wildfowl populations the like of which we will never see again; a man who was acknowledged as the national, if not world, champion not only at wildfowling but at traps (then shot at live-bird targets); a man who knew long-range shooting with a shotgun as no man living today can possibly know it.

The modern shotgun is not made for 80 yard ranges. Major Gerald Burrard, acknowledged shotgun authority, in "The Modern Shotgun," his three-volume treatise, states: "At 50 yards, the pattern given by (most) shotguns is so open . . . that there are comparatively few pellets in the 30' patterning circle . . . and, at 60 yards, this difficulty is (Continued on page 61)



In hunting rabbits, the most popular shotgun target, swing is the prime factor, not range.



The British low base shell (at left) manages to kill a lot of birds. Next to this shell are American low base, high base, and magnum shells.



When field hunting for birds or rabbits, a gun that you're able to swing fast is more important than one with far ranging power.



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Cal. .30-06



The very latest model of the WORLD RENOWNED Springfields. For the first time, the improved 03A3 model in NRA VERY GOOD condition and only \$42.95. Some with milled trigger guards only \$3.00 more. The INCOMPARABLE Springfield—the magic name in rifles, in the universally favorite .30-06 caliber. ALL high numbers and ALL with the IMPROVED receiver type sight. Perhaps your last chance to own the ultimate in a truly fine military rifle—the perfect model for sporterizing. Join this up with our bargain NON-Corrosive .30-06 Ammunition at only \$6.00 per 100 and the NEW INTERARMCO-F.N. precision produced .30-06 Soft Point Ammo Only \$3.90 per box of 20 for the finest all around rifle-caliber ammunition combination EVER!

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\$42.95!



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WORLD RENOWNED U. S. SPRINGFIELDS!



IN STOCK! All in very good or better condition! The greatest of them all, the INCOMPARABLE Springfield at the lowest price ever — for high numbers. These are NOT the crude, makeshift assembled jobs advertised by others; these are NOT the leftovers rotting in steaming South American jungles, but original Springfields in the finest condition ever. HIGH NUMBERS only \$39.95. HIGH NUMBERS WITH TARGET TYPE C STOCK \$42.95! New web slings \$1.00. .30-06 ammo \$6.00 per 100!

High numbers
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Cal. .30-06

U. S. ARMY MODEL 1917!



All milled parts—fresh from government cases. All G., V.G. or better. A few Excellent only \$5.00 additional. Genuine new Webb Slings \$1.00—used .50. The world's strongest bolt action! Order yours today. If you prefer Remington or Winchester manufacture, a limited number \$3 more.

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Cal. .303

ROYAL ENFIELD No. 4 SERVICE RIFLE!



Superb Royal Enfield No. 4 Service Rifle—pride of the British Empire—used in front line service as late as Korea—many still in use. Strictly a NEW lot, all carefully inspected and cleaned prior to shipment—not the over-worn grease covered leftovers as available previously. All in good or better condition and a few VERY GOOD only \$3.00 more. Prong Bayonets only \$1.00 when ordered with rifle. The very finest.

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\$18.95!

Cal. 7.62 Russian



Still another Ye Old Hunter spectacular arms coup! Fine Tokarev semi-automatic rifles IN THE LATEST M40 MODEL, and at a price so LOW that even Nikita may order one! All good or much better (some very good select specimens only \$5.00 more) and complete with detachable magazine and two original take down tools. The lowest-priced high quality semi-auto ever! A prize Western purchase ready for your order.

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MODEL 98 "ARCTIC" MAUSERS!



BACK AGAIN! . . . The model that broke ALL sales records in 1960! SPECIAL M98K Mausers (World War II type) designed for "Arctic" use. Special oversized trigger-guard for "fumble proof" speed with (or without) your favorite mittens. Standard 8MM caliber, 24 inch barrel, modern turned down bolt handle—all for only \$26.95 in NRA GOOD condition. 8MM MC ammunition only \$4.00 per 100.

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NEW MAUSER
LEATHER
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Cal. 8MM

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Original bayonets
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The great M98/29 Brno Mauser Carbine! Every desirable Mauser feature wrapped up into one unit. Has the custom type turned-down bolt handle with the knurled underside—also the exotic saddle ring. All in good or better condition at only \$34.95. Bayonets with scabbards only \$1.95. Avoid bitter disappointment. Order yours now!

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NEW LEATHER
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Minimum order (except Soft Point) 100 rounds. All prices below (except Soft Point) per 100 rounds. Shipped RR. Express. Shipping Charges Collect.

FINE ISSUE PISTOL CARTRIDGES		SOFT POINT SPORTING CARTRIDGES	
7.62 Tokarev (Pistol) (M.C.)	\$5.00	6.5 Italian Soft Point (20 rds.)	\$3.50
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9MM Steyr Pistol (M.C.)	\$4.00	7.5 Swiss Soft Point (20 rds.)	\$5.00
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FINE ISSUE MILITARY RIFLE CARTRIDGES		7.65 Russian Soft Point (40 rds.)	\$3.50
6.5 Dutch (M.C.) (with one free clip)	\$6.00	.30-40 Krag soft point (20 rds.)	\$4.50
6.5 Mannlicher (M.C.)	\$6.00	.303 British Soft Point (30 rds.)	\$4.50
7MM Mauser (M.C.)	\$6.00	8MM Mauser Soft Point (40 rds.)	\$6.00
7.35 Italian In Clips (M.C.)	\$5.00	8x50R Mannlicher (20 rds.)	\$4.50
7.62 NATO (M.C.) (.308 Win.) Non-Cor.	\$12.00		
7.62x39 Russian Short (20 rds.)	\$ 4.95		
7.62MM Russian (M.C.)	\$ 6.00		
7.65MM (.30) Mauser (M.C.)	\$ 6.00		
.30-06 U.S. M2 Ball (Non-Cor)	\$ 6.00		
.30-06 Blanks	\$ 4.00		
.30-40 Krag (M.C.)	\$ 5.00		
.303 British Military (M.C.)	\$ 6.00		
.303 British Blanks	\$ 4.00		
8MM German Mauser Issue	\$ 4.00		
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New production KYNOCH 9 X 57 MAUSER Soft Point ammo (245 Gr.) ONLY \$3.50 per 20 Rds. (Almost half-price)

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Worth or Money Back" Guarantee when goods are returned prepaid within two days after receipt. Ye Old Hunter will not answer acrimonious letters. Send them elsewhere. Sales limited to continental United States! Special sale prices, above, are good for month of publication only!

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Cal.
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Without question the best revolver buy of the year. BRAND NEW (in original box) SMITH & WESSON (MODEL 10) .38 SPECIAL MILITARY AND POLICE Revolvers in the popular 6" barrel length. Beautiful SMITH & WESSON high gloss blue finish. Short action. Checkered walnut grips with silver monogram. Square butt. Fixed 1/10 inch serrated front sight with square notch rear. A tremendous saving for the finest. Included FREE with each revolver—a Merston detachable grip adapter. Order yours today while the supply lasts. Only the very best for less!

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Original Black LEATHER Deluxe Holsters w/extra Magazine Pocket \$4.95!

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Complete with NEW leather holster and NEW extra magazine and cleaning rod. One of the latest commercial STAR designs in the popular, readily available, 9MM Parabellum (Luger) caliber. Time-tested Browning design, easy operation, eight-shot magazine, commercial blue finish, single hammer, reliable checkered grips and individually packed.

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The very latest, improved genuine MAUSER .32 ACP Automatic. Manufactured as late as World War II by the great Mauser Works at Oberndorf. The most modern of the entire Mauser series with single and double action operation and ultra modern design. All guaranteed with Excellent barrels and fine rust proof finish. Perhaps your very last chance for the buy of your time. All pistols NRA GOOD or Better. .32 ACP ammo only \$4.00 per 100 rounds. Extra magazines only \$3.05 each!

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Cal. 9MM Parabellum



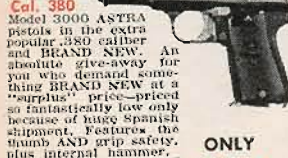
Original Model 40 LAHTI Pistols—designed by the famous Finnish weapon designer Arma Lahti and manufactured by the great Swedish Arms Factory, KUSQVARNA. Monogram of the beautiful Swedish emblem embedded in grip. ALL NRA VERY GOOD and ALL accessories listed below included FREE. Some NRA EXCELLENT only \$10.00 more. 9MM Parabellum ammo only \$4.00 per 100.

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Cal. 380



Model 3000 ASTRA pistols in the extra popular 380 caliber and BRAND NEW. An absolute give-away for you who demand something BRAND NEW at a "surplus" price—priced so ridiculously low only because of huge Spanish shipment. Features the thumb and grip safety, plus internal hammer.

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FREE! EXTRA MAGAZINE

BROWNING .32 AUTO!

Cal. 32 ACP



The superb, unequalled Browning .32 Automatic in the latest (M22) model—made by Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre, Liege, Belgium. In very good condition at only \$26.95. Some excellent \$3.60 additional. Extra capacity 9 round magazine. Extra magazines \$2.95, cleaning rods \$.50! Outstanding!

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RUBY .32 AUTO!

Cal. 32 ACP



This sturdy model Ruby has a lasting reputation as being one of the best automatic pistols ever produced on the Iberian peninsula. All have a positive thumb level safety and long grip which houses the extra large capacity nine shot magazine. Offered in NRA good condition at only \$17.95. Extra magazines only \$1.95. A bargain!

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UNIQUE .32 AUTO!

Cal. 32 ACP



Featuring a large pline shot magazine, this potent little pistol was made to exacting standards for use by the Germans and for commercial assumption. A lever type safety is placed convenient to the thumb. Complete with high impact plastic grips, this pistol is offered in NRA good or better condition for only \$19.95. Extra magazines only \$2.25. A special buy!

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\$19.95!

FRENCH M.A.B. MODEL D!

Cal. .32 ACP



Clean postwar lines with proven construction at a price unbelievably low. Only a minor \$22.95 and in NRA Very Good condition. Features both handy thumb safety and extra safe grip safety. Full nine round magazine capacity. A pistol you need not be ashamed of in ANY company—a perfect utility sidearm at a bargain price!

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\$22.95!

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Cal. .455



For the first time in five years—the sought after heavy duty Smith & Wesson Revolver in .455 caliber. Supports pre-war workmanship with commercial type finish and monogram grips with only \$29.95 in VERY GOOD condition. Some EXCELLENT only \$5.00 more. A few Triple Locks at only \$10.00 more.

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Back again at the lowest price ever! The pride of the Royal Mounted Police, yours at a token price, The Revolver that earned the North-West—the revolver that made the most desperate desperado cringe with fear. Imagine NRA Very good condition and only \$29.95. As usual the best for the least from Y. O. H.!

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The finest of the Enfield-Webley series. The first time available on the U.S. market. The model that superseded the Webley MK VI. Shoots the standard .38 S&W cartridge both single and double action. NRA GOOD condition and only \$16.95. Some NRA Very Good only \$3.00 more. A buy so outstanding that it does not have to be featured—those who know will spot this immediately. A unique find!

ONLY
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ENFIELD COMMANDO REVOLVERS!

Cal. .38 S&W

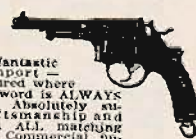


The handgun bargain of all time. Carried in World War II by the illustrious battle-worn Commandos. So dependable it fires double action only—chambered for the popular, standard .38 S&W cartridge.

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Cal. 7.5



Another fantastic Swiss import—manufactured where the watchwork is ALWAYS precision. Absolutely superb craftsmanship and ALL with ALL matching numbers. Commercial finish, "bead" type front sight. Imagine, NRA Very Good condition and only \$16.95. Some excellent only \$3.00 more. New 1940 production 7.5 Swiss Revolver ammunition only \$3.95 per full 40 rounds.

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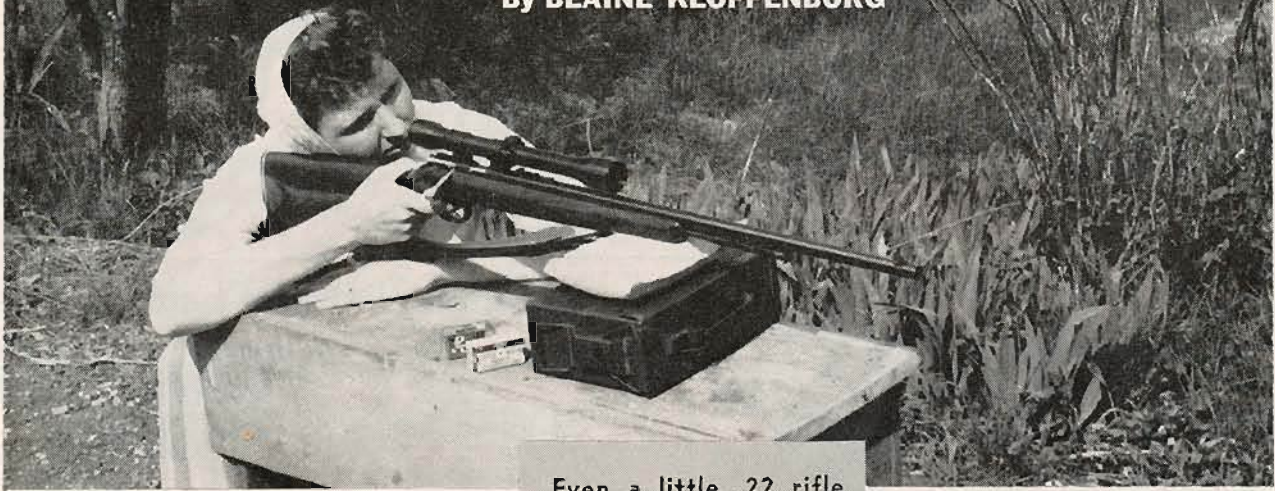
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By BLAINE KLOPPENBORG



Even a little .22 rifle takes getting used to. The beginner's sessions at the benchrest assure hunting success afield.



**YOUR WIFE CAN BE
YOUR FINEST HUNTING
COMPANION IF YOU
CARE TO TEACH HER**

FROM THE COLD PERCH on the rim of a rock outcropping, we had our eyes glued to the chuck activity below. My wife was forward, her cheek pressed to the stock of the .22, concentrating on the woodchuck sunning himself near his hole in the rock pile. Together, we doped out the situation. "I'd guess about 85 yards," she said. I double-checked our estimates against the rangefinder. "That's pretty close." A woodchuck at that range and partially screened is not an easy target for a .22 rim-fire. At last the chuck stood up, turning his head toward us. "Lay the crosshairs right on top of his head," I advised. The bullet hit solidly, and the chuck cartwheeled end-over-end down the rock

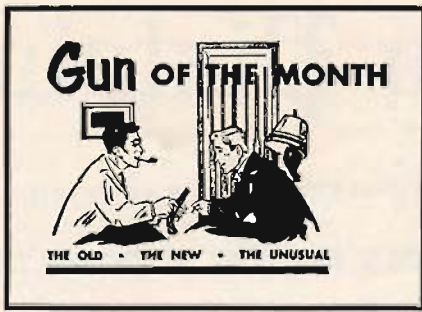


A woman, plus a bolt action .22 RF rifle equals a braggin' size chuck.

slide. "Good shot," I assured her, "you really nailed that one."

I have been a varmint hunter for many years. As such, I accept many of the haunting certainties and uncertainties of varmint hunting. What I hadn't counted on was my wife's sudden interest in shooting. It all started about five years ago. There's an old idiom that says "if you can't lick 'em, join 'em," and so she joined. Surprisingly enough, the husband and wife team makes a real good combo. Most husband and wife teams have a "working" agreement: The wife takes everything out to 100 yards, the husband takes everything beyond 100 yards. A better twosome you couldn't ask for. The past several years have seen a tremendous influx of women joining the varmint hunting crowd. They're getting on the band wagon and they are having a wonderful time!

Varmint shooting is primarily the art of long range, deliberate shooting—the stationary target either being killed with one well-aimed shot or making a fast, clean escape. And what about the lady varmint? She becomes a superb judge of range, learns to adapt herself to the best shooting position afforded by the terrain, she knows where to hold, and she learns trigger control. She almost never fails to shoot well, even though she may be greatly excited at the crucial moment. Long periods of training at distant marks cure her over-eagerness and buck fever. She learns the virtues of patience, to walk and to see. (Continued on page 53)



THAT MAGNUM GUNS ARE NOT NEW IS PROVED BY
THIS FRENCH FLINTLOCK PISTOL



A MINIATURE MAGNUM PISTOL

With barrel unscrewed, powder charge and ball are loaded in chamber. Note the poly-grooved rifling of 15/8" barrel.



By DANIEL K. STERN

HENRY DERINGER, who is generally credited with developing powerful pocket pistols, didn't have a thing on an unknown French gunsmith who, in the late eighteenth century, produced a powerful, rifled, .377 caliber pistol of his own—and a breechloader to boot.

This little pistol, a screw-barrel flintlock, drives an 85 grain lead ball with a load of 13.5 grains of FFFg black powder—a hefty charge for a gun that measures only 6 5/8 inches over-all and weighs only ten ounces!

In some respects this miniature magnum is a far more useful and effective self-defense arm than its more modern Deringer counterpart, because of several unusual features. It can be reloaded in the dark without a powder measure, rapidly and safely by feel alone, and it fired a forced ball,

that is, one unmarked by the rifling until "forced" into the grooves upon firing. This added initial resistance tends to develop greater velocity and striking power. These were undoubtedly features which endeared the little gun to its original owners. By contrast, try loading a Deringer in the dark without a measuring flask or without using a patched, sub-caliber ball—it ain't easy!

While it was a fad in the California of the 1850's to have your favorite gunsmith load your Deringers, it may have had more than fashion behind it. As already noted, unless the sub-caliber patched balls are used, it is really a job; the light rosewood rammers often supplied by Deringer were hardly adequate for the task.

The trick with the screw-barrel (*Continued on page 41*)

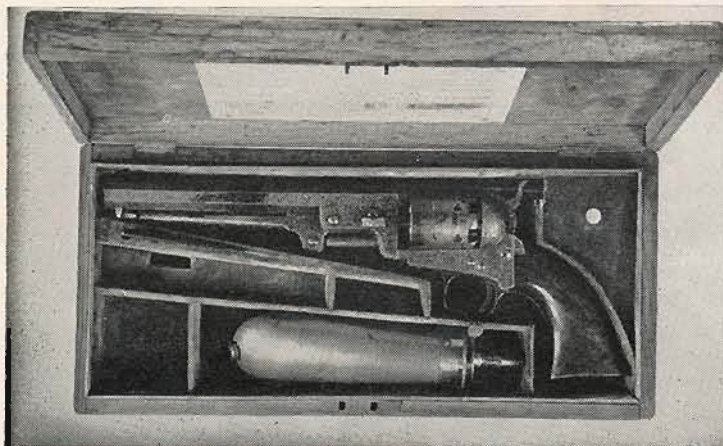
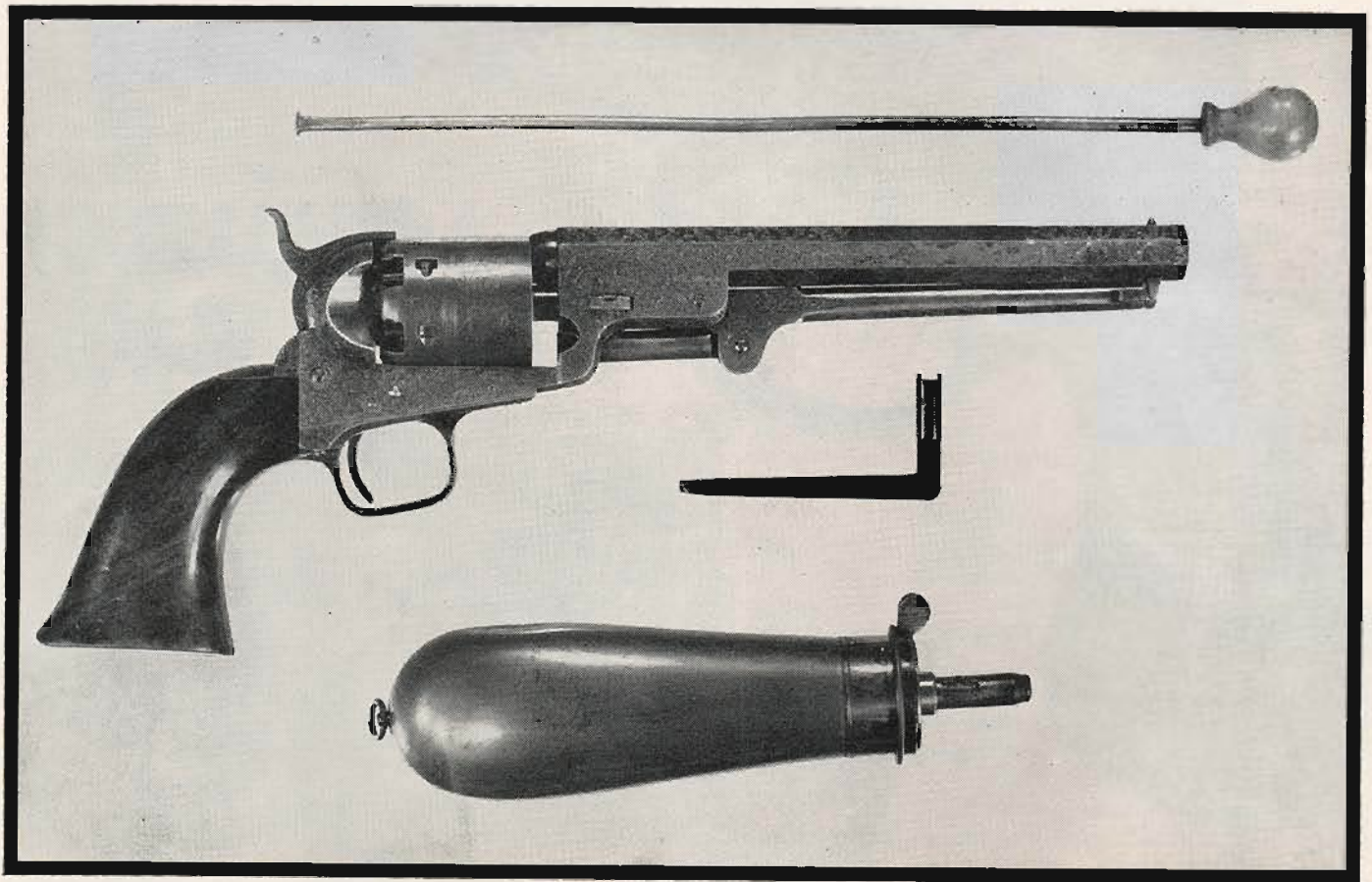
Colt's London Navy Pistols

MADE IN THE LONDON AND THE HARTFORD FACTORIES,

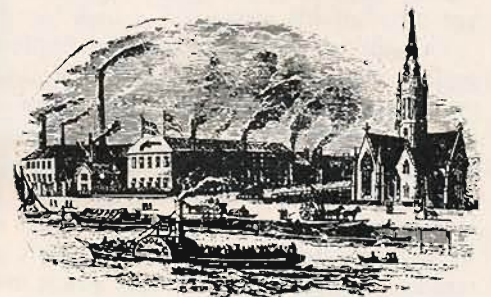
THE COLT NAVY PISTOLS PRESENT A COMPLEX
PROBLEM FOR TODAY'S GUN COLLECTOR



BY JOSEPH G. ROSA



The Tower of London, above, is the repository for many fine guns. Below, two views of a cased London Navy Colt, complete with nipple wrench, flask, and cleaning rod. Ship scene engraving is still in excellent condition, gun has serial number 69368. The flask is of the type usually supplied by James Dixon and Sons who had shop in Sheffield.



ON THE NORTH BANK of the Thames River, in the city of London, stands a historic building known as the Tower of London. Long a center of interest to historians, the Tower is also a mecca for gun collectors, housing among its vast collection of arms and armor some of the finest and rarest firearms in the world. In the collection are a number of Colt revolvers; some common, some rare, and one that has about it the air of mystery that permeates this old relic of a building—a fine cased and fully engraved London Navy, Model of 1851.

The mystery of this particular Colt revolver is that it appears to have been manufactured long after the production of the standard London Navy had ceased, to be replaced by the Hartford-made revolvers which were stamped "London" though made in the U.S. To tell the story of this "mystery" pistol properly, let us look at the history of the Navy revolver, one of the most famous members of Colt's family of percussion handguns.

Originally named "The New Ranger Size Pistol," in honor of the Texas Rangers, when it first went into production during the 1850's, the Navy was .36 caliber, and light in weight (nearly half that of the .44 Dragoon). A number of these revolvers were ordered by the U.S. Navy for tests, and proved so successful that they were adopted for service. It was then that the "Ranger" title was dropped, and the revolver became immortalized as "The Navy."

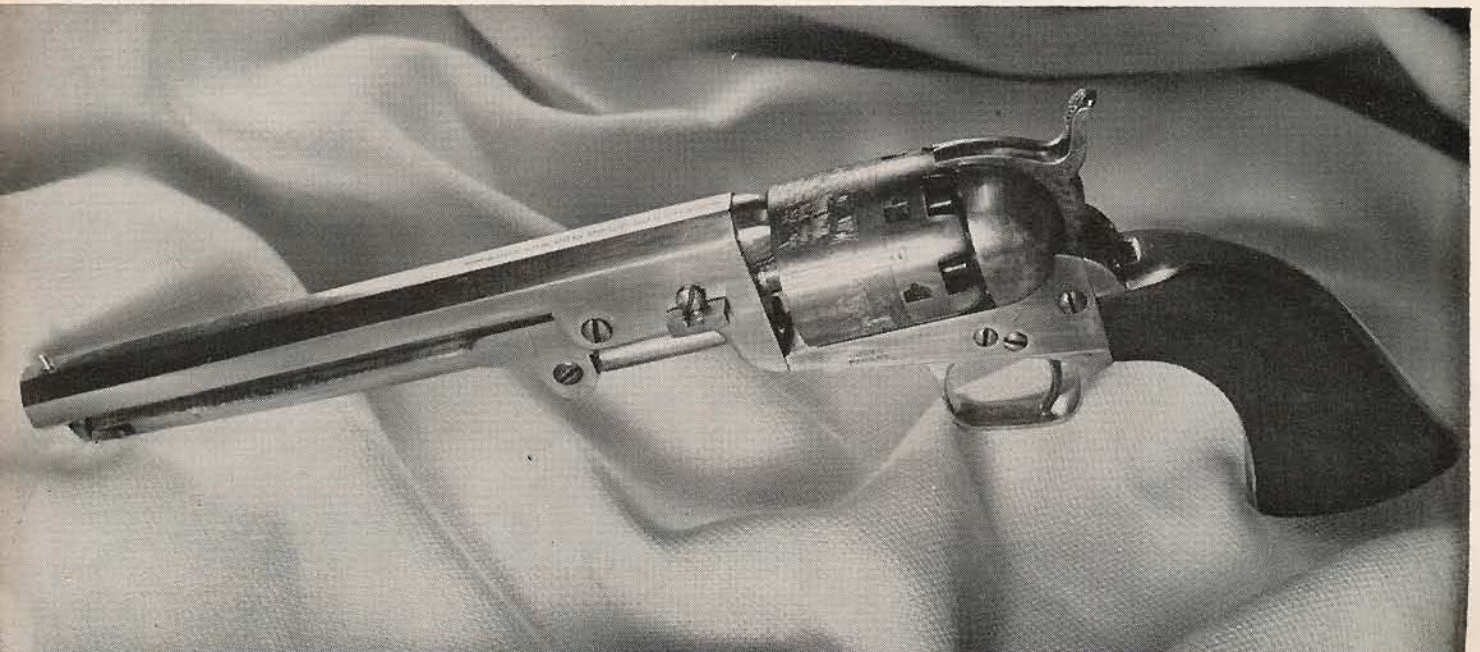
In its original design, the 1851 Navy had a square-back trigger guard, and the wedge key, which had its locking screw under the wedge, fitted in a slot cut in the top of the cylinder pin. This variation soon disappeared, and in the second model the normal center-slotted pin was used and the lock screw was placed above the wedge; the square-back guard was, however, retained. As these square-back guards were difficult to make, they were replaced in the third model by a rounded guard—or more correctly an oblong shaped guard. This was so small that many a fat-fingered individual could not reach the trigger when he needed his gun in a hurry. This, and the fact that even in those days—before TV Westerns—some people had a desire to use a pistol with a glove on, induced Colt to adopt the now fa-

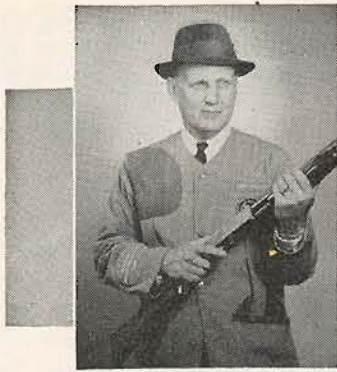
miliar large guard, a feature that was retained through the cap and ball period and on to the Peacemaker. Despite all sorts of variations, the Navy retained one feature during its whole production—the famous Ormsby die-rolled engraving of ships of the Texas Navy engaging a fleet of Mexican ships on May 16, 1843.

During 1851, at the Great Exhibition in London, Colt exhibited specimens of his revolvers which, although they created a great sensation, only won "honorable mention." Prejudice by the supporters of the English gun trade, is believed to have been responsible for this somewhat left-handed compliment. But Sam Colt was not to be put off, and quick to note the obvious success of his Navy pistol, he felt it necessary to establish a foothold in Europe, and he began negotiating with the British Government to set up a factory in London. Production commenced on or about January 1, 1853 at a building in Bessborough Place, Millbank, on the Thames near Vauxhall Bridge. Actual production ceased about December 1856, although a repair shop operated until sometime in 1857. Manufactured at the factory were the Navy pistols and the Pocket Model of 1849; several sporting guns were also turned out, but these were assembled from parts made in Hartford.

The Navy pistols exhibited in the 1851 exposition were mostly of the second and early third models, but by 1853 the third model was in full production; thus a number of "London Address," but Hartford-made pistols with narrow guards came over to the London sales rooms to cater to the demand until the London factory production got under way. By the middle of 1853 Colt had his London factory working on its own resources, and the pistol parts sent over from Hartford to be assembled and stamped "London" were replaced by parts made on the premises. It was then that the true London Navy was born and the subtle differences between these and the American versions became readily apparent.

In America, several changes were made on the Navy. The barrel lug was enlarged and the loading groove on the right side of the barrel lug was bevelled; the capping cut-out on the recoil shield was also (*Continued on page 51*)





Pull!

BY DICK MILLER

THE FROST GIRLS chilled competition in the Pennsylvania Women's Inter-Club Trapshooting League. Mother, Mrs. William E. Frost, and daughter Mrs. W. W. (Nancy) Remmey each broke 46 of 50 rain-swept targets, to lead their Torresdale-Frankford Country Club team to victory in the third match of the Women's League. Team score was 222, giving the T-F club a two-target margin over second place Huntington Valley CC. Mrs. Rhoda Wolf broke 45x50, Mrs. F. W. Roebing III broke 43, and Mrs. William L. Battersby 42, to round out the winning effort.

High Individual for the third match was Mrs. Edward Howell of the Philadelphia Gun Club, with 49 of the 50 targets. Mrs. Curtis Laupheimer of Huntington Valley, the second place club, was second high for her 48x50. Valley Forge took third place, behind the Huntington team. Philadelphia CC was fourth, and Aronmink fifth.

Pull! is very interested in the progress of the feminine trapshooting league, and salutes the ladies. We are also hopeful that our readers will supply details of other feminine trap or skeet leagues across the nation, for reporting in these pages.

This column has always felt that there are many splendid opportunities for additional ladies and family leagues in both skeet and trap, and will be pleased to support them by recording details of their league activities.

Pull! sends a hearty salute to the Southern Indiana Gun Club, at Evansville, on news of the club's new shooting lay-out on a 29 acre site northeast of Evansville. The 29 acre site is one of the most ideal locations for a gun club this writer has seen. When I inspected it, six traps were indicated, and it appears that ample room for expanding the firing line is available. Background is unobstructed, and a fine grove of trees lays just back of the firing line. Club officials have announced plans for camping and picnic grounds in the shaded grove, in line with my constant reminders that a gun club will be more successful in attracting shooters if the club makes provision for total recreation of the shooter and his or her family.

One hundred and ninety shooters toed the stripes in the Atlantic City Gun Club's championship tournament. Cliff Leuholt topped the singles entry list and Dr. J. W. Conover carved out a handicap victory. Mrs. Rhoda Wolf topped the ladies in the 16 yard events.

On the same day, Philadelphia Country Club offered a mixed team program, that

ended in a tie between the teams of Fred Lyons and Mrs. George Offenhauser, and H. D. Lafferty with Mrs. Edward N. Howell, when each team dropped just one target.

Bob McArthur was almost as invincible as another McArthur. General McArthur, that is, in one of the Roxborough Gun Club's bi-monthly programs. Bob McArthur, from Colmar, Pennsylvania tied Price Jackson of Wilmington, Delaware, in the 16 yard race, with a perfect score. Another perfect score gave him the handicap trophy, and he finished the day with a second in doubles competition, after dropping two pairs. Archiw DiPaolo dropped just one brace, to take the doubles trophy. Mrs. Mary Christopher of Cornwell Heights topped the ladies in both singles and handicap events, with identical scores of four targets off the pace.

Paul Holloway, Dr. B. W. Mickle, and Cliff Leuholt were the big winners in the Pine Valley (New Jersey) Gun Club's annual LeRoy Tindall Memorial Championship. Holloway was high in the 16 yard events, handicap trophy went to Dr. Mickle, and Leuholt was the high doubles gunner.

Only last month, Pull! reported that Ed Willmering, of the Show-Me-State, had twice shown that the four-gun world record of 398x400 could be tied. We commented that we would not be surprised to see Willmering break the record now shared by him. It must be reported, however, that we were not quite prepared for him to accomplish that goal that has eluded so many fine skeet gunners for so many years, in just 30 more days.

Willmering broke the old mark, and set a new standard of 400 straight, 100 each with the four gauges, including the 2½ inch 410 shell, at Jennings Gun Club.

While it must be recognized that setting a new world record is a very important accomplishment, we must also make the record complete by reporting that Mrs. Willmering was the Lady All-Around champ in the same shoot in which hubby set the new record, which might have been just as important to her as the new record was to her other half. Let the record so show.

Martin T. Vaughn, of the host city Nashville, played the best tune with his 12 gauge in the Music City Open. Vaughn didn't miss a note, which saved him an encore. Owen Frisby had one sour note, which gained him the runner-up spot. Mary Sweat, from Atlanta, Ga., that is, sang the sweetest tune in Ladies 12 gauge events, for her score of 95 (skeet score, not musical score). Gary

Chastain from Marietta, Georgia, missed only four notes to sing loudest for the juniors. George Shehan, from Decatur, Alabama, was most in tune for the sub-juniors. Nashville's Jimmy Cates read all the notes perfectly in the 100 target 20 gauge event, topping Harry Wolberg.

One of the biggest shooting events for the month of March, and for the skeet year, is the 8th Annual Inter-American Open, at Club Metropolitano de Tiro, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 4-8. It is expected NBC will tape the shoot and present it on a network program Saturday, March 14.

One hundred and five industrial trap teams competed in the 14th Annual National Industrial Invitational Trap Shoot, hosted by Armo Steel Corporation at Middletown, Ohio. Growth of the trap sport as an employee recreation activity is pointed up sharply by the increase in entry list of the Armo Shoot. The number of entries has almost doubled in six years, and is almost four times the early entry list at the start of the industrial classic.

Host Armo team won the title this year, for an unusual switch, after a shoot-off with National Lead Company's five-man team. High Individual shooter was Ralph Hoyt, shooting on the McCall's Magazine team.

Every so often, some blasé scattergunner comes along and says he is disaffected with the standard games of trap and/or skeet. Deponent usually says something that sounds like "the games are too sterile, too easy, or you have to break them all, then break that many more in a shoot-off." Or, we often hear that neither trap or skeet simulate field shooting conditions.

We even hear shooters say that they hit game well, but can't hit clay targets, for an opposite side of the coin viewpoint. This column's attention has been called to a new clay target game called "Crazy Quail" that might satisfy any of the above gripes, or at least send the clay target man back to the conventional games or the hunter back to the field.

In Crazy Quail, a trap is mounted below the ground, with no part of the installation visible above the surface. Shooters stand 22 yards from the below-ground trap, and may be handicapped up to 30 yards. Ten birds are thrown for every shooter, and they can be at any angle. Trap operators make sure that three targets are thrown in the direction of the shooter, at least one of which should fly in a straight line at him. The shooter must not move his feet after calling "Pull" and must break any incomer before it reaches him.

Targets are thrown an average distance of fifty yards, making "Crazy Quail" somewhat of a skeet game at trap distances, for the most part. This column will wager than any critic of the existing games of trap and skeet, for the reasons mentioned earlier, will find Crazy Quail a stimulating experience.

As for the writer, I think the game is fun. I've always been successful in missing enough trap and/or skeet targets to keep the games from becoming boring, and I'm sufficiently insulated against the shock of missing a target so that I can take Crazy Quail in stride.

A MINIATURE MAGNUM PISTOL

(Continued from page 37)

lies in the hollowed face of the powder chamber which is shaped to receive the ball. To load these guns, merely requires unscrewing the barrel, pouring in powder until the chamber is full, shaking off the surplus, placing the ball, replacing the barrel, and priming. While it may sound slow and com-



plicated, with a little practice anyone can do it in a minute or so, and an expert of the period probably managed in a much less time. And it was safer. In ordinary muzzle-loaders, failure to seat the ball on the powder can be dangerous; air space between the two could result in a blown up gun, something which could easily happen when loading in the dark, or with an inadequate rammer.

Although screw-barrel weapons were common in the 18th and 19th centuries, most of them were smoothbores, and used powder charges of only six or seven grains, about half that used by this little French pistol. These factors made the ordinary pocket screw-barrel lacking in both power and accuracy.

This is not true of our miniature magnum. It has a 1 1/8 inch, 12-groove, right hand rifled barrel; add its relatively heavy powder charge, and you can easily understand why it can drive a .38 caliber ball through two 7/8" pine boards with power to spare; most lightly-loaded smoothbores will rarely penetrate a single board. Smoothbores have a somewhat diffused sound when fired while Frenchy has a sharp crack that carries a lot of authority.

Accuracy at 35 feet, even though this gun lacks sights, is good enough so that you can put five shots in an area about a foot high and six inches wide. While hardly target accuracy, and inferior to the well-sighted Deringers, it is far ahead of the pocket smoothbores and plenty good enough for man-sized targets. Uniform loading always helps accuracy, and we found it best to load our Frenchman with the sprue side of the ball facing the powder.

Yet with all its good points, this is not a quality pistol. Its furniture is plain steel and the inletting and finishing is a long way from the best. Perhaps this is the reason the maker did not sign his name after it was proofed.

Nevertheless, it has all the attributes of a good pocket gun—power, accuracy, and good reloading speed for its time; a miniature magnum of a day that vanished nearly two centuries ago.



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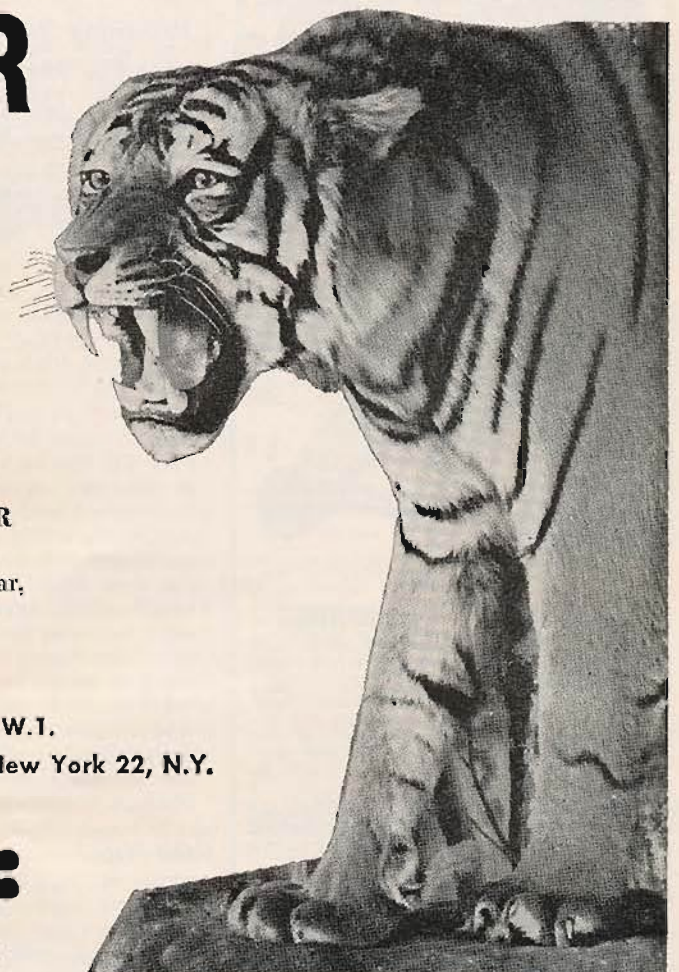
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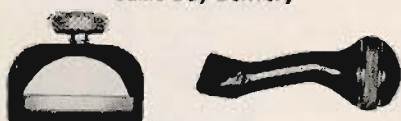
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Browning .22 Scope

The Browning line has been expanded quite considerably in the last year, and the latest offering is their new .22 scope and the Browning Groove Mount. The scope has a

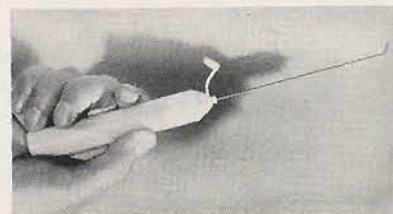


4X magnification, a 3/4 inch tube, the internal adjustments move the point of impact 1 1/2 inches at 100 yards, and the crosshairs cover one inch at 100 yards. Without mount, the scope retails for \$27.75, and the groove mount will set you back \$6.45. The groove mount, especially designed for Browning rifles will also fit most other grooved rifle receivers, and we put our test scope on a Remington Model 11 bolt-action rifle. After sighting the rifle in, we took the scope off again and gave it the usual torture tests. The scope passed with flying colors, and we were especially pleased with the way the scope fastens to the mount. This mount is a great improvement over some other mounts, and it holds the scope safely and securely. Since the .22 is still the most popular cartridge, a good scope on your .22 is worth considering, and while you are considering, why not take a look at those new Browning offerings. You won't be sorry.

Oil-Mite

Over the years, we have collected a number of pen oilers. And over the years, we have never found one that would really stand the gaff, keep the oil in the container where it belongs rather than in our tool kit or

shooting box. The Cushman Corp., Dept. G, 1228 Utica Ave., Brooklyn 3, N.Y., now offers for one dollar U.S., the Oil-Mite. Send them



a dollar, and they will mail you that little gem of an oiler. We have used ours for over two months, found it efficient, handy, and best of all, the oil does not leak, spill, or escape from the plastic container. The thin, hollow needle-like oiling tube can be closed tightly and retracts into the container, and because of the angle of the oiling tube, you can reach all of those hard-to-get-at places. Get one for yourself and give a couple of them to friends—they'll like them.

Parts for Foreign Rifles

Very often, we get a letter from the owner of a foreign rifle, mostly a military arm. Help, says he, where can I get a follower spring, a firing pin, or some other essential item. One of the largest dealers in these parts, and some of them are virtually impossible to find, is Bob Lovell. If Bob does not have it in stock, he keeps the desired item on his want list, and when he finally finds it, he'll let you know. Write to Bob Lovell, Box 401G, Elmhurst, Ill., for his comprehensive list.

H & R's Sahara

This is a single shot .22 rim-fire rifle with Mannlicher type stock and on first glance looks like an autoloader. Designated as Model 755, the Sahara did very well in our rather extensive tests. Function was smooth, although the trigger pull could have been somewhat better.

In the function tests, the gun performed



very well, but when we used .22 LR high speed ammo of three different makes, the bolt did not stay open but closed almost completely due the greater recoil. With the Long and Short cartridges, the bolt remained open, and this safety feature is noteworthy for the beginner. We did miss the now al-

most standard grooved receiver for a tip-off scope, and the sights, slightly reminiscent of GI sights, took some getting used to before we were able to get the accuracy the gun is capable of. The rear sight is adjustable for elevation, while the wing guarded front sight is not adjustable. Structural Nylon is used in the trigger guard, the barrel band, and the fore-end cap.

Barrel length is 18½ inches, over-all length is 36 inches, and the gun tips the scale at just four pounds. The thumb operated safety is automatic and this is a good safety feature. The gun should do very well for youngsters, as a spare plinker, or even as squirrel gun, and the price tag that H&R has put on it—just under \$22—makes the Sahara an attractive buy.

We used the Sahara at first as plinker, then used it to check out two experimental chronographs that came in for tests. In over 600 rounds, there was not a single failure to eject, and brass is thrown a considerable distance. All in all, the consensus of opinion of those who fired the gun was most favorable, and the Sahara makes a dandy little knock-around gun for home or camp.

Swift Scope

The Swift Instrument, Inc., Dept. G, Boston 25, Mass., recently submitted a Japanese scope with some interesting features for tests. These scopes are offered in two models, the Mk 11 Zoomscope (\$89.50) and the 4X Gamescope (\$47.75). We gave the 4X Gamescope a good going over, and found it well built and optically most satisfactory. We started the tests by mounting the scope on a Finnbear .30-06, then put the scope through the freezer, immersion, and drop tests, and then put it back on the rifle. The point of impact had not changed, and the rough treatment did not affect the scope externally or internally.

The intriguing feature of the scope we tested was the reticle. This is a rangefinder



reticle, and the lower half of the vertical pillar is divided into three sections of different thickness. The narrowest section, nearest the horizontal crosshair, equals one inch in width or height at 100 yards. The next section is equal to two inches at 100 yards, while the thickest section equals four inches at 100 yards. By comparing the various thickness of these sections with a known object at a known distance, it becomes a simple matter to dope out the range. It does take a little work on your part to get this range doping down pat, but it is an even-money bet that shooters will cotton to this new rangefinder reticle, especially since the scope has fine optical qualities and is built hard enough to pass our rugged tests with flying colors.

Also available is the standard reticle. Adjustment for windage and elevation is internal, and one graduation represents a change of one inch at 100 yards, and each graduation has two, quite audible clicks. The weight of the scope is 9½ oz., over-all length is just a fraction under 12 inches. Tube diameter is one inch, the field at 100 yards is 30 feet. Summary: A good scope

for the price and a worthwhile rangefinder reticle that should appeal to hunters.

Toyota Land Cruiser

We used one of the Toyota Land Cruisers for a Wyoming pronghorn hunt, and after banging around in the Land Cruiser for a



week, we are completely sold on it. The Toyota, made in Japan, is available in two major styles, a four door station wagon, and a two door unit.

Let's first take a look at the performance. At 70 miles an hour on the highway, she held the road well, but like in all 4-wheelers, cornering took a little getting used to. She rode well, even with gusty and fairly strong crosswinds, handled well on the pavement, and gas consumption was very slight. Off the paved road, she did even better, taking 60 degree grades in her stride, and the two and four wheel drive got us through some of the toughest country that some of the local ranchers could find for us as testing ground. At one time we had four hunters and all their gear riding cross-country, and there was enough space for two other men and their stuff.

The Land Cruiser and the station wagon have some features that make either one of the units an outstanding buy. In the glove compartment there is a quart can of touch-up paint, and the paint job on the Land Cruiser we used was exceptionally good and rugged. After driving through sage brush, dry wash after dry wash, yucca, greasewood, and other stuff for a week, there was not even one real scratch on the bright red finish. Each unit comes equipped with a trouble light that can be hooked up under the hood, under the dash, and in the two door unit, you can even hook it up at the tail gate (we have not seen the station wagon, thus don't know if this feature is included there). Each Toyota comes with a complete tool kit, and gas tanks are mounted internally—no more banged-up tanks miles from anywhere.

The station wagon weighs 4,010 lbs., the hard top 2-door wagon weighs 3,414 lbs. The 4-door unit has a ground clearance of 8.5" and a wheelbase of 104.3", listed maximum turning radius is 20.3 ft., and maximum grade ability is listed as 34°. The two door Land Cruiser has a ground clearance of 8.2" and a wheelbase of 90", listed maximum turning radius is 17 ft., and we pushed the Toyota up grades that were 60 degrees according to the man who owns the land—and he should know since he had never been able to get up there with any of his 4-wheelers.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the Toyota is the arrangement of the shift levers. The regular stick is on the steering column. If you want to go into 2-wheel drive, just depress your clutch, pull out a button on the dash, and the green light tells you that you are now pulling with two wheels.

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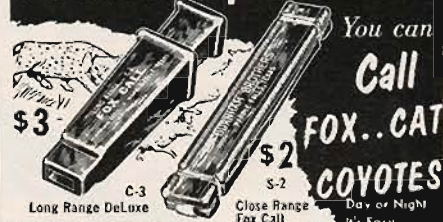
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If you reach a spot where four wheel drive is needed, again depress your clutch, pull out the lever on the dash, release your clutch, and you are ready to tackle the toughest ground. This means that 3 adults can occupy the front seat, complete with rifles between their knees, and there is plenty of elbow room.

As of this moment, Toyota Land Cruisers are in short supply—every one who has seen them in the West seems to have his name on the waiting list. We had hopes of getting one 4 door unit through the Gillette, Wyoming, distributor, but the one unit they were able to get was not in the showroom long enough for us to take a look-see. Want a vehicle that will compete with a mountain goat? Get a Toyota!

Snub-nosed Python

For a good many years we have been banging around with a 6 inch Python. This Colt gun has been given some of the severest tests possible, has been used as test gun for several ballistics experiments, and has seen considerable wear and tear. We now have one of the new 2½ inch snub-nosed Python revolvers, and it appears that this new Colt gun will be a winner.

There is no need to waste space on describing accuracy, finish, or workmanship. This Python has the best that Colt's has recently put into a handgun, and she handles like a dream. With .38 wadcutters, the blast or recoil is not too bad—if you shoot outdoors—but with full .357 Magnum loads, the little Python roars and kicks, but not bad enough to make a flincher out of you or anyone else who is used to handling a revolver. With extra hot loads we found it advisable to wear a light leather glove, but for standard loads, we did very well without protection. The short Python will set you back the usual \$125, but once you have seen her, you won't be able to resist. We saw one at the NRA show and put in an order for one right then and there.

Speer Bullet Board

Ray Speer recently reminded us of the fact that handloading has been around for a while—or to be more accurate, that handloading is now celebrating its 100th year. We always liked the Speer bullet display board, and for the 100 year celebration, Ray and Vernon Speer have hit the jackpot—a new bullet board that not only shows all of the fine Speer bullets, but it also commemorates the Handloading Centennial.

Brand-new and hot off the presses is the Speer Reloading Manual, the 6th edition. Updated and enlarged, the bible of the hand-loader, offers loads for all of the older cartridges and all of the new ones. The data—and they are very complete as usual—have been worked up by Ray and we had the pleasure of verifying a number of them. The Speer Manual is a must on the hand-loader's bench and is a bargain in any man's language.

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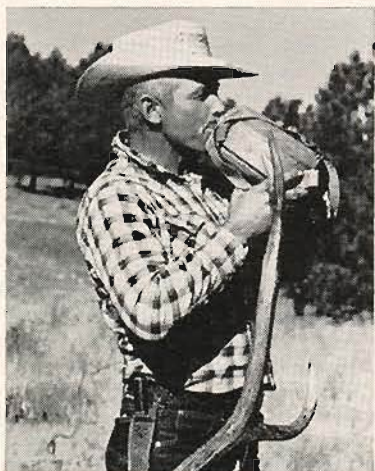
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ELK HERD CONTROL

(Continued from page 21)

four guides kept their binoculars working all the time, not only to locate game for their hunters but also to call a halt in the shooting when one of the hunters made a killing shot.

Since this report might easily serve as a basic guide for other controlled hunts in



Successful hunter, Bob Scott, refreshes with cooling water.

game preserves (Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks please note) some elaboration of these nine successive steps of procedure is definitely in order. South Dakota's Custer State Park didn't accidentally "luck" into this near-perfect big-game hunt; it took a lot of considered planning to fill 60 bull elk licenses 100 per cent.

Naturally, once the hunt proved both feasible and successful, many individuals staked their claims to having originated it. That's just dandy with me, no matter who finally gets the credit. Along with other residents, I'm just happy that South Dakota finally flew in the face of the sanctity of game preserves and the birds and beasts raised thereon, and has taken the sensible road toward harvesting annual surpluses. The long butchering program which preceded this maiden hunt of 1962 was offensive to sportsmen whose dollars had imported elk and stocked them in Custer State Park about 1912, after the species had been extirpated throughout the Black Hills in the late 1800's.

Briefly, here's how this hunt worked. When the Game, Fish and Parks Department announced its plans, some 437 inquiries poured in. The next step was to get these pruned down to those hunters serious enough to lay their license monies on the line. Actual applicants for licenses, some 240 of them, had to attach certified check, bank draft, or money order for the \$100 hunting fee. The lucky licensees were also charged \$5 per day for hire and maintenance of the transporting vehicles but, if they killed their bulls early, they were charged only for the days they actually hunted. All unsuccessful license applicants got full refunds.

The actual hunting season was split into five day periods, with two day rest periods between, to allow the four Park guides to rest up from their pre-dawn to post-dark chores, to clear the locker plant of the game

taken, and to allow the elk herds to get over any spookiness induced by the earlier hunting pressure.

There had been some concern lest the animals, if hunted continuously would become so spooked that they might retire into the more rugged portions of the Park. By giving them a recess of a couple of days between hunts, they calmed sufficiently to remain on their normal grazing meadows or in readily accessible daytime resting thickets.

The guides intimately knew the elk haunts throughout the Park's 78,000 acres of fenced range. By taking their hunters in different directions they didn't interfere with each other's hunting; in fact, parties hunting the same general area sometimes actually moved elk toward each other. But in no case was any direct attempt made to literally herd the elk toward waiting rifles.

The manpower and equipment in each hunting party was ample to handle any bull that was shot almost anywhere. The four-wheel-drive vehicles could usually approach each kill closely, load it readily, and get it on its way to the cooling room of the locker plant in a matter of minutes. There each carcass was hung on a conveyor line, hosed out cleanly, and left to cool at a temperature of about 40 degrees.

Hunters were told that, with animals as large as bull elk, such cooling was mandatory to avoid meat spoilage, especially during the warm weather of the September season. Yet some hunters, eager to get home and show off their game, took off as soon as possible after filling their tags. There were some reports of meat spoilage, partially because blood-clotted meat had not been cut away and discarded, but also because of insufficient cooling time before loading up for the home-bound trip.

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especially thick through the hams, shoulders and the rut-swollen neck. Unless body heat is completely released from these portions, there's a chance of souring the choice meat and spoiling adjacent portions of the meat carcass.

In common with many other States, South Dakota has a law against abandoning game in the field. In a pinch, this could be interpreted to cover meat spoilage through careless handling. In Custer State Park, where the facilities are enormous in proportion to the daily bag, this problem should never be allowed to arise. In contrast, this was one of the hottest criticisms leveled at the Yellowstone Park butchering program, where the sheer magnitude of the daily kill prevented proper care of the field-dressed carcasses be-

fore they became soured and tainted. Many of them, left in the field over-long, were simply abandoned and left to the ravens, coyotes, and other meat-eaters.

As this is being written, there is some talk of requiring successful Custer State Park hunters to skin and halve or quarter their kills and then leave them in the cooling room until every vestige of animal heat is dissipated. Though this might require an extra day, it would send hunters home with sweet, edible meat.

Radio-telephone contact between the guides of separate hunting parties was of inestimable value throughout the hunt. Mrs. Gayle Duncan, from her fire-lookout post atop Mount Coolidge—the highest peak in Custer State Park and fourth highest in the entire

Black Hills area—was in a key spot from which she could relay messages which might otherwise have been cut off. This contact was used in many ways: In locating hunters who had strayed; in passing the word as to the directional movement of sighted elk; in getting mechanical aid to temporarily disabled vehicles; and in keeping a kill-by-kill tally of how each group was progressing, for release to newspaper and radio outlets.

The guides—some of whom had participated in the butchering program of earlier years, and others having hunted elk in non-game-preserve areas in other States—kept hunters from misidentifying their game. As a result only two elk were shot in error in typical hunting "accidents." One cow was accidentally shot when she was lined up behind a bull which was killed by the same bullet. Her meat was immediately salvaged and, except for the red face of the hunter, no harm was done. The second animal, a bull, got away and wasn't found until the next day. After having lain out overnight, the meat was unfit for human consumption.

Seasoned game managers tell me that, where hundreds or even thousands of animals are thrown open to sporting hunting, the crippling loss often runs as high as 20 per cent; that is, for every 100 licenses filled with take-home game, at least 20 more head are crippled and lost. Using that as a comparison, the three per cent loss of elk—even less if the salvaged cow is omitted—represents a very efficient job of game harvesting.

The age, big-game hunting experience and the hunting gear of the hunters also provided some interesting data; information I gleaned through a post-hunt questionnaire. Only 52 of the 60 participants answered fully but the quality and completeness of their response was very illuminating. Ages ranged from 17 to two hunters who were 65 years of age, the average age being 41.7 years. Oddly enough, the greenest tyro of the lot was one 65 years of age, participating in his very first big-game hunt, though he confessed to plenty of shotgun experience on waterfowl and pheasants. At the other end of the scale, the 17 year old had already hunted deer for five seasons, and two 24 year olds had six and eight years of big game experience.

Remington rifles held a slight edge, with 20 of them used as compared to 17 Winchester. Other rifles were represented by four Mausers, three Savages, three Weatherbys, and one each of Browning, Marlin, Springfield, and one custom-made .300 H&H. Only one of the 52 responding hunters didn't identify the make of the rifle he used. Bolt actions were overwhelmingly popular, with 30 of them in use. Eleven hunters used pump actions, six were semi-autos, and five were of the lever-action breed. The .30-06 was the favorite caliber, with 25 used. Next in order came seven .270s, five of .300 Savage, three each of .300 H&H and .264, two each of .300 Weatherby Magnum and .348 caliber, and one each in 7 mm Weatherby, 8 mm, 7 mm, .280, .35, and .243. The last-named caliber was carried by the lone woman member of the hunt, who used 80 grain commercial ammo. It is strange that not a single



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.30-30 showed up, though one very nearly did until replaced with a borrowed .300 Savage.

Only seven of the 52 hunters responding used handloads, with six of them citing their pet combinations, as follows: 60 grains of 4350 with a 140 grain .264 bullet; 80 grains of 570 behind a 154 grain bullet in the Weatherby 7 mm; 64 grains of 4831 behind a 140 grain .264 slug; 67 grains of 4350 pushing a 180 grain .300 H&H bullet; 48 grains of 4895 in a .270 using 130 grain bullets, and 41 grains of 4064 pushing a 150 grain Sierra bullet in a .300 Savage cartridge. The remaining 44 hunters cited bullet weights but used no other data, so are presumed to have used commercial loadings.

Telescopes were highly popular, with 44 of the responding 52 hunters using them. Six used open or iron sights and two used peep sights; though one peep was used in conjunction with a high-mount scope. Four-power scopes were favored, 21 of the 44 scoped rifles wearing them. Bill Weaver's scopes held a whopping advantage with 20 of them in use, ranging through the K-2.5, K-3, K-4, KV, and V-8 models. Presumably, since six other scopes were listed only by their magnification, some of these were also Weavers. Other brand-name scopes included five Bausch & Lomb's, three each of Lyman, and Sovereign Texan, two each of Redfield's Bear Cub, Bushnell and Weatherby, and one Marlin, totaling 38 that were identified by brand names. It is significant that the majority of hunters were using four-power scopes,

a trend verified by present sales of big-game scopes.

The 52 reporting hunters claimed to have seen a total of 1,707 elk, of which 407 were positively identified as bulls. Naturally, this includes considerable duplication since the Park was supposed to have approximately 400 head at the time of the hunt. Many of the elk of both sexes were sighted several times by different hunters of the same or successive parties.

The controlled bull elk hunt in Custer State Park drew resounding praise as an ideal means of harvesting a big-game surplus by sporting means. Several hunters commented that it was a far superior method of game control than that used in 14 National Park areas (and Custer State Park in previous years). These same hunters expressly mentioned the 1961-62 Yellowstone Park program as one they strongly condemned as highly wasteful of a grand big game resource. Perhaps this hunt will be the breakthrough in initiating the reduction of surplus game herds by means of sporting hunting.

The 1963 Custer State Park elk hunt was held from September 4th through the 22nd. No details of the kills are available as this is written, but applications for licenses exceeded 360 in number, over 120 more than for 1962. New for 1963 was a controlled antelope hunt during the last weekend of September and the first weekend in October.

Let us hope that this is an indication of the type of clear thinking that has been needed for so long in our country's program of game conservation.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT THE M-14!

(Continued from page 26)

designation of this and all other measurements is being changed—if it has not been done so already—to the metric system, and the round is now known as the 5.56 mm cartridge. This is a recent directive, and the change from the English system to the metric system must, according to one Washington source, be accomplished within one year.

The birth of the AR-15 was attended by considerable labor pains. Difficulties and problems beset the rifle, the designer and Armalite, least of all was the resistance of Army brass to change to a smaller caliber cartridge, several goofs by the testing staff of the Army who tested the AR-15 without knowing how to strip the gun, and a profound lethargy to innovations by most of the men who should have been concerned. Consequently, Armalite, in 1958, took some of the AR-15's on a world tour, showing the rifles and giving demonstrations all over the world. Since the U.S. Army did not want the gun, and since Armalite had spent considerable sums of money on its development, Armalite management felt that some foreign orders might help pay for the expenses of developing and building the rifles. The worldwide tour of the AR-15 was a success. The small stature of the Asiatic soldier, the ease of handling, stripping, and firing the AR-15 were its major sales points, and Armalite men came back with orders.

Colt's bought the patents from Armalite, and is now building AR-15's for the Army. What triggered the Army order for 104,000 AR-15 rifles at the total cost of \$13,300,000 from Colt's? The first order Colt received was for shipment of 1,000 AR-15's to Viet Nam. The first combat reports, and later a complete Viet Nam report, labeled "Secret," showed that the AR-15 outperformed, out-shot, and outlasted any other gun on the scene. Not only did the AR-15 smell like a hybrid tea rose, the bullet effect was fantastic and devastating. The Air Force was interested in the AR-15, with an eye on replacing their M 1 carbine. Reports of the Air Force tests were so enthusiastic, that they were read with some interest by Pentagon brass. The story that makes the rounds in Washington is that the Viet Nam report and the Air Force report fell into the wrong hands: Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara got the reports, read them in one sitting, and that his comment supposedly was "What the hell is the Army doing about this?" When the boss speaks, the brass jumps, and the upshot of all the jumping is the wopping order for AR-15's—an order that can put Colt's and its parent company, the Fairbanks Whitney Corporation, very neatly into the chips.

Pentagon residents are quick to point out—and all of them want to remain nameless since they expect to draw Army pensions—that the current orders for the AR-15 are for special troops and units only. General Le May makes no bones about the fact that he likes the AR-15, and that continuing tests of the rifle by his boys in the slate-blue uniforms keeps turning up more and more fine features of the AR-15. Says one top-ranking officer: "The AR-15 is so far su-

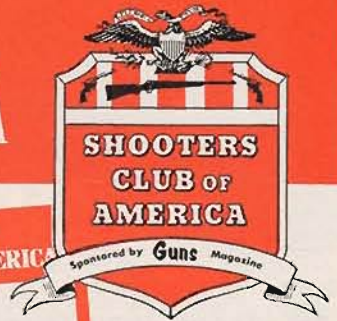
perior to the carbine that comparison is a waste of time." The Navy and the Marine Corps are doing their own soul-searching, and these services will, in all probability, order Colt rifles.

How does the AR-15 stack up against other semi-automatic and automatic rifles in comparative tests? The BAR, the Thompson, the Schmeisser and the Russian AK-47 were compared with the M 16 by the Army. Only the Russian AK-47 did nearly as well accuracy-wise as the M 16 (or AR-15 if you prefer), but accuracy of the Russian gun at 300 yards was below that of the Colt rifle. The Schmeisser and the BAR had more muzzle rise and less controllability than the AR-15, and one interesting fact that came to light was that the AK-47 lacked a windage adjustment on the sight.

What about the troops that have used the M 14 and the AR-15? Last summer at Camp Perry, I was stopped by an officer of one of the Army's crack paratrooper units. "What did I think of the M 14?" Before I had a chance to explain that I had not used the rifle, I received a torrent of condemnation. Cleaned up, here is what this officer had to say: "For paratroop use, the rifle is completely useless. In automatic fire she jams, for jumping she is about as handy as a bull in the proverbial china shop. The stock breaks when you hit hard (in jumping, that is) and dirt can foul the gun so completely that it becomes useless." That very same day, I talked with another officer who had just returned from extensive maneuvers. His troops were equipped with M 14 rifles. "A highly accurate piece of ordnance that is by far superior to anything that we have had before." When I told him about the opinion offered by the paratrooper, he shrugged it off with "Special units, special weapons. Those guys want something my troops could never use correctly." And he pointed out one often forgotten factor. When you give an automatic weapon to a man, you must also consider the logistics problem. A good rifleman can make forty shots count, but a man not properly trained in the use of an automatic rifle, can fire forty rounds of ammunition in the wink of an eye—and he is the exception rather than the rule if he connects twice out of forty rounds. Thus, furnishing automatic rifles to every soldier is not the answer for the infantry. This contention seems to be borne out by the fact that the Army is presently furnishing the Colt rifles only to special units. On the other hand, the reduced recoil of the AR-15 makes it possible for any man to fire the gun with great accuracy. Those who have used the AR-15 and have trained others in the use of the gun—and a number of police departments have these rifles—claim that training a man in the use of the AR-15 and making him into a qualified expert takes less than one half the time it takes to make the same man into an expert with the M 14 or with the M 1 carbine.

Just what are some of the special features of the AR-15? How does the rifle and its ammunition stack up against the M 14? The AR-15, without ammo weighs 6.31 lbs., the
(Continued on page 50)

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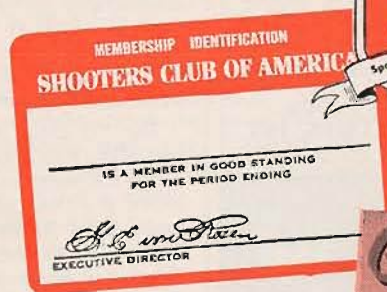


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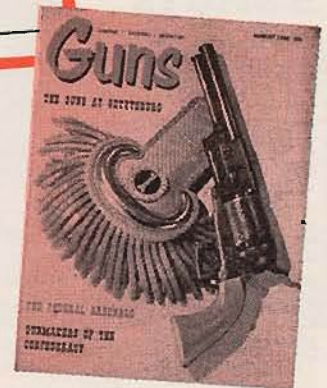
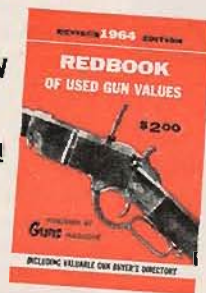
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(Continued from page 48)

empty M 14 tips the scale at 8.7 lbs. A soldier carrying an empty M 14, carries the same weight as does a soldier carrying an M 16 with 120 rounds of ammo. The 7.62 mm NATO cartridge, designated as M59, has a 150 grain boattail bullet, the 5.56 mm round has a 55 grain boattail bullet. The stock of the M 14 is wood, the stock of the AR-15 is a lightweight plastic that is virtually break-proof. The M 14, with flash suppressor, is 44.4 inches long, the AR-15 is 39 inches over-all. The M 14 with the 7.62 round has considerable recoil, while the AR-15 with the 5.56 round can be fired on full automatic and with the gun resting on the open palm of the left hand—the gun will not leave the palm of the shooter.

The 150 grain boattail bullet of the 7.62 cartridge, with its mild steel core, has basically the same ballistics as the .30 caliber bullet that was used in the M 1. The 55 grain bullet of the 5.56 mm cartridge has ballistics that are very similar to the .222 Remington Magnum cartridge. How does the bullet stack up in various tests? First of all, the penetration of the little 55 grain bullet is, to make the understatement of the year, nothing short of fantastic. At 200 yards, the 5.56 bullet repeatedly went clear through 5/16" steel plates with a 200 Brinell rating. The holes look like they were made by a drill, and only the jacket metal is left on the edges of the holes. When using a 3/8" steel plate with the same Brinell rating and at the same distance, one out of seven bullets went through the plate. Lackland Air Force Base personnel, the home of the USAF Marksmanship School, has been doing extensive testing on the bullet performance of the AR-15, and the results were "amazing."

But the bullet performance also presented some problems for the Air Force. Since Korea, the usual small arms familiarization course—which meant a man might fire 20 rounds in three years—had been stepped up, and handling the .45 and the M 1 carbine became a part of the training. Since the M 1 carbine was the Air Force weapon, the existing rifle ranges and baffles were built and designed for the M 1 carbine bullet. The 5.56 bullet goes through these baffles with the greatest of ease. The present baffles consist of one inch oak or yellow pine board, then a 10 gauge steel plate (.135 inch thickness), and a four inch wooden baffle. At close range, that is between 25 and 40 yards, the bullet from the M 16 knifes right through these baffles. A 3/8 inch steel plate, at 25 yards, shows 100 per cent penetration of the 5.56 bullet, and even at 500 yards, the bullet completely penetrates a 10 gauge steel plate. This means that the existing Air Force rifle ranges have to be equipped with baffles that will stop the M 16 bullet.

In contrast to the standard .222 Remington Magnum bullet that simply glances off a car body, the bullet from the AR-15 punches neat little holes through car metal,

and just keeps going until it buries itself in either the upholstery or in the engine block. But the story changes when the bullet is fired at tissues, either human or animal. While the .222 Remington Magnum bullet performs in the usual fashion, the bullet fired from the AR-15 "tumbles" when it hits tissue. When the bullet makes contact with tissue or clothing, it tips (this may be up or down) and then continues on its way in this fashion. Imagine a .222 bullet going through a chuck or fox, standing upright and then consider the damage that this bullet would do as it goes through tissues. According to eye witness reports, the tissue destruction "is absolutely incredible and fantastic."

What causes this peculiar bullet behavior? It is known that the original barrel twist in the AR-15 was 1 in 14, but extreme cold tests at -65° showed that this twist influenced bullet behavior. Consequently, Colt's changed the twist to 1 in 12. This new twist gave the bullet better flight characteristics, yet the effect of the bullet on tissues was identical when it was fired through the older twist barrels. Obviously, twist is not the answer. Winchester-Western, Norma, and Remington have made various and sundry lots of ammunition for the AR-15 rifle, and the current ammunition is supplied by Remington. Factory loads broken down reveal nothing unusual about the cartridge, and even handloading with magnum primers and using pulled 5.56 bullets does not reveal the reason for this bullet tumble and the subsequent tissue destruction. A number of educated guesses have been advanced by bullet-wise ballistics men, but all of them have, on critical examination, failed to reveal the real cause of the tumble. One such idea, and it seems to be the most logical one, is that the boattail bullet has a slight non-concentric spin or yaw. This yaw of the fully jacketed bullet to the right—the barrel has a right hand twist—combined with the angular velocity of the bullet, causes the bullet tumble when it hits soft materials. When the bullet hits a one inch pine or oak board, it punches a hole through the wood. If ten such boards are backed up to each other, the bullet is upset by the sixth board and wood destruction resembles tissue havoc.

When it comes to firing at long ranges, the M 14 beats the M 16, and there is every reason to believe that the Army will stick to the M 14 for some time to come. All military experts quite openly agree that the M 14 will probably be replaced, but this is the nature of our technological age and not due to the disenchantment of the Army with their brainchild. There is no telling when a better rifle might make its appearance, but for the time being, the M 14 seems slated to be the infantry rifle for the Army.

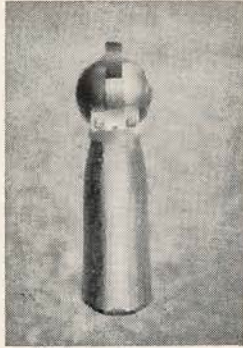
The AR-15, or the M 16 to give the gun its military label, is a special weapon, very much like the BAR or the Thompson. The M 16 is ideally suitable for special forces, and reports from military brass indicate quite clearly that the M 16 is a limited procurement gun and is not slated to replace the M 14. This, at least at the present, is the official view point, and it remains to be seen how rapidly it might change. Is it possible that this viewpoint is a carefully prepared smoke screen to hide a multi-million dollar Pentagon goof?

COLT'S LONDON NAVY PISTOLS

(Continued from page 39)

given a channel in many cases; and some later specimens were cut for shoulder stock—a feature never adopted in London.

The English Colt's however, differed considerably from their American cousins. Brass straps and guards were popular in America, but in London these were made of iron; the



London Navies have thin waisted grip.

loading lever screw to which the plunger was attached entered the left side, whereas it entered from the right on the Hartford guns (but at about the 35,000 serial range it was changed to the left side); the cylinder pins of the London pistols were slightly enlarged—a feature which became apparent when attempting to swap Hartford-made "London" cylinders—the U.S. cylinders won't

fit the London pins without reaming. Screw heads on the London guns are rounded, while the U.S. screws are almost flat. However, both used the same threads.

The one-piece stocks of the Hartford models were shaped with narrow shoulders and wide heels; the London stock makers, however, went a step further. They made the shoulders more prominent, then shaped the wood down to form a "waist," which curved outward again to form the heels. Also, the London stocks are finely finished with a smooth hard finish that is distinctive.

Another feature of the London revolvers is the small loading groove which was never changed during London production. Note that "London" marked revolvers, made in Hartford after the 38,000-40,000 serial number range, have the bevelled Hartford-type cut out; and the standard Hartford grips.

The barrel markings on all London-made revolvers was: ADDRESS COL. COLT LONDON, with a distinctive diamond headed spear at each end. It is interesting to note here that the 'O' in COLT is broken; the 'S' in COLT'S PATENT, which is stamped on the side of the frame, is also damaged. Since this peculiarity has been noted on more than thirty "London" guns, it may be assumed that all bear these defects.

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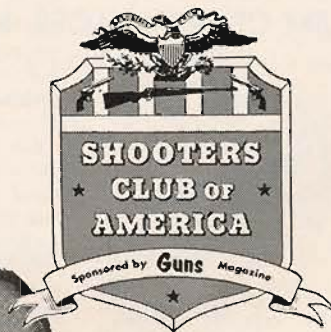
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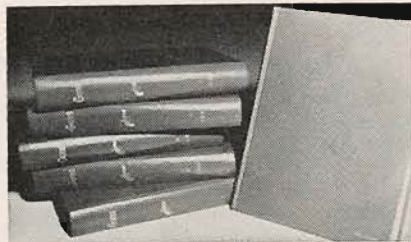
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they were stamped with a crowned GP (mark of the Gunmakers' Company) and crowned V (Viewed) on the barrel lug, and between the nipples on the cylinder. Revolvers that do not bear these marks present mysteries of their own (see GUNS, November, 1963).

It is estimated that the London factory produced some 38,000-40,000 Navy revolvers, based on the London Proof House records. Add to this some 50,000 or so Hartford-made "London" revolvers, exported for sale at the Colt London show rooms until the late 1860's. That there is reason to doubt the London factory production figures is found in the fact that specimens of the true London gun have turned up in the fifty thousand serial number range. This might indicate that they were Hartford-assembled from London parts shipped to the U.S. when the factory closed; but while this would be acceptable if they bore the usual Hartford-London stamping (the London address without the spearheads, and the slightly thinner and larger Hartford numerals) it would not explain the cased revolver in the Tower of London which poses many problems.

The serial number of this revolver is 69368, stamped with the same numerals used on the earlier London-made pistols. The barrel address was put on with the original stamp, complete with spearheads, and the broken 'O' in Colt. The screw heads are rounded; the bullet cut-out is the small Gothic arch, and the grips are of the standard London type. As a clincher, with the permission of the Armoury staff, I removed the barrel and cylinder and tried and fit a Hartford "London" cylinder in the 38,000

serial range on the pin; it did not fit.

The pistol itself is in fine condition. The cylinder is engraved with the standard Navy ship scene, and the frame, straps and guard are finely engraved in the English scroll of the period, as is the barrel and loading lever. Examination of this engraving suggests that perhaps it was done after the revolver left the factory, because great care has been taken to fit the work in around the serial numbers and the proof marks on the barrel lug—these have a plaque-like background of smooth metal. Colt's Patent on the frame, however, is worked into the engraving in script, on both the right and left hand sides, and the knurled tip of the hammer has been skillfully cut to blend with the rest of the work.

This revolver now lies in its original oak case on view to the public; it can't tell its story, but it speaks volumes in appearance. Perhaps in this revolver lies the key to the controversy which continues to revolve around the London Navy Colts. These revolvers, which American collectors were once ashamed to own because they were not home products—but which now are recognized as being of superior workmanship and finish (when found in mint condition) to those produced in Hartford—are much sought after items. Only the surface has been scratched in the quest for information about these pistols, and much has been made repetitious; but perhaps this beautiful example of Colt's work, now lying in the Tower, will provide a clue to the search that goes on—the mystery of London—or Hartford-made Colts.

JIM CLARK—RACER & GUNNER

(Continued from page 27)

Realizing that, like a racing car, a shotgun must be kept in top shape to perform at its best, the double barrels are kept spotless and its mechanism, which includes a single trigger, is kept in immaculate condition. Jim Clark has never had an accident with his gun and is a keen observer of the basic safety rules.

Jim enjoys shooting any day of the week, and if he invites friends over for a shoot, they are out from early morning until dusk. Beside the 12 gauge sporting gun, he also owns a BSA .22 rifle that he enjoys for single shot work. A suggestion was recently made that Clark be presented with two new Colt .45's, but the idea fell flat on its face when it was discovered that they may not be welcomed in Scotland due to the strict licensing laws. Sporting guns for farmers are one thing, but fast draw guns would be hard to justify around the Highlands.

While Jim is an ardent gun enthusiast, he restricts his talents to local acres and doesn't enter into organized competition. Competing in one sport at a time is enough for this

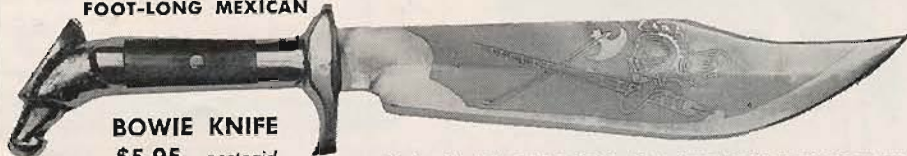
Highlander. But close friends confide that Jim is made of champion stock, and that if he did become competitive, he would leave



his mark in this game as he has in automobile racing.

Jim Clark has guns in his blood, since both his father and grandfather have excellent reputations for being good shots, and he says that the next addition to his collection will be a new 16 gauge sporting double that he will enjoy when he slows down from shooting around the race tracks of the world.

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HER FIRST VARMINT RIFLE

(Continued from page 36)

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counter and the type of game he will be shooting. In our case, it's varmints, targets of opportunity that will be shot at outstanding ranges under the toughest and most difficult conditions.

Autoloaders are without question the most popular of repeating models in the .22 family. But they are a plinker and a fun gun, should not be selected for serious target or varmint shooting. The basic objection to the autoloader is that the trigger pull tends to be very rough and does not permit clean let-off without creep or play. Since the trigger control is not quite as positive as it might be, the shooter's chances for accuracy are adversely affected.

The lever action (excluding of course the fine single shot, falling block, rolling block or pivoted block actions in many single shot varmint rifles) was designed as a hunting rifle, as a light fast acting action. It generally groups poorly. It's next to impossible to chamber a round from the prone position or from a rest.

The slide or pump action, like the autoloader with its complex parts, is more liable to be subject to fouling, jamming or mechanical difficulties. The slide and lever actions are dependable when their actions are clean. They lack, however, the accuracy of bolt actions because they do not lock up as tightly as the bolts. The pump presents problems of its own. It can be counted on to give a wobbling and unsteady effect from a rest or sandbagged position because the slide or pump handle fits loosely. Then too, a good firm hand hold is next to impossible. All three (slide, automatic, and lever actions) have a tendency to throw the bullet into the chamber, rather than elevate it horizontally. This may result in a bullet that has its lead nose shaved off. All three present a cleaning problem. The barrel must be cleaned from the muzzle, and this is hard on the muzzle, and over-enthusiastic use of the cleaning rod can batter the firing pin.

The bolt action is the most popular action. Moreover, it is the best action with which to introduce the would-be varmint hunter

to the sport. The action opens from the top, the cartridge is stripped off and fed into the chamber cleanly and neatly. The action of the bolt feeds and seats each round uniformly and squarely in the chamber. The barrel can be cleaned from the breech end. It comes with a full length stock and can be equipped with a sling. It groups well, and is dependable. The bolt action is the strongest, heaviest type, and is best for long range accuracy and precise shooting without exceptionally fast fire. It's a good action for the nervous shooter. The manual activity that is required to ready it for each shot has a strong tendency to help steady the shooter's nerves and prevents him from firing too rapidly. Even more important is the fact that the shooter becoming familiar with the bolt action will find it easier to step up to larger caliber rifles.

Just as the bolt action seems to be the "right" type of action for varmint shooting, so does the .22 appear to be the best caliber for the beginner. Actually nothing so meaningless can be said about a gun than to call it a "good varmint rifle." Too much depends upon the prevailing hunting conditions. What is one man's meat, often becomes another man's poison. About the only thing any group of varmint hunters will agree upon along these lines, is that the beginner should start with a .22.

One of the best cartridges for the .22 is the 36 grain hollow-point round. It starts the 36 grain slug at 1365 fps, which is a real snappy going away speed. At 100 yards it still waltzes along at a respectable 1040 fps, but beyond this range the .22 is hardly more than a crippler.

For years, the criterion of accuracy has been the 10 shot group. The plain truth of the matter is that the varmint shooter doesn't need a ten shot group; he doesn't need a five shot group, not even a three shot group. The criterion of a varmint rifle is still where it will put that very first shot. In other words, a varmint rifle should place, from a clean, cold barrel, day after day, under all conditions, that one—that very first shot—where the shooter wants it to be; that's the shot that will tell the story. A good .22 rifle suitable for the little woman to use on chucks or other varmints doesn't have to be a 9 lb. tackdriver. Today, with the fine, high quality firearms being turned out by the industry, it's no problem to get a 2 inch group with a straight-from-the-box, scoped .22 at 100 yards. Scopes of one inch tube diameter are now selling as cheaply as those of .750" diameter. It's far easier for her to lay the crosshairs on a varmint, than it is for her to attempt to line up three different reference points (target, front sight, and rear sight). For .22 varmint shooting, a scope of 6 power is sufficient. The scope is by far the best sighting device available. The shooter's choice depends on price, what feels comfortable to him, and the type of shooting he expects to do. Most scope-sighted .22's are zeroed to hit point of aim at 75 yards. If the little lady sights her rifle in at about 25 yards using high velocity long rifle hollow-points, she'll be approximately 1.5" high at 50 yards, dead on again at 75

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yards, and just a shade below 3 inches at 100 yards. Most of her shots will be taken between 25 and 75 yards. You cannot sight in for her, she'll have to do this herself.

No matter what action you select, the addition of a sling can prove valuable. A sling makes carrying the gun easier, and it can be used to steady her hold when firing.

There is another reason why we are concentrating on the .22 as a beginning rifle for the lady varmint. A very important element is the study of the varmint itself. Using a big game rifle on varmints is not the cure-all, does not represent a sure-fire performance in hunting ability. To be sure, many such calibers are by their very nature so lethal that if they merely touch a chuck or other varmint, the shock is usually so great that they are killed. But this tells you nothing you didn't already know: Your rifle and your load combination is fatal on such small packages of varmint life. Such shooting does not teach the beginning shooter the lethal, one shot kill spots. Unless your wife, or any other would-be varmint shooter knows this, a lot of varmints will be crippled.

Sudden killing power and paralyzing speed are not always found in combination. The principal high velocity, outright killing phenomenon is hydro-static shock. This means that the body fluids are compressed at tremendously extreme pressures and so suddenly, that the resultant shock is carried throughout the circulatory and nervous systems, and death is almost instant.

Few women aspire to "crowd 'em in" to that apex of accuracy—the one hole group, a feat we benchresters are still trying to achieve. She just wants to shoot. Is this really so bad?

A lot of fine .22's are being dusted off for this type of shooting. Among the most popular seem to be the Mossberg 340K, Winchester 72, Winchester 69, Savage model 4, and the Marlin 81C—all top notch rim-fire rifles for the beginner.

If the gun you have selected for your wife does not have a scope, by all means, get one. It will help her shooting, and this will mean more hits for her. And it is a well-known fact that hits mean fun, and that is why she wants to join you. Take your wife varmint hunting—she can become the best shooting companion you ever had.

THE .25-06 WILDCAT SUPREME

(Continued from page 31)

One of the main reasons the .25-06 is such an excellent long range cartridge is that it drives a long, heavy bullet at a respectable velocity—over 3200 fps for the 100 grain slug. This combination results in a flat-shooting, wind-bucking cartridge that's hard to beat. Velocity from the .25-06 is about 3100 fps with the 117-120 grain bullets. The 100 grain bullet with 58 grains of 4831 is in the 3250 fps bracket.

Trajectory of the above loads is exceptionally flat. Sighted to print 2" high at 100 yards, the 100 gr. bullet still prints 2" high



at 200. At 300 yards the drop will be about 2½" to 3" below point of aim. I can hold dead-on a crow or a sod poodle up to 250 yards and make a clean hit. Beyond that and up to about 325 yards, with the crosshairs on the top of an upright prairie dog's head, the spire point drops right in his boiler room.

This cartridge, in a well-built, heavy varmint has no problem consistently connecting with small targets such as crows or prairie dogs at ranges over 300 yards. One of our favorite sod poodle villages is separated by fence lines just 300 long steps apart. Shooting from the ditch along one of these fences, most of our targets are spotted in the field beyond the far fence—putting most of our shots in the 300 yard bracket.

We were testing loads on this particular town one spring day just after the young prairie dogs were out. My shooting partner's

.243 custom heavy-barrelled sporter was being fed the 70 grain Hornady spire point backed by 39 grains of 4064, with a velocity in the neighborhood of 3400 fps. I used my .25-06, on a Mauser '98 action with a heavy Buhmiller barrel, and loaded with the 100 grain Hornady spire point shoved along by 58 grains of 4831. Scopes were a Weaver K-8 for the .243, and a K-10 for the .25-06.

This time of the year, the young dogs often sit still for several shots, and at a distance between 25 and 50 yards beyond the second fence line, I'd choose a target and hold dead on while my buddie spotted my shot. Then, on the next shot I'd compensate for range and wind, and invariably clobber the tiny target. With a relatively stiff breeze blowing, it was necessary to hold the vertical crosshair right on the windward side of a dog to connect dead center. The .243 called for about 2" more windage; the same true of hold-over. I held level with the top of a sod poodle's head; my buddy had to hold some 2" higher.

My partner wanted to try the Neidner, so I handed him the rifle and spotted his shots. We picked up a couple of dog burrows about 375 yards away, and he'd put the crosshairs dead on a dog and squeeze off a shot. I'd call his shot, and the next time he squeezed the trigger on the .25-06 the dog either joined his ancestors or it was such a "near miss" the little varmint dove for his burrow.

"Look," he said, handing me the rifle, "We've made a few rules about this prairie dog shooting. No shooting under 200 yards and no shooting pregnant females. Right?"

"Right," I agreed.

"Well," he said, "I'd like to add one more. Leave that .25-06 in the car or we won't have any more prairie dogs to shoot!"

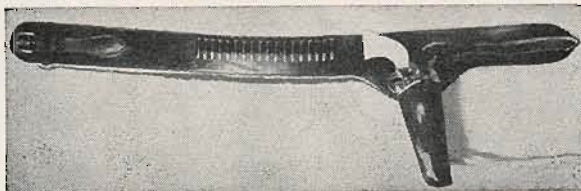
Since the .25-06 digests the slow-burning powders with gusto, I use surplus 4831 exclusively. Except for a load of 51.5 grains of 4676 behind the 87 grain bullet, I have never been able to get good results with any of the faster burning powders. Undoubtedly, good, accurate loads could be worked up

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with 4320 or 4064. However, I can get 4831 for about 45¢ per pound and this gives me an awful lot of accurate, economical shooting. My favorite loads for the .25-06 puts 59 grains of 4831 behind the 87 grain bullet; 58 grains behind the 100 grain slugs; and 56 grains behind any of the 117-120 grain spitzers soft points for big game work. None of these loads are maximum in my rifle, but each should be approached with caution, starting at least 3 grains below those shown. Pressures with any of the above loads are very mild; extraction is easy, primer pockets are tight even after ten loadings; and cases seem to last forever.

Accuracy with all three of these loads is just short of phenomenal. Each will consistently stay inside a minute-of-angle. With the 100 grain Hornady and 58 grains of 4831 I usually get the first three shots touching each other. This is out of a cold barrel, an important factor for the varmint hunter—especially if you're trying to tag a crow out at 250-275 yards.

Cruising around one winter morning in the foothills of the Manzano Mountains looking for crows, my buddy pulled up as we spotted a flock along a small stream which paralleled the road. I slid out of the car, rested the .25-06 on a fence post, and the crosshairs picked out a shiny black rascal perched on the tip of a small pine. Silhouetted against the snow covered hillside, he made a perfect target. I allowed about an inch of light between the horizontal crosshair and his back, took a deep breath, let out half, and squeezed. At the crack of the rifle, black feathers exploded.

My buddy said "Damn!" rather reverently, then added; "I've got to see how far that was." It was exactly 335 long paces to the base of the pine from the fence line. The load? The 100 grain Hornady spire point with 58 grains of 4831.

I had my .25-06 built with a 1-in-10 inch twist barrel to serve as a varmint-deer combination, specifically choosing this rate of twist to stabilize 100 to 120 grain slugs. However, some of my varmint shooting buddies have had .25-06's barreled with a 1-in-12 inch twist for the lighter .25 caliber bullets. My Neidner, with its faster twist, delivers excellent accuracy with the 87 grain bullets. A short, stubby bullet should be spun slower for better stabilization, but I've never noticed a great deal of difference in accuracy I'd attribute to rate of twist alone.

For high velocity addicts, amazing speeds can be obtained with the 87 grain bullet in the .25-06. It's no great problem to push it to 3500 fps with 60 grains of 4831; 61 grains will deliver about 3550, and 62 grains, a compressed load, has been chronographed at 3610.

I loaded my .25-06 with 117 grain Sierra boattails at about 3100 fps, and compared them with my .219 Donaldson Wasp pushing a 55 grain bullet at about 3500. The shooting was done at 200 yards with a 10 to 15 MPH wind blowing from left to right. The average drift for the 117 grain .25 bullet was some two inches compared with about four and a half inches for the .219. These same loads were then shot at 400 yards to compare drop. With the .25-06, the amount of drop was such that a backline hold on the running deer target dropped the bullet right in the center of the rib cage; the 55 grain .224


Wasp slug grouped at the belly line—approximately 8" lower. With the .25-06, a foot of hold-over at this range meant venison, while about twice that much would have been necessary with the Wasp.

The flat trajectory of the .25-06 makes it an ideal rifle for antelope, mule deer, and sheep hunting. Load the 117 or 120 grain spitzers in front of 58 grains of 4831, for 3200 fps, and you have a load that is pure poison in open country for anything up to elk.

A .25-06, with a good scope, is just the ticket for some of the cross-canyon shots at deer in my neck of the woods. A nice fat, 4 point muley buck made the mistake of pausing at the edge of the timber across a canyon from me just below Capillo Peak in the Manzano Mountains. I held the crosshair level with his back and squeezed off from a good solid sitting position. The buck took two stiff-legged jumps and piled up. The 117 grain Sierra boattail had taken him right through the middle of the rib cage. A two-inch hole on the far side showed that the slug had opened up and done a complete job.

My .25-06 is built up on a re-worked Mauser '98 action; however any good bolt action that will handle the .30-06 or .270 cartridge is a good place to start. The 98 Mauser, Model 70 Winchester, Enfield, Springfield, L-57 Sako, or any of the FN Mausers are excellent. One good way to get a .25-06 is to have a Model 70 Winchester in .257 Roberts rechambered, then alter the bolt stop and magazine for the longer case.

Cases for the .25-06 are easy to form; simply run a .30-06 case through a full-length sizing die, and trim it to 2.54". No fire-forming is required. If the chamber neck is made about .05" longer, to handle the .270 case, then both .270's and .30-06's can be used. And the .25-06 is very easy on cases. I have one lot that has been reloaded at least 12 times, and have only been trimmed once. However, as with any cartridge, watch for signs of excessive pressures. Cratered primers, loose primer pockets, or sticking cases are some of the danger signs. Back off at least two grains if they occur. Remember that rifle chambers are individuals. My .25-06 has handled as much as 60 grains of 4831 behind the 100 grain bullet before any signs of pressure were noted. I've settled on 58 grains with this weight bullet simply because it is easy on cases and extremely accurate.

As a rifleman, I'm not too sold on wildcat cartridges. However, the .25-06 has proven itself to be one of our best long range cartridges, wildcat or commercial. It is, in my opinion, one of the finest cartridges ever developed. For the varmint shooter who wants a flat-shooting, wind-bucking rifle-cartridge combination with excellent long range accuracy, and one that still can be used for big game, the .25-06 or the old .25 Neidner is a very good choice—one cartridge that comes very close to being the long sought for all-around caliber. 

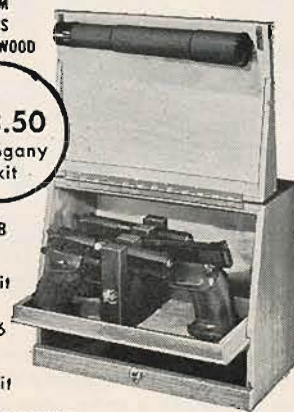
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TRAIL AND TARGET

SOMETHING WAS SAID in this column not long ago about gun talk being a language of its own, completely confusing to a lot of people. Did you ever think how bewildering even such a simple thing as calibers can be, to a person just awakening to firearms interest?

Simple? I'm not even sure that I understand it! In fact, I may very well prove that I don't, before this essay is finished!

So what is "caliber?" You give me the dictionary definition: "The diameter of a bullet or other projectile. (b) The diameter of the bore, as of a cannon or other firearm." And I tell you, in the words of the old song, "It ain't necessarily so!" In fact, it ain't even usually so.

Take "the diameter of a bullet" first. Take the commonest of all bullets, the .22 Rim-Fire. The standard .22 Long Rifle Rim-Fire does not measure twenty-two hundredths of an inch in diameter; it measures .225"! And the bore diameter of a .22 Rim-Fire rifle or pistol is not twenty-two hundredths, either; it is from .217, to .225 maximum.

Or take the also common .38 caliber. To examine the bullet first, the .38 Smith & Wesson Special (as a typical example of many) does not measure .38" in diameter; it may measure from .341" to .362" at the case mouth, or up to .364" at its maximum diameter. It is listed as "standard" at .357"—which is a lucky thing, since the bore diameter of .38 Special caliber guns is .357"!

You say you're confused? Let's go a step further. Did that .357 figure strike a familiar chord? You're thinking of the .357 Magnum. This one is correctly labeled, since "caliber" (theoretically) should mean the groove diameter of the gun, not the bullet diameter. The .357 Magnum bullet may measure from .302" to .348" at case mouth (.352 to .358 maximum; .357 standard); but the groove diameter of the bore of .357 Magnum guns is standard at .357—identical with the .38 Special. Which is why .38 Special ammunition will perform perfectly in .357 Magnum revolvers.

So let's steal a better-than-Webster's definition from the priceless White-Munhall book, "Centerfire American and British Pistol and Revolver Cartridges:—"

"Caliber . . . may be the measurement of any one of the following: The bore or land diameter of the barrel. The groove diameter of the barrel. The bullet diameter. Or—a purely arbitrary figure to avoid confusion with other types of weapons or cartridges."

Did they say "to avoid confusion?"

Well, now that we've got that clear, how about those double-jointed calibers, like .30-40 or .45-70.

These are easy. The first figure stands for the caliber—the name of the caliber, you

understand; not necessarily the measurement. The second figure stands for the number of grains of black powder in the load. But who uses black powder any more? A lot of people; but not in commercial factory ammunition. Let's try again: The second figure stands for the number of grains of black powder that used to be used in the load when the loads used black powder—the approximate equivalent of which in modern powder is now used in modern ammo. Clear?

Except that the second figure doesn't always mean that, at all. Take the dearly beloved .30-06. Six grains of black powder just won't produce the kick this old favorite carries. In this case, the "06" stands, in abbreviation, for the year (1906) the cartridge was adopted by the U. S. military. The rifle, if you're speaking of the military Springfield, was adopted in 1903 and was, technically, the .30-03, later changed to .30-06. Still with us?

But that second figure need not necessarily mean the year, either. Take the .250-3000. Here, the second figure refers to the alleged muzzle velocity of the bullet.

Typical of the English, who use it, is the still further obfuscation of confusion arrived at by naming calibers by case-head diameter as well as bullet diameter. White-Munhall offer as "a typical example . . . the .297/.230 Morris Short." The .297 is case head diameter; the .230 is the approximate bullet diameter! But calibers of this description are sometimes listed bass-ackward, with the approximate bullet or bore diameter first and the case head diameter second; so don't get over-confident; they can still confuse you!

One way they can further confuse is with the triple-threat calibers—like, for instance, the .45-75-420 Sharps. There were a lot of these, in the older days. The first figure meant the approximate bullet or bore diameter; the second figure meant the number of grains of black powder, and the third figure meant the weight, in grains, of the bullet. What could be simpler? Of course, there were always load variations, different powder weights and different bullet weights in the same (approximate) caliber, but—the idea was simple. Very simple!

Shotgun gauges (new word; means the same as "bore," generally speaking, but not always) are not clear as mud to everyone, either. Twelve gauge means a bore size such that 12 spherical balls of that diameter can be cast from a pound of lead. Sixteen gauge is smaller, meaning that 16 balls of that size can be cast from the same pound of lead. Twenty gauge is smaller than 16; and 28 gauge is smaller than 20. Which brings us down to the .410—which isn't a gauge at all, but a caliber.

We could extend this confusion well be-

yond the space here available if we went thoroughly into the European calibers, which, if you are able to translate them, express not only "caliber" (in millimeters now rather than in inch measurements) but also such things as length of case, length of cartridge, diameter of case, and ogive. Sufficient for most laymen is the knowledge that the European caliber in millimeters, multiplied by approximately four, gives an approximation of the U. S. caliber, which is an approximation of the diameter of something or other. Thus 9 mm is approximately equivalent to our .38 caliber (which is approximately .357" diameter), and so on.

But don't think that, just because you now know all there is to know about caliber designations, you are out of the woods of gun-talk confusion. Take, for example, the simple words *pistol* and *revolver*. According to Webster, a pistol is "a short firearm designed to be aimed and fired from one hand." Webster also defines a revolver as "a firearm (commonly a pistol) with a cylinder of several chambers so arranged as to revolve on an axis."

You would deduce then, and quite logically, that a revolver is a kind of pistol—as a Percheron is a kind of horse. But this was not good enough for the experts! They insisted on complicating Mr. Webster's definition to make a pistol "a short firearm designed to be aimed and fired from one hand and having only one firing chamber." By this definition, only a single-shot or a semi-automatic handgun can rightly be called a pistol.

You see what has happened? We had a perfectly good generic word meaning one-handed firearms; and we had all of the "species" words such as "single shot," "semi-automatic," and "revolver." But we weren't content with that. Instead, we limited the generic word, clung to all of the "species" words—and then had to invent a new word to replace the perfectly good generic one we had discarded! The best word we were able to invent was "handgun." It means the same as "pistol" meant when we left those things up to Webster. The only thing gained by this word-twisting is that an expert now has one more way to prove that he is an expert: he can laugh at you if you stupidly refer to a revolver as a pistol.

But the oddest mix-up in gun talk had to do with the words "reticle" and "reticule," as used to mean the sighting pattern (cross hairs, post, dot, or what-have-you) in a telescopic sight.

To me, "reticule" always meant the knitted bag my grandmother carried to contain her knitting and notions. So, when gun experts (and even scope advertisements) began referring to "reticules" in scopes, I consulted the dictionary. And, by gosh, I was right! "Reticule: a small bag, originally of network, carried by women as a workbag or pocket."

The other word, "reticle," was defined as "a system of lines, wires, or the like, in the focus of the eyepiece of an optical instrument." This makes sense.

But here's the pay-off! Webster's latest Unabridged now cross-references the two words! Which simply means that the gun experts used the wrong word so often and so consistently that now even the word-experts are confused, along with the rest of us.

CUSTOM TARGET GRIPS

(Continued from page 29)

completed, transfer the outlines to the wood, again being certain that the grain runs the length of the stock.

If you can get a handsaw, it will save you much time and effort. If a bandsaw is not available cut out the stock blank with a handsaw—it's good for your shooting arm. When the blanks are fully cut out (figure 1), place the pistol on each blank and mark the holes used to fasten the stock to the frame. Drill these holes with a drill bit smaller than the diameter of the mounting screws you will use; this will act as a pilot and guide. Then place both blanks on the pistol and hold it up to a light. See if the holes are properly aligned. If they are slightly off, this can be corrected when you drill the proper diameter for the mounting screws.

Our next concern will be the actual inletting. Some pistols will require very deep inletting, especially where it is necessary to cover the back-strap, as on the S&W Model 41. By measuring the depth and width of the grooves on the old stocks and transferring these measurements to your blanks, you are ready to rout out the inletting. The easiest way to accomplish this is with a drill press and a $\frac{1}{8}$ " router bit. If these are not available, use an electric hand drill locked in a vise. In either procedure, take light cuts only about 1/16" deep to prevent much chipping. As you progress, fit the blank to the frame at intervals to assure a tight fit and prevent the removal of too much wood.

In this operation, the adjusting slots for the palm rest must also be routed out. The two slots are $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide and $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, positioned $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the bottom of the right stock and $\frac{3}{8}$ " apart, routed completely through. These will take the bolts that come through the palm rest. Next, rout slots on the inside of the stock large enough to hold the sliding nuts for the two bolts, and deep enough so they slide freely when adjusting the palm rest.

When you feel that the fit is perfect, and the stocks rest flush on the frame, try the trigger mechanism and the slide, to be sure they are not binding at any point or come in any contact with the stock blank. If these move freely you have completed the inletting, and your blank should now look like the right grip illustrated in figure 2.

In the process of shaping these blanks to fit your hand, a few points must be taken into consideration. The size of your hand, the length and thickness of your thumb and trigger finger, also the amount of muscle situated in the web between your thumb and trigger finger. These are the spots that must be comfortable for proper fit. We must also consider a natural pointing of the gun. When the pistol is extended in firing position, it must align with the web of the shooter's hand. Tightness or discomfort in this position will definitely subtract from the shooter's ability to score.

In actual shaping of the wood, it is best to use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " steel tube covered with small particles of carbide or a $\frac{1}{4}$ " wooden dowel covered with a rough grade sandpaper, glued on in a spiral form with contact cement. Mount either one of these items in a drill press or in a hand drill securely mounted in a vise, and you are ready to

shape the blanks (figure 3).

In shaping, you can incorporate a trigger finger rest, an elaborate thumb rest and individual finger grips. Whatever you choose, work slowly, fitting each position until you have achieved a maximum of comfort and point control. If you encounter a crack or knot in the wood, don't be alarmed. It can be filled later, or if it is shallow, it may work out with further shaping. The entire operation of shaping must be done very carefully, the greater the care, the better the final fit.

The palm rest is shaped last, since it must conform to the base of the right stock after completion. The shape of the palm rest is your own choice; it can have a round base, as illustrated, or the base may be flat, on the same angle as the base of the stock. The size of the palm rest will depend mainly upon your hand. Generally, the distance from the base of your small finger to the wrist, plus $\frac{1}{2}$ ", will comprise the length. The height will depend on how you want your hand situated in the rest. After you make a pattern, lay it out with the grain of the wood running the length of the rest. When the outline is sawed, align the palm rest with the adjusting slots in the stock. Before marking the holes, be sure to allow for the removal of wood from the top of the rest, and position the holes so that the adjustment is directed upward when your hand is firmly fitted in the stocks. Drill your holes to take two $\frac{1}{4}$ " 20 Allen head bolts. The length of the bolts is determined by the thickness of the stock. Counter-sink the holes in order to recess the bolt head at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " into the rest. The palm rest is now ready to be shaped into the style you have selected, fitting the rest to your hand at intervals when hollowing out the top. Upon completion of the rest, assemble all the component parts on the pistol and check for tight spots by dry firing. I would also recommend firing one hundred rounds before the final sanding, since tight spots may show up in actual firing.

After this, if you are satisfied with the fit, and if the pistol functions properly, you can proceed with the final sanding and finishing. This can be as glossy, or fancy as you wish. For a professional looking finish, sand the stocks well with finishing sandpaper and remove all of the dust with a tack rag, or any rag dampened with shellac. Apply any good commercial stock finish, and sand lightly, perhaps with steel wool, between coats. For better appearance, you may want to checker certain areas, or add any other ornamentation—this we'll leave up to you.

If you've followed these steps, you are now the proud owner of a custom-stocked pistol that should not only help your ego, but your scores as well—here's to good shooting.

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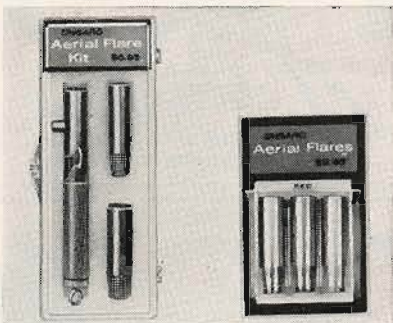
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SHOPPING



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BETTER'N BUCKSKIN CHOPPER features vinyl shell, tufted pile acrylic lining, one-piece shell construction, no seams. Waterproof, windproof, scuffproof, and washable. Resists electricity, oils, and acids. Claimed to be as warm as wool, as dry as deer hide, as long lasting as leather, Better'n Buckskin is available in small, medium, large, and extra large sizes; tan and black colors. Priced \$2.95, ppd. from United Electro Plastics Co., Dept. G-3, 510 First Ave., No., Minneapolis 3, Minn.



REDDING-HUNTER, INC. is offering a new "C" type reloading press, the Standard Model 7. Designed to perform all reloading operations for rifle and pistol cartridges, it features a spring-retained detachable shell holder, universal primer-arm, and a 3 1/4" stroke with option of up or down operation. Made of durable ASTM #30 ferrous alloy, the new Redding "C" press is finished in brown wrinkle enamel. This press, and other Redding precision reloading tools are available from your dealer. A catalog of all Redding products is available from: Redding-Hunter, Inc., Dept. G-3, 114 Starr Road, Cortland, N.Y.

"PISTOLITE" converts single action hand guns to accurate Spot-O-Lite practice guns for fast draw enthusiasts. Specially designed plastic cylinder fits all single action hand guns, .32-20 and larger. Chamber contains intensely focused miniature flashlight. For practice use, to shoot a Spot-O-Lite at target, switch is activated by firing pin when trigger is pulled. Light hits target at same instant bullet would strike if live ammunition were fired. Pistolite manufactured by Tod-O Mfg. Co., Dept. G-12, Thousand Oaks, Calif.

THE PORTABLE SUN GUN, latest development in Thermocatalytic heat, produces instant direct-ray heat, without electricity. It generates infra-red heat, projected by a reflector. Because there is no flame, the unit is windproof. The Sun Gun requires about one-fourth the amount of air used by the smallest ordinary open flame gas burner. In addition to heating, it also does a good cooking job. Polyplastic Forms, Inc., Dept. G-3, Gazza Blvd., Farmingdale, N.Y.



FOR A LIMITED TIME, the Poly-Choke Co., Box 296G, Hartford 1, Conn., is offering a combination that will save you \$4.75. They will install a Deluxe ventilated Poly-Choke and a new FeatherAire ventilated rib on your shotgun for only \$49.95 plus postage. Installing both of these on any field grade shotgun will not only bring it up to the luxury grade, it will increase its versatility and pleasure. For more details and a gun mailing carton, write Poly-Choke, Dept. G-3, Hartford 1, Conn.

RELOADING PROCEDURES, a new booklet on the fundamentals of metallic and shot-shell reloading, is available from C-H Die Co., Dept. G-3, Box 404, El Monte, California. The booklet sells for 25c, and is loaded with step-by-step procedures, photographs, ballistic and load tables, and other reference material. A good basic handbook for the beginning reloader.



A NEW LINE of rubber sealing and caulking compounds in collapsible tubes has been announced by General Electric, Dept. G-3, Silicone Products Dept., Waterford, N. Y. The four practical products, most of which can be used outdoors include Bathtub Seal, Auto Seal, Metal Seal, and Clear Seal.

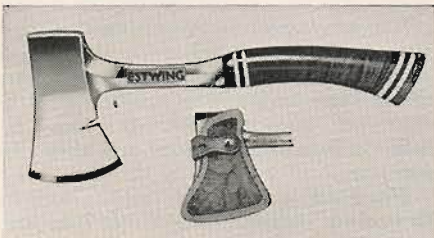
WITH Guns



KAMO SPORTSMAN'S FOLDING STOOL is comfortable, lightweight, and camouflaged. Made of water repellent Army Duck canvas and one inch non-reflective aluminum furniture tubing, it features a convenient carrying strap, an extra large pocket for storage, and large non-skid rubber tips. Price, \$7.95, from your dealer or Camouflage Mfg. Co., Dept. G-3, P.O. Box 2902, Jacksonville, Florida.



FULL SIZE REPLICAS of famous firearms are available from Classics, Inc., Dept. G-3, 521 Broadway, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This line of non-operating decorator guns are hand assembled, metalized, wood grained, and antiqued. Each is mounted on an attractive walnut panel, and comes with a history of the firearm. Included in the selection are: Allen pepperbox; Philadelphia Derringer; Colt 36 Navy; Colt Peacemaker and others. Prices range from \$10.00 to \$15.00.

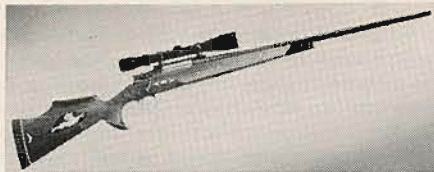


SPORTSMAN'S AXE. New Jr. size identical to original Leather Grip Model, only smaller. Forged of one-piece fine tool steel. Genuine leather embossed sheath free with each axe. Lists at \$5.50, in length of 12". From: Estwing Mfg. Co., Dept. G-3, Rockford, Ill.

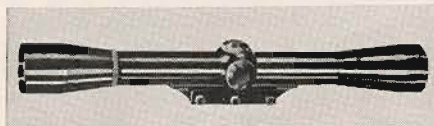
DERRINGER .38 SPECIAL, is exact copy of famous Remington Derringer. It features attractive blued finish, rifled steel barrels for bulls-eye accuracy, twin firing pins, coil hammer spring, single ejector, adjustable hammer and trigger. Shoots easy-to-obtain .38 special ammo. Priced at \$22.95 from: Seaport Traders, Inc., Dept. G-3, 1221 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 15, Calif.



THE VEXING PROBLEM of preventing rust damage to guns and other metal products has at last been solved by the new VCI (Volatile Corrosion Inhibitor). It is said to be so effective that a few drops placed on the surface of water in a container will prevent rust on iron and steel parts in and out of the water. A piece of felt saturated with VCI and placed in a gun cabinet will keep the guns rust-free, even though it is not wiped on the guns. VCI is non-irritating to the skin and has no offensive odor. Available in 2 oz. plastic bottle at \$1.00 or 6 oz. spray can for \$2.00. From: Arms Enterprises, Inc., Dept. G-3, Box 1, Kittanning, Pa.



THE ARMS DIVISION of the Winslow Company, P.O. Box 1507, Dept. G-3, Venice, Florida, has introduced a new line of hand-made sporting rifles ranging in price from \$265 to \$1785. Three models, for various shooting conditions, are available; the Rangermaster (illustrated) for long range shooting; the Powermaster for larger game; and the Bushmaster for light game in heavy brush. All rifles use the FN Supreme 400 actions and Douglas Premium grade barrels. Most of the line will feature stock carving by Nils Hultgren.

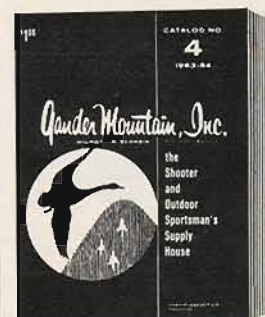


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GURKHA KUKRIS, an all-purpose knife, the Dress Model features black horn handles, lion's head pommel, and engraved steel blade. Priced \$16 each U.S., pair \$28 U.S., ppd. The Service Model features a wooden and brass handle and plain 12" blade and sheath, priced at \$14 each U.S., pair \$25 U.S., ppd. A product of New Cornwall Projects Ltd., Box No. 2972, Dept. G-3, Vancouver, B. C., Canada.



ALL-AMERICAN Eveready Weatherproof Lantern, by Union Carbide Corp., is practically unbreakable. Both the lantern case and the easy-grip handle are molded as one unit in grey "Cordahide" polyethylene. It is equipped with an unbreakable lens, bulb protector, and a reflector that will not tarnish. The push-button on/off switch is weather-proof and shockproof. Available at your dealer, complete with battery, for only \$4.98.



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PRO-GUN LAW

(Continued from page 18)

us who might otherwise be for us. True, a man should have a right to carry a gun on his person, if he needs it. But if he needs it, he should not object to getting a permit to carry—providing the permitting authority were required to issue the permit unless it could prove just cause to refuse it."

A national pro-gun law should clearly and conclusively prohibit any requirement for the registration of firearms, except machine-guns and such other specifically defined weapons as have no legitimate civilian use.

Perhaps the touchiest subject in the entire field of firearms legislation, particularly today, is the matter of mail-order sale and purchase. The gun used to murder President Kennedy was a mail-order gun. Yet what law could have prevented the purchase of that gun by a person who had been examined and released by at least two Federal law enforcement agencies without the filing of any criminal charge?

No thinking gun user, no ethical (or even reasonable) manufacturer or dealer, wants guns to get into bad hands, if only because the bad use of guns is detrimental to all of us. Yet mail-order buying is a legitimate part of the modern way of life, not only in America; and guns are a part of it. A pro-gun law should guarantee the right to sell and the right to buy guns by mail order as well as by any other channel; but it should provide safeguards against the use of this channel, or any channel, by bad people, whether they be buyers or sellers.

How to do this is a difficult problem, one long since proved to be thorny. Perhaps no solution can be perfect; all solutions offered so far work major or minor hardships in one area or another. The Dodd Committee on Juvenile Delinquency wrestled with this problem for months, wound up with an effort that pleased nobody completely, may or may not have been worth the effort. But we must at least face this problem with an honesty equal to that with which we expect to be treated. A few purveyors of mail-order guns have injured us all by reckless indifference to the ethical practices so carefully followed by the firearms industry as a whole. It is an axiom of law that "the suppliant must come to court with clean hands." We must not impair our strength by using it to defend men not deserving of our defense.

One solution offered has been to place certain responsibilities on the public carrier through which the gun is shipped. An Express Agent shall not knowingly deliver a gun to a juvenile, or to a known criminal or drug addict, etc.; and if he has reasonable cause to doubt the recipient's right to the gun, he may require that proof or legal qualifications be furnished. The word "know-

ingly" is essential, since otherwise the carrier or its agent might be held responsible for results he could not have foreseen or prevented. It is an awkward solution, effective only in a few cases, and one not relished by the carriers. Perhaps there is a better solution; perhaps we can find it. Certainly we should try.

Here at the headquarters of GUNS Magazine and Shooters Club of America, and with the cooperation of industry, organization, legislative, and legal experts across the country—we are trying.

Are you for us, or against us? And what are your suggestions?

Bear this in mind as you listen to the rabble-rousers and to the questions those rabble-rousers provoke:

No law of any kind whatever could have prevented the assassination of the President. Not even the best efforts of trained, dedicated Federal agencies could do that. Blaming the gun is no more logical than blaming Dallas because it happened there—no more logical than blaming the car because it carried the President into the line of fire—no more logical than blaming the weather department for stopping the rain that might have caused the President to ride under the plastic bubble that might have deflected the bullets—no more logical than blaming the United States Marine Corps for teaching marksmanship to a man who allegedly used it, years later, to commit a murder.

Only people with ulterior motives, or people crazed by mass hysteria, could seriously suggest a useless law that would weaken the very Constitutional structure which John F. Kennedy and every President has sworn to defend and uphold.

What stronger witness could you ask than John F. Kennedy himself? Read this: "By calling attention to 'a well regulated militia,' the 'security' of the nation, and the right of each citizen 'to keep and bear arms,' our founding fathers recognized the essentially civilian nature of our economy. Although it is extremely unlikely that the fears of governmental tyranny which gave rise to the Second Amendment will ever be a major danger to our nation, the Amendment still remains an important declaration of our basic civilian-military relationships, in which every citizen must be ready to participate in the defense of his country. For that reason I believe the Second Amendment will always be important."

That letter, published in the "Know Your Lawmakers" department of GUNS Magazine, April, 1960, was written and signed by the then junior Senator from Massachusetts, John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

"He, being dead, yet speaketh."

LAST OF THE TEXAS LONGHORNS!

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SHOTGUN FACTS AND FANCIES

(Continued from page 33)

present even with the very fullest choke... Even so," he adds, "it is far easier to design a combination of special gun and load which will give effective pattern and penetration at... long ranges than it is to find a human being who can use that combination with success on individual flying birds!"

It is sad but true that a lot of what we are told, and a lot of what is accepted as fact by a great majority of shooters, about shotgun performance, is a far cry from the truth.

We've all heard tall tales about the long range killing power of those 36" barreled "Long Toms" of sainted memory. Kimble's gun, too, had a 36" barrel. But a 36" barrel won't shoot appreciably further than a 26" barrel of the same choke, given the same loads. Here is a clue: a 26" barrel is long enough to permit maximum powder consumption and, hence, maximum power. Same load, same amount of powder, same number of pellets, same power delivered—why would pellets in one barrel fly further than those from the other barrel? As a matter of fact, barrels longer than needed for maximum powder consumption can and sometimes do give less reach than shorter barrels, apparently because barrel friction after peak power is reached retards the bullet or shot charge.

We've all heard, too, that "A gun with a tight full choke shoots further than one with a loose choke." It ain't so! The full choked gun will be effective at longer ranges than the open choke, because it will concentrate more pellets into the killing pattern. Its pellets won't travel any further.

We've all heard experts quote the old axiom, "The bigger the bore, the longer the reach. You can't reach out with a 16 or a 20 like you can with a 12. And a 10 is even better—and a 10 Magnum better still." This one is not all wrong, even though the conclusion arrived at is reached, in most cases, for the wrong reasons. A 20 gauge gun will shoot every bit as far as a 12, or even a 10, given the same relationship between weight of shot charge and powder. The bigger bores will be more effective at longer ranges only because they put more shot into the air, more shot into the pattern. How much more effective? About three yards more for the 16 than for the 20; about three yards more for the 12 than for the 16; about three yards more for the 10 or Magnum 12 than for the 12 non-magnum; and about three yards more for the Magnum 10 than for the 10 regular.

Three yards is not much. Can you, even without the distraction of shouldering a gun and swinging it on a flying target, gauge range accurately enough to say surely, "That one is 40—and that one 43 yards distant?" Unless you can, don't laugh at the man who packs a gun a little smaller than yours—until you see how many birds he kills!

Because not even "most pellets in the air" or even "most pellets in the pattern" is half as important as "most pellets in the bird!" And very often the man with the lighter gun—smaller bore, shorter barrel—will put more pellets into more birds than the man with the big Magnum—simply because he can

swing it faster. You gain pellets with the big ones; you even gain a few yards of effective range; but you may be giving away more in ease of handling than those pellets and those yards are worth.

Let it be said right here, before misconceptions arise, that the phrase "lighter gun" as used above meant exactly what I said it



did—smaller bore, shorter barrel. It does not necessarily mean less avoirdupois weight. Oddly enough, smaller bore does not necessarily mean lighter weight. A recent check of guns commercially available showed that the heaviest 12 was only about four ounces heavier than the heaviest 16—and the lightest 16 weighed exactly as much as the lightest 12. The 20s average a bit lighter than their "big" brothers, but some of them equal the average weights of 16s or even 12s. Not even the 28s, or even the baby .410s, are "light" guns in terms of pounds and ounces.

But ease of handling is not necessarily a matter of pounds and ounces. The easy handling shotgun is one that comes to your shoulder easily and smoothly and in such a position that the barrel or barrels "naturally" point where you look—one that swings easily without drag due to muzzle weight—one that does not punish you with its recoil.

Obviously from the above, stock fit is a major factor in easy handling. Perfect fit between shotgun stock and shotgun shooter requires expert tailoring of stock length, pitch, drop at comb, drop at heel, cast-off—like fitting a tailor-made suit. Fortunately, perfect fit is essential only to the experts. It is conducive to better shooting; but not one shooter in a thousand can tell the difference between a gun that fits him perfectly and one that fits him fairly well—provided the stock is the right length. Most of us adapt to guns that fit us fairly well, just as most of us wear less-than-perfectly-fitted suits. The stock that is too long, or the one that is too short, brings immediate discomfort in magnified recoil, makes it difficult to shoulder the gun smoothly, and these are things we notice. Fortunately, stock length is the easiest and least expensive of all shotgun measurements to alter. Any competent gunsmith can identify the problem and correct it for you.

How much barrel weight (that is, barrel length) you can swing easily depends on you—your size, length of arm, strength, and coordination. But don't buy 30" barrels just because you think they will "shoot harder" (or farther) than 26" barrels; it just ain't so!

The last item for easy handling is—recoil. This, too, is a personal matter. Some shooters are not much affected by recoil; others are extremely sensitive to it. It is not entirely a matter of discomfort, or of he-man ruggedness versus lack of stamina. Many who brag that recoil doesn't bother them are really affected by it without knowing it. A gun that kicks hard, in the hands of a shooter who mounts the gun lightly (without hard pressure back against his shoulder) will kick itself out of position on that shoulder, causing a second shot to be either misdirected, painful to the shooter's shoulder, or both.

Weight of the gun is a factor in recoil, but not as much a factor as some believe. A very heavy 12 will kick harder with magnum loads than a light 12 will kick with field loads, all other factors being equal. The extra weight in the gun is very much less than enough to offset the extra oomph in the charge.

The point is that "magnum" is not a magic word that will transform you from an average gunner into a deadly killer at extreme ranges. If you are actually killing most of your birds with your big magnum at long ranges, more power to you. But most of us can't do it. And if you're one of those who can't, the big gun may even be contributing to your failure! Try less gun—and shorter shots! A duck killed at 80 yards has only one merit over a duck killed at 30—you can brag about him. But even that is a doubtful value; how many people will believe you?



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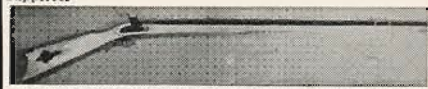
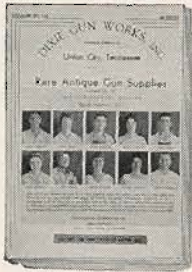
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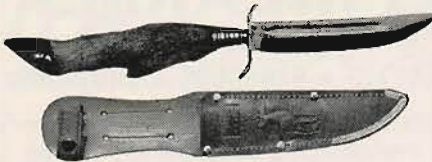
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PRIMERS

(Continued from page 19)

(source of oxygen). Gum arabic or a suitable substitute glue is the binding agent which holds these chemicals together. These chemical elements are mixed in carefully controlled proportions to achieve desirable degrees of heat, sensitivity, heat duration, and clean, non-corrosive functioning.

Pistol cartridges require a different proportion of these chemical elements than rifle cartridges or shotgun shells. The pistol primer must achieve full ignition in a very short barrel or, in the case of revolvers, in the cylinder proper, before the gap between the cylinder and the barrel is reached. Shotguns, with their lower operating pressure ranges, have much larger amounts of explosive mixture in their primers. Since pressure is a factor in proper ignition, and because rifles, pistols, and shotguns present quite different problems of ignition time and powder types, no priming mixture can be universal.

Other important components of the modern primer are of a less technical nature, but are nonetheless manufactured and assembled with utmost care and precision. The anvil, the small two, or sometimes three legged piece of metal visible inside the primer cup, serves to shatter the mixture when the firing pin indents the cup.

The distance between the point of the anvil and the bottom of the cup is called the bridge. Because the legs of the anvil protrude from the cup before it is placed in the cartridge case, this distance is changed when the primer is inserted into the case properly. Experimentation has shown that greatest sensitivity occurs when the anvil, upon reaching the bottom of the primer pocket, is pushed up into the cup. This consolidates the mixture to a condition of "pre-stress," permitting even a light firing pin blow to initiate detonation. Pressure, on the priming mixture, will not normally detonate primers if applied slowly, and even a rapid pressure or impact is not always sufficient to initiate detonation unless a shearing action of the mixture occurs.

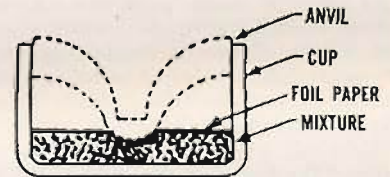
Primer sensitivity, of most concern to shooters and reloaders, is dependent upon many factors. Here are a few:

1. Firing pin energy must be strong enough to supply a rapid pressure that will cause a shearing action in the priming mixture.
2. The firing pin should not be more than .015" off center when it strikes the primer cup.
3. The contour of the face of the firing pin is important to proper sensitivity. If it is too sharp, it may puncture the cup; if too blunt, a loss of sensitivity may occur. Optimum contour radius is normally .065" in large sizes, and .035" in small rifle or pistol.
4. Normally, primers will be more sensitive in warm temperatures; however, modern American primers are designed to function under wide temperature variations.
5. Seating depth has a great effect on primer sensitivity. Not only should the anvil be pushed up into the cup, the primer cup must bottom in the primer pocket. If the primer is not seated to

full depth, the force of the firing pin will move both the pellet of mixture and the anvil forward, thus causing a loss of sensitivity. The cup itself might also move, absorbing some of the firing pin energy, and possibly resulting in a misfire.

6. Primers must be properly aligned in the pocket: cocked primers may have a disoriented mixture pellet or anvil displacement.
7. Any material or displacement that prevents the firing pin from delivering its full energy will have an effect on primer sensitivity. A short firing pin, excessive headspace, improper sizing die, and oil or dirt in the firing pin assembly may all affect the firing pin travel.
8. Oil, wax, water, or many other chemical substances may render the priming mixture inert, and every precaution should be taken to keep primers free of all contamination.
9. Some propellants, or powders, contain volatile elements which, after prolonged storage, can render primers insensitive.
10. Most modern American primers have flat faces. This tends to make the primer more sensitive, and assure better alignment in the primer pocket.

The manufacture of primers is a highly technical, and carefully controlled process.



The primer mixtures are made up in small batches to avoid having a large quantity of highly explosive product in one area, and to permit closer quality control. Each batch is pre-tested for sensitivity, performance, etc., before it is approved for assembly, and the completed primers are constantly checked.

The most significant test applied to the completed primers is the "drop test." A known weight is dropped from various heights to determine first, the height at which 100 per cent of the primers fire; then, the greatest height at which none of the primers fire. From these findings, the manufacturer determines the relative sensitivity of the test samples, and a mathematical probability curve is plotted which predicts the uniformity of the lot of primers and the probability of a misfire occurring because of an insensitive primer. From these test data, the manufacturer knows that a legitimate misfire cannot occur in perhaps three million rounds, unless one or more of the factors mentioned earlier, were introduced in seating or handling the primers.

From all of this, it is apparent that every precaution is taken by manufacturers to assure that the shooters get a low-cost reloading component that they can rely on for not only perfect functioning each and every time, but a component that will do its part toward making the cartridge as accurate as possible.





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BUSTING THE WILD THUMB-BUSTER

(Continued from page 23)

wrapped around a certain type of gun handle for so long, it plumb won't fit anything else. My hands are so small I can't reach the trigger on a double acting gun—besides, my present day shooting needs require positive shots, which I can't get shooting double action. I've also tried several models of autoloaders, and they were all good. But when a year-round, every day job swings you through rain, mud, mountain-top cloud-bursts, snow, blizzards, sandstorms, and scorching desert sun—often far from home or camp, and with unexpected shots coming up—the gun chosen must come up shooting without the possibility of a jammed action. Sometimes I get around to cleaning my gun; but more often I don't.

Despite the variety of guns in the 22 RF caliber that I've tried, I've never felt confident that I was armed for all occasions unless the gun on my hip conformed to that old Single Action Army feel.

Almost fifty years ago I first contemplated the possibilities of cross-breeding the Colt's Army and Bisley model six-shooters. The Bisley was an offspring of the Army model, and parts are interchangeable, except for handles and hammer spur. As countless gun-speed artists can testify today, a faster gun than the Army Model Colt has never been designed, but it's not a target arm. Its short, back-flared handle shape permits the recoil to rock the gun back on the trigger finger to a "raised pistol" position, essential to fast repeat shots. But this same speed factor, especially in today's popular short barrel types, makes it difficult to hold on target in aimed offhand shooting.

The underslung handles of the Bisley, while resulting in a perfect target grip, holds the muzzle down too much for fast repeat action; and for this reason the hammer spur is designed for offhand cocking when target shooting. I learned early in the game that I could do better work at long range targets with my Bisley than I could with my old Army model.

The thin walls of the Army model prevented my reworking them to the Bisley shape, so I used reverse thinking, and cut off the low spur of the Bisley hammer and replaced it with one from an Army model. This gave me much faster use of the Bisley, but only in getting off the first shot, and in fanning, the underslung hammer still held the muzzle down.

All of this helped some, but it did nothing for my need for a belt gun with the feel of my old hog-leg, yet shooting .22 RF ammunition. I tried smaller calibers in the single action, but they all had one drawback. The smaller the bore, the heavier the gun, and when you change the weight in a sidearm you also change the balance.

When Ruger brought out his modern versions of the old hog-leg, the Single Six and the Blackhawk, I thought that these would come about as close as anything to filling my shooting requirements. My first Ruger, the .357 Magnum Blackhawk, quite naturally, was worked over to make it conform to my pattern of shooting. The hammer spur was

rebuilt to get it out from under its hiding place beneath the over-hanging rear sight. As a matter of fact, I had two of these guns, each with a different hammer shape. One of these Blackhawks had the pig-pen shaped trigger guard recut and rounded. No single action can be mastered completely without a round, finger-fitting trigger guard. In spite of this guard alteration, I still could not do as well as I had hoped, and I then took a long look at the short, back-flared handles. Still wondering what would happen if I could cross-breed the Bisley and Army style grips, I discovered that Bill Ruger had con-

structed his grip frame so that I could whittle on it without ruining a good gun.

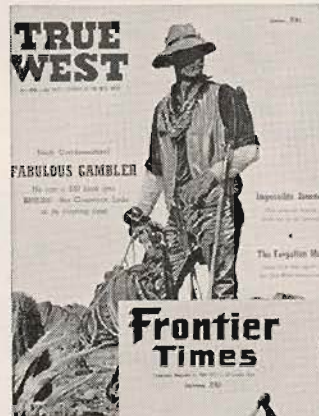
Laying the frame on my wood blank, I outlined it, and then dropped down about a third of an inch, following the inside curve of the frame, and pencilled in the new butt portion of my grips. This left a knot on the back of the strap that would roost an owl, but this was soon remedied with a flat file. The butt of the new grips was filled by gluing a block of wood to one panel.

On the range I proved two points: my group tightened up and my rear sight had to be raised. The gun was now shooting four inches below its original point of impact. The positive shape of my new handles pulled that wild muzzle down to where it could now be bridled and controlled.

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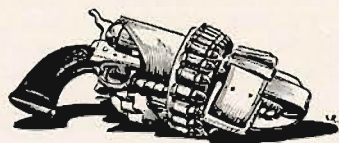
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Getting back to the Single Six, I happened to meet a hunter, in the Aztec country of New Mexico, with one of Ruger's first .22 Magnum Single Six's. Flopping down in the sand, I rested both of my forearms on upraised knees, set the butt in my left hand for a rest, and pulled the long barrel down on an old bleached cow's skull about 200 yards across a sage brush draw. I didn't hit my target, but after seeing the ruckus raised by that pee-wee hollow point bullet, I was sold.

But the .22 RF Magnum rounds don't come cheap, and I use a lot of fodder in my daily



work. Then, here comes Bill Ruger with a dual cylinder version that handles the standard .22 and the hotter Magnum. I wanted one bad, and finally latched on to one with a long barrel. I found it to be just the thing for longer ranges, but I couldn't get along with that long tube.

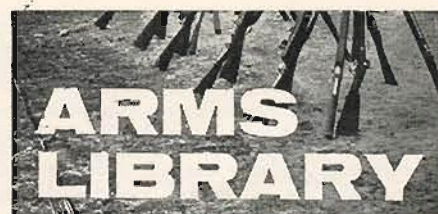
A gunsmith's hacksaw removed a good piece of the front end—and the square front sight, too. This was no bother, as I had intended to fit a rifle head in any case. A slot was cut into the top of the barrel and a white head sight was installed. I filled the square bottomed rear of the top strap full of hot metal, cut the whole works down as

low as possible, and recut a rear sight to accommodate my front bead—plenty wide and shallow for quick accurate sighting.

My son-in-law, Roy McCain, rebuilt the grip according to my experiments with the .357 Blackhawk, and made two sets of beautiful walnut handles that are interchangeable on the two guns. A close look at the photos of this job show, by the holster wear, that this gun really gets used. To me it has the combined feel of the old Single Action Army model plus the qualities of the Bisley, and fills my need for a .22 belt gun that handles all of my daily shooting chores well. With the .22 RF Magnum cylinder, loaded and riding in my saddle bags or on the seat of my pickup, it is easily changed into the nearest thing to a small bore rifle that I've ever seen.

Don't get me wrong; the only gun that will shoot like a rifle is a rifle. The .357 Magnum, like a corncob in a molasses jug, is a good stopper, but it's too much gun for my work—economically and ballistically. My Single Six is similar in size and feel to my old Colt hog-leg, and it's become a part of my every day walking, riding, and working—as no rifle could.

Don't let anyone kid you about the killing potential of the little .22 RF. Considering cost, carrying qualities, and the many animals I've stopped dead in their tracks, I've not found its equal in any other load I've ever tried. While the tyro surgery I've performed on my Single Six may make the factory shudder, this gun has become a constant companion—as important to me as my horse.



DUCKS AT A DISTANCE

By Bob Hines

(*Superintendent of Documents,
U.S. Government Printing Office,
Washington 25, D.C., 1963. \$0.25*)

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(*John Remling, 11 Catskill Pl.,
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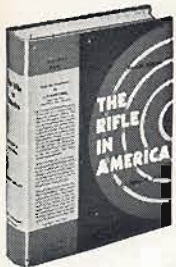
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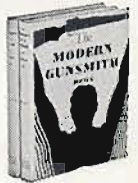
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