

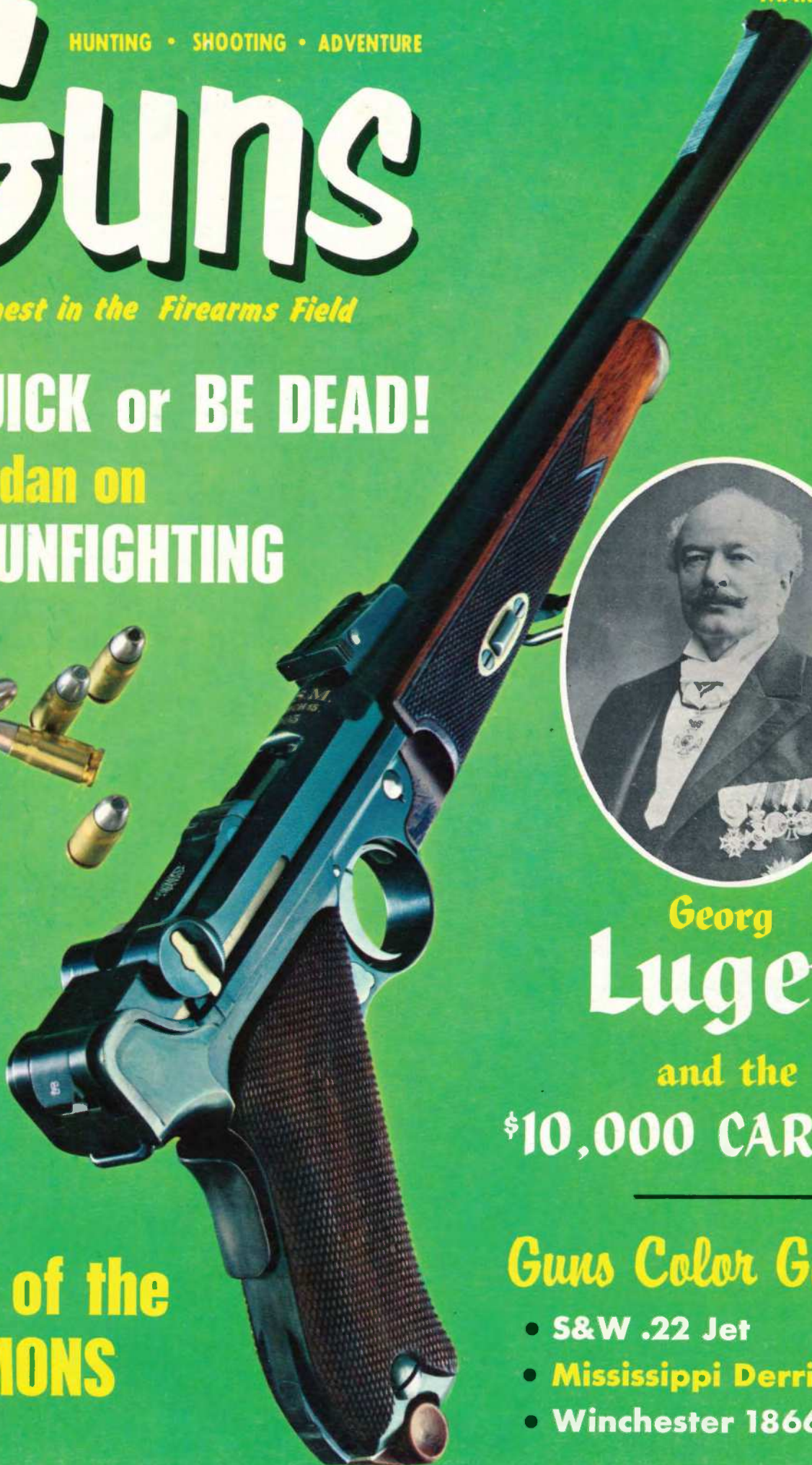
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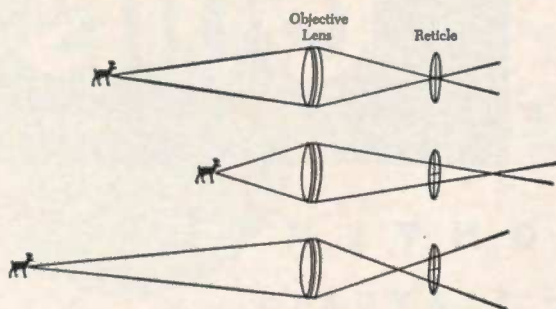
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The other factor — the distance through which the eye can move to cause parallax — is determined by the diameter of the exit pupil of the scope. There is *no* parallax at any distance as long as the reticle and the eye line up exactly on the optical axis of the scope. If the exit pupil were so small that the eye would be forced to line up exactly on the optical axis of the scope, there would be no parallax at any distance. However, such a small exit pupil is impractical.

In hunting scopes of low quality, there are several additional sources of parallax. If the reticle is not mounted precisely at the correct distance back of the objective lens, the point of "no parallax" may not be at any normal shooting distance, with errors at all ranges exaggerated. Reticles loosely mounted, which can move backward or forward within their mounts, even a few thousandths of an inch, will introduce changing amounts of parallax. In addition, parallax is introduced by optical deficiencies in the objective — either in design or manufacture. If spherical aberration or astigmatism have not been adequately corrected, images may form a considerable distance from the reticle. You will sometimes see a scope in which apparent movement of the reticle as compared with the background is different when you move your eye up and down than when you move it from side to side. This is because of a poor objective. No adjustment of the scope will eliminate these faults of optical deficiencies.

43

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TRIGGER TALK

AS MUCH as we would like to take this space to "blow our own horn," I think that our advertisement on page 12 pretty much tells the story of what's to come in GUNS Magazine in the future. As a matter of fact, you can expect the big show to begin next month, with some of the best material I've seen in any gun magazine.

But for now, let's talk about this month's offerings. We have had many fine cover photos in GUNS in the past, but few will match the Luger carbine this month. To fill you in on the story, Ralph Shattuck, one of the nation's prominent Luger collectors, and owner of the carbine on the cover, gives details of these special presentation carbines in his article on page 18. Charlie Askins is never at a loss for words about pistol shooting, and whether you agree with his conclusions or not, his article on revolvers vs. auto pistols, on page 22, is must reading.

Letters from foreign countries are always intriguing, and when the Halperins offered us a story on the unusual guns of Ghana, I could hardly wait to see it. I think you'll find it fascinating, and a change of pace from the normal fare.

Added to these articles you'll find a comprehensive test report on the Ithaca .22 rifle by Harry Dean; a most interesting report on how guns played a part in the growth of the Mormon church in the U.S.; and others. In addition, there are the usual excellent departments, including the new "Gunsmithing Tips," by Wm. Schumaker.

I talked recently to a visitor from France, and during the discussion of that nation's economy and business potentials, this gentleman said: "If you really want to make money in France, all you have to do is sell guns on the black market. There are restrictions on just about every type of firearm except shotguns, and I recently saw five rather poor automatic pistols change hands for something close to \$600 dollars." He went on to add that these restrictions were not the result of one single anti-gun campaign, but rather because of an accumulation of small "riders" added to what was initially a relatively mild piece of firearms legislation. Take heed!

THE COVER

The article by Ralph Shattuck on page 18 gives full details on this fine presentation Luger Carbine. As any Luger collector will tell you, carbines are, in themselves, quite rare, but to be able to own one which was a special presentation model is something extra special. We think that it deserves a place on our cover, and we hope that you agree. The excellent photograph was made by Robert Hughes of Birmingham, Michigan.

MARCH, 1967

Vol. XIII, No. 3-147

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Arthur S. Arkush
Ass't to the Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

C O N T E N T S

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CROSSFIRE

Dual Cylinder SAA

I recently read Mr. Rockefeller's very interesting story, "Half An Ounce of Lead," in a recent issue of GUNS Magazine.

Your remarks concerning a Single Action with an extra cylinder for the .45 ACP cartridge was of particular interest because I have one. I prevailed upon the Colt people to make me up one last year and it turned out to be everything I had in mind. At 25 yards it puts the .45 auto bullets right at the point of aim. It is the perfect revolver for this cartridge, since it is just as easy to load and eject the .45 auto cartridge as the .45 Colt in the other cylinder. One can normally come by the auto ammo for a fraction of the cost of the factory .45 Colt.

Eventually, I am planning to work out a heavy hand load for the .45 Colt Long, perhaps using a gas check bullet and 2400 powder. A sort of magnum load, as I would like to take deer with this. In other words, have handloads for maximum power and the .45 ACP for plinking and practice.

Mine by the way is the regular Single Action Army with a 5½ inch barrel and I am quite satisfied with the great old handgun.

J. V. Slack
Portland, Oregon

.45 Plinkers

I especially enjoyed the article by John W. Rockefeller on shooting my favorite caliber, the .45. No matter how many super-duper magnums appear on the scene, to my way of thinking, the fascination of the .45 Colt cannot be equalled in any other handgun cartridge.

Steve Proshwitz
Dowagiac, Michigan

Ordnance Collector

I would like to make a few remarks concerning the article on the so-called "destructive device" bill. As stated it outlaws rock-ets, bazookas, heavy field artillery, etc.; also the remark "It is conceded by both pro and anti-gun forces that there are no sporting purposes for which they are suited."

Am I to suppose that we are to be permitted ownership of weapons so long as they are "sporting?"

I am a collector, and through an interest in artillery have collected a considerable amount of material. Am I to be deprived of my collection because it is not a "sporting" collection? Over Thanksgiving some 700 persons were killed because of a "destructive device" called an "auto." Over the last several years (other than in wars) how many people have been killed by collectors of the above "bad" ordnance material.

As a veteran, a teacher, and a member of the Company of Military Historians, I want to protest the lack of concern for those of us who desire to collect and preserve the historic ordnance of our Nation. Furthermore I protest the efforts to take away my "right" to own and enjoy what I desire.

James G. Hudkins
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

Hruska Bill

One important item was omitted from Mr. Wolf's discussion in the January issue of Senator Hruska's "destructive devices" bill, S. 3878. Toy rocket motors containing four ounces or less propellant are specifically excluded from the definition of "destructive device."

Cartridge collectors and experimenters should push for a similar exclusion on projectiles containing (perhaps) 50 grains or less explosive of incendiary mixture. Most projectiles containing more than this are easy to deactivate without destroying the cartridge for collector purposes and 50 grains of flash powder is plenty to indicate fuze function for us experimenters.

Every cartridge collector and serious experimenter should obtain a copy of S. 3878 and make appropriate suggestions. Remember, Hruska is not an anti-gun screwball, but a respected Senator trying to give gun fans a fair deal.

Bruce Bydal
Martinsville, Va.

Money & Trapshooting

The article by Mr. Massey in the October Issue of GUNS Magazine overlooked a few vital facts and contained some damaging half truths which cast an unfair light on trapshooting.

First, he did not mention that one can go to a registered shoot, big or little, and shoot for targets and trophies only, which will cost only a fraction of the total your "Jerry" spent to enter his big shoot.

Secondly, with the scores Jerry shot on the first two traps of his second day, he would have gone home with \$208 in option money alone (figures from the money division booklet of the Sahara Gun Club in 1964 Mid-Winter Shoot). If he had gone home without this money they would have mailed him a check for this amount. Let's not bleed quite so much for a money-hungry, short-yardage shooter who thought he could get something for nothing.

In the future you should make certain your writers completely understand the subject they are writing about and present both sides of the coin.

Lloyd Carlson
Hemet, Calif.

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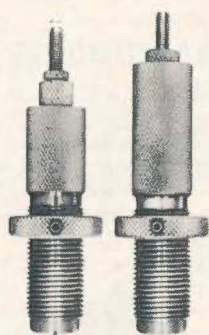
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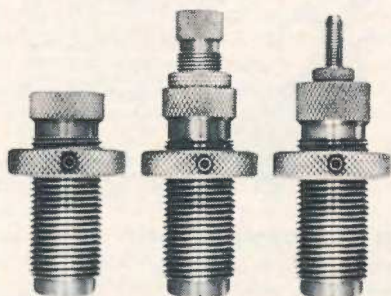
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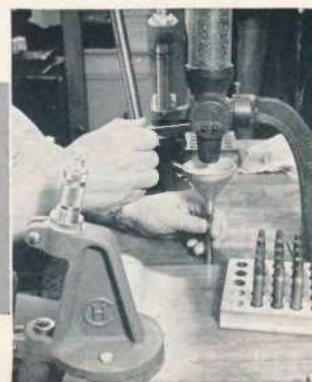
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HANDLOADING BENCH

By DAVE WOLFE

Editor and Publisher of
The HANDLOADER Magazine



LAST MONTH we kicked around the subject of steel in bullets, which brought to mind the fact that steel has been used at one time or another for every cartridge component except the propellant and priming compound. In reviewing our extensive correspondence files, it is evident that this has been a subject of recurring interest since the middle of WW I.

The usual question is: "Can I reload steel .45 ACP cases (.30 Carbine, .30-06, 8 mm Mauser, etc.), and if so, do I need special dies and equipment? Generally, the answer to that one is a somewhat qualified "yes"—but let's look into the matter a little further.

One of our first reasonably successful cartridges was made of steel—the "loading chamber" of the Civil War era Agar "Coffee Mill" rapid fire gun, but it had already been demonstrated that softer metals such as copper and brass were much better suited to the needs of metallic cartridge cases. "Cartridge brass" became the standard case material, and it remains so today. Of all the materials tried, brass has the best combination of physical properties—expanding easily under pressure to seal the chamber, yet contracting when pressure is relaxed so as to allow easy extraction. And it is also relatively easy to work and is not especially hard on tools and dies.

The main disadvantage of brass is that in times of war, when ammunition must be produced in prodigious quantities, the supply simply can't keep up with demand. So it was in WW I that Germany, blockaded from all outside sources of copper (the major ingredient of brass), had to look for a substitute material.

Soft, low-carbon steel was chosen for its cheapness, availability, and its ability to be heat treated so as to approach the properties of brass. In a short time, the problem of making steel cases that would function correctly in rifles and machine guns was solved, and if not perfectly, at least to an acceptable degree. After all, this was simply a deep-draw job, much the same as producing a milady's lipstick container. The only real fabrication problem lay in the fact that increased tool wear and greater number of operations required caused the cases to be considerably more expensive than those made of brass. At the same time, the big U.S. Frankfort Arsenal also developed satisfactory steel cases in .30-06 caliber for rifle and machinegun use.

At one time, back in the years right after WW I, German steel case 7.92 mm (8mm Mauser) ammunition was fairly common, having been brought back by A.E.F. members. The late Phil Sharpe tells of successfully reloading such cases in the early 1930's—his only complaint being that they were very difficult to resize. Before being too critical of them because of that, remember that the loading presses in those days possessed only a fraction of the power generated by our modern, compound-linkage units.

All early steel-case 7.92 mm cases I've seen were heavily copper plated to prevent rust in storage and would occasionally develop lengthwise splits on firing. The splits were annoying and dirtied up the chamber, but did not interfere with normal functioning or accuracy. At the end of WW I, the subject of steel cartridge cases was pretty much a dead issue. Brass became plentiful, and besides, it was cheaper. Anyway, there weren't going to be any more wars, so who needed them?

So, it was all to do over again 20 years later. When WW II began gobbling up the world's brass supply, all the major powers involved realized quickly that a substitute case material had to be found, and quick! The Germans hadn't entirely ignored the problem during the 20's and 30's, and soon had billions of rounds of steel case 7.92 mm rifle and 9 mm Parabellum pistol ammunition in the field. As a matter of interest, steel was also used for small-caliber, quick-firing cannon ammunition (20 and 30 to 57 mm) and for artillery of all sizes.

The old Sunbeam plant at Evansville, Indiana, was tooled to produce steel case .45 ACP and .30 Carbine ammunition. Hundreds of millions of rounds were produced in 1942 and '43 for U.S. and allied forces all over the world. These first cases were rather hard and not particularly resistant to rust in storage, but they performed well except for a tendency to break extractors in the M-1911 pistol. Actually, this failing was not the result of the case material, but of a change in extractor groove profile that was approved for steel cases. It caused the extractor to jam tightly against unresisting steel as the breach closed on a fresh round, breaking the extractor after relatively few rounds. Many knowledgeable shooters ground a new bevel on the extractor when required to use this ammunition. (Continued on page 11)



News from the...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

Dedicated to the Constitutional Right of Every Citizen to Keep and Bear Arms

The future of firearms in America rests in large part on how well sportsmen and the general public understand the many contributions made by the firearms industry, and by individual shooting sportsmen. It is important that you understand the true role of our shooting sports, and communicate this role to those not personally concerned with firearms, or committed in the legislative battle.

To provide you with concise, usable information, the following items of pro-gun information have been abstracted from a recent N.S.S.F. Information Bulletin. It is our hope that you will employ this "ammunition" whenever possible.

(1) Hunters and fishermen pay for the support of all 50 state fish and game departments through license purchases. This money does not come from general revenue, as the public seems to believe. These departments are charged with the protection of all wildlife. Hunter's money pays for law enforcement personnel to protect hundreds of non-hunted species everyone enjoys and benefits from.

(2) Hunters pour about \$1.5 billion per year into the general economy, much of the amount being for conservation projects. The rest is spent for hunter travel, food, guides, hunting clothes, boats, camping equipment and related expenses. Many rural states and areas depend on hunter expenditures to maintain and improve their economy.

(3) Hunters spend millions of dollars developing private lands into wildlife habitats. Although exact figures are not available, a conservative estimate is that hunters spend over \$100 million a year improving private lands. Thousands of sportsmen devote countless hours planning and working on habitat development. These areas support more non-hunted species, than game species. Since 80% of all land in America is privately owned, it is obvious that the future of wildlife depends on private developments.

(4) No game species in America is in danger of being over harvested by hunters. The public, and too often the hunter, does not understand the careful surveys made by state and federal agencies before hunting seasons and bag limits are set. Many species of game, such as white-tailed deer and mourning doves, are more abundant today than

when the white man first came to this country.

(5) Wildlife cannot be stockpiled. One of the most difficult biological facts to explain to the public is that hunting has little to do with the population of most species. For instance, the bobwhite quail and mourning dove have an annual mortality of about 75%—whether hunted or not.

(6) Refuges bought and paid for by hunter's money support more species of non-hunted wildlife than game. In most cases, the refuges are open to the general public without cost. The nature lover is seldom aware that the preservation and increase of wildlife he enjoys is made possible only through funds supplied by hunters.

(7) Hunters and fishermen have been the leaders in every conservation movement during the past 75 years. The hunter is the first to notice a shortage of game and do something about it. The fisherman is the first to see fish dying from pollution and yell for action. Hunters and fishermen were the first to decry the ravages of soil erosion, forest fires, and all the despoilation that came with our expanding civilization. The hunter has never received recognition by the general public for his countless hours of toil and generous monetary contributions, given to correct these situation. The public, which travels more than ever before in history, enjoys the fruits of the sportsman's work, but has no inkling who planted the seed.

(8) Hunters and the shooting industry asked to be taxed on the sale of sporting arms and ammunition in 1937, with the money to be used for wildlife development. Hunters and the shooting industry are unique in all of America in asking that this excise tax not be removed during the 1965 reductions. Over \$300 million has been collected through the tax on sporting arms and ammunition, and pro-rated back to the states for wildlife work. The general public benefits as much as the hunters who pay the bill.

We urge you to make use of the facts presented above in your next letter to elected officials, in a letter to your local newspaper, or in heated discussion with your local anti-gun bigot. And for a complete arsenal of pro-gun information, take advantage of the offer below—join the S.C.A. today!

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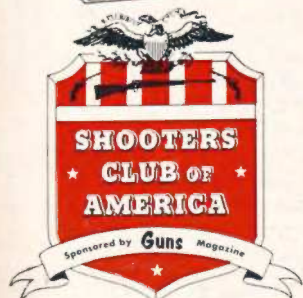
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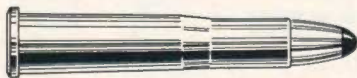
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Panel of Experts

Because of the heavy influx of questions, it has become necessary to limit the number of questions submitted in one letter to two. Your questions must be submitted on separate sheets of paper, must carry full name and address, and your Shooters Club of America membership number. If you are not a member of the Shooters Club of America, send a dollar bill with each question. Questions lacking either number or money cannot be answered. If you want a personal answer, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for each question.

Luger Loads

I am interested in obtaining some reloading data from you. I just purchased a Walther P-38 9mm Luger and am going to try and reload for it. I have been using the Speer Manual No. 6 to reload for two rifles that I have, but after I had bought this pistol I noticed that you did not have any reloading information on the 9mm Luger in the manual. I know that Speer doesn't make this size bullet, but I would certainly appreciate any help on reloading this cartridge that you may be able to give me.

Michael Kimball
Lake Charles, La.

A good load for your P-38 is 6.0 grains Unique and CCI 550 Magnum primers with a suitable bullet such as a 116 grain Norma Round Nose. You'll find ballistics a bit better than U.S. factory ammo, that isn't loaded very hot. The 9 mm Luger cartridge is not very popular for reloading in this country, although by far the most popular military caliber in the world.—D.W.

"Flintlock" What?

I have a flintlock marked on the top "Columbia, S.C. 1852", and on the side "Palmetto Armory, S.C." with Palmetto sign. I would appreciate any information you could give me on it.

Joseph R. Cain
New City, N.Y.

The Palmetto Armory manufactured arms for the state of South Carolina starting in

1851, making muskets, rifles, pistols, swords and sabres. Since you say you have a "flintlock" the odds are that you do not have a sword or a sabre—but I cannot give you much in the way of information if I do not know whether you have a pistol, rifle, or musket.

The Palmetto pistols have been faked recently. A fake lockplate was made and then fitted to a more common pistol. This has hurt the value of genuine pieces somewhat. You should investigate the arm further. I could not give you an evaluation without seeing the arm.—R.M.

.30-06 Conversion

I have recently bought a M1903 Springfield, caliber .30-06. Is there a small bore, factory-loaded cartridge, such as .222 Mag. or some other hot, fast .22 or .25 caliber varmint load that this rifle action can be rebarreled for, using the magazine without too much altering. The barrel on this gun is shot out and unsuitable as is. If a conversion is not practical, what do you think of a new 4 groove military barrel in .30-06, as Redding's has these barrels for about \$6.00? Any suggestion you care to make will be welcomed as this gun is not much good as it is now.

Jack W. Sherman
Norwalk, Calif.

The Springfield can be converted to the .220 Swift, .257 Roberts, or the 6 mm Remington and most of the time these calibers will feed very well with very little alteration of the magazine. The new barrel will be fine if you want to leave it in .30-06.—P.T.H.

Dream Pistol

As a part time police officer, I am having difficulty finding a gun that suits me and still conforms to the department regulations which forbid automatics, frown on single actions, and recommend the four inch barrel. Now my favorite cartridge just happens to be the .45 Long Colt, for which only one gun is currently being made, the Colt Single Action Army. All of which brings me to my "dream."
(Continued on page 72)

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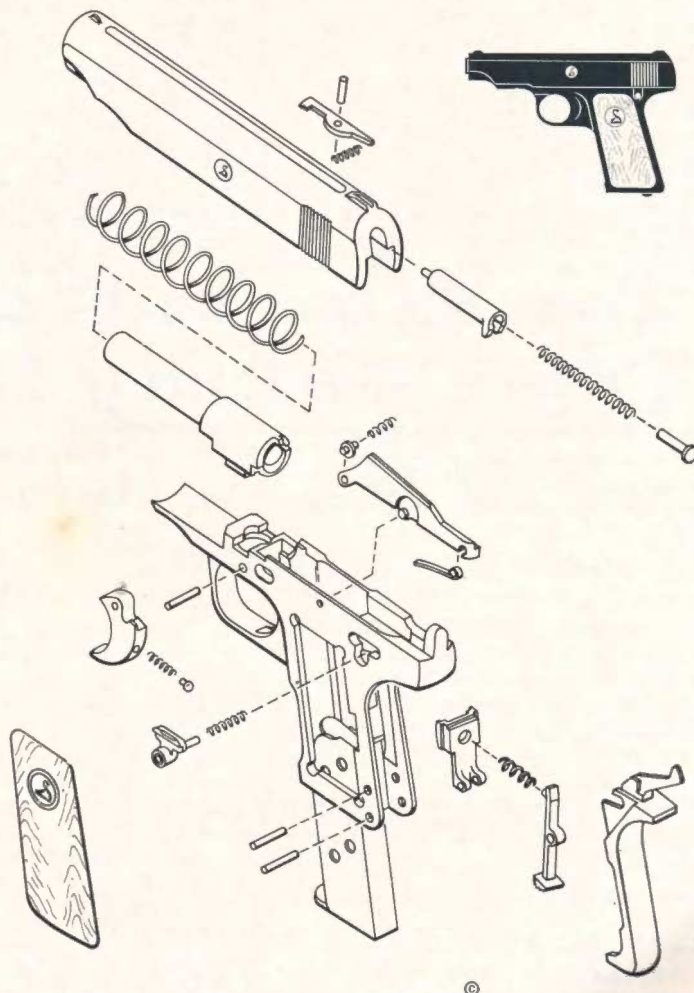
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AN INSIDE LOOK

AT THE ORTGIES PISTOL

By SHELLEY BRAVERMAN



ALTHOUGH designed about fifty years ago, the Ortgies has many features of interest, some of which are unequaled in current guns.

There are no screws in the pistol, even the grips are retained by an internal catch; coil springs are tapered, the small end fitting on the part and the larger end in its recess; the grip-safety acts as a "cocked" indicator by being operable only when the weapon is cocked; if desired, the grip-safety may be locked in the "fire" position; when in the "on" position, the grip-safety relaxes the firing-pin spring, thus reducing tendency to take a "set"; the barrel retention is superb.

The .32 is a remarkably accurate gun; in 1921 it won 70% of the German Shooting Competition prizes and the Champion (Janich) used an Ortgies. Also manufactured was a .25 caliber version and (to a limited extent) a .380 model; it is estimated that about 250,000 were manufactured—mainly of the .32 model. The origin of the design is some-

what obscure. Heinrich Ortgies is reputed to have invented the gun and made the prototypes in Liege, Belgium, circa 1915. It is recorded that Ortgies and Company were producing guns in Erfurt, Germany, in 1920, but were soon taken over by the Deutsche Werke, also of Erfurt.

To Dismount: 1) Remove magazine and clear chamber; 2) While pressing the grip-safety release button, 3) Retract the slide about one-half inch and lift up; 4) Ease forward and off. The barrel pivots to the left. The grip-retain is inside the rear of the magazine well, and may be released by pressure applied with a cleaning rod.

To Reassemble: It is necessary to position the firing pin guide partially forward in its channel, compressing the spring and firing pin. There is a notch for this purpose, and the lug at the rear of the frame may be used as a tool for this operation; invert and reverse the frame, exercising care not to lose the firing pin assembly.

HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 6)

In the M-1 Carbine, the E.C. ammunition performed well—even in the M-2 full-automatic version.

Much .30-06 steel case ammunition was produced during the war, but little ever saw issue. Unless provided with some sort of lubricant, the cases slowed down functioning of automatic weapons, sometimes even causing complete stoppages.

Since U.S. troops used the semi-automatic M-1 Garand rifle, such a situation couldn't be tolerated. Germany, with the bulk of her troops using hand operated bolt action rifles, could make good use of steel cases in the field. It is interesting to note that brass case ammunition was specified for aircraft guns of the *Luftwaffe*, where functioning was of utmost importance.

Reloading steel cases is no different than what you are accustomed to. Decap and resize, and they are ready for fresh primer, powder and bullet. More effort is required in resizing, and cleanliness and lubrication are more important than with brass. A steel case stuck in a die, however, presents a REAL problem. Any of the heavy-duty tools will handle steel cases with ease. Twenty years ago I loaded thousands of steel .45 ACP cases on an old Pacific C-press without trouble.

The big problem with steel cases is rust. Before first loading they are coated with lacquer, waxed, or plated inside and out to prevent rust. Firing destroys this coating inside the case, and some is scraped off the outside by contact with parts of the gun. Then, resizing removes a good bit of it also. Remember that most wartime steel case ammunition used so-called "corrosive" chlorate primers which left a moisture-absorbing salt residue. I've seen millions of fired .45 ACP cases, not one of which was useable because of the thick, red coating of rust inside—caused by primer residue and a slightly damp atmosphere. Yet those same cases looked perfectly good on the outside.

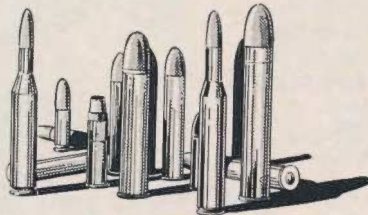
How long will steel cases last for reloading? Fair question. I've reloaded L.C. .45 ACP cases (softer and better quality than WW II production) as many as twelve times when used in revolvers, eight times in the auto. Steel .30 Carbine cases I've reloaded five to seven times and they still looked good for more. Steel .32 ACP and 9 mm Parabellum cases have been loaded four and five times without failure. German 7.92 mm cases seem still good after four loadings (all full-length resized), and I have a small lot of F.A. steel .30-06 hulls that have been loaded six times with moderate (40,000 psi) charges.

Do they damage dies? Not so you could tell it. If clean and properly lubricated before sizing, no damage at all will occur. If you run 'em in dry and dirty; well, you can ruin dies with brass that way, too. The latest steel cases, in .45 and .30 Carbine, made at Lake City Arsenal during the 50's, resize very nearly as easily as brass—and seem to hold up just as well.

If you want to reload steel cases, you can. Whether it's worth the extra effort is some-

thing you'll have to determine alone.

Mike McCastle, a local rifle enthusiast, has been playing around pretty seriously with his 6 mm Remington M-700 Custom for quite a few months now. He's a hard man to please, when it comes to accuracy in standard weight sporting rifles, demanding that which would make some bull-gun owners happy.



Mike procured, on my recommendation, the 700-Custom in .243 Winchester caliber, but it didn't live up to expectations. It was rebarreled by Remington to 6 mm Rem. The Remington boys allowed as how the first barrel wasn't just quite right. The new

barrel produced groups consistently under one MOA with factory loads, so seemed to have real promise. In using Hodgdon's 4831 powder and 90-grain Speer bullets, he found that after the first five or ten rounds (starting with a cold, clean barrel), fliers would appear. Cleaning the bore with Hoppe's No. 9 and a wire brush invariably restored that one MOA accuracy, indicating that 4831 was leaving fouling or other debris behind to play hob with accuracy.

Switching to DuPont 4064, which had worked so well in his other .243, Mike began to get groups running from ½ to ¾-inch at 100 yards. Now, friends, that is unusual accuracy from a sporter-weight barrel, no matter who did the work. The load was 39 grains 4064, CCI standard LR primers, 81-grain S.A.S. swaged bullet and reformed N.M. L.C. '61 cases. Cases were formed in RCBS dies and neck-reamed, and in that form have the same powder capacity as factory .243 Winchester brass. Needless to say, this is now Mike's favorite load in that rifle. The shooting, incidentally, was done with a 10-X Unertl Vulture scope in dehorned mounts, to avoid making any holes in the sporter-weight barrel.

Later Mike stumbled on what appears to be the ideal combination for his gun. The 75-grain Hornady bullet, with the same combination listed above, shot regularly into ¾-inch at 100 yards! Some might consider this a fluke, and they might just be right. Nevertheless, this is indicative of what can be accomplished with careful handloading and a good rifle.



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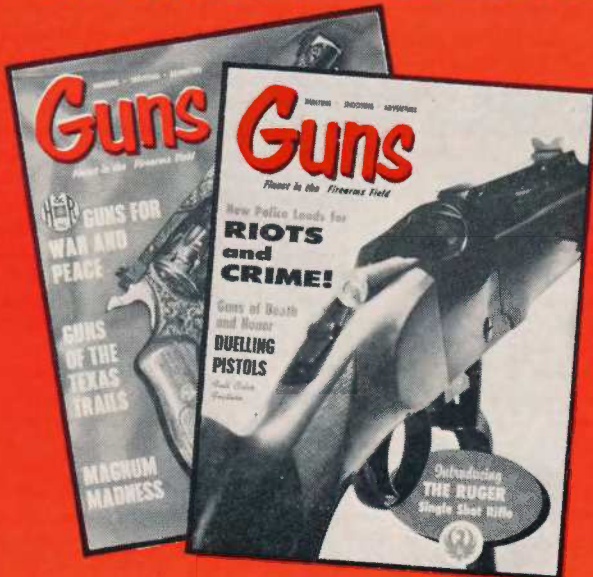


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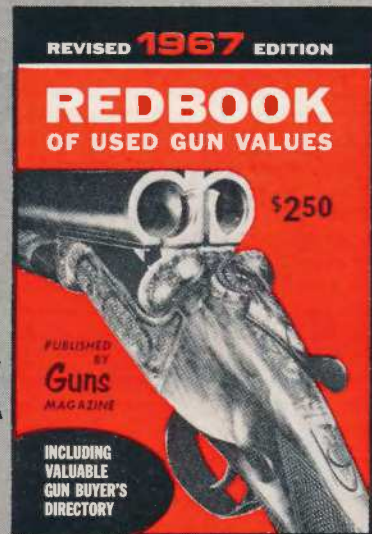
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TRAIL AND TARGET

Guest Columnist—Loren D. Stark

EVERYONE AGREES that bullet penetration and expansion have a direct bearing upon killing power. Bullet manufacturers, experienced big game hunters, and theorists have written on the subject extensively, and for most hunters their conclusions are accepted as "fact." However, in order to have some firsthand information on the subject, I decided to conduct a few tests on my own.

At the outset a brief review of the conclusions reached by some of the experts may be helpful. In this respect I shall not attempt to describe complicated theories concerning which there is little uniformity of acceptance among the authorities. Rather, my purpose will be to touch upon a few conclusions which appear to me to have practical application for the hunter.

Paul Von Rosenberg's analysis of killing power is based upon 50 head of big game killed, observing the hit and game reaction as well as the autoptical tracing out of the bullet path. He notes however, that "the variables from shot to shot and from animal to animal are so great that it would take a lifetime of very scientific observation to cover all of them and base definite conclusions on inductive reasoning." Certainly one of the important variables is the performance of the rifle. As a hunter who occasionally exposes himself to dangerous animals, I wanted to know as certainly as possible, exactly what I could expect from my rifle. It was this desire to understand one of the variables that prompted me to undertake some tests.

Perhaps the most persuasive generalization on the subject was made by Les Bowman. In describing the perfect bullet, he said, "A bullet, which at any speed it is propelled, or at any distance it travels, would open up immediately on impact yet maintain its total weight, would penetrate the animal completely, dropping to the ground on the other side. This bullet would have expended its total energy inside the animal." Naturally such ideal performance is rarely achieved and therefore can serve merely as a goal to hope for.

The proponents of small caliber, high velocity bullets speak with much assurance. For them any game can be stopped in its tracks even though the size and weight of the bullet is small, if it is placed in a vital organ. Most hunters do not possess the skill to place the bullet into such a small target. Furthermore, actual field conditions vary considerably with differences in terrain, temperature, elevation, and humidity. Also, dense brush or jungle present problems which are absent on open plains. An 80-

grain bullet with a muzzle velocity of 3450 fps might find the desired target in the open while the same bullet could be deflected by a $\frac{1}{4}$ " twig in the jungle.

Thus it appears that generalizations, even though they are based upon careful observation, are subject to exceptions. I wished to limit these exceptions as much as possible. The following described tests and the facts revealed by them may not apply to other guns of the same caliber and using the same ammunition, but for my gun the results give me a sense of security which I did not possess before I made the tests. It is quite possible that the element of self-confidence which the tests generated constitutes their chief value. For a more scientific analysis I shall defer to the experts.

My gun is a Winchester Model 70 .375 H & H Magnum. Four bullets were used in the test: 235-grain Speer soft nose with 80 grains of 4320 powder; 270-grain Hornady round nose with 77 grains of 4320 powder; 270-grain Nosler with 77 grains of 4320 powder, and 300-grain Hornady, full metal jacket with 72 grains of 4320 powder. The test shots were made from the bench, using a Meaco rest, at 100, 200 and 300 yards.

Note that the only powder used is 4320. Prior to my Polar Bear hunt in 1964 I tested a number of different bullet weights, types of powder, and powder charges. These tests were solely for the purpose of determining the optimum bullet weight and powder charge relating to accuracy. For my gun the 270-grain bullet and 77 grains of 4320 powder produced the best accuracy. However, for my next hunt in Mozambique, Portuguese East Africa next August (1966) it occurred to me that the 235-grain bullet with a heavier powder charge might have a flatter trajectory and therefore it may be more suitable for long shots involving the plains game. Also, I expect to take a Cape Buffalo and I felt that a 300-grain full metal jacket would be more appropriate.

My gunsmith, Jess L. Stark of the Shooter's Supply, Houston, Texas, advised me that water soaked cotton is more nearly comparable with living tissue than any other material. To contain the material I built a $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood box 14"x 17" x 72" and divided it into six 12" compartments each separated with a partition consisting of three pieces of cardboard. After each shot the middle cardboard of the partitions was lifted out to ascertain in which compartment the bullet had lodged. Then the cotton in this compartment was removed so as to recover the bullet or fragments still intact. (Note: If the cardboard is covered with paint, varnish, or wax, the middle cardboard

will slip out easily.)

The tests were made on two different days and the weather conditions were quite different. On the day of the first test the sky was overcast, temperature about 55°, and the humidity was 100%. For the second test the light was bright, the temperature about 70°, and the humidity was about 30%. Also the cotton for the first test was soaked the night before and no additional water was added the next morning. For the second test, the cotton was soaked again just prior to the test. This fact, no doubt, accounts for the fact that the amount of penetration was greater in the second test. I observed, for example, that the cotton which is less saturated tended to wrap around the bullet.

The following tabulation shows the amount of penetration when cotton was soaked.

Bullet	Muzzle Velocity (f.p.s.)	100 yds.	200 yds.	300 yds.
235-grain Speer	3020	34"	24"	30"
270-grain Hornady	2804	24"	24"	24"
270-grain Nosler	2845	36"	24"	24"
300-grain Hornady (full metal jacket)	2695	56"	48"	36"

Regardless of the distance the 235-grain bullet almost completely disintegrated, although the hole in the cardboard was reasonably well defined. The accuracy was exceptionally good and the drop at 300 yards was only 6". (Note: Rifle zeroed at 200 yds.)

The 270-grain Hornady likewise disintegrated at all ranges. The drop at 300 yards was 10 inches.

The 270-grain Nosler held its shape and mushroomed perfectly at all ranges. The drop at 300 yards was 12 inches.

The 300-grain Hornady full metal jacket retained its shape at all ranges. The drop at 300 yards was 17 inches.

The amount of penetration stated in the foregoing tabulation may, in fact, have been slightly different due to the difficulty in locating the bullets or the remaining fragments in the cotton. However, in all instances the error, if any, in measuring the penetration has been on the conservative side. This was particularly the case with the 235-grain Speer and the 270-grain Hornady because of almost complete disintegration of jacket, as well as the lead core.

The penetration at different ranges appears to follow a pattern which might be expected with respect to the 270-grain Nosler and the 300-grain full metal jacket Hornady. However, the performance of the 235-grain Speer and the 270-grain Hornady poses interesting questions. Why should the 235-grain bullet penetrate deeper at 300 yards than at 200 yards? My gunsmith suggested that reduced velocity at the longer range as well as a slowing of the spin of the bullet might be the answer. If this is correct, why should the 270-grain Hornady perform differently? Could a difference of 216 fps muzzle velocity have a bearing on the results achieved by these two bullets? I leave the answer for the experts.

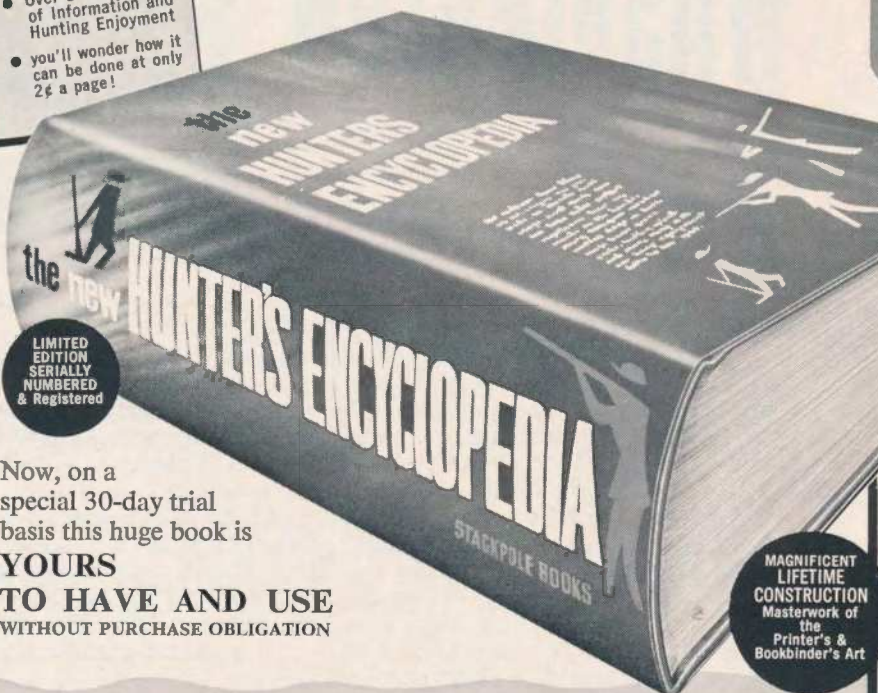
As stated earlier the tests have been a rewarding experience. I feel that I know my gun better and can predict just how it will perform with the particular bullets tested. The psychological satisfaction which the tests have given to me can hardly be over-estimated and this factor may actually be more important than anything else when, and if, I find myself in a tight spot facing a dangerous animal.



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IT'S EASY! Just arrange these birds and animals in order of the skill required to bag them — the very toughest, No. 1; next toughest, No. 2; and so on. No limit on number of prizes given; no limit on number of winners. Anyone, everyone, who correctly rates at least 9 out of 10 — according to the final consensus of all contestants — wins the Grand Prize. Hundreds of other prizes are offered for arranging in correct order the first 8 or even 7 of the "Ten Toughest." — **no prize is worth less than \$100.00!**

OBJECTIVE: To correctly rate from 1 to 10 (in descending order) the above-listed **TEN TOUGHEST GAME BIRDS & ANIMALS** — according to the relative hunting skill necessary to bag them, as determined by the final consensus of all contest entries. These **TEN TOUGHEST** (listed above alphabetically) have been selected as a group only by a panel of hunting experts, but have not been rated according to hunting skill.

JUDGING: All Official Contest Entries will be received and computed by an independent judging organization; with the correct and winning order to be determined by the total consensus of all individual entries, as computed immediately after the Contest closes.

ELIGIBILITY: No purchase necessary. Anyone may enter the Contest except employees of the publisher, its agents, its authors, and their families. No person may submit more than one entry, and to be accepted, each and every entry must be submitted on an Official Contest Entry Blank.

PRIZES: Correctly rating at least 9

out of 10 wins the Grand Prize: **FOUR-WEEK Safari to Anywhere**. Rating, in order the first 8 or 7 wins merchandise and cash prizes worth not less than \$100. Grand Prize Winners who can prove ownership of *The New Hunter's Encyclopedia* on date of entry receive an Extra Bonus Prize: a \$1,000 College Scholarship (which may be assigned to another person of his choice for study in the field of Conservation or Wildlife Management. Runner-up winners who own *The New Hunter's Encyclopedia* on date of entry receive an Extra Bonus Prize of a \$100 Outdoorsman's Library. No limit on the number of winners and prizes awarded.

OTHER INFORMATION: All entries are subject to the complete Contest Rules, terms and conditions which appear only on the Official Entry Blank. Contest is void where prohibited by law, regulated, taxed or abused. Contest is sponsored and underwritten, and prizes are guaranteed, by the publisher of *THE NEW HUNTER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA*.

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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON

CARL WOLFF



DODD TO HOLD NEW ANTI-GUN HEARINGS

The Senate Commerce Committee had tentative plans to hold public hearings on the compromise gun bill which it took possession of during the closing days of the 89th Congress. These hearings never started, and an opportunity was seen by Sen. Thomas J. Dodd.

He has now let it be known that he will again investigate "firearms misuse" when the 90th Congress gets underway; obviously he also wants his original bill (S-1592) back. This turn of events is an important one. From the legislation standpoint, it puts the anti-gun forces back into the public spotlight, and maybe legislative control.

Regular readers will recall that the 89th Congress saw Dodd move the most restrictive gun bill pending before it, not to the floor of Congress, but only from his Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee to the full Judiciary. Judiciary rejected the harsh measure and instead moved along Sen. Roman L. Hruska's (R., Neb.) compromise bill. Commerce then took possession, as congressional procedure required. There the bill died when the 89th Congress terminated.

If Commerce had started public hearings, procedure would have also required that the anti-gun legislation being reintroduced in the 90th Congress go to Commerce, and not back to Dodd's jurisdiction. Gun owners looked forward to only objective treatment by Commerce before any new bill reached the Senate floor for voting.

Now, it is Dodd's hope to get back the newly-introduced bills. If this happens, the 90th Congress, and the public in general, can expect a repeat exposure of the previous one-sided show before Juvenile Delinquency.

Even more important, the anti-gun forces were outmaneuvered last session. The so-called Dodd bill was rejected altogether by Judiciary because it was too restrictive on specific points. Sen. Dodd will not make that mistake again. He will probably get his way in the full Judiciary Committee next time by yielding on specific objections. If he backs down



on specific points, the original bill will go forward. This means all the other "gun czar authority," contained therein will go forward out of Judiciary this session.

WHY NO COMMERCE HEARINGS?

Just why Commerce called off its plans to hold hearings is something of a mystery. The official reason given is that members could not find time. It is also known, however, that Sen. Dodd sent a letter to Commerce specifically requesting them not proceed until he had again reviewed the matter next Congress.

Which of the two is the real reason? We will find out for sure when the new bills are introduced. If they are referred to Juvenile Delinquency, Dodd's letter was the most important factor. If the bills are referred to Commerce, where they properly belong in the first place, time was the real factor.

Some may argue that Commerce really did not have time and that it is now only honoring Dodd's request. This is in conflict with the record. Dodd has, upon two previously occasions, criticized Commerce for not speeding his bill forward. Obviously, Commerce does not now owe Dodd any favors.

The following gruesome thought exists: By letting Dodd get the more restrictive bill up to them, the Commerce Committee could avoid much of the gun owner resentment which would emerge should they substitute Dodd's original measure for the Hruska Compromise. Commerce could really want to pass on to the Senate the more restrictive piece of legislation, that which died in Judiciary last session.

IMPORT RULE ON COMPONENTS MODIFIED

Small shipments of minor component parts of firearms may be imported or exported without obtaining a State Department license as a result of a revision of rules and regulations published in the Federal Register. Shipment of small quantities of parts without obtaining licenses had been requested for several years by the firearms industry.

The new regulations include control of .22 rim-fire arms although previously such items had been exempted from the U. S. Munitions List. The revisions also specifically exclude handloading equipment from licensing.

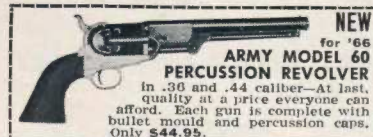
The regulations prohibit the return of military firearms furnished to allies under foreign aid programs or for which full payment was not made unless the arms are "substantially transformed as to become, in effect, articles of foreign manufacture."

The definition of "substantially transformed" has been broadened to include rechambering for a more powerful cartridge.



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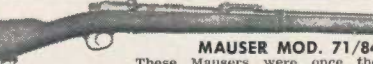
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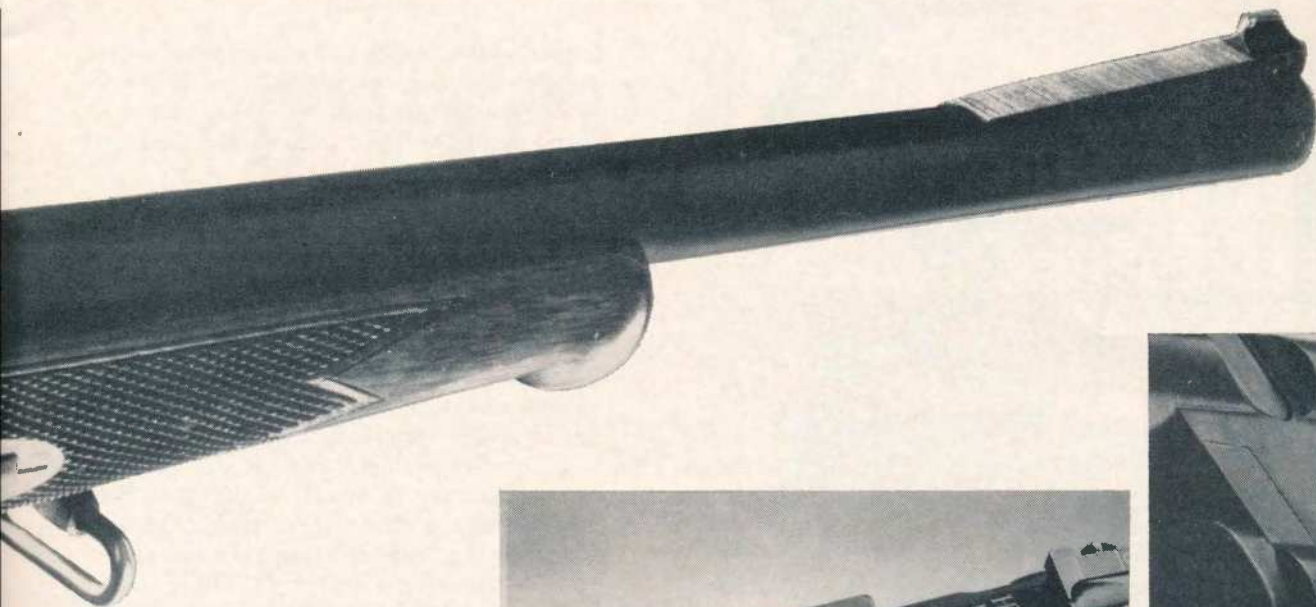
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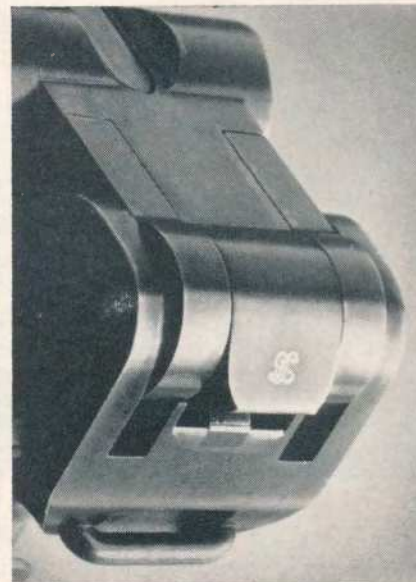
Georg Luger's

The author's Presentation Carbine, together with its accompanying stock, is in virtually mint condition.





The author's Luger Presentation Carbine is a 1902 Model with serial number 9109C, a script "GL" monogram on the rear link, and "H.S.M. MARCH 15, 1903" inlaid in gold over the chamber.



PRESENTATION CARBINE

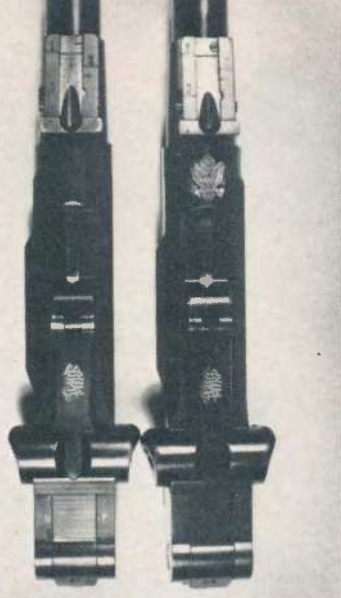
By RALPH E. SHATTUCK



Leather carrying case holds gun, cleaning rod, 2 clips.

HAVING BEEN A LUGER COLLECTOR for the past 20 years, I can attest to the fact that Luger collecting is a rewarding and gratifying (albeit sometimes frustrating) hobby. The decision as to whether or not a particular piece should be placed in the collection is based on its comparative availability and condition. Very few Luger collectors have more than 25 pieces; many possess only about ten items. A close personal friend of the writer owns only twenty Lugers, yet it is felt that his is one of the finest collections in existence. This person is well versed in the history of each individual model in his collection since much satisfaction is thereby derived. It is apparent, therefore, that stress is placed on quality as opposed to quantity. Many collectors confine themselves to the collection of particular models—such as commercial, military, rare experimental, those with squeeze grip safeties, etc.

Several excellent books and numerous articles have been written extolling the merits of the Luger, which has been employed by more—approximately forty—sovereignties than any other sidearm in the history of firearms. The Luger is often referred to as "the most controversial pistol" due to the fact that there are in excess of 275 Luger variations produced by seven major manufacturers: DWM, the original producer; Erfurt, a government controlled German arsenal; Simon, Vickers, Bern, Krieghoff, and Mauser between the years of 1898 and 1942. Krieghoff also continued the production of some handcrafted models up through 1945. The variations cover a wide range with respect to sights, squeeze grips, thumb safeties,



Left: A regular 1902 and a Stoeger "American Eagle" Carbine.
Right: First Luger model had a leaf rather than coil spring.



trigger widths, crests and placement of crests, proof marks, etc., while the barrel length itself runs anywhere from $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches on a short barrel model to $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches which is found only on the carbine.

Whether a collection is composed of one or one hundred pieces its prize item will be the Luger carbine, which is considered to be *the* classic Luger. The carbine was produced in two basic models—the classic 1902 model and the 1920 model. Both are chambered for the 7.65 mm cartridge and both have squeeze grip safeties and stock lugs. Each has an $11\frac{3}{4}$ inch barrel and a beautifully checked foregrip of high quality walnut, thus adding graceful form to enhance the beauty of the piece. Both models have a front sight typical of that found on the finest sporting rifle and an adjustable ramp type rear sight which can be graduated from 100 to 300 meters. At this point the similarities between the 1902 model and the 1920 model end.



Luger Carbine with and without shoulder stock.



PRESENTATION CARBINE

A deep, rich blue and a classic dove, or scooped, toggle distinguishes the 1902 carbine while the toggle assembly of the 1920 is comparable to that found in models produced during the years of 1906 and 1945. Another characteristic of the 1902 model is its 1900 recessed breech block assembly with a flat strawed extractor. The serial number of the 1902 models consist always of five digits and never bear a suffix (with the exception of the Presentation Carbine which will be discussed at length subsequently), as opposed to the 1920 models on which are found serial numbers of from two to four digits. The 1902 weapons were released in two issues with serial numbers of the first issue ranging from 21,001 to 22,400 inclusive; second issue items bear serial numbers from 22,401 through 23,400. The two issues are identical except for the size of the screws in the foregrip. Although extremely rare, the much-sought-after 1920 carbines are mainly Lugers comprised of parts bearing unmatched numbers and random assemblies from 1914 military weapons.

One of the most interesting anecdotes (although I cannot vouch for its veracity) relative to the history of the carbine is that Kaiser Wilhelm, being an avid huntsman and afflicted with a defective left arm which rendered him ineffectual in the use of the rifle, urged George Luger to develop a (Continued on page 77)



Among the members of the Baerenzwinger Pistol Club of Berlin were Georg Luger (far left) and Georg Luger, Jr. (far right).

SPEEDY SMOOTHBORES

THESE EXPERIMENTAL GUNS, WITH FANTASTIC VELOCITIES AND ENERGIES, MAY HOLD THE KEY TO THE FUTURE

By E. F. DONNELLY

HOW WOULD YOU varmint hunters like to shelve those rusty old smokepoles you are using now, and go out after the wily woodchuck with a real modern souped up firearm? A gun that would belt out a 120 grain projectile at a nice cool 7150 feet per second? Or if such a light slug doesn't appeal to you elephant hunters, how about a 240 grain slug doing around 6000 fps, or a little better?

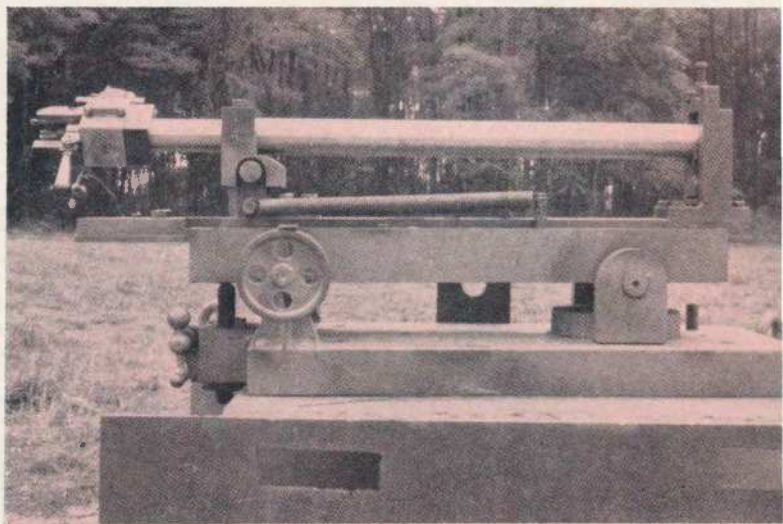
Right about now, I can almost hear you fellow gun bugs saying "This guy is off his rocker for sure, for aside from an I.C.B.M., there just ain't no shooting irons around that put out a musket ball at those kind of velocities." But before you have me committed, friends, please read on and you will see that I'm not quite as nutty as you might think.

Do those speeds I just mentioned sound fantastic to you? Well, of course they are, but the muzzle energy of those two projectiles is even more fantastic. That 120 grain missile gives something in the neighborhood of 13,625 foot pounds of muzzle energy, or roughly 6.8 tons; while the larger, but somewhat slower 240 grain job gives some 19,189 pounds, or about 9.59 tons of striking energy at the muzzle.

Now such figures are certainly impressive enough, but they don't actually mean too much to the average gun enthusiast, unless he can first drag out the old commercial cartridge manufacturers brochure, and compare muzzle velocity and muzzle energy with some tried and true calibers of known vintage. If you don't have those catalogs handy, let me provide you with the comparative, ballistic data needed at this point.

Still first in its class as far as velocity goes, the aging, but yet mighty .220 Swift is still sending its 48 grain pill whizzing along at better than 4100 fps. Then we have our latest U.S. military hotshot, the 5.56 mm (.223) as used in the M-16 Rifle. This little cartridge is proving its worth daily, down Viet Nam way, by putting the quietus on the nasty Viet Cong with a 55 grain slug doing better than 3150. The M-14 Rifle sends forth its 148 grain ball at 2800 plus, and even the much maligned, but still useful .30-30 Winchester cartridge is depleting our deer population annually with a 150 or 170 grain slug doing a mere 2410 to 2200 fps.

Laying velocity aside for a moment, and turning to muzzle energy, we find that two of the hardest hitting contemporary big game calibers are the .460 Weatherby



Muzzle velocities over 7000 fps and energies above 9 tons are routine fare for this Mann accuracy barrel.

Magnum which puts out 8095 foot pounds of energy, and the .458 Winchester Magnum, which gives out with 5110 foot pounds. Needless to say, either one of these two cartridges turns a rifle into much gun, but then there are other guns around, which are considerably faster, and much more power packed. Guns such as I use to earn my daily bread at the Army's Ballistic Research Laboratory. Guns with a controlled velocity potential ranging from a mere 400 fps, all the way up to a pile driving 7000 plus. What kind of weirdo guns are these? Why smoothbores, of course. Smoothbore guns of .30, .40 and .50 caliber, just to mention a few. Small cannon, if you will.

Surprised, friends? Well, you shouldn't be, for under certain conditions, the smoothbore firearm is quite capable of delivering a higher muzzle velocity than a rifle. Before you burn me for heresy, be it known that I am not referring to the maximum carrying potential of the smoothbore's projectile, of course, and certainly not to its accuracy. I merely refer to the initial, or muzzle velocity that can be attained with a smoothbore, as compared to that of a rifle. To be sure, there are a couple of very good reasons which permit the possibility of such a condition, and without resorting to the "high fallutin" patois of the physicist or ballisticsian, such reasons can be boiled down to a simple statement or three.

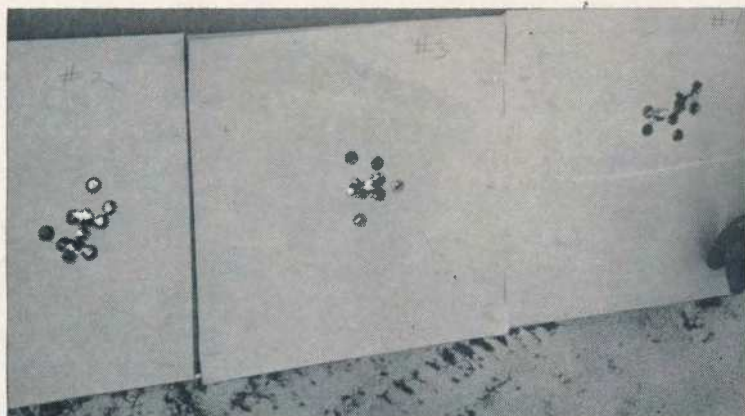
Consider then the moment of truth in a smoothbore firearm. Ignition takes place, and along with the several other actions and reactions that occur coincident with such ignition, the expanding violence of the propellant's force is used to accomplish two positive acts. First, it must overcome the inertia of the projectile and get it started moving down the bore. Secondly, it must continue to propel it down the tube to (Continued on page 70)



AUTO PISTOLS VS. REVOLVERS FOR TARGET SHOOTING

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

THE MACHINE REST HAS SOME SURPRISING
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON TARGET GUNS



The composite of these three 10-shot, 50 yard machine rest groups shot with an S&W .38 automatic measures 2.56 inches.

AT THE 1965 NATIONAL MATCHES, Camp Perry, the US Air Force pistol team walked away with just about everything except the Camp Perry gateposts. Not only did the fly-boys take the lion's share of the individual events but when the grand aggregate of all the team matches was tabulated it was found they were first there, too!

This set all the pistol marksmen at the Nationals to wondering what it was the Air Force had discovered that the rest of us had overlooked. Team members of the big squads are pretty chary about discussing training practices or other dodges which lead to a few additional points, but what none of the members tried to hide was the fact that there wasn't a revolver shooter on the whole team! As a matter of fact there wasn't a .38 caliber firearm on the squad either.

The Air Force hotrocks had cleaned up the Nationals shooting just two guns: The twenty-two caliber and the forty-five. In the so-called center-fire events—usually fired exclusively with the .38—the USAF had shot the .45 exclusively, and won. A passing strange occurrence.

The Army Marksmanship Training Unit, Ft. Benning, training base for the best the dough-boys could put against the Air Force, likewise included no revolvers among its team members.

Is this some kind of heresy? Is it an attempt on the part of the military to disinherit the most traditional of all American handguns—the cylinder model? Since soldiers, airmen, Marines, and the Sam Salts are teathed on the old Model 1911 auto pistol, can it be the armed forces marksmen are being restricted by Sec. Def. McNamara from firing any weapon save the issue model? It seems passing strange with all the inherent goodness of the .38 target revolvers, both Colt and S&W, that our top drawer aggregations would not fire these fine handguns.

One of the very greatest handgunners the game has ever produced, Joe Benner, has always shot the .38 Officers Model. Joe has been the National champ five times. He still shoots scores just as smoking hot as he ever did. Although now as an employee of Hi Standard, I presume he no longer breaks out the remarkable .38 revolver of his. After all it is made by a competitor!

Such great former champions as Jake Engbrecht, Al Hemming, Harry Reeves, Walter Walsh, Bill Toney, Emet Jones, and Thurman Barrier, all won many ranking matches with the cylinder model. Surely the quality of the firearm has not deteriorated. Quite the contrary, with modern technology to the fore you may be sure the K-38 or the Officers Model is an even better handgun today. And we are all aware of the tremendous improvements in ammunition. Why then this obdurate attitude on the part of the ranking pistol champions today?

Col. Ed Mason, who commanded the Army



S&W Model 52 .38 Master



Colt's Officers Model Match



Joe Benner, five times national pistol champion, always fired a .38 Officers Model Colt in the centerfire matches.



MTU at Ft Benning, told me, "We exhaustively machine-rest tested the .38 revolver, also the .45 S&W Model 25 Target, against the best Model 1911 .45 autos and we found the revolvers simply would not shoot up with the automatic. These .45 autos we tried, you understand, were not issue guns but had been through our armorer's shop."

Col. Tom Kelly who heads up the USAF School of Marksmanship at Lackland AFB, Texas, told me, "Armors like our M/Sgt Lou Willing can tune up a .45 auto so it will shoot rings around any revolver ever made. We quit the .38 auto because a careful tabulation of scores over a long period showed our people could do just as

well with the .45. Why have a third gun in the picture?"

I am an old shooter of the 6-gun. I one time knocked off the 3-gun championship of the U.S. and when I did that I was shooting a Colt OM .38. It had performed all right for me. The Border Patrol team of which I was a long time member has used the revolver exclusively. Despite the evidence of the 1965 Perry clean-up by the Air Force plus the words of the two acknowledged leaders, Mason and Kelly, I was not entirely ready to acknowledge that the fine old target revolver was all washed up.

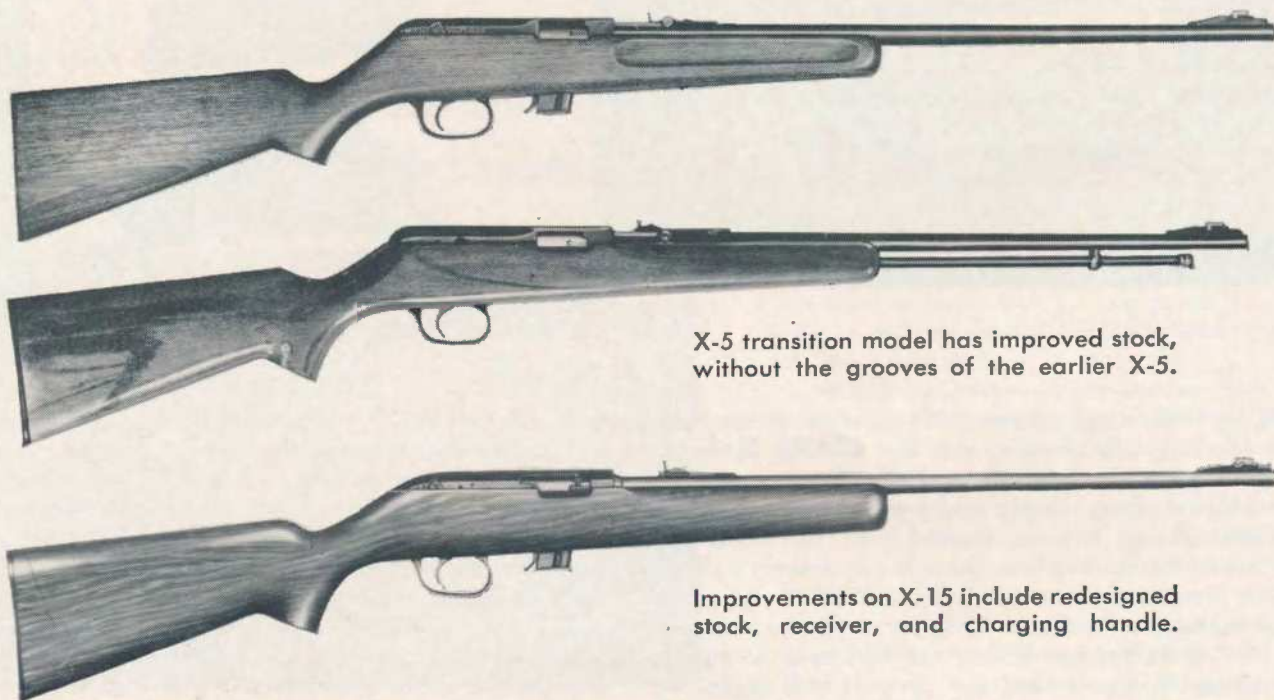
These buckos had stated the revolver was not as accurate as the auto pistol. It would be *(Continued on page 51)*

LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE—

**A TEST
REPORT ON THE
ITHACA
"X-15"**

By HARRY O. DEAN

Following the range tests, field shooting confirmed the author's good impression of the X-15 Lightning.



X-5 transition model has improved stock, without the grooves of the earlier X-5.

Improvements on X-15 include redesigned stock, receiver, and charging handle.

WHEN THE ITHACA gun company introduced their first .22 semi-auto, they named it the X-5 "Lightning." It was a good gun but it never achieved any great amount of popularity. The stock was well formed, but the forearm had deep finger grooves like the old "hog wallows" that the late Capt. E. C. Crossman used to deplore. However, the major objection was the charger handle. This consisted of a 2½ inch rod that protruded from the front upper right section of the receiver. It hung suspended out over the barrel breech where it became a popular "collectors item," by which I mean that it was an item that collected all manner of branches, leaves, and twigs. It was also prone to bend out of line with any good bump. The Ithaca engineers have wisely eliminated these bugs and to celebrate the achievement they upgraded the model number to X-15. Sounds like a rocketship, doesn't it? It also shoots like one. They have wisely retained the name "Lightning" just to prove that you had better watch out, because Lightning can strike twice!

While touring the Ithaca plant recently in the company of Ithaca President Sheldon M. Smith, I picked up a semi-auto rifle from the final assembly racks. The rifle was handsome and sleek and as I noted the improvements, I ques-

tioned Shelly about them. I was surprised to hear that the current model was placed in production back in 1964. When I asked about the history of the Lightning rifle he replied:

"The X-5 clip type was first introduced in the year 1958. In the following year, 1959, we introduced the same gun in the X-5 tubular magazine type. The tubular type was then dropped in 1963. The modifications changing the X-5 into the current X-15 were accomplished, and the new X-15 was introduced in the year 1964."

The "modifications" Shelly mentioned are primarily in the action. The loading port has an extended slot at the upper rear to allow clearance for the compact new charger hook. Thus the X-15 Lightning became one of the finest looking semi-auto .22 rifles on the market. The amount of hand craftsmanship that goes into this rifle assures precision operation as well as good looks.

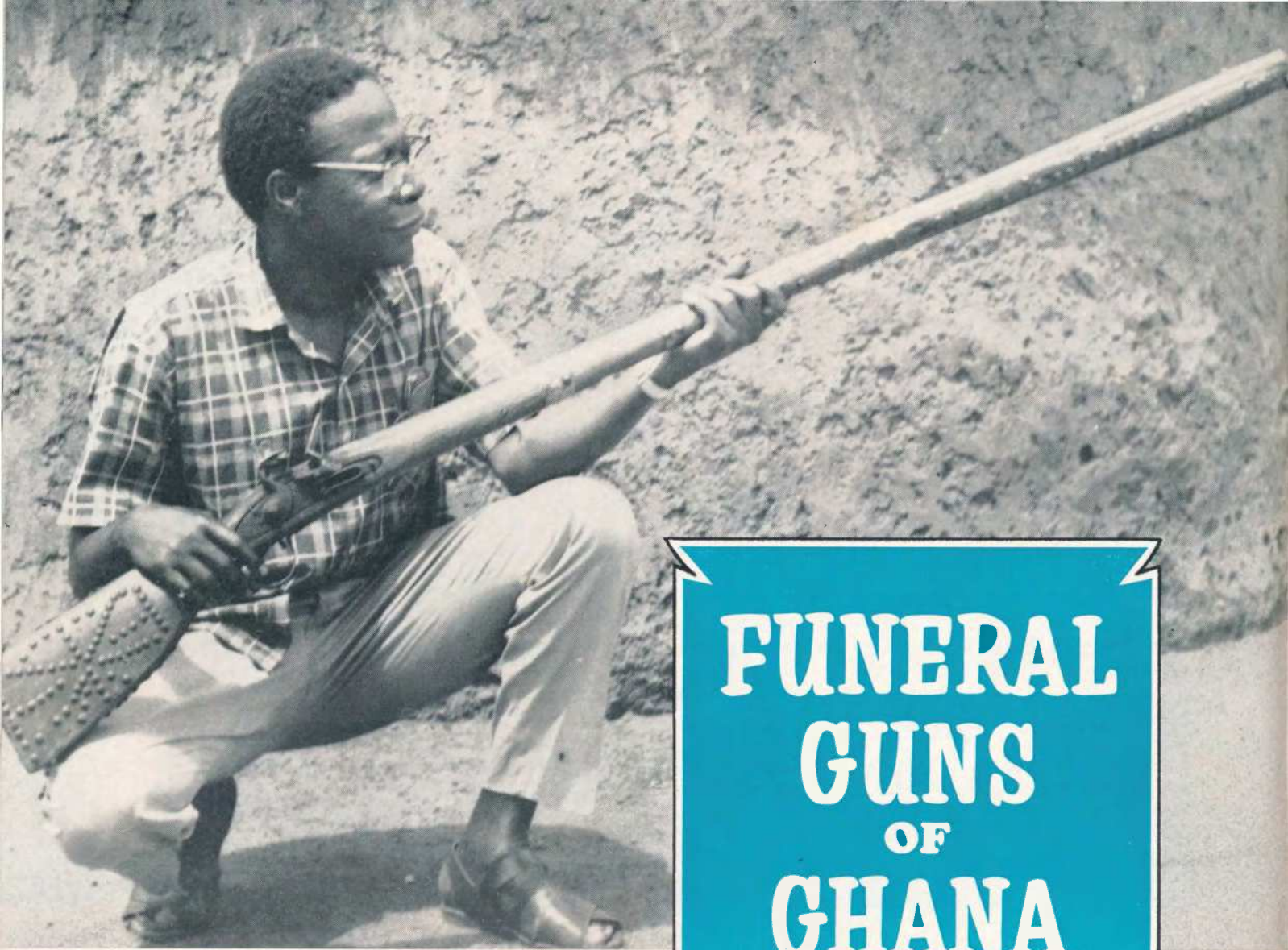
Many years ago, the only .22 semi-automatics you could buy were based on the Browning designed action. Cartridges were fed from a buttstock tubular magazine and the types most often seen were made by Winchester or Remington with a scattering of imported Brownings. More often than not, they were chambered for a special ".22 automatic" (Continued on page 64)



The pushbutton release on the "Raybar" eases changing the fluorescent and black inserts.



The new X-15 has a large, efficient safety and improved charger hook and ejection port designs.



The finished muskets are labors of love and play an important part in Ghana's tribal ceremonies.

FUNERAL GUNS OF GHANA

By ABE and EDITH HALPERIN



Barrels are made of steering rods taken from junked cars.

JUST AS THE SUN RISES above the horizon in northern Ghana, there will be a gun shot off in almost every large village . . . and many small ones. The shot from a primitive gun, often made of metal scraps, is the signal that someone has died.

The custom started hundreds of years ago, when each chief had his own army, and the bravest of the tribesmen were named as his special hunters. They were equipped with guns, bought from the Europeans and Arabs when possible, or fabricated by the village blacksmith when it was not.

These guns play an important part in many tribal ceremonies, but as more education reaches the interior, and the subsequent exodus of young men for the bigger cities of the south, the tribal rituals are decreasing. Africans who remain behind in the villages still cling to the old customs and the prestige they bring with them.

The ceremonial guns play an important part in both burials and funerals, occasions which may be several months or even a year apart. But they are also shot off on more joyful occasions, such as the birth of a child to an important person, and to welcome notables to the village.

The younger generation has little empathy for the practice, says J. A. A.

Salaam, Principal Community Development Officer in Tamale, capital of the Northern Region. For him and his generation, however, the use of the guns is a sign of prestige, popular throughout Ghana but more prevalent in the North. Some tribes in the south, instead of using guns, erect a bamboo fence. They discharge gunpowder at the base and the result is a bombardment of shots.

In the north, the guns used are almost always made by blacksmiths, who have been taught the skill by their fathers and in turn will pass it along to their sons. There are still a few European guns in use, but since it has been illegal to import or own a gun for some years, these are few in number.

In the early days, the metal for the gun was fabricated by the blacksmiths, but today automobile steering rods, taken from junk vehicles, are a popular shortcut. Steel pipe also is used, but the blacksmiths point out that galvanized pipe cannot withstand the pressure. The blacksmith makes the spring, trigger, and hammer, to be attached to the gun barrel, and carves the stock and hand-

grip. Gabliga and Gaa trees, both solid woods which will not crack, but still are soft enough to carve with reasonable ease, are most frequently used.

Brass fittings are used to ornament the stock, and designs and names are often burned into the wood. The barrel is open only at one end, making cleaning difficult and so it deteriorates more rapidly than it would under other circumstances. The barrel is at least 32 inches long, and can run as long as 40 inches. There are still many old guns in the Northern Regions now, which have been handed down for two and even three generations, despite handicaps.

Laws passed by the now-ousted government of Kwame Nkrumah forbade making guns, or even owning them without special permission, after several attempts had been made on the dictator's life. Gunmakers must have a government license and can make guns only on special order . . . none can be kept in stock.

Making a gun is a slow and primitive job, but the results are workable. The black- (Continued on page 75)



Despite the use of primitive tools, such as this adz, gunstocks are accurately carved.



Even the difficult and intricate parts, such as this flintlock, are made with hand tools from scrap metal.



LOCKED IN THE BASEMENT OF A CHURCH
IS AN IMPRESSIVE COLLECTION OF RARE AND VALUABLE FIREARMS
AMONG THEM ARE THE HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT . . .

Guns of the Mormons

By NELSON WADSWORTH

Curator Carl Jones inspects
some of the rarer firearms
from the Mormon collection.



This Allen's patent pepperbox once belonged to Brigham Young.



Mormon leader Joseph Smith had another Allen's patent pepperbox with him at the time of his murder.



Joseph Smith



Hyrum Smith

ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING and valuable gun collections in America lies dusty and forgotten in a storage locker in the basement of a church museum. This collection, belonging to the Mormon Church, is stored in the basement of the Temple Square Museum in Salt Lake City, Utah. The museum, standing next to the Mormon Temple in the heart of Utah's capital city, deals with the history of Utah with special attention to the westward exodus of the Mormon pioneers and their struggles on the frontier. Like most museums, Temple Square has more artifacts than it can possibly display in its limited space. As a result, the excess is in the basement storage rooms.

Occasionally a gun or two has been brought up from the storage locker and put on display, but for the most part the collection is virtually unknown. Most Salt Lakers are totally unaware of its existence. Admittedly, there are pieces in the collection which are not first or even third rate, but there are also many rare and fine pieces in the collection, many of them having an historical worth apart from their obvious value to collectors.

GUNS OF THE MORMONS

One such gun, and perhaps the most interesting and valuable to the Mormons, is a .36 caliber Allen's patent pepperbox, made in 1837, and inscribed on the hammer is, "J. C. Bolen, N.Y." This gun was in the possession of the Mormon prophet Joseph Smith when he and his brother, Hyrum, were murdered by a mob in Carthage, Illinois, on June 27, 1844. Smith had led the Mormons in building up the community of Nauvoo, Illinois, then the largest city on the western frontier, bigger even than Chicago at that time. But in 1844 religious persecution and political discord plagued the prophet and his thriving city.

According to historical accounts, the two Mormon leaders and two other friends, John Taylor and Willard Richards, were held in the Carthage jail by their enemies on charges of treason in an atmosphere of religious and political confusion. The Mormons were expecting an attack from a mob when the six-shot pepperbox was smuggled into the jail by a friend, Cyrus H. Wheelock. After examining the weapon, the Mormon prophet took another single shot derringer out of his pocket and gave it to his brother, saying, "You may have use for this." The derringer, a small weapon inscribed "Richards of London," had been given to Joseph Smith the night before by another friend, John S. Fullmer.

Later that afternoon, an armed mob with blackened faces, numbering some 200 men, attacked the jail. Part of the mob clamored up the stairs to the debtor's cell where the Mormons were held and began shooting into the room through the door. Hyrum Smith was shot down immediately. He didn't even take the derringer out of his pocket.

Joseph leaned over his brother, and seeing that he was dead, pulled the pepperbox out of his pocket and jumped

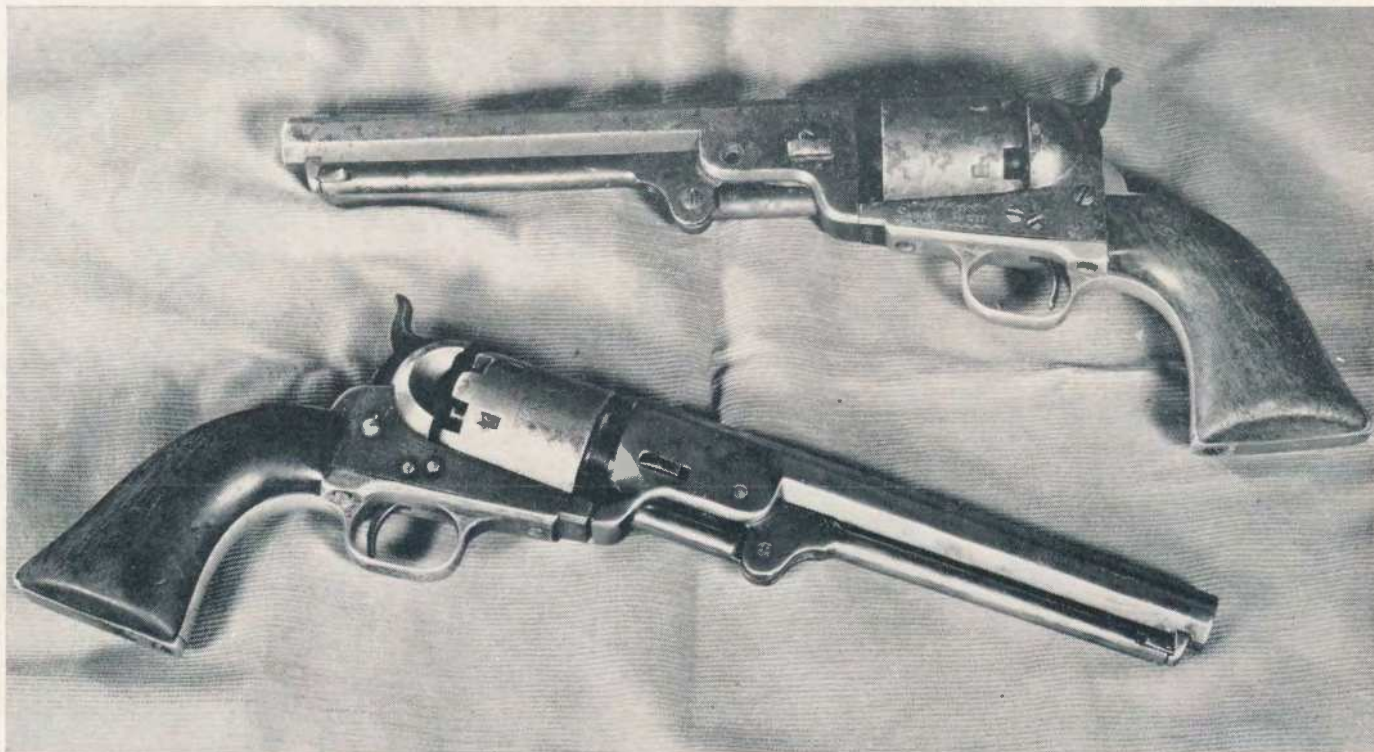


Curator Carl Jones holds one of the collection's more valuable firearms, a Colt revolving cylinder carbine.

to the door. He opened it slightly and snapped the revolver six successive times down the stairs. Three of the six shots misfired. Although history is somewhat garbled on this subject, it is believed the discharges wounded several of the mob, two of whom later died.

The small pepperbox and a wooden cane wielded by John Taylor were hardly defense against 200 men armed with muskets. Joseph, hit by balls fired both from within and without the jail, staggered to a window, teetered momentarily on the sill and

(Continued on page 62)



The Temple Square collection includes several historically important Colt revolvers. Among them is one which is engraved "Samuel Ware," the name of a European Mormon convert who came across the plains to Utah in 1855.



SHOTSHELLS

By CARLOS VINSON

THE FOUNDING AND OPERATIONS of the old Union Metallic Cartridge Company make up one of the most interesting chapters of American ammunition history. To begin we must go back to the firm of Crittenden & Tibbals Manufacturing Company, one of the group which later formed Union Metallic, making metallic cartridges in South Coventry, Connecticut, in 1860, thus the first of the group to come into existence. This company made percussion caps and cartridges for muzzle loading revolvers and Sharps breech loading rifles, plus a few rimfire copper cartridges.

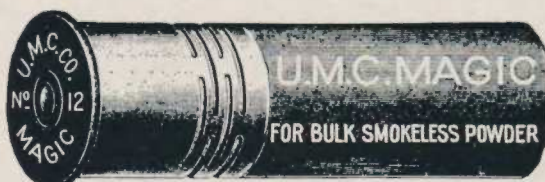
During the Civil War the firm of Schuyler, Hartley & Graham of New York furnished rimfire cartridges made at South Coventry for Spencer carbines and rifles to the U.S. Government under contract. Rimfire cartridges for Henry rifles were also made at South Coventry for U.S. troops during the Civil War.

During September of 1865 Schuyler, Hartley & Graham bought from P.T. Barnum a piece of ground at the corner of East Washington and Pauline Streets in Bridgeport, Conn. The lot was 250 X 500 feet and was the actual commencement of the Union Metallic Cartridge Company in Bridgeport, Connecticut. This purchase, however, did not include water rights of Pembroke Lake since Barnum Avenue at that time did not extend across the lake.

In 1866 the machinery of the Crittenden & Tibbals Manufacturing Company and also from the works of C. D. Leet (who was making rimfire cartridges under the S&W patent) of Springfield, Massachusetts, was bought by Schuyler, Hartley & Graham and brought to Bridgeport. Here at the works of the newly formed Union Metallic Cartridge Company the manufacture of caps and ammunition began in real earnest under the careful supervision of workmen from the parent factories who had been attracted to Bridgeport. The concern was still quite primitive, employing less than 200 people.

During the fall of 1868 the company leased a piece of ground on the Stratford Salt Marsh to erect a house for storing powder. Grass fires in the salt meadows

(Continued on page 68)



In 1873 the Union Metallic Cartridge Company was located at 341 E. Washington Avenue, near Remington's present location.



Single shotshells in these brands are not unusual, but complete boxes are quite rare.



A cast 240 gr. semi-wadcutter from the .44 Magnum at 1430 fps thoroughly demolishes a quart can of water, while the .22 High Speed Hollow Point bullet only splits the seam of its water-filled can.

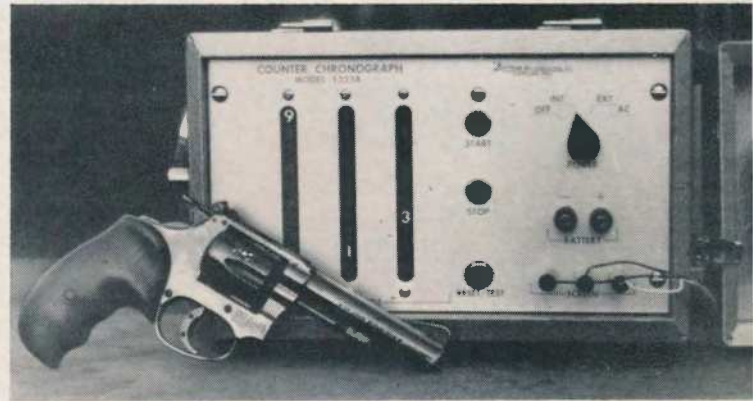
What Will the .22 Do?

AMERICA'S MOST POPULAR CALIBER
IS ALSO ONE OF THE LEAST EFFECTIVE

By WILLIS L. HOBART



Lots of inexpensive fun can be had with a .22 rimfire handgun, but shots at game should be strictly limited. The 9.13 millisecond, or 1095 fps, chronograph reading shows up one weakness of the cartridge, low velocity.



THE KILLING POWER of the .22 rimfire handguns is probably the most overrated item in the shooting world today.

We've seen articles touting the little .22 pistol as ideal for hunting, plinking, self-defense, target shooting—you name it. And, if you believe everything you read, it's the jack of all trades. But to come right down to it, when the .22 is called on, is it really there? Does it really do the job or is it merely filling in because another cartridge is "too loud," "too expensive," or has "too much recoil?"

By now a few readers may be muttering agreeably to themselves, but thousands have come out of their chairs, ready to defend the trusty cartridge for which their first rifle was probably chambered.

Actually, there is little to dispute concerning the .22 rimfire's flair for competitive target shooting. This is really where it shines. And with good reason too, because the standard velocity target ammo and the target handguns have evolved to a point of near perfection.

The .22 is also a mainstay in the time honored and widely popular sport of plinking. Low report, recoil, and cost and easy availability will probably

keep it there too unless everyone starts handloading the centerfire cartridges using reclaimed lead and small powder charges.

No quarrel with the above: The .22's immense popularity rests solidly on these two healthy and wholesome sports. But, from here on the .22 rimfire's laurels totter on shaky legs.

Use the .22 for hunting? For self-defense? No doubt a .22 would be better than nothing in a pure survival situation, but how much better?

The late Col. Townsend Whelen, often honored as the dean of American Riflemen, termed the .22 High Speed Hollow Point's performance in rifles as "overrated," "not satisfactory," and "very inhumane" for such species as woodchucks, prairie dogs, and large ground squirrels. This was based on many years of experience in shooting, hunting, living off the land and study of the experiences of other outdoorsmen.

So then, where does that leave the .22 pistol's killing power? Handguns necessarily have considerably less velocity for at least two reasons. One reason is the shorter barrel length, and the other, concerning revolvers, is due to the gas loss between the cylinder and the barrel. Thus the handgun,

ballistically, fares even worse than the mediocre rifle performance, but how much worse?

In a test of handgun velocities on the Avtron chronograph, a Smith and Wesson .22/32 Kit Gun (4 inch barrel) averaged 1081 fps and a six inch barreled Hi Standard semi-automatic averaged 1204 fps. These were instrumental velocities at eight feet in front of the muzzle and all were ten shot averages.

Now what do we have? A thousand feet per second muzzle velocity is generally conceded to be marginal for adequate killing power in such large caliber handguns as the .44 Special and .45 Colt. Leaving velocity the same, cut the caliber in half and reduce the bullet weight a whopping 83 per cent and you have darned little killing power left for any size animal.

In the .22 WRF Magnum we have a real fence rider. I've run into quite a number of fans of this cartridge who firmly believe that their handgun produces 2000 fps muzzle velocity. The only trouble is that they are quoting the rifle ballistics. Some wind comes out of their sails when they find that Winchester-Western quotes only 1550 fps for a handgun, though this still would be (Continued on page 74)

Transition of the Western Holster

**FOLLOWS THE CHANGE IN USE
FROM MILITARY TO FAST DRAW**

By E. DIXON LARSON

A STUDY OF THE TRANSITION of the western holster, utilized primarily in the United States since the introduction of the revolver, can be thought provoking. For example, the flintlocks were used for over two centuries with little consideration given to carrying the arms in a scabbard or sheath of any design. Early woodcuts and records show almost conclusively that the handgun of this circa was seldom carried in a holster suspended from a waist belt. When the weapon was not carried by inserting the barrel inside a waist belt or through a sleeve attached to a bandoleer, barrel rings, belt hooks, and trigger bars were improvised.

There were many obvious problems involved in carrying the weapon tucked in a waist belt, not to mention the safety hazard. Widespread use of the holster in America began just about the same time that percussion ignition replaced frizzen and flint and successful revolvers began being marketed. The basic design was influenced by European military holsters. The early holsters, which appeared in quantity in the early 1850's, were patterned and distributed for martial use exclusively. The Civil War holsters of the 1860's were of the left-hand martial style, equipped with a full cover flap and stud friction catch. Regulations required that the holster be worn on the right hip, waist high,

(Continued on page 73)





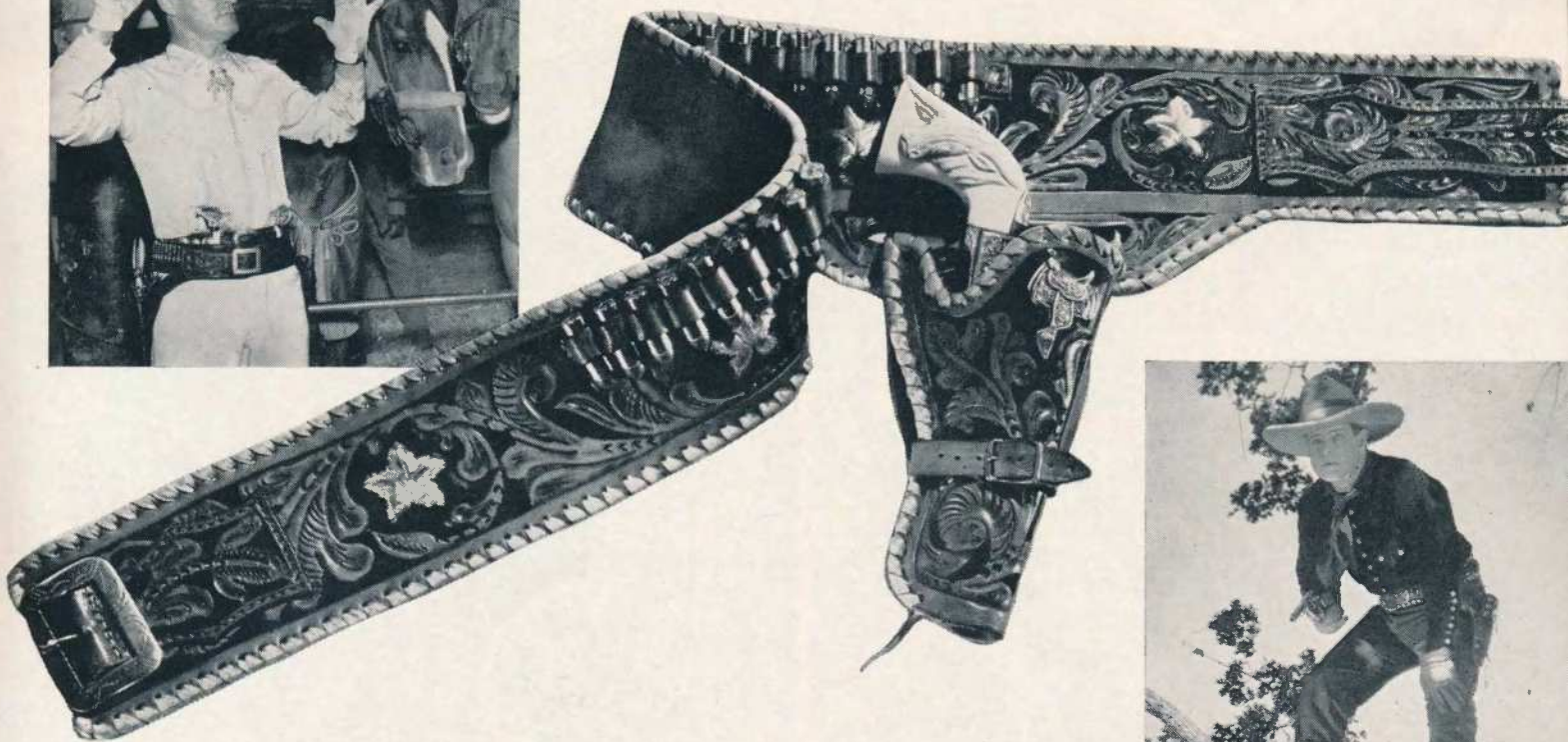
A Civil War martial holster, customized for civilian use.



A commercial holster, tooled and studded for decoration.



A buscadero of Texas Low-Cut design with a hammer keeper.



Buscadero style holsters, highly decorated and hand-tooled, were popularized by such Western heroes as Tom Mix (left) and Jack Hoxie.



If you're transporting a prisoner, this is not the place for your gun.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The excerpts in this article are taken from the book "No Second Place Winner," by Bill Jordan. Distributed by the author at Box 4072, Shreveport, La. Price, \$5.00.

There is no second place winner in a gun fight!

THAT COMMENT, obviously the source of the title of this book, comes from a man who has been there when the guns were talking "in anger"—a man with some thirty years of experience in law enforcement, in a branch of service and in a territory where an officer's gun is a tool, not merely a badge of office. And if this sounds like something out of the days of Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson, maybe it's because the role of the gun in law enforcement hasn't changed as much in those intervening decades as some people think! At least not in Texas, on U. S. Border Patrol duty.

But guns, gun leather, gun handling, and gun speed have all changed drastically in those decades, and Bill Jordan is the epitome of the New School of law enforcement gunmen. He may well be in living fact the fastest, the most accurate, and potentially the deadliest man with a double action revolver who ever lived.

Lest any reader suspect that I may merely have fallen victim to Jordan's personal charm, witness the following from the Introduction to this book, written by Colonel Charles Askins, himself an ex-National Pistol Champion and himself not inexperienced in law enforcement gun-fighting:

"Bill Jordan is the fastest man on the draw that I have ever seen in action . . . Bill can hold a ping pong ball on top of his hand, bare inches above the holstered gun, suddenly drop the ball, go for his shooting iron, and blast the ball as it falls past the holster."

No Second Place Winner

By WILLIAM H. JORDAN with editorial comments by E. B. MANN



Jordan's entire body takes part in his draw, yet he has great economy of motion since each move is well thought out and frequently practiced. >



Jordan's final stance is relaxed and balanced, yet his gun has gotten on target very quickly.

(Jordan has repeatedly recorded draw-fire-and-hit times of .27 of a second for one shot—and less than one second to draw and fire six shots, all hits—on the Ross shoot-back electronic timer. All of these test records *include* reaction time, starting from a visual signal; and all were fired with a snub Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum revolver using .38 Special ammo.)

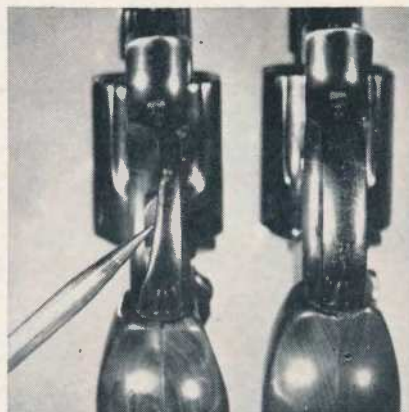
But let's get back to Askins' Introduction:

"What makes more impression on me than his lightning draw is his point-shooting accuracy. As a regular feature of a shooting exhibition, he draws, shoots from the hip, double action, and hits aspirin pills neatly lined up on a table some ten feet in front of him. . . He winds up the amazing exhibition by splitting a playing card edgewise! . . . Jordan says he can 'feel' the gun point at these peewee targets. It appears to the slightly goggle-eyed onlooker that his .357 must have built-in radar! And when, in addition to the above, you consider that this man is an NRA Lifetime Master with the pistol, big bore rifle, and small bore rifle, and a 'AA' skeet shooter and trap shooter, and a Distinguished Marksman, it becomes apparent that, when he speaks about shooting, it will be worth while to listen."

Certainly no law enforcement officer can afford not to listen when Bill Jordan speaks, as he does in this book, clearly,



Jordan's "great guns:" from top, S&W .357 Combat Magnum, S&W .44 Magnum, Colt Trooper, and Colt New Police Python.



Left: Slimming the trigger guard helps speed without loss of guard function. Right: Jordan can handle the SAA too.

Bill Jordan

Jordan draws against an electronic timer which must be hit to stop the timer. On this sequence he registered 0.32 sec. including reaction time.



concisely, and in exact detail, about the guns, the holsters and rigs, the loads, and the methods by which proficiency with a gun in self-defense can be attained. For, as Jordan says:

"Nothing he (the law enforcement officer) can buy from a life insurance firm takes the place of his ability to shoot fast and accurately. Storebought insurance will make his wife a rich widow, but it will be someone else who helps her spend the settlement. Not too attractive a proposition from the masculine point of view. The kind of life insurance he can buy with competent gun handling ability is obviously much more practical."

Perhaps indicative of Jordan's evaluation of the relative importance of various items of police equipment is the fact that his first chapter on this subject is titled "Fightin' Leather." "How to carry" is a topic on which Jordan has some decided and carefully-thought-out opinions:

"Uniformed police, almost without exception, carry their weapons in either cross draw holsters or hip holsters. The cross draw is a comfortable holster, very fast under ideal conditions but lacking the mobility of the draw from the right hip. Its greatest disadvantage is a natural result of its position. When drawn, the gun is usually swinging *across* the target and must be stopped or fired within a narrow limitation for a hit—as opposed to a hip draw where the gun is swung up *through* the target and has about six feet in which it may be fired successfully. The cross draw position has been extolled as ideal for the officer who, alone, is conveying a prisoner or prisoners in an unsecured automobile. . . From a position of the prisoner in the front seat alongside the officer, the weapon would be in the worst possible position if worn on the right hip; however, on the left hip for a cross draw would also be far from ideal. Only slight pressure on the

(Continued on page 66)

GUNS COLOR GALLERY



S & W .22 JET

Chambered for the .22 Jet centerfire cartridge, the Smith & Wesson Model 53 can also fire .22 rimfire ammo with special chamber inserts. Stocks are Herrett's fancy mesquite; scope is the 2.6 power Bushnell Phantom. Photo by Claude M. Merrill.

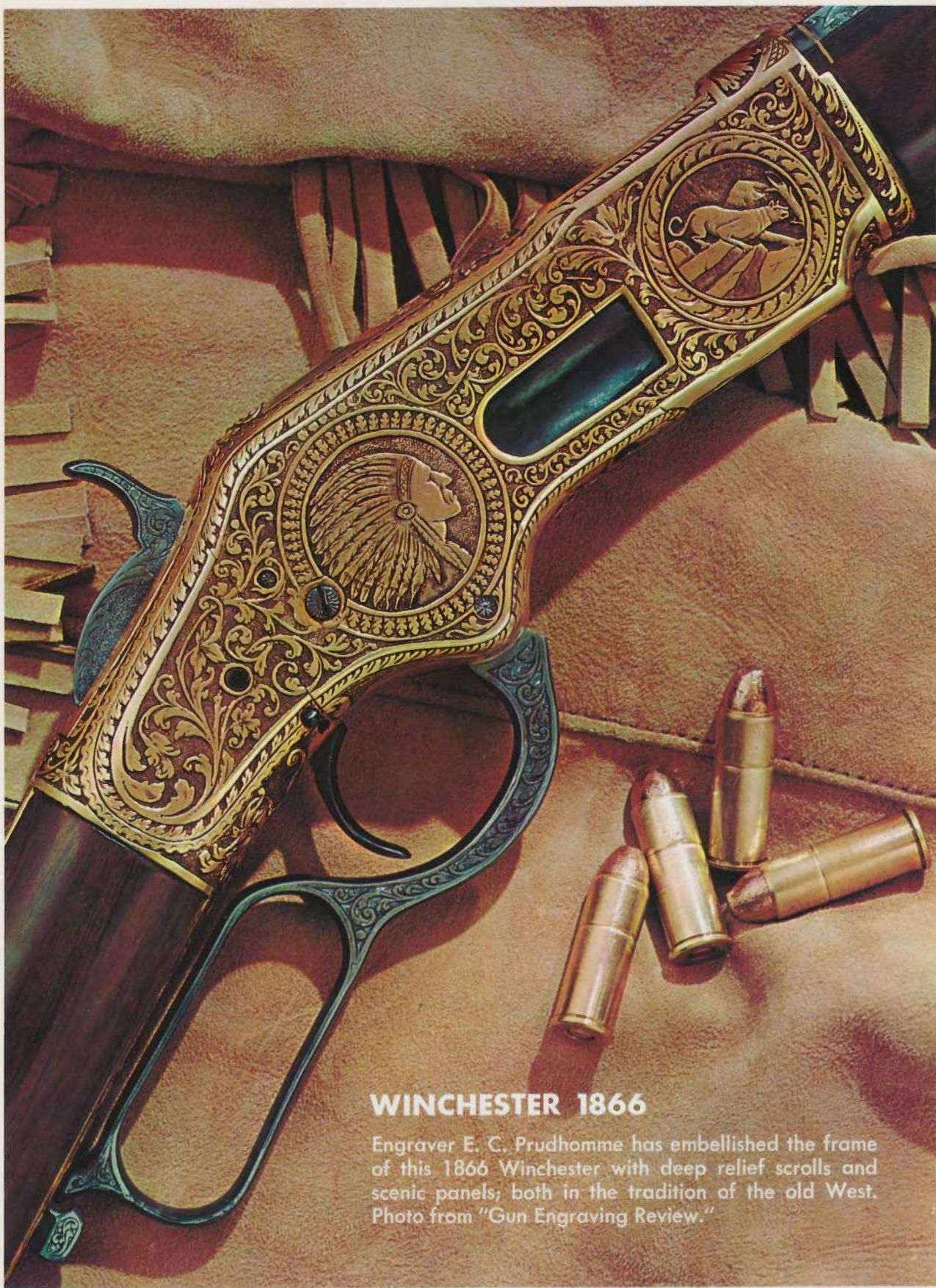


Mississippi
Derringers





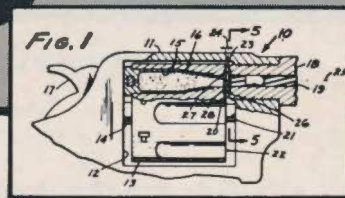
These four pistols are true Mississippi derringers, in that they are either of Mississippi manufacture or were sold by Mississippi agents. Top: Made by Louis Hoffman of Vicksburg. Second: Made by S. O'Dell of Natchez. Third: Made by H. G. Newcomb, also of Natchez. Bottom: Made by Henry Deringer and sold by S. O'Dell as agent. These guns were photographed by, and are from the collection of Dr. R. L. Moore, Jr., of Philadelphia, Mississippi.



WINCHESTER 1866

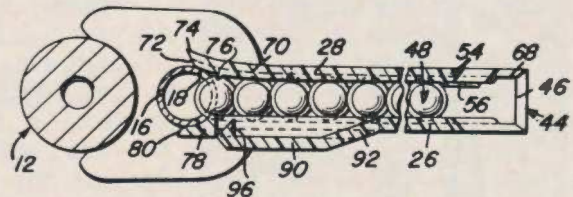
Engraver E. C. Prudhomme has embellished the frame of this 1866 Winchester with deep relief scrolls and scenic panels; both in the tradition of the old West. Photo from "Gun Engraving Review."

NEW PATENTS



1. A cartridge carrying tubular magazine loading clip comprising an elongated hollow case embodying a cartridge containing chamber defined by interconnected top, bottom and opposed side walls, said case being open at the cartridge loading end and provided in one side wall with a resilient pressure responsive tongue, said cartridge holding tongue being provided on its interior with a retaining bead, said top wall being provided at the magazine abutting cartridge ejection end with an outstanding member constituting an ejection end piloting and position orienting catch, the other side wall being provided with a finger pressure operated ejector embodying a finger provided with a terminal cam and an adjacent cooperating catch, said second-named side wall being further provided with a terminal abutment having a concave surface adapted to contact a surface portion of the magazine which is to be loaded.

3,242,609
CARTRIDGE CARRYING AND LOADING CLIP
Arnold A. Kolstinen, Rte. 1, Box 184, Madison, S. Dak.
Filed Nov. 2, 1964, Ser. No. 408,245
5 Claims. (Cl. 42—87)



1. A shot shell primer handling device for primers having cylindrical portion and a radial flanged portion at one end thereof comprising a container having a generally flat bottom portion,

a generally flat top portion removably carried by said container and spaced from the container bottom a distance slightly greater than the axial length of said primers,

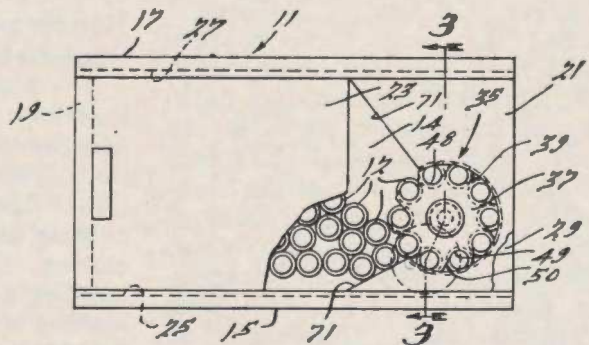
an opening of a size slightly greater than said primer flanged portion formed in the container bottom adjacent one end thereof,

feed means rotatably disposed in said container adjacent said opening including a wheel having spaced slots formed in the periphery thereof of a preselected size and adapted to overlies said opening,

said feed means being spaced from said container bottom a distance greater than the axial length of said primer flanged portion,

whereby said primers are maintained in an upright position within said container and are delivered individually to said opening by rotation of said feed wheel.

3,240,103
AUTOMATIC PRIMER LOADER
Walter R. Lamont, 28100 Terrence Drive,
Livonia, Mich.
Filed Sept. 22, 1964, Ser. No. 398,209
4 Claims. (Cl. 86—38)



To get a copy of patent, send the number and 50¢ to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington 25, D.C. To communicate with an inventor or assignee, if the address given is insufficient, send a letter to him in care of the Commissioner mentioning the patent number.

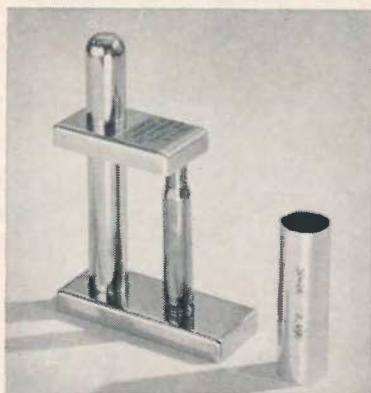


GUN RACK...

REPORTS ON NEW GUNS AND SHOOTING EQUIPMENT...

Lachmiller Tools

The Lachmiller Case Length Gauge is a simple and foolproof handloading aid. A fully adjustable bar which moves up and down, the case Length Gauge is set for the desired caliber by means of a collet. Once locked in



place, there is no chance of slip-page and you'll need different collets for each case length. The Lachmiller Pistol Powder Measure is more of a meter than a measure. The drum, instead of being adjustable, has a fixed, factory-checked powder capacity, and a different rotor is needed for each charge. In measuring 50 charges of 2.5 gr. of Bullseye, I found that only three charges were over, and that by only 0.05 gr., a minimal amount since packing of the powder particles can easily make that much difference in any measure. Both of the Lachmiller accessories can be obtained from your gunshop, or you can get them directly from Lachmiller Engineering Co., 6445G San Fernando Rd., Glendale, Cal. 91201.

Group Gripper for the .45 ACP

Offered by Dan Dwyer, 9156 W. Washington Ave., San Diego,

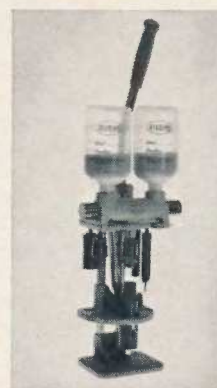
Cal., the Group Gripper consists of a link that is equipped with a shoulder which matches with the stop in the middle of the recoil spring guide. This takes the play and slop out of the assembly and that, as every match shooter knows, is the secret of the high degree of accuracy that is found in match .45's. I had some Camp Perry .45 ACP Match ammo which I had been hoarding and used it in testing the Group Gripper. With a GI gun, best groups from a sandbag looked like 30 yard scattergun patterns, but with the Dwyer device installed, groups shrank better than 50 per cent. In yet another gun that had been tuned up quite a bit, installation of the Group Gripper produced match grade groups, although the trigger pull of that gun was not good enough for competitive shooting. The Group Gripper is easily installed by anyone who can strip and then reassemble a .45 ACP, and installation of the device takes only a couple of minutes.

Redding-Hunter Shotshell Loader

The Model 16 Redding-Hunter shotshell loader is a well made, accurately pre-set loading tool that operates along the conventional lines, with the operator moving each shell from station to station. Each of the five stations handles one of the operations of loading a shell, function of the tool is smooth, and reloaded hulls come out of the M 16 as if they had been newly loaded at the factory. The tool handles plastic and of course paper hulls, and there are a wide variety of shot and powder bushings available.

A reliable shotshell loader, even

if it does not operate at top speed, is by far to be preferred for the average handloader than a tool that cranks out shells at a great rate of speed and where a minor breakdown can mean hours and hours of work, adjusting a nut



here, a bolt there. The M 16 Redding-Hunter shotshell loader is foolproof, and rate of loading shells depends on the operator. I especially like the fact that bushings are installed easily and without fuss, and sizing of cases is complete — even badly bulged hulls were sized and then functioned perfectly in two of my autoloaders.

Clark's .224

Kenneth E. Clark, a custom gunsmith located at 18738G Highway 99, Madera, Cal., 93637, has made quite a name for himself with his new .224 wildcat. A flat-shooting, long range varmint cartridge, the Clark .224 is remarkable for its velocities and the fact that the velocities are attained with relatively heavy bullets. Ken makes his own bullets for the .224, and he offers two types of bullets—a 80 gr. HP for varmints and a 82 gr. spire point bullet with an "Inner Jacket" for game. The sectional density of the varmint bullet compares with the

GUN RACK...

TESTED IN THE FIELD, ON THE RANGE, AND ON THE BENCH

100 gr. bullet for the 6 mm or that of the 110 gr. bullet in caliber .25; S.D. is .227 and the ballistic coefficient is .312. Barrel twist is 1 in 9, and Clark warns that no existing factory rifle can be re-chambered for the .224 Clark.

For the 80 gr. HP Varmint bullet, advertised velocities run from 3279 fps to 3500 fps, depending on the load; for the game bullet, velocities range from 3420 fps to 3513 fps. According to Ken's dope sheet, 52.0 gr. of H450 give the 80 gr. bullet an MV of 3443 fps. Working with John Amber, editor of the "Gun Digest," we verified this claim — the Avtron chronograph gave an average MV of 3448.2 fps with that charge, using Norma primers and W-W Superspeed .257 Roberts brass necked to .224. Accuracy of that load was excellent, and barrel life with the .224 Clark is not shortened to any extent, despite the high velocities.

Schukra Rod

Shooters Specialties, Box 264G, La Mirada, Calif., is offering what I consider to be the handiest shoot-



ing accessory on the market, especially for those who tote their gun

gear into back country. This is the Schukra flexible cleaning rod, which can be either as compact as a pull-through when rolled up, or as rigid as any one-piece rod when set up for cleaning. Imported from Germany, the Schukra rod is made of the finest of materials and workmanship. The price is \$9.50, complete with rifle and shotgun tips and adaptors; and if you don't get many times that amount of service out of it, perhaps you're not cleaning your guns enough.

Black Powder Barrels and Scope Safety

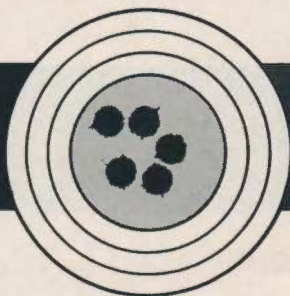
Les Bauska, Box 511G, Kalispell, Montana, 59901, makes fine black powder barrels and also complete guns. In the ML line, he offers barrels in the following bore diameters: .300, .320, .330, .350, .368, .375, .400, .422, .450, .458, .500, .577, and .580. He makes those in the standard 1" and also in the 1 1/4" diameters, but his bench barrels, in any of the above calibers, are the ones which have made him well known. These barrels are in the round, but they can be shaped to any form, and octagon barrels are almost always on hand for immediate shipment. Twist of the barrels is 1 in 48 inches, groove depth is 8-12 thousandths. Special twists and groove depth can be had, although deliveries are slow since Les is snowed under with special orders and good barrel work cannot be rushed. He makes some of the nicest looking barrels for the Sharps that I have ever seen, and some of his finished guns are so nice that you'll start figuring out ways to float a second mortgage to acquire one of them.

Les also recuts and rerifles bar-

rels, especially the Model 86 which he converts to .45-70, and the Model 92 which he alters to handle the .357 Magnum cartridge. His Superior Scope Safety is a fine one, and I liked the looks of it so well that I got one right then and there for a M 98 action. These safeties are made for the Springfield, the Mauser 98, the FN, and the Mauser 95; coming shortly will be safeties for the Krag and the Mannlicher-Schoenauer. It can be installed by any gunsmith or, for that matter, by anyone having some mechanical skill and the ability to grind a notch into the bolt sleeve. The safety, by the way, retails for only \$3.95.

Curry Bullets

A new bullet manufacturer is now in business on the West Coast. D. E. Spears, who bosses the Curry Bullet Co., 4504G E. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Cal., 90022, offers at present bullets for four calibers and he tells me that tooling is far enough along that four more calibers will be available shortly. Offered now are the following: A 130 gr. spitzer soft point and a 150 gr. bullet of the same design, and a 170 gr. RN bullet, all of them .277 diameter for the .270 Winchester. In the 7 mm line, diameter .284, Curry offers a 140, a 150, and a 160 gr. spitzer soft point and a 175 gr. RN bullet. For the various .30 caliber rifles, diameter .308, you have a wide choice; there is a 150 gr. HP varmint special and a 150 gr. spitzer SP, also called a varmint special. The 150 gr. spitzer SP and the 165 HPBT round out the medium weight bullets, and the 180 gr. spitzer SP, the 180 gr. RN and



GUN RACK...

REPORTS ON NEW GUNS AND SHOOTING EQUIPMENT...

the 200 gr. RN round out the choice of .30 cal. bullets. Also offered are .30 caliber bullets with a diameter of .307, and there you can have a 150 gr. flat nose and a 170 gr. flat nose bullet. These are cannellured and designed for the .30-30. In a larger caliber, Curry offers two 8 mm, diameter .323, bullets, a 150 gr. and a 170 gr. spitzer soft point.

Jacket wall thickness ranges from .015 at the base, or about the length of the bearing surface, for the .22 caliber bullets which will be available soon, to around .030 to .032 for the larger calibers. The jackets thin out toward the mouth to assure expansion and vary with the diameter of the bullet. I realize that accuracy testing and checking expansion in a moist sand box are relatively limited methods of testing, but my range tests gave the new Curry bullets a clean bill of health. The 130 gr. .270 bullet with 58.0 gr. of 4831 gave five shot average groups of 1.75 inch at 100 yards from a Model 70 lightweight gun that has been customized. Knowing that the gun with this load and two different makes of bullets usually groups MOA or even slightly better, I dropped the charge 0.5 gr. until I arrived at 56.5 gr., but accuracy did not change materially. When I upped the charge to 58.7 gr., the groups did average MOA and repeated tests showed that this was the best load for that 130 gr. bullet. Firing of five bullets into the moist sand box at 100 yards showed very good mushrooming.

The 150 gr. .30 caliber bullets were tested in three different guns and calibers. I used my .308 Browning rifle and with 46.2 gr. of 4895, I was able to duplicate the accuracy the rifle usually delivers with the same charge and

another bullet. In a .300 Weatherby Magnum my standard load of 86.0 gr. of 4831 duplicated not only accuracy but also velocity of the bullets I usually use in that rifle. In my Griffin & Howe custom .30-06 rifle, I have found that 55.0 gr. of 4320 not only gives the best accuracy but also the best velocity, and with the Curry bullets I had to cut the charge 0.5 gr. to obtain the same accuracy/velocity ratio that I usually get from my rifle.

Again expansion tests were only done in moist sand and expansion was satisfactory in all respects. Recovered bullets—and some of them were not recovered completely because small pebbles in the sand affected mushrooming in several tests—never weighed less than 50 per cent of the original weight and a couple of them weighed as much as 70 per cent of the original weight. Game tests will be more conclusive, but this will have to wait for a while. All in all, the new Curry bullets appear to be well made and perform well in the limited range tests I was able to give them. Incidentally, bullet weight was uniform in the 50 bullets I weighed.

Eagle Press Bullet Puller

I reported on the Eagle dies some months ago and recently concluded my tests of the new Cobra press. This is a very sturdy C-type tool made from a special alloy that permits a considerable reduction in press weight. The Cobra press was put to work on my loading bench and there it performed such varied tasks as swaging GI primer pockets, loading .375 Magnum ammo, and a considerable amount of case forming. I even did some swaging

with the press and did not find any give or spring in it.

Bill Jasso, who heads up Eagle Products Co., 9666G Remer St., S. El Monte, Cal., 91733, has a really fine thing going for him in his bullet pullers. You need only



three collets to handle all calibers and if there is anything simpler to handle than those bullet pullers, I have yet to see it. I have used any number of bullet pullers over the years, but this one is one of the nicest that I have ever seen. It doesn't get jammed up or mark the bullets in any way.

RCBS Priming Device & Scale

A lot of fellows are missing a good bet if they don't write to RCBS, Inc., Box 729G, Oroville, Cal., 95965, for the new and colorful RCBS catalog. In this catalog, you'll find some things that are new and interesting. One of these items is Fred Huntington's Priming Device. This fits into the press die station and is suitable for priming Berdan primers and I found that it does a neat job when I load experimental ammo at the bench on the range. Since there is no automatic primer arm and the primers are at all times

GUN RACK...

TESTED IN THE FIELD, ON THE RANGE, AND ON THE BENCH

under perfect control, seating depth variations do not occur unless you goof. For the fellow who wants to assemble precision reloads, this priming device is just the thing.

The RCBS powder scale has undergone some more improvements and Fred tells me that delivery of the units should take place some time during the summer. I checked over the prototype and found that it was a highly accurate scale with a fine dampening mechanism. The one change that I was able to make—turning the powder pan somewhat—was accepted by Fred and the prototype was altered right then and there.

Bianchi Knife

John Bianchi, who has a worldwide reputation for producing some of the finest holsters around, has recently entered a new field. He is now offering a sportsman's



knife which reflects the quality one expects from his holsters. This knife, measuring 10" overall, and weighing a hefty 12 ounces, is handcrafted for Bianchi by J. N. Cooper, a respected knife maker for some 40 years. This is no pan-

ty-waisy knife, the blade is a quarter of an inch thick; ground, polished, and honed to a fine, durable edge. The handle is made of compressed plastic and linen fibers, capped with a brass hilt and cap. The knife comes complete with a rugged leather sheath, designed and constructed as only a master leather craftsman could manage. With a price tag of \$25, I think that this is a bargain in a quality knife. From Bianchi Holsters, Dept. G, 945 W. Foothill Blvd., Monrovia, Calif.

Verathane Stock Finish

When J. Hall Sharon, the barrel maker, visited me about a year ago, the talk turned to pet calibers and, sucker that I am, I was talked into a new rifle. When I visited Hall in his Kalispell, Montana, shop recently, I picked up my new smokepole. The stock was done by Joe Dzivi, also of Kalispell, and it's a beauty. The finish looks and feels like the oil finish of yesteryear, but one glance at the barrel channel convinced me that Joe had not used oil.

Joe waterproofs stocks with Waterlox, then uses five coats of Verathane with oil. He makes up this mixture which can be kept on the workbench indefinitely. After the five coats of Verathane and oil, rubbing each coat down after it dried, he finished the stock with nine coats of Verathane—undiluted and without oil. The last three coats were rubbed down with rottenstone and oil, and the stock finish looks like the very best English oil finish.

I had a stock that was in need of care, and I tried that Verathane on it without taking the pains and trouble that Joe Dzivi took. I simply slapped on a couple of coats of

Verathane—I had managed to talk Joe out of a small can of the stuff—permitted each coat to dry completely and thoroughly, and rubbed the Verathane down with fine steel wool between applications. Presto, I have a stock that looks like the finishing done by a pro.

I saw some very nice stocks at Joe's shop and also a couple of blanks that he had put aside for special orders—and they were really nice sticks. His stock work follows the classic lines, but he'll make up any special design that a customer might specify. The Verathane finish is made by the Flecto Company, Inc., Dept. G, Oakland, California, and Joe's shop is at 352 Seventh Ave., Kalispell, Montana, 59901.

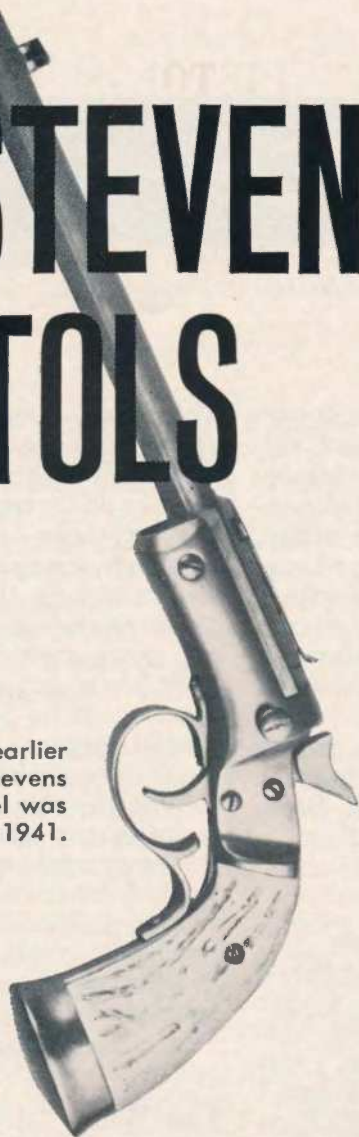
Lee Wad Guide

Lee Loaders should need no introduction to the handloader, and the company making those fine loaders now has hit the jackpot with their new wad guide. Wad guide fingers have the disconcerting habit of getting bent at the worst possible time—just when you want to load a passle of hulls, the guide gives way and that is that. I got into the habit of having some spares on hand, but now I don't worry any more—the Lee Wad Guide lasts and lasts and is guaranteed for two full years.

Made by Lee Custom Engineering, Inc., Dept. G, Hartford, Wis., 53027, the wad guide is available in 12, 16 and 20 gauge, and sells for only 95 cents. Made from tough yet flexible polycarbonate, the wad guide fingers will not take a set, but instead return to their normal position. Try one of these wad guides—the one I tried worked out very well in my fairly extensive tests.

J. STEVENS PISTOLS

Resembling the earlier "Gould," the Stevens "Off-Hand" Model was discontinued in 1941.



By DEWITT E. SELL

THE NAME "STEVENS" is one that has been revered in the gun world for more than a century. Firearms bearing this name have been continuously available on the American market since the year 1864, when Joshua Stevens founded the J. Stevens & Company at Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts. However, Stevens pistols have not been available since the beginning of World War II and are becoming more highly-prized collector items.

Joshua Stevens became acquainted with Samuel Colt during the 1840's. Several years subsequent to 1848—the year Samuel Colt reestablished his business on Pearl Street in Hartford, Connecticut—Joshua Stevens began producing a revolver which he had invented. Colt lost little time in suing Stevens for patent infringement and, although Stevens retained one of the eminent lawyers of that day (Rufus Chaote), he lost the case and was obliged to quit the manufacture of revolvers. This unfortunate experience may well explain why Stevens never entered the field of cartridge revolvers—even when legally free to do so following the expiration of Rollin White's patent in 1869—but devoted his efforts exclusively to single shot pistols as far as handguns were concerned.

As a matter of fact, the basis for founding his manufacturing business was a single shot pistol which Stevens had invented and which his fellow-workers christened the "Kick-Up" due to the manner in which the barrel released upward for breech-loading. For the first thirty years of the company's operations, their entire line of pistols, rifles and shotguns (with the exception of the "Gem" pocket pistol) were built on this tip-up action which Stevens had originated. This initial Stevens pistol is readily recognizable by its peculiar "fish-tail" stock and its trigger which recesses into the frame proper rather than a sheath extension.

In delineating the Stevens pistol line, the so-called "Pocket," or "Bicycle," rifles will not be covered even though they could be fired as one-hand arms. This type rifle flourished and was popular in the latter part of the nineteenth century due to its compactness and portability. Take-down rifles had not been perfected and the detachable skeleton shoulder stocks for these "pocket rifles" made them very convenient to transport, or store when not in use. Generally they had barrels varying in length from 10 to 18 inches, were invariably classified as "rifles" in the Stevens catalogs and intended for use as such.

Prior to 1875, Stevens had modified his initial "Kick-Up" to the frame style that was to remain indelibly associated with his name. The barrel was hinged at the front of the frame, the breech tipping up when the button release installed on the left side of the frame was depressed. That portion of the hinged barrel which bedded in the frame was octagon while the remaining portion was round. The stocks of these early models were saw-handle shape with square butts.

An 1875 Stevens circular lists and illustrates the "Gem" pocket pistol—hopefully ending forever the controversy that has existed as to whether this was an authentic Stevens product. While atypical of the Stevens line, its action was commonplace in single shot pistols of the era. The "Gem" was derringer style, its 3 inch barrel rotating to the right when the barrel catch, located under the forepart of the frame, was released. This pistol employed bird-head grips and was produced in both .22 RF and .30 RF calibers.

By 1892, Stevens pistols had become world-acclaimed by virtue of their adoption by the leading expert marksmen in establishing records heretofore unattainable. Stevens was at this period featuring three top-grade pistols which were listed as "Gallery Models."

The first and heaviest framed of these gallery models was the "Lord." It was named after Frank Lord—a celebrated pistol shot of New York City. The even more famous Ira Paine used it in his shooting exhibitions around the country and wrote a testimonial to the Stevens firm as follows: "Your 'Lord Model' is certainly a wonderful pistol. I have taken a life in my hands with it some thousands of times and it has never failed me."

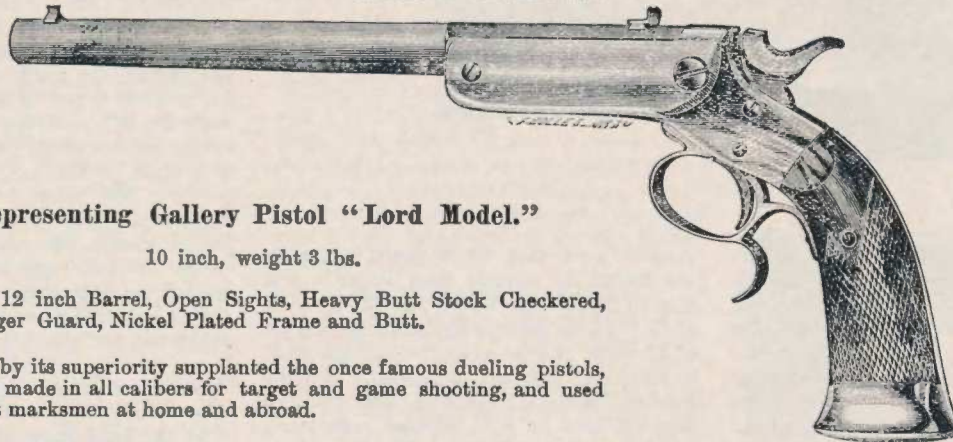
Standard barrel length of the "Lord" was 10 inches at which length it weighed 3 pounds. Barrels of 12 inch length were also available. It possessed an unusually long and heavy stock having a solid metal butt and fancy checkered walnut grips. Frame and butt base were nicked, barrel browned. The "Lord" model could be had chambered for .22 Short RF, .22 Long Rifle RF, .32 RF or CF and .38 RF or CF. Standard production caliber was the .22 Long Rifle RF—relatively few being (Continued on page 54)

Opposite page: Early catalog lists three Stevens guns. >

THE STEVENS GALLERY PISTOLS

Are universally acknowledged to be the Most Accurate, Reliable, and Symmetrical Pistols in the World. Professional and expert amateur shots of all countries unhesitatingly adopt them, as they are unequaled for Accuracy, Strength, and all the essential points which make a perfect arm.

LORD MODEL.



Representing Gallery Pistol "Lord Model."

10 inch, weight 3 lbs.

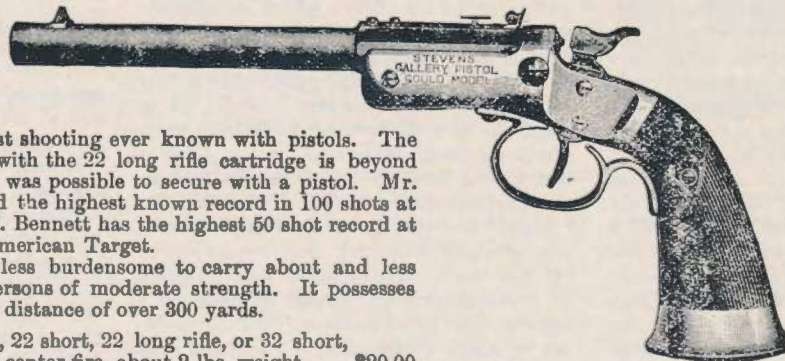
10 or 12 inch Barrel, Open Sights, Heavy Butt Stock Checkered, Spur Trigger Guard, Nickel Plated Frame and Butt.

It has by its superiority supplanted the once famous dueling pistols, and is now made in all calibers for target and game shooting, and used by the best marksmen at home and abroad.

Browned Barrel, about 3 lbs. weight, 22 short, 22 long rifle rim, or 32 and 38 rim, or center fire, \$22.00
Extra Barrels, only, caliber 22 or 32, 10 or 12 inch round, 9.00

GOULD MODEL PISTOL.

Same as Conlin Model but without the Spur on Guard.



Have done the finest shooting ever known with pistols. The accuracy of the pistols with the 22 long rifle cartridge is beyond what experts thought it was possible to secure with a pistol. Mr. F. E. Bennett has scored the highest known record in 100 shots at 50 yards, and Mr. W. W. Bennett has the highest 50 shot record at 50 yards on Standard American Target.

It is a lighter arm, less burdensome to carry about and less fatiguing to shoot for persons of moderate strength. It possesses unequalled accuracy to a distance of over 300 yards.

Price, 10 or 12 inch, 22 short, 22 long rifle, or 32 short, and long rim, or center fire, about 2 lbs. weight, . \$20.00

CONLIN MODEL GALLERY PISTOL.

Same as Gould Model in every way, except it has a Spur Guard.

10 or 12 inch Barrel, 22 or 32 caliber. Weight 2 lbs.



10 or 12 inch Barrel, 22 short, 22 long rifle, or 32 short, and long rim, or center fire, Open Sights, light Butt Stock, Checkered Handle, Spur Trigger Guard, Nickel Plated Frame and Butt.

Browned Barrel, about 2 lbs. weight, . . \$20.00



Single Shot Pistol.
3 1/2 inch Tip Up Barrel.

No. 1, 22 caliber, \$3.00
No. 2, 30 caliber, 3.00

"I sincerely believe that your pistols are unexcelled."

A. C. GOULD, Editor of *Shooting and Fishing*, Boston, Mass.



MENTION THE WORD "shotgun" in any group of men, women, and children, and inevitably too many of the group will automatically associate "shotgun" with unpleasant "kick" or recoil. The bugaboo of recoil keeps thousands from enjoyment of the shooting sports and especially holds down the numbers of those who would enjoy the shotgun games of trap and skeet.

But, as every skeet or trap gunner knows, recoil is not a factor in the shotgun games. Every participating clay target shooter has seen tiny women, shooting guns almost as big as they are, win shooting contests over burly pro football types. All trap and skeet addicts have had to steel themselves to being clobbered in the score column upon more than one occasion by some tiny boy or girl who when viewed from the sidelines does not look to be capable of lifting a twelve-gauge shotgun, much less shooting it.

The inspiration for this column comes from a story by Maurice Wozniak in the Evansville, Indiana, *SUNDAY COURIER & PRESS* devoted to the shooting exploits of nine-year-old Timmy Bridges, a sixty-eight pound fourth grader in St. Benedict's School. Two things turn Timmy on. One is playing "keep away," a pastime on which his teachers look with displeasure. The other is trap-shooting. Wozniak's feature story does not record Timmy's teacher's reaction to trap-shooting, which might be interesting.

Timmy is a regular contestant in trap games at the fine Evansville Gun Club, where he often shoots as many as three hundred targets in a day. Edgar Kuhlenschmidt, one of the clubs guiding lights, and one of the Hoosier State's and the nation's top trap-

gunners, avers that the 68-pound youngster has broken 25 straight from 16-yards, and it is on record that Timmy has shattered 21 of 25 from the formidable handicap yardage of 27 yards. Before some low-yardage adult trapgunners blanch in horror, Timmy's handicap is not 27 yards. At this time, he does not have an ATA yardage assignment, which may be for the best. His scores have all been recorded in non-registered club events.

Another hint of Timmy's prowess with the trapgun is that he and shooting buddy sporting goods dealer John Beard have not lost in protection shoots, where one partner must break any targets missed by his buddy. This is not easy shooting, and gives trouble to some of the best. The moral here is that if a 68-pound fourth-grader can fire up to 300 shots in a day without unpleasant reaction from recoil, then recoil is not a factor and should keep no one from the field-or clay target club.

There are, unfortunately, some reasons why shotgun and kick are associated by far too many men, women, and children. In a shockingly high number of cases, as I learned from experiences in teaching shooting to about 15,000 men, women, and children in the Midwest, much of the fear of recoil stems from an unfortunate first exposure to the scattergun.

For example, there is the case of the last shooter in an Outdoor Education Project workshop I held for a group of teachers in Michigan. This last shooter of the day was a woman almost ready for retirement. After she had broken four of five handtrap-thrown clay targets with a 12-gauge gun, she con-

fessed that she had waited until last in the hope that something might happen to spare her the ordeal of firing a shotgun, or at least, that if nothing happened to save her, the crowd might have thinned and there would be fewer of her colleagues left to witness what she was sure would be debacle and disaster. She told me that when she was a young girl, her father had taken her hunting, and insisted that she join the fun (?). When her father's shotgun kicked her to the ground, she ran home in tears, and had not touched a gun in the ensuing fifty years until this day in Michigan. And, for a fitting sequel to this story, she told me at dinner that night in the lodge that this day's experience had made her a better teacher, because she could now understand the boys in her classes who were avid shooters and whom she had regarded as something like sadistic little monsters in the past.

For me, this one experience was ample repayment for countless weekends away from home, hours of work, lonely nights, long drives by day and night, and intensive effort.

In the total story of recoil, another personal experience is etched in memory. I was invited to provide a shotgun shooting exhibition for a Northern Indiana Boy Scout encampment. After I had concluded the entertainment for several thousand scouts, I invited a volunteer from the group to step forward and try to duplicate some of my shots, as part of a theme that shooting was fun, and that when properly instructed, anyone could break flying clay targets. This part of the program had been highly successful at many previous such occasions.

It suddenly dawned upon my consciousness that from the mass of cheering scouts, one youngster had thrown down his crutches and was teetering his unsteady way toward me. It was painfully obvious that he was a polio victim, and that he had difficulty just standing erect, much less firing a 12-gauge shotgun. I had visions of the lad knocked flat on the ground when the gun fired, with concomitant unpleasant connotations for him, for me, and for the onlookers.

I breathed a prayer for Divine guidance, placed the gun butt against the boy's shoulder, made very, very sure that he was leaning forward from the hips to the point of exaggeration, murmured soft words of encouragement in his ear, stood directly behind him, and threw the clay target with a hand-trap as close to him as I could. When he touched off the trigger, the target flew into dust. I will never forget the cheers from that crowd.

Nor will I ever forget that his parents with tears in their eyes said that their crippled son had finally done something that normal boys could do. I do not know whether his parents thought it unusual that I had suddenly developed a severe cold and had to use my handkerchief vigorously. I would have changed places with no one in that moment and on that day.

There is one key to the success of these two occasions, which were only two of thousands of similar experiences. That key is that I made sure before allowing the student to fire the gun that he or she was leaning forward from the waist, the gun butt was firmly against that portion of the shoulder that is made to accept a gun butt,

(Continued on page 56)



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REVOLVERS VS AUTO PISTOLS

(Continued from page 23)

pretty simple to prove or disprove this claim. I'd just stick my finely tuned .38 OM Match revolver in the HEG machine rest and with a variety of the best target match loads find out.

I had a selected lot of Remington .38 wadcutter ammunition. It was identical in every way with the hottest stuff manufactured for target competition at Perry. Along with this I had some of the best loadings from Federal. Again this was the wadcutter loading and it was very specially selected. I had written to Bill Horn, the vice president of the company, and told him in detail exactly what I was going to do and made expressly clear that the cartridges should be top quality. I was satisfied with the ammo, make no mistake about that.

I fired 10 groups of 10 shots each at 50 yards from the HEG machine rest. The handgun was the Colt .38 Officers Model Match, #783130, a gun carefully selected for me at the Colt factory. It had been fired less than 500 shots at the time the test firing was commenced. The NRA rules for match shooting require that 5 rounds be loaded in the cylinder. This was done throughout the firing. The groups, after firing, were measured from the widest hits. Results were as follows.

.38 OFFICERS MODEL REVOLVER AT 50 YARDS

Group	Measure-	Group	Measure-
	ment		ment
1	4.02"	6	3.46"
2	3.75"	7	3.86"
3	4.10"	8	3.96"
4	5.22"	9	4.00"
5	3.90"	10	4.10"

AVERAGE 4.03 inches

The 10-ring on the Standard American target measures 3.31 inches, and this revolver would not group 10 shots inside that ring. Regardless of how well I might have held in a match I could not have hoped to shoot a possible.

After this firing stint with the .38 Officers Model, I placed a specially tuned .45 Model 1911 in the HEG machine and ran through 10 strings. This .45 was no issue job. It had gone over the bench of one of the best pistolsmiths in the game today: George Elliason of Tampa. The ammo was a specially selected lot of Remington 185 gr. wadcutter cartridges. The 10 groups, each of 10 shots, measured out like this.

.45 MODEL 1911 AUTO PISTOL AT 50 YARDS

Group	Measure-	Group	Measure-
	ment		ment
1	2.75"	6	3.50"
2	3.10"	7	3.27"
3	2.90"	8	2.80"
4	2.10"	9	2.64"
5	1.98"	10	3.00"

AVERAGE 2.80 inches

Here, then, was the reason the military, both the Air Force and the Army, had sacked the old .38 cylinder gun. Despite the fact that I had chosen the best target model I could find and had stuffed it full of some

fancy specially selected wadcutter target loads, it would not group within the 10-ring, much less shoot up to the .45.

This firing cleaned up, I found a number of questions still not answered. I continued with my experiments.

I marked the chambers in the cylinder with a prick-punch so that I could identify them. I then fired five 10-shot groups from each of the 6 chambers. I had suspected for a long time that one chamber in the revolver would group better than the others. This I wanted to prove or disprove. Results were like this.

CHAMBER COMPARISONS

1st chamber	3.92"	4th chamber	3.50"
2nd chamber	4.10"	5th chamber	4.27"
3rd chamber	3.76"	6th chamber	3.86"

Best Chamber #4 - 3.50 inch

Worst Chamber #5 - 4.27 inch

Average for 6 chambers - 3.90 inches

This firing was quite revealing and it indicates that one chamber in the revolver, as I had long suspected, will out perform the others. In this case it was No. 4. It shot 50 rounds which were barely larger than the 10-ring of the SA target. It is significant to note, as well, that while the revolver had an average group of 4.03 inches when loaded 5 rounds to the cylinder and shot that way, when it was loaded only one round at a time this average group diameter shrank to 3.90 inches.

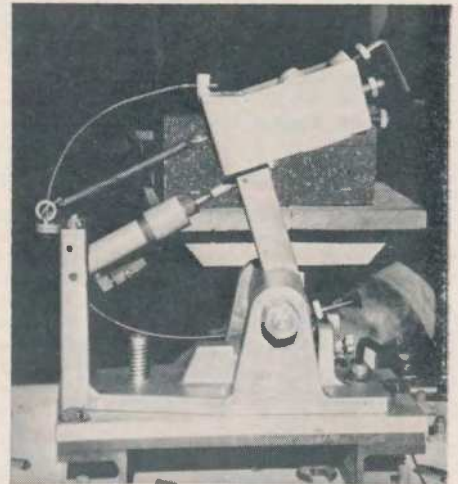
I cleaned the revolver thoroughly—it was scrubbed with a brass brush in barrel and cylinder after every 10 shots—and commenced still a third experiment. This consisted of loading 6 rounds in the cylinder, full charging it, and then I would fire two or three shots, open the cylinder and then bang it back into place again, and fire. This

was continued until the 6 rounds were gone, whereupon I would load with another full cylinder and pop the 2nd on top of the first.

I found every time the cylinder was opened and closed it would have an adverse effect on the group. The first 2 or 3 shots would group with fair consistency but when the remaining 2 or 3 rounds were popped off—after having swung the cylinder out and banged it back again—the point of impact would change and the group would spread. Five 12-shot groups fired in this manner produced these groups.

1st group	5.10"	4th group	4.80"
2nd group	4.95"	5th group	5.00"
3rd group	4.25"		

Why is it the finest of our target revolvers will not shoot up with the finest of our



Accurate tests need a machine rest.

target auto pistols? The reason is one of design. The cylinder weapon has a barrel in one part and a chamber in another completely separate entity. As far as high precision goes this is ruinous. Not only does it violate those specifics which we know are needed for real precision but to compound

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TRI-TEST
38 SPECIAL
148 Gr. Wad Cutter
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EVERY TEST**

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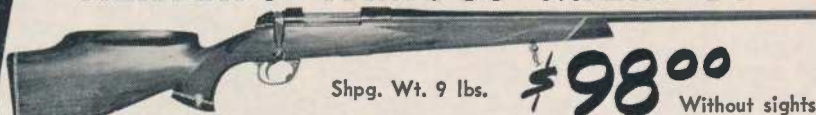
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the crime the revolver has not just one of these poorly aligned chambers but six of them! For just ordinary practical usage the revolver with its cylindrical cartridge holder works very well, but when the equation gets down to that of placing all the bullets in a smallish circle only three and one third inches in diameter at 50 yards, it is a bit too much to ask.

There are other drawbacks. The .38 revolver cylinder was designed for a cartridge which used a 158 gr. bullet, a ball which was round nosed and protruded from the case fully one-half inch. Now targetmen fire a wadcutter which is seated completely within the casing. The bullet is compelled to make a free jump of a full half inch to reach the breech end of the barrel. The chamber ahead of the cartridge, this portion through which the bullet makes its wild jump, is not a tight fit at all. On the contrary it is exceedingly sloppy. While the .38 Spl. bullet measures .358 inch, the forward end of the chamber goes .379 inch, just to give some idea of the looseness of the fit. The chamber is so oversize the bullet invariably strikes one side or the other and leaves smears of lead during its passage. When it finally reaches the barrel throat it is no longer traveling in axis with the bore. It is off to one side and when it strikes, very frequently particles of lead are shaved off. If shaving does not occur, you may be sure the bullet does receive such a terrific blow as to put a flat corner on it. These misadventures are not conducive to good accuracy.

In justice to the revolver, and certainly I want to give it all its due, the case we have built against the most traditional of all American handguns, is based on accuracy at very long range. Fifty yards is a very lengthy yardage for any handgun and in the match shooting wars, it represents the ultimate distances fired. Too, only one-third of the shooting is limited to this firing. The other two-thirds of all match events are limited to timed and rapid fire which is all done at 25 yards. The target is the same in size. That is the 10-ring measures the same and so we no longer have a problem of a handgun that will not group into the 3.31" circle at 50 yards. With the range cut in half, the gun now most certainly will plug all its shots into the magic center.

How does the target revolver stack up against the target automatic at 25 yards when fired timed and rapid? The timed, let it be noted, is banged out 5 shots in 20 seconds in two strings; the rapid is 5 shots in 10 seconds in two strings. These are 20 string averages.

TIMED FIRE

Gun	Average Score
.38 OM Revolver	97.8
.38 S&W Auto	97.2

RAPID FIRE

Gun	Average Score
.38 OM Revolver	96.4
.38 S&W Auto	97.1

It is obvious from these scores that the two guns shoot very much on a par at the 25 yard distance. And despite the fact that the revolver must be cocked for each shot, as against the automatic which does this for itself, the time lost in hauling the hammer to full notch and again finding the sights does not seem to do any significant damage to the final score. It should be kept in mind, however, that while the top drawer

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handgunner will not spill more than 6 points in firing his timed and rapid scores, he will be pretty lucky if he does not lose more than this at the 50 yard stage. Thus while he fires only 10 rounds at the greater distance, it can, very well, cost him half or more of all the points he will drop.

Since it is proven that the revolver does not shoot as tight groups as the auto pistol at the 50 yard range, what can be done to improve its performance? It appears if it can be accurized, precisely as we do with the Model 1911, we might then be on a par with the self-loading models.

To begin with the shooter should, by careful machine-rest testing discover the best chambers in his revolver. These he should fire and use care not to load in the poorer chambers. There will always be a chamber, maybe two and sometimes as many as three, that simply do not measure up to the others. The good ones and the poor ones should be found by machine rest test.

The cylinder latch, the ratchet-extractor, and the cylinder bolt should be replaced, as all of these are invariably loose and sloppy in their fit, and the new parts should be installed by one of our ranking pistolsmiths who will see that there is minimum tolerance left at these critical junctures. These parts determine, in large measure, the fit of the cylinder and the alignment of the chambers with the bore. They simply cannot be snugged up too tightly!

The cylinder hand turns the cylinder. It moves the cylinder a sixth part of the circle and fetches each of the chambers into line with the bore. This is an extremely critical mechanism and it cannot be fitted too precisely. In many revolvers that have seen a good many shots, the hand wears at both nose and shoulder and it does not turn the cylinder fully. As a result the bullet strikes the bore offcenter and lead is shaved off the side. The handgunner who uses a revolver for his match firing should watch the cylinder hand like a hawk. It may wear short in midseason and the moment this is discovered, it should be discarded. The replace-

ment is a job for a highly skilled 'smith. Unfortunately the cylinder hand is made of quite soft steel and because of the job it does, wear is quite rapid.

The fall of the hammer on the revolver is twice too long and three times too slow. A really top quality pistol technician can reduce the fall of the hammer about 25% and in so doing can speed up lock time. This is extremely advisable. In undertaking this alteration the double action must be abandoned. This is of no moment since the target shooter does not fire in this manner.


The half inch of free jump made by the .38 wadcutter from the casing to the barrel throat does a great deal of harm to accuracy at the 50 yard range. This jump can be eliminated by simply cutting off the front end of the cylinder and then making up a custom-turned barrel which is threaded back through the gun frame until it reaches the shortened cylinder. This is work for a very competent man but is not at all difficult. It is a marked asset to accuracy and is recommended for those handgunners who, like myself, will just be damned if we will lay our fine old cylinder guns aside!

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J. STEVENS PISTOLS

(Continued from page 49)

made up in the larger calibers other than on special order.

The second gallery model introduced by Stevens was the "Conlin." It was named after James S. Conlin—the well-known proprietor of Conlin's Shooting Gallery in New York City. The "Conlin" model weighed 34 oz. in the standard 10 inch barrel version but was also available with 12 inch barrel. Standard chambering was for the .22 Long Rifle RF but it could be ordered in .22 Short RF and .32 Short or Long (either rimfire or center fire). The stock of the "Conlin" was of moderate proportions designed to fit the hand of an average shooter. As in the "Lord" model, the frame and solid metal butt were nicked with barrel browned.

Both the "Lord" and "Conlin" models featured a finger rest spur extending beneath the S-shaped trigger guard at its lowest point rear. The rear curve of the trigger guard served as a grip adapter where it joined the front strap of the stock.

Arthur C. Gould, author of the 19th century

employed in establishing some enviable records of the era. It was a much lighter pistol than the gallery models, weighing but 10 oz. in the 6 inch barrel version and 12 oz. with 10 inch barrel. The "Diamond" model was available with choice of open sights, or globe front and peep rear—at no cost differential. The long stock was of plain walnut minus the solid metal butt of the gallery models. Frame was nickel-plated, barrel was blued. It was chambered for .22 Short or .22 Long Rifle rimfire cartridges only. Its spur trigger extended below the frame proper.

By 1907, the famed Stevens gallery pistols had succumbed to the fickle fluctuations of the public market place. The catalog of the J. Stevens Arms & Tool Company for 1907 lists only three pistols: "Diamond" model, No. 43; "Tip-Up" model, No. 41 and the "Off-Hand Target" model, No. 35.

Specifications of the "Diamond" model have already been covered. The only readily discernible changes in this model between 1892 and 1907 were the elimination of the

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10 " " with both sets of Sights	• • • • •		11.00

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Stevens Rifles are all chambered to use the standard makes of cartridges.

Old advertisement for Stevens Diamond Model.

firearms classics "Modern American Rifles" and "Modern American Pistols and Revolvers," was responsible for persuading Stevens to produce a third model of gallery pistol which eventually bore his name. There were certain features of the first issue "Conlin" model to which Gould objected—particularly the finger rest spur on the trigger guard. His redesigned version of the initial issue "Conlin" became the "Gould" model whereas the second issue "Conlin" was identical to the "Gould" with the one exception of retaining the finger rest spur.

The "Diamond" model preceded the three gallery target pistols above described and was

removable sideplate and the installation of a floating firing pin in the frame. The globe front and peep rear sights had become standard for this model whereas formerly open sights had been standard. It was by then chambered specifically for the .22 Long Rifle rimfire cartridge only but, of course, would handle .22 Shorts or Longs.

The "Tip-Up" model, No. 41, was in reality Stevens smallest pocket pistol that had long been available but was by now officially designated by this name and number. It was vest pocket size, weighing but 7 oz. with its 3½ inch barrel. As of 1907, it was chambered for the .22 Short RF only but at one

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time had been chambered for the .30 RF in addition. Collectors habitually refer to all Stevens pistols as "tip-ups" despite the fact that this term was officially applied by the maker to this one model only.

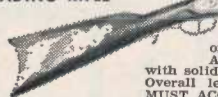
The "Off-Hand Target" model, No. 35, most closely resembles the earlier "Gould" gallery model pistol. The 6 inch version weighed 22 oz., the 8 inch version 24 oz. and the 10 inch version 26 oz. It was initially chambered for both the .22 Long Rifle RF and the .25 Stevens RF—the latter caliber being dropped when its popularity waned. In later years it was made available with a 12½ inch barrel and in .410 bore with choice of 8 or 12½ inch barrel. The .410 bore version was designated the "Autoshot" but still retained the model number 35. The National Firearms Act of 1934 placed formidable controls on the transfer of hand shotguns and as a consequence the "Autoshot" was dropped from the Stevens line. Initially, the frames and solid metal butts of the model No. 35 were nicked as standard finish—bluing and case hardening being available on order.

The last of the Stevens pistols to make its appearance, patented April 27, 1920, was a radical departure from any previous model. Named simply the Stevens "Target" model, No. 10, it was single shot as were all other Stevens pistols but in frame design it resembled a modern semi-automatic pistol. It weighed 36 oz. and sported an 8 inch barrel which was hinged to the frame just ahead of the trigger guard. The breech end tipped up for loading and activation of the extractor. A unique cam-shaped barrel latch, under spring tension, was affixed by a screw to the left side of the frame—automatically taking up any play between breech and receiver. This barrel latch was released via drawing to the rear by thumb. Cocking was effected by a straight pull on the knob extending from the rear of the receiver. Ignition was not achieved in a straight line, however. The internal hammer is analogous to that of a regulation revolver and cocks in an arc—the external knob merely serving as the means for cocking the internal hammer rather than being a part of the ignition mechanism per se. This pistol was equipped with an open front sight plus an open rear sight which featured elevation and windage adjustments—distance between sights being 10 inches. The angle of the heavy metal stock, equipped with black, checkered hard rubber grips, permitted natural pointing without muscular strain. Stevens claimed that foremost pistol experts collaborated with them in the design of this super-accurate "Target" model, No. 10. This pistol was discontinued in 1934.

By 1935, the only pistol remaining in the Stevens line of firearms was the "Off-Hand" model 35 in three barrel lengths. The day of the American single shot pistol had all but vanished in view of modern competitive pistol shooting rules requiring the same pistol to be used in slow, timed and rapid fire events. However, the "Off-Hand" survived until 1941 when war-time demands upon firearms manufacturers forced its discontinuance.

The J. Stevens Arms Company had continued to operate as an autonomous subsidiary of the Savage Arms Corporation following acquisition of its entire capital stock by Savage in 1920. In 1946, Stevens was fully integrated with the Savage organization which has continued a "Stevens" line of rifles and shotguns but to date has produced no pistols under this trade name.

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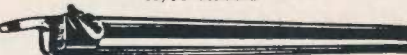
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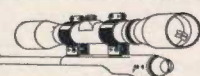
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PULL!

(Continued from page 50)

and that the shooter was in truth looking over the barrel in a line parallel with the bore.

When these conditions are met, recoil becomes no more unpleasant than a friendly push against the shoulder, and ANYONE can hit a satisfactory amount of moving targets.

Because this month's column is devoted to recoil, or the absence of recoil, I will explore that subject more fully, and leave the matter of how to hit targets for a future column.

Those unfortunate men, women, and children who associate "kick" with "shotgun" have usually had one or more unpleasant experiences, most of which are completely avoidable.

If you will hand an average shotgun to some men, most women, and nearly all boys and girls, especially for the first time, and ask them to point (or fire) the gun, you will notice one thing. That is that they will lean away from the gun, or that they are leaning backward from the hips, instead of forward from the waist. Chances are that if they do pull the trigger while so standing, the experience will prove a thoroughly unpleasant one. Because they are already unbalanced to the rear, the recoil of the shotgun will complete the job, and more often than not, they will be kicked backward. If they happen to be holding the butt loosely to the shoulder, their misery will be compounded.

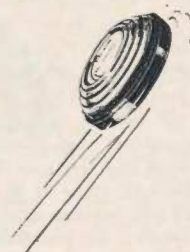
A shotgun performs faithfully with respect to the law of physics which dictates that for every action, there must be an equal or opposite reaction. When the gun is held firmly against the shoulder, the equal or opposite reaction is expressed as no more than a shove against the shoulder. If the gun is held loosely, or away from the shoulder, the gun becomes a battering ram, or even a projectile within itself.

Said perhaps more clearly, if you hit someone in the shoulder with your fist, it will hurt them worse than if you simply shove them. So it is with a shotgun. Loosely held, or away from the shoulder, it becomes a fist. Held properly, it exerts no more than a friendly shove. Thousands upon thousands of potential shotgunners are lost to the game before they start because Grandad, Dad, or a friend (?) handed them a gun and let them shoot without checking the conditions outlined. Other thousands are turned away from the great shotgun games because their first (and too often only) shot was taken with an old clunker having excessive drop. Always, and I do mean always, make sure that anyone you know or

love, and whom you want to enjoy shooting, takes his or her first shot with a modern, reasonably straight stocked gun, and one having a stock long enough to keep the shooter's knuckles away from the face.

Getting a face full of one's own knuckles by touching off a gun with too short a stock is hardly calculated to win friends for scattergunning. Some readers who are knowledgeable about shotgunning will think I am out of my cotton-picking mind by insisting that anyone's, even a 300-pound pro football tackle, first exposure to the shotgun comes via low base or light loads. Those who might think that this admonition is unnecessary were not present at the trap field as I was when a first-time shooter was found to be using 2¾ inch Magnum shotshells, which he said had been recommended for trap by the clerk from whom he bought them. I am sorry to admit that there are sadists who feel that it is funny to expose new shooters to heavy loads on their first time out.

I will never forget my disgust with an associate while he gleefully told of taking his wife shooting the previous day. He had let her try a .22 caliber rifle for a while, then handed her a shotgun loaded with three-



inch Magnum shells, assuring her that the recoil was approximately the same as from the .22 rifle. When she held the gun loosely as for the .22, the recoil almost broke her shoulder, while he clapped his hands in unholy glee. After carefully searching my soul, I am not sure that had she turned the gun on him, and had I been on the jury to try the case, I would have held out for justifiable homicide.

In conclusion, unless you have the same fiendish motives as my associate, make sure that by lack of knowledge or carelessness, you do not submit your fledgling shooter to a thoroughly unpleasant experience. We lose too many shooters that way, and if nothing else, there is safety in numbers. With all the recent attacks on shooters and shooting, we need all the numbers we can muster.



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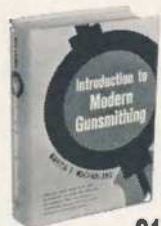
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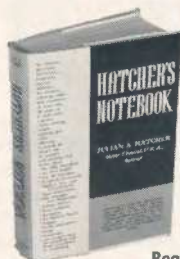
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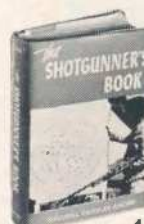


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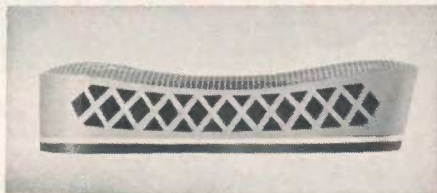
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NEW TRAP PAD, developed by Pachmayr Gun Works, Inc., home of the famous White Line Recoil Pads, combines comfort with the benefits of rapid positioning. Now you can shoot all day without having a sore shoulder because the unique shape of this deep cushion pad has just the proper contour for repeated shouldering. An inner core conforms to the external profile to provide uniform recoil absorption, while the chiseled



grid keeps it from slipping. Made of Neoprene rubber, the White Line pads will never harden with age or soften in extreme heat. Your choice of sizes in red, black, or brown at only \$5.50 from Pachmayr Gun Works, Dept. G-3, 1220 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90015.



BUCK SHOT is an amazing new product for hunters which unfailingly attracts deer due to its strong apple smell. This six ounce aerosol can contains the natural oils from the skins of twenty bushels of apples. Hunters simply spray the product on their clothing and surrounding foliage and deer come running. Retailing at \$2.98, Buck Shot is available from the A. F. Murch Company, Dept. G-3, Paw Paw, Michigan.



ENTHUSIASM for .44 Magnum loads is often dulled by their tendency to skip lands and lead bores, with obvious results in both bullet and firearm performance. Norma's bullet construction overcomes these problems with its Tri-Clad jacket, engineered to protect against corrosion and provide a lubricating medium between the bullet and bore. Cannelured to distinguish it from handgun loads, this special carbine load has a precision made bullet weighing 240 grains. The suggested retail price for a box of 20 is \$3.55 and they are available at any Norma dealer.

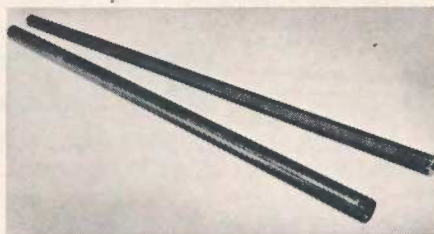
SHOPPING

SCOTCHGARD, the familiar rain and stain repellant from 3M Company, now comes in a brand new packaging, specially produced for retail sale. Until recently this treatment was available only on apparel items treated at the mill and purchased in retail stores. Now the finish has been made available in a spray can for easy home application. Two types of treatment exist: The red plaid can



for use on fabrics that are normally dry cleaned. This is simply sprayed on and allowed to dry. The blue plaid, for washable fabrics, must be ironed after applying. Both treatments give excellent rain, stain, and dry soil repellant qualities to the cloth. Packaged in 20 ounce aerosol cans, Scotchgard has a \$2.98 suggested retail price and is available in department, furniture, and hardware stores.

NUMRICH ARMS CORPORATION has announced that they are again in full production of their muzzleloading rifle and pistol blanks. These round and semi-octagon blanks have become synonymous with quality and accuracy in the black powder shooting field. Numrich is also the only firm successfully producing gain twist barrels. In .36



and .45 calibers, these barrels have one turn in 80 inches at the breech and one turn in 40 inches at the muzzle. A wide variety of barrel lengths, calibers, and styles is available along with custom gunsmithing services. For further information on the complete line of muzzleloading equipment and services offered write to Numrich Arms Corporation, Dept. G-3, West Hurley, New York.

WILLSON Products Division of the Electric Storage Battery Co. has developed eye and ear protectors for shooters. The Willson protective equipment consists of Sound Barriers, trade name for ear muffs designed to meet industrial specifications, and Astro-Goggles to shield the eyes from danger and sun. Sound Barriers block out harmful noises, yet the wearer can hear spoken in-



structions or commands. Similar equipment is worn by persons who work near the wail of jet engines and the humming of industrial machinery. The one-piece Astro-Goggles, available with clear, amber, or green lenses, protect against dust, flying chips of stone, wood, or metal. Also available is another model designed to fit over eye glasses. Available from fine sporting goods stores everywhere.



MICRO-STEEL, a new receiver peep sight from Redfield, is the answer for the shooter who's convinced that cold steel is the only reliable answer for precision and durability. With quarter-minute, micrometer click adjustments for extreme accuracy, the Micro-Steel is carefully crafted of the finest machine tool steel. It is equipped with hunter knobs and a staff that may be detached quickly and easily. Priced at \$12.95, the Micro-Steel may be seen at any Redfield dealer.

WITH Guns

OLD AMERICAN rifles and pistols, shown against pages from sports publications of the period, make an ideal drapery or upholstery fabric for game rooms or dens of every man interested in guns. The design, authentic in every detail, is screen printed on 36 inch



cotton in red, cinnamon, brass on white, olive, and buckskin. Approximate repeat is 31 inches. "Old Guns" (series 74010) by Greeff Fabrics, Inc., is available through leading interior designers or at decorating department of better stores.



TIRED OF LUGGING artillery? Well, then the Easy-Way Hunter's Vest is for you. In addition to providing all the traditional conveniences of a game vest, the Easy-Way also is a gun carrier of unique design, almost like having your own private gun bearer. The only parts visible on the outside of the Easy-Way are a small rubber covered support which receives your gun in front of the trigger guard and a small covered clip which engages the buttstock at the grip. Soft rubber and leather nestle your gun in perfect position, leaving your arms free. The wide shoulder strap and curved hip support of the inner harness distribute the gun's weight, placing it where it belongs, and eliminating carrying strain. Postpaid price is \$16.95 from Bert Stumpf, Dept. G-3, 408 Morrison Ave., Waterloo, Illinois 62298.

BULLSEYE PELLETS from Daisy are high quality pellets at low prices. The Daisy pellet design features a ballistically perfect nose for excellent wadcutting qualities and perfect flight stability. The deep waist keeps the pellet rigid during loading and flight but



permits it to flatten on impact. Available in .22 or .177 calibers, the Daisy pellets are packed in eye-catching new tins that are easy to carry, easy to open, and easy to pour, yet which lock tight to prevent spilling. Available at fine sporting goods store everywhere.



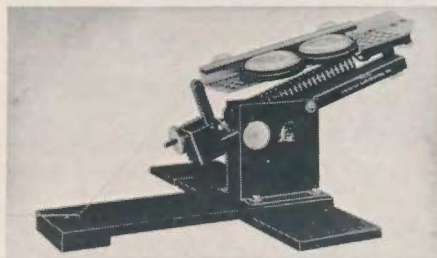
EAGLE'S new Cobra powder trickler spits out powder just a kernel at a time. Simply rotate the knob and automatically, the powder trickles through the feeder tube into the scale pan. The Cobra powder trickler features a large capacity hopper and an exceptionally wide metal base, which makes it virtually impossible to tip. The Cobra "Dead Eye" powder trickler is only \$3.95 from Eagle Products Co., Dept. G-8, 9666 Perner Street, South El Monte California 91733.

THE BRAND NEW catalog of budget-priced center-fire rifle scopes made by Pacific Gunsight Co. is now available. Shooters can choose from five models ranging in price from \$26.95 to \$49.95. Powers available are 2.5X, 4X, 6X, and 3-9X variable. Added to the line this year is Pacific's 4X Supreme, a premium quality 4-power model with an extra large 40 mm objective lens. For a free copy of the new Pacific scope catalog, shooters should write Pacific Gunsight Co., Box 4495-G3, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504.

CETME is the only autoloading rifle in America with a new design. Because the CETME Sport Model Rifle has a new system of breech closure, utilizing an inertial roller lock assisted by a fluted chamber, it does away with the complexity of the conventional gas or recoil operated systems. The number of internal parts thus is reduced to a few simple, strong components. Firing either



.308 Win. or 7.62 mm NATO cartridges, the CETME is accurate to 400 yards. Each gun comes with two 5-shot magazines, a web sling, and a field cleaning kit. Optional accessories are the scope mounts and the 20-round magazines. Only \$219.95 from Centennial Arms Corp., Dept. G-3, 3318 West Devon Avenue, Chicago 45, Illinois.



OUTERS LABORATORIES has just introduced a new target trap which is lightweight, completely portable and has a fully adjustable throwing arm for controlled angle of flight. The trap mechanism can be raised or lowered providing varied flat, bullet-like throws or high, looping throws. Perfect singles and excellent doubles are possible with this new trap, whose features make it unique among the compact, portable traps of this type. The Model 1001 Target Trap, complete with two hold-down anchors, sells for \$34.95 and is available from most sporting goods dealers or from Outers Laboratories, Inc., Dept. G-3, Onalaska, Wisconsin.



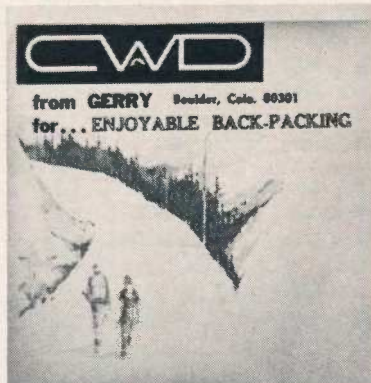
SERVICE ARMAMENT has announced that they are stocking the Webley Garden Gun, model no. 3, a small, lightweight shotgun, specifically designed for destruction of vermin. Using the short range 9 mm shot cartridge, the Webley Garden Gun is ideally suited for use in confined areas such as barns and gardens where a more powerful cartridge might cause structural damage. Priced at \$29.95, the gun is excellent for teaching young shooters the rudiments of skeet and trap shooting. For further information, write Service Armament, Dept. G-3, 689 Bergen Blvd., Ridgefield, New Jersey.

THE MODEL 16 Hi-Ride Agent holster by Safariland rides extremely high and close to the body for a maximum of concealment and comfort. It's unique construction eliminates any need for a safety strap. This is one of the famous tested and approved Roberts



Rangemaster holsters and is the personal choice of Duke Roberts, foremost authority on police holsters. Available for all popular revolvers with two inch barrels, the Hi-Ride Agent is priced at \$6.95 for plain leather and \$7.95 for basket stamped. Safariland Leather Products, Dept. G-3, 162 East Montecito, Sierra Madre, California.

GETTING OUT of the over-hunted areas and into the country outback where the trophy animals are is simpler than you think. New developments in equipment design make it possible to carry only 12 lbs. that include a comfortable nylon pack with aluminum frame, a warm sleeping bag and foam mattress, a bugproof and rainproof

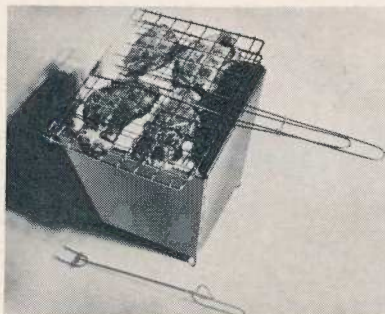


tent with aluminum poles, plus enough food and sundries for a weekend. Now young and old can travel comfortably anywhere their legs can carry them. This free booklet by experienced back-packer Gerry Cunningham tells you how to do it. Write Gerry, Dept. E12, Boulder, Colorado 80302.

DAISY "SPITTIN' IMAGE" Model 1894 BB gun is a carefully constructed counterpart of the famous Winchester 94 carbine. It has the authentic feel, trigger squeeze, heft, and balance to provide the ultimate in realism. Just the thing for a first gun for the beginner. Priced at only \$12.98. Full information from Daisy Mfg. Co., Dept. G-3, Rogers, Ark.

SHOPPING

KALAHARI GRILL will broil 4 big steaks or 6 large hamburgers to perfection in just seven minutes, using just four sheets of newspaper as fuel. There's no charcoal to buy, no waiting for coals to glow; just start cooking. Light and portable, the Kalahari grill sets up in 10 seconds and folds flat for



storage and easy carrying. Included with the grill are a handy carrying case which measures 22 by 14 by 1 1/2 inches, a chrome plated grid measuring 135 square inches, and a chrome plated ejector barbecue fork. Just \$14.95 from Hunting World, Dept. G-3, 420 East 51st Street, New York, N.Y.

NEW EAGLE Primer Pocket Swager for GI brass is a production-type swager which removes the GI primer pocket crimp quickly and easily in one operation when used in conjunction with a conventional "C" type 3/8" x 14 thread press. Just insert the GI case, run it through one complete cycle of the handle, and out pops the case with a primer pocket perfectly round and ready for



a conventional primer. It works quickly and efficiently every time, swaging anvil, knock-out sleeve, punch holder, and form punch for both large and small primers are included. The complete Eagle Primer Pocket Swager has a \$9.00 retail list price. For more information write Eagle Products Co., Dept. G-3, 9666 Remer Street, South El Monte, Calif.

WEBLEY PREMIER air pistol features the famous rugged construction and quality that has made all Webley guns world renowned. The Premier is fitted with an adjustable match trigger and an adjustable rear sight to supply the demands of the most advanced target shooter to the Sunday plinker. The top catch of the Premier is a strong steel Webley revolver stirrup giving an absolute positive lock. Every Webley air pistol is



supplied in a handsome cardboard carton and storage case containing Webley special pellets, a spare washer, and complete instructions for operating and maintaining. Simple to load and fire, yet powerful enough for vermin control and small game hunting, the Webley Premier is an ideal arm for the instruction of handling firearms. Priced at \$27.50 the Webley Premier can be obtained from Service Armament, Dept. G-3, 689 Bergen Blvd., Ridgefield, N.J.



A NEW FORM of gun blue has been produced by the Jet-Aer Corporation. This new instant bluing comes in a semi-solid creme that just wipes on. It's the easiest to use: Simply take a rag and wipe on from the jar. Instantly it produces a rich, deep chemical bluing that is long lasting and won't rub off or discolor. This new improved formula gives a rich mirror-like finish as you rub it on. Just reapply until the original bluing is matched in tone. Retailing for just \$1.98, Jet-Aer's G-66 gun blue creme will never streak or spot. At fine sporting goods stores everywhere.

WITH Guns

OUTDOORSMAN STOCKING by L. L. Bean is completely thermal knit with yarns blended of Herculon olefin, viscose rayon, nylon, and cotton. The capillary action of olefin fibers wicks body moisture away, keeping feet dry. Lined with terry pile, for maximum insulation, these socks will maintain body temperature at the proper level in



both cold and warm temperatures. This stocking has exceptional wearing qualities and is completely machine washable. Bulky and resilient, it fills the boot and prevents slippage and chafing. White with an orange top, this sock is perfect for hunting, hiking, fishing, or skiing. In regular size, 10 to 11½, or large size, 12 to 14, the Outdoorsman stocking is available in 11 inch length at \$2.00, 14 inch at \$2.50, or 23 inch at \$3.00 from L. L. Bean, Inc., Dept. G-3. Freeport, Maine 04032.



BIG PAY outdoor careers are opening up through an exciting home study program which prepares men ages 17 and up to apply for adventurous outdoor positions as government hunters, rangers, wardens, and in other important fields of state or federal forestry and wildlife conservation. Other positions include ones with private game farms and hunting lodges. All are healthful vigorous jobs in Nature's wonderlands where fish and game abound. These are well-paid positions with secure futures and retirement pensions. For free details, write to the North American School of Conservation, Dept. GPJ, University Plaza, Campus Drive, Newport, California 92660.

SHELTON Game Sight has a simple, yet effective, design which automatically puts you on target time after time. It literally forces the user to put his shotgun on the hump, and has a proven increase in accuracy of 25 to 50 per cent. The Game Sight has had great success with many hunters, as well as for its inventor J. B. Shelton. It's



non-reflective, snaps on the barrel in a second without tools, and acts as a protective cushion. The Game Sight is available for \$1.50 postpaid from Shelton Enterprises, Dept. G-3, 3600 S.W. Ninth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50315.



A NEW RIFLE REST allows the sportsman to maintain a steadier aim over longer periods of time and thus increases his shooting accuracy. Utilizing a telescoping, precision machined rod, the rifle rest weighs only seven ounces and can be attached to the rifle as a permanent fixture or by a quickly connected spring clamp. The tubing and swivel parts are made of aluminum and clamp to a tube which is permanently located on the fore-end of the stock. Self-locking nylon screws hold a permanent torque in the swivel fitting. The butt of the rifle rest is designed to safeguard against slipping while it is in use. The rest is adjustable from 12 to 38 inches for use while in standing, kneeling, prone positions, and retails for \$14.50. For further information and literature, write to Unique Sporting Enterprises, Dept. G-3, P. O. Box 3502, Torrance, California 90510.

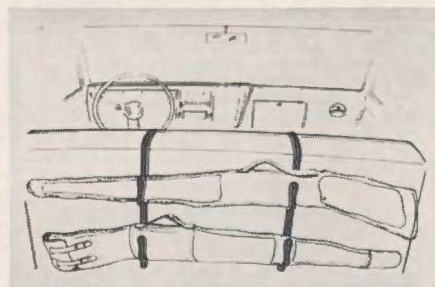
P. S. OLT COMPANY now has the G-7 Hawk Call on the market to help increase hunting success. The G-7 accurately produces the whistling "cry" of a hawk. The Olt Hawk Call is particularly effective in crow shooting. A few shrill screams from



the call start crows toward the sound, looking for a fight. Because they are after the hawk, the crows are less wary and make better targets. In quail, pheasant, the Olt G-7 call is used to hold the birds on the ground. By using the hawk call, the hunter puts the fear of a circling hawk into the birds, making them hold so the hunter can get in close for more accurate shooting. On sale now in sporting goods stores, it carries a list price of \$3.50.



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GUNS OF THE MORMONS

(Continued from page 30)

then fell into the midst of the outside mob. The men propped him up against a well and fired several more shots into his body. Taylor was seriously wounded but Richards miraculously escaped the hail of bullets. For some unexplained reason, the mob fled in terror after the Smith brothers were killed.

The pepperbox and derringer were picked up later by Mormons who came to carry the bodies of their slain leaders back to Nauvoo. Taylor carried the guns across the plains when the Mormons moved West and they were eventually displayed in the Temple Square Museum. Both have been more recently placed in a vault in the Church office building in Salt Lake City for safe-keeping. They were unavailable for photographs when this story was written, but there can be no doubt about their authenticity. There are silver plates attached to each weapon stating that they were held by Joseph and Hyrum Smith "when martyred June 27, 1844." Further proof of the pepperbox' authenticity can be found in the writings of John Taylor. Concerning the pistol he wrote:

"The pistol was a six-shooting revolver, of Allen's patent; it belonged to me, and was one that I furnished to Brother Wheelock when he talked of going with me to the east, previous to our coming to Carthage. I have it now in my possession."

When Taylor died, the pepperbox went to the museum.

Even though the pepperbox that Smith had in Carthage Jail misfired three times, the Mormons had a lot of confidence in the Allen's patent of 1837. Later, in 1845, Orson Pratt, another Church leader, purchased 45 Allen pepperboxes in New York and brought them to Nauvoo, where the Mormons were preparing to flee to the West. The guns were distributed among the church authorities as protection during the trek across the plains to the Rocky Mountains and Utah.

The Allen's patent pepperbox belonging to Brigham Young, successor to Joseph Smith, is now on display in the Temple Square Museum, among some of the personal belongings of this fiery Mormon leader, who historians were later to call "one of the greatest colonizers in American history."

Two other guns in the collection with historical significance are Colt percussion revolvers which purportedly belong to Orin Porter Rockwell, the famous frontier gunman who served as bodyguard to both Brigham Young and Joseph Smith. One, a Model 1851 Navy .36 caliber revolver, is finely engraved on the frame and hammer by Joseph Wolf whose artistic gunwork was famous a century ago. Whether Rockwell used the weapon or not is a matter of dispute, but it was displayed as Rockwell's gun at the "House of Relics" during the 50th Utah Pioneer Day celebration in 1897 in Salt Lake City. A local physician donated it to the exhibit, declaring that Rockwell had given it to him personally. Most of the artifacts in the "House of Relics" went to the Temple Square Museum after the 1897 celebration, and recently the gun was found

in the storage basement with the original 1897 tag attached. This weapon, too, was locked in a Church vault and unavailable for photographs.

The other supposed Rockwell weapon is an Army 1860 Model .44 caliber with a cut-down barrel. It is like the Colts that Rockwell carried in the later years of his life, but since no records were kept, there is no proof of the gun's authenticity and it could be suspect, although it has been displayed off and on in the museum for many years.

Rockwell, sometimes referred to as the "Mormon destroying angel," was one of the best shots among the Mormon ranks. On Sept. 16, 1845, acting under orders of the sheriff of Hancock County, Illinois, Rockwell fired upon a mob seeking to kill the sheriff. The bullet struck and killed Lt. Frank Worell, one of the leaders of the Carthage Greys. The Greys were a local militia which had been given the responsibility of protecting the Mormons at Carthage Jail the year previous, but instead had collaborated with the mob in murdering the Smith brothers.

Rockwell later came West and became one of the best known frontiersmen in Utah. Despite the dangerous life he led, he died of natural causes in 1878 in Salt Lake City, about a year after the death of Brigham Young.

Another fine Colt in the collection with an interesting history is Model 1851 .36 caliber revolver inscribed "Samuel Ware" on one side and "Ft. Ephraim" on the other. Ware, a European convert to the Mormon Church, came to Utah in 1855 and fought in the bloody Black Hawk Indian Wars in the 1860's. A young Indian named Shock Brown who had been taken in by a Mormon family at the fort, borrowed the six-shooter when the Indians attacked and protected his adopted family, killing several of his blood brothers in the process. Ware died at Manti, Utah, in 1911 and the pistol was donated to the museum by a son, who related the above story.

Many of the historic weapons in the Mormon collection were acquired in 1943 when the Church purchased museum properties from James H. and Mary E. Sweeney of Placerville, Calif. These artifacts, illustrating the history of Sutter's Mill where gold was discovered in 1848, included nearly 300 guns.

With addition of the California guns, the collection now includes valuable pieces in just about every category. Stripped of the "junk" and properly maintained, the Mormon collection could easily now be worth between \$30,000 and \$40,000, with some individual guns valued as high as \$1,000 or more.

Among 14 Kentucky type rifles, the most valuable are two original flintlocks typical of the historic Kentucky (Pennsylvania) rifles that Gen. Andrew Jackson's men used to mow down British soldiers at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. One of the fine guns is unmarked, but this is understandable because during Colonial and Revolutionary

days gunsmiths wanted to remain anonymous, fearing reprisals from the British. The other Kentucky flintlock is marked "Joseph H. Golcher" on the lock, and "Reading, Pa." on the patch box. There were several well-known Pennsylvania gunsmiths named Golcher.

The collection also contains 15 smoothbore flintlock muskets in excellent condition. Among them are a "Tower" or "Brown Bess" English musket of 1768, two French "Charlevilles" of 1770, and an assortment of U.S. military and government contract muskets, beginning with a 1795 model.

The "Brown Bess," so named because acid pickling turned the barrel brown, was used by the British for about 100 years. Both American and English troops used it during the Revolutionary War. The French-made "Charlevilles" were used by French colonists and soldiers during the French and Indian Wars of 1755 to 1760. Later, during the course of the Revolutionary War, when the British cut off the flow of arms to the New World, Americans turned to the French, purchasing "Charleville"



This cannon was pulled by the first Mormons to enter Salt Lake Valley.

musket for \$5 apiece. The two French muskets in the Mormon collection are both finely engraved on the lock plate. One is inscribed "Manuf de Charville" and the other "Mfrc Rle de Mutzig."

Of the American military muskets, the oldest is a Model 1795 made under contract with the government by Amos Stillman & Co. "Stillman" is inscribed on the lock plate. Another was made in 1800 under a similar contract by Robert McCormick, Globe Mills, Philadelphia. This latter weapon was known as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (C.P.) Flintlock Musket, but was similar to the Model 1795.

Another interesting U.S. smoothbore musket in the collection is an 1812 Model made at Harper's Ferry Armory in Virginia. This particular gun is marked "U.S. Ohio, 1816" on the barrel.

The collection also contains a wide assortment of percussion rifles, ranging from flintlock conversions to numerous Sharps, Spencers, Gallaghers and military weapons. Among this group, the most valuable are two Paterson Colt revolving-cylinder percussion carbines, Model 1855 with loading lever. Both are 6 shot, .50 caliber weapons with 24½-inch barrels. Under the loading lever device

on the barrel of one in script is written, "Patent Arms M'g Co. Paterson, N.J. Colt's Patent." One of the carbines is in excellent condition and may be worth as much as \$750.

There are four English blunderbusses in the storage cabinet, each one in perfect working order. In my estimation, one of the nicest guns in the entire collection is in this group. It's a beautiful brass blunderbuss made by the noted London gunsmith Joseph Egg. Egg, who later became embroiled in a controversy over whether he or someone else invented the first copper percussion cap, made some fine blunderbusses between 1790 and 1819, and the gun in the Mormon collection dates about 1810. The barrel is made of brass, as are the trigger guard and other trimmings. A steel, spring-mounted bayonet is attached to the upper part of the barrel. By simply pulling a small lever, the bayonet springs forward and locks itself into a flange located on the lip of the muzzle.

The Egg blunderbuss was purchased by a Sacramento, Calif., man in London and brought to America, probably sometime during the Gold Rush days. Because of its excellent condition, the weapon is worth more than \$500.

Another interesting blunderbuss in the collection is a 21½-inch, brass-trimmed weapon with a removable butt stock. The barrel of the two-piece gun is part octagon and then flares out into the typical blunderbuss muzzle. The butt is removed with a slight twist and can be replaced snugly by means of a key-shaped male and female lock. There are no decipherable marks on the gun, with the exception of three small engraved flags on the barrel and some intricate designs on the lock. However, the weapon is typical of the English blunderbusses made in the mid-1700's.

Among the many handguns in the collection, there is a representative set of U.S. Martial flintlock pistols, beginning with an excellent 1816 Model made by Simeon North, Middleton, Conn., and ending with an 1837 Model marked, "A. Waters, Milbury, Ms."

And of course the collection includes many oddities that somehow drifted into the western territories. Among them is an all metal harpoon gun used during the whaling era; a six-foot Arabian snaphaunce flintlock smoothbore musket, finely engraved and inlaid with brass wire; a Turkish flintlock pistol with a beautifully jeweled and engraved silver covering; two Japanese and one Chinese matchlocks, dating back to the 1700's, and a whole variety of other foreign weapons.

After looking through the collection and photographing some of the more interesting guns, I felt that I had been privileged to get an advance preview of what one day promises to be among the most outstanding gun collections in America.



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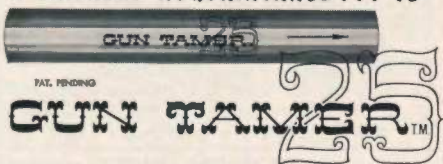
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LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE

(Continued from page 25)

cartridge that would only function in these special rifles. You could not use regular .22's in them (as many tried to do) nor would a rifle chambered for standard .22 RF cartridges accept the larger diameter casing of the .22 "auto" shells. For many years these were the only .22 semi-autos on the market. Pricewise, they were a bit on the expensive side.

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Soon the dry lube of our present day cartridges appeared and the function problems (and prayers) of the semi-auto owners had been answered. From all quarters came a loud "Amen" as the greased cartridge faded into the sunset like an old fashioned movie cowboy.

Overnight, the semi-automatic .22 rifle became one of the top sellers on the market. Every maker had one or more versions. Some companies offered a choice of tubular or clip magazine, both models being based on the same basic action. Advanced technology was reflected in numerous engineering changes and modifications, all of which brings us up to the present day state of the semi-automatic .22. Today's autoloaders are efficient, effective and, best of all, moderate in cost. The major U.S. makers have dropped the Browning style guns but these

are still made by the Browning folks. However, today's Browning uses regular .22 Long Rifle cartridges and has used them for many years.

The majority of U. S. makers uses cylindrical stock for their receivers. Ithaca is the exception to the rule. The Ithaca receiver starts out as solid, square-section, bar stock. The long bar stock is sawed into lengths. Thereafter, the boring, milling, reaming, and drilling operations on just this ONE piece left your writer wondering how they can match competitive prices. One thing is certain. The Ithaca X-15 Lightning is one helluva good gun. I'll skip the words "well made" as something of an understatement. The action is excellent, the barrels are accurate, and the stocks are superb.

In today's mass production "look alike" world, the Ithaca people have slowed the pace enough to come up with something nice in gunstocks. The X-15 stock is full formed and comfortable. Its standout point is the forend. This is a wide semi-target style that becomes WIDER toward the front. One has only to handle it for awhile to appreciate a certain "feel" of improved aiming control over this gun in all positions. The wood, we noted, is all American Black Walnut.

The trigger guard may seem like a small item but this one is full size, fits well, even with gloves. They fasten it from the INSIDE!

To top things off we mounted an 8 power scope in receiver groove mounts on the Lightning .22 rifle. The 8X glass is one we use only for testing, because we much prefer a 4X for field work with the .22 RF. At 75 yards we fired a number of 5 shot groups that printed into 1½ to 2 inches with low speed ammo. At 100 yards we cranked off a few ten shot groups using high speed hollow point hunting hulls. Groups here ran 2¾ to 3½ inches. This type of shooting could sell plenty of insurance to woodchucks and fox. As a squirrel gun the X-15 is a gem.

If semi-auto .22's are your favorite, you might take a look at this one. Especially if you want to prove that your "Lightning" can strike twice or thrice, or as many times as you want to pull the trigger.



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NO SECOND PLACE WINNER

(Continued from page 38)

officer's right elbow by the prisoner would prevent the gun being drawn with that hand, or used if it could be reached. The logical place to carry a gun under the circumstances described is not in a holster. Thrust into the right front of the belt for a left-handed cross draw, the right elbow can be used to fight off the assailant while the left hand draws the gun and restores order to the front seat."

Makes sense? Indeed it does; so much so that this one piece of advice could save many law enforcement lives. Yet it is so basic, so simple, that few law enforcement officers have ever thought of it, much less been taught it.

In this chapter, Jordan discusses and evaluates many different types of holsters—the split-front, the clip, the clamshell, the drop swivel—as well as such details as tilt (tipped forward, tipped back, or straight

believes in perfection, or the nearest possible human approximation of it—believes that this can be obtained only through practice—and believes that the end to be achieved is worth the effort. These beliefs appear most clearly in his chapter one "Fast Draw."

"Fast gun handling can be a fascinating game as well as the grim difference between living and going down which it so often means to the lawman. Precision shooting has its own rewards, but no shooter, Master rating notwithstanding, should consider himself such on the sole basis of the deliberate single action shooting of present day match competition. Until he can draw and get his hit in times shading one half second, he should not presume that he has mastered the handgun. Nor should he assume that he is deriving all the pleasure inherent in the game . . .



To anchor the holster more solidly and prevent it from changing position, Bill Jordan also slips his trousers belt through the loop of the holster.

up), slant (butt wide from the body, or close in), height, fit, treatment of the leather inside and out, and so on.

"Grips" are treated in another chapter. Here again, Jordan covers a considerable variety of handgun grips and gives his own well-reasoned appraisals. He prefers a smooth (uncheckered) grip, especially for guns of heavier calibers, such as the .357 Magnum or .44 Magnum. You may not agree, but once you have seen Bill Jordan shoot, you will have to admit that his equipment produces results, for him.

But practice (with whatever equipment you choose) is, of course, the prime factor in shooting skill. The day never passes when Jordan does not practice, at least for a few minutes, one way or another. He will stand in his hotel room, sometimes in front of a mirror, making draw after draw, patiently searching for any slightest flaw in rhythm, any minute failure of the hand to come into exact shooting position on the weapon; or he will sit dry-firing an empty gun for smooth, fast trigger operation; or he will seek a range for actual firing. Jordan be-

"But to the enforcement officer, the 'game' element is strictly secondary. It seems beyond understanding that any peace officer could be blind to the necessity of attaining the maximum efficiency possible to him with the one tool of his trade. True, the day when the town Marshal had to shoot it out with every reputation hunting gunslinger who entered his 'kingdom' is largely a thing of the past. But, make no mistake about it, that handgun jutting out so jauntily from his hip is not there as an ornament designed to give him a swashbuckling air. If he has to use it he will be playing for keeps—and on his skill will depend the lives of himself and others. There are no excuses for lack of dexterity. With only one tool to master, failure to develop efficiency with that tool to the fullest extent can be attributed only to lack of sincerity, laziness, or stupidity. Those are hard words, but by any logic, justified."

Jordan says, with wry humor, that fast draw is, for some reason, "a subject that

tends to make unmitigated liars out of normally honest men." This applies to many of the tales of the old western gunmen, and also to reports of present-day performances. Well-meaning friends have stated in Jordan's presence that they have seen him "drop a coin, draw, and hit the coin twice before it hit the ground!" Bill points out the patent impossibility of such a feat: If your bullet hits the coin once, the coin is gone! But if you call your well-meaning booster an inaccurate reporter, he'll be your enemy for life! All you can do is keep your mouth shut and let that one more Tall Tale take its place in the fast-gun legend. This is all the more regrettable because, as Jordan says:

"This . . . has caused a veil of mystery to be drawn around fast draw, concealing its factual identity. The really fast men have been made to appear superhuman and their feats impossible of emulation by the average person. Discouraged by this false standard, very few make more than a half-hearted effort to learn to draw. Instead of starting with fundamentals and gradually conditioning their reflexes to the muscle-memory patterns which must be developed before speed can be attained, the usual practice is to immediately try to make the fastest draw possible. This invariably results in a bruised hand and a chastened spirit; and, mentally comparing his blundering attempts to the mythical perfection of the old gunfighters, one more would-be fast draw artist resigns himself to the impossibility of his attaining such a goal.

(But, says Jordan) "Any man with normal reflexes and coordination can master fast draw double action shooting . . . There are only two factors upon which the speed of a draw is dependent: the physical make-up of the individual, and the economy of motion which can be achieved . . .

"It would be as ridiculous to claim that any person can become fast enough to make a draw in the one-fifth to two-fifths of a second bracket of the top men as it would be to state that just any man can learn to run the mile in four minutes. Similar factors govern both tests.

All of us do not possess the lightning reflexes and muscular coordination of the champions. But do not forget that . . . the fastest men on the draw have only a slight edge over the average trained man in this field . . . The average man can develop his ability to the point where the only factor in determining the winner of a gunfight . . . would probably be simply who started for his gun first."

Jordan believes that the average normal person can, with properly directed practice, learn to draw, fire, and hit a target in about six tenths of a second. This is so much faster than the fumbling effort of the untrained gun-carrier that an officer so trained could, if he were fool enough, almost afford to, as the Hollywood heroes do, "give the other guy the first move!" Notice, please, that I said, "If he were fool enough!" Giving the other guy a better-than-even break, or even an even break, may be fine sportsmanship, but it has nothing to do with gun-fighting. Jordan has already reminded you that this is not a game; it is a deadly, dog-eat-dog encounter. He has more, much more, to say about this in his chapter on "Gun Fighting."

"A gunfight is not a sporting event.


Rules of fair play do not apply. If there is any advantage to be had, be sure that your side takes it. . . Choose your battleground, if possible . . . Pick a position where any dazzling light will be to your back and in their eyes. . . If a man you intend to arrest puts himself in a bad position, such as sitting in a chair with arms which would impede his access to a weapon, take him then. On the contrary, if either of his hands is out of sight, the practice of patience may be advisable. The hidden hand might be holding aces! . . . Don't let your face or eyes give away your intention. If you can't depend on a dead pan poker face remaining that way, smile! Then make your move."

And finally:

"There's no gainsaying the fact that 'the fastest draw is to have the gun in your hand when the fight starts!' It is an almost unbelievable fact that every

year officers are killed entering a *known* dangerous situation with holstered gun when they might have lived had they taken the precaution of drawing the weapon before the situation developed."

When it comes to choice of guns, Jordan discusses the three types—single action revolver, double action revolver, and semi-automatic—and takes a decided stand in preference for the double action revolver. He gives the reasons behind that choice. He discusses alterations — cut-away trigger guards, de-horned hammers, lightened springs—and tells what he thinks of each of them. There is an entire chapter on "Calibers and Loads," with some conclusions that may surprise you.

Bill Jordan's "No Second Place Winner" is not a big book but, as the Indians said about pemmican, "It's full of muscle!" This article barely scratches its surface. No shooter, police or civilian, can read it without profit; and no police officer who wears a gun can afford *not* to read it, as a life insurance investment. It is also flavorful, written with wit and good humor as well as wisdom, in a style that is crystal clear, never pedantic, and never dull. 

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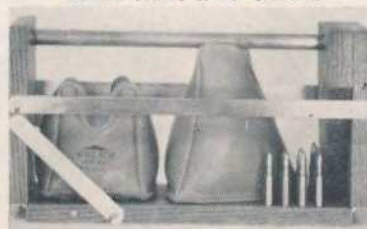
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UMC SHOTSHELLS

(Continued from page 31)

soon necessitated the leasing of another piece of land for the same purpose on Success Hill, on higher ground well away from the marsh meadows. The magazine placed on the hill was blown up in the spring of 1881, when a couple of young men saw the iron doors of the magazine and decided they would make good targets for some practice shots. One bullet went through a door and into a keg of powder, causing a big explosion. More ground was leased, and the old magazines were reconstructed and new ones constructed by the spring of 1882.

The history of UMC metallic cartridges is a story unto itself, but since my primary interest is in old shotshells, I would like to trace whatever of their history is known to me.

In 1873, Union Metallic Cartridge Company bought, from Charles Wells of Springfield, Massachusetts, machines and fixtures for making paper shells. While the old records are not too clear it is presumed that the company made only brass shells for shotguns and smoothbore rifles (shotshells were used in some of the latter) prior to the Wells purchase of paper shell equipment.

The paper shell equipment purchased from Wells, when installed, occupied a space about forty feet square. All of the operations of cutting up body and wad paper to

size, pasting, winding, sizing, cutting off tubes to length, and capping were done by hand. By 1874 the company was turning out paper shells, according to available records, usually as primed empty cases in 10 and 12 gauges, using the then popular Orcutt primer. The old records do not identify the headstamping of these earliest UMC shells. They do say, however, that in 1880 four additional gauges of shells were added to the company's list—8, 14, 16, and 20, using Orcutt and Wesson #2 primers. Nothing is said about powder used in the shells up to this point, so that evidently the company was still concentrating its shotshell efforts primed empty cases. There is some reason to believe that some factory loading was also being done during this period.

The records do show that the company was producing the U.M.C. Co. "S.G." shell (paper) in 1881 and in 1882 the U.M.C. Co. "XX" paper shell was being produced in 10 and 12 gauges. It seems highly possible that these (possibly also "Club") were the brands (headstamps) used by the company between 1874 and 1881. During 1883, shotshells in 4 gauge (no doubt mainly used by waterfowl market hunters) were added to the list, and by this time all the shells had been changed to Wesson primers.

In the fall of 1884, the combination brass

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HOME GUNSMITHING TIPS

By WILLIAM SCHUMAKER

and paper shells, known as the "Siebold," in 10 and 12 gauge, and also yacht gun (blank) shells, were first made. Although the records do not say, the Siebold shells were likely headstamped as such, while the yacht gun shells probably bore either the "S.G.," "XX," or "Club" headstamping.

During the year of 1885, pinfire shells in 12 and 16 gauge were added to the list. The pinfires were evidently short lived UMC products because the record shows that they were changed to a No. 2 UMC primer later the same year. Indications are that the pinfire shells were "Quality Brand."

According to the records, UMC began factory loading paper shells (seriously so at least) in 1888. The first factory loaded brand was "Club"; changed to "New Club" in 1891. By this time the manufacture and sale of brass shotshells had very materially decreased. In 1890 UMC started producing its "Trap" brand of shells in 10, 12, 14, 16, and 20 gauges.

In 1892, the UMC people were producing additional brands—"Nitro," "Smokeless," "Field," "Challenge," and "Walsrode." Then in 1893 the "Lightning" and "V.L. & D" brands were added. In 1894 the "Black Club" brand was added. In 1895 came the "Acme" brand, followed in 1896 by the "Ballistite" and "High Base" brands and in 1899 by the "Primrose Club" and "Nitro Club" brands.

By 1901, in addition to some of the older brands, UMC was also making and marketing such brands in paper shells as "Arrow," "Monarch," "Magic," "Majestic," "Union," and "Expert" in a rather wide variety of gauges and loadings. One of the older brands, judging from a specimen in my collection, of which these old records give no account, was the UMC "Star" brand. From the looks of the shell it dates back somewhere around 1888. In 1909, UMC dropped all of its existing brands of paper shotshells except "New Club," "Arrow," "Nitro Club," and "Lightning."

In my own private collection of old shotshells are UMC shells bearing the following headstamps, "Club" and "XX" in brass primed empty cases; then the following brands (headstamped as such) in paper shells either primed empty cases or factory loads: "XX," "S.G.," "Club," "8 Ga.," "4 Ga.," "Trap," "New Club," "Smokeless," "Nitro," "Black Club," "Primrose Club," "Nitro Club," "Arrow," "Monarch," "Star," "Magic," "Majestic," "Union," and "Expert." There was a "Best Quality" early brass UMC shell that I do not have, plus other very early brass brands like the "Buffington Patent," "Sturdevant Patent," and possibly others of which I am unaware. Apparently, though, I have all the UMC brands of paper shells except possibly the "Quality Brand" of pinfires, and maybe a "First Quality" brand of paper shell which was not pinfire. The "Siebold" brand was a combination brass and paper (paper lined brass case) and I do not have one of these.

In 1888 Marcellus Hartley and others, the big men of UMC and other companies owned by the corporation, purchased E. Remington & Sons for \$200,000.00. The companies, Hartley and Graham, Union Metallic Cartridge Company, Bridgeport Gun Implement Company, and Remington remained separate entities, the only change being the changing of the name of E. Remington & Sons to

Two-stage triggers of military bolt action rifles can be greatly improved without attachment gadgets, drilling, tapping for stop screws, or welding and soldering. First remove the barreled action from stock and with the bolt in the cocked position, and its safety on, familiarize yourself with its functioning.

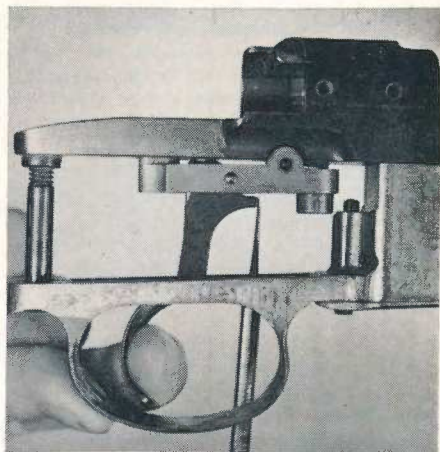
A gap of about .015" shows up between trigger's stop lip and the sear body when it is pulled over the first "slack stage" hump. Elimination of this gap is easily accomplished after driving out the sear pin, removing the trigger assembly from the action, and separating the sear and trigger by taking out the trigger hinge pin.

Grind off the "first slack stage" hump located in the approximate center of the trigger top. Get this level with the forward portion of the trigger top, and do not alter the rear edge of the trigger top in any way. Now position the trigger firmly in a vise with the bottom of the stop lip facing up. Heat lip bright red with acetylene torch and tap downward with a ball peen hammer until the lip's forward edge had been forged toward the top of trigger, slightly in excess of the first stage completion gap. Remove flame slowly so metal cools without tempering, and can still be filed.

Mushroomed metal can be filed or ground off the sides of the lip and its top leveled before assembling to try in the rifle. Coat sear surface with Prussian blue, and work the bolt in the rifle several times, releasing the trigger as when firing. Remove bolt and note amount of sear engaging surface. It should be at least .025".

Remington Arms Company. The whole operation continued in such a manner until well after Marcellus Hartley's death in 1902. Marcellus Hartley Dodge, a grandson of Marcellus Hartley, soon took over as head man of the four companies. Later, sometime between 1910 and 1912 according to the records, the companies were combined and called Remington Arms-Union Metallic Cartridge Company, a name which stuck until very recent years when the name was changed to Remington Arms Company.

Giving complete data on all the UMC shotshells made between 1888 and 1910 would be practically impossible. Much of the powder, shot size, shell length and color, wad, primer, and other data is seemingly forever buried in the mists of antiquity. Little data other than the old UMC shells and boxes in collector's and museum hands exist. What records the Remington company has are likely as accurate and complete as any in existence. And even if all the data was available, it would very likely add up into a book length article.



Frequently after the lip forging, it will be found the sear won't engage at all. File more metal from top of the forged lip. After a few trials proper engaging surface can be established. Military triggers vary considerably. If the first assembled test after forging gives excessive sear engagement, resulting in a long, hard trigger pull, grind down the top of the sear lightly, in trial and error stages. Follow with careful honing across its face and mating surface on the cocking piece.

Try your trigger pull a number of times. Be certain you have adequate engagement. If the pull is still too hard, and the sear spring excessively stiff, a small portion of this can be cut or ground off, or a finer wire, more lively spring substituted. Don't attempt to go below a 2½ to 3-pound trigger pull and this simple foolproof alteration will serve you well.



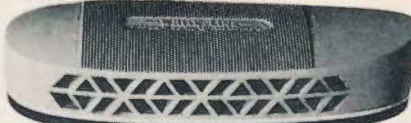
For instance, I have in my collection an 18 gauge factory loaded pink UMC shell that is 1¾" long. The topwad reads 18 Infallible ¾ C 7½ U.M.C. Then I have an empty 12 gauge UMC Nitro Club box with part of the reading on it being "Scatter Load—24 GRS. BALLISTITE 1½ OZ. 8 SHOT." Another UMC box, 16 gauge, reads in part "Short Range" but gives no loading data. Some 1¾" shells also came in this box which says that these were 20 and 25 yard shells. This parent company probably fathered more ammunition (especially in shotshell) ideas than any other ammunition company that has ever existed in this country.

No doubt quite a few of those who read this will recall shooting different brands of the old UMC shotgun shells. My father, who is 86, remembers shooting some of the brands very well. He even remembers loading his own part of the time from some of the UMC primed empty cases, both in brass and paper. All I can do now, however, is collect them and trace as much of the history as possible.



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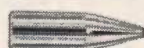
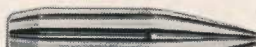
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SPEEDY SMOOTHBORES

(Continued from page 21)

eventual freedom, meeting only such resistance enroute as is offered by the friction of the bullet as it continually slides against, and is pushed down along the walls of the gun tube. On the other hand, the propellant used in the rifle must not only meet and overcome these same conditions, but additionally, it must force a tight fitting bullet into the spiraling grooves of the rifled barrel. Due to the resulting torque, and other factors, the rifled projectile thereby loses a percentage of its velocity, but at the same time, gains that accuracy which gladdens the real marksman's heart.

To illustrate what I have just stated, a case in point comes to mind. A year or so ago, I was firing a program involving the Cal .30 A.P.M2 bullet, and as usual, recording the velocity of each round fired. Velocity was running par for the course with this round, as the chronograph continually read off speeds ranging over the area of 2750 to 2800 fps. Then, as luck would have it, during one phase of this same program, the opportunity arose that I could run a comparative velocity test between smoothbore and rifled barrel.

I removed the Mann accuracy barrel from its test mount, and in its place, I eased another Mann barrel, only this one had been reamed out to a smoothbore. Was it a nice tight little .308" smoothbore, one might wonder? And the answer is not only, no, but Hell no! As a matter of fact, the bore was so much over .308", that the normal Cal .30 A.P.M2 bullet (which 'mikes' right on the nose at .308") would slide up and down that bore without any help from a propellant. So much for the facts before the act. I then loaded this odd ball smoothbore with an issue round of Cal .30 A.P.M2 cartridge, yanked the lanyard, and lo and behold, the old chronograph stopped spinning and read me a cool 2810 fps. Picture, if you will, the gas seepage around that A.P. bullet as it wobbled down the bore, and yet notwithstanding this loss of propellant force that bullet traveled down and out of that smoothbore at the same speed as the rifle.

As I've already mentioned in this yarn, the gun, which turned this neat little velocity trick, was an old Mann accuracy rifle barrel, which had been bored out smooth for experimental firing. Let me describe for you now, one of the smoothbores I use in my daily work. A gun built as a high velocity smoothbore right from the very beginning. Oh, by the way, if my use of the word smoothbore has caused you gun lovers to conjure up visions of the fine flowing lines of a Brown Bess or Charleville flintlock musket—why just forget it, for I'm afraid that my smoothbores have as much esthetic appeal as a set of gas pipes. Indeed, to look at one of them in particular, one merely sees a four foot long round steel tube, 2½ inches in diameter, and threaded at one end for a massive screw-on type breech. A little closer look will then reveal that besides having been chambered for a very large cartridge case, a .50 caliber hole has been bored through this tube from

stem to stern, and then smoothed and polished like the bore of a fine shotgun.

What I have just described for you is one of my best smoothbores. In spite of its rather homely appearance, however, this gun is a real little workhorse, which just thrives on a steady diet of Caliber .60 cartridge cases, well salted down with 4895 propellant and a variety of steel projectiles.

Needless to say, this little piece of ordnance is not quite in the varmint rifle class as to portability, but it is just right for either a pair of wheels, or else a Frankford test firing mount. The latter is what I use.

Mostly my business is to place a given weight of projectile, at a given velocity, on a given target—and my boss is the one who does the giving. In the case of the .50 caliber smoothbore just described, let's assume that the boss has just directed me to hit a certain target with a projo traveling on or about 3000 fps. The target is set up on the range, and I go about the business of hitting it. The range is not too great, about fifteen to eighteen feet on the average, so bore-sighting is the order of the day. Once sighted in, I lock the mount's windage and elevating gear, and proceed to load the little cannon.

I select a finely made cylinder of steel, and slip it into the bore. This cylinder, or fragment as it is more commonly called, weighing 120 grains, and "miking" at .498 inches, is seated so that it comes to rest in the true bore and not in the gun's throat. I might say at this point that looking through the open breech at this fragment, as it lays in its launching position, is enough to give a true rifleman or precision hand reloader a severe case of the laughing hysterics. I laughed too, the first time I saw this set-up, but have quit laughing a long time back. Why? Well, it's a .498 inch diameter frag, remember? And it's laying in a smoothbore barrel that inside "mikes" around .510, or a little over if there is much wear. In other words, except at its six o'clock position, where gravity causes it to rest on the bore, light can be seen all about this slug. Thus, by all the laws of Lyman's Reloading Handbook, we gun bugs can be sure that such a projectile and gun combination should possess all the inherent accuracy of a ruptured blunderbuss. But more about accuracy later. At this point, let us get on with some very exacting cartridge case reloading requirements.

Did I say reloading? Yes, I did. Did I say resizing? No, I didn't. The big .60 caliber case I have selected hasn't been resized once since its first firing. All that's ever done to these large cases consists of three operations. I wipe them off, decap, and then reprime them. As for propellant, my big "Sixties" seem to prefer a straight diet of faithful old 4895, though I have offered them both 3031 and 5010 machine gun powder. In this particular instance then, and hearing in mind that my boss wants 3000 fps, I weigh out a charge of 200 grains of 4895 and pour it into the cartridge case. I

tap the case lightly, so that the powder lays flat, and then ease a round, one inch diameter Manila folder wad on top of the powder, using a flat ended wooden ramrod for the purpose. The next ingredient in this highly complicated loading recipe, is to tear off two pieces of toilet tissue, (the brand name is my secret), and as you might suppose, this material also goes into the greedy case mouth, and down onto that big overpowder wad. I then place another wad down atop the tissue, and then ram the whole mess of wads and tissue into an unholy union by twenty well-layed-on strokes of my trusty rammer. Have I boosted pressures by compressing and ramming that 200 grains of powder? Absolutely. I admit it, but then what is absolutely *verboten* in the reloading of rifle cartridges, ain't necessarily so with smoothbores of this type. Anyhow, that completes the case reloading operation. Simple, eh?

The last step, of course, is to place the loaded case in the gun's chamber, screw on the massive breech, mutter a 15th Century artilleryman's Latin prayer, and then touch her off. When the soul satisfying roar has abated, and the dust settled somewhat, I check my chronograph, and note that the little cannon delivered me a velocity of 3015 fps; and incidentally, a fine hit on the target.

Luck, you say, friend? Like Hell, friend. That little cannon did exactly what it was told, no more, and no less. Believe it or not, such guns are as persniky about loading techniques as the finest match rifles, and maybe more. I say more, for though the accuracy of these guns is important enough, it is the velocity attained that I am even more concerned with. Again, believe it or not, if I stay with that same powder charge and projo weight just described, I can practically guarantee that my homely little smoothbore will deliver consistent velocities ranging between 2983 and 3027 fps. However, if I vary the loading technique in any way at all, consistency in velocity flies out the window of the chronograph. Let me give you an example, an actual test.

I will use the same gun again, although the method applied will be common to all of my working smoothbores. This time the powder charge will remain the same for three shots. In other words, for each shot, we will use 470 grains of 4895 to propel a 120 grain fragment "miking" at .498 inches. The case filler will also remain the same—two $\frac{1}{16}$ inch wads separated by one sheet of toilet tissue, hereafter referred to as TT.

Loading the first case, I ram its ingredients down with ten rams, load the gun and "Fire One!" In short order, the chronograph stops spinning at 6158 fps. Case number two, I ram down with fifteen strokes, and the resultant firing speed is 6477 fps. The third and last case, I ram twenty times, and this final speed shows up at 6536. In other words, the difference between ten and twenty strokes of my rammer amounts to around 378 fps.

Before leaving this particular gun, I should like to add the following bit of information concerning its top performance. And top performance usually comes about on those occasions when the boss indicates that I should go for broke, velocity speaking, that is. In the loading preparations for this big event, I do not even consider using the old reloaded cases, but instead, select a brand

new unfired .60 caliber cartridge case. I weigh out 500 grains of 4895, and pour it into the case. I add two $\frac{1}{16}$ inch wads and one TT. I ram the wadding down gently with ten strokes of the old rod, and then set the loaded case to one side. To get what I'm after, this time, I must pay a bit more attention to the choice of fragments. After checking through my supply of new fragments, I will eventually come up with one that will give the snuggest bore fit possible, and yet still slide down that smooth barrel without bind. I then apply the barest suggestion of a light oil to the frag, before placing it in the barrel. The very last thing I do before firing this large charge is to adjust my ear muffs, for in an indoor range, the resulting roar is enough to wake the dead. Several seconds later, after the dust has settled down, the chronograph tells me that the fragment smashed the target at a velocity of 7100 fps. See what I mean about smoothbores?

So again I ask—how would you hunters like to be able to plaster your quarry with a projectile traveling at some of the speeds I have described in this article? And this, of course, brings us to the inevitable question, "Just how well do impossibly shaped projectiles such as these do in the way of accuracy? Well the answer is, that within their range, they do very well. In fact, to paraphrase TV comic Don Adam's favorite expression, "Would you believe a five shot group of 1 & $\frac{1}{2}$ inches center to center at 34 feet?" Well, you had better believe it, Chief, for that's the kind of accuracy my

speedy little smoothbores are capable of, and one or two of the smaller guns will even better that group size.

In this short tale, I have dealt rather exclusively with the .50 caliber smoothbore, but then the big fifty is fairly representative of all its breed, regardless of caliber. There are, of course, much faster guns in existence, smoothbore guns that hit the 5,000 fps mark, and even higher. However, such guns employ rather exotic and difficult loading techniques, involving the use of pressurized gas, shearing methods, firing through vacuum chambers, etc.; whereas these junior grade cannon of mine use only that simple little ingredient known as smokeless powder, plus a few tricks of the trade.

To conclude this yarn, then, I would like to present you dyed in the wool American gun enthusiasts with a genuine challenge. What is the challenge? Just this. Sit down at your drawing board and see if you can dream up a low recoil smoothbore shoulder weapon, with a matching projectile, that will yield at least half the accuracy and carrying power of a rifle bullet. In other words, a gun and projectile combination, capable of utilizing the terrific velocity potential of the speedy smoothbore.



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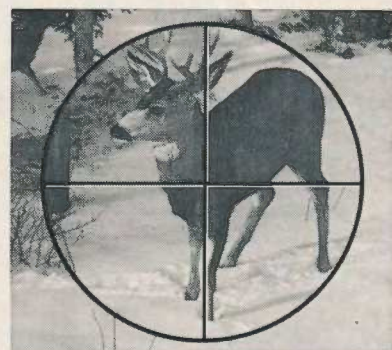
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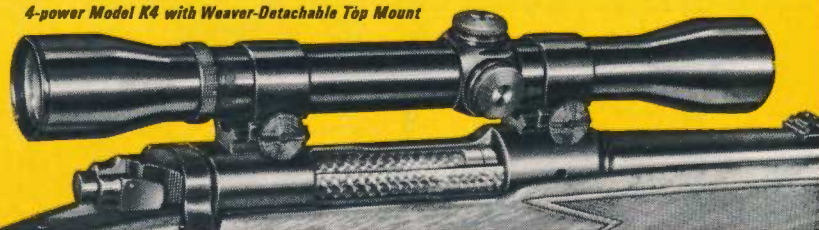
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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Continued from page 8)

I want to take a Colt 1917 model or its S&W counterpart, the 1950 Model 22, both of which use the .45 auto cartridge, convert it to accept the .45 Long Colt, add a heavier target-type barrel 5 or 5½ inches long, and presto, a double action revolver in my favorite caliber.

Would such a conversion be safe, accurate, dependable, economically practical? Your opinion on this will be most highly regarded and appreciated.

Charles Copeland
Mulvane, Kansas

I would recommend that you get one of the Army surplus Colt's or S&W in .455 Webley that can be easily converted to a .45 L.C. and by refinishing will make you the gun that you want. If you want to make a heavier barrel the Colt will be easier to do because of the locking lug under the barrel on the Smith.—P.T.H.

Odd Colt Army

A few years ago I purchased an 1860 Colt New Model Army, Cal. .44 Cap and Ball revolver from a friend of mine who was

breaking up his collection. The revolver I purchased is in good condition and would sell catalogue price at about \$125 or slightly above on condition alone. I paid \$65 for it by purchasing a number of arms at the same time.

My question concerning this gun has to do primarily with its serial number. It is my understanding that Colt in the 19th century, at least, numbered their guns in the order of manufacture. This gun is the standard three screw frame, cut for shoulder stock, with the butt notched for stock. It has the standard cylinder engraving of the model and so far as I can tell by matching it with others, the standard inspector's marks of the model and period, in their respective places. In all but two respects the gun is the same as any other standard 1860 Army Model that I have found to compare it with.

The two respects are the serial number, which is nine, and that the back strap completely lacks any serial number. A friend of mine informed me a couple of years ago after making tests on the strap that it had never been serial numbered at all. Apparently it is not a question that one was there and was either rubbed or filed off. It never was there in the first place. Also, the stock notch is present, but very slightly crooked. All other units, trigger guard, cylinder, barrel, bear the number nine in the right places and with clear, even stamps.

Until two years ago at a gun show I had been told by numerous people that the gun was a fake. At that show, however, a Colt collector showed a very definite interest in the gun and offered to buy it at a substantially higher price than what I had paid for it. When I showed no interest in selling, he told me that a few of the very low numbered Army models were made with the Navy stock for test purposes and these were serial numbered with the gun. During testing these were taken off and the "new" Army stock was put on and later adopted. He seemed to feel that this might have been one of those

weapons, and that actually it should never have left the Colt plant in the first place and at least in spirit the original strap with the number 9 did exist after this gun left the plant, but that it was a Navy type strap. Could this be possible and if so, what is your guess as to the value of the gun? If not, why would anyone go to this much trouble to "fake" a low number, which has little value in itself and then botch the job by leaving the number off the backstrap. The rest of the parts do not appear to have been restamped.

Henry B. Andrews
Columbus, Ohio

From your description of your Colt Army Model 1860 serial number nine, it sounds like it is an honest Colt, not the fake that you have been told. Although it is very hard to give a positive answer without seeing the revolver, I would guess it to be right. Many of the early Colts I have seen over the past few years have had things about them that leave one wonder. One seen about a year ago, numbered under 100, had all the numbers but no barrel markings. I would say that your Colt left the factory as you have it now, and was just never numbered. Collectors value for your early Colt 1860 Model should be \$250 to around \$500 depending on the overall condition.—R.M.

Mauser for Hunting

I am going to buy a Mauser M98 to sporterize and use for hunting deer and bear in New England. My problem is to decide between 7 mm and 8 mm. Which would you recommend?

If I should later decide to convert, what would be required to convert either of them to .30-06?

J. F. O'Hearn
Narragansett, R.I.

I would recommend the 8 mm as I prefer a larger caliber when hunting in brush or woods because the bullet doesn't deflect as easily as with a smaller caliber. Either rifle can be converted to .30-06 by installation of a new barrel.—P.T.H.

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.44 Magnum Loads

What is your suggested load for a combination set, a Model 92 Winchester, reworked to .44 Magnum, and a Ruger Super Blackhawk in .44 Magnum?

SP/4 Guy Goodyear
APO San Francisco

I have never found a better powder for the .44 Magnum than 2400. With a 240 grain bullet, I suggest that you start with 18.5 grains for use in both your Ruger handgun and the Winchester. How far up you go depends on how you take recoil with the Ruger and the condition of the 92 Winchester. Remember that pressures with max. loads in .44 Magnum reach close to 40,000 psi. I consider 23 grains of 2400 maximum with 240 grain bullets, and urge you to have someone competent look at your Winchester before attempting these loads. I am assuming that your gun has been rebarreled to .44 Magnum using modern steel.—D.W.

.264 Barrels

I am considering buying a Browning .264 Magnum rifle to be used for extremely long range varmint hunting. In your opinion, will this rifle have a short barrel life if cartridges are reloaded with 4831 powder and 100 gr. bullets?

You hear a great deal about this cartridge and most of what you hear is not too favorable. What is your suggested load for long barrel life, yet good accuracy?

Robert E. Wilson
Circleville Ohio

It is very possible your .264 barrel will be short lived—depending upon the amount of shooting you do. I personally have two .264's and both show very little if any wear. One rifle has had approximately 600 rounds through it—the other about 1,500. I shoot only handloads in these guns, with two different powders and 120-grain bullets. The loads are 58 grains of 4350 at about 3150 fps; the other is 65 grains of 4831 at approximately 3300 at the muzzle. A good starting load for 100-grain bullets is 65 grains of 4831 at about 3500. You can go up a little at a time to find the best accuracy in your gun. I too have heard unfavorable words about this cartridge, but I like it. Thank heavens we are all different.—D.W.



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TRANSITION OF THE WESTERN HOLSTER

(Continued from page 35)

weapon butt forward—completely characteristic of European 1850 military manuals. Such a holster offered complete weather protection and held the weapon secure while traveling in adverse terrain.

However, such a covered holster limited the immediate access to the enclosed weapon. At times of emergency, the flap proved to be a disadvantage.

Ordinance records show that at the close of the Civil War many of the participants returned to civilian life still in possession of their service revolver and related military equipment. Many of the early historians, depicting western migrations, state that the flap was cut off the holster and discarded to afford the user a more convenient access. The holster was also cut away around the trigger guard for the same reason. No early photographs show that the holster of this era was ever worn tied down, thus indicating the "tie-down" impression is a result of the influence of Hollywood and television productions.

Early records and writings further indicate that the only time two guns were carried as a "brace" was by trailmen or Indian fighters when sudden use could be anticipated and where reloading time would have to be kept to a minimum.

Those who have fired and loaded a percussion revolver can testify that this firearm, even under ideal circumstances, cannot be loaded rapidly. For this reason the idea of one-cartridge weapon replacing two-percussion guns was frequently stressed by the

sales forces of the early arms companies. After the introduction of the metallic cartridge, and as revolvers with shorter barrels increased in popularity, the customized military holster seems to disappear from early photographs, being replaced by a more pretentious type of holster, fancied up with rivets and conchos, and tailored so that the butt of the weapon was worn to the rear. However, no evidence would indicate that this type of holster was ever worn in a position lower than the hip. There were probably more "Texas Low-Cut" holsters and "Buscaderos" made during the 1930's than were ever used prior to that date.

The movie picture productions have been a major source in providing impressions of early holsters. Usually, early productions featured a semi open-type holster, simple in appearance and worn at waist level—which was probably a more authentic version than any that followed.

As the movie productions became a little more sophisticated, the holster design progressed too. Holsters appeared, concho studded and fur trimmed, and early film strips show that the elevation at which the weapon was worn was beginning to drop below the waist belt. Hand-tooled buscaderos followed, and were being worn still lower on the hip. Since the late '40's, television has added its influencing factor, featuring of the "low-slung," "quick draw," and "tied down" type holsters. It seems only fitting that through innovation the holster design should also progress.

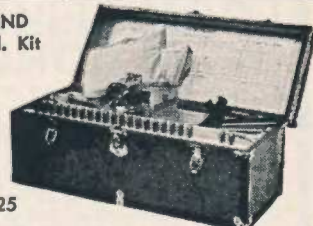


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WHAT WILL THE .22 DO?

(Continued from page 33)

a fairly respectable velocity. But there is still a catch. Remember that factory velocity and pressure data is taken from a pressure test gun that doesn't have the cylinder/barrel gap, may have a tight (minimum) chamber, and probably has a barrel that is longer than average.

Still some of the .22 WRF Magnum aficionados smugly compare their factory ballistics with the actual velocity of the .22 Jet handgun cartridge without realizing that their factory figures are nearly as far off percentage-wise as was the originally published Jet velocity.

A friend of mine ran a velocity test on magnum ammo in his 5½ inch barreled Ruger Convertible Single Six the other day. The highest velocity was 1339 fps, lowest was 1236 fps and the ten shot average was a shade under 1300 fps. Talk about a deflated ego. . .!

And, the .22 High Speed Hollow Points are scarcely "explosive" or "bonecrushing." If you don't believe it, compare the effects of shooting a full quart can of water with a .22 pistol and one of the centerfire magnums. The .22 barely moves the can while the magnums rupture the seams and flatten the cans.

Greater velocity of the magnum pistols hikes the killing power in several ways. For

one thing, it makes bullets expand quicker, even to the point of appearing to "blow up." This greater shocking effect results in more instantaneous kills.

Too, higher velocity gives a flatter trajectory. A .22 rimfire pistol would need plenty of "guesstimated elevation" between 50 and 100 yards—in fact, that's clear out of its practical hunting range. In comparison, my Ruger .256 Magnum, sighted for 100 yards, strikes virtually the same point of impact from 50 to 125 yards thus eliminating any need for holdover at these ranges. And, the 8¾ inch barreled .22 Jet gives nearly equal performance.

The .22 is too often praised as the ideal sidearm for the big game hunter. Promoters of this say the .22 can be used around camp without unduly alarming game, for shooting grouse for the pot, and for dispatching wounded game.

Well, in the first place, most any handgun can be fired around the base camp because there are a variety of other sounds made by the human occupants that would alarm game just as badly, such as talking, coughing, and rattling and banging pots and pans. Secondly, many hunters like to fire one or two sighting shots with their big game rifle for a final check on the zero, which is a good idea. And, then while actually hunting, the

object is to keep quiet to avoid spooking the quarry and this does not include plinking even with a .22. Besides, the .22 gives pretty miserable performance on grouse unless a head or neck shot is secured.

Critics of the magnum handguns also claim that the recoil is too great for most shooters. Though some may never get used to the .44 Magnum, recoil of the .22 Jet, .221 Fireball, or the .256 Magnum is not excessive and nearly everyone could learn to use them to their best advantage. Yet, strangely enough, those who deplore the recoil of the magnum pistols often cheerfully use lightweight 12 gauge Magnums or .300 Weatherby types that churn up five to ten foot pounds more recoil energy than the big .44.

One criticism of the magnum handguns that may have some merit is their loud report. Yet, though their muzzle blast is quite loud, I do not consider it to be worse than that of many magnum rifles. For comfort though, use the muff type ear protectors during target practice and if desired, ear plugs or valves could be used in the field.

Why do some people give up hunting with handguns after a few tries? Some like to say that the aforementioned recoil and muzzle blast of the magnums scares off potential handgun hunters. Perhaps, but I'll bet that more have turned from handgun hunting because the first handgun they used was a .22 rimfire that they had laying in the bureau drawer and they were disillusioned by its lack of killing power, poor trajectory, and their inability to succeed with it.

While this is partly their fault for trying to stretch the short range of the .22 rimfire, it is also the fault of those who have praised the .22 pistol as the "perfect weapon" for everything from harmless snakes to coyotes.

It's no fun to pass up most of the shots you are offered because you are undergunned. And it's inhumane to lose patience and try shots farther than you should.

Small game and varmints are probably the most common targets for pistol hunters. They are often very tenacious and hard to kill. Even a bad shot with the legendary .220 Swift can't accomplish miracles.

In this writer's experience the .22 WRF Magnum cartridge is the lightest that should be contemplated for hunting and then only at close range. Considering its low velocity, the longest practical barrel length available would be desirable.

If the regular .22 rimfire pistol is used for hunting it should be restricted to starlings, sparrows, small squirrels, and the like. It does do a fair job on such as the English Sparrow.

It seems that every time that a new magnum caliber is introduced, hunters immediately vie to see who can kill an animal at the greatest distance. This is not necessarily their best use. The hottest handguns

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are underpowered when compared with the lower velocity rifles. Magnum handguns merely give sufficient killing power at the shorter rifle ranges (under 175 yards). Their striking velocity and energy at longer ranges nears inadequacy again. The difficulty of hitting varmints with handguns at ranges over 175 yards makes humane results remote. Exceptions to this may include an expert shot knowing the exact range and using the equivalent of a bench rest—an unlikely field situation. Rock steady rests are not always at hand. We cannot expect to get the same accuracy in the field that we get at the bench rest.

Considering the magnum handguns for a moment, we again run into the age-old dispute of the big bullet at low velocity versus the small caliber light bullet at high velocity, though naturally on a smaller scale.

The .357, .47, and .44 Magnums at fourteen to fifteen hundred feet-per-second muzzle velocity are more suited for deep penetration and bone crushing power on the larger varmints and deer sized game animals. As factory loaded they are not eminently successful on small varmints due to their more rounded trajectories and more heavily constructed bullets.

For varmint hunting, the .22 and .25 caliber high velocity handguns reign supreme. Their bullets are designed for use on the smaller light bodied varmints and their trajectories theoretically allow for 175 yard shooting.

On the other hand, these cartridges are hardly suitable for killing deer. Sure, they'll kill deer if the bullets are properly placed but there is too great a margin for error. And, besides, their use on such animals is illegal nearly everywhere.

But, the .22 has not been lost in any shuffle with the magnums. In fact, it holds perhaps an enviable position as the most popular caliber. It is the cheapest to shoot if you don't reload, gives good accuracy for target and plinking, and is easy on the ears and on the hand.

Unfortunately though, these are not the attributes of a decent, humane hunting cartridge. The .22 rimfire has and always will lack killing power. It is not suited for use in the game fields.

Magnum cartridges were designed with the handgun hunter in mind. They are so much more superior in killing power and accuracy that you cannot afford not to use them for hunting.

FUNERAL GUNS OF GHANA

(Continued from page 27)

smith uses a forge of the same type used by his forefathers to temper the metal. It is usually only an indentation in the dirt floor in one corner of his shop, with stones covering the depression. Hot coals are piled in the hole, and a bellows made from goatskins is attached to the stones. These are manipulated by a small boy to fan the fire, so that the air escapes under the hot coals, heating the metals to be worked when they are placed over the coals.

Along with the steering rod barrel, the blacksmith makes a trigger from odd pieces of metal. When he's ready to make the gun stock, he goes out into the bush and finds a suitably shaped and sized bough. Best is about 1½ feet in diameter, from a tree with a strong but not hard wood. He chips away until the stock takes shape, using an ancient tool resembling a short-handled pick.

Nothing is done by electric power. To sharpen the chisel, used to shape metal parts, the blacksmith uses a small hand grinder.

Once the gun is made, it is decorated according to the owner's fancy and is ready to be used in tribal ceremonies, just as similar guns have been for centuries.

If a chief dies, chiefs from tribes for many miles around will send their warriors, armed with guns, to fire off salutes as a sign of respect and a mark of the dead man's prestige. Salutes for a chief are required and are nearly as much of an obligation for a hunter when he dies. Up to the present time, the well-being of the entire tribe depended on the skill of the hunters in bringing in sufficient food for all. In the days when elephants roamed the north in great numbers it was the true test of a hunter's skill to bring in one of the huge animals armed only with his simple guns and spears.

The number of volleys fired at a funeral depends on the importance and prestige of

the dead person. For a chief or a member of the chief's family the volleys will be numerous, and the shooting will go on for many days as chiefs and their warriors arrive from all over the north to pay respects. For a small child, usually only one shot will be fired . . . sometimes none at all . . . but for a popular adult, even if he is not in the royal family, there can be many rounds fired.

On the third and seventh days of the funeral ceremonies, only members of the family may shoot off the special guns, but on the other days all who wish to may shoot. If relatives come from afar and arrive late, they may shoot off their volleys of respect as long as two weeks after the death or funeral.

The opening act of the first day of a funeral is the shaving of the head of the first son of a dead chief, and at this time many rounds are fired. The son then becomes chief, or sometimes is chief by proxy until a chief is chosen by the village. Funeral services for a chief of a big and important tribe rarely take place until several months after his death, to give all who want to attend the opportunity to travel. The ceremonies may last for several months more, and sometimes are repeated for two or three years following.

It is up to the family to decide whether or not to ask for a gun to be shot off, if the deceased is very young or not very prominent. There is no charge for the shooting, but the family does provide refreshment for the men shooting the gun. This customarily includes beer or the local brew, called pito.

As Africa moves quickly from a primitive to a progressive society, traditions like these will disappear under the pressure of a faster-paced life. But for today, the early morning will still resound with the news that for some member of the tribe, the sun did not rise that day.

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GEORG LUGER PRESENTATION CARBINE

(Continued from page 20)

weapon which would permit his pursuit of the sport and at the same time minimize his handicap. At any rate it is a certainty that the carbine was introduced in late 1902 or early 1903 as a sporting weapon and, although original expectations for it were never realized, there is considerable contention that its small 7.65 mm caliber is more effective against small game than arms geared to the more popular 9 mm caliber. The weight of a carbine—two pounds, fifteen ounces—makes it ideal as a hunting weapon and the stock, unlike other Luger stocks which are flat, is rounded or contoured to facilitate its conversion to a small rifle. The stock is checkered to match the foregrip. Accessories include a fitted leather carrying case to house the carbine itself as well as cleaning rod, stock, shoulder strap, and extra maza-

zines. As stated in the second paragraph of this article one of the prime factors responsible for causing confusion to the Luger enthusiast centers around the vast number of variations. One of these is the rare Stoeger Carbine. These pieces were specially ordered by Stoeger. They retain all the characteristics of the 1902 second issue carbines, in addition to which they bear a deep stamped American eagle on the chamber. They were also normally reconditioned or refinished to Stoeger specifications subsequent to the stamping process. Records on the Stoeger carbine are inconclusive and therefore it is uncertain as to the exact number ever produced. I can state positively however that manufacture was limited to a very small quantity as I am aware of only two others, in addition to the one pictured here, in existence in the United States at the present time. A Stoeger carbine is worth approximately \$2,000 today.

Intensive research indicates that fewer than ten pistols were made during Luger's lifetime which bear the coveted GL (George Luger) monogram. Each of these was produced under the personal supervision of the inventor, and each was intended for a very special purpose: either for a critical military trial or for presentation to a highly placed and therefore influential individual. Probably the rarest of all Lugers is the George Luger Presentation Carbine, of which only one or two were ever produced. The estimated value of such a piece to the collector ranges anywhere from a minimum of \$5,000 upward to \$10,000.

The author's George Luger Presentation Carbine pictured on the front cover embodies the characteristics of the standard 1902 carbine. The extreme rear portion of the rear toggle link carries the script GL monogram. On the chamber appears the follow-

ing inscription, inlaid in gold: H. S. M. March 15, 1903 (three lines). The serial number, 9109C, appears only on the metal extension securing the forestock to the weapon and is a distinguishing feature in that it bears four, as opposed to the standard five, digits and also because it carries the suffix. Serialization throughout the parts is in the commercial style. The serial number appears on the matching stock minus the "C." There are no numbers on the magazine wood bottom pieces. No proof marks are evident anywhere on the pistol; no markings of any kind appear in the well. The weapon and

stock are both in virtually mint condition. Perfect checkering appears on the highly grained walnut of the forend, grips, and stock. The matching and finishing are excellent; the lands of the bore, sharp; and the grooves, dark. The carbine is complete with original miniature sling, two spare magazines, cleaning rod, and leather carrying case.

Carbines are extremely rare and therefore prized possessions due to the fact that fewer than 3,000 of the 1902 models were ever manufactured; production of the 1920 models probably never exceeded two thousand in number. In 1927 a carbine could be purchased for around \$65 plus \$6 for the case. At today's levels a near-mint 1902 model commands a price of approximately \$1,200; and the case, an additional \$150. The 1920 model presently has a market value in the neighborhood of \$650.



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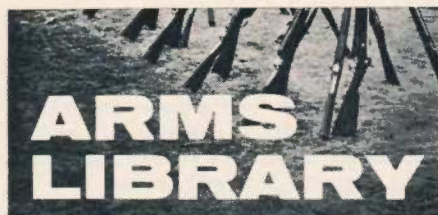
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THE TREASURY OF HUNTING

By Larry Koller
(The Odyssey Press, Inc., 350 Third Ave.,
New York 22, N.Y., 1965. \$14.95)

If the price of this book appears to be on the steep side, don't let that stop you from buying it. Larry Koller did a splendid job collecting the photographic material for his latest book, and the pictures alone are worth twice the price you pay for this volume of hunting lore. In his usual, easy-to-read style, he presents a compilation of hunting facts and hunting information based on his many years of hunting experience. A great deal of the material is fairly well known to big game hunters, but author Koller also offers some information that is not too widely known and which can prove helpful in spelling the difference between venison in the pot and going home skunked.—R.A.S.

"WE SHALL FIGHT IN THE STREETS"

By Capt. S. J. Cuthbert
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TOTAL RESISTANCE

By Major H. von Dach Bern
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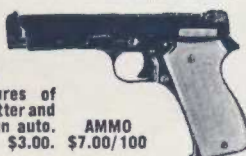


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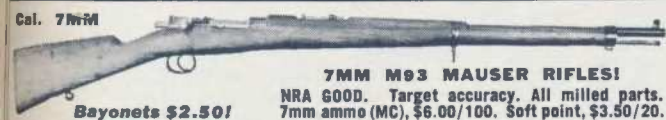


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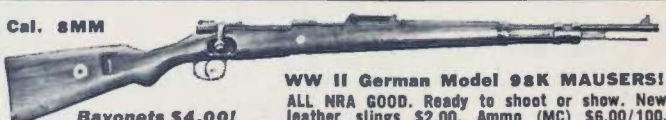
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