

APRIL 1957 50c

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD



**CROWS ARE
TRICKY TARGETS**

**WHY AMERICAN
SHOOTERS
LOST
THE OLYMPICS**



**GUNS FOR
MEXICAN
HUNTING**

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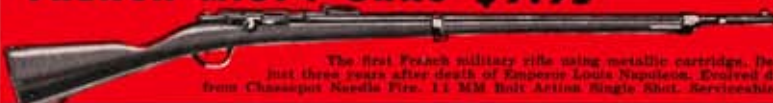
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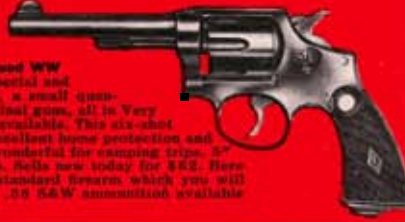


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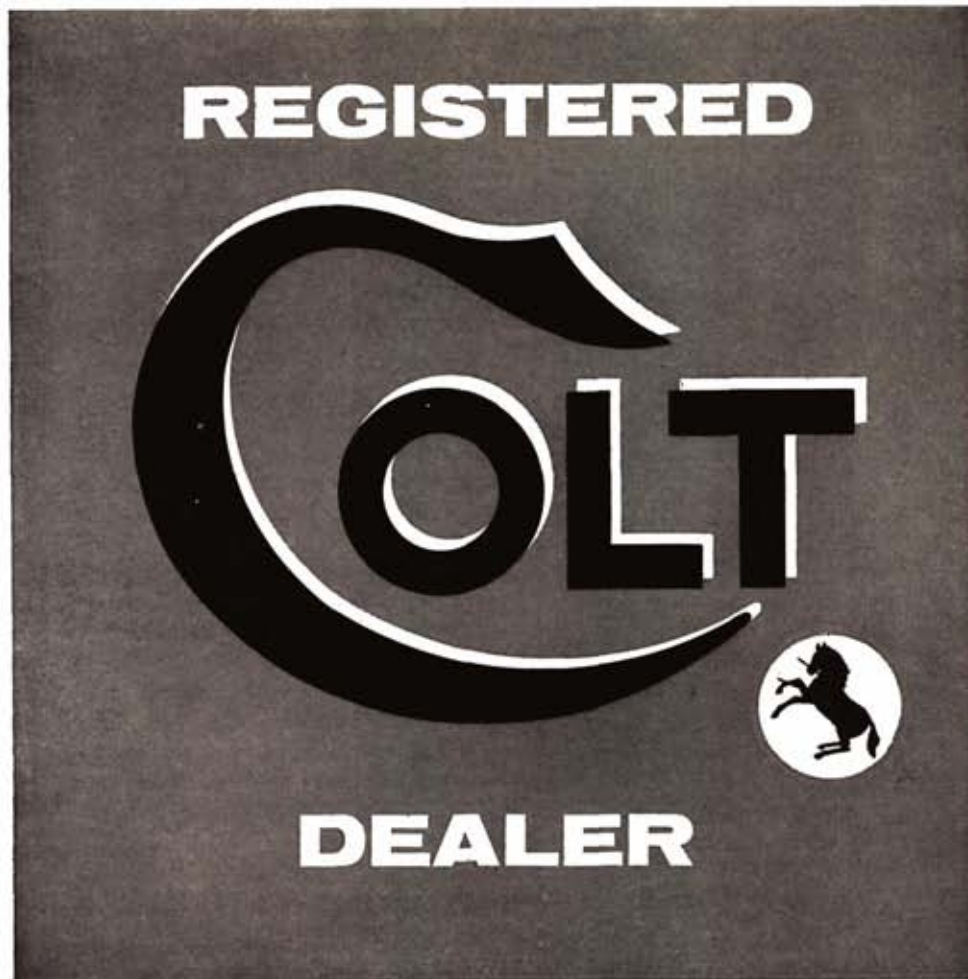
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During the War of 1812, Joseph C. Chambers invented a multi-shot gun, and Ghrisky of Philadelphia made 100 of them under an Ordnance contract for a "patented repeating rifle." It is my favorite gun because this five-shot Kentucky-style flintlock rifle is one of the earliest patented American repeaters. The rifle has a lock by Ketland, who was in business in Philadelphia then, and mountings of the 1812 period. It also is marked "patent" and has a serial number under 100. The lock was moved from front to rear to fire successive charges loaded on top of each other, Roman-candle fashion.



By COLONEL B. R. LEWIS
Military Historian and
Ordnanceman

MY FAVORITE GUN



By ELMER KEITH
Shooter, Hunter, Writer

For dangerous game, my fondest possession is a best quality Westley Richards .476 double ejector rifle with hand detachable locks and single trigger. I hope to be able to use this .476 and the .333 OKH in Africa next year. My favorite duck and goose gun is the first magnum 10 ever built, by the Ithaca Gun Co. My favorite upland guns are a pair of full-choke 16 bores, one by AyA, the other by Ithaca. My favorite quail gun is a best quality Westley Richards 12 with 26" barrels. My favorite six-gun is the new Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum.

TRIGGER TALK

WITH HIS USUAL direct and colorful approach, Colonel Askins lays it on the line about the showing made by our "nation of marksmen" in the 1956 Olympics. The shooting Colonel has long championed greater interest in Olympic and International competition on the part of the United States, and in this article he probes straight to the causes of our embarrassing failures in these fields. . . Pictures with this article are the first and only such complete coverage ever made of Olympic shooting and GUNS' Australian correspondent Jeff Carter did an outstanding job of capturing the color of this major event in gun competition.

Some of the finest hunting on earth is found in Mexico. Exotic animals and exotic terrain, both in fantastic variety, offer new hunting thrills within relatively easy reach of state-side sportsmen, and new laws make it possible to transport hunting weapons and ammunition. Emmett Gowen's story, "Guns For Mexican Hunting," tells how and where.

In this 150th year since the birth of Robert E. Lee, the 92nd year since the close of the Civil War, it is appropriate to publish a story on the rifles used by the Confederacy. Jac Weller's fact-packed article on this subject does for Confederate shoulder weapons what many others have done for Confederate handguns.

Varmint hunters and addicts of varmint-type rifles are not the only readers who will find interesting suggestions in Bob Bell's article, "Crows Are Tricky Targets." Here, Bell says, is a target available nearly everywhere which offers fun and challenge to all riflemen—from the novice with the simple plinking rifle to the specialist with the bull-barelled wildcat 'chucker.

Coming soon is a story for the Colt handgun collector, and another about an auto pistol so new, so different that it does not even use conventional ammunition. Coming also is an article, complete with GUNS' own laboratory test results, of a "rifle without cartridges." No, it isn't a story of a hunter caught short of ammunition; it may, just may, be a preview of "the rifle of tomorrow."

THE COVER

Evgenii Tcherkassov of the USSR with one of the twin upside-down pistols he and his teammate, Sorokine, used in the rapid fire contests. Tcherkassov won second in this event, looks as if he would be in the running and a man to beat for some time.

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

MARCH, 1957

VOL. III, NO. 4-28

IN THIS ISSUE

shooting . . .

WHY AMERICAN SHOOTERS LOST THE OLYMPICS	Col. Charles Askins	12
CROWS ARE TRICKY TARGETS	Robert S. Bell	18

hunting . . .

GUNS FOR MEXICAN HUNTING	Emmett Gowen	26
WHAT SCOPE FOR BIG GAME	Francis E. Sell	29

collector . . .

RIFLES OF THE CONFEDERACY	Jac Weller	22
-------------------------------------	------------	----

departments . . .

FAVORITE GUN	Col. B. R. Lewis and Elmer Keith	4
TRIGGER TALK		5
GUNS IN THE NEWS		6
SHOOTING NEWS		8
CROSSFIRE		10
ARMS LIBRARY		45
SHOPPING WITH GUNS		52
PARTING SHOTS		58

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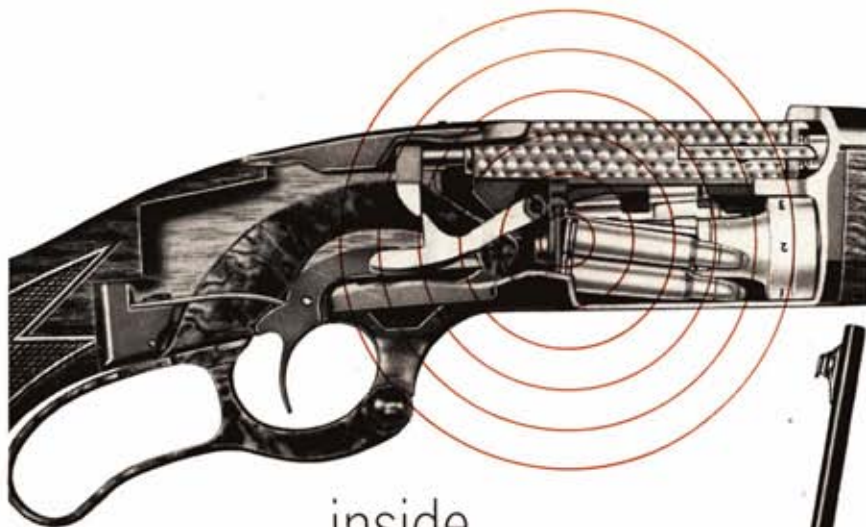
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inside
story
on the
Savage 99

You're looking at a close-up of the Savage 99's exclusive rotary magazine. Its fully enclosed, precisely engineered loading system protects all cartridges from dirt and moisture . . . loads and unloads quickly and easily—while the balance remains the same regardless of the number of rounds in the magazine.

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.308 Win.—,358 Win.**

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(Less 'Scope)



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ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE . . . SLIGHTLY HIGHER IN CANADA

GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

□ Alan A. Davis, near Hillsdale, Michigan, gave two hunters permission to hunt on his farm while he was away. When he returned he found a rabbit, dressed and ready for cooking, in a kettle on his stove.

• • •

□ Hearing shots near his house recently, West Virginia conservation officer Claude Rice gum-shoed out to catch off-season hunters. To his surprise he found three cold-sober teen-agers plinking tin cans off each others heads with .22 rifles. Rice delivered a stern lecture on gun safety, but later had to admit the lads were pretty good shots—none of them shot low.

• • •

□ Phil Gholson of Visalia, Ill., shot an illegal deer and then drove 38 miles to report the violation, much to the astonishment of game warden E. P. Becas and judge Hal Broaders. Explained Gholson, "I had my son with me, and I never intend for him to learn bad habits or see me commit an unsportsmanlike act. I want him to respect me and the law." Judge Broaders agreed, reluctantly collected \$25 fine.

• • •

□ It is well-known that the female is deadlier than the male, including small-fry. When an intruder broke into a private home in Pittsburgh while her parents were away, a 12 year old girl went to the drawer where dad kept his revolver, loaded the .38 as she had been taught to do safely, and fired two shots at the intruder. The first shot hit the ceiling, but the second hit the break-in artist's leg as he hopped out the window, resulting in his capture when he reported to a doctor for treatment.

• • •

□ Charged with shooting a deer out of season, Albert Tarini told the Warren, Conn., court that he was really hunting rabbits but that he shot in self defense when the deer charged him. The court charged Mr. Tarini too—\$25.

• • •

□ Confronted with a bill for a tire punctured by police bullets during a chase of car thieves, Columbus, Ohio, city councilmen asked Police Chief George Scholer if his men couldn't "shoot straight." "Well," responded Chief Scholer drily, "maybe they ducked."

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IN CALIBER .32 or .380\$58.25



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ERMA

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The new ERMA caliber .22 automatic conversion unit for Luger pistols is a development and improvement of the ERMA conversion unit for the Luger which was produced prior to 1945 for the German armed forces. At the end of World War II the great ERMA factory at Erfurt, Germany, was completely destroyed by the Russians, but has now been re-located and re-built under its old leadership near Munich, Germany, and, once again, with all the skill of generations of master arms makers and the advanced technique of German tool and die makers and metallurgists, the ERMA factory is producing only the finest in small arms and small arms accessories and conversion units . . . products which can be absolutely relied upon in the highest German arms tradition.

A "MUST" FOR ALL LUGER OWNERS . . .
the new ERMA caliber .22 automatic conversion unit for Luger pistols, Model SE 08, is presently available for all Model 08 (all models manufactured after 1908) Luger pistols in the standard 4" barrel lengths in caliber 9 mm Parabellum. The new ERMA automatic repeating conversion unit is designed to function perfectly with all types of American caliber .22 Long Rifle ammunition, regular velocity or high-speed loads. Order directly from this ad or through your local dealer. Immediately available. No permit required.

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SHOOTING NEWS

Florham Park, New Jersey. Frank Vervaet of Paterson, N. J., captured top honors in the Middle Atlantic States skeet championship fired on the ranges of the Loantaka Skeet Club. Heading 37 competitors from six eastern states, Vervaet annexed the High Over-all trophy by powdering 281 x 300 in the four-gun match, was one of several Jerseyites scoring. . . . Icy cold weather slowed contestants on the first day of the two-day event but on the second day George Notte of Irvington, N. J., warmed up enough to get hot and slugged out 99 x 100 in the All Bore event for the championship trophy. . . . Florence Pilipie of Whippany, N. J., emerged woman's champ from the bangfest, shattering 82 x 100 birds with her vent-ribbed Remington. . . . Sixteen-year-old Dave Neil, Mountain View, N. J., earned the junior title, posting 82 x 100. . . . At the opposite end of the scale, Gus Cresci of Union City chalked up a fine 96 x 100 for the senior title, making him top man in class B. . . . Bruce Barnard, Falmouth, Mass., was one of the few shooters not from Jersey to score, besting Vervaet in a shoot-off for the 28 gauge crown.

Cheshire, Conn. The four-position re-entry match held by the Cheshire Rifle & Pistol Club was poorly attended because of rough weather, but a fair shoot was run despite it. . . . The four-position match was divided into three classes. The class A winner was John Bendoraitis with 193. . . . Charles Maloney shot 185 for tops in B class. . . . Adam Keller scored 165 to win in C class. . . . The off-hand re-entry match was also split into three classes, and two places. Class A first place went to E. B. Ebdon, Jr., with a near-possible 99. . . . John Northup dropped 3 for second place A, 97. . . . Re-entry match theoretically gives the shooter a chance to better his score, but it's not all duck soup; also gives him a chance to lower his score and second score on re-entry counts.

Rome, Italy. Carried from the field by cheering fans, veteran live-bird marksman, Emanuel Vafiadis of Egypt triumphantly held aloft the 25th straight pigeon which crowned him world's champion flyer shot at 20th annual match. . . . Vafiadis scored 25 straight to win over almost 300 other shooters from a dozen nations to gain the title.

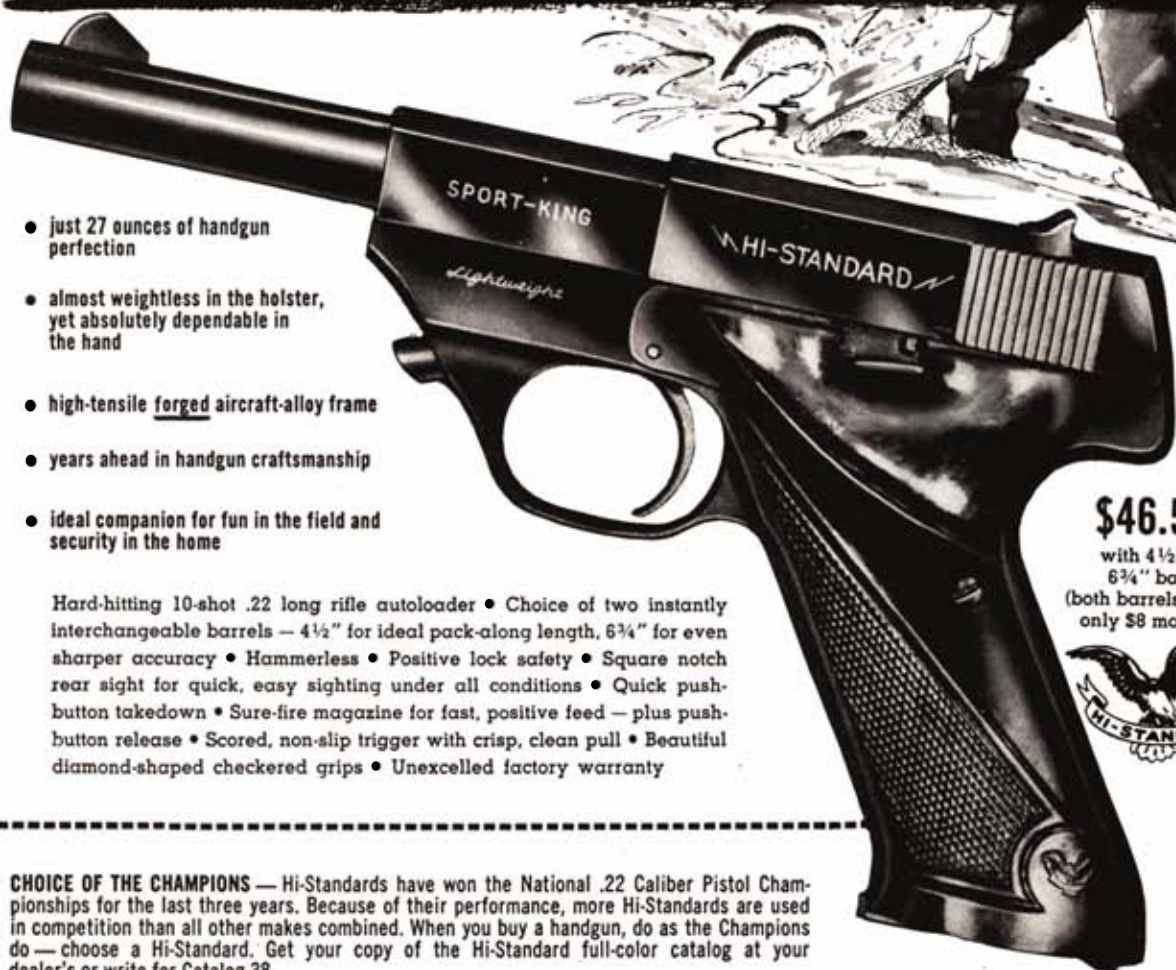
Coral Gables, Florida. The usual good turnout to the Police Pistol Club monthly match found Lieutenant Frazer in top form, chalking up 1672 in the grand aggy for the gold trophy. . . . M/Sgt. Goodfellow who totalled 1659 for gold trophy in last month's expert class jumped up to the open class but turned in only 1640 for fifth place on the totem. Good shooting, but did the strain of supposedly tougher competition make him flub a shot? . . . Goodfellow and Frazer teamed up to shoot 552 in the team match, topped by winners M/Sgt. J. Blanton and Harvey Dunn, 558. . . . Firsts in the classes were: Expert Modisette, 1632; Sharpshooter Robert Pow, 1584; Marksman J. T. Mills, 1505.

Chicago, Ill. The Western Rifle League has been honored by Harrington & Richardson gun company's as the "Gun Club of the Month". The spirit of friendly competition plus the enthusiasm of the shooters of the league, including teams from Wheaton, Oak Park, Austin, Aurora, St. Charles, Elgin, Des Plaines, and Joliet in order of their standing, has been the basis for the presentation which took place at the National Sporting Goods show in Chicago. The league news sheet put out by Wheaton booster Byron Putman has a lot to do with the spirit of this group. . . . Al Overtoom came through when the chips were down with a score needed to put his team, Oak Park, winners over St. Charles. Overtoom was last man to shoot. His team needed at least 196 to lead, so Overtoom obligingly plinked out 198. . . .

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CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Home For "Biggest Gun Collection"?

Your "Biggest Gun Collection" story stirred up quite a ruckus down here in Oklahoma. From everything I have stored in my conscious and subconscious from over ten years of trips to Claremore (sometimes three and four a week) I can never remember Mr. Davis ever saying he would put the weapons on the open market. Mr. Davis told me he would have preferred the article to have been left unpublished.

If you care to do a real service for shooters, the public, gun lovers and so on, you might start the ball rolling for some real action toward the housing of this collection. I know not in what way this could be done, but this state of ours will undoubtedly foul up again. Texas and Arkansas have already made overtures for the movement of the collection.

Roy Traband
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Just finished reading about the "Claremore Gun Collection" and I'm 100 percent in favor of us powder burners passing the old John B and collecting enough Texas Kleenex to buy, beg, borrow, or steal a permanent place for this collection.

The motion is on the floor—anyone to second it?

Tom Horn
Fort Scott, Kansas

Maybe Something Will Be Done

Let me compliment you on a fine magazine. I enjoy almost all of your articles and read every magazine from cover to cover. I don't usually take time to write to publishers, but your magazine is deserving of praise.

I especially enjoyed the articles, "The Rawest Racket in Hunting," and "The Case For Legalized Machine Guns." If more shooters read them, maybe something will be done about these matters.

Joe D. Sphar
Wichita, Kansas

Legal Machine Guns

We have just received your February issue and read Mr. Kvale's thought provoking and informative article, "The Case for Legalized Machine Guns."

As the largest importers of automatic weapons into the United States, we feel we are reasonably qualified to comment affirmatively on the positions and conclusions taken by Mr. Kvale. In summary, we feel that a sensible modification of the National Firearms laws, permitting a feasible distribution of automatic weapons among the citizens, augurs nothing but good if prop-

erly handled. We cannot but believe also that the Federal government would be relieved from an almost incredible amount of paper work which attends the internal transfer and import and export of automatic weapons. This paper work arose out of the obsolete legislation passed decades ago to help cure a situation which is now unconstitutional—namely, national prohibition. In spite of the splendid cooperation which we receive from the federal authorities, we feel that they cannot help but experience the same sense of frustration as we do in the legal handling of automatic weapons. We would suggest repeal of the present legislation on this subject and a new law which would permit qualified parties to own weapons without payment of fees obviously designed to extinguish any traffic in the commodity in question. We can see no basic objection for having such arms registered, but such registration, we submit, should never be attended with prohibitive fees or impossible qualifications.

In any event, we thank you for your fine article and look forward to seeing more like it in your own and other publications purporting to act in the shooters' interest.

Samuel Cummings, Vice-President
International Armament Corporation
Washington, D. C.

Handload Hazards

Your article "Handloading Bench" was interesting but also misleading.

I have been in the gun business a lot of years, and am listed in the May 1951 Recommended Gunsmith list. This was at Hot Springs, Arkansas. I have sold a lot of high power rifles and reloading equipment. I have seen a number of blown up rifles and every one had been blown up with hand loads. I have never seen a rifle that was blown up by factory loads.

It doesn't make sense to me that a person can buy a set of tools and with no experience make better ammunition than our factories. Immature reloaders are more likely to make mistakes.

I hunt in Colorado and Texas each year and always use factory ammunition. I hate to sell a nice rifle and have the owner blow it up with ammo that he souped up.

Jack Culpepper
Mt. Pleasant, Texas

Help For Left-Handers

Have just finished reading your article in GUNS about us long suffering left handed shooters. It was well done and is the first article I have ever seen in my years as a target shooter that ever tried to help the left hander.

William W. Heil
Dumont, N. J.



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Congratulations of top U.S. pistolman Joe Benner catches Russian Makhmoud Oumarov off-guard. Thought first in free pistol match, Oumarov was later judged second, edged out by Finn Pentti Linosvuo. Third was U. S. Offut Pinion.



WHY American Shooters LOST the OLYMPICS

U.S. SHOOTERS, GUNS, AND AMMUNITION ARE AS GOOD AS ANY.

WHY MUST WE CONTINUE TO BE "ALSO RANS" IN OLYMPIC COMPETITION?

By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS

THE SHELLACKING our rifle and pistol teams took in the Olympic games at Melbourne came as a stunning shock to those who have liked to brag that America is a nation of dead-eye marksmen. Against tough, out-to-win international competition, the United States took just one lowly third-place medal out of the entire program of rifle, pistol, and shotgun matches. The real dead-eye dicks at Melbourne were the Russians, who took three of the seven first-place medals. The other four firsts went one each to Romania, Italy, Canada, and Finland. The Long Rifle boys in buckskin must have spun in their coffins.

Yet no one should have been surprised that we lost the Olympic shooting. We have been losing Olympic shooting matches in large numbers and with great consistency throughout the 60 years since the modern revival of the ancient games. In all those 60 years we have won the Olympic shooting championship only twice, the last time in 1924. We have won exactly one golden first in Olympic pistol competition in the past 32 years. Our rifle record is not much better, with a total of six firsts since 1920. The best we have been able to tally in the past three decades in the overall Olympic shooting aggre-



Russ .22 upsidedown pistol of Tcherkassov and Sorokine created many protests at Olympics, has been banned.

Ljungman auto rifle shot by Olaf Skoldberg in running deer duel with Romanenko gained second place for Swede.



American smallbore champ Arthur Jackson fired good score of 583 x 600 with his M52 Douglas-barreled match rifle, but not good enough, gaining only 31st place.

gate was second in 1948. We placed fourth in 1952—two places below the Russians, who had not entered Olympic competition since 1908. And now, in 1956 at Melbourne, the iron-curtain boys have pinned our ears back again, and good.

Why have our efforts these past 30 years been so dismally unsuccessful? Why can't we field a team that will assert our dominance in a field which each of us, I think rightly, is certain that we excel? Do we not have some

18,000,000 shooters in this country? Do we not have range facilities, the best in weapons and ammunition, expert coaches, national organization, enthusiasm for shooting? Yes, we have all of these. Why, then, this abominable, agonizing, every four-years failure?

The fault has not been with the shooters—but with the system. The men we sent to the Olympics in Melbourne are top-flight shooters—in their own kind of competition. The teams we have sent to past Olympics have been top-

Speedy Ross M1910 straight-pull rifles were used by Vladimir Sevriouguine (left) third, and Vitalii Romanenko first, in Running Deer event. Guns had special fluted barrels to cut weight but not stiffness. Sights were micro-click type.





Russian shooter Sevriouguine's rifle was custom-built on M1910 Ross action with bolt which feeds by slamming back and forth, is fast as handle does not turn.



flight shooters. Their losses were not from lack of skill, or lack of trying. But you can't win against today's brand of Olympic competition without smart long-range planning and all-out preparation. And American shooters have had neither.

Russia, on the other hand, has entered the Olympic games competition just three times: first in 1908 when she made a poor showing, next in 1952, and finally in 1956 at Melbourne. In 1952 at Helsinki, according to the strictly unofficial tabulation of all events as worked out by the newspaper boys, Russia finished a strong second. And last year, at Melbourne, she whopped us.

Some of our analysts have pointed out that we took 'em in the track and field events which were the original

Olympic contests, that the Russkies won the overall title largely by excellence in gymnastics or some-such. There is truth in this; but Russia does not consider shooting a minor, unimportant sport. She thinks shooting is pretty basic in preparing men and nations to face world problems. So thinking, Russia prepared accordingly, and took three gold medals and the shooting championship. Take those three gold firsts away from Russia and give them to U. S. shooters, and the United States would have won the Olympics. Instead, Russia was the winner. And that victory, with its implication of world athletic supremacy as played up in the Communist press, proves that winning the Olympics is no longer a simple little horseshoe-pitching prize but a propaganda weapon of sizeable proportions.

Romanian Constantin Antonescu shot custom mauser with glare-shade stretched along the barrel in free rifle event.



Evgeniï Tcherkassov's upside-down pistol brought him 2nd place in silhouette shoot. His 585 topped past record.





Running deer target mounted on rail dolly flashes across Olympic competitors' line of sight in about four seconds.



Canadian Gerald Quelling set amazing world record of 600 x 600, grinned when coach Gilmour Boa told him.

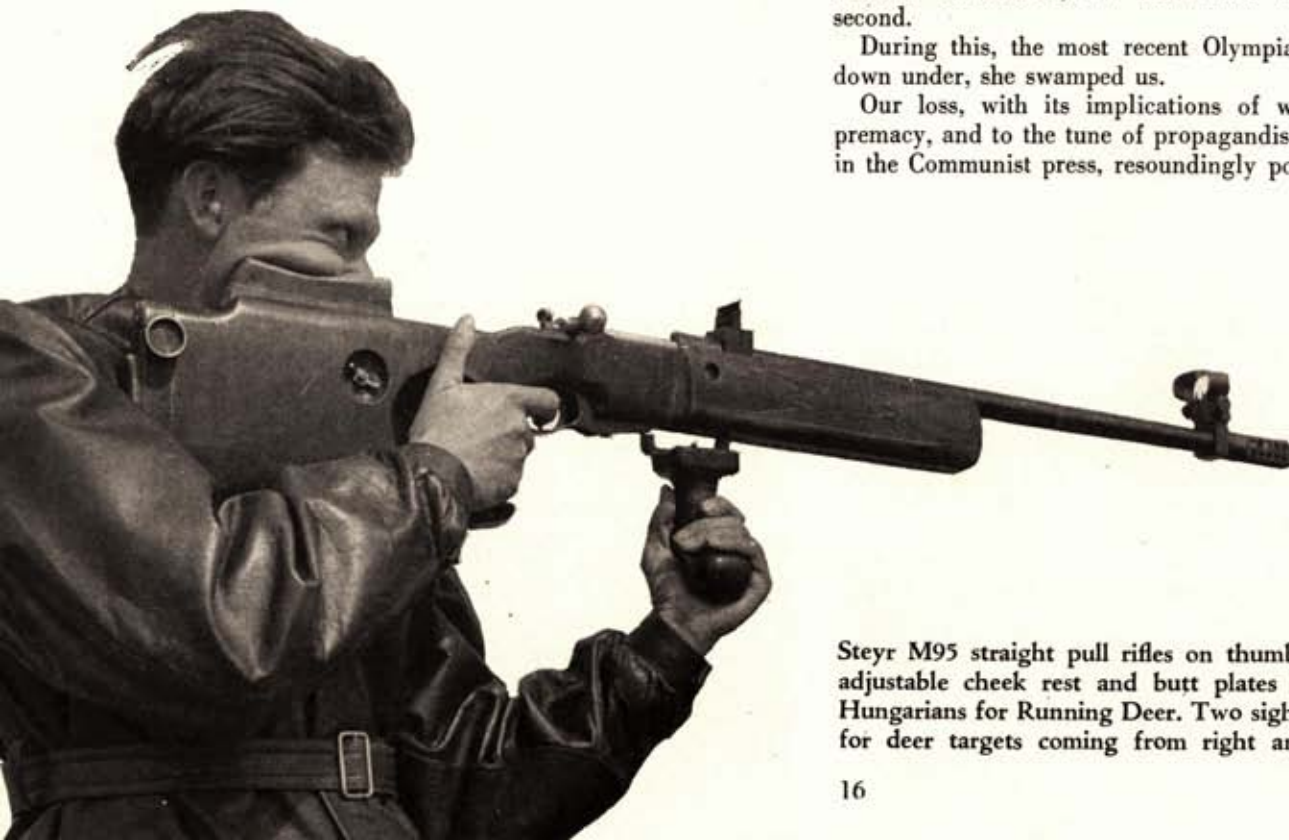
Let's take a look at the recent history of the Olympic games and at the part the United States shooting teams have played in them.

Best we have been able to tally these past three decades was a second place in 1948, and an inglorious 4th in '52. A fourth place which rang us up well behind the Ruskies, who green and raw, bulked large in second position.

Now the Iron Curtain representatives of B & K have pinned our ears back yet again. Russia has entered the Olympics but three times. First in 1908 when her showing was ignominious, again in 1952, and more lately only a few months ago. In '52 during the XV Revival at Helsinki, in a tabulation of all athletic events—an unofficial tally dreamed up by the newspaper boys—allegedly frowned upon by the Olympic fathers who fatuously contend the Games are for the individual and transcend national boundaries, the Muscovites finished a strong second.

During this, the most recent Olympiad, at Melbourne down under, she swamped us.

Our loss, with its implications of world athletic supremacy, and to the tune of propagandistic drum-beatings in the Communist press, resoundingly points up that win-



Steyr M95 straight pull rifles on thumbhole stocks with adjustable cheek rest and butt plates were favored by Hungarians for Running Deer. Two sight posts were used for deer targets coming from right and left of range.



Australian Peter Wrigley who scored low on the 300-meter free rifle list fired a rebuilt .303 Remington Enfield.

ning the Olympic accolade is no longer a simple little horseshoe-pitching but another propaganda facet in the war for men's minds.

Some of our analysts have smugly pointed out that we took 'em in the track and field events, the original contests of the ancient Greeks, and that the drosky drivers annexed the overall title on the muscle-bound capabilities of their gymnasts. There is truth in this but it cannot be gainsayed that the seven gold first place medals we dumped in the shooting events (the Communist took us 37 gold medals to 32) was not a major contributing factor in our loss.

The games were revived in 1896 at Athens. As compared with today's extravaganzas, these games were not very impressive, with thirteen nations participating and only 484 athletes present. Despite the modest program, shooting matches were on the bill of fare. Some eight nations elected to enter the lists and five handgun and rifle matches were fired. We split honors with the Greeks, who took three gold medals to our two. The brothers, John and Sumner Paine upheld Yankee shooting tradition. But the unofficial marksmanship title, an important consideration then as now, fell to the host nation.

The games of 1900 saw an expanded program with 23 shooting matches, including rifle, sixshooter, shotgun, and for the first time, a running deer match. Mark this match well. It was included as a regular event more than a half-century ago and scarce an Olympiad has been staged since that the deer has not presented his galloping silhouette.

The French had it nip-and-tuck with their neighbors the Swiss and won out eight firsts to six in that 1900 shooting. The U. S. had to be content with one measly gold badge.



Swedish auto rifle used by Olaf Skolberg (in white cap) on Running Deer range was studied by Australian GI's.

Four years later, at St. Louis, with only seven nations competing, the games were a sort of sideshow to the World's Fair, and our shooting fathers evinced so little interest in the planning of the games that no marksmanship events were programmed.

In 1906, Athens was again the site of the Olympiad. Shooting having been reinstated, France once more evidenced her superiority by repeating her win of six years before. And not only did France walk off with more than the lion's share of the shooting plunder; she annexed the overall Olympic championship as well. The record book shows that the French won 14 to 12 for the United States. Presumably the 14 and the 12 refer to gold medals. It is significant that France won four gold medals in the shooting events, the Yankees none. Had we swept the rifle-pistol field we'd have garnered not only the shooting accolade but the infinitely more important Olympic diadem.

In 1908 the British copped (Continued on page 50)

CROWS are TRICKY TARGETS



Crow which fell before scoped high-velocity .22 on Springfield action made a black bullseye on white snow.

**CROWS WILL OUT-THINK YOU, MOCK YOU, DODGE
YOUR BEST-AIMED BULLETS — BUT THEY ARE FUN TO
SHOOT WITH ALL RIFLES, FROM PLINKER TO SUPER VARMINTER**

By BOB BELL

HAVE
FUN
WITH
GUNS

TO MOST SHOOTERS, "varmint rifle" means only "a rifle to shoot woodchucks." The chuck is the target that gets the publicity when the fellows with the bull-barreled scope-sighted wildcat smallbores write about their favorite sport—and this is fine: chuck shooting is fine sport and one that expands hunting into a year-around rather than a seasonal activity. But there's another target, some think it an even more challenging target, that offers itself in numbers practically everywhere a rifle can be unlimbered, that provides off-season fun for every shooter. That target is the wily crow.

Maybe Dr. Franklin Mann started the pattern over half a century ago when, after stating in *"The Bullet's Flight"* that no rifle then available had the characteristics needed to kill crows, he went on to relate a woodchuck hunting experience.

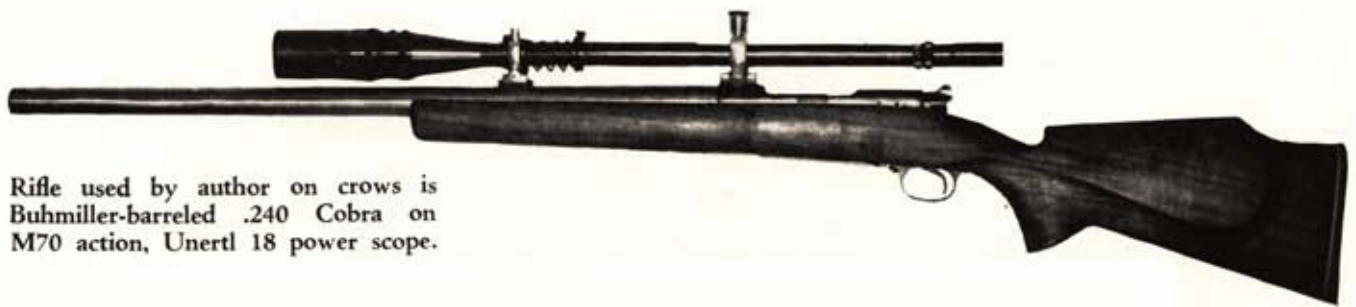
Probably no one then living knew more about rifles and accurate ammunition than Dr. Mann. However, steady progress has been made through the years and we now have rifles and loads which will kill crows at

respectable distances. (They often miss, too, as anyone who has ever watched me shoot can testify.)

Maybe one question should be settled first. A number of people have asked, "Why shoot crows at all? They're no good to eat, so why spend a lot of time and money to kill them?"

There are a number of answers to this question. We might tell them how destructive crows are to crops, or how they cut down small game populations by eating countless duck, pheasant, grouse, and songbird eggs, and how they kill small rabbits and birds. These are good reasons. But the real reason that we enjoy shooting crows is—because it's so darned much fun, and—because they're so hard to hit.

This last may sound like a contradictory statement, but it will stand up under examination. No one gets any real thrill out of doing something ordinary. As one's skill in any sport increases, he wants something more difficult to try it on. The gallery shooter who finds possibles from prone almost monotonous, wants to shoot them



Rifle used by author on crows is Buhmiller-barreled .240 Cobra on M70 action, Unertl 18 power scope.



Crow-shooter sights in Mauser with .22-250 premium Pfeifer barrel and Unertl 12X scope from bench rest.

Crow shooter leans against tree and takes advantage of every aid to good accuracy when in the field.

from the sitting, then from the kneeling, and finally from the standing positions. As soon as something becomes easy, it loses appeal.

It's the same with varmint shooting. At first the shooter uses a .22 rim-fire with iron sights and kills chucks at 35 yards. Then he adds a scope and doubles the range. Then he wants something to kill them further and gradually works his way through the various cartridges available, generally choosing those which give successively higher velocities. In a few years he can kill chucks consistently at 300 yards, and often enough at 400 yards that it loses its wild, impossible thrill for him and gives only a quiet, satisfying feeling. He's become a top-notch rifleman, a real chuck hunter. This may satisfy him for a lifetime of shooting. Or—he may seek other worlds to conquer.

Then the question arises: Where do we go from here?

Few areas will offer safe shooting at chucks at really long yards, so the logical step seems to





Pennsylvania hunter knocked down two crows at long range with Lee-dot Weaver K-8, Buehler mounts, on .219 Mauser rifle. Black crows show up clearly in snowy fields.

be to shoot at smaller targets. The only target that qualifies in this respect in most parts of the country is the common crow.

The crow is not only smaller than the chuck—perhaps only 25% as large—but for our money he's a lot smarter. Sure, we've all heard about the old silver-tipped chuck living in Brown's back pasture, the one that dives in whenever anyone comes within 300 yards with a rifle. He had the range of a Hornet down pat. But he didn't learn about the fella with the heavy barrel .240 Rock-chucker until it was too late.

It's different with crows. Usually they'll be seen in numbers and, when one is shot at, the others are alerted to the danger accompanying the car parked two hundred yards away. And if one is killed, their education is immediately complete! From that time on those crows are suspicious of every car that stops within a quarter of a mile. They have the ability to learn from the experience of others. For two reasons, then, crows are more sporting targets than chucks. First, it's harder to get a shot at them; second, they're harder to hit.

Winter is our favorite time for crow hunting. With snow on the ground they show up well at long range and the hunter is given time to plan an approach which will offer a safe shot. They are also scattered more at this time of year, which offers better shooting than when they are in large flocks. We have had best results in early morning when they are feeding. Shots are scarce at mid-day, and later in the day when they are returning to the roost it's difficult to obtain any shooting worth mentioning.

Probably most crow shooting is done with the car, by cruising the dirt roads and taking shots as they come. A large area can be covered in this manner, but extreme care must be taken with the shooting. The crows which are easiest seen are usually sitting on the skyline and to take a shot under these circumstances means letting a bullet float over the hill. This is a very risky business and should never be done. That bullet is going to come down somewhere, possibly a couple of miles away in the case of the larger cartridges, and is liable to do a lot of damage. There are too many people against varmint

shooters already and there is no use giving them more reason to complain.

When a crow is seen from the car, the chances of getting a shot are best if it is attempted before coming up to the target. If a car stops after passing a crow it usually lies before the shooter can get out and get organized. Incidentally, it is illegal to shoot from, or have a loaded gun in, the car in many states. If there are two or more hunters in a car, the shooter can get out when the car is momentarily hidden from view, such as behind a cut bank, and will often get a shot while the crow watches the car being driven away by the partner.

Many shooters have the habit of dawdling over the shot, trying to improve their aim although it is already good enough. On crows, the quicker the shot is taken, the better. They have an uncanny knack of sitting still long enough for all preparations to be made, then flying before the trigger breaks. This happens often enough to convince crow shooters there is something super-natural about these black critters! Also, in very cold weather one's eyesight tends to blur if aim is held too long.

Crows are natural enemies of hawks and owls and this provides a method of obtaining good shooting. A mounted hawk or owl can be placed on a pole or in a tree in such position that the shooter can bed down in a hidden spot which offers a safe field of fire from 150 to 250 yards away. The crow call will soon have them landing in nearby trees, affording shooting. In this situation a cartridge of moderate report is first choice, or a reduced charge in the high pressure jobs can be used, especially since the range is known and can even be zeroed in.

The outfit to be used for crow killing is governed largely by the land-owners of the area. Unless the people around you have been educated to the fact that the noisier loads are not necessarily the most dangerous ones, the cartridge must be one that does not have a report that is objectionable. It definitely pays a shooter to take some time to explain the ballistic "facts of life" to the farmer on whose land he's hunting. *(Continued on page 45)*



Author's wife found patience to sit and wait for crows as necessary to make kills as accuracy of her .222 Sako.

One rifle, one hunter, one pair of binoculars, one spotter, make an excellent crow-shooting combination for long range field work. Man with glasses can locate the sentinel crows, direct hunter to make hits.



Rifles of the CONFEDERACY

SOUTHERN GUNMAKERS PERFORMED MIRACLES IN MAKING
GOOD RIFLES WITH FEW TOOLS FROM POOR MATERIALS



Beside his Enfield copy, possibly by Cook & Bro., lies Confederate soldier in stillness of death. U.S. rifle across body may be photographer Brady's prop.

By JAC WELLER

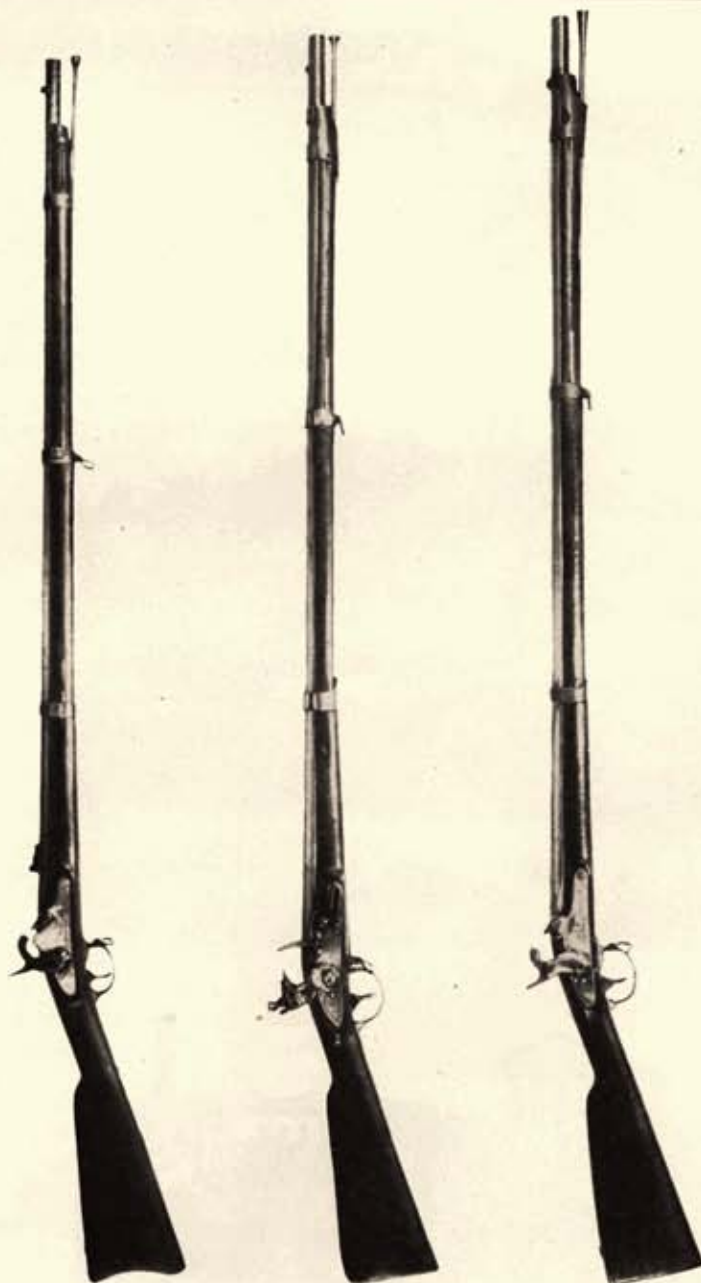
SHARPSBURG, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg. No words in world history stand higher on the roll of human courage. Men never fought harder, and General Lee and his gray and butternut army came close to achieving a military miracle. The story of the general and the Confederate cause is well known. But the rifles of Confederate infantry, the weapons upon which hinged the success or failure of southern military power, are almost unknown.

As late as the spring of 1862, the Confederacy was near collapse for lack of munitions of war. Soon thereafter, almost miraculously, adequate supplies of arms were always on hand. To Josia Gorgas, Confederate general of ordnance, to Master Armorers Solomon Adams and Colonel James Burton, and to the armorers and smiths of a dozen small arsenals scattered through the southern states, goes the credit for achieving the impossible. Ploughshares were literally beaten into swords, and for shooting irons, the southern smiths hammered old iron and brass scrap into muskets. The peaceful churchbells of Macon, Georgia, and bells from hundreds of other churches, rang out a new and very different tune when they were melted down and moulded into weapons of war.

At the beginning of the Civil War more than 90% of the manufacturing power of the continent was in the North. Failure of Commissioner John Mason to get England into the war on the side of the South, and the tightening blockade of southern ports, brought the Confederacy near to defeat in the spring of 1862 for want of munitions. Confederate War Secretary Judah Benjamin had given President Davis an estimate calling for 200,000 rifles



Cannon were pitted against rifles at Shiloh by troops of North and South who stood up to shoot at each other.



Richmond rifle, Virginia Manufactory musket, and Palmetto Armory cap-locks (l. to r.) were main Southern-made long guns.



Cook rifle copies Enfield (top); J. P. Murray and Palmetto rifles (2nd & 3rd) were styled like U.S. M1841; Fayetteville rifle (bottom) used Harpers Ferry parts.



for infantry. Davis revised it five fold and presented his demands to the Congress for 1,000,000 rifles at once and more later. The response was small. After the war General Gorgas estimated that less than 40,000 rifles and muskets were manufactured during the first two years of the war for the general government, and possibly 5,000 long arms made in the same period for the individual Southern states. Because the southern draft took skilled laborers along with rich planters and poor hill farmers, production declined in the last two years of the war. At the most, about 70,000 small arms of all types were made in the South during the war. The larger portion of these, some 60,000 approximately, were infantry rifles and muskets.

Confederate-made infantry rifles followed three basic patterns. The southern gunmakers copied, rather than exactly duplicated, these types and as a consequence there are variations and "cross-breeds." Most important were copies of the U.S. 1855 Rifle and Rifle-musket. The

Machinery from Harpers Ferry Arsenal (top photo at right) was taken to State Arsenal in Richmond (at waterline) seen from warf of Tredegar cannon foundry.



Richmond musketoon made by tools from Harpers Ferry Arsenal used unfinished salvage U.S. lock blanks forged for Maynard tape primer (right.)



Rifles of Confederate skirmishers (left) took toll of Ohio volunteers charging at battle of Stone River but larger U.S. forces overcame the "butternuts."

second basic pattern was the "Mississippi" or U.S. Model 1841 rifle. The third was the short and long Enfield. Many state and one government contractors copied this excellent English military rifle in various barrel lengths.

To the military historian, the production of such weapons is a fascinating study. To the collector, the types and variations have much interest. But to the reflective citizen of today the story of Confederate arms has even greater significance. As we draw near to the centennial of the Civil War it is worth remembering that a part of the United States was able under the most adverse conditions of enemy occupation, guerrilla warfare, battle, and siege, to supply its armies with serviceable arms.

Forced to convert from an agricultural society to a manufacturing system almost overnight, the Confederacy ended the war with a large manufacturing potential of trained mechanics and factories.

The main Confederate arms factory was at Richmond, Virginia. Over half of all the infantry weapons made in the south were turned out at the "C.S.

Armory, formerly Virginia Armory, at the southern terminus of Fifth Street." Originally set up about 1800 as a private armory to supply militia of the Old Dominion State, the Virginia Manufactory made muskets from 1802 until about 1821. Many of these flintlock muskets were in the hands of local militia or in storage at the opening of the war. They were of slight battlefield importance because most of them were in poor condition. After John Brown's attack on Harpers Ferry in 1859, Virginia authorities moved to re-activate the old armory.

U.S. Secretary of War John B. Floyd, later a Confederate general, authorized the Virginia master armorer, Solomon Adams, to go to Springfield Armory in Massachusetts. There Adams constructed a model arm after the U.S. 1855 pattern and made sketches of all the tools necessary to produce every part of this standard U.S. rifle. These tools were supposed to be made by Joseph Anderson's Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond. Before the order could be completed, in April, 1861, the bombardment of Fort Sumpter (Continued on page 34)



Richmond rifle was assembled from Harpers Ferry blank lock and captured U.S. 1863 barrel.



Jaguar taken recently in Mexican uplands is smallest of two varieties but seems to satisfy outfitter Tex Purvis (fourth from left) who set up hunt for U.S. sportsman.

GUNS FOR

Tapir shot by author Gowen fell to one .35 bullet from Marlin striking just under the eye. Tropical "river horse" makes very good eating, but has become rare.



THOUSANDS of American hunters have, for years, looked longingly at Old Mexico as a potential sportsman's paradise—and they were right. The country has everything in the way of game from the grizzlies of Sonora and Chihuahua to the fast and dangerous jaguars of the wild, wet Tabasco jungles. You can take your choice of just about any game found elsewhere on the North American continent, plus jungle animals not to be found "north of the border." Wildfowl and upland game birds are here in dazzling variety and numbers. Yet Mexico has been little more than a *mañana* land to U. S. hunters because of the unsympathetic attitude of Mexican officials regarding the passage of armed strangers across *el Rio Bravo del Norte*, the Rio Grande.

Strict regulations regarding visitors may have been, probably were, necessary in the days of the revolutions, but Mexico is awake now to the importance of *turistas* and

This magnificent "faisan real," or royal pheasant was downed by guide Floyd Cranfield who uses Fox double 12 on many varieties of Mexican game birds.

**EL TIGRE IS JUST ONE OF
AMAZING VARIETY OF
GAME AWAITING U. S.
HUNTERS IN MEXICO
UNDER NEW LAW PERMIT-
TING EASIER ENTRY**

By EMMETT GOWEN



MEXICAN HUNTING

the tourist dollar, and the rules regarding hunter entries have been considerably modified. By following proper procedures any reputable United States citizen can now take four guns across the border, with 100 rounds of ammunition for each. Exceptions are 7 mm and .45 caliber arms and ammunition, and revolvers and pistols. The 7 mm and .45 caliber arms are prohibited because these are Mexican military calibers, and the handguns—well, visitors are simply told, as I was, that handguns are not hunting weapons. The handgun actually is an important hunting weapon in Mexico, but that doesn't change the regulation.

A hunting trip "south of the border" is truly an adventure into strange and picturesque places, among ancient peoples unchanged down through the centuries. Mexico is a land of spectacular contrast and variety, from tropical jungle to desert plain to towering mountains. Hunting guides range from the Tarahumara Indians of the high

sierras to the gentle Mayas of Yucatan and the isthmus, all experts in their own varieties of woodcraft. For game, you can choose between white-tail, black-tail, mule, or dwarf jungle deer; you can find peccary, boar, ocelot, mountain lion, tapir (cousin to the horse and also to the "river horse," the rhinoceros); you can shoot upland birds of many kinds, or wildfowl in concentrations such as you have never seen; or you can go, as we did, for *el tigre*, the Mexican jaguar of bloody legend.

The first step, of course, was to get permits for my entry into Mexico with guns and ammunition. I got a statement from the sheriff of my county (it must be from a sheriff; a local police chief's statement is not enough), proclaiming me a citizen of good character and conduct. A passport photo was stuck on this paper and I forwarded it to the Mexican consulate having jurisdiction over the area where I lived. The consul issued a permit for me to take my guns



Heavy-bullet punch of .35 Marlin gave Gowen good all-around combo for medium and large Mexican game.



High-velocity scoped .270 or .300 bolt gun like M70 will be needed for elk and sheep in Mexico's high sierras.

into Mexico. At the border, or at Mexico City airport, the Mexican army registered my guns by their serial numbers and issued permits to carry them into the republic of Mexico for hunting purposes. Generally, guns in Mexico are carefully controlled, especially in election years.

I spent two hunting seasons working with the man who made this easy entry for hunters possible. He is Tex Purvis, an American living in Mexico, a tall, powerful man with a rugged jaw, who wears a baseball cap and looks more like

a Dodger roofer than a safari manager. A professional guide and outfitter, Purvis learned the hunting business in Wyoming. But it was his love of hunting and his recognition of the great possibilities for the sport in Mexico that changed the law.

The anti-firearms law had, since 1916, prohibited U. S. citizens from crossing the border with "hunting arms." Tex, backed by Pablo Bush Romero of Mexico City, did the missionary work in getting *(Continued on page 39)*

Spiny iguana was knocked off while sunning on rock by No. 4's in Fox doublegun; made "rock chicken" for stew.





WHAT SCOPE FOR BIG GAME

B & L Balvar with 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4X magnification on Remington M721 makes good practical game-getting combination.

**FIELD OF VIEW AND GOOD DEFINITION
IN BAD LIGHT ARE MORE IMPORTANT
THAN MAGNIFICATION IN SELECTING
SCOPES FOR BIG GAME HUNTING**

By FRANCIS E. SELL

HUNTERS ARE JUST LIKE PEOPLE—they listen to gossip. Let a favorite gun writer get enthusiastic about one rifle or one piece of hunting equipment, and a lot of hunters reflect that enthusiasm. Multiply this a few times and you've got a trend. Let a trend run a few years and you have an accepted fact. The trouble is that accepted facts are not always true.

Take the matter of scope sights for big-game rifles. Time was when no old-time hunter would be caught dead with any such fancy riggin'. Which was foolish, as all but the most die-hard of the old timers will now admit. The question now is, what scope? Not what brand, but what specifications—what magnification, what type of reticle, what other attributes are best for big-game hunting?

Gossip that has become a trend that has become accepted

8X Bushnell scope in Buehler mounts is perfect for long range but lacks field of view needed for snap shooting.





Lyman All-American offset in Griffin & Howe mount works well on lever rifles.



Pecar 8 x 43 with interchangeable reticles is good for long range shots.



Bushnell 4X with built-in adjustments is fine hunting scope with wide field.



Bear Cub 2 3/4 X combines slightly increased power with desirable wide field.

Echo mount for windage and elevation scopes leaves minimum base on rifle.



fact favors scopes with four-power magnification fitted with cross-hair reticles. A prominent manufacturer of rifle scopes testified to the wide-spread acceptance of this trend when he stated that 90 per cent of his customers demand cross-hair reticles and 70 per cent demand four-power magnification. These are big percentages. But is this the best scope combination for the big-game hunter?

The best way I know to figure out what is the best tool for the job is to find out, first, exactly what the job is. Any experienced big-game hunter knows that the long-range shot at standing game is the rare one. It makes a wonderful picture, and it's the dream of every hunter—the chance to really lay a fine bead and put the slug just where it's wanted for an instant kill; the chance to pace the distance and brag about it over a hundred campfires. But—how often do you get it?

For every shot like that, you'll get dozens that will fall in one or the other of these two categories: at deer busting out of a thicket and high-tailing through the semi-open of a hardwood ridge—or at deer moving out of darkening woods into their feeding grounds in the bad light of early morning or late afternoon. And for every deer that is actually killed at long range, scores fall within 100 yards of the rifle. Most deer, as a matter of strict fact proved by statistics, are killed about 50 yards from the hunter—and this is true in the western as well the eastern hunting areas.

So what you want in a scope is something that will help you nail these most frequent targets: something that will get you "on" running deer quickly, something that will help you hit in bad light.

These, then, were the problems I had in mind as I set out to do some testing: What is the best scope for shots at running game? What is the best scope for late evening and early morning hunting? What is the best scope reticle for big-game hunting? How about power (magnification), brightness, diameter of exit pupil, field of view, eye relief? The answers I got were surprising.

Because it's a prime factor in the handling of that commonest-of-all big-game targets, the running deer, let's look first at the matter of field of view.

Suppose a hunter tries to take that deer crossing the hardwood ridge. The range is about 50 yards. The hunter is using a 6X (six-power) scope—and



For the dream shot at standing game on open range, 6X scope magnification can pay off in exact bullet placement, but most American game is killed at short range, often in bad light, where definition and field of view are essentials.

many such scopes are used on big-game rifles. In fact, the same manufacturer who gave the percentage-of-preference figures on the 4X scope and cross-hair reticle told me that the hunter's next preference in scope power is almost equally divided between 2½ and 6X.

The 6X scope gives this hunter a field of view at 50 yards of exactly ten feet. (In reading scope specifications, field of view is given, in feet, at 100 yards. It gets smaller at shorter ranges, larger at long ones.) Try getting that jumping, fast moving target inside that ten-foot circle—try keeping him there long enough for you to place your sight where you want the bullet to hit, and squeeze your trigger. If you do it, you've performed a miracle.

Verdict? That 6X scope would be an excellent choice for sniping at woodchuck or ground squirrels, but—it wasn't made for close-range big-game shooting in wooded country.

Five things are essential in a big game hunting (Continued overleaf)



Trophy proves effectiveness of this 3X scope .348 Winchester M71 big-game combination. Hunting conditions, not power, should govern scope selection.



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scope: wide field of view, plenty of eye relief, good resolution, good light-gathering ability, and proper reticule. A 2½X scope has a generous field of view of 44 feet. At 50 yards, it gives you a 22 foot circle—enough to enable you to place the reticule on a fast-moving deer and keep on him—if all the other factors of a good hunting scope are present: good eye relief, good resolution, light gathering ability, and a proper reticule.

Resolution, or clear definition, is the least understood of all big-game hunting scope requirements. It starts with proper exit pupil diameter in the scope. Under good, bright light, the pupil of the human eye adjusts to about 2 or 3 millimeters. At dusk, or under poor light, it enlarges to about 5 millimeters, or a relative brightness of 25. For good clear viewing under adverse light conditions, a scope sight must have an exit pupil of at least 5.25 millimeters.

A scope exit pupil of 7 to 8 millimeters is much better because it is less critical of eye placement as the rifle is snapped to the shoulder for a fast shot. Under the stress of the essence, it isn't always possible to cheek the stock precisely in the same manner each time. In typical eastern whitetail deer covers, this is especially true.

Most 2½X to 4X scopes of the better makes have exit pupils of around 8 millimeters. This gives a relative brightness of 64—something which is directly connected with good resolution, ability to bring out detail, even though this is essentially a matter of precision-ground lenses. A good, high grade scope of from 2½X to 4X should have the ability to resolve ¼" lines at 100 yards, which means lines placed this far apart should appear separate.

Another factor of equal importance in a hunting scope is eye relief, the distance (or span of distances) between the scope eye piece and the shooter's eye. Just as it is not always possible to have your eye exactly centered behind the scope to catch the image in a critically small exit pupil, so you must also have a hunting scope with plenty of eye relief to enable you to aim quickly. The average good quality scope, such as the Lyman Alaskan, Bushnell ScopeChief, Bausch & Lomb Balfor and Balvar, the Texan, and others, have eye relief of from 3" to 5" in the 2½ to 4 powers. That means that if your eye is not more than five or less than three inches away from your scope, you will get a clear-cut view of your target. This is a full two inches of leeway in which to see without blurring; enough so that there need be no loss of time in cheeking the stock just exactly right when you are trying to

get on that always allusive whitetail buck, mule deer, or bull elk.

Increase the power of the scope and you get less eye relief. This is a payment which must always be made for more power. A 3X has an eye relief, on an average, of 3 to 4¼ inches, instead of 3 to 5 inches; and when you go to a 4X powered scope, the eye relief is from 3 to 4½ inches,—just 1½ inches of leeway in eye placement for a clear target. That is not too critical, but it is indicative of the little prices one pays for extra magnification.

Increase magnification and you cut down field of view, unless there is a corresponding increase in the size of the objective lens. The average 2½X scope has a field of view of 44 feet. The 3X covers 40 feet. The 4X has a field of view of 33 feet—all these at a hundred yards. A field of view of 33 feet is about as small as is practical on a scope for all around big game shooting.

But how about those long range big game shots? Wouldn't more power pay off here? Within reason, yes. Here is a place where a 6X or even an 8X scope would help. But remember, it is a specialized instrument; what you gain for this shot you pay for with loss of efficiency on the more common targets; and what you gain is not as much as some hunters think. It just isn't so that an 8X scope is twice as accurate as a 4X one. Studies made in the Bureau of Standards by Dr. Francis E. Washer to determine the effect of magnification on accuracy, showed very little difference, in terms of hunting needs, between scopes of different power. (His formula, incidentally, in case you go in for match as well as big game hunting, is as follows: PES = $\frac{4.962 + M}{.068}$.)

The probable error of aim between a 6X and 20X scope is .508 second for indoor shooting, slightly more for outdoor shooting due to air turbulence. A minute of angle is, roughly, one inch at a hundred yards. So it is readily apparent that an error of aim of .508 second is relatively unimportant from the standpoint of hunting accuracy.

Where a scope is selected for out and out sniping, such as long range mountain shooting, a bit of horse trading is in order. You can trade some relative brightness and field of view for additional magnification, though there are very practical limits to the power which can be efficiently used. It is doubtful if more than 8X or 10X is ever needed in a hunting scope. And these more powerful scopes must be readily adjustable for parallax for every range from 50 yards on out to a full 300 yards.

A much more important feature for the big-game hunting scope is the ability to re-

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solve a dimly lighted target into an unquestioned definition which will permit a humane kill in the uncertain light of early morning and late evening, and in the densely wooded areas where deer and elk range. How do the various powers and the different reticules stack up here?

To find answers to those questions, I began testing scopes under actual hunting conditions. The old orchard was an ideal hunter's laboratory. I took along a deer hide in order to have the proper colored target, such as a hunter would actually have during the autumn deer season. I set it up at a typical deer range of 75 yards.

I hoped that I could read the various degrees of light with a light meter, but as the evening advanced I found this impractical. So each scope tested—a 2½X, two 3X's with different reticules, a 4X, and an 8X—were given four light ratings: *Good definition, Fair Definition, Poor Definition, and Canceled Out*. Good definition showed a clear target. Fair definition showed a target clear enough for making a neck or shoulder shot. Poor definition was the least possible light under which a killing shot could be made. Canceled out meant that, although I could vaguely see the target, there would be plenty of chances for wounding if the shot were taken.

Reticules tested were: *post and crosshair* in the 3X and 4X; *4 minute dot* in a 3X; *medium crosshairs* in a 2½X, subtending 84 minutes of angle; *fine crosshairs* in a 8X, subtending .42 minutes of angle.

In addition to the scopes, I also ran tests on one rifle with iron sights as a check. This rifle had a good wide aperture (.093") such as I use in the woods for deer and elk, and a Redfield sordough front sight—a square gold bead .07" wide, set at an angle of 45 degrees to catch the skylight.

The first tests, made when the light was bad enough to make testing worthwhile, showed all the scopes rating *good definition*. So did the iron sights.

TEN minutes later, as the light worsened, the tests were repeated. These showed no significant change except in the 8X. This rated *poor* in this light. The deer hide, draped over some bracken under an apple tree, showed only as a indistinct blob. The iron sights canceled out at this time.

At the third test, half an hour after testing started, the 8X canceled out. The 3X with 4 minute dot rated *fair*. The 2½X with medium crosshairs, also rated *fair*. The 3X and 4X with post and crosshairs still rated *good*. Those large black posts blanked out a segment of target which could be placed easily on the aiming point.

On the fourth reading, 40 minutes after the test started and just as the first deer

actually came into the orchard to feed, the scope ratings were as follows: 2½X with medium crosshairs, *fair*. 3X with dot, *poor*. This would appear as a contradiction except for one thing. The dot reticule, in poor light, didn't have sufficient bulk to show, even as a dark recognizable shadow on the dim lit target. I tested it repeatedly on the deer hide, and on the game now coming into the orchard. The crosshairs, in direct comparison, while much less distinct than the large flat topped posts, covered sufficient field so that always some part of the reticule stood out against a slightly lighter part of the target. Then, of course, the lower powered scope had a slight advantage in light-gathering ability.

As the light became more critical, I tested at five minute intervals. At the fifth reading, 55 minutes after starting, the 3X dot reticule canceled out. At this time the 2½, medium crosshairs rated *poor*, while the 4X and 3X, post and crosshair, gave a *fair* reading. Fifteen minutes later the 2½X medium crosshair canceled out, topping the 3X dot reticule by fifteen minutes of usable light. Ten minutes later the post and crosshairs canceled out, ending the testing.

To summarize, the 4X and 3X with post and crosshair were usable for a full half hour after the 8X with fine crosshairs (and the iron sights) had canceled out. They topped the 3X dot reticule by twenty-five minutes of usable light, and the medium crosshairs by ten minutes of usable light.

The important consideration from the standpoint of trail watchers and still hunters is that this last 25 minutes of critical light is a time when such hunters are most likely to spot game. For them, late evening and early morning hunting always produces the majority of kills.

Naturally, different hunting methods require different tools. Many hunters object to post reticules because they block out sizeable segments of the target. These men, unless light is a major factor in their method of hunting, will prefer a dot or crosshair reticle. The point is—choose a scope that suits your need. Careful selection of proper hunting scopes and reticules will pay off in trophy dividends. It is a subject which deserves much more attention than the average big game hunter gives it.

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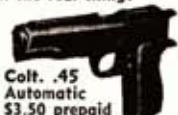
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RIFLES FOR THE CONFEDERACY

(Continued from page 25)

plunged the nation into war. Virginia seceded. In July 1861 a lightning raid of Stonewall Jackson's Virginia troops captured the Harpers Ferry Armory, second only to Springfield in manufacturing importance.

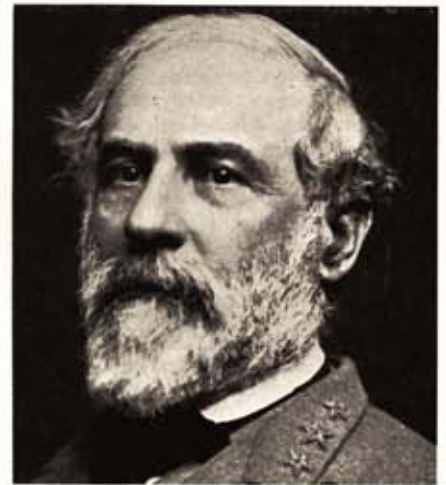
The captured machinery was sent to Richmond and installed in the Virginia Manufactory buildings. Only the stock turning machinery was made by the Tredegar works. The new C.S. Armory was almost at once crippled by internal state's rights claims. North Carolina demanded a share of the machinery, some of which was sent on to their Fayetteville Armory.

While basic machines—lathes, millers, drill presses—are common implements, the tools from Harpers Ferry constituted a complete set. There were no duplicate machines, even though two types of rifles were made there. The U.S. 1855 Rifle was a shorter weapon than the U.S. 1855 Rifle-Musket. There were duplicate barrel tools, and some duplication in stock making tools. But there was only one set of lock tools, and tools for other components common to both variations of the same basic arm. Col. James H. Burton, formerly superintendent of the British Enfield rifle factory, came down from Harpers Ferry where he was the U.S. Arsenal assistant master armorer to assume charge of production for the State of Virginia. Although he protested against the breaking up of the sets of tools, he selected those to send to North Carolina. Other machinery was lent to the Tennessee authorities where it may have been in use by Morse, one of the leading Southern inventors, designer of a metal cartridge breechloading carbine and a rifle lock mechanism.

Some of the first weapons assembled at Richmond from captured Harpers Ferry parts were used at First Manassas, but actual production of new arms did not start until October, 1861. The previous July, the Confederate Army Ordnance Bureau assumed charge of the Richmond Armory. Rifles made before July, 1861 are marked "Richmond Va" and those made after the transfer were stamped "CS Richmond Va".

RICHMOND was the best armory of the Confederacy. Bossed by Colonel Burton, with W. S. Downer of Harpers Ferry as Superintendent and Solomon Adams as Master Armorer, it was in the political heart of the South. Any problems which arose could be brought directly to the attention of General Gorgas. The workmen were largely exempted from military service. The one workman who was a battle casualty was a Home Guardsman called out to defend Richmond when Northern troops came near. His specialty was straightening barrels for the Armory and for another works, the Carbine Factory. Loss of this one craftsman cut several months barrel production by 50 per cent.

Three models of weapon were made in quantity at the Richmond Armory. Nearly 90 per cent of the total produced were infantry rifle-muskets, the long-barreled rifles of .53 caliber of the U.S. 1855 pattern. Two other models are less common. Both were cut-down weapons for special use, the so-called .59 caliber smoothbore short navy



General R. E. Lee commanded troops partly armed with Confederate-made rifles while campaigning in Virginia.

musketoon or marine carbine, and the even shorter carbine version of the rifle-musket for cavalry. Both these weapons were made mainly to use barrels which were defective at the muzzles, or other materials unfit for the rifle-musket. Records show that from October 1861 to January 6, 1864, the C.S. Armory, Richmond, produced 23,381 rifle-muskets, 1,225 muskets, and 2,764 cavalry carbines; a total of 27,370. They also assembled 12,212 additional shoulder arms from parts.

The next largest C.S. Armory was located at Fayetteville, North Carolina. Fayetteville received Harpers Ferry machinery to make rifle barrels, stocks and bands, but had to get or make the other parts necessary since Virginia had kept the lock-making tools. Fayetteville, in production by the spring of 1862 was credited with a capacity of 10,000 arms yearly but never produced over 250 arms in a month. Total production to the end of the war was probably about 7,000.

The Fayetteville rifle was copied after the M1855 U.S. rifle, brass mounted with browned barrel and casehardened lock. Lock plates are stamped with the year of production, except the very earliest which were undated. "CSA" with the "S" upside down is stamped under the Harpers Ferry eagle like the one used on lock plates of the regular U.S. Model 1841 rifles. The patch box was omitted on all except the very first ones put up on captured Harpers Ferry stocks.

Georgia's contribution to the war effort was the armory at Athens. Contractor to the general government, the firm of Cook & Brother (later the Athens Armory) made copies of the Enfield .58 or .577 rifle and also two shorter models called Artillery Musketoons and Cavalry Carbines.

The enterprise of F. W. C. Cook and Francis L. Cook of New Orleans had a hectic itinerary. Early in 1861 they set up a small shop in New Orleans making arms for the state of Louisiana. Then Admiral Farragut and General Benjamin "Beast" Butler captured the city in April, 1862. The Cooks shifted their machinery and some of their finished gun parts to flatboats and eventu-

ally got to Athens, Georgia. The Cook factory machinery was sold to the C. S. government in January, 1865. Confiscated by the Federal authorities, the buildings eventually were restored to the Cook family as private property. The Cooks were real patriots, who were not trying to make a fortune out of government orders. Major F. W. C. Cook was killed leading a Home Guard battalion of the Athens Armory employees fighting Sherman's army at Savannah in December of 1864.

The Cook guns are serially numbered. About 10,000 were made; 8,800 at Athens and 1,200 at New Orleans. Cook rifles have the locks stamped with the name and location before the hammer and a Confederate tag behind the hammer. "N.O." indicates New Orleans manufacture; the others are marked "Athens, Ga." The date and place of manufacture is also stamped usually on top of the barrel.

THE fourth factory designated as a Confederate National armory was taken over from a Colonel Pullam, originally located in Asheville, North Carolina. Local troubles caused the shift of this plant to Columbia, South Carolina in the spring of 1863. At Asheville about 120 men were at work and according to General Gorgas the shop could make 4,000 guns annually. It probably never made anywhere near this number. Asheville guns were stamped "Asheville, N.C." on the lock plates, but the marks and production after moving to Columbia are not known. They may have been unmarked. The basic rifle was a modified U.S. 1841 or "Mississippi" type of .577 or .58 caliber with 32½ inch barrel, brass mounted, and Enfield-type clamp barrel bands. A considered guess would put Asheville Armory production at 2,400 though the total may be much less. The Richmond Armory rolled barrels for them and supplied some tools.

An armory located deep inside Confederate territory at Holly Springs, Mississippi, seemed at the start of the war to have a good chance for survival. Yet the Holly Springs factory was the shortest lived of all the southern works. Jones, McIlwaine & Company organized the factory to make ornamental New Orleans-style grillwork for houses. When war broke out they obtained a contract to make 20,000 Mississippi rifles and 10,000 rifle muskets. To finance the business, the Confederate government had advanced \$60,000 by October, 1861, and local citizens had subscribed \$15,000 to help get new machinery. Eventually \$250,000 was advanced. This was a considerable sum, greater than the aid given to any other works during the war. Production capacity was supposed to be 2,000 arms a month, with deliveries starting in November 1861. Newspaper accounts indicate 25 to 40 shoulder arms were actually made daily, but the exact types are not mentioned. It is doubtful if the armory made many new weapons, although machinery was built and arms assembled from parts. Civilian arms were converted there to military use.

Holly Springs produced arms before the battle of Shiloh caused retirement of Confederate forces to Corinth. By April, 1862, the Union advance in Mississippi spelled the doom of the armory. The private owners sold their interest to the Confederate Government, and the factory was dismantled in the late spring. Machinery was sent

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first to Atlanta and later to the U.S. Army in Macon, Georgia. With the burning of the extensive factory buildings by Union forces in June, 1862, Holly Springs was finished.

TEXAS-made infantry arms for the Confederacy are extremely rare today, although a fairly large number were produced. Three men: Yarborough, Short and Biscoe, started a rifle factory in Tyler, Texas. Apparently only one token rifle was delivered on its contract with the Texas Military Board through November, 1863. The concern was sold to the Confederate Ordnance Bureau. The firm operated by a Mr. Tanner of Bastrop, Texas, did a little better. Exactly 264 Mississippi-type rifles had been made by him for Texas state troops by August, 1863.

Tyler became an arms center when the Red River Expedition of the Union Army caused machinery located at other points in the western Confederacy to be moved to Tyler for safety and use. Equipment from the Arkadelphia Army and the Fort Smith and Little Rock Arsenals in Arkansas was moved to Tyler, and set up in the Confederate-owned Scarborough, Short and Biscoe buildings. The plant became known as the Tyler Ordnance Works.

Texas weapons are rare today for a reason. They became private property at the end of the war and were literally worn out. Confederate troops in the Trans-Mississippi area never formally surrendered. They just dispersed, taking their rifles with them. Many Texas rifles were doubtless taken to Mexico by General Joe Shelby and his troops who rode to Mexico City looking for jobs as professional soldiers.

From what little is known, apparently the C.S. Tyler Armory made 1954 shoulder weapons between December 1, 1863, and the end of the war. Several types were made, including versions of the U.S. M1841 rifle known locally as the "Texas Rifle." At Tyler were made the Texas rifle, the short Texas cavalry rifle, the Hill rifle, and short Hill cavalry rifle, and some muskets as well as both Enfield-style and Austrian-style weapons made up around salvaged barrels.

The Hill rifle was probably made in Ark-

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adelphia before the machinery was moved to Tyler. The lock plates were held on by one side screw. Named for Colonel Gabriel H. Hill, commander of the Little Rock Ordnance Works and later Commanding Officer at Tyler, the guns were made in two lengths for infantry and cavalry. Some of the cavalry arms examined were built up with breechloading Hall carbine barrels, probably bored out and rifled.

Two other firms produced many Mississippi-type rifles. Billups & Son of Mound Prairie is said to have made between 1,100 and 1,600. At least 1,154 more of the same general pattern but with back-action locks are supposed to have been accepted by Confederate ordnance authorities from White, Carver, Campbell & Co. of Dusk, Texas.

In addition to the several major armories operated directly by the Confederate government, private state armories swelled the supply of small arms for the forces of the South. The fluctuations of battle fronts created many problems and few of these state armories produced any quantities. Tennessee's arms manufacture came to an end with the capture of Nashville early in 1862.

Alabama arms production was an exception. Alabama weapons were made even after Appomattox. Some Alabama arms were actually made in Georgia! An "Alabama Arms Manufacturing Co." was apparently in existence for some time and received money from the State of Alabama but didn't turn out many guns. South Carolina was more successful. At their Armory in Greenville a contract for 1,000 Morse carbines was being worked on and about 100 Morse patent inside lock .69 smoothbore muzzle-loading muskets were made.

PERHAPS the most unusual of the Confederate arms are the muzzle loading rifles assembled from parts of obsolete Hall breech-loading weapons salvaged from Harpers Ferry. The solid breech is cast brass, very roughly finished by hand filing. The stocks are completely handmade. It is thought that J. B. Barrett of Wytheville, Virginia, assembled these guns but proof is lacking.

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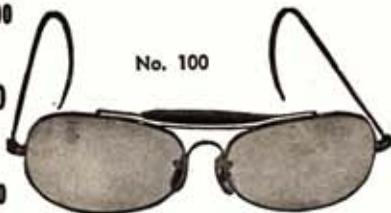
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MEXICAN HUNTING

(Continued from page 28)

the law amended. Romero has great influence in Mexican hunting circles. He is a big game hunter and author of a book in Spanish on African hunting. Together, they persuaded the authorities that hunter-tourists from the north might become as important to Mexico as foreign hunters are in Africa, and the government changed the law to permit a hunter to bring in rifles, shotguns, ammunition.

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Señor Bush, Tex and I hunted mountain lion in the sierras west of the City of Chihuahua, on the ranch of Sr. Urbano Zea, Jr. As guide we had a man who is undoubtedly the world's greatest cougar hunter, Jack Francis. He started hunting in 1914 as a friend and neighbor of Ben Lily's. His pack of hounds are descended purely, by inbreeding, from a female pup Ben gave him that year.

DURING the course of the hunt, Tex and Jack set up a business arrangement such as Tex is developing in hunting areas all over Mexico. Tex planned to be the publicist of Mexican hunting, the outfitter; Jack would be the guide for hunting in that area. Señor Zea agreed to build hunting cabins on his vast ranch.

In the high mountains of Chihuahua and Sonora, Bush hoped to collect a Big Horn sheep trophy. Tex explored for the best hunting areas to set up a branch of his hunting guide company, the "sheep department." Tex's idea was to transport sheep hunting customers high into the sheep country by helicopter.

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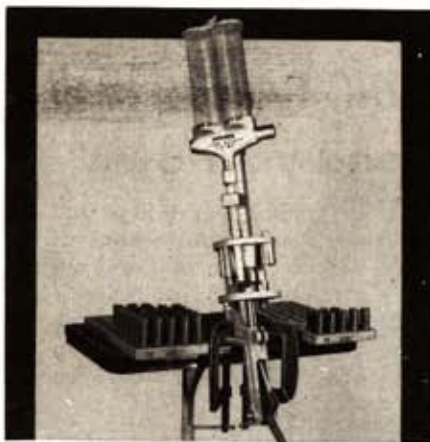
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by a sling across his back. It was too long to carry safely in a saddle scabbard during the rough riding we encountered. I carried my Marlin .35 lever action carbine because it would fit into a saddle scabbard. On this trip, the Marlin (in .35 Remington caliber) brought down many head of Mexican game including tapir, wild pigs, and that king of Mexican wild beasts, *El Tigre*, the jaguar.

The .35 Remington cartridge has plenty of punch for the spotted cats, the jaguar, which may run over 200 pounds in weight. But in the tropical jungles, where game abounds in the pine and palm forests, gunning gets rugged. Jaguar are one of the most difficult animals of the world to hunt, and they are tops as a trophy. Due to the density of the jungle growth a hunter can expect to shoot only at very close range. At first Tex recommended that his clients carry shotguns only. This is an unconventional weapon for jaguar, which are big game and dangerous. Tex's theory was that at the short ranges when a man could get a shot at a jaguar in the jungle, a load of buckshot would be entirely effective. The theory worked out a little differently in practice.

I made an expedition for jaguar in the vast, totally uninhabited jungle of Vera Cruz at the border of Oaxaca. We travelled by dugout canoe for some sixty miles, first down the Jaltepec river and then up the Rio Chatzachalo.

Shotguns were correct for the game we encountered. We took duck loads for waterfowl and knocked off iguanas with No. 4 shot. Loaded with buckshot, we were ready for peccary, or for a great wild boar known as a marin, or for dwarf jungle deer, all of which we shot for camp meat. And always we were

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ready for the supreme target, *el tigre*. We hunted the great cats by spotlighting along the river at night, and the fact that it was night shooting with limited visibility seemed to argue for buckshot.

Tex wanted to try autoloading shotguns on the jaguars, with two rifled slugs and a load of buckshot. In this uncharted wilderness *tigre* were as thick as alley cats around a housing project. At least three times we opened up on one with buckshot, at ranges of no more than 50 feet. The buckshot theory just didn't work. The buckshot never stopped a jaguar.

In Yucatan, farther south, the dense jungle shelters the coastal jaguar, which is larger than the mountain cats. Several of the spotted cats were dropped with rifled slugs. Fortunately, nobody had to test whether a hasty load of buckshot would spoil the intentions of a jaguar springing at a man from a few feet away.

One night we found out accidentally how ineffective buckshot can be. We shot at a tapir with buckshot and later found that the pellets did no more than scratch the animal's tough, inch-thick hide. The 400 pound river pig nearly upset the dugout canoe in a swimming charge. A guide, with sudden loss of faith in buckshot, picked up my Marlin .35 and killed the tapir with a 200 grain bullet through the head. I discovered that tapir steaks surpass beef in flavor and tenderness.

Any kind of a long gun was hell to tote in the thick forests where cougars are hunted. It was possible to move in the dense vegetation only by having *macheteros* work in shifts, cutting a trail. So expert are these native knife-wielders that two men can cut a trail through the jungle as fast as a hunter can

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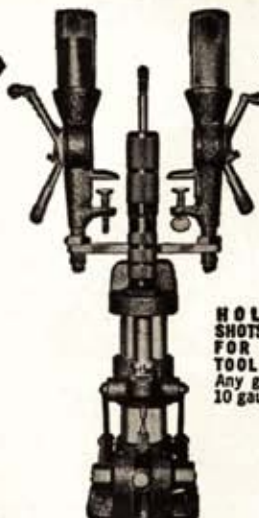
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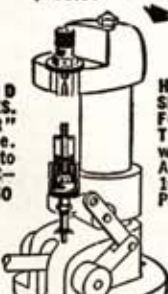
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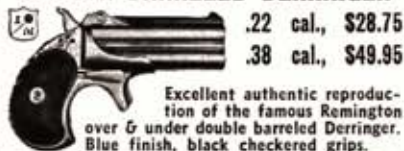
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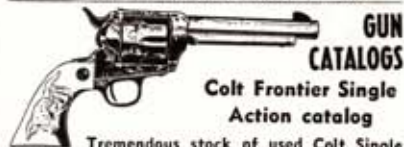


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walk behind them. But even so, a man must bend and turn sideways to get through. Any way he carries his rifle, it is always getting hooked by vines. A powerful handgun would have been perfect for hunting in such brush. So the next time I hunted with Tex, he had changed the gun recommendations. Pistols were the order of the day. At that time, no American trophy hunter had killed a cougar for many months. Yet Tex guarantees his clients a shot at these animals. He decided that the way to fulfill the guarantee was to run the cats with dogs. Sr. Bush was again the client. We hunted in the state of Nayarit, near San Blas on Mexico's west coast. Some of our hounds were owned by Heriberto Parra, Tex's *tigre* man for that area. Tex's bobcat hounds from Arkansas and my two Tennessee coon hounds made up a pack of 15. Whether Tennessee coon hounds or Arkansas bobcat hounds or ones trained to hunt jaguar, when these dogs struck a cougar trail they took off. We treed tejon, ocelot, and *tigre*.

THE great killer cat is afraid of dogs until pressed, and then he loses his fear. A wounded cougar can kill dogs with incredible efficiency. The dense jungle, hiking and mountain climbing, made hunting with pistols a necessity. Shooting was short range at an animal up a tree, easy to hit in a vital spot with a handgun.

Choosing the right handgun gave Tex the same old problem, so long familiar to the police and military. He needed a handgun with stopping power, and decided on a .357 Smith & Wesson magnum.

Once Herb Klein, famous big-game hunter, carried Tex's .357 to take a treed cat. He aimed for the brain but the cat jumped and the bullet struck his jaw instead. The ensuing fight might have cost Tex half his hounds, but for the cat's broken jaw. Two dogs were killed by the jaguar while Tex and Herb hovered around the scramble on the ground, trying to shoot the cat without killing a dog.

The next try with the .357 magnum was at a cat up a tree by Señor Bush. He aimed for the heart, and put the bullet through the

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lungs. We had a real cat-and-dog fight for a minute. But the cougar, a large female of 200 pounds, was shocked enough with the first shot that she didn't put up a fight for long. Only one dog was wounded. When the cat hit the ground, a second shot killed her.

Tex decided that he had found the ideal gun for cougar hunting. He bought several .357's for his clients, because the Mexican laws would prevent Americans from bringing their own handguns on a hunt.

On the next try with the .357 revolver, Bush backed up Tex's choice by dropping a cat from a tree with a brain shot. And on the third shot he brought down an ocelot, which the dogs treed in the vicinity of San Blas.

The ocelot gave us a pretty busy time of it. He was shot at first by one of the guides, Chano. In Mexican hunting there are always several guides, a chief, an assistant, some dog handlers, and the *macheteros*. The guide Chano, whose duty was to keep close enough to the dogs so that he could hear them and form a link with the rest of the party, carried a .22 automatic. Far ahead of the rest of the party, Chano jumped an ocelot unexpectedly. He emptied his automatic at the cat as it disappeared into the brush, a machine-gun like burst of fire. A magazine-load of .22 bullets cut a swath through the tangled growth like a load of buckshot.

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The shooting attracted a couple of dogs which took to the trail, and quickly put the beautiful cat up a tree. Thus Chano's .22 enabled Sr. Bush to pick up an ocelot for his Mexico City trophy exhibition. Bush knocked the ocelot out of the tree with a head shot from the .357 magnum revolver.

The new .44 magnums will prove valuable for Mexican hunting as they are imported. On one hunt in Tamaulipas on the east coast, Pete Barrett, outdoors editor of *True*, joined us. The new .44 magnums had just gone into production. When Pete told all this to Tex, he barked, "Aw, hell, now I must give up these wonderful .357's I just bought and buy .44 magnums for my hunters."

"Or we must do some more pioneer work with the Mexican government on behalf of U. S. hunters," said Bush, "and get the rule changed so that they can bring their own handguns."

There is some hope the rule will be amended soon. Unlike the "siesta-time" mental picture which North Americans have of Mexicans dozing in the shade, the average Mexican public official is a highly conscientious and forward-looking man. Mexicans are great gun-sportsmen and lovers of hunting. They take to new, worthwhile ideas on the subject. Typical of these progressive men is Governor Jesus Lozoya of Chihuahua.

The governor invited Señor Bush, Tex, and me to a hunting party. Before we shoved off for the hunt, Governor Lozoya entertained us for two days, discussing hunting in Northern Mexico. He wanted to make his state as modern and progressive as its border neighbor, Texas.

Tex told the governor at dinner that the mountains of Chihuahua would support elk



Hunting jaguar is a major attraction for U. S. sportsmen in Mexican jungle.

herds. Governor Lozoya views hunting in his state as important business, and the idea that the hills might have elk and the plains support antelope struck him forcibly.

"But where could we get the animals for stocking?" asked the governor.

Tex explained that Wyoming had surplus elk, and operated a program of trapping and selling them for stocking other areas.

"Let's get to work and get the elk," said the governor.

"I would be glad to get in touch with the Wyoming Game Department, and see what can be done," Tex volunteered.

"When?" Governor Lozoya asked.

"Oh, very soon," Tex promised.

"Now!" the governor ordered. "There's a telephone just over there in the next room."

He sent Tex away from the dinner table to get on the phone and buy surplus elk, so that Chihuahua may in the future have elk hunting.

"Now that," said Tex, "is the right attitude for a governor to have about hunting."

At present Chihuahua has an abundance of white-tail deer, black-tail deer, mule deer, peccary, mountain lion, and black bear. There are a few big-horn sheep, and some grizzlies. The good hunting areas are on big, mountainous ranches. Formerly the ranchers put out poison for bear, mountain lions, wolves; now many invite U. S. hunters, who will soon find elk in addition to the state's other game.

Mexico will grow in fame for big game hunting, but some of the finest bird shooting on five continents is there. Lois and Stanley Hart of Connecticut came down for quail. They were old-time quail hunters seeking the kind of shooting they had found in years past in the Deep South. They found it in Yucatan, and combined quail, pigeon, and duck shooting with a visit to the Mayan ruins at Chichen Itza. The trip from New York to Mexico City via Air France took seven hours, and from Mexico City by Mexicana de Aviacion was three hours. The significant thing was that it took them less time to travel to Yucatan to go hunting, than it used to take them to travel to Georgia.

One trophy bird is the Mexican *faisan real*, the royal pheasant. Much as in turkey hunting, the royal pheasant is hunted by calling the birds. But they are tropical game, bigger and more beautiful than turkeys. They make any man's hunting trip worthwhile. When

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they are talked up to the guns, a shotgun does the job. But one of the rifle-shotgun combinations would work out perfectly.

Mexico also has great waterfowl shooting. Once I ran across a lake in southern Vera Cruz where thousands of Canada geese winter and nobody ever hunts. In the high, dry plains of Chihuahua, where nobody would think a goose would have reason to go, great clouds of all varieties of geese will settle on the fields of a Mennonite colony whose people grow oats over an area 80 miles long. The Mennonites slaughter the geese to save their oats, and use the feathers for feather beds.

For my taste, Mexican duck hunting was too easy. The birds are so plentiful, and in most places seldom hunted, that duck shooting was mostly a matter of boating into range.

On the Rio Lagartos, a lagoon across the entire northern end of Yucatan, ducks are as thick as flies. Winter before last I hunted there with Tex, with great success. We never heard anybody else fire a gun the whole time we were there. But last winter several U. S. duck hunters had "discovered" Yucatan. The lagoons were not so silent.

Yucatan is also the home of the wild turkey, including a rare and beautiful bird called the ocellated turkey. With colors in its tail like those of a peacock, it is a trophy bird. Tex does business with turkey hunters, too, knows the right places and how to get to them.

Since hunting has become important to Mexico, the country has begun to attract U. S. sportsmen. But it is a big country, and it will take a long time to build up hunting pressure such as we have in the United States. Our neighbor Mexico is a new frontier of gunning for sport.

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CROWS ARE TRICKY TARGETS

(Continued from page 21)

The range over which most of the shooting will be done will determine the cartridge needed. But it should always be remembered

that even the best outfits will rarely shoot better than minute-of-angle groups when fired from the different positions assumed in the field, especially when it is understood how the point of impact varies with different ways of holding and resting the rifle. And since the vital area of a crow averages less than three inches in diameter, kills cannot be normally expected beyond 300 yards even under ideal conditions. Since conditions are seldom perfect, most kills fall between 125 and 250 yards.

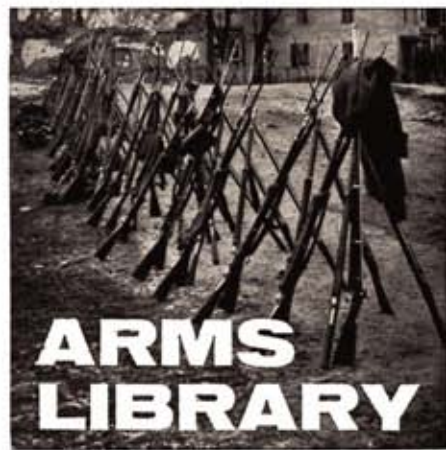
Over a period of years I've had considerable opportunity to study various cartridges as they were used on crows by myself and friends. In most cases the cartridge in question was tried in at least two or three different rifles and by several shooters. After seeing the results, good or bad, of thousands of shots, and listening to, or making up, an explanation for each and every one of them, some conclusions have been reached. They may be of some interest to other shooters, especially beginners who are trying to decide on the outfit they want.

If most shots in a given area will be on the short side, rarely exceeding 135 yards, the little .22 Hornet is still the best choice, preferably in a good bolt action although some men, usually older shooters, prefer the single-shot type. The Hornet has been

dropping in popularity since the war, due largely to the ballyhoo given other higher velocity cartridges, but for shooting in small wood lots or near buildings where noise, or lack of it, is important, it is still tops. A good stiff rifle with selected loads will often shoot groups under three inches at 200 yards, but it's at its best under 150 yards. The little case just doesn't have the powder capacity to flatten trajectory to reach those crows sitting away out yonder.

Factory loads for the Hornet are very accurate and it's easy to handload. Favorite load of shooters around here was the 45 grain soft point bullet with 9.8 grains of #2400 for a velocity of about 2600 f.s. With this load zeroed 1" high at 100 yards, crows can be taken to about 140 yards with no hold over. The usual Hornet bullets of 40 or 45 grain weight are short and stubby and lose velocity quickly, which makes them sensitive in the wind. Whenever possible, the hunter should shoot some groups on paper while the wind is blowing in different velocities and directions, so he can actually see how much the bullet drifts at various ranges. This is good practice with any cartridge, enabling the shooter to adjust to varying conditions.

A hunting-type scope of 6 power, such as the Weaver K-6, Unertl, Smith, Bushnell, or others, with medium cross-hair reticule or center dot of about 1½" diameter, in solid hunting mounts, is ideal on this caliber. This power scope provides exact aiming on small targets over medium ranges, with a lot of light transmitting power.



ARMS LIBRARY

.45-70 RIFLES

By Jack Behn
(Stackpole \$5.00)

The trail blazer usually arrives home tattered and torn. Jack Behn will probably get tattered and torn a little because of his .45-70 book. The many Colt, Winchester, Remington, Bullard, and other specialists will each possess some fragment of knowledge about their brand of .45-70 rifle that they will think should have been in this book, and will crab because they do not find it. Perhaps after a few years enough new material will be collected to warrant a second edition; the subject deserves it. Behn has tackled the job of describing, tabulating, and giving interesting information about American rifles chambered for the .45-70 cartridge—a round which he

aply compares in its century, the 19th, to the .30-06 in this one. But the comparison is not entirely true, for the .45-70 is still going strong. It is the only major rifle cartridge from black powder days still being loaded, and the fact that it has been in continuous production since 1873 speaks well for its continuing to be a practical cartridge. Thus the rifles made for it certainly have a story to tell, and Behn tells it simply and well.—WBE

FAST AND FANCY REVOLVER SHOOTING

By Ed McGivern
(Wilcox & Follett, \$6.00)

One of the classics of arms literature is again in print in a new edition. This masterpiece of arms writing, first published in 1935, presents the findings of years of scientific experiments in the study of handguns and handgun shooting. McGivern, who from his recent articles in GUNS still has the old pepper of his earlier writing, has found little to change in this new edition. The old saying that figures don't lie still applies and the scientific methods of his research on fast draw and double-action shooting will astound thousands of men who have become interested in guns since this book was first published. Printed from the original plates, this latest edition is relatively clear in photos, of which there are hundreds.

Re-issuing this important volume, which is as readable as any novel but as significant as the most fact-packed textbook, is a timely thing. Popular interest in speed shooting is at a peak now, and McGivern's book gives the basic inside and original story.—WBE

COLT AUTOMATIC PISTOLS 1896-1956

By Donald B. Bady
(Fadco Pub. Co., \$7.50)

Like a light in the wilderness, Don Bady's new book on Colt pistols will guide collectors through the maze of error and counter claim which characterizes auto pistol collecting. This is not a lively book, but it is a factual and interesting one. Full of detailed and precise references to the many interesting Colt automatic pistols, this 280-page volume with its dozens of large photo illustrations will find a place on the book shelves of those who want to be well informed about guns.

Long barreled Colts and shoulder-stock Colts, including the experimental weapon tested in 1941 at Aberdeen, are described. This gun was fitted with a special long barrel, a 20-shot magazine, and a shoulder stock that resembled the Model 1855 Colt stocks of pre-Civil War vintage.

Every GI who toted a .45 on his hip or in a shoulder holster will want to read Bady's book, to learn the facts about his gun. More than that, Bady's tabulation of types and models, giving dates of design changes and serial number ranges, will prove a stimulus to automatic weapons collecting.—WBE

SMALL ARMS & AMMO IN THE UNITED STATES SERVICE

By Col. B. R. Lewis
(Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D.C. \$8.00)

The list price of this book was incorrectly given in a preceding review as \$6.75. The correct price is \$8.00.



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The next step up in factory loads, (if we skip the .218 Bee, which practically duplicates Hornet results when used in similar rifles) is the comparatively new but very popular .222 Remington. This cartridge is a honey for crows, factory loads giving about 3200 feet per second to the 50 grain pointed bullet. Using a scope, this gives a mid-range trajectory of about 2 1/4" over 200 yards. This is flat enough to take crows to about 235 yards when the slight variations in point of aim are memorized.

This cartridge is very easy to reload and 22 grains of 4198 with a 50 grain bullet will duplicate factory ballistics. If a heavier bullet is preferred, the 55 grain slug ahead of 21 grains of 4198, or 26 grains of 4895, will give better than 3000 f.p.s. Over fifty 5-shot groups fired through my heavy barrel .222 Sako with the above loads have averaged well under one inch at 100 yards. 24 grains of 3031 gives good accuracy also, but this powder doesn't work well through my powder measure so I don't use much of it. Both loads using 4198 gave groups of 1 3/8" at 200 yards from the bench.

Any of these loads normally group close enough to make it rough on crows over average ranges. However, most of the .222's we've seen were Remington 722's which feature a slim, sporting weight barrel. After testing over a dozen of these on the bench, we've never found one which would maintain its point of impact over a period of time. Many of them tend to throw consecutive groups to different places on the target. Probably some of this can be blamed on the shooter, but a heavier barrel would eliminate much of this trouble. A number of shooters in this area have quit using this caliber for this reason, after thorough testing on the bench. This is a shame, as the .222 is too good a cartridge to be handicapped by a featherweight barrel. Almost all the men in this area who have tried this Remington for serious varmint shooting have said they would prefer a heavier barrel, at least as an optional choice.

A scope of eight or ten power seems to be the best choice for the .222, especially one of the short hunting types such as those made by Weaver and Bushnell.

For the shooter who wants more power and range in a factory load, the .220 Swift should fill the bill. This cartridge was introduced by Winchester in 1935 and immediately became one of the most controversial loads in existence. It was the first commercial load to give velocities above 4000 f.s. and now, 20 years later, it is still the only factory load which offers this velocity.

For some reason the Swift earned the

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reputation of being hard to reload, and some users reported wearing out a barrel in less than one thousand rounds. Some of the early barrels may have done this, but present day tubes will last considerably longer. One I know of has had over 3000 rounds through it and still grouping well. A super grade M-70 .220 Swift was used almost daily for months on crows and was found to be one of the most deadly loads tried. We found that handloads would consistently beat factory stuff, however, and best results were had with 55 grain bullets and 38 grains of 4064. This load gives about 3600 f.p.s. and breaks up crows very nicely.

Swift cases should be checked for length and neck thickness when reloading, especially when full power charges are used. This is a high-pressure job to begin with—reportedly about 55,000 pounds—so any abnormality in the case can boost pressures quite a bit. However, normal case inspection will indicate if anything is wrong, and cases are easy to trim. The Swift is a top crow cartridge; much better than some wildcat enthusiasts care to admit.

A top grade scope is necessary to realize the potential of this case and the good target-types of 10 to 15 power with micrometer adjustments are recommended. These scopes and mounts are more fragile than the hunting types, but with reasonable care will be perfectly suitable for varmint shooting, which does not have the rough and tumble features of some big game hunting.

Among wildcat cartridges, the .219 Donaldson Wasp, the .219 Improved Zipper, and the .22-250 are in the same class as the Swift, as they regularly give 50 or 55 grain bullets velocities of 3450 to 3850 f.p.s. The fact that these three loads are favorites of the bench-set shooters is indicative of their accuracy potential. I've never owned an Improved Zipper, but have shot the best accuracy out of three Wasps and two .22-250's, with much of this shooting being done on crows. The best load in the Wasps was the 55 grain Sierra or RCBS bullet ahead of 28 grains of 3031. In the .22-250 case, the same bullets with 36.5 grains of 4320 or 4895 gave almost identical results. These outfits often grouped under 1 1/2" at 200 yards and were sudden death on crows, chucks and hawks.

Although best average results on crows seem to be obtained with the .22 center-fires, specialized conditions sometimes indicate a larger caliber with heavier bullets of better sectional density. The .257 with 87 grain bullets and the .270 with 110 grain slugs at maximum velocities make good crow loads. However, my own favorite among the larger bores is the .240 Cobra, which is a 6mm on a sharp-shouldered Swift case.

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Various bullets from about 70 grains weight to 110 grains are available in this caliber, but in my barrel—a heavy Buhmiller with 12" twist—best results have been with the 85 grain Sierra spitzer bullet. Forty-two to 43 grains of 4895, 4064, or 3031 will consistently group in less than one minute-of-angle, with the velocity running about 3400 feet-per-second. A case full of 4350 (about 46 grains) will give this bullet about 3600 f.s. but is not quite as accurate in this rifle.

Since I got this Cobra working a few years back, the commercial arms companies have introduced other versions of 6 mm loads. Remington has the .244 Remington, based on their .257 case, and Winchester has the .243 Winchester, based on the .308 case. These three cases give almost identical ballistics, but either of the commercial loads should be chosen in preference to the wildcat Cobra for the simple reason of availability of cases with no need of forming or annealing. Wildcats are fun for the serious experimenter, and they have a definite place in the scheme of things. But there is no reason to choose an off-breed cartridge when identical results can be obtained with a standard factory load.

The three 6 mm loads mentioned have about the same trajectory over 300 yards as the .22-250 class of cartridges, but they are less affected by wind than the .22's and seem to shoot flatter beyond this distance. I have killed chucks at better than 400 yards, (when zeroed at 200,) by holding just above their heads when they were standing erect. Even at this distance the chucks were badly smashed. This is due to the high remaining velocity typical of this class of cartridges and loads. This velocity at long range is in turn dependent upon the superior sectional density of the 6 mm's as compared to the .22 center-fires of 45 grain to 55 grain bullet weight.

There is one serious disadvantage to the 6 mm class of rifles. This is the loud, sharp report, which makes many farmers object to its use, especially near cattle or buildings. For this reason such a rifle becomes a very specialized outfit in any areas of normal population—fine to have for the occasional shot beyond 250 yards provided there are no buildings or people near, but not suitable for taking shots as they come. If it is possible to own two rifles for crows, say an accurate .222 for average shots and a 6 mm for the long ones, then a shooter is all set, but for average conditions the 6 mm is not likely to be first choice for a crow rifle.

But regardless of your choice of rifles or load, whether you use a modest .22 rim-fire plinker or a custom-tailored wildcat, crow shooting is a world of fun. Give them a taste of it and the whole family will be addicts. So will your friends. Even the crows seem to enjoy it. You should hear their raucous laughter when you miss!

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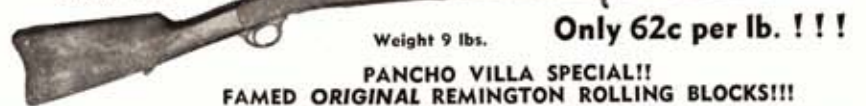
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WHY AMERICANS LOST OLYMPICS

(Continued from page 18)

the Olympic overall championship and dominated the shooting picture as well. Their six firsts to our three, were a far cry from King's Mountain and Jackson's victory at New Orleans.

During the 1912 Olympiad at Stockholm and won by Sweden, contestants had climbed from 484 athletes only 16 short years before, to a resounding total of 4,742. These lads and lassies came from 27 countries. There were 18 shooting events, seven won by the host country and seven garnered by ourselves. Alf Lane, one of the stalwarts of the U. S. Revolver Association, warmed up his .22 S&W Model of 1891 single-shot and, some two hours and 60 shots later, was hailed as the No. 1 pistol man of the Olympic scene.

During the 1920 and 1924 shows, the first staged in Antwerp, the second in Paris, we had our shooting inning. We mopped up. We were invincible, unbeatable. We made such shooting history as we've never remotely approached since. During the Antwerp extravaganza we copped 13 of the 21 events. In the games of 1924, we annexed five firsts from a program of 12 events. Unquestionably the greatest marksman of the modern Olympic revival was Sgt. Morris "Bud" Fisher of the U. S. Marines. He not only copped the rifle title in 1920 but returned to do it again in 1924. Between Olympics he demonstrated true championship caliber by knocking off the 1923 world's rifle championship. This was a big-time affair staged quite apart from the Olympics by the International Shooting Union.

Undoubtedly the impetus given shooting by World War I had something to do with our ascendancy as gunners. The big winners during the Antwerp and Paris joustings were for the most part military peoples. These were the phenomenal Marine, Fisher, an army sergeant named H. M. Bailey, and Colonel John K. Boles, also of the army. There were a number of hot civilians as well, none probably better known than Larry Nusslein who won the free rifle match, and

Mark Arie who took the clay target championship.

In 1928, with our remarkable record of '20 and '24 placing us in the position of undisputed champions of the universe, you'd have thought that we'd have been keenly insistent on the inclusion of shooting in the Olympic program. Not so. The National Rifle Association, which selects our riflemen, and the U. S. Revolver Association, from whence came the pistol men, sat idly by and permitted the programs for the Amsterdam show to be formulated without the inclusion of a single shooting event.

It is difficult to understand at this distance and after this time how such a thing could have occurred. Unquestionably the members of the Olympic program committee from other countries, recollecting only too vividly the brilliant successes of the American shooters during the 1920 and 1924 games, were eager to delete the shooting events. Their success in writing off the matches for 1928 was an omen. We have never performed worth a tinker's dam since.

In 1932, two puny little matches were made a part of the show. These events consisted of a smallbore rifle match at 50 meters, and the inevitable rapid-fire pistol silhouette match. We never had a look in. The pistol badges were divided between the representatives of Germany and Italy. Sweden and Hungary shot off a tie for first money in the rifle event, the Swedes winning. In the overall tally, the Italians were tops.

In 1936, in Berlin, it was the same old story. Germany won the unofficial team championship. Sweden was second, Denmark third, then France and Hungary in that order. It was during these Olympics the shooting world first noticed handgunner Torsten Ullman of Sweden. He won the free pistol championship, and just to show he could also shoot fast, wound up in third money in the rapid-fire silhouette match. The Americans also ran. It is significant that not a single one of the ranking U. S. handgunners of that day were on the American team. It was not graced by such hot-rocks as Engbrecht, Hemming, Emmet Jones, or Spavor. Small wonder our showing was something less than mediocre.

At that time, shoulder-to-shoulder match pistol shooting was almost entirely under the auspices of the National Rifle Associa-

(Continued on page 56)

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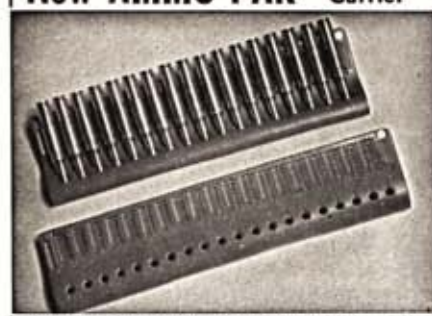
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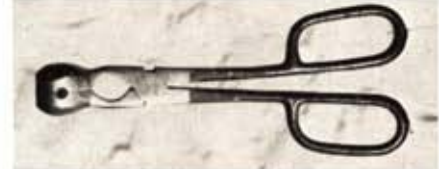


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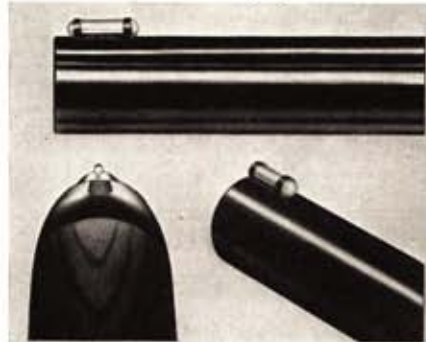
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LOST OLYMPICS

(Continued from page 50)

tion. The leading marksman of the country trekked the shoulder-to-shoulder circuit and paid little or no attention to the pistol matches and small club competitions of the U. S. Revolver Association. Few, as a matter of fact, were even members of the latter order. Despite this, when the time came to select the 1936 Olympic pistol squad the onerous duty was passed along to the U. S. Revolver Association. Only members of the Association were selected.

A further contributory factor to our abysmal showing was the then current interpretation of the Olympic rule which was read to say that anyone who had ever accepted as much as four-bits in winning a match was forever ineligible to represent his country in an Olympiad. It was then the custom of the National Rifle Association to dole out something around 1/10th of 1% of the entry fees to the winners of the NRA championships. I won the pistol and revolver championship of the U.S. and was the proud recipient of \$8.56. Acceptance of this filthy lucre placed the marksman forever on a par with the Chicago Black Sox.

World War II again put a damper on the good old Olympic spirit. However, with wars temporarily in abeyance, the games were resumed in 1948, when the XIV Revival, was staged in London. It was the greatest ever, with 59 nations and more than 6000 athletes participating.

The United States won these Games, as it had done five times before, but it was not with anything but the most puny support from our marksman. The shooters had to be content with second place, with the Swedes first, Switzerland third, Finland fourth, and Czechoslovakia and Norway tied for fifth position. Some 22 nations entered shooters in the rifle and pistol events. Sgt. Joe Benner took third money in the free pistol slow-fire match. The one bright spot was first place won by Art Cook, rifleman.

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first gold pistol medal in 28 years. But his was the sole U.S. victory. The unofficial aggregate championship went to Norway, with the Russians, competing for the first time since 1908 and as green as grass, finishing in second place. We came in a very inglorious fourth, trailing Hungary.

More lately, in Melbourne, we haven't added any laurels to our shooting crown. The Commies have again wiped our eye, humiliated us and gained incontrovertible advantage in the ceaseless war of propaganda.

That's the picture through the years. About the only complimentary thing that can be said about it is that it has been consistent; consistently bad. Nobody expects that we or any country will win all the shooting honors in all Olympic revivals, but we could come nearer to it if we put some system, some preparation, some common sense into our Olympic planning.

Up to now, the people in charge of selecting and training Olympic shooters have waited until the very year of the games and even then have approached the problem with the enthusiasm of a condemned man walking the Last Mile. The attitude has seemed to be, "Here are those damned Olympics coming up again. Give 'em the usual treatment—ask the Association members to kick in for travel expenses and we'll pick out a team." There is no plan, no program for the development of Olympic-quality shooters in international-style shooting.

And international-style shooting is very different from that practiced in these United States. Our targets, both rifle and pistol, are measurably larger than international targets, and we compound the felony by shooting at them at shorter than international ranges: at 50 yards instead of 50 meters, and so on. This makes scores fired in our matches meaningless for comparison against scores made on international targets and at international ranges—and it has a highly disconcerting effect on American shooters who see their prized 99's drop to 85's or thereabouts when they face international conditions.

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sight-radius, trigger pull, grip, stock, etc., which do not apply to guns designed for international competition. Our barrels, actions, and ammunition are as good as any in the world, but we handicap our shooters by failure to give them shoulder-to-shoulder match practice with set triggers, elongated sights and similar gadgets against which they will have to compete in the Olympics.

A shining example of the lack of Olympic preparation is the situation with regards the running-deer match. This is a sweet shoot, utterly practical, where the marksman whams away at the silhouette of a buck as he goes trundling along on a track through an opening in the trees. This match is good for a gold medal and gold medals are dear in these championships of the world. But here in America, running deer matches are not included in our formal target shooting program.

We have some 18,000,000 hunters and shooters in these United States, of which it is safe to estimate that a good half are big game hunters, users of the high powered rifle. Do you suppose that one—just one—of these millions of hunting men were given the opportunity to compete in the running deer event at Melbourne? No. We did not even enter.

If we are ever to win—as we *should* win—in future Olympics, the present arbiters of our shooting sports must do a complete and energetic about-face and *encourage* International-type rifle and pistol matches. This style of shooting must be played up and not played down as is now so painfully the case. Today, one of our bigger and better match programs may have an event or two, tucked away inconspicuously, for the free pistol and the silhouette rapid fire—and if you attend the National Matches you may find a free rifle match if you search diligently enough—but that is all. Small wonder we are such babes in the woods to the shooting game beyond our own borders.

Russia, on the contrary, has an energetic, all-out program for the development of Olympic shooters. This program was set up immediately after the 1952 games, and the watchword was, "Beat America!" By 1954, the program had borne fruit. Soviet rifle and handgun marksmen of whom the world had never heard were sent to Caracas, Venezuela—but everyone knew them when the shooting was over! They had beaten the best gunners the world had to offer. That licking, added to the shellackings of 1948 and 1952, should surely have spurred the big wheels of American shooting to prepare for the future. But, again, no; fine American marksmen were dumped into the Sixteenth Olympiad at Melbourne without adequate preparation. They got soundly licked—and the Russkies chortled.

It isn't the fault of the shooters. Our team members are selected by means of nationwide elimination matches, and there can be no quarrel with this manner of selection. I have no slightest doubt that the men selected were the best we could muster. The question is—were they adequately prepared for the specialized games into which they were entered?

If not, then let's see that future United States Olympic shooting teams are not similarly crucified. Let's accent competitions using the International (Olympic) targets and courses of fire, shooting at the International distances and following the time limits which are common abroad. Let's encourage the use of proper rifles and handguns to get the ultimate in scoring. Let's recognize the fact that we simply cannot toss a marksman, regardless of how skilled, into a game where, in the space of a few months, he must learn a strange gun, face a smaller and infinitely more difficult target and an altered course of fire at longer ranges—and expect him to mow down the world's best gunners!

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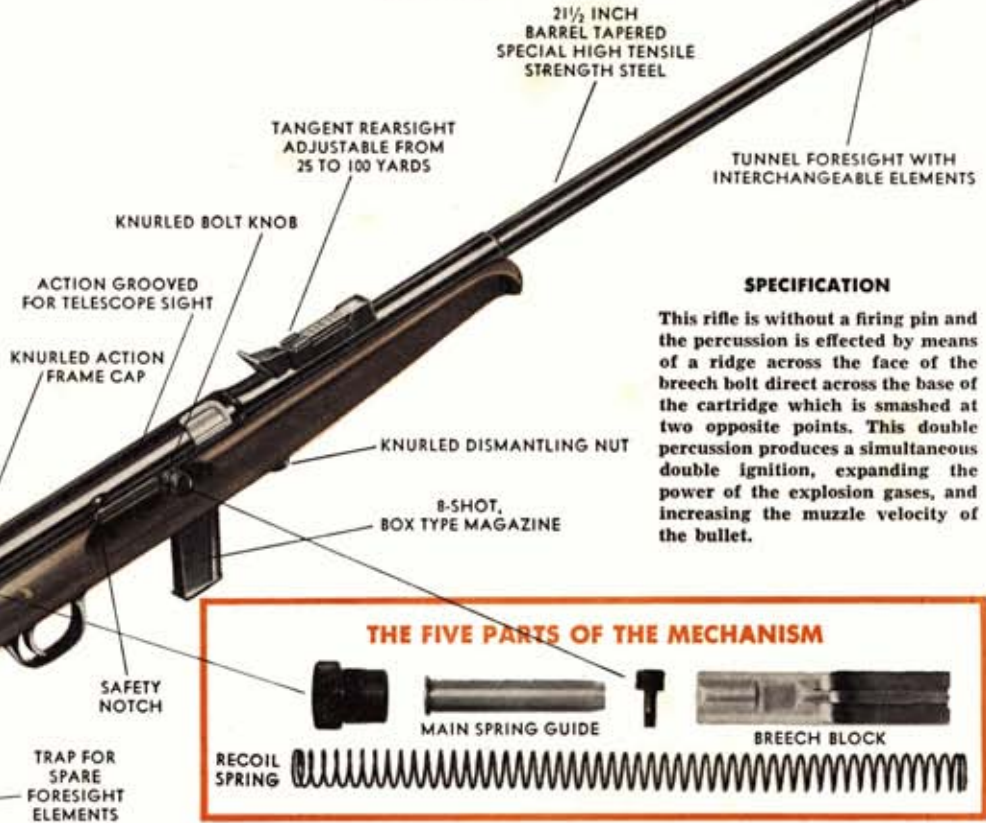
Reversible spring guide with end masses of different weight to increase or decrease the inertia of the breech block depending upon the ammunition used (rimmed rear-end mass for standard type ammunition, fore-end mass for high velocity ammunition).

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Under the force of the explosion gases, the breech block is thrown back to its original position and the cartridge case is ejected.

The breech block is retained in the rear position, the recoil spring remains compressed, and the weapon is ready for further firing.

NOTE. - When firing high velocity or very powerful cartridges it is advisable to increase the inertia of the breech bolt by reversing the position of the spring guide, i. e., by placing its rimmed-base end, in front, inside the rear-end cavity of the breech block.

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