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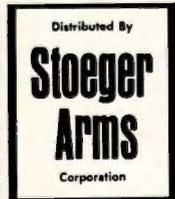
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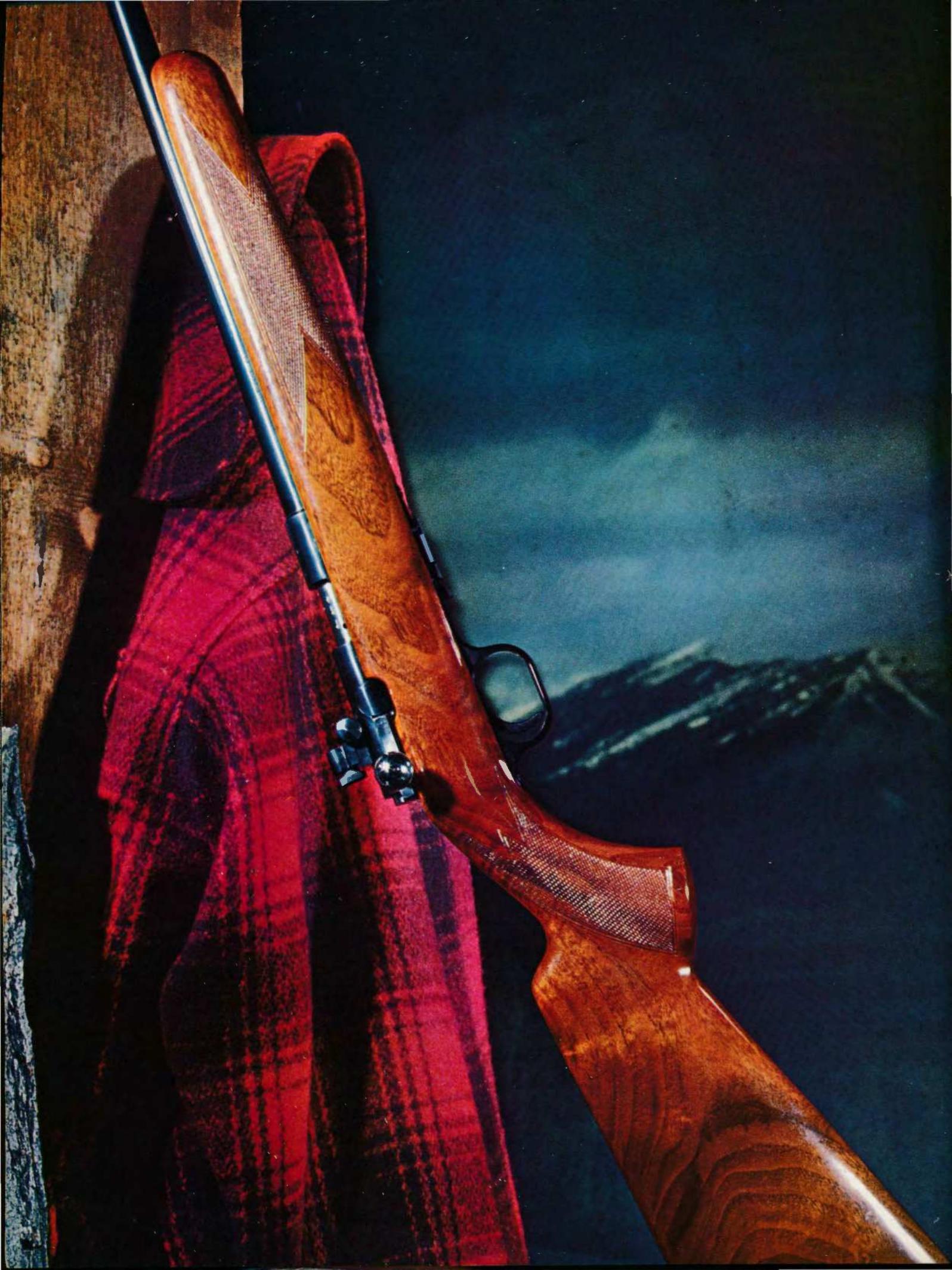
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**APRIL, 1968**

Vol. XIV, No. 8-04

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Ass't to the Publisher

# Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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EDITORIAL OFFICES: Jerome Rakusan, 8150 N. Central Park, Skokie, Ill. 60076, ORchard 5-5602.  
E. B. Mann, 1020 Parkland Pl., S. E., Albuquerque 87108, N. M.

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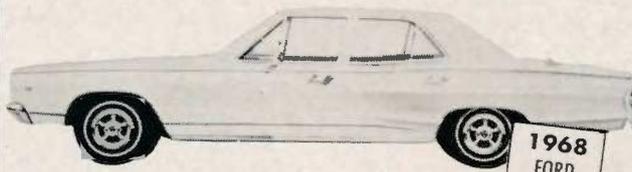
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# CROSSFIRE

## *Smothers Brothers*

The Smothers Brothers are very funny men. But, in their December 17th program, they descended from comedy to vicious propaganda against guns and shooters—making it obvious that, among other failures, they know nothing about either guns or shooters. The program is sponsored by Herbert Tareyton cigarettes.

Trying to rebut an attack of this sort is like trying to correct a rumor that a girl is pregnant; the damage is already done. But, as a gun enthusiast and shooter, the Smothers Brothers are hereby removed from my schedule of TV listening. And, on the premise that the sponsors must have approved the program, guess who will not again smoke Tareytons?

E. B. Mann

Albuquerque, N.M.

## *9 mm Lacks Punch*

I read with interest your article "Are Auto Pistols For Police?" in the December issue. As an individual who is soon to leave the military, and interested in a career in law enforcement, I must say I would be hesitant in joining an organization which limits my personal armament to a gun firing a full jacketed, 100 grain projectile, no matter what the velocity. Need one be reminded of the mediocre performance of the .30 caliber Carbine?

Also, lest it be said we fail to learn from experience, I refer you to turn-of-the-century experiments, conducted by, I believe, a Col. Laguardia, in which both human cadavers and living cattle were used to determine the most effective pistol caliber for adoption by our government. The effect on the cattle was directly related to the size and weight of the projectile. The then new 9 mm handguns proved to be half as effective as the .45 caliber guns. They needed five or six shots, as opposed to two or three, to kill the animals. Furthermore, after the initial shot from a large bore gun, hemorrhaging was clearly visible

about the beast's nose and mouth. This was not so with the smaller calibers, including the "revolutionary" .30 Mauser.

I should think that with the possibility of large police and military orders to be considered, S&W could afford to develop their fine Model 39 into a .45 ACP version. Now that would be something to reckon with.

Sgt. Richard P. Rosenthal  
APO New York, New York

## *Charley's All Wet*

As a shooter for over 50 years and having been a fair shot with pistol, rifle, and also various types of shotguns, as well as having been in the gun business, I quite often catch statements which are "out," in today's vernacular.

In Charles Askins' article "Over-Under Shotguns" in your December issue, I grant that many of the statements he makes are true, but he makes the statement that the reason the over-under shotgun performs so well in his hands is because of the extremely low position of the under barrel which permits the forward hand to literally swallow the tube and over a good many thousand shots, he kills with a good deal more consistency with the lower barrel because of this.

This is asinine reasoning, as he employs the same sighting plane, gun handling, feel, etc., regardless of whether the trigger is set for the lower or upper barrel. If he misses more with the upper barrel, I would say he had better see if both barrels throw charges to the same point of aim. The results with either one should be the same.

As a matter of fact, Charley would find if he were to stand sidewise to a mirror and throw his over-under up to normal shooting position, and then do likewise with a Winchester Model 12 with a standard forend, that his hands are more nearly in the same plane with the Model 12. As for the

great change in balance because of shells in the magazine, that is mostly imagination, as most modern pumps only hold two shells in the magazine, or are usually plugged to do so.

He makes a case against the side by side double that would make his father turn over in his grave. Some of my best scores, and in handicap trap at that, have been made with the side by side and I have given them all a try except the so-called automatics.

In closing I will say I enjoy your magazine very much, including Charley's article, but I think at times he waxes slightly over-enthusiastic and goes off the deep end.

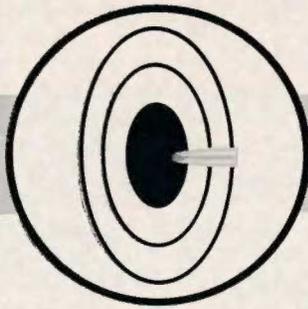
A. M. Webber  
Kittery, Maine

## *OSS Pistol*

The answer to the Liberty pistol puzzle in your January issue is simple enough. At the time of their manufacture, they were classified, and when the projected use did not materialize, so too was their disposition. Intelligence activities are exempt from downgrading for 12 years, but if you put in a formal request for declassification, you might get results. Possibly, in correspondence, you may have confused the Liberty pistol with the OSS scratch pistol. This is a .22 Hi-Standard with integral silencer, that omits only a dull zishing sound, and is still one of the most efficient assassination weapons in existence.

Mr. Karnopp seems to have run into the same "where are the rest" problem I had with .50 BMG blanks. There aren't any around to establish a realistic collector value. Half a dozen BMG shells loaded with EC powder gives you enough to load a grenade that'll detonate from a fuze spit, and presumably they were blown up. EC was practically pure guncotton, only partially colloided, and was a former standard bursting charge for grenades. Considering that a 43 grain charge with the blank attachment (which it frequently blew up) was enough to work the .50 caliber action as well as a hundred odd grains of smokeless with a 750 grain slug, you can see why. I've run into people who've been looking for BMG blanks for 10 years. I've heard of them going for a buck apiece at gunshows, but not which gunshows. I suppose that this will remain another of those enigmas of the collector's hobby. If GUNS ever compiles a Top Ten List of Whatzis items, you might include the .50 BMG blanks.

James J. Glackin  
Monrovia, Calif.



# POINT BLANK

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

**B**UFFALO BILL was a great Winchester man. One time while Chief of Scouts for the U. S. Cavalry, this great frontiersman, W. F. Cody, wrote the Winchester company, "I have been using and have thoroughly tested your latest improved rifle (this was the then-new 1873 lever action). Allow me to say that I have tried and used nearly every kind of a gun made in the United States and for general hunting or Indian fighting I pronounce your improved Winchester the boss. . . . Believe me that you have the most complete rifle now made. W. F. Cody 'Buffalo Bill' Fort McPherson, Nebraska, 1874."

Maybe to show its appreciation for the strong support the Chief of Scouts gave the first Winchester, the company this year will do proper honor to William F. Cody. The year 1968 will



be "The Year of Buffalo Bill," and in publicity releases, advertising, TV programs and other hoop-de-la the name of Bill Cody will be much in evidence. Along with the drum beating the New Haven firm has a new rifle, the "Buffalo Bill Commemorative" '94 rifle.

Actually it will be offered as both a rifle and as a carbine, both with octagon barrels, the first 26 inches in length and the shorty with a 20 inch .30-30 caliber only. In the buttstock will be a medallion paying homage to Buffalo Bill. On the tang in his own handwriting will be "W. F. Cody Chief of Scouts." Along the barrel below the open rear sight will be the legend "Buffalo Bill Commemorative," and finally on the off-side of the receiver the name "Buffalo Bill." The gun will be graced with a nickel-plated hammer, trigger, saddle ring, loading gate, forearm tip, and buttplate. This is sort of the standard model if a commemorative model can be said to be standard. There will be a second Buffalo Bill shooting iron and this one is the super geewhiz type to sell for one thousand bucks and to be serially

numbered from No. 1 to 300. It will be engraved, sport a golden medallion in the stock, and have some of the fanciest walnut to be found for mainstock and forestock, suitably handchecked.

**D**URING 1966, Winchester came out with the Model '66. This was in celebration of the first Winchester which appeared in 1866. The commemorative gun was an overwhelming success. The company made only 100,000 and found that it could have sold five or six times this number. You may be sure the Buffalo Bill Commemorative won't be under-produced! And just to take advantage of a booming market there is another celebration model for the Year '68. This is the Illinois Sesquicentennial Model 94 carbine.

The grand old State of Illinois is celebrating its 150th birthday. To help along the festivities Winchester has a carbine to do proper honors. This one is all dolled up. There is a medallion planted in the stock and the trigger, saddle ring, loading gate and buttplate are gold plate. In the barrel beneath the rear sight is the wording, "Illinois Sesquicentennial 1818-1968." On the off-side of the receiver is the familiar legend, "Land of Lincoln." The commemorative carbine will be in .30-30 only. It is a limited edition model.

Twenty-one teenie boppers and their proud fathers were guests at the Sixth Winchester-Western Father & Son Seminar held at the Y-O Ranch, Mountain Home, Texas, during late 1967. Over the weekend the kids and their paters accounted for 19 whitetail bucks, each deer running 10 points or more, 8 Corsican rams, 2 Indian Blackbuck antelope and 2 turkeys. The boys averaged a mite less than 13 years and none of them had ever shot any big game before. Winchester commenced these papa-son get-togethers in 1966 and it was found to be a smashing success. Heretofore the shooting has been confined to scattergunning. Shooting on clay targets and on well stocked game farms. The session on the game-rifle Y-O Ranch, a huge enclave comprising 115 square

miles, in the very heart of the Texas whitetail country, was a trial run with rifles and on big game.

Since the mid-20's the most famous bolt action rifle in North America has been the Winchester. First in the Model 54 and later in the 70. It has been held in such high esteem that all bolt guns have been stacked beside it as a sort of measure of quality. The rifle has always been a completely forged and machined article and stock finish has been a handchecked affair with a lot of care given the stock inletting and bedding. Model 70's were simply not released unless accuracy was right up to taw. As a result of this careful manufacture and painstaking assembly the rifle quite rightfully was the premier arm of the American shooting man.

Here more lately the cost of production has gone right out through the roof. The Model 70 could not be turned out as it had been done over the past 30 to 35 years. If it was, the tab would be prohibitive. Winchester's engineers were compelled to draw the line and what was forthcoming had the old name "Model 70" but it was a largely changed and modernized version. It had to be to be competitive.

**T**HE new Model 70 did not please the rifleman of this country. He looked at it and he was disdainful. He did not approve of the new lines of the stock. He complained about the shape and angle of the pistol grip. He was alarmed at the rough finish of receiver, bolt, and barrel and he groaned at the simply horrendous gap between the gun tube and the forestock. It was freefloated and how! Rain entered the gap between wood and metal and snow packed into the crevice and ice formed there. It represented one of the major bellyaches.

The new rifle had many good features. The face of the bolt head had been countersunk, the locking area on the lugs was increased, and the head of the bolt was shrouded as a protection to the gunner from gases.

Almost immediately after the introduction of the modern M-70 the New Haven engineering department commenced to clean up those points which seemed most to irk the buyer. The gap between barrel and forestock channel was reduced. Small changes were made in the mainstock and the handsome floorplate and latch assembly were returned. Still the rifle was poorly accepted. It had the new style impressed checkering, a process where the diamonds of the checkering are literally reversed and in place of being upstanding are turned the other way. The result is a pleasing appearance but no firm gripping surfaces.

Finally aware of the shortcoming of the new Model 70, the company has this year come along with a rifle which gets back to the original M-70 about as closely as it is possible to go.

The 1968 version of the famous gun has a revamped main stock with a new cheekpiece and Monte Carlo. This new configuration should go a long way toward answering the complaints of the clan who have not liked the other buttstock. The pistol grip has been altered very slightly in its angle and this feels infinitely more comfortable. The finish on receiver, barrel, and bolt is the best in a great many years. It is a high luster (except in the .458) and immediately catches the eye when you first glimpse the new rifle. The bolt is engine-turned and to add to the good looks the magazine follower is made of stainless steel and is also highly polished.

The bolt on the Model 70 had a habit of binding apparently because of over-rotation. This has been licked by notching one of the locking lugs and this notch serves as a bolt stop and will eliminate this over-rotation. The safety is a three position one. In the No. 1 stop it locks both sear and bolt; in the No. 2 stop it continues to lock the sear but leaves the bolt free to operate so that the shooter may unload safely. In the No. 3, or forward position, the gun is ready to be fired.

All the hocus-pocus of free floating the barrel has been cashiered on this '68 model. It is now bedded just like it was in the old original Model 70. Many aficionados of this splendid Winchester will be happy to note this one! In the deluxe model the rifle will be checkered by hand. There will be no new calibers throughout 1968.

The Model 1400 autoloading shotgun has also undergone a face lifting. The mainstock has been altered, the pistol grip has been modified, and the big red "W", a sort of mark of distinction especially when displayed in long



lines of Winchesters in the sporting goods emporiums across the land, has disappeared. Up forward the forestock has a different contour. On the Model 1200, the pump repeater, the stock has likewise been changed, the forestock has some new and more rakish lines, and the big "W" is absent.

The autoloader has, since its inception, had a latch within the receiver which was reached by the gunner's thumb. He simply rammed his thumb into the end of the magazine tube and pressed sturdily and the breechbolt

(Continued on Page 78)

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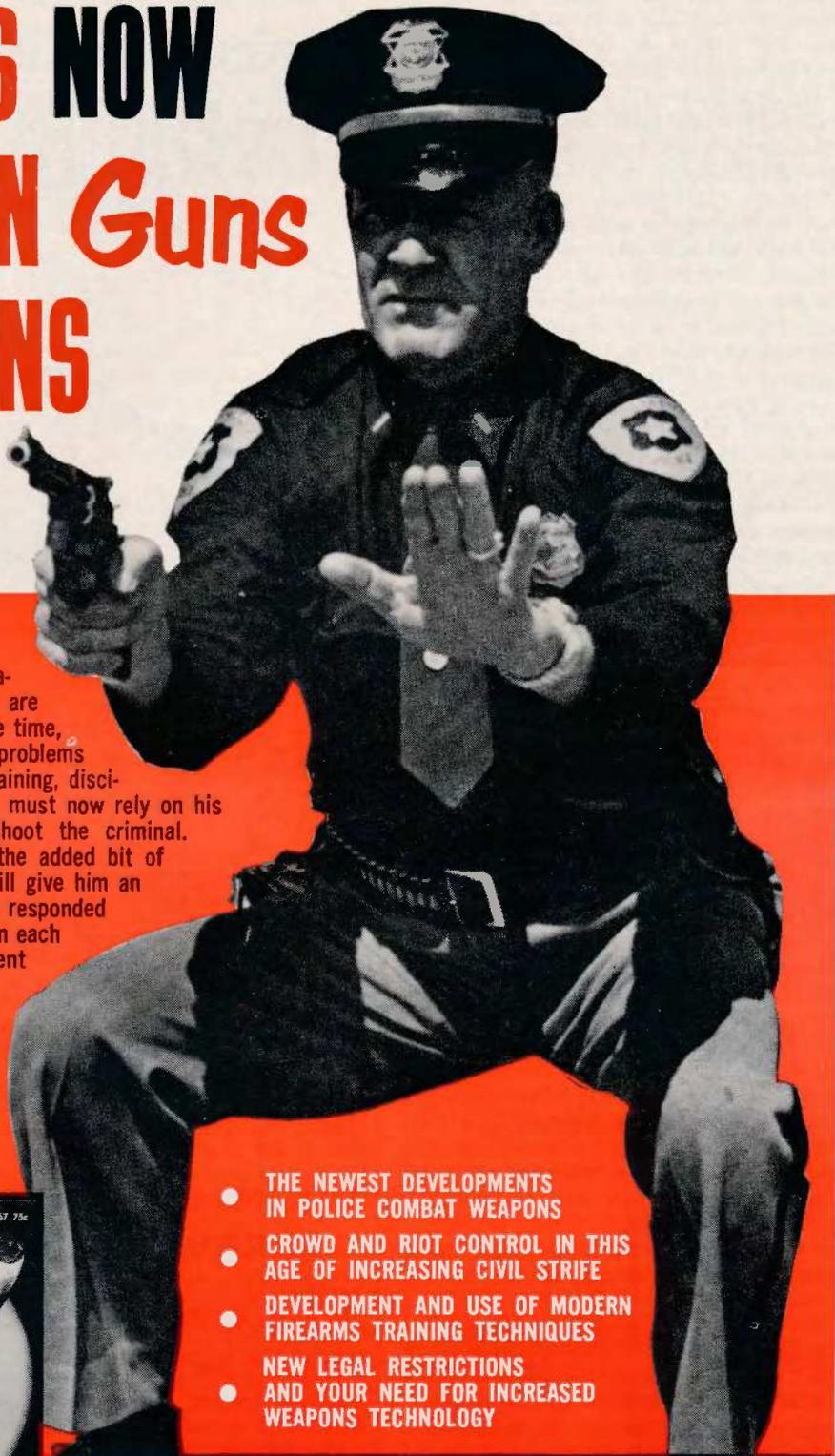
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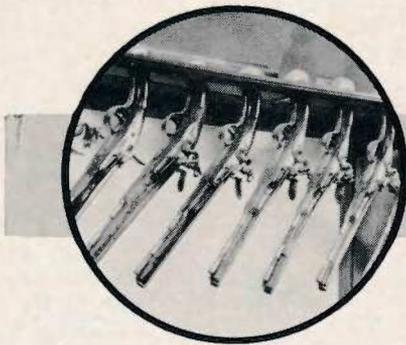
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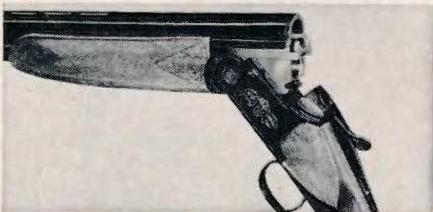


# GUN RACK

## Savage Model 440

The new Savage over/under 12 gauge is the first of the barrel-over-barrel models from the Savage Arms since 1941. The new gun, to be known as the Model 440, is made for Savage by Bresciani Armi, Brescia, Italy. Essentially an uplands gun with a weight of 6 lb., 5 oz. the chrome plated barrels are chambered for the standard 2¾" shells. Barrel lengths are 26", 28", and 30" with a raised vent rib ¼" in width and two gold bead sights. There is some line engraving on the receiver.

The new Savage looks like the Browning Superposed. The receiver has the same configuration and the stock design and its fit to the action are very much the same. There is a single non-selective trigger. The safety is automatic. There are no ejectors. The stock runs 14 inches length



of pull, with 1½ inches drop at comb and 2½ inches drop at heel. These are standard dimensions and are excellent. The stock is of a good although exceedingly plain grade of Italian walnut. There is a hard plastic buttplate, nicely checkered. The shotgun might better have been equipped with a recoil pad. Except with light field and target loads it kicks. The checkering is all hand executed and is quite good.

The trigger operates on the very well designed inertia principle. The recoil of the first barrel sets the hammer for the second barrel. There is no delay. During some 327 shots fired in an extended field test there were no bobbles in the operation of the trigger.

Lockup is with a single underbit beneath the lower tube, exactly like

the Browning. Hammers are brought to a full cock by the falling motion of the barrels. These operate a single cocking fork, pushed backward by an extension on the forend. Opening is rough and requires plenty of effort—you can't expect a Perazzi performance out of a scattergun to sell for slightly more than two hundred bucks.

The upper tube carries three stars, the under four stars. This indicates the degree of choke in each barrel. The container stated the gun was bored improved cylinder and modified. A plug gauge put the lie to this one. The under (and more open barrel) is choked .715" and the upper is .700". This is modified and full choke. Twenty-five patterns from the modified barrel averaged 58%; the same number of patterns from the upper tube averaged 72%. These with Federal target 12 gauge loads, 2¾ drams equiv., 1½ ozs No. 7½. This is good performance. But not improved cylinder and modified as alleged!

On mourning doves the new Savage handles very smoothly. It swings fast, points surely and has loosened up and works much more smoothly. The absence of auto ejectors is a lamentable one but again you can't have Browning ejection at half the price now can you?—Col. Charles Askins.

## M-270 Moto-Tool

Dremel Manufacturing Company of Racine, Wisconsin, is marketing two new Moto-Tools: a M-270 with bronze bearings, and a M-280 with ball bearings. These portable electric hand grinders weigh only 11 ounces and feature a new constant torque permanent magnet type motor delivering 30,000 rpm., greater power per size, higher peak efficiency, constant flux and higher starting torque.

Spot grinding drill-starting concaves on hard A3 military actions was accomplished so rapidly with the M-270 and a ⅛" diameter emery point that at first it was necessary to prac-

tice restraint and allow only momentary contact of grinding stone with metal. Due to the increased rpm, use of the furnished dressing stone to concentrically true up all grinding wheels, is exceptionally important, and wheels over 1" diameter are not recommended.



The tools are equipped with a quick action chuck and a steel wrench. Collets in sizes ⅛", ⅜", and ½" are furnished. A finger grip (chuck guard), slips onto the front motor housing for safely holding the tool when doing close tolerance work. The housing is high impact Lexan plastic, ruggedly designed for industrial grinding, polishing and deburring operations, which require a compact continuous duty electric tool.

Gunsmiths and hobbyists will find endless uses for these UL listed tools. They are easy to operate and no lengthy familiarization is necessary. The M-270 sells for \$29.95, the M-280 ball bearing at \$10 more and the No. 271 kit, comprised of a M-270 grinder with 34 accessories and polyethylene case goes at \$39.95.—William Schumaker.

## Mossberg Scope

Late evening tests of the new 4X32 Mossberg hunting scope indicate that this Japanese-made import is among the better telescopes. Drab-colored Army silhouettes set up against a heavy background of autumnal foliage at ranges from 65 yards to 350 yards were used as sighting targets. These sighting tests were commenced as the sun set and were continued until complete darkness occurred. The test-

(Continued on page 75)

## THE COVER

This amazing action photo was not taken with one of the superfast movie cameras, but with a Mamiya C-3 and a fast strobe using open flash technique. If you'll look closely into the ejector port of the Llama, you can see the cartridge case is still completely inside the slide. Photo by Bob Dienthal.



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# Panel of Experts

## DA .44 Magnum?

I have a Ruger single action, frontier-style .44 Magnum revolver and would like to know if there is the same frontier-style in a double action .44 Magnum? Would the Colt .44 Magnum double action look grotesque if western-style grips were attached?

Douglas Thomas  
Burbank, Calif.

*There is no double action .44 Magnum revolver on the market. Colt's does not manufacture a double action .44 Magnum—or, for that matter, any .44 Magnum caliber revolver. The old Colt New Service revolver as manufactured before WW II does have sufficient strength and dimensions to withstand the pressures of the .44 Magnum cartridge if properly converted. Christy Gun Works, 875 57th Street, Sacramento, California 95831, is probably the best place to go to have such a conversion performed. This firm could also alter the grip frame to provide single action Colt-style grips.—G.N.*

## Italian Youth's Rifle

The gun shown in the attached photograph has the same general characteristics as the common Italian military "Brescia" and is marked the same. The obvious difference, as shown in the picture with a normal Luger, is the size. It was definitely made for a boy, as its size indicates; overall length is 32 inches, while the barrel is 15 inches long. The receiver is marked 1935, and the bayonet snaps under the barrel.

The gun has an interesting history. It was given to a friend of mine, whose father was a captain and C.O. of an infantry company which was mopping up Koblenz in the early spring of 1945. A young boy was seen

to lift a manhole cover and take aim on a soldier. Before he could shoot he was shot at and he ducked back into the hole. As was standard procedure, a grenade was tossed in, and upon later investigation, it was discovered the boy was dead. Before he died he had tried to destroy the rifle by hammering the bolt against rock or metal. The marks are still there. Little damage was done and it is still functional and in generally very good condition.



My main interest is in antiques but I've never seen or heard of this gun before. I would appreciate any information you may have on this gun. I'd like to know how a gun of Italian manufacture came into the hands of a German Hitler Youth. Are many of these known to exist?

Michael D. Brodeur  
Rocky Hill, Conn.

*How your rifle got into the hands of a German Hitler Youth, I would guess no one will ever know, but it is the Youth Rifle Model of the Italian Service Carbine Model 91. It is chambered for a special 6.5 mm cartridge, has a barrel length of 14.43", or it could be the same model, but of a subcaliber, such as .22 rf. It was used for training and issued to children as young as six or seven for training as "soldiers."—R.M.*

## .257 Roberts Loads

Recently I made up a rifle on a Centurian Deluxe Mauser action as sold by the late Golden State Arms

Co. I'd been wanting a good .257 Roberts ever since I had to part with my Remington Model 722 back in 1954 and this looked like my best bet. I was very pleased to find that the throating and magazine well readily allowed loading to an overall cartridge length of 2.987 inches.

I feel that with this advantage, plus the extra strength of the Centurian Mauser's modern steel if gun magazine reports can be relied upon, I should be able to load the 120 grain Norma bullets somewhat hotter than I used to with the Remington 722 when I had to hold length to 2.725 inches. My question is just how much of a load could I safely use over the maximum load of 4350 which Speer specifies as 42 grains with the 120 grain bullet. I read somewhere that Jack O'Connor used to load 45 grains of 4350 behind a 125 grain bullet in a 3.000 inch load load.

Harrison D. Smith  
Portland, Maine

*I know of no very recent tests to determine maximum loads in .257 Roberts caliber with the 120 grain bullet seated out to 2.987" overall cartridge length. However, in the American Rifleman for October, 1953, the late Philip B. Sharpe states that he had found 44 gr. of IMR 4350 to be the top load, producing 2700 fps at the muzzle with the 120 gr. bullet so loaded.*

*Of course, this load was determined to be maximum in Sharpe's test rifle. Your rifle may digest another grain of powder, or it may produce excessive pressures with the load above. The only way I know to determine this as it applies to your particular rifle, is to start with 42 gr. of powder and work up in steps of no more than ½ grain.*

—G.N.

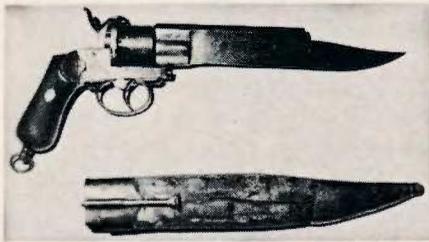
## Knife Pistol

I recently found an old knife revolver in a second hand shop in Athens, Greece. I am sending you a picture to see if you can identify it for me.

It appears to be a .36 or .38 caliber pin fire. The blade and barrel are etched with swords, pikes, flags, war clubs, and a suit of armor. There is no manufacturer's name on the weapon but it does have several proof marks on the cylinder. The blade has a serial number, apparently, stamped on its left side, 494. It has what appears to me to be Belgium proof marks.

It came with a scabbard which has the ejector built into it. It hooks on a belt by means of a clip on the other side. The weapon is definitely old, and considering its age it is in darn good

condition. The only part which is not original is the loading gate. This is homemade. The tip of the scabbard looks like it was put on in recent years too. The blade is screwed onto the cylinder pin and then a screw tightens the blade to the frame. The length of the barrel is 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ " and the blade is 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".



I would like to know who made the weapon, what it is worth, if it's worth keeping, and whether it could possibly be a military weapon? Any information you can give me about this will be very much appreciated.

Donald B. Small  
APO New York

Your combination knife pistol looks to be a good find. There is much interest to the collector in this type of arm. Manufacture of your pistol is Belgian, and caliber is 9 mm pinfire. I would doubt that it is military issue, but it may have been carried by a military man at one time or another. Combination weapons of this type were very popular with officers and sailors while at sea. Collector's value for your pistol should be some place around \$200 depending upon its true condition, but this price will give you a good idea as to the going rate of your type arm.—R.M.

### Shotgun Barrel Safety

If possible I would like an expert's advice as to whether the following described gun is capable of safely handling today's factory-loaded shells. The gun is a double barrel, hammerless shotgun in 12 gauge with 28" barrels, either IC or skeet bored. The name "L.C. Smith" is stamped on both side plates. On the top rib is stamped "Hunter Arms Co., Fulton, N.Y." On the right side plate are engraved ducks, both in flight and on the water. The left side plate has quail engraved on it. The butt stock is of beautiful burl walnut and the forearm has a dog's head in relief in the center. This gun has engraving all over, even to the underside of the barrels at the breech. The barrel engraving is a chain pattern with each link identical to the others and the pattern is even on the underside rib between the barrels.

The serial number is 307216 and is stamped on the forearm iron, the trigger guard at the grip, on the block near the breech and under the left barrel where the number 3 also appears just under the serial number. This 3 could be an inspector's stamp or possibly indicates three inch chambers. The former owner insists this gun is safe for all factory-loaded ammunition.

Henry S. Johnson  
Neenah, Wisc.

Your description fits one of the fancier grades of L. C. Smith Hunter guns, probably the Specialty Grade with the quail on the left side plate. If all original and in good condition, it is a very desirable gun.

It is impossible to certify a gun is safe for all factory-loaded ammunition without actual examination. Steel barreled shotguns, in good condition, should be safe with proper ammunition. But guns have been rebarreled—even with Damascus barrels—and guns have been made with all sorts of chamber lengths. In addition, other conditions, such as headspace, firing pin shapes and protrusions, etc., leave one with one solution; get the gun checked by a competent gunsmith before use.—S.B.

### 16 Gauge Magnum?

I have a quality 16 gauge over and under gun that is chambered for three inch shells. I also have a bunch of empty three inch 16 gauge hulls. An interesting thing, at least to me, is that these paper hulls have a low brass head, but a steel liner extending a full inch to cover the powder charge. However, as you know, there is no loading data for three inch sixteens. Can you give me any help or suggest anyone who can help me in doping out loads?

Phillip P. Griffee  
Billings, Montana

I know of no loading data whatever for a three inch 16 gauge Magnum. My personal recommendation would be to take the heaviest published 16 gauge data, then work up very slowly and carefully, keeping alert for any signs of excessive pressure. DuPont's Reloading Guide lists 25.5 gr. of SR-4756 powder and 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  ounces of shot as its heaviest 16 gauge load. This is with plastic cup-type overpowder wads. However before exceeding the above load, I recommend that you write the Alcan Co., 3640 Seminary Road, Alton, Illinois, and ask if any information on this three inch 16 gauge case and loads for it is available there.—G.N.

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**HANDLOADING BENCH**

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

A NUMBER OF MONTHS back I was awakened to the smell of smoke and the calls of my teenage son who reported "... popping noises in the garage." Fortunately, it was a warm night and only about midnight, so evacuation of the family from the house presented no serious problems—other than that their attire wasn't exactly suitable for public appearance. A quick check of the attached two-car garage confirmed the worst—a fire too far gone for me as an individual to do anything about it, even though water and extinguishers were available. Not an unusual situation thus far, since it happens for one reason or another to someone virtually every hour somewhere in this broad land; an unfortunate, but common, incident.

What did make it unusual in this instance was the fact that for many years I have stored the bulk of my ammunition, components and reloading equipment in the garage—wherever I might be living—to be taken to the loading bench elsewhere in the house only as needed. And, all the neighbors knew "That garage is crammed with GUNPOWDER and AMMUNITION!" Spectators gathered around during the few minutes it took the volunteer fire department to arrive, but the popping of primers and cartridges kept them uneasy and more distant than usual. Even so, nothing untoward happened until one individual started running around shouting to everyone that the place was going to "... blow up any minute, so everybody get clear." This ill-informed soul could have easily started a neighborhood panic if I hadn't managed to collar him and shut him up. At that moment I considered him considerably more dangerous to the community than the fire.

By that time, though, the fire department had arrived. Fortunately a couple of the booted and helmeted lads were ardent handloaders and knew the score. From personal experience they knew I had no black powder in there and that only garden-variety smokeless powder, primers and loaded ammunition were

stacked on the shelves along the walls. With these fellows spearheading the show, firemen moved in and got things under control in short order. Now, I've seen fire departments in action before, and heard reports of them in action under similar circumstances—and know that they don't ordinarily get very enthusiastic about working a fire where ammunition and powder are involved. If it hadn't been for those handloaders on the department, I might well have lost the whole works instead of winding up with just a gutted garage. Incidentally, in excess of 20,000 rounds of assorted types of ammunition were involved, though less than 50 pounds of powder.

And it certainly didn't help matters when a couple of television cameramen came screaming up in a mobile unit to "check out the explosion you've had here." It took plenty of talking to convince them there hadn't been and wouldn't be any explosion. Hell, I was so busy pacifying people that I didn't even have time to keep track of my own fire! Needless to say, there was not any explosion—just a hot, relatively brief fire.

In any event, the house was saved, though the garage had to be completely rebuilt, and I lost the price of a new Rolls-Royce in tools, ammunition, and components—insured, of course.

The point I want to make here is that you might well find yourself in a similar situation some day—and you might not be as lucky as I in quieting the alarmists present, and you might also get a fire fighting crew that doesn't contain a couple of handloaders who know the score. If that happens, then you may well lose a lot more than I did. This is particularly true in a small town where firemen don't get extensive training in fire behavior.

But a little neighborhood education might well prevent just that from happening, should you ever have a fire. Since you can't keep it secret that you're a handloader and, therefore, have powder, primers, etc. somewhere in the house, you'll do well to let the

neighbors in on the facts. Bring them in and show them what you have and drag out your books and magazine articles to show them that what you have is LESS dangerous than the gasoline they keep for their lawnmowers; less dangerous than a can of lighter fluid; even less so than a can of mama's hair spray—some varieties of which make beautiful flamethrowers and grenades when heated a bit too much. Even better yet, show them that you have powder and primers stored in a closed box or cabinet made of 1" lumber to keep fire from getting to it before the red trucks can arrive. This, incidentally, is recommended by the national association of fire chiefs, and we'll go into it next month, complete with dope on building your own storage unit.

In short, make your neighbors aware of the facts. Convince them that the supplies for your hobby are no more dangerous than theirs. Then, if the day ever comes when you have a fire, there won't be people running wildly about, waving their arms and shouting, possibly to start a panic and cause far greater damage than the fire itself.

From time to time we get requests for information on reloading Berdan-primed cases. There are a number of calibers that just aren't to be had in any other form, no matter how hard you try, even by forming new brass. To the best of my knowledge, there are two principal sources of Berdan primers in this country. Jack Brickell, Oregon Ammunition Service (Box 7031, Portland, Oregon 97207) usually has a fair supply of British Kynoch caps (primers) to fit most of the more common English calibers. They aren't cheap, usually running around \$3.50 for a tin of 250—but they are available. The Alcan Company (3640 Seminary Road, Alton, Illinois 62004) imports a rather complete line of Berdan primers under its own label, and they will take care of most of the common metric calibers.

If getting the old primers out bothers you, get one of Lachmiller Engineering Company's (6445 San Fernando Road, Glendale, California) Berdan decapping tools. Seating new primers can often be done on conventional, standard-size priming devices, but Lachmiller also makes punches and shell holders in Berdan sizes for its bench priming tool. Getting the job done right is normally easier if you have the right tools.

One of the most common military cartridges of pre-1950's was the 7.92 mm German service round, variously known as the 7.92x57mm, 8x57mm Mauser, 8 mm Mauser, 8x57JS, and



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other names. Probably more Mauser Mod. 98 rifles were made in this caliber than any other—and I sometimes wonder if nearly all of them didn't wind up being sold as surplus in this country. All too often the fellow who winds up with an 8 mm '98 will immediately begin to figure out how he can economically convert it to a more desirable caliber, since he doesn't really consider the cartridge on a par with the more modern sporting numbers.

There is certainly no need for any handloader to convert his 8 mm Mauser. Properly loaded, this venerable cartridge is more than adequate for anything you'll ever want to shoot on this continent. For example, if you want to shoot something mean and nasty like a big bear, the Speer 225 grain round-nose bullet can be driven at slightly over 2500 fps by 56 grains of IMR 4350 powder at safe pressures. This is faster than the factory-loaded .30-06 220 grain bullet. The even heavier 236 grain bullet can be pushed out of the muzzle at just under 2400 fps by 46.5 grains of IMR 4320. If you prefer a somewhat lighter projectile, those of 170-180 grains weight can be whipped up to around 2800 fps by 52 grains of IMR 4064 powder—again, virtually approaching the '06 factory loads with similar weights. A charge of 56 grains of 4320 will produce 3000 fps with 150 grain bullets, and if you want to bust varmints, use 125 grain bullets with the same powder charge for a couple hundred fps greater velocity.

Whatever you do, don't put the old 8 mm Mauser down simply because it happens to be over 80 years old and the U.S. makers have always loaded it rather lightly. In fact, you don't have to handload to have really modern performance—just pick up some of the fine DWM factory loads available through Speer dealers. The 196 grain bullet is driven at 2720 fps, producing 3220 fp at the muzzle. Think that over before spending time and money converting a good 8 mm '98 to some other caliber.

Incidentally, by the time you read this, Speer, Inc. (Box 244, Lewiston, Idaho), will be marketing a complete line of DWM ammunition, as well as some Boxer-primed cases and Brenneke bullets. We'll certainly have more on this later, after we get a chance to work out with some of the new ammunition and components.

If you are one of those fellows who likes to shoot and load for the metric calibers, you'll be pleased to know that Firearms International (4837 Kerby Hill Road, Washington, D.C. 20022) has in stock an extensive inventory of Finnish-made Sako cases. Just drop FI a line for the name of their dealer nearest you and he can get them.

There is a new reloading tool company in action today. Called Tecto (1625 Washington Street N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418) its a new division of a firm that has long been supplying tooling to industry for the production of ammunition and components. Thus far, the line is small and restricted to low-priced items. We've been playing around with the \$13.95 reloading press and \$9.95 powder measure and will be reporting on them in the not-too-distant future. In the meantime, brochures are available.

Spring though it may be, it sure isn't too early to start thinking about the handloads you'll be wanting to use next big game season. As the weather warms up, it's time to do a little fun shooting—and you might as well make it worthwhile two ways. Don't restrict it to your varmint and .22 RF rifles. Work in the gun(s) you'll use for meat next fall. The more familiar you are with both gun and loads when that bull elk steps into your sights, the more likely you are to collect him. Last-minute loaded ammunition, last-minute zeroing, and a half-dozen rounds fired to reacquaint yourself with the outfit just isn't enough. Shoot that meat or trophy gun and ammunition throughout the summer and you'll have made a large portion of the "luck" many people depend upon for hunt success.

## GUN REGISTRATION

It is assumed that every reader of this magazine is against any legislation which would require the registration of guns. But how about your friends and neighbors? Ask them if they want it a matter of public record that their home is not protected with a gun! If they are not in the registration books, this means that they don't own a gun—or that they are lawbreakers if they did not register it—and that their home is unprotected. Wouldn't thieves like to have this information; and how hard would it be for them to get it?

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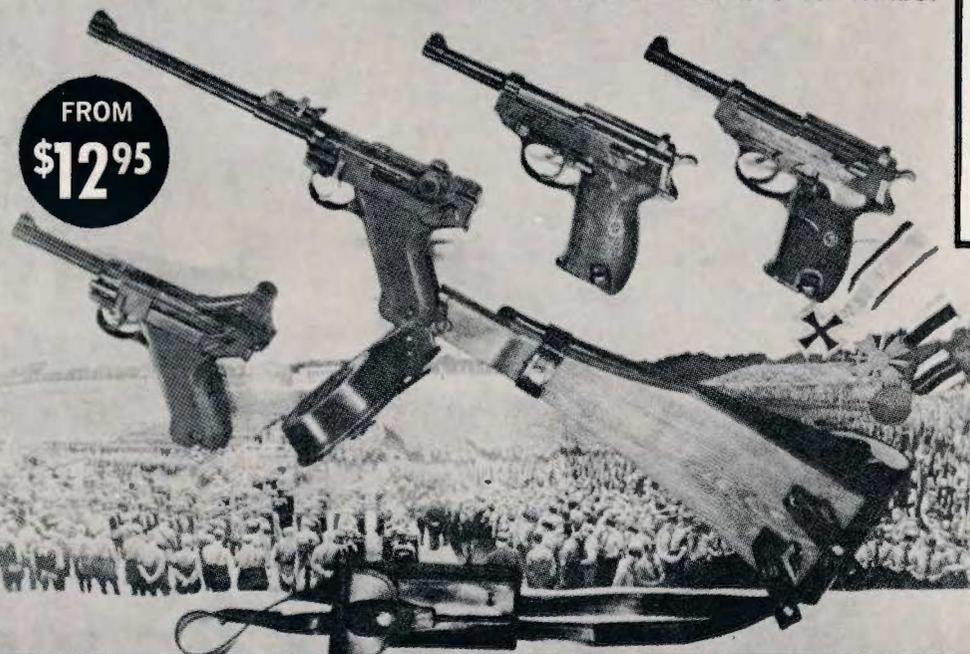


6-power Model K6

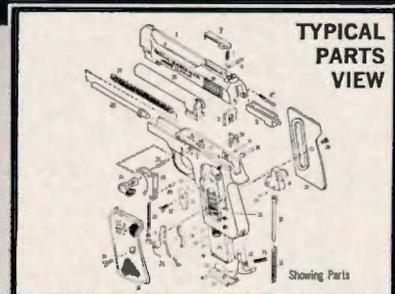
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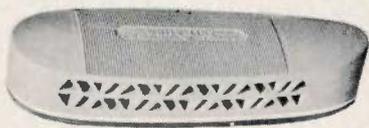
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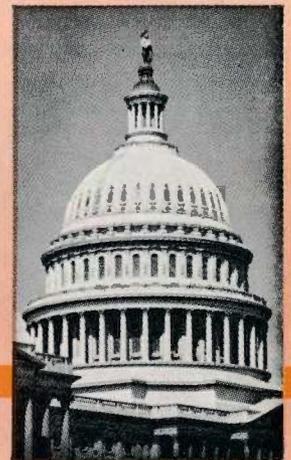
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# OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



CARL WOLFF

WHY THE CHANGE?

The President in his State of the Union Message opened wide the way to compromise on the gun control issue. As if only by a passing thought, he said: "And I urge the Congress to stop the trade in mail order murder, to stop it this year, by adopting a proper gun-control law."

This was one sentence in an hour of sentences charging Congress to carry forth the Administration's program. Last year in the previous State of the Union, he said, "We will recommend strict controls on the sale of firearms."

The key to the turning point is the word "proper" replacing the previous word "strict." Why the change? Simply put, the regular course of events has been kind to the shooting sportsman.

Heading up the reasons for change is that the President no longer has the influence he once held over Congress. The lawmakers have gone hostile to much of the Administration's thinking. This is demonstrated by the fight over an increase in taxes.

High on the list too must be the turnover of people within the superstructure of the Executive Branch of the government. Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, for one, was removed as the nation's number one law officer. Replacing him as Attorney General was Ramsey Clark.

General Clark has given only token support for the strict controls pushed by Katzenbach. Another important development was the Senate censure of Senator Thomas Dodd (D.—Conn.). The tainting of his reputation also contaminated the legislation with which he was identified.

From these examples an illusive pattern starts to raise its intangible head. Yet, it is there. The President now must temper his programs. Pressure exerted on one hunk of legislation has a distracting effect on another.

The tax increase and other legislation has taken high priority. Example: the tax bill must, according to the Constitution, start in the House side of Congress. This means the Ways and Means Committee has jurisdiction. Chairman of the Committee is Wilbur Mills (D.—Ark.).

Regular readers will recall Rep. Mills did not like the hanky-panky pulled last year with the Administration's strict firearms control bill. The measure was rewritten to refer it to the Judiciary Committee.

It has since been a sore spot with several members of the Mills Committee, including its chairman.

The "proper" firearms bill then should involve Ways and Means. But, this will take a while. Gun legislation started in the Senate and that is where it should properly start on its legislative journey.

In the Senate, is another key legislative figure, Senator James Eastland (D.—Miss.). He chairs the Judiciary Committee under which Dodd has his Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee. Already Delinquency has sent to Eastland its recommendation for strict firearms control. But the full committee is not in any way bound by a subcommittee.

As a matter of fact, in the last congress, two years ago, legislation faced the same situation. The full committee substituted a compromise bill. Since then, a change in committee assignments has removed anti-gunner, Senator Jacob Javits (R.—N.Y.) and replaced him with Senator Strom Thurmond (R.—S.C.). This change has the effect of not one but two votes. It removes one from the opposition and adds one to the pro-gun group.

The key Republican on Judiciary is Senator Roman Hruska (Neb.). It is his bill that is expected to be substituted for the so-called "Dodd bill" when the committee moves the legislation forward.

From the Judiciary, the legislation will go to the Senate Commerce Committee. Commerce should have had jurisdiction over the legislation all along but Dodd got the bill referred to Judiciary with the consent of Commerce.

The inside story here is that Commerce is not likely to slow up any Hruska-type compromise. But, should too strong a bill come out of Judiciary, it will be held up for close committee review. Then a Commerce-approved measure will go to the Senate floor for vote, discussion and passage to the House, if a majority of the Senators agree.

Just what kind of a bill will be sent to the House side is still up in the air. There are those who want the existing Hruska bill. It is likely, however, that some amending will be done.

An educated guess is that a total ban on interstate shipment of handguns will result and that a notarized statement for long guns will be required. The notarized statement will be sent to the local police officer before delivery of the rifle or shotgun.

Reaction to the President's new position has been called by shooting-minded lawmakers as a real step forward in ending, for a time anyway, the Washington controversy over guns. Even Senator Dodd has said he agreed with Mr. Johnson. "The Gun Control Bill, which I authored . . . (is) already in Committee." It must be passed by the Congress, he urged. It should be pointed out that the Dodd version of a firearms bill is between the strict provisions of the harsh Administration measure and the more liberal Hruska proposal.

Not welcoming the State of the Union Message was the Kennedy core of lawmakers. This is where the real far out gun control thoughts come from. The Administration's bill was written by Senator Bob Kennedy's friends in Justice while Katzenbach was there.

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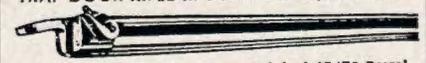
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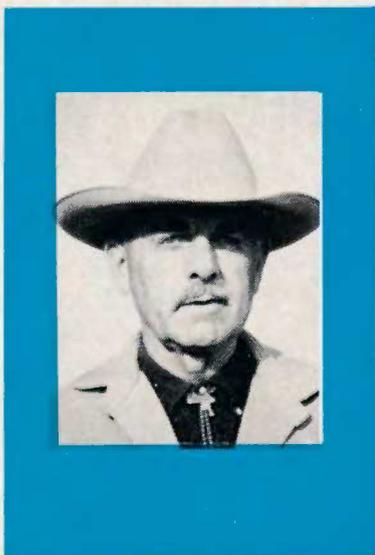
SEVENTY YEARS AGO at Lyon, France, the first world rifle championship was shot. The championship was decided at 300 meters, 120 shots, any center fire rifle, iron sights, and was fired prone, kneeling, and offhand. It was won by a Norwegian, A. Helgerud. His score was 942 out of a possible 1200 points. We had a couple of entries, but we didn't look so good, our No. 1 man finished 7th and our No. 2 wound up in 9th place.

We had some pretty good excuses. The Continentals, we found, played a different game than our own. We were, in those days, pretty hot at the offhand and at the 1000 yd. game but this 300 meter dodge was brand new. Our people hardly knew how far three hundred meters might be. Along with this, the competition had rifles the like of which we had never seen.

Since that beginning, the world matches have been fired every four years—wars permitting—and we also tilt at four-year intervals for the world diadem at the Olympics. Between the world matches and the Olympiad we alternate, so that both big bangfests do not fall in the same year. You would think with this amount of shooting, stretching over almost three-quarters of a century, we'd have soon gained the ascendancy at a game which is essentially as American as baseball. The facts are—the cold harsh truth—we've scarcely won at all.

After the first matches in 1897, won as I've said by a Norwegian, the Swiss asserted their supremacy in the international game and Konrad Staheli won the world championship a total of six times. This was over a period of years and was climaxed by his superb firing in 1912 when he chalked up a new world record of 1078 points. Thus, in a period of 15 years—from 1897 to 1912—the top score was upped from 952

*(Continued overleaf)*



*Charles Askins*

By **CHARLES ASKINS**



Capt. Dan Puckel of the U.S. Team demonstrates their styles in offhand and kneeling positions. Kneeling scores with this stance are within two per cent of prone scores.

### OLYMPIC GAMES SHOOTING EVENTS 1952-1964

#### 300-Meters Free Rifle

1952		1956		1960		1964	
1. USSR	1123	1. USSR	1138	1. Austria	1129	1. USA	1153
6. USA	1104	8. USA	1082	7. USA	1121	3. USA	1136
18. USA	1055	10. USA	1075	10. USA	1114		

#### 50-Meter Smallbore, 3 position

1952		1956		1960		1964	
1. Norway	1164	1. USSR	1172	1. USSR	1149	1. USA	1164
11. USA	1155	12. USA	1153	7. USA	1136	6. USA	1147
12. USA	1155	14. USA	1151	24. USA	1115		

## FREE RIFLE GAME



Schultz & Larsen Model 62



Armorer from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Training Unit at Ft. Benning used a Remington Model 40X barreled action to make up this free rifle.



Hammerli Free Rifle

to 1078, a commendable increase of 136 points. The U.S. marksmen continued to try but we were also-ran.

This kept on until the Olympics of 1920. World War I had just ground to a close, and our combat riflemen had performed superbly. The world acknowledged us as a nation of riflemen, and we thought we were pretty good, too. The Marines sent a gunnery sergeant to the Olympics. He was Morris "Bud" Fisher, and he cleaned up, not only annexed the coveted Olympic gold medal but banged out a new world record: A practically unassailable tally of 1090!

Then, just to show it was no flash in the pan, Fisher returned to the international matches at Rheims, France, in 1924, and again won the 300 meter title. The next year, however, the Swiss forged to the front again. Jon Hartmann became the first rifleman in history to crack the magic 1100 point level. He scored 1109.

The internationals were staged in Antwerp in 1930. We sent over a team, which included Harry Renshaw, a lieutenant of the U.S. Air Corps, who won the 300 meter event. After that we sort of gave up. Our successes had been few and our defeats many.

This was a sad error in judgment on the part of someone for the Europeans continued to shoot, and as they competed against each other scores continued to climb. One reason we had withdrawn was our rifles. We tried to build a suitable 300 meter gun around the old '03 Springfield. In 1924, and again at Antwerp when Renshaw won, we had fired the .30-06 cartridge, a special loading called Palma Match, but in a Martini rifle. That is to say a Swiss Martini action barreled by Springfield Armory. The facts were that we were not only outgunned by the Continentals but they also understood the free rifle game much better than did our marksmen. It is a highly specialized affair, and to excel the gunner must not only live on the 300-meter range but he must have as encouragement a fraternity which practices his game. The sport in North America was about as popular as Republicans along the Pedernales. It was not until the early 1950's that interest was again revived in this worldwide shooting event among American riflemen.

Meanwhile, the Europeans had gone right along with their biannual tournaments. In 1937, E. Kivistik of Estonia, won the world championship with the extraordinary record score of 1124. This mark was so astronomically high that it was not until 1954—some 17 years later—that Anatoli Bogdanov, the Soviet's star performer, whooped the mark up to 1133.

Directly after World War II the USSR decided that their people must excel in all things athletic, including shooting. For a number of years the Soviets fanned out worldwide and took voluminous notes on every well-known athlete, and observed and photographed every ranking athletic tournament. This included all the larger shooting competitions as well. Rifles were shipped back to Moscow from every armsmaker and ammunitions by the ton were imported. Finally, after all the preliminaries, the Russians were ready. They participated in the Olympic Games in a serious way, and in all the international bangfests. That their course of action has payed off was not long in evidencing itself. The Muscovites, in no time at all, became the shooters to watch. They won; they hung up new records; they were tough. The Swiss long considered the world's outstanding stars at the 300 meter sport, (Continued on page 61)

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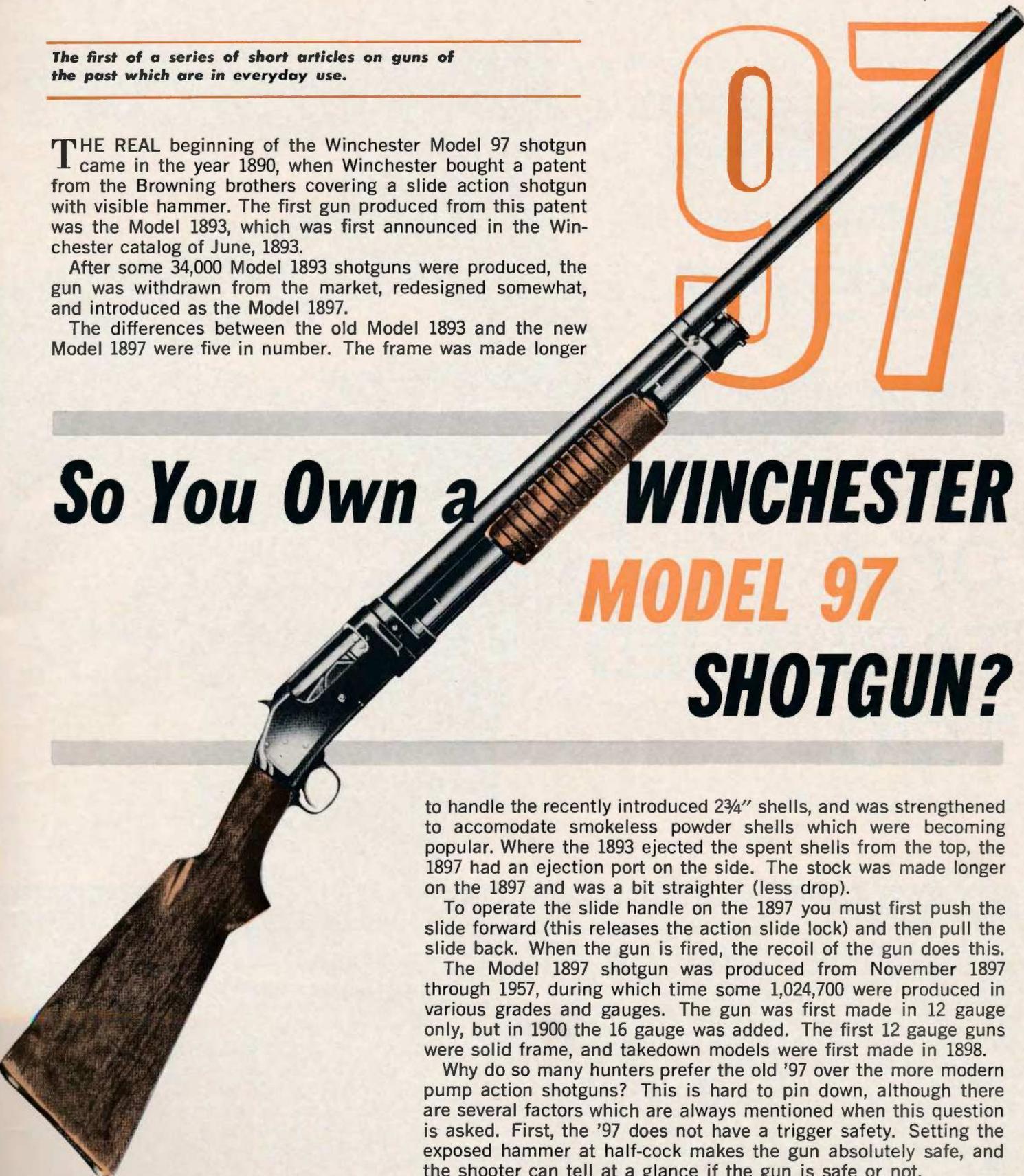
*The first of a series of short articles on guns of the past which are in everyday use.*

---

**T**HE REAL beginning of the Winchester Model 97 shotgun came in the year 1890, when Winchester bought a patent from the Browning brothers covering a slide action shotgun with visible hammer. The first gun produced from this patent was the Model 1893, which was first announced in the Winchester catalog of June, 1893.

After some 34,000 Model 1893 shotguns were produced, the gun was withdrawn from the market, redesigned somewhat, and introduced as the Model 1897.

The differences between the old Model 1893 and the new Model 1897 were five in number. The frame was made longer



# So You Own a **WINCHESTER** **MODEL 97** **SHOTGUN?**

to handle the recently introduced 2¾" shells, and was strengthened to accommodate smokeless powder shells which were becoming popular. Where the 1893 ejected the spent shells from the top, the 1897 had an ejection port on the side. The stock was made longer on the 1897 and was a bit straighter (less drop).

To operate the slide handle on the 1897 you must first push the slide forward (this releases the action slide lock) and then pull the slide back. When the gun is fired, the recoil of the gun does this.

The Model 1897 shotgun was produced from November 1897 through 1957, during which time some 1,024,700 were produced in various grades and gauges. The gun was first made in 12 gauge only, but in 1900 the 16 gauge was added. The first 12 gauge guns were solid frame, and takedown models were first made in 1898.

Why do so many hunters prefer the old '97 over the more modern pump action shotguns? This is hard to pin down, although there are several factors which are always mentioned when this question is asked. First, the '97 does not have a trigger safety. Setting the exposed hammer at half-cock makes the gun absolutely safe, and the shooter can tell at a glance if the gun is safe or not.

Perhaps the most important reason for hanging on to this relic of the past is that most owners of the Model '97 will bet you any amount of money that this shotgun shoots harder and farther.

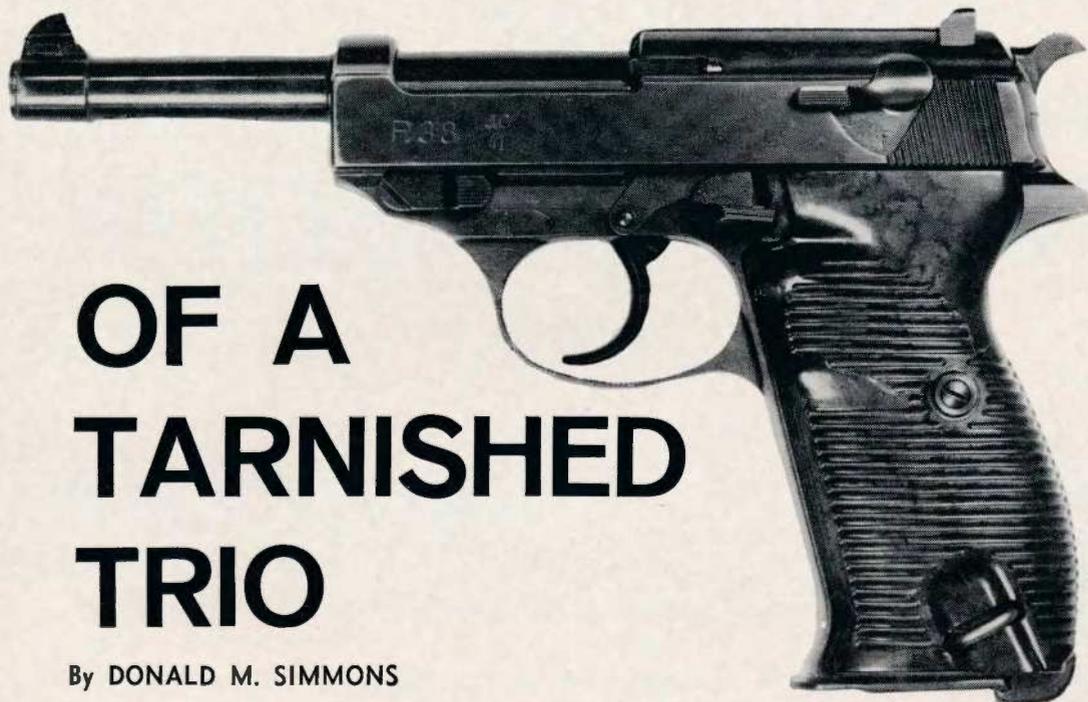
Whatever the reasons for keeping the old '97, there are perhaps more of these veterans still in use today than any other single model, and the owners have little fear that the gun will keep shooting, hard and far, for many years to come.

By **BOB GIBSON**



*Some auto pistols deserve a poor reputation,  
but the author steps forth...*

# IN DEFENSE



Walther P-38

# OF A TARNISHED TRIO

By DONALD M. SIMMONS

**G**UNS SOMETIMES have unearned reputations which can be likened to those of certain fun loving females who through jealousy or malice are called nasty five letter names. When I think of automatic pistols which have been the most maligned, I think of those I choose to call my Shady Ladies. So step up, mister, and meet the girls!

I think the classic case of a pistol getting a bad reputation just because it was cheap, is the Spanish Astra 400. In the early 1950's I bought ten boxed pistols, each with an extra magazine and a Spanish instruction manual and the jobber even threw in an extra unboxed one, all for one hundred and ten dollars. This just wasn't a fair price for this good a gun. We used to laughingly call them "Mary Astra" in the gun shows, and there weren't many sold.

Yet, let's take a hard look at these pistols to see if they are as worthless as their price would indicate. Besides being underpriced they were also sold as able to shoot practically any 9 mm ammo you could find. This misrepresentation came about because there was only a very small supply of the correct 9 mm Luger. This trouble over the correct ammo time and some Astras could get away with the 9 mm Luger cartridge, if they had a tight chamber. I sold most of mine with a box of 9 mm Steyr ammo which gave much more satisfactory results than did the 9 mm Luger. This trouble over the correct ammo didn't do anything to help the image of the Astras. They got an undeserved reputation for misfiring.

Another cross that the Astra had to bear was one which will be carried by all Spanish guns for a long



French M-1935A made by S.A.C.M.



The M-1935A field strips like the Colt .45 Auto except that the firing assembly strips as a subassembly.



Astra Model 400

time. "Made in Spain" on a pistol has the same effect on a buyer as saying, "Here is a piece of junk. Look out!" Certainly in the 1920's and 1930's most of the guns imported from Spain were junk, but that doesn't mean that Spain was arming her own army and navy with junk. They weren't; they used their

best hand gun the Model 400 from Astra.

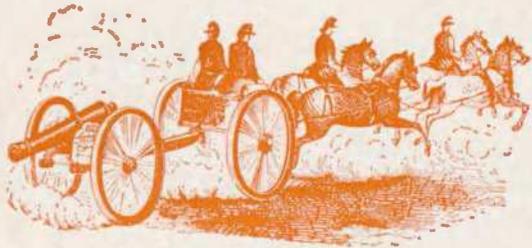
Let me try to explain why the Astra has class. First, look at the finish of an Astra. The outside has that very expensive rust blue that one sees on a good pre-WW II Luger. This type of blue requires many applications and polishings and is very expensive in man/hours. The inside finish is left in the "white," another expensive treatment. The Astra has features not found in other inexpensive guns. Each pin is locked in place with an "L" tail which is always in the same spot and which can be quickly pried up. The walls and, more importantly, the feed lips of the magazine are almost twice the usual thickness. This gives a very durable magazine. The Astra has a grip safety as well as a manual safety, but they also have a magazine safety which (Continued on page 72)

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# REBEL'S SECRET WEAPON

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By E. SMOKEY KINNON



**A** THUNDEROUS roar reverberated through the Georgia pines and history was made. The event has been a controversial topic from that day on and probably will be until end of time.

After the smoke lifted, and the pop-eyed, frightened spectators drifted back from behind trees, boulders and other shields, an inventory was taken of the effectiveness of the weapon. On the right, in a distant field, a cow lay dead! Killed by a cannon ball! To the left, as far distant, a chimney on a house was blown to bits! By a cannon ball!

A corn field was torn up, an acre of ground plowed up . . . and some rumors persisted that three people were killed. This has not been substantiated.

The rows of stakes driven into the ground as a target, representing "Damn Yankee" soldiers, were the only objects unscathed in the field! This memorable event took place in April, 1862, near Athens, Georgia, in a field on the Newton Bridge road.

The fabulous weapon was a double barrel cannon. Its inventor, John Wesley Gilleland, Sr., a mechanic and



The Confederate double barrel cannon now rests on the city hall lawn in Athens, Georgia.



## IF THE DOUBLE BARREL CANNON HAD WORKED SUCCESSFULLY THE CONFEDERATE STATES MIGHT HAVE WON THE CIVIL WAR



housebuilder, was also a private in "Mitchell's Thunderbolts," an elite home guard unit of men who were ineligible for active duty because of their age or disability. Gilleland, was employed by Cook's Armory in Athens during the war.

Gilleland had two sons in the service, but one was released from duty after about a year because of wounds he had received, including a loss of a hand. This probably was one reason the elder Gilleland was spurred to devise this cannon. He undoubtedly figured two cannon balls with a chain between would really be effective, that it would "mow down the enemy, as a scythe cuts wheat."

The barrels were side by side and diverged by three degrees from parallel. The cannon balls were 6 pounders, and connected with an 8 foot chain. By having a slight divergence to the barrels, the balls were supposed to separate after leaving the muzzle, drawing the chain tight, which was the "scythe" that would "mow 'em down." Sometimes the plans of mice and men go awry and this was one of those times.

Colonel G. W. Rains, commandant of the Augusta Arsenal, was a skeptic from the beginning and frankly expressed his opinion of the gun. He pointed out that in 1855 while he was Commandant of Recruits at Governor's Island, New York Harbor, a similar weapon was brought to his attention, and he would have nothing more to do with "Gilleland's folly."

The barrels had been cast in the Athens Foundry in 1862, under the supervision of one Thomas Bailey, after 36 interested citizens raised the necessary \$350 for its manufacture. The gun barrels were cast so the powder from both barrels would meet at the central point. The theory was fine, but, in practice it did not work so precisely. This also was Colonel Rain's position. He explained to Ordnance Chief, Colonel Josiah Gorgas, that no matter how well the powder is weighted, it will not fire both barrels at precisely the same time as gun powder is not identical in structure, shape, or size. He commented further, two cartridges are unequal in

dimensions when containing the same amount of powder by weight, hence the volumes of air in the spaces of the charges are unequal. He also stated that even if it were possible to have the charges the same to a millionth, there are still other factors to be considered. The friction of the balls and the weight of the balls, which also vary a fraction, throw the center of gravity of the balls in different positions causing one ball to lead the other in leaving the muzzle and either break the chain or take a boomerang course with unexpected results.

Gilleland was a man not easily convinced. After the Ordnance Department rejected the cannon as not practical, he appealed to Governor Joseph E. Brown of Georgia. Brown could do nothing so the gun was returned to Athens. When the Federal occupation forces came to Athens, the cannon was probably in the yard of Town Hall.

Even if it was worthless as a defensive piece, it was to serve as a warning to the citizens of Athens in case of enemy attack or raid. When the summer of 1863 came, people began to prepare for such an eventuality. A Dr. Moore had been appointed as master of the cannon and he was to fire the cannon as a warning in the event a raid occurred. All the plans for evacuating the homes had been made. The women and children were to go to the shelter of the Town Hall. The men were to form a circle and fight.

One sunny, quiet Sunday, the town-folk were in church, thanking the Lord for having protected them from raids and other miseries of war, when BARR-O-O-M! went the cannon. A near panic ensued. Women and children crying and screaming, and men went dashing through the streets. After a lull in the excitement, it was found that some prankish kids had lit the fuse in the "always-ready" cannon to see how well the evacuation and defense would materialize. The cannon was not loaded with any chained balls.

A unit of raiders did try to enter Athens in 1864, but the Lumpkin Artillery, a local unit, discouraged them with a few rounds and the raiders

changed their course and by-passed Athens, which saved the town.

The cannon disappeared from public eye in about 1891. It had stood in the yard of the Town Hall since it was considered impracticable as a weapon in warfare. The fuse holes had been spiked by the Federal forces when they occupied Athens, and town boys had one hole drilled out so the cannon could be used during Christmas, and other festive occasions for firing salutes.

The cannon reappeared in 1895 as dramatically as it disappeared. It was found by a young boy chasing lizards in the yard of his home. When the lizard eluded him and went into a pile of debris and rocks, he started to dig and struck something metallic. It was a cannon. He sold the worthless piece of junk to a junk dealer for four dollars. He realized what a priceless thing it was when it became known that it was the famous "one in the world" double barreled cannon.

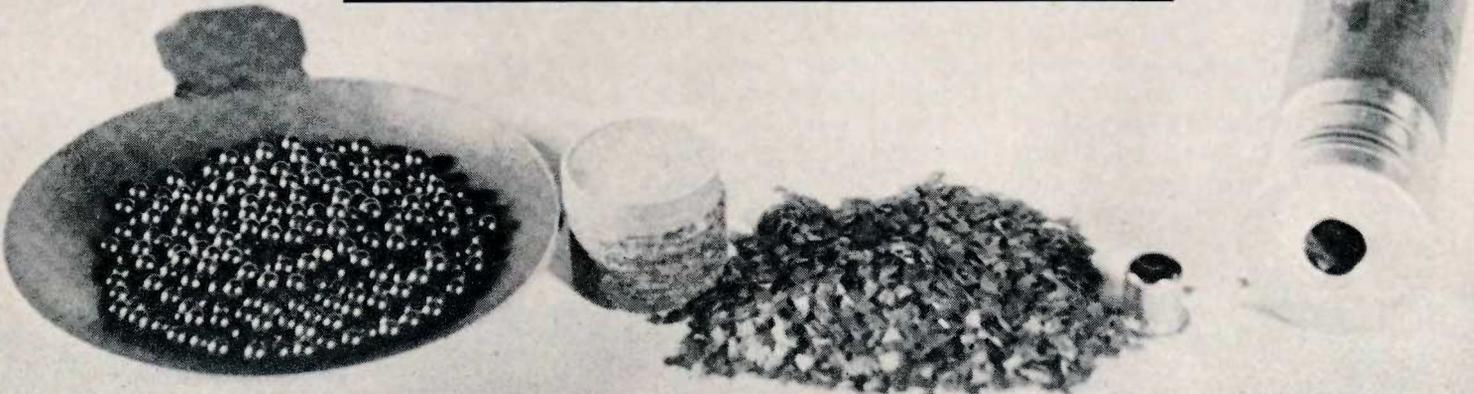
When a local group started making pictures of historical objects in Athens, it made the citizens aware of the fact that they had one object which was the only one of its kind in the world—the double barrel cannon. The Public Property Committee was authorized by the city council to have the old cannon mounted.

Another side light to the discovery of the vanished gun is that it was discovered in the junk shop by the man who had supervised the casting of the cannon—Mr. Thomas Bailey. The old cannon finally found a permanent home after lying in the ground for 36 years. It was set up in a small park in front of the present City Hall. When circumstances required the destruction of the park, the cannon was moved to the lawn of that building.

There is an ironic twist to the life of this "one and only" cannon in the world. Years later, a candidate for public office noted that in its present environment, the gun's muzzle was pointing at the City Hall. One of his campaign promises was to have it turned around if he was elected. He probably was, as the gun now faces away from the building.



# SHOTSHELL RELOADING



By Maj.  
George C. Nonte

## PART 3

**W**E'VE ALREADY SAID—and, I think, proven, that shotshell reloading is simple, safe, convenient, and economical. But, of course, economy is often more important than the other factors just mentioned. Some fellows will brave complexity, hazard, and inconvenience to save a buck or two any day of the week. The guy who has lots of free time on his hands over long winter evenings doesn't really care if it takes him 40 or 50 hours to load up next season's ammunition—and neither does the fellow who just can't afford store-bought shells.

"Economy" can mean many things to many people—to some it means the second car is a Chevy instead of an Olds; to some I know, it can mean skipping lunch to afford to shoot a

round of skeet. Just how much economy is gained by reloading shotshells? And, more important, how is the utmost in economy produced? And, can top performance on range and field be made compatible with maximum economy?

How much you save depends upon several things: First, the cost of components you use; second, the loads used; third, the lengths (time- and effort-wise) to which you will go to gain economy.

First, let's isolate the cost of tools and accessories. Amortizing their cost over a couple or three years would be the bookkeeper's approach, but would only muddy the picture here. So, we'll assume your tools are paid for, and the money forgotten.

Many fellows tend to overlook some

costs, and, therefore, get a distorted picture of the true cost of their reloads. Most often overlooked are case cost and waste. The latter refers simply to components lost or spoiled—and, believe me, I've seen lots of handloaders lose as much as 10 per cent of their supplies this way. For example, take the fellow who buys 1000 primers for \$14.50. He figures his primer cost at \$0.145 per shell—completely ignoring the fact that he'll spoil at least a dozen or two by careless seating; drop and lose at least 15 in handling; and lose at least as many more by spoiling individual cases after they've been primed. All told, he really gets only about 950 completed shells out of 1000 primers—resulting in a 4.8 per cent increase in primer cost. The same applies to all other

components, though, in my experience, to a slightly lesser degree. Remember the times you've spilled shot and powder?

We can't really account for spillage and wastage in our figures here—but the prudent handloader will add 5 per cent to our figures to cover such eventualities unless he's one of those perfect individuals who never, never does anything wrong.

Here, though, are the costs that must be included: 1.) Case cost (acquisition cost of case divided by number of loading obtained). 2.) Primer cost. 3.) Wad cost (be sure and include all wads). 4.) Powder cost. 5.) Shot cost.

Utilizing retail prices of brand name components extant at the time this is written, published in 1968 "Shooter's Bible," here are loading costs of 100 rounds for two popular 12-gauge loads:

**TARGET (3-11/8-9)**

Case (1) .....	\$0.0054
Primer (2) .....	1.5500
Powder (3) .....	1.1530
Wad (5) .....	1.2000
Shot (7) .....	2.7840
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>6.6924</b>

**FIELD (3 3/4-1 1/4-6)**

Case (1) .....	\$0.0054
Primer (2) .....	1.5500
Powder (4) .....	2.0000
Wad (6) .....	0.8200
Shot (8) .....	3.0920
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>7.4674</b>

(1) Based on use of new Remington plastic cases at \$5.35 per 100, 10 reloads useful life.

(2) Based on current \$15.50 per M price of brand name battery cup primers.

(3) Based on 19-gr. charges of Red Dot at current price of \$2.25 per 8 oz. can.

(4) Based on 31-gr. charges of SR7625 at \$2.25 per 8 oz. can.

(5) Based on Remington or Winchester-Western single-unit plastic wad columns at \$12 per M.

(6) Based on Remington H-wad and 1/2" Mold-Tite filler at \$8.20 per M combination.

(7) Based on shot at \$9.95 per 25-lb. bag, 7.03 lbs. for 100 rounds.

(8) Based on shot at \$9.95 per 25-lb. bag, 7.81 lbs. for 100 rounds.

Those are the full retail prices you pay over the counter at most places of business, and represent the highest you'll pay. How do the totals compare with the cost of factory loads? Brand name skeet loads (3-11/8-9) cost \$12.20 per hundred—\$5.51 more than the above reloads. If you are more accustomed to figuring costs by the 25-round box, factory fodder runs \$3.05, while your reloads cost you just a hair over \$1.67. Very nearly halving your shooting costs if Skeet and Trap are your games. If you shoot a hundred shells each week-end of the season, a lot of money is involved.

How about the field loads to put meat on the table? Well, factory loads (3 3/4-1 1/4) run \$14.80 per hundred, while your reloads set you back \$7.47—\$3.70 and \$1.87, by the box. Again, you save nearly half the factory price by reloading. That's not much in dollars and cents if you shoot only a couple boxes each year—but if you burn up a case of shells over quail, pheasant, and duck season, we're talking about almost 40 bucks savings. Now, I'm sure there's something good you could do with \$40.

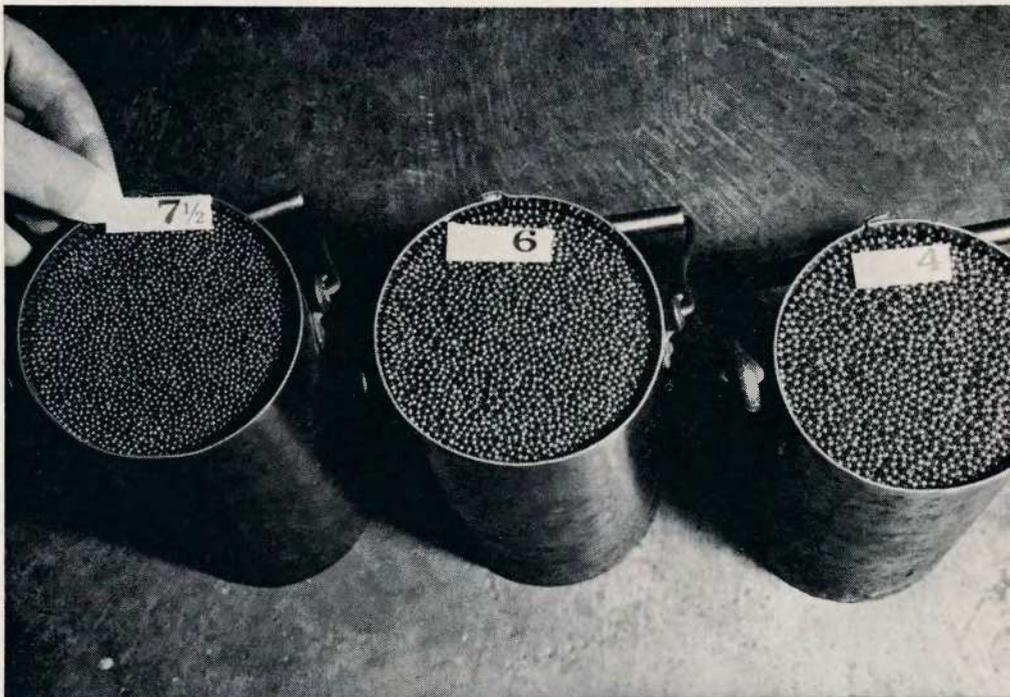
But, we hear things such as "My reloads cost me only 'bout a dollar a box." If such statements are true, then there must be ways to shave the cost more than our table shows. There are—but first, let me say that the

guys who quote such low reload costs are usually ignoring case cost and wastage completely and often can't prove just what their loads do cost. They're guessing.

One way to cut costs is in the wad column. The plastic shot cup-wads can be replaced by a plastic over-powder cup wad and fibre filler wads at a savings of about 40¢ per hundred shells—the exact amount depending on the height of the filler wad column. With this step, though, we lose the advantage of the plastic shot cup which protects shot from bore-scrubbing and we are more likely to get shot-clumping. Case mouths will also wear out faster. Of course, this can be corrected if you want to cut shot wrappers from discarded polyethylene garment bags. Such wrappers cost you nothing, but do slow down loading.

Another cost-reducing step is to replace the plastic over-powder wad with the old-style hard nitro-card wad. This saves another 40¢ per hundred shells—but powder charge must be increased slightly to compensate for the poorer gas seal the card wad produces. In some loads, this increase can amount to 10 per cent or more, robbing you of about 1/3 of the wad cost savings. Still, some saving is achieved.

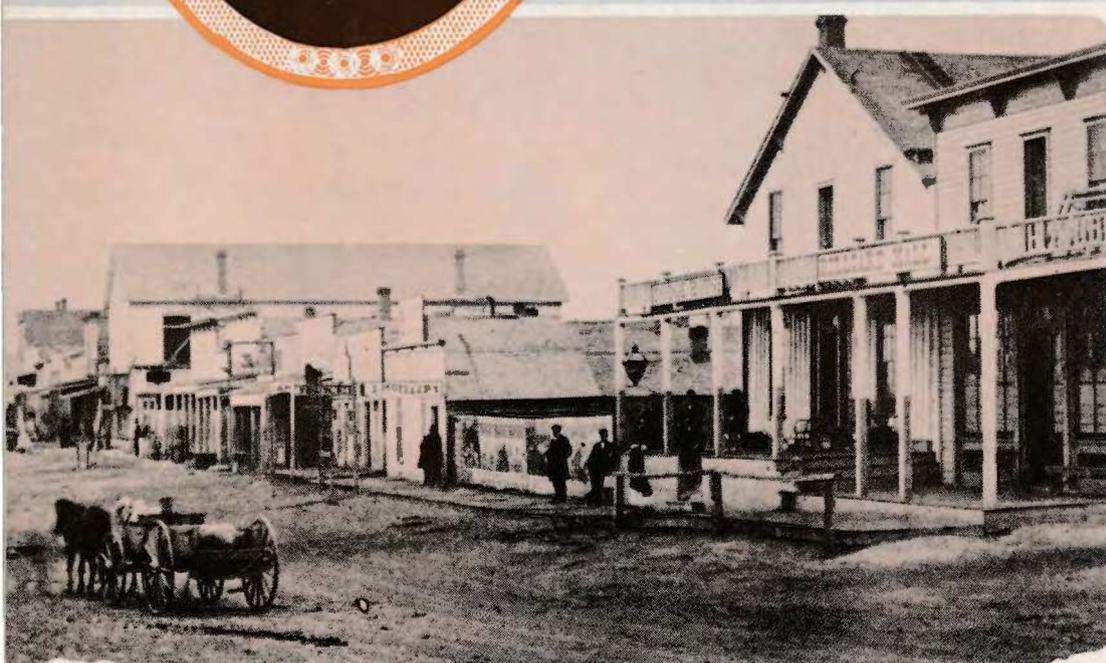
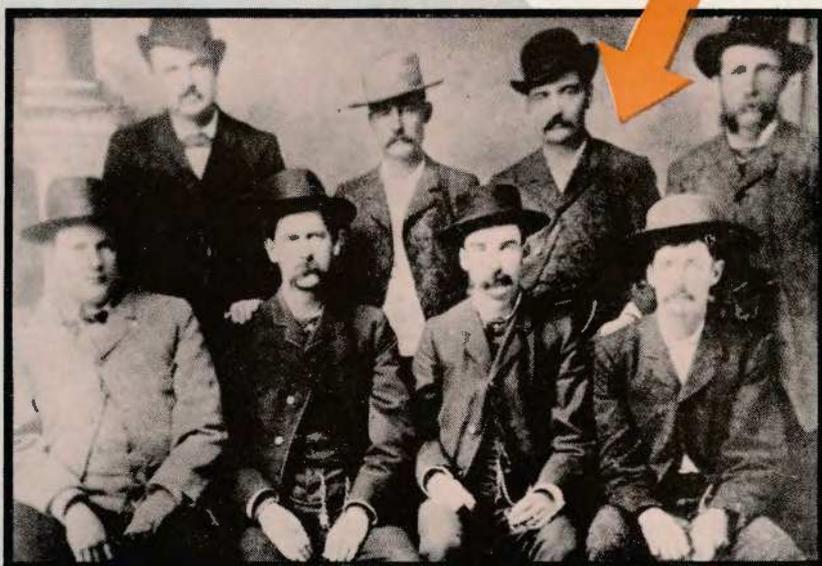
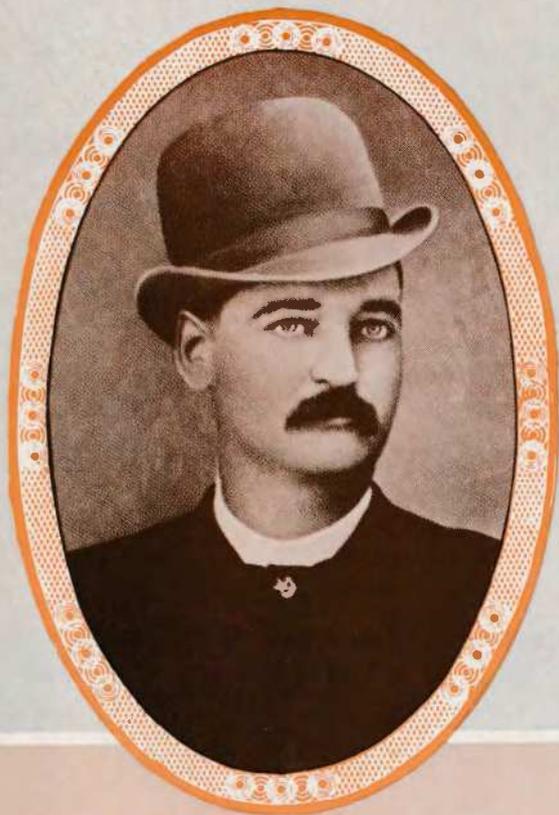
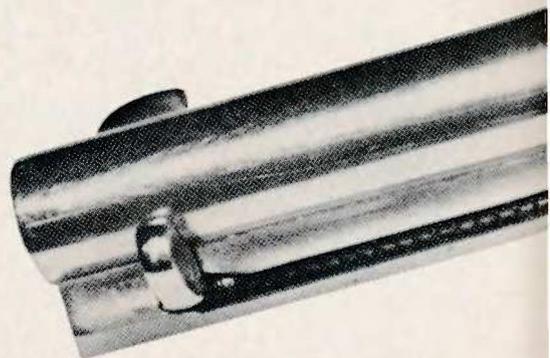
If you're a real nut for economy, several additional loads can be gotten out of (Continued on page 71)



The three most popular sizes of shot are Nos. 7 1/2, 6, and 4. These are adequate for all sizes of game from tiny snipe on through large geese.

# BAT MASTERSON:

## The Early Years of a Western Legend...



The Peace Commission of Dodge City of 1883 was (standing) W. H. Harris, Luke Short, Masterson, and Wm. F. Petillion, with (seated) Charlie Bassett, Wyatt Earp, M. McClain, and Neal Brown.



One of Bat Masterson's many Colt single-actions.

By E. B. MANN

THE FIRST FIREARM William Barclay "Bat" Masterson ever owned was a Civil War relic, taken by his father in trade and given to Billy, age 12, as a tool for the getting of meat for a hungry family. One biographer tells how young Masterson "took the smoothbore musket to a friendly gunsmith and talked the old fellow into rifling the barrel so it would shoot farther and straighter," and how the boy then "became a crack shot practicing behind the barn with the old musket."

Another biographer tells an opposite story. "The country was rather closely settled," this writer tells us, "and Bat knew it would be dangerous to shoot the musket there, as its lead slugs would carry a long distance; also, it would be impractical to shoot the musket because of the expense of powder and lead." So, again, the friendly gunsmith enters the story, this time "to bore the rifling from the barrel of the musket and convert it to a straightbore (sic) gun for shot."

Well, there were rifled muskets; and a smoothbore gun might indeed be more efficient in the getting of rabbits, squirrels, and birds for a needy table. One does wonder why powder and leaden shot for a smoothbore would be less expensive than powder and leaden balls for a musket, rifled or unrifled; but this is only a minor example of the confusions that plague the searcher for truth about the Old West and its people. What guns they used, how many men they killed, even their right names in some cases, are matters of controversial testimony.

One biographer, for example, says that Masterson killed 28 men—all, of course, "in the line of professional duty as sheriff, Marshal, and deputy." A more conservative historian says he killed only three men

in his lifetime (not counting Indians, of course; nobody did, in those days). The latter figure, disappointing though it may be to some, is probably the true one.

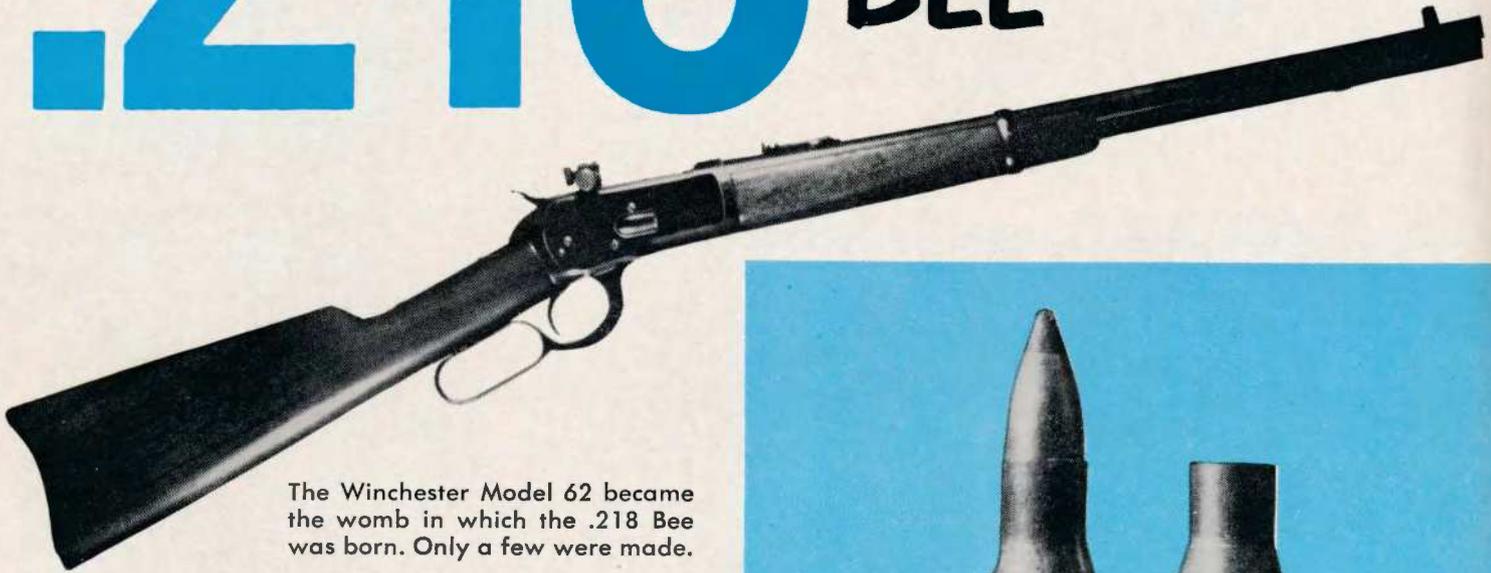
William Barclay Masterson was born November 24, 1853, on a farm near Fairfield, Illinois, the second of seven children born to Thomas Masterson and his wife, Katherine. In 1867, Thomas Masterson moved his family to a homestead quarter-section not far from St. Louis; and in 1871 they moved again, this time to about the present site of Wichita, Kansas, again settling on government land.

But William Barclay, age 17, was long since convinced that farming held no charms for a man of his tastes, and he persuaded his brother Ed, age 18, that it was high time they accepted the clear challenge of manhood. A railroad was in the building at Dodge City, Kansas, making that a perfect place for young men to seek fame and fortune. Whether they left home with or without parental permission is another moot question; but leave they did, and Dodge City—already promising to eclipse even Abilene and Hays for men-every-morning-for-breakfast excitement—was their objective as they struck out.

Billy Masterson's second gun was a revolver, make and vintage unknown. It was bought second-hand, because money was very scarce indeed in the Masterson pockets; but a man had to have a gun visible on his person if he was to look man-size in Dodge, and this one came in handy. Billy used it not long after its purchase to force an otherwise-minded employer to pay over the \$300 he and Ed had earned as teamsters on a railroad grading crew. No shot was fired, but the gun-point argument was (Continued on page 68)

# .218

# THE BUMBLING BEE



The Winchester Model 62 became the womb in which the .218 Bee was born. Only a few were made.

By HARRY O. DEAN

THE WINCHESTER .218 BEE is one helluva nice little cartridge. Its only fault is that it is sick—and getting sicker day by day. It won't die—at least not yet. But time and neglect will take their toll. Before the fatal day, and while the little buzzer can still hum around the hive, let's settle down and see how a bumble bee started bumbling.

I like the .218 Bee; I always did. Maybe you like it too. No, my use of the word "bumbling" was not by accident. There was a good bit of bumbling in the handling of some of the Bee's "problems." It wasn't intentional of course. In fact, it was all done with the *best* of intentions. It's the same old story, "The best laid plans of mice and men oft go astray." Here's how it all happened. Time—the early thirties. Place—New Haven, Conn.

The basic plan was simple enough. The lever action fans were clamoring for a repeating .22 Hornet flip gun. Winchester started to study the idea around 1936 and checked out its stable of leverguns. The most promising was the short action Model 1892. This sweet little shooter was especially designed to feed and function with short cartridges like the .38-40, the .44-40 and the famed "twenty twins" of varmint shooting, the .32-20 and the .25-20. At that time, the .38-40 and .44-40 were fading in popularity and most of the M-92's being purchased were chambered for the .32-20 and the very popular .25-20. The



Hornet case was pencil-slim and would have required several engineering modifications to fit the M-92, among them a smaller diameter magazine tube, changed lifters, an altered breechface, deeper extractor cuts, several lesser changes plus new studies of function and feed problems. The most popular seller, in .25-20 caliber, was slick and smooth in all these departments. The line of thinking followed a natural path. Why change the action? Why not simply neck the .25-20 cartridge down to .22 caliber and explore the potential of this "new" cartridge?

The cartridge was far from "new," as we shall see later, but the *thought* was certainly a dandy! Furthermore, it worked! The idea of a .22 Hornet levergun was soon lost in this sudden switch of affections. Now then, what would be a good name for Winchester's new baby?

Why not steel some of the thunder of the tremendously

popular Hornet?" If the "stinging" of varmints inferred by the Hornet's name had appealed to public fancy, why not put a new bee in their bonnet? That was it! In June of 1938, the Winchester folks unwrapped their new stinger, the .218 Bee!

The new Bee was offered in the Model 65 lever action rifle. Basically, this was the old Model 92 with a sexy job of face lifting. It now sported a new pistol grip stock with a curved lever to match. The forend was a bit fuller and the magazine tube had been shortened for a more streamlined appearance. A receiver-mounted peep sight and a hooded-ramp front sight were added to simplify steering those speedy little 46 grain bullets.

Some of my readers who love the western saddle gun "look" of the Winchester Model 92 are sure to interrupt at this point to ask, "What happened to the M-92?" May I digress to answer?

The popular '92 was listed in catalogs until 1941. When production ceased, 1,004,067 rifles had been made. The introduction of the .44 Magnum cartridge soon placed a premium on the M-92 for conversion jobs. Observing this demand, Marlin offered their M-336 in .44 Magnum a few years ago and in 1967, Winchester announced that the Model 94 would now be chambered for the .44 Magnum round. Was the Model 92 ever made in .218 Bee caliber? For the answer, I quote from number eight of the famed "papers" written by Thomas E. Hall, Curator of the Winchester Gun Museum:

"Inquiries have been made as to whether the Model 1892 was ever chambered for the .218 Bee cartridge. At some time between 1936 and 1938, a few '92's were made up for this cartridge. The exact number is unknown and they were never listed in catalogs."

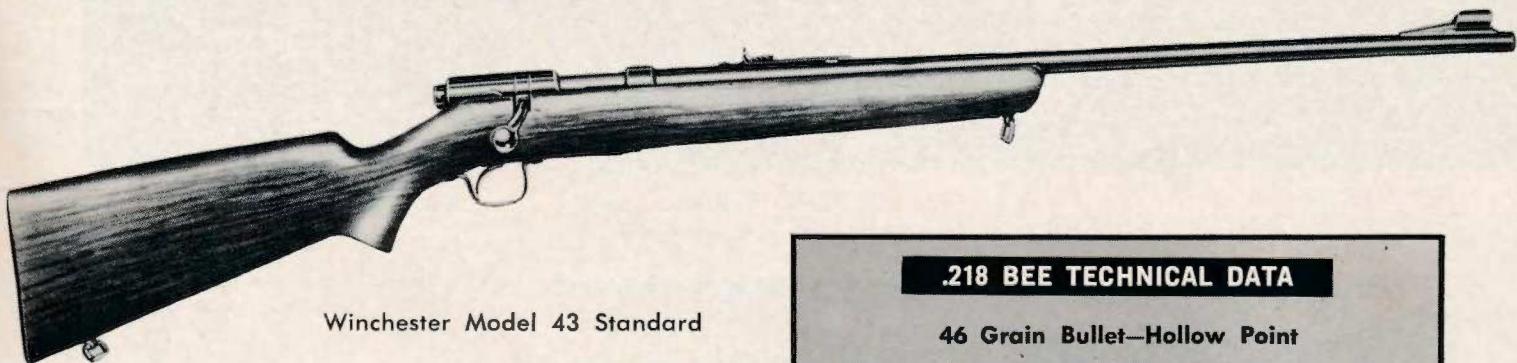
ing the Super-X load which had upped the Hornet's speed to 2625 fps during 1934. True, this cut the Bee's velocity edge to a mere 215 fps. (Note: Today's Hornets do 2690 fps, reducing the Bee's lead to only 170 fps.)

The battle lines drew to a standoff with the Bee holding a slight edge in power and the Hornet winning in accuracy. In all fairness to the Bee we must point out that most Hornets were scope sighted and that the top-ejecting M-65 was *not* adaptable to top mounted scopes. Single shot fans who owned custom made .218 Bees soon proved that the Bee *was* about equal to the Hornet in accuracy in similar guns. The Bee soon revealed a peculiar quirk. It showed its best performance with HOT handloads! The growing popularity of handloading plus the preference for scope sights caused a segment of the Bee fans to cast about for a rifle compatible to their new desires.

In 1947, less than 10 years after its introduction, the Winchester Model 65 was dropped due to sagging sales. The Bee had stumbled. Around April of 1949, the Winchester Company revived the .218 with a new short-action boltgun called the Model 43. This was another sweet little rifle. It was offered in .25-20, .32-20, .22 Hornet and yes, the .218 Bee!

Sales charts soon showed the poor sellers and the .25-20 was dropped, followed by the Hornet and the .32-20. In an equal gun, reasoned the buyers, why settle for anything less than the best? Here was a dandy little bolt action rifle. Now the Bee had found a good home. What could go wrong?

Early in the development of the neat little Winchester 43 action, the engineers encountered extraction troubles due primarily to cartridge case expansion. There are bugs that crop up in every develop- (Continued on page 67)



Winchester Model 43 Standard

There, you have the answer. May I point out the significance of the dates mentioned in Mr. Halls statement. The .218 Bee was *announced* in 1938. Therefore, the M-92's made between 1936 and 1938 *had* to be *developmental* rifles as previously inferred. Such a Model 92 in .218 Bee caliber, if genuine, would be a rare gun indeed! So much for the M-92.

Meanwhile, back at the hive, the Bee was buzzing merrily. Could it out-hum the Hornet? The levergun lads had the gun they clamored for and for awhile the new M-65 lever action enjoyed brisk sales. There was a brief flurry of Hornet versus Bee controversies. Velocities were quoted. The Bee fans claimed that their flippguns could move the Hornet bullet 460 feet per second faster and therefore hit harder. The Hornet fans hooted that the Bee boys were quoting the old original 2400 fps factory loads and ignor-

#### .218 BEE TECHNICAL DATA

##### 46 Grain Bullet—Hollow Point

##### Velocity—Feet Per Second

Muzzle	100 Yards	200 Yards	300 Yards
2860	2160	1610	1200

##### Energy—Foot Pounds

835	475	265	145
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##### Mid-Range Trajectory—Inches

—	0.7	3.8	11.5
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Sight the Bee to strike one inch high at 100 yards, like the Hornet. The difference in trajectory between the two is too small to measure. The Bee will buzz 1/2" high at 50 yards, center at 150 yards and sink 4" low at 200 yards. If you don't try to sting anything beyond 200 yards, you will have no complaints about the .218 Bee. It's fun in the field for chucks, crows and fox.

# New Life For ML Shotguns



By JOE CHUTE and BILL VAN ROOY

**B**LACK POWDER shotgun shooting is increasing in popularity throughout North America, and suitable original shotguns are becoming harder to find in shooting condition. Many original muzzle loading shotguns have Damascus or twist tubes. These were made by welding twisted strips of steel and iron into tubes, and the process of manufacture invariably left inclusions or pockets of foreign material (slag) within the very structure of the barrel. These pockets or inclusions served as weak points for fracture or openings for corrosion in the barrels. Even in new condition twist barrels are prone to failure, and after years of neglect could be extremely dangerous, even

when firing is confined to proper charges of black powder *as all muzzle-loading shooting should be.*

Even cheap guns were made with twist barrels, and many are still about today although most are in extremely rough condition. Although lock and stock may be functional, a badly pitted barrel, especially twist, precludes safe use.

A simple and economical method of returning a twist barrel to usefulness is relining. Traditionally, relining a shotgun or rifle tube involves rebor-ing, tinning, and soft soldering the new liner in place. However, for black powder use the following method has been found effective.

1. After soaking overnight in penetrating oil, remove breech plug with wrench. Do not attempt to recondition a barrel with badly rusted breech plug.

2. Clean original bore with wire brush and solvent to remove all rust. Polish with abrasive cloth on slotted rod to remove stubborn spots.

3. Carefully measure bore and purchase a section of seamless steel tubing of desired bore diameter and with an outside diameter approximately  $\frac{1}{64}$ " smaller than the original bore. Order the tube a few inches longer than overall length of original barrel. The extra length is useful when inserting the liner and the extra few inches will make a

dandy wad punch when trimmed.

Any large steel supply house can supply a wide selection of seamless steel tubing. Such tubing is cold finished inside and out and the bore is smooth enough for shotgun use without further machining. Select a tube size that will provide for a wall thickness of at least  $\frac{1}{16}$ ". This wall thickness will provide sufficient stiffness to prevent jugging when firing light or medium charges of powder and shot.

4. Finish breech end of liner to fit snugly against inside face of breech plug. Polish outside of liner to remove all oxide and provide an easy sliding fit for original bore.

5. Remove all oil from liner and bore with solvent and allow to dry thoroughly.

6. Coat outside of the liner with epoxy glue. Work liner back and forth in bore to coat all surfaces evenly.

7. Replace breech plug and butt liner against plug face.

8. Remove breech plug before epoxy glue hardens. Remove any epoxy from breech threads, being careful not to move liner from its position touching breech plug.

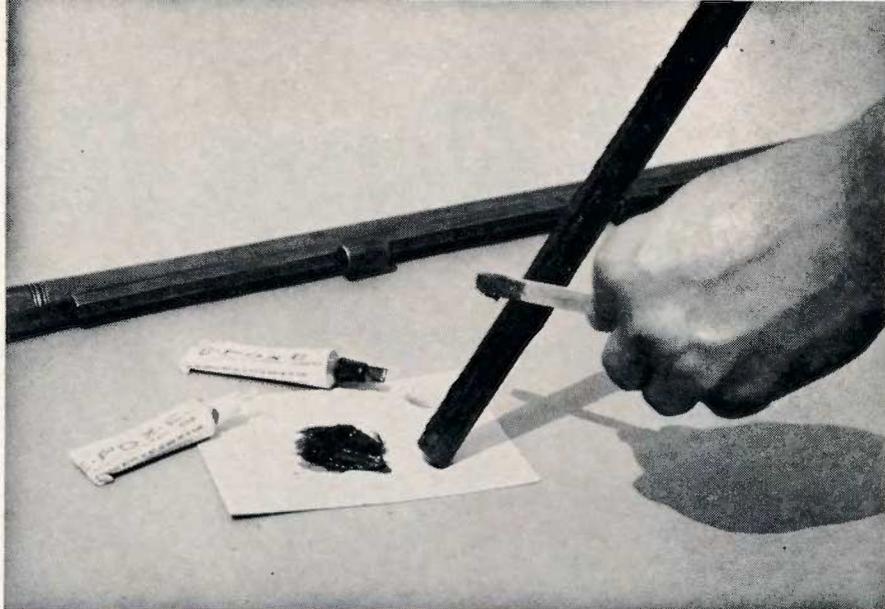
9. Allow to dry at least 24 hours.

10. Refit breech plug and rebore vent to nipple. Trim liner flush with muzzle.

11. Charge with double load of powder and shot and test fire—with gun in a vise or tied to an old tire—using a long, long string.

The lining as described above provides the following advantages: It provides a smooth bore surface free of pits which could cause dangerous resistance to shot column. It strengthens weak barrels at point of greatest stress, just forward of the breech. It offers a considerable saving in time and equipment over traditional methods.

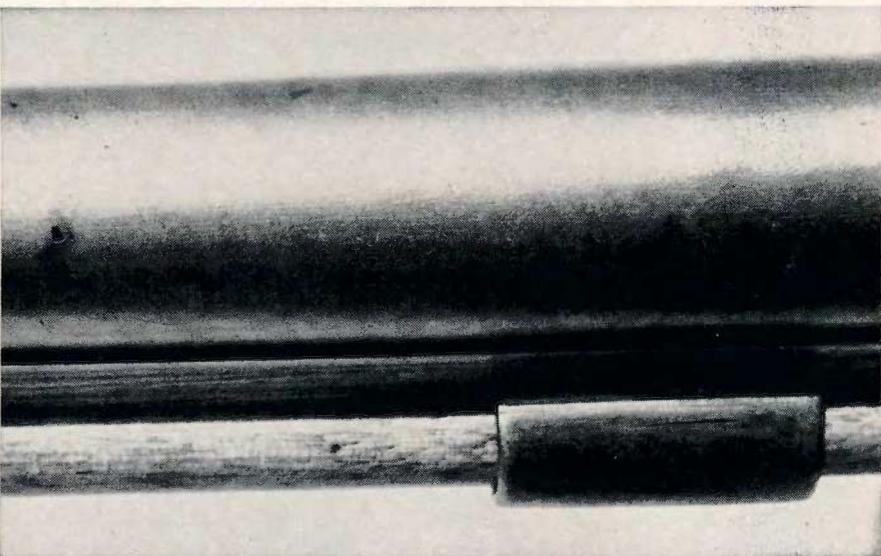
It must be noted that the breech plug is not reinforced; however, if the threads are in good condition the plug will retain a good margin of strength. The weak points of a twist tube are in the thin mid-section where a thin wall, weakened by pits and inclusions, can give way on firing.



Be certain to clean both the liner and barrel interior before applying a coat of epoxy since the glue will not set firmly if they are not clean.

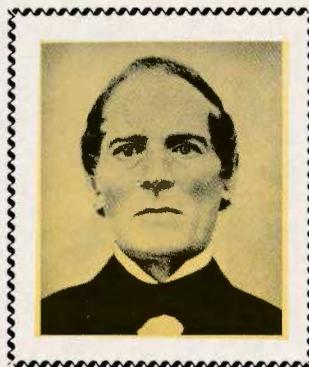


The relined barrel will increase the gun's weight, moving the center of gravity forward. This change in balance has not proved objectionable.



Dark spots on the surface of this percussion muzzle loading barrels are inclusions of foreign matter during the welding process, not rust pits.

# Henry Harrington:



*Patented in 1837, Harrington's caplock breech-loading firearms are quite rare*

By JAMES E. SERVEN

THE TOWN OF Southbridge, Massachusetts, celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1966. There, in 1818, two years after the town was founded, Henry Harrington established a cutlery business. His was the first industry in Southbridge.

With his great knowledge of metals and his constant urge to create something different and advanced, it is not strange that Henry Harrington turned his inventive thoughts to firearms. Today, pistols or shoulder arms that came from his shop are among the rarest treasures for collectors.

Little has been written about the Henry Harrington arms and a relatively few are known in collections. The most extensive display is the Wells collection at Old Sturbridge Village, a regional museum of early New England life, located in Sturbridge, Mass. Despite of the similarity in names the Henry Harrington arms should not be confused with Harrington & Richardson products of a later era.

Henry Harrington was a contemporary and in a sense a competitor of Samuel Colt. Colt's repeating arms were patented in 1836; Harrington's multi-shot arms were patented in 1837. Colt and Harrington shared a common zeal for making fine guns, but here the similarity in character ended. Colt was a showman with a keen eye for business promotion and profit; Harrington had no great ambitions for fame and

riches. Mass production was distasteful to Harrington; he found his greatest satisfaction in producing pistols and shoulder arms that were individually styled. It is doubtful that any two Harrington guns are exactly alike. But the principle of his patented arms was almost always the same—multiple bores and a removable, many-chambered breech block.

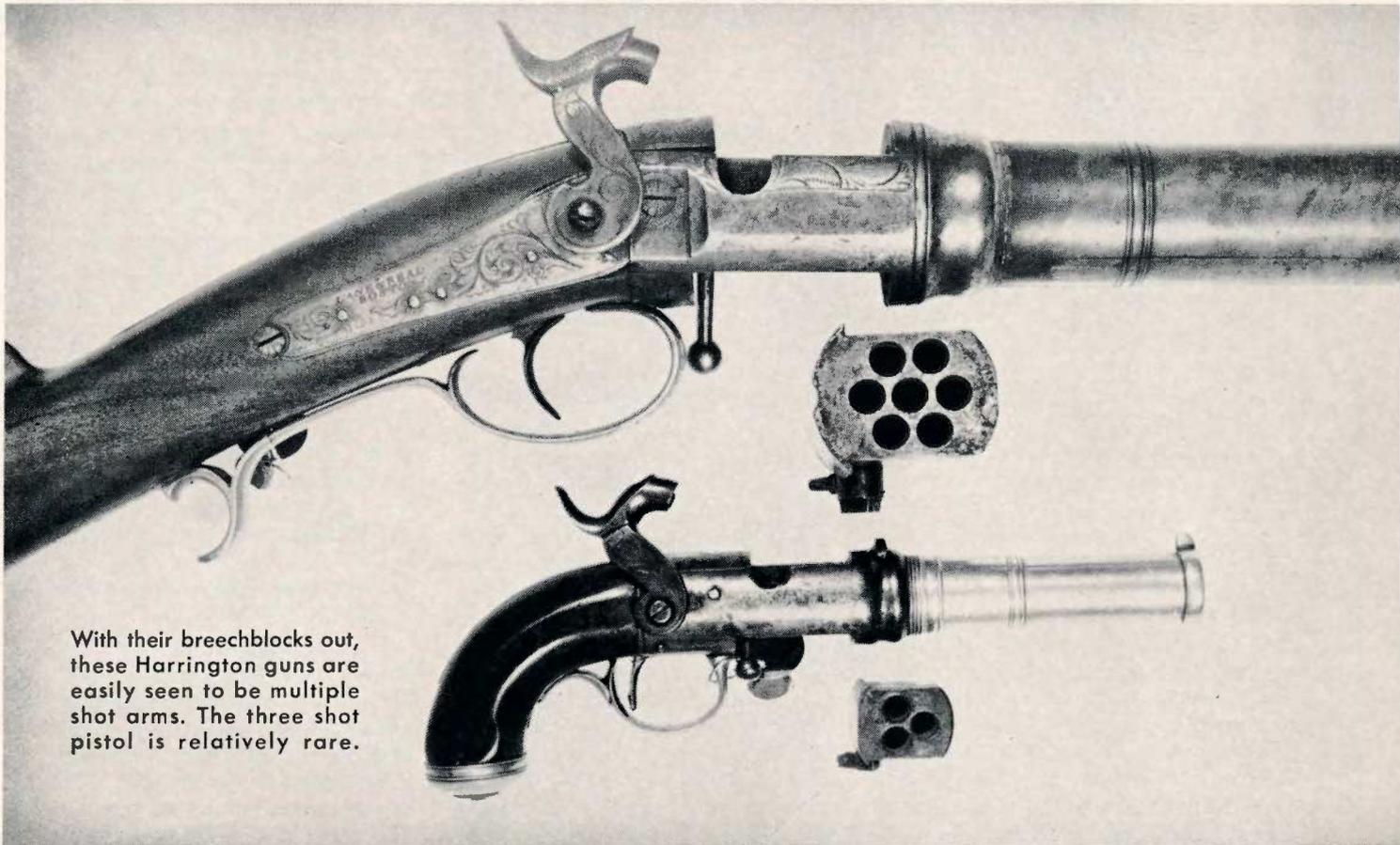
Two types of multi-shot arm are described in the patent of Henry Harrington—one with a removable breech block and one with a screw-off barrel containing multiple bores and corresponding loading chambers at the breech end of the barrel. However, no specimens of a multi-shot screw barrel pistol or rifle have been observed. Those surviving examples of Henry Harrington's work examined for this study, with one possible exception, have either been the multi-shot arms with removable breech block or single shot arms made somewhat along the style of the more common Allen system. It is claimed that Ethan Allen once worked for Harrington. The fact that Allen started out, like Harrington, in making cutlery gives credence to this report. One of the Wessons is also said to have worked for Harrington, although it is not clear whether this was Daniel or Edwin Wesson.

A very interesting variation in the Harrington multi-shot breechloaders is to be found in specimens with two

"Pepperbox" rifle possibly made by Henry Harrington.



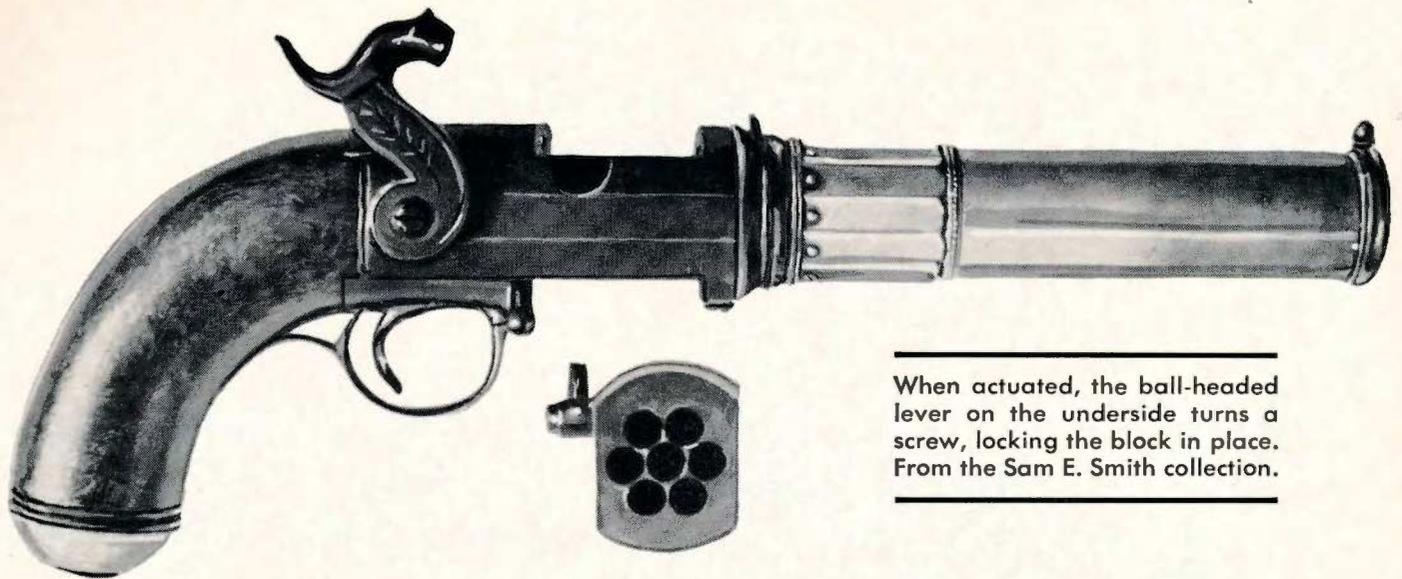
# *Yankee Armsmaker...*



With their breechblocks out, these Harrington guns are easily seen to be multiple shot arms. The three shot pistol is relatively rare.



With breechblocks in place, Harrington arms appear to be muzzle-loading caplock firearms. Note the wire wrapping on the rifle's barrel.




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When actuated, the ball-headed lever on the underside turns a screw, locking the block in place. From the Sam E. Smith collection.

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hammers. A seven-shot pistol of this type, once owned by the author and now in the Horner collection, is illustrated. Two forms of chambered breech block could be used—one was the standard design in which all seven shots were fired by one percussion cap; the second form was a divided block wherein the right-hand hammer would strike a nipple that fired the top three chambers (which shared one powder ignition recess) and the left-hand hammer would strike a separate nipple that fired the bottom four chambers. In this manner the arm could give successive discharges of three and four barrels at the will of the shooter. A .40 caliber rifle of this type is in the Wells collection at Old Sturbridge Village; the two-hammer Horner pistol is .25 caliber.

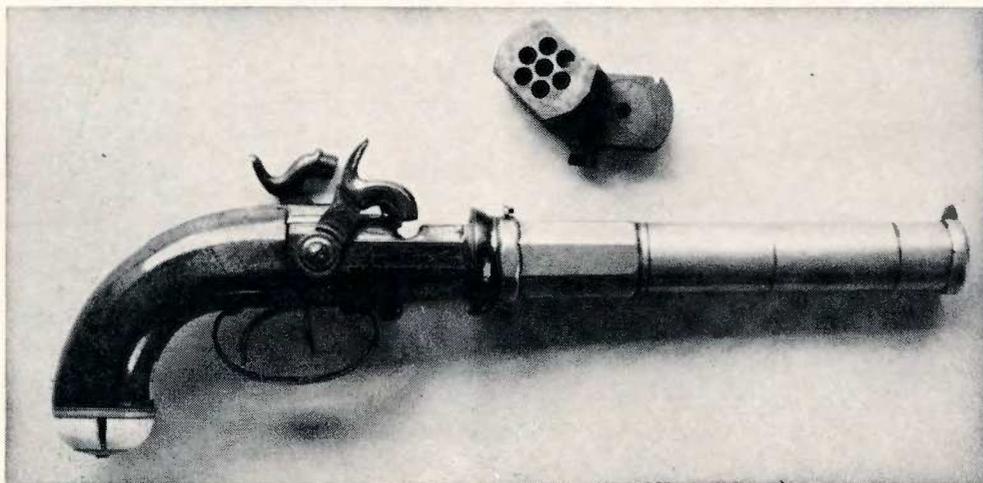
The outer casing for the barrels of Harrington multi-shot pistols has a bright finish. It is recorded that the dark blue or brown finish usually applied to gun barrels did not appeal to Harrington and he developed a formula that gave to steel the sheen of nickel.

When Harrington was starting in the cutlery-making business, he found it necessary to stamp his blades with an imitation or approximation of English proofmarks or seals, just as H. E. Leman of Pennsylvania had found it necessary to place a proofmark on his trade guns before they would be accepted by those accustomed to proof-marked English-made muskets.

It was not long, however, before Harrington-made blades were recognized as fully equal or in some cases

superior to the products of Sheffield, England, and he applied his own mark. This practice carried over to Harrington guns. The usual stamping may include: *Henry Harrington, Patent 1837, Southbridge, Mass.* Almost invariably there will be found some form of mark. The Horner two-hammer pistol bears a mark in the shape of a heart and an asterisk. Other arms may have stars, an eagle, or other decorative symbols.

The Harrington shoulder arms are seldom found with barrels longer than 24" and usually shorter than that. The cluster of barrels on some guns was encased in a wood tube. The barrels of a specimen in the Renwick collection are encased only for about six inches at the breech by a metal collar and otherwise, except for a collar at the muzzle,




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This two hammer gun can be used with alternate blocks, one firing all seven shots, the other firing four shots using the left hammer and three with the right one.

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are spirally wrapped with wire, brazed and painted black.

The Renwick gun bears a lock marked *Lane & Read—Boston*. Lane and Read were old-time dealers in guns, hardware, etc., and perhaps acted as Boston agent for Harrington, or he may merely have bought the standard back action lock from them.

A cluster of seven barrels and the accompanying seven-shot breech block appears to have been as near standardization in anything to which Harrington aspired in his patent firearms. However, the Renwick collection, assembled primarily while the owner was a resident in the Boston area, contains a rare three-shot Harrington pistol, a weapon that may be unique.

There are persistent rumors that Harrington made some cutlass pistols. I have never seen one, but it seems logical that a cutler might undertake to combine a blade with a pistol such as those made under Elgin's patent by two other Massachusetts firms, C. B. Allen and Morrill, Mossman & Blair.

Although cannons are mentioned in the Harrington patent, it is doubtful that any were manufactured. About the nearest thing to a cannon is the 25-pound monster in the Wells collection which discharges seven .48 caliber balls at a crack. It is said this gun was designed for military service but the Ordnance Department took a look at it and turned thumbs down.

It has been mentioned that Harrington was of a curious and inventive turn of mind. What is believed to be one of his experimental guns will be found in the extensive Raymond I. Smith arms collection on display in Harold's Club at Reno, Nevada.

Unlike any of Harrington's patented breech-block arms, this gun has a revolving multi-shot barrel. It is a cap-lock, with an underhammer reminiscent of the early "boot-leg" underhammer pistols or New England rifles of that style. Except for the bands of the six clustered barrels being numbered at the muzzle and at the breech from 1 to 6, no markings appear on the gun. The barrels are revolved by hand and held in firing position by spring tension.

Among the features that are most indicative in tying this gun to Harrington is his treatment of the barrels. They have his unique system of soldering separate rifle tubes together, binding them by polished steel collars at breech and muzzle and wrapping the mid-section tightly with wire.

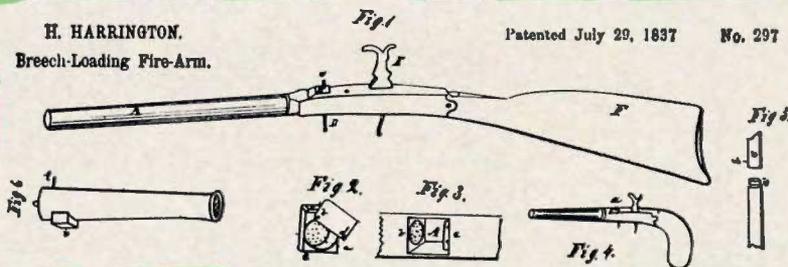
It would (Continued on page 78)

## HARRINGTON PATENT

H. HARRINGTON.  
Breech-Loading Fire-Arm.

Patented July 29, 1837

No. 297



I, HENRY HARRINGTON, of Southbridge, in the county of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, cutler, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fire-Arms, called 'Harrington's Improvement in Guns, Pistols, and Cannon'; the following is a full and exact description thereof.

The exterior barrel, of convenient bore and length, resembles the gun-barrel in common use. The interior is filled with several small barrels or tubes, each of the diameter of bore suited to receive one shot or ball of the size intended to be discharged. These small barrels, extending in length from the muzzle downward to a powder-chamber sliding into the lower end at the breech, are soldered or brazed together, and being arranged so as to fill the inside of the exterior barrel are fixed in it by being soldered or brazed. The tubes or small barrels may be made also by drilling through a solid barrel or bar of metal.

In the breech or lower end of the barrel is a mortise, made through the same from the upper side, as the gun lies leveled horizontally, to the underside, to receive a powder-chamber. This chamber is made nearly square, is exactly fitted to the space made by the mortise, and slides therein. On the upper surface, as it sits in the barrel, is a small projection, to prevent it from falling through, and a tube or pin, with a hole drilled through it, to receive a percussion cap, which communicates with the hollow of the chamber under. The front plate of this chamber has holes drilled through it to receive the shot or balls, corresponding exactly with the openings or bores of the small barrels. These holes in the front plate of the chamber are made slightly tapering, so that the opening into the chamber is smaller than that into the barrels, against which they rest or slide, and are large enough to receive the shot or balls to be used. The chamber itself contains a cavity sufficiently large to hold a proper charge of powder. It is covered with a flat plate of metal, turning on a pin at one corner, and shutting against another pin at the corner below, to keep it in its place. This cover is of the same size with the body of the chamber. Behind this chamber a screw is placed, turning into a thick piece of metal corresponding in position to the breech-pin of the common gun. The head of the screw is large enough to admit of receiving a small handle or pin, which projects under the barrel so far as to admit of being moved with ease by the finger. A space is cut large enough to admit of turning the screw partly round by moving the pin from one side to the other across the barrel. By this means the screw is made to press hard against the chamber, and to hold it firmly in its place, or, by turning in the opposite direction, to leave the chamber so loose that it can slide out easily.

The barrel may be mounted on a stock or carriage, and furnished with the common lock.

In loading the gun above described the chamber is slipped out. The shot or balls to be used are poured or placed in the holes on the outside of the front plate of the chamber, and pressed into them by the finger. The

cover is then turned open and the powder poured into the chamber, which is prevented from running through the holes by the shot which fills them. The cover is again closed, the chamber slipped down into the mortise of the barrel, the percussion cap placed on the tube, the screw turned up so that the head presses the chamber hard against the lower ends of the small barrels, and the gun is then ready to be discharged.

In the pistol, instead of the sliding chamber, the main barrel filled with the small barrels may be made to screw off. The holder ends of the boxes of the small barrels are sufficiently hollowed out to receive the shot or ball to be used, which is pressed into each. Below these ends a chamber is left for powder, and a thread is cut on the outside of the exterior of the barrel, which screws into a thread cut on the inside of the breech. When the chamber is filled with powder the barrel is screwed on and is ready for use.

In the cannon the chamber may be constructed like that described in the gun, and when loaded may be discharged by a match or lock.

The exterior barrel and the small barrels and chambers may be made of steel, iron, brass, or other metal, and of such size, length, and peculiar form as may best suit the use to which they are intended. Such variations in strength and thickness may be adopted as convenience may require. The small barrels can be rifled (twisted, or straight) or be smooth.

In the construction of the sliding chamber, as it is necessary that the holes in which the shot or ball is placed should correspond with perfect exactness to the bores of the small barrels, they may be made after the chamber has been fitted to the mortise by drilling through the small barrels.

Any number of sliding chambers may be fitted to the same gun. When it is desirable to fire rapidly they may be previously charged and slipped into the gun in quick succession.

The gun described is greatly superior to that in common use for throwing shot. As each shot is projected along a separate barrel, it is sent with greater accuracy to the mark, not being diverted from a direct course by striking against the sides of the barrel, or flattened by contact with other shot. The force with which it is projected is much increased by the action of the powder, exploded in one chamber in equal degree on each shot, and the charge takes effect at greater distance than from the common gun.

With the cannon any number of balls or shot may be thrown through separate barrels, and by rapidly shifting the chambers as they are discharged an almost continuous shower of balls may be thrown on any given point.

If it is found that the balls or shot are too much scattered this difficulty may be remedied by reaming out the muzzle of the gun, so as to make the small barrels in the center a little shorter than those around the exterior. If the shot is too much concentrated they may be made to scatter more by lengthening the small barrels of the center.

*ACCORDING TO THE PURIST  
A TRUE CUSTOM RIFLE  
IS MADE TO THE SPECIFICATIONS  
OF THE CUSTOMER*

By DAN WINTERS

**T**HE WORD "custom," when referring to guns, has been bandied about so much that for most shooters it has all but lost its meaning. A custom rifle, according to today's usage, can be almost anything from a sporter-stocked surplus Lebel to the fanciest of the ultra-modern commercial creations. Yet, in the true sense of the word, neither of those two examples—or anything in between—is *really* a custom gun.

To the purist, a custom rifle is one that is made to all of the specifications ordered by the customer. Let's use this definition of a custom rifle throughout the rest of this article, remembering that to do so means that the buyer of a custom rifle will be required to have a bit more cash than would be necessary for an off-the-shelf gun. Whether you get more rifle than offered by a stock model depends on several factors: how much money you spend, your attitude and gun knowledge, and the man you chose as your custom gunsmith.

Taking the purist's definition of a custom rifle, the customer should request—and receive—his choice of the following 10 items: 1) action, 2) barrel, 3) caliber, 4) stock wood and design, 5) stock dimensions, 6) stock finish, 7) metal finish, 8) sights, 9) accessories, 10) the degree of workmanship determined by his desires and his pocketbook.

*(Continued on page 42)*



Custom rifles in every sense of the phrase, these two are from the Kess Arms Company and Lenard M. Brownell.

# ***WHAT IS A CUSTOM***

A custom rifle with a wooden stock and a scope, lying on a snowy surface. The rifle is the central focus, angled from the top left towards the bottom right. The stock is made of dark wood with a visible grain. A black scope is mounted on top. The background shows a snowy landscape with a deer head and antlers lying on the ground. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

A classic example of the custom rifle. The workmanship is typical of its maker, Keith Stegall of Gunnison, Colorado. The action is an old Model 70; the scope, a Redfield 2-7X variable. Gene McMillan, owner of the gun says the accuracy is as superb as the rifle's appearance. Photo by James R. Olt.

**RIFLE ?**

## CUSTOM RIFLES

Before we take each of these items and find out what they mean, let's talk a little about custom rifles and custom riflemakers. In spite of the trend toward mass production and quasi-custom rifles, there are still some excellent custom gunmakers around. They are, for the most part, expensive, heavily back logged with work, and generally a bit intolerant until you have stopped complaining about the bill and pay it. They are expensive, but not exorbitant, for if their work is of high quality it is worth twice the price. They are, if they are real craftsmen, anywhere from six months to two years behind in their orders for the simple reason that they are true craftsmen, and these are few and far between. And, they may tend to be intolerant because they are artists, in a sense, and if they didn't have to feed a family, pay the rent, and maintain a satisfactory credit rating, they would much prefer a gracious compliment over hard cash.

I have no intention of selecting a custom riflemaker for you in this article. I could, for instance, tell you that Al Biesen, Leonard Mews, or Keith Stegall are craftsmen enough to satisfy the most critical customer. But that would be doing a disservice to the many others who are equally talented. The only advise I will give in the selection of a custom gunmaker is to choose him carefully after examining samples of his work, studying his price list, and getting his assurance that: 1) he can provide all of the services you require, 2) that the delivery date is mutually agreed upon, 3) that he will guarantee satisfaction.

That just about covers the gunmaker, now how about you, the customer? Probably the most important point I'll make in this article is this: *The custom rifle*—in the sense we are discussing—is *not for the beginner*. It takes a lot of time—on the range, in the field, and with his nose buried in gun books and publications—before a man knows enough about rifles in general, his shooting needs in particular, and the difference between esthetic and practical value of various gun designs, to competently select the features of a custom rifle best suited to his requirements.

Now, let's get back to those 10 items which go to make up a custom rifle.

**The Action.** There are two ways you can go at this point. You could choose a surplus military action—whether it's because you have a favorite or you know where you can get one at a bargain price. Or, you can request or

A custom floor plate or checkering design does a great deal in dressing up a custom gun. Leonard Mews used French checkering on Claro walnut in his own Rocket design.



purchase one of the new Mauser, Sako, or other new actions available. If you are inclined to choose a surplus action, be certain of two things before you decide to go ahead. First, that you really want a \$19.95 or even a \$25.95 action on your gun which may eventually cost anywhere from \$300 to \$800. Second, that you know what kind of work is involved in using a surplus action, and how much that work will cost. I'm sure that no matter how frugal you are, you wouldn't want to use that action as-is, so you may need any of the following: bolt bent for low scope; action honed to a silky smoothness; drilled and tapped for scope mounts; polished and blued; low scope safety, and a detachable floor plate. By adding the cost of these services to the "bargain" price of your surplus action, you may be surprised to find that you're paying more than the price of a new action, which has all or most of these features and perhaps a few extras tossed in.

**Barrel.** Unless you're using a barreled action for your custom rifle (but then you would only have a custom stock job, right, purists?), you may be limited in your choice of barrels to those offered by the gunsmith of your choosing. However, if you want a certain brand of barrel, don't hesitate to make your demand known. A few gunmakers may give you a hard time, or at least try to talk you into the barrel of their choice, but dammit, it's your dough, and you should stick to your guns—or barrels, that is.

**Caliber.** Here, again, I'll not try to tell you which caliber you should choose. We said at the beginning that the custom rifle was not for the beginner. And if, at this point, you don't know what caliber you want, I would suggest you go back to your off-the-shelf rifle and keep shooting—and reading.



Roy Vail, custom gunsmith of Warwick, N.Y., added his own brand of craftsmanship to a Mauser action, French walnut blank, Redfield scope, and a Buehler mount and safety, to create this magnificent rifle.

**Stock Wood and Design.** Up to this point, your custom gunmaker may have been smiling, especially as he mentally added up the prices of the foregoing items. But when he asks; "What kind of stock do you have in mind?" you may see a little bead of perspiration form on his forehead and his knuckles turning white as he grips the pencil. The customer who will make his smile reappear is the one who knows exactly what he wants, and knows the limitations of good, functional stock design. Don't say to him; "I'd like a beavertail fore-end with a schnable tip in contrasting ebony; or maybe a Mannlicher, with kind of a

beavertail. And I want a pistol grip; not as big as on a Winslow, but bigger than the one on that Springfield over there." If you do, the beads of sweat will turn into torrents, and the pencil will snap in two.

All of this may be unnecessary, for chances are that one of the reasons you chose this particular gunmaker was because you liked his stock designs, and all that he'll need to know are what refinements you desire. Don't be afraid to let him know, but don't be unreasonable either.

In choosing the type of wood for your custom rifle, ask to see what blanks he has in stock. (Continued on page 66)

WARNING  
Keep out of reach  
of children

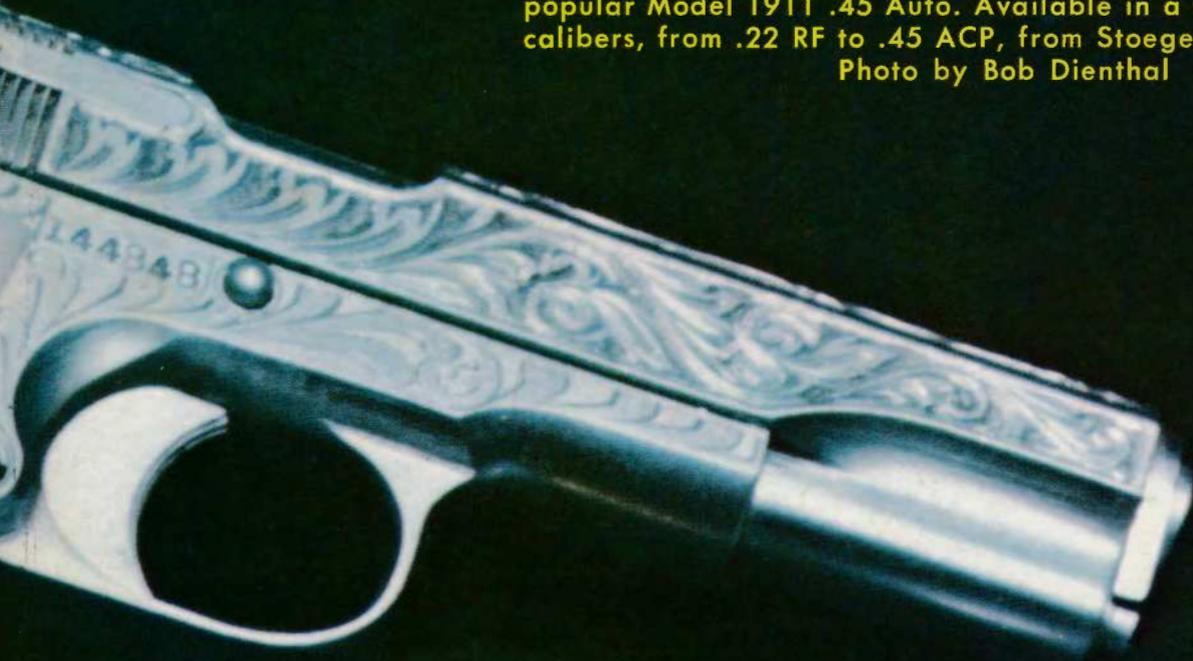
**Western**

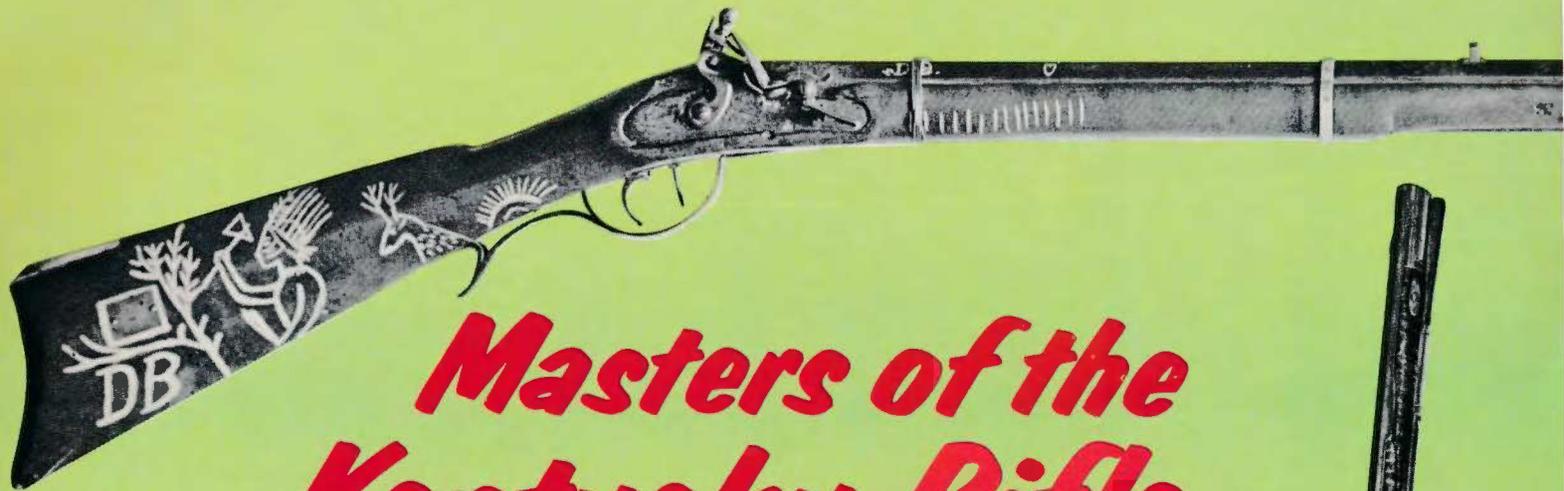
FIRE CARTRIDGES



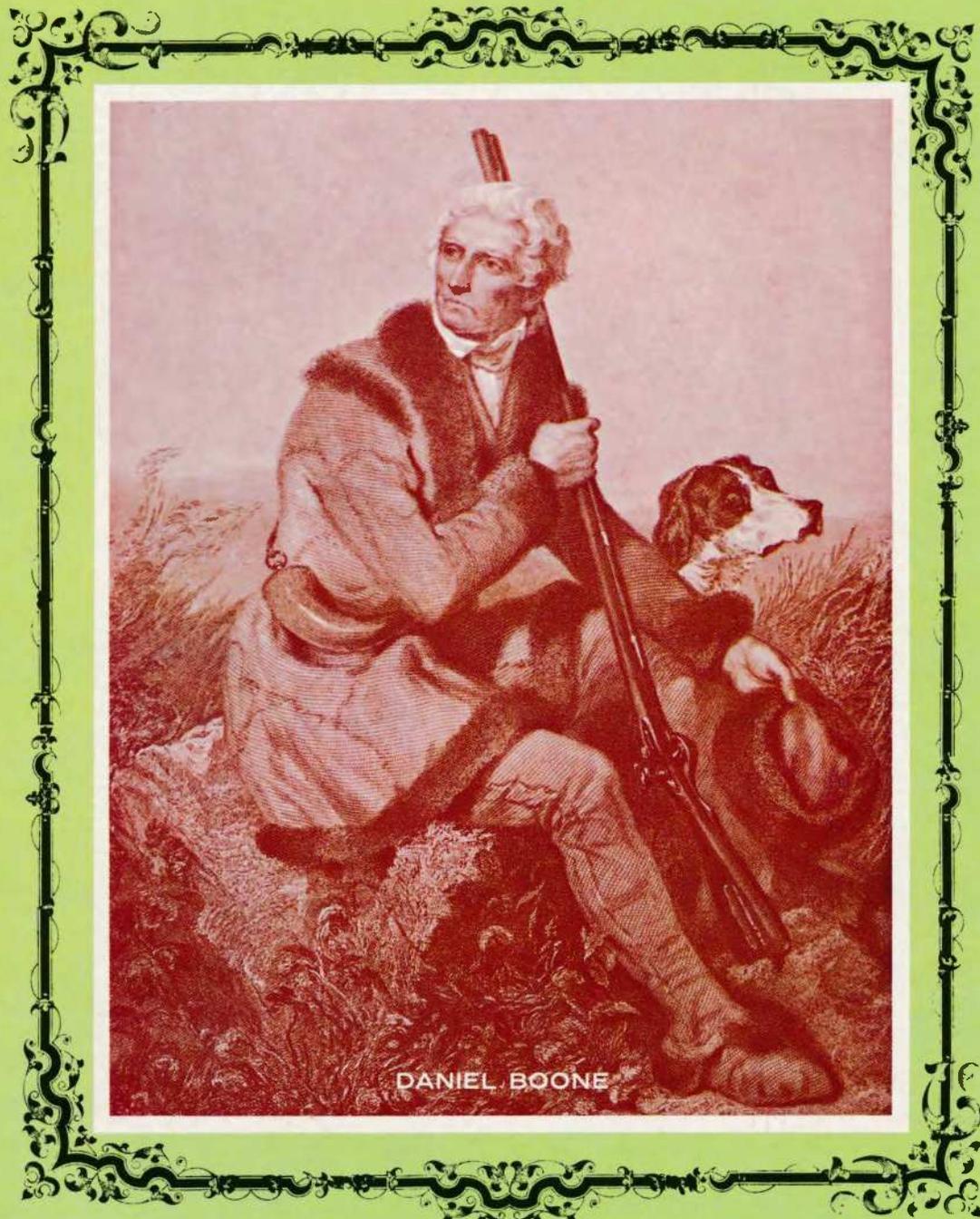
## LLAMA AUTO PISTOL

This Spanish auto pistol retains the familiar configuration of the popular Model 1911 .45 Auto. Available in a wide range of pistol calibers, from .22 RF to .45 ACP, from Stoeger Arms Corporation.  
Photo by Bob Dienthal





# *Masters of the Kentucky Rifle*



DANIEL BOONE



Daniel Boone's "best fren."



"Lewis Wetzel killing one of his pursuers."

## *These legendary riflemen began America's tradition of marksmanship*

By **DEAN LIPTON**

**U**NTIL WELL PAST the middle of the nineteenth century, a beech tree stood on the banks of a creek in eastern Tennessee with this inscription carved deep into its smooth bark:

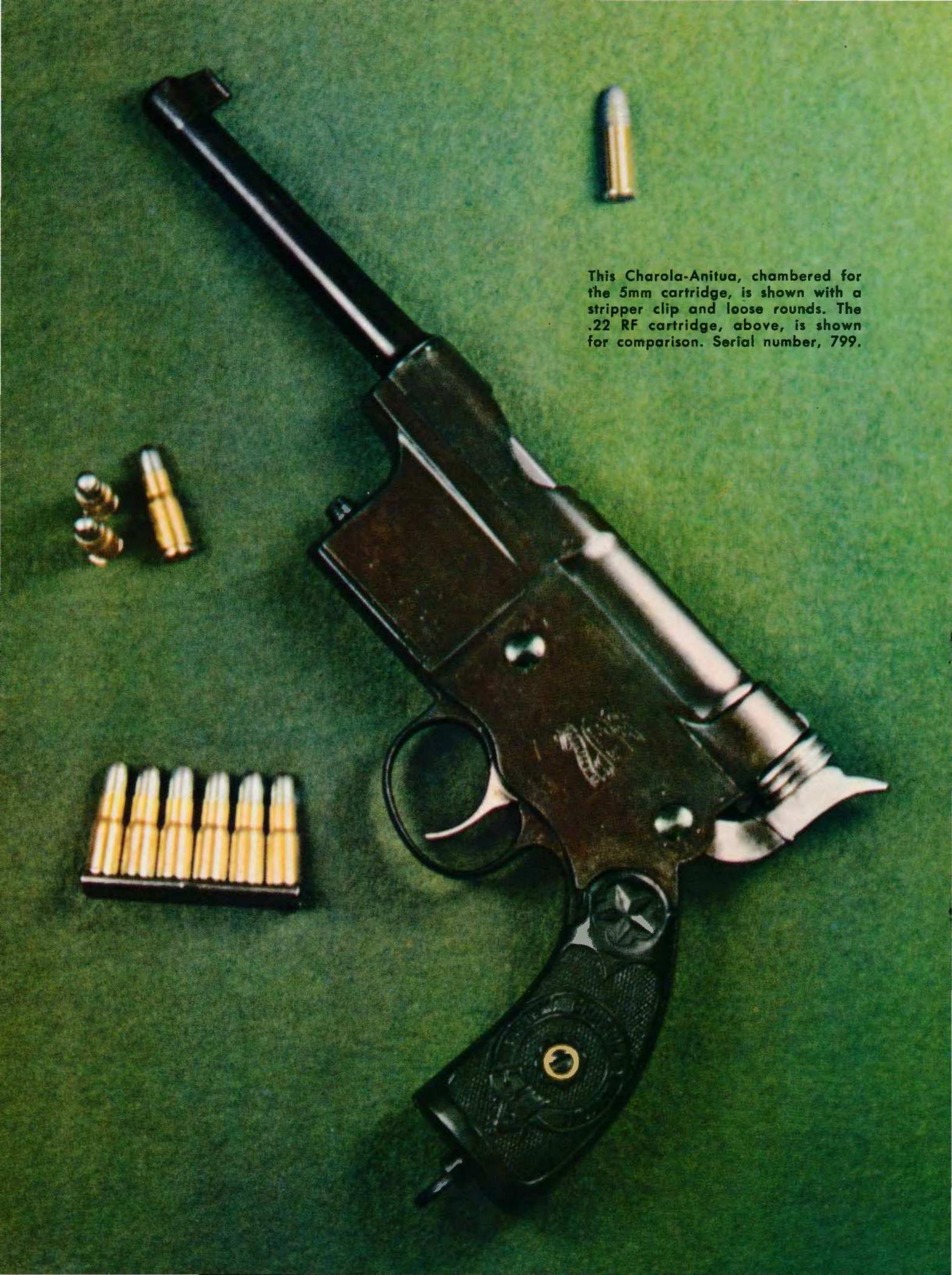
"D. Boon Cilled a bar on Tree In the year 1760."

Daniel Boone, like Davy Crockett, was a great bear hunter. But he had cut his hunting teeth much earlier on humbler game. As a teen-ager, probably no older than twelve or thirteen, he sharpened his skill as a marksman with the customary frontier sport of barking squirrels. This was in the backwoods of Pennsylvania, and as a squirrel barker, the boy had few equals. Squirrel barking to the farmer folk of that day was both a sport and a necessity. It was a sport because only the most accomplished marksman could hope to bring home a bag of game using the method, and a necessity because if a rifle ball struck the little four-to-six inch animal squarely in the body it would destroy a goodly portion of the meat and skin. The principle of "barking" was to send a bullet into the bark

of the tree beneath the squirrel, relying on its impact to kill the animal. Obviously, if the bullet went too high it would either hit the squirrel or pass over it, and if the aim was too low, it would result in a clean miss.

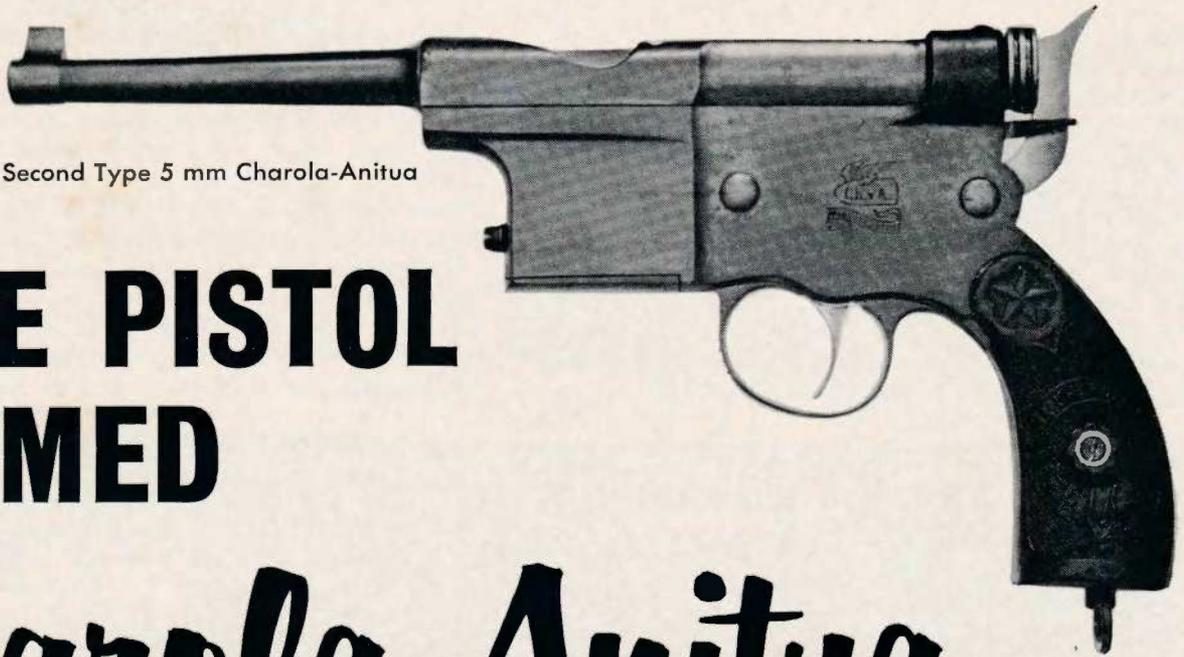
It is no mystery why Boone and his fellow long hunters were the first of America's legendary marksmen, even though settlements of white men had been sprouting along the eastern seaboard for more than a century. Until the development of an accurate rifle, there could be no such thing as accurate marksmanship. So search the historical records though one may, it is not possible to find mention of marksmanship as a significant frontier skill before the eighteenth century.

This changed in 1732. In that year, it is said, a German gunsmith in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, invented the first Kentucky rifle, although it was not then known by that name. As far as history records, it was the first time that a rifled bore was produced in any weapon on this continent. It is a curious paradox but the *(Continued on page 58)*

A detailed photograph of a Charola-Anitua handgun, a semi-automatic pistol, shown against a green background. The handgun is dark-colored with a long barrel and a distinctive curved magazine. To the left of the handgun, there is a stripper clip containing several rounds. Above the handgun, a single .22 RF cartridge is shown for comparison. The handgun's grip features a textured pattern and a small circular emblem. The overall composition is a classic product shot for a firearm magazine or catalog.

This Charola-Anitua, chambered for the 5mm cartridge, is shown with a stripper clip and loose rounds. The .22 RF cartridge, above, is shown for comparison. Serial number, 799.

Second Type 5 mm Charola-Anitua



# THE PISTOL NAMED *Charola-Anitua*

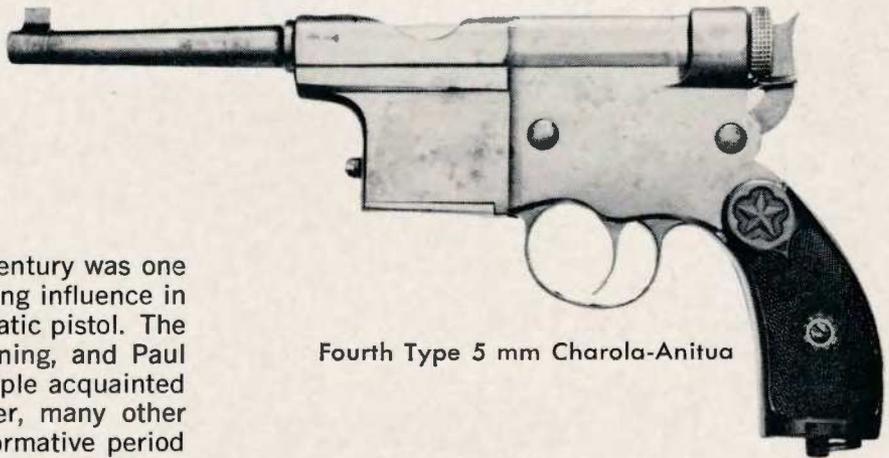
By JAMES B. STEWART

THE LAST DECADE of the 19th century was one of intense activity and far reaching influence in the development of the semi-automatic pistol. The names of Georg Luger, John Browning, and Paul Mauser are well known to most people acquainted with firearms. There were, however, many other lesser known contributors in this formative period of arms design, names like Schwarzlose, Mannlicher, Bergmann, Roth, and the names of Charola and Anitua.

During this period, when northern and central Europe were showing unmistakable signs of seething political unrest, Spain was still basking in the warm backward comfort of the 19th century. While other countries were almost frantically developing and manufacturing more and better arms, Spain, with her centuries of stable monarchy, was more concerned with the good life for her privileged aristocracy.

Spain was a country of farmers and artisans, and had no industrial base or extensive pool of mechanical talent such as existed in central Europe, England, or America. As in other countries, past and present, with an artisan or "cottage industry" type of system, the artisans with a particular skill tended to concentrate in the same geo-

Fourth Type 5 mm Charola-Anitua



graphic area. Thus it was that the town of Eibar, in north-central Spain, had for years been one of the most prominent arms centers on the Iberian peninsula. Here small arms firms formed and flourished or floundered as the economic winds blew upon them. Many dissolved, reorganized, and reformed several times during their history, only to finally fade without a trace. It was in this atmosphere that the first Spanish designed and commercially produced automatic pistol was conceived and manufactured.

The Charola-Anitua was the brainchild of Senor I. Charola, gunmaker, and Senor G. Anitua, businessman, and was patented by them under Spanish patent number 23,164, granted October 13, 1897.

## CHAROLA-ANITUA

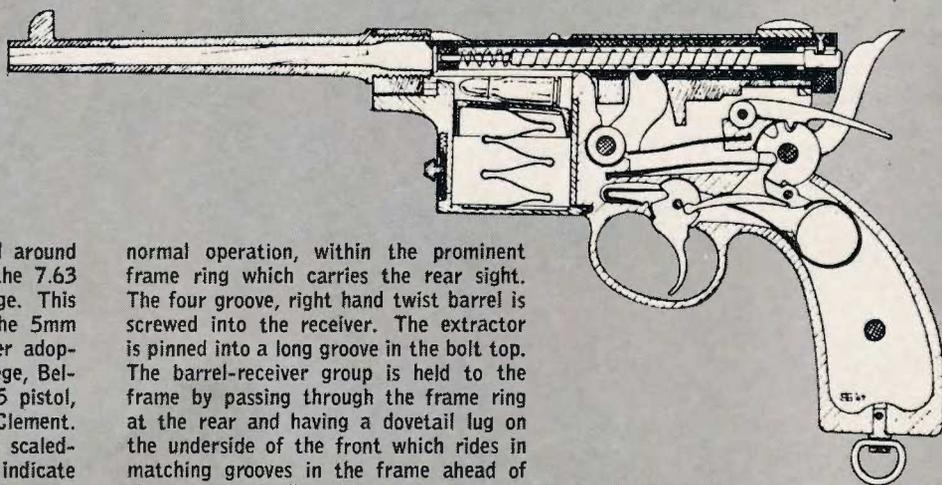
It should be remembered that prior to this time the only commercially produced automatic pistols had been the Borchardt, Mannlicher, the earliest examples of the Mauser Military and a few Bergmanns.

Production began, apparently, late in 1897 or early in 1898. The first Charolas have 4.09" barrels, tall blade front sights without muzzle band, very tall hammer spurs, and very long safety levers. Serial numbers, which are located on the underside of the bolt grip wings, apparently start at one and run to about 750. Charolas of this first type carry the Charola-Anitua trademark on the left frame panel. The mark consists of a winged bullet containing the lettering "Ch. y A." over a banner with the wording

"MARCIA REGIST<sup>DA</sup>." On top of the barrel they carry the legend "PISTOLA AUTOMATICA PATENTE CHAROLA Y ANITUA — EIBAR" and on the chamber "CAL. 5 m/m." The grips are checked monogram hard rubber with a plain border containing a circled five-pointed star at the top. Around the brass grip screw ferrule, on a "garter" or belt, is lettered "SYSTEMA CHAROLA Y ANITUA." The overall length of this first type is 9.06".

The second type, with serial numbers beginning about 750 and running to about 1750, is somewhat modified. The barrel length is reduced to 3.73" and the front sight is of beaded blade type and is mounted on a muzzle band. The hammer spur is shorter, as is the safety lever. The

### The mechanism and operation of an early auto pistol



The pistol itself was developed around a scaled down 5mm version of the 7.63 Borchardt or 7.63 Mauser cartridge. This round was originally known as the 5mm Charola-Anitua but, after its later adoption by Charles Ph. Clement of Liege, Belgium, for his popular Model 1905 pistol, became widely known as the 5mm Clement. The pistol's size, appearance, and scaled-down ammunition would seem to indicate that it was essentially conceived as a toy for the wealthy, rather than as a serious weapon of offense or defense.

Although somewhat similar in outward appearance to the early forms of the M1896 Mauser pistol, the Charola is quite different in construction. Basically, the pistol consists of a barrel-receiver group including the breech bolt, a frame, an action group, and subframe, and a magazine group. The breech locking design utilizes a lever which pivots between the frame and action and held in place by a heavy flat spring in the action. The lever protrudes through a cutout in the receiver bottom and engages a notch in the underside of the bolt. This system effectively locks the bolt to the receiver until the receiver has recoiled far enough to the rear to cause the lever tip to pivot out of engagement with the bolt notch.

The recoil spring, like that of the Mauser and Bergmann, is contained in the hollow bolt surrounding the firing pin. It is captured between the rear of the bolt face and a transverse retaining block which passes through holes in the receiver sides. The bolt is slotted on the sides to pass this block and allow the bolt to recoil in the receiver. The retaining block is held in place by the firing pin, which passes through it and the entire length of the bolt. The firing pin is held in place by a vertical screw from the top of the bolt gripping wings. The retaining block is further constrained by being located, during

normal operation, within the prominent frame ring which carries the rear sight. The four groove, right hand twist barrel is screwed into the receiver. The extractor is pinned into a long groove in the bolt top. The barrel-receiver group is held to the frame by passing through the frame ring at the rear and having a dovetail lug on the underside of the front which rides in matching grooves in the frame ahead of the magazine well.

The six shot, staggered column magazine consists of a well machined into the frame, a follower, a magazine spring, and a floorplate. It is loaded from above, with the bolt retracted, by means of disposable stripper clips. Grooves are provided in the sides of the receiver ejection port to accommodate a clip. The floorplate is secured to the frame by a button latch on the well front. Pushing the button up allows the floorplate, which is generously grooved on the bottom, to be slid forward about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " in dovetails in the frame. The floorplate then disengages and may be removed downward. The flat zig-zag magazine spring and machined steel follower are attached to the floorplate.

The action group, including the trigger guard and grip frame, slides into the rear of the frame and is secured by two transverse screw pins which pass through both frame and action. The front screw pin acts as pivot for the breech locking lever. The rear screw pin serves as the pivot for the hammer. A grooved safety lever is located on the action and protrudes to the rear between the frame and hammer. The safety, on most models, can be pushed down into either of two hammer notches. Engaging the first requires that the hammer be pulled slightly back from the rest position, resulting in a half-cock safe position in which striking the hammer will not fire a chambered round. The second notch requires that the hammer be pulled back

beyond the full-cock position to engage the safety. Some late models omit the half-cock position. The lockwork is of simple revolver type, with the addition of a long, spring-loaded trigger bar to serve as an interrupter. There is no disconnecter to prevent the hammer falling before the action is fully closed. A lanyard loop is located on the butt indicating that the Charola was intended as a holster arm. The pistol's nine inch length and 20 ounce weight bear this out.

In operation, when the trigger is pulled the trigger bar pushes on the sear, causing it to rotate out of engagement with the hammer. This allows the mainspring to drive the hammer forward. The hammer strikes the head of the firing pin, driving it against the rebound spring to strike the primer. Upon discharge the bolt, barrel, and receiver move to the rear about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " until the locking lever is rotated out of engagement with the bolt. The bolt is then free to recoil fully against the recoil spring, extracting the cartridge case and ejecting it upwards by means of the action-mounted ejector. When the compressed recoil spring reasserts itself the bolt travels forward picking up the next round from the magazine and chambering it. The stiff locking lever spring, aided by the inertia of the bolt, returns the receiver to the full-forward, locked position.



These Charola-Anituas are 7 mm, one of them with fixed magazine and mother of pearl grips, the other with a detachable magazine and bearing an altered trademark.

grips and frame trademark are the same, but the legend on top of the barrel now reads "I. CHAROLA — EIBAR CAL. 5 m/m," perhaps indicating that the firm had already broken up by this time. Some also still carry the earlier "CAL. 5 m/m" on the chamber. During the transition between the first and second types the frame dimensions were reduced, resulting in an overall length for the second type of 8.70".

At this point the sequence of models becomes very difficult to unravel. Sometime after 1900, but prior to 1903, the firm of Charola y Anitua broke up and, apparently, the barrel and receiver assembly, if not the entire production of Charola 5mm pistols was transferred to Liege, Belgium. The third and fourth types of 5mm pistols carry no reference to Charola or Anitua, and all bear Belgian manufacture, not import, proofing. This proofing, however, while being of the definitive type for finished pistols, is carried only on the barrels and receivers. According to Belgian proof law it should also appear on the frames. The significance of this is not clear.

During this same period a new cartridge was developed by scaling the 5mm round up to 7mm but retaining the same overall length. Concurrently, an entirely different model of the Charola appeared, the 7mm pistol, which occurs in two distinct variations. The 7mm pistols were apparently made in Spain, but after the dissolution of the firm, as they carry altered trademarks. Due to this situation, the later models have been put in logical order, but

whether or not the last two 5mm issues actually preceded the 7mm models is unknown.

In the third type of 5mm Charola the barrel is shortened another  $\frac{3}{8}$ " to 3.38", and the front sight, while still on a muzzle band, returns to a plain blade. The hammer spur is further lowered. The belt and wording disappear from the grips, as does the trademark from the frame side panel. Inverse knurling appears on the bolt grip wings instead of grooves as previously used. The barrel top is now marked "BEST SHOOTING PISTOL." The chamber top bears the word "PATENT." A few have, in addition to the above, the word "STANDART" stamped into the left frame panel. Some have stated that the pistols with this marking were intended for sale to the Russian revolutionaries, but no evidence has been found to support this. Serial numbers for this third type range from below 2000 to above 2500.

A fourth variation of the 5mm appears, also with Belgian proofing, in the high 2000's serial range. This version has a second lever protruding from the rear of the action on the other side of the hammer from the safety lever. This is a bolt catch that can be used to lock the action open for loading of loose cartridges in the event a stripper clip is not available. Some of this variation have no markings on the metal except for serial and proofing. As with all Charolas, these pieces carry, in addition to the main serial on the bolt grip wings, either the last two or the last three digits of the serial on each part. (Continued on page 56)

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# 'ALL PURPOSE' REVOLVER?

**T**HE SEARCH for the "all around gun" is never ending, and the usual conclusion is that there is no such animal. However, some guns are more versatile than others (usually with attendant disadvantages), and by far the most omniscient item I've seen is a big sixgun called the Scerbo-Freed "All Purpose."

This awesome looking beast is a revolver chambered for the .410 3" Magnum shotshell. Invented by George Freed of New Jersey, only a few are in existence. All of these Freed laboriously hand built, sawing apart two M1917 Colt frames and cylinders, filing to proper dimensions, and brazing them together endways to make a wheelgun long enough to swallow this shell.

Freed's device is a triple-threat machine, designed to digest three types of cartridges: conventional shotshells, rifled slugs, and a handload that heaves five .380 caliber round balls piggy-back fashion. The secret of this universality is the patented barrel. No mill run shotgun pipe, (smoothbore revolvers are illegal, due to a Treasury idiosyncrasy), Freed's tube starts off measuring .402", has four distinct step-downs in the diameter of the bore, and culminates in a .357" muzzle which is rifled for a distance of 1/2 to 1".

The surprising thing is that the gun works, and astonishingly well. For instance: Factory skeet loads, #9 shot: I broke five of the first six birds I tried at skeet with the big pistol, and at full shotgun range. A couple of subsequent shots at a pattern board showed the #9's were giving a dense, even pattern in a 30" circle at 30 yards. Rifled slugs, factory loads: All firing was done from sitting position, outdoors, hurriedly, on a cold and gusty day. At 50 feet, five out of six rounds went into 1 3/4" (see photo on facing page). At 50 yards, five of six went into 5 1/4". The flyer in each group was called out.

Five ball multi-loads: At 25 yards, fired from standing, groups were even and consistent, with the dispersion generally vertical, accounted for by the upward recoil of the gun. In each case, three hits could be covered by the palm of a hand, and the other two were invariably within another hand span. In no case did the balls fail to separate, and in no case were there any wild flyers. Several shells loaded with under-size balls gave these same results when fired from 50 feet.

The weapons Freed has made up pass Treasury muster. They sport 6" or 8" barrels, and tip the scales at 51 oz. They're not quite as huge as they look, and handling qualities compare favorably with the big .44's. However, the "All Purpose" is not in production, and none are available. More's the pity, for this enchanting and versatile weapon has distinct utility for police, the military, and sportsmen alike.





# PULL!

By DICK MILLER

**P**ISTOLEER Harry Reeves and rifleman Col. Jim Crossman will ramrod the U.S. Shooting Team during the 1968 Olympics at Mexico City in October. These two veterans of previous Olympics bring a lot of savvy to the task of molding a strong entry in the dramatic and emotion-packed Olympic games, where national pride is just as much on the line as shooting ability.

Reeves captained the U.S. shooting team in its fine showing at the Pan-American Games in Montreal, and Colonel Jim was captain of the U.S.

Force Base and San Antonio, Texas, July 3-19. Competitors here will be the survivors from 80 preliminary tryouts now in progress all across the country.

The trap team of James Beck, Chris Bishop, Tommy Kromar, Billy Hicks, R. D. Loffelmacher, and Jack Johnson captured a second place individual medal, and second team place at Bologna. Guy Renard of Belgium was the top individual with a scintillating 283 of the total 300 targets. Dick Loffelmacher of the USA and Adam Smelczynski of Poland deadlocked at

other 274 gunners being from host Italy. Jim Beck's 273 placed him number 17 on the hit parade.

A popular score for North Americans was 258, being shared respectively by Gil Henderson and Harry Willisie of Canada and Chris Bishop of the U.S. Tommy Kromar of the USA and Franz Pavlis of Austria had the only scores of 256, out of the 119 shooters who shot the full 300 targets. Six of the 125 individual shooters from 25 countries withdrew without completing that event. Antero Maki-nen of Finland had the dubious honor of recording the lowest score, with 218 hits. Elisabeth Soden of West Germany was the top feminine trap-shooter, in an event with no North American entries.

Canadian George McGarry topped the field of junior trapgunners in the Grand Prix of Italy for juniors, a hundred target event. His 92 shaded the second place effort of Franz Pavlis from Austria, at 91, and the third place 89 of Jim Beck from the USA. Dominique Veneny of France was fourth at 88, with Werner Buhse, Jr. of West Germany and Alexander Ali-pov of Russia fifth and sixth at 86. Chris Bishop of the USA was all alone at 85 and seventh place. The remaining three of the first ten places went to Sweden, Peru, and France.

The team trap championship was a tight one, after the untouchable host Italian score of 732/800. The U.S. team was second at 719, Russia third at 716, and Canada fourth at 705, outranking Spain who also had 705. France and Libya were at 703, Belgium and Sweden at 700, Austria at 696, Japan at 692, Great Britain at 686, Greece at 684, Peru at 680, Poland at 676, West Germany 672, Portugal 669, and San Marino, 623.

In the skeet events, Konrad Wirthier of West Germany was not to be denied with his stellar 198x200. Eugeny Petrov and Yury Tsuranov of the USSR dead-heated at 197, and Petrov went 50 straight in the shoot-off to top his fellow countryman Tsuranov who faltered to a 24 in the second extra round. Allen Morrison of the USA was 4th, outranking Eugeny Kondratyev of USSR, who also had 196.

Yank Bob Schuehle was 14th with 190, with Bob Rodale's 187 ranking him 24th. The USA's Cecil Trammell finished 51st with his 182, and Earl Herring's 181 was good for 60th. Allen Buntrock for the United States was at 178 and 64th. Don Sanderlin from Canada had another 178, good for 76th. Bruno De Costa was at 176 and 85th for Canada, with his countryman Bruce Wennberg 94th at 172. One



Col. Jim Crossman



Harry Reeves

team which showed well at the 1967 World Moving Target Championships in Bologna, Italy, during September, 1967. The Running Boar events of the ISU World Championships, a part of the championship program, was held at the same time in Pistoia, Italy. In the world of shooting, perhaps the most coveted championships are in the less well-publicized games of the International Shooting Union, the world regulatory body of shooting, but there is probably more national prestige and glory attached to the venerable Olympic Games, in which shooting events make up only a part of the championship program.

Final tryouts for the Yank team, which will attempt to elevate Old Glory to the top of the medal platform, are scheduled at Lackland Air

282 over the regulation distance. Both Loffelmacher and Smelczynski missed their 19th target in the pressure-packed shootoff for runner-up honors, and when the entry from Poland dropped another of the remaining six targets, the race was over.

Liano Rossini of Italy was 3rd at 280, with Gheorghe Florescu of Romania and Michel Carrega of France at 279. George McGarry of Canada was the top standard bearer for the maple leaf of Canada, in the 278 bracket with Silvano Basagni of Italy and Josef Meixner from Austria. Two Russians, Karlo Daraseliya and Pavel Senichev, paired at 277. George Pangalos of Greece had the lone 276. Yank Jack Johnson was 13th with 275, shading countryman Bill Hicks who led a trio of 274 shooters, with both

hundred and five shooters completed the program, with two withdrawals (one each from Romania and Austria). Igor Pezas of Greece was low on the international totem pole, with 147.

Russia thoroughly dominated the skeet team events, with their 392x400 being far out in front of Italy's 375, Denmark's 374, West Germany's 372, and Poland's 371. The United States team finish of 6th was a disappointment (369), and will be a target for a return to form at Mexico City. Canada was disappointed with their 15th place score of 358. Romania was 7th, Japan 8th, Greece 9th, with Sweden, Finland, and Cuba deadlocked at 10th and 362. France was 13th, Belgium 14th, Lebanon 16th, Peru 17th, Great Britain 18th, and Spain 19th.

Two Russian ladies took the first two spots in feminine skeet, again with no U.S. or Canadian entries. Women from Italy, Belgium, France, Sweden, Finland, and Great Britain made up the list of entries. The Russian lasses, Larissa Gurvich, and Klavdia Smirnova, had 94 and 93 respectively of the 100 skeet targets. Gennary Sedonkin of the USSR took the skeet Grand Prix of Italy for juniors, with no U.S. or Canadian entries. Elie Penot of France was second, and Mats Alwen of Sweden third.

If the reader thinks that I might have pointed with too much pride at the Yank and Canadian performances in the ISU Championships at Bologna, and that I might be too sanguine concerning our chances at Mexico City, it should be quickly pointed out that the trap and skeet games at Bologna are a lot tougher than those on the North American continent, and that's no baloney. The trap game was and will be the standard ISU 15-trap game, in which there are fifteen traps serving each field of five shooting posts. The

shooter on any given post may receive a target from one of three traps, instead of just one trap, and that target will be thrown 85 yards instead of about 50, which means it's a lot faster, and I mean a lot. The vertical angles will vary, rather than remain constant. In skeet the target is thrown 65 yards, which is fast, fast, fast, on top of which the gun butt must be touching the hip when the target is called for. Also, instead of being thrown on command of the shooter, as in North America, the target can be delayed up to three seconds. As skeet shooters say, you must "be steady to point" on these delayed targets.

At this stage in the International shooting game, there are few of the International-type shooting installations in North America, and practice is not easy to come by. Our participation in the ISU Games and the Olympics is much like the participation of competitors from other countries in the games that are home grown in this part of the world, such as football, basketball, and baseball. Asking a cricket player from England, for example, to play baseball by our rules is about the same as the home-grown trap and skeet gunner shooting the ISU games, which prevail in almost all of the rest of the world. Since pride and prestige are at stake, we do make the effort, and our efforts are paying off.

Under such old pros as Jim Crossman and Harry Reeves, neither of whom is a stranger to pressure and other world shooting events, our shooters should in Mexico City fire some shots heard 'round the world. They also need all the support they can get in those tryouts now in progress and those scheduled for Lackland and San Antonio in July.



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## CHAROLA-ANITUAS

(Continued from page 51)

Both the third and fourth variations have an overall length of 8.40".

The 7mm Charola pistols as a group show much less variation and were obviously made over a relatively short period of time. Both variations are numbered in the same series, beginning at 10,000. Numbers have been observed from 10,005 to approximately 12,000, indicating that there were probably only 2/3 as many pistols made in 7mm as there were in 5mm.

The basic 7mm, except for changes necessary to accommodate the fatter cartridge, is almost identical in construction to the 5mm model. The thickness of frame and receiver is greater as is the height of the receiver

changed. This change results in a "swept back" look. It is interesting to note that the bolt catch lever of the late type 5mm pistols does not occur on any of the 7mm pistols, lending strength to the theory of their separate manufacture.

The second type 7mm pistol occurs intermixed with the first. The variation consists of a detachable box magazine of eight shot capacity, substituted for the fixed six shot magazine. The magazine is constructed of thin sheet metal and is unfinished. It has a removable bottom of the same design as Bergmann magazines and is numbered to the gun. There are no cartridge sight holes on the sides. The

Comparison of 5mm and 7mm Charola Cartridges

Cartridge	Bullet diameter	Bullet weight	Case neck diameter	Case rim diameter	Case length	Muzzle velocity
5mm	.203"	28-36 gr.	.226	.284	.717	1000 fps
7mm	.284"	61-63 gr.	.309	.343	.717	725 fps

and diameter of the barrel. To accommodate six of the larger cartridges the depth of the magazine increases from 1.38" to 1.54". The barrel length is further reduced to 3.28", creating an overall length of 8.30". The decreased length and increased height lead to a less attractive, chunky appearance. The front sight construction and barrel and chamber markings, as well as grip design, are identical to those of the third type 5mm pistols. In addition, the 7mm pistols carry on the left frame panel the old winged bullet trademark, but without any initials in the bullet and the banner wording changed to "TRADE MARK." Some very late 7mm pistols have a much smaller version of this altered trade marking. The 7mm pistols, like the early 5mm pistols, are not proofed. The firing pin retention system is changed in the 7mm pistols to a self-retaining design similar to that used in the later Model 1896 Mausers. This modification allows the main serial number to be carried on the top of the bolt grip wings, directly in front of the hammer. Another difference in all observed specimens above 10,005 is that in order to clear the increased-depth magazine well, the contour of the front of the trigger guard is

magazine lips, which come up high on the bolt sides, are completely bent over and, by means of tall ears on the sides of the cast aluminum follower, hold the follower below the path of the bolt.

In order to accept the magazine, standard 7mm frames were only slightly altered. The floorplate latch channel and front dovetail are filled by a pinned-in block, and the alteration concealed by minor decorative engraving on the front of the magazine well. To retain the magazine a transverse hole is bored in the frame to accept a cross-push release. The release button is simply the head of the retaining nut. The detachable magazine variation has been observed as low as serial 10,033 and as high as 11,935. This intermixing would seem to indicate that all of the 7mm pistols were made in one batch and sold, or assembled, without regard to serial number. At some later time pistols, or numbered frames on hand, were altered to the detachable magazine system. The number of detachable magazine pistols known is far less than that of fixed.

Charola pistols are, on the whole, quite graceful in appearance and nicely machined and finished. Unfortu-

nately, they were made of quite soft and often inferior materials. Basic components such as the action sub-frame and lockwork, and possibly also the frame and receiver, were machined from sand castings. Many pistols are found with broken or improperly tempered springs, particularly the locking lever spring. Others show much battering of the recoil spring retaining block in the receiver, indicating that even with the locked action the recoil spring is not up to coping with the relatively small forces involved.

**E**XTERIOR finishes vary considerably from model to model. Most have chemically blued frames, receivers, barrels and action frames. All bolts are polished and interior lockwork is unfinished. Early examples have silver-plated hammers and triggers and heat blued safeties and extractors. Intermediate issues have polished hammers and triggers. Late 5mm issues have chemically blued triggers, hammers, extractors, and safety levers; 7mm pistols have either silver-plated or brilliantly heat blued hammers and triggers. A fair number, both in 5mm and 7mm, are nickel plated. One early 5mm examined has a nickered receiver and barrel group on a blued frame, apparently original. Engraving, both minor and major, and mother of pearl grips occur infrequently on Spanish made 5mm pistols, usually on nickered pieces. The 7mm pistols often have mother of pearl grips and are often nickel plated, but have not been observed with engraving except to hide the alteration for detachable magazines.

**Q**UITE often Charola-Anituas are reported in all sorts of odd calibers such as "6mm," "6.5mm," etc. Without exception all of those examined have been reworked from one of the two factory calibers to 6.35mm Browning (.25 ACP) or some other more readily available cartridge. A detachable magazine 7mm was found reworked to .32 S&W caliber and one, an early 5mm, was even found rebored and altered to handle .22 rimfire! These reworks appear to have been done by native gunsmiths in Mexico, from where almost all of these odd calibers can be traced. The popular story is that the guns were smuggled in from Spain and reworked for use by the peons in their revolution against the dictator Porferio Diaz in 1910. It would be nice if such were true, a noble post-script for a little known, but none the less interesting, pioneering effort in the field of automatic pistols.

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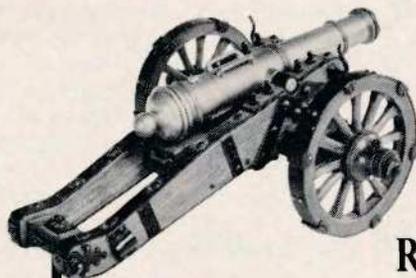
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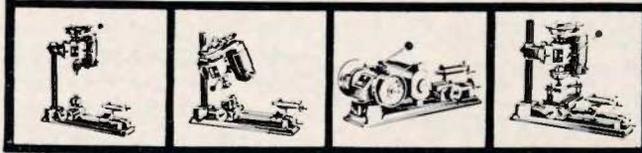
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## KENTUCKY RIFLE

(Continued from page 47)

principle of rifling had been known in eastern Europe—Russia and Poland, some of the Balkan states—long before it spread to the more technically advanced nations of western Europe.

What were the early Kentucky rifles like? Most had 45 inch barrels, and stocks carved out of either maple or walnut wood. A thin sheathing of the same wood ran the entire length of the barrel. A full length rifle was long enough so that its muzzle came to a man's chin when its butt rested on the ground. The barrel, of course, was rifled, setting it distinctly apart from the smooth-bore muskets in use, although it used the flintlock of the muskets. While the calibers varied, they averaged, according to those authorities who know most about them,

also chief source of entertainment on the frontier. Whenever possible, shooting matches were held: on holidays, to celebrate a wedding, a birthday, an anniversary, or for no reason at all. At these matches, the flame from a candle was snuffed out at 60 feet, or the head of a nail was driven into a board by a bullet. In war, it could be a devastating weapon in the hands of a skilled man up to two hundred yards, but most of the stories told about snipers knocking a man over at more than four hundred yards are myths or were freak shots. Still, there were a few documented exceptions.

Nearly every farmer's son on the frontier was a good shot with the Kentucky rifle. They had to be at

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### *The Kentucky rifle was a weapon, tool of*

*the hunt, source of entertainment on the frontier.*

.54 caliber. The bullets, relatively crude round balls, were carried in a bullet pouch slung at the side. A bullet was placed in a greased patch which made ramming it into the muzzle of the rifle comparatively easy. The powder was carried in a powder horn with its sides shaved to the thinness of paper, enabling the rifleman to see how much powder he carried at a glance. It was always carried next to the body so that it would maintain a uniform temperature.

One of the tricks necessary for good marksmanship with a flintlock was the ability to judge how much powder was needed to carry a bullet accurately to a given distance. The economics of the frontier made the waste of powder a cardinal sin. One of the reasons for the Indians' reputation as poor marksmen was their inability to measure out the proper amount of powder to insure accurate range. Another, of course, was that they had few Kentucky rifles. They were usually armed with cheap British trade muskets. These smoothbores just couldn't compete with a Kentucky rifle. Simon Kenton, for one, always claimed that Indians were as good marksmen as white men when properly equipped, but that they lacked the white man's love for his weapons and tools and seldom took proper care of them.

The Kentucky rifle was not only a weapon or a tool of the hunt. It was

least good to survive. The rifle was a first defense against hostile Indians. It brought home meat for the table. But there were a few who were even more than this. There were men in whose hands a Kentucky rifle would sing a song. It became almost a living thing.

The classic prototype of the marksman and rifleman of that day is, of course, Daniel Boone. He was supposed to be without an equal. This was not literally true. There were some who were as good, and perhaps a few, like Simon Kenton or Lewis Wetzel, who were even better. But there is enough truth in the old story to class him as one of the masters of the Kentucky rifle.

Boone was a man of medium height and slender stature. The old portraits show a moody wilderness dreamer which seems somehow inconsistent with what we know about his humor and human warmth. He was a frontier farmer with a strong yen for hunting and trapping. He often left his family for months at a time to wander the wilderness trails. When he was "bar" hunting in Tennessee in 1760, he was 26 years old. Five years earlier, he had been in Braddock's disastrous defeat by the French and Indians. It was still nine years before he would first enter Kentucky, but for the next 20 years his name would be woven into her history. His first attempt to found a settlement in the

region ended in failure. He and his followers were driven back by Indians, and his oldest son, James, was killed. James Harrod founded the first settlement, but Boone came back to build the second on the banks of the Kentucky River.

Boonesboro was a typical frontier settlement, a cluster of cabins surrounded by a stockade with a blockhouse at each corner. Outside the stockade were cleared fields, more cabins and huts, and a short distance away the unending wilderness. In 1778, Boone, and some of his followers, were captured by Shawnee Indians, who sold most of the Kentuckians to the British in Detroit, but refused to part with Boone. The Shawnee chief, Blackfish, adopted him as his son. Boone could enjoy living the Indian life, but one day he learned that they planned to attack Boonesboro. So he escaped, and trekked through hundreds of miles of trackless wilderness to warn the settlers.

**W**ITHIN days, Blackfish with 400 Shawnee warriors, the Negro renegade, Pompey, and a small party of French-Canadian irregulars were pounding at the stockade gates. Pompey climbed to the top of a tree far from the stockade and started sniping. Nothing is known of his background, but an educated guess is that he was an escaped slave. Boone knew him personally from his Indian days.

Somewhere Pompey had acquired a Kentucky rifle, and he was exceedingly skillful in its use. Furthermore, he had the advantage of height. He shot a frontiersman in the shoulder. Then a bullet from his rifle hit a second man. A dozen rifles in the fort were trained on him, and fired without any effect except to make him hug the tree closer. Boone was called. Sizing up the situation at a glance, he knew that if the Negro were to be brought down he would have to do it. If young Simon Kenton were around, Boone might have assigned him the chore. But he was in the Illinois country scouting for George Rogers Clark.

Pompey fired again, and the settlers scurried for cover. Boone sighted his Kentucky rifle, squeezed the trigger, and the Negro came tumbling down. After the siege was lifted, the Indians carried off their own dead, but left the black man's body where he had fallen. Boone's bullet had struck him in the forehead, a truly remarkable shot.

Later in life, Boone roved far afield from Kentucky. His wanderings took him as far west as the Yellowstone River. He hunted the prong horn antelope of the plains. Once he shot

a grizzly bear with his Kentucky rifle, killing it with one well-aimed shot. Past 75, he started taking a young Negro boy with him whenever the wanderlust became too hard to bear. The boy's sole responsibility was to bring the great pioneer's body back in case he died. For this man who had spent his life on the farthest frontiers, often in wilderness that few white men had ever seen, had a desperate fear of dying away from civilization. He wanted to be buried among his own people. But when Daniel Boone died—he was 84 and in his own bed.

In those early days in Kentucky, Boonesboro was also the headquarters of Simon Kenton. He alternated between being chief scout for Boone and for George Rogers Clark, a post of considerable responsibility for a man still in his early twenties. Kenton could not read or write, but he knew every forest trail, the habits of every wild animal, the ways of the Indians better than most men twice his age. He was over six feet tall with blue eyes and blond hair. At that time, he called himself Simon Butler, believing he was wanted for murder in Fauquier County, Virginia. Actually, the man he shot had survived, but Kenton (aged 16 when it all happened) wasn't to find out for a long time.

An argument that will get at least two different answers among the people who know about the American frontier is: "Who was the greater, Boone or Kenton?" Even in their day, no one knew the answer.

The year of 1777 was called the year of the bloody sevens, and with good reason. The Indians were everywhere, trying to push the white man from their favorite hunting grounds. Kenton was one of the few who could cope with them on their own terms. He mastered the difficult ability of reloading his rifle on the run. Ordinarily, once the rifle was shot, it became a piece of useless wood and metal. To reload it, the rifleman had to stop, rest its butt on the ground, pour in powder, ram a bullet down its muzzle, then pour powder into its pan. For the average pioneer, this was impossible in the heat of battle or when he was being chased by Indians. But not for Kenton. In his hands, the Kentucky rifle was almost as effective as a repeater. He could reload it as he ran, resting the stock sideways against his body.

One day this trick saved Daniel Boone's life. The day started like many others on the frontier, quiet and peaceful. The farmers were working their fields outside Boonesboro. Then a shot rang out from the bushes of the nearby forest. A farmer fell to the

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ground, and the others ran for the stockade. An Indian began scalping the dead man. Unfortunately for him, Simon Kenton was in the fort. He shot the Indian in the middle of his gory chore.

The time would come when the name Simon Kenton would be known to two generations of Americans for wisdom and savvy in the border wars. But at this time he was in the full flush of reckless youth, and so he did a foolish thing. He ran out of the stockade to the side of the dead Indian to get his scalp. Boone saw him, and yelled for him to come back. But it was too late. A dozen Indians charged out of the woods surrounding the scout. Boone and a party of settlers ran to aid Kenton.

They fell into what might be considered a classical Indian ambush. A larger band of Indians appeared between the pioneers and the stockade. Most of the white men had discharged their rifles and were reduced to using them as clubs trying to cut their way through the savages to the fort. But Kenton reloaded his rifle twice, and with each shot killed an Indian. As he reloaded a third time, his eyes searched for a target.

At that moment a stray bullet broke Boone's ankle, and he fell to the ground. Soon an Indian stood over him with raised tomahawk to finish him off. But a snapshot from Kenton's rifle killed the Indian. Handing his weapon to a settler, Kenton carried Boone into the fort.

Kenton went on to be the hero of a series of adventures unique in frontier history. He was captured by the Indians and survived almost every form of Indian torture. He was tied to the stake to be burned three times, and on each occasion his life was saved as if by some miracle. He ran an Indian gauntlet eight times and managed to live. Few men ever survived one.

Unlike Boone, and most of the great frontiersmen, Kenton never hunted for sport. Yet, in the early days, his skill as a hunter kept many frontier families alive when they would have otherwise starved. His granddaughter, Edna Kenton, explained it this way: "Simon Kenton only hunted for meat, or when it was the most dangerous work."

There were few Indian wars on the border between 1774 and 1812 in which Kenton did not fight. Unlettered though he was, he rose to the rank of Brigadier-General in the Ohio Militia. Although Kenton spent his early and middle years fighting hostile Indians, he was recognized by everyone as a defender of the peacefuls. Kenton was an old man when a mob

of young toughs took it into their collective heads to massacre a band of peaceful and unarmed Indians camped nearby. Word was brought to him, and he took his long Kentucky rifle down from where it hung over the fire place, and went to meet the mob.

It must have been some scene. An old man, cradling his rifle in his arms, facing a score of younger men. But no fiction writer would have dared write the climax. Kenton stopped the lynching by the simple expedient of telling the mob that the only way they could kill any of these people would be to kill him first—adding grimly—that before that happened some of them would surely die. The young men knew all about Simon Kenton, and there wasn't one of them willing to take the chance and face up to him. Kenton lived to 81, and like Daniel Boone died in his own bed.

There were four brothers named Wetzel who roamed the wilderness of Ohio and West Virginia in the closing years of the eighteenth century. They were Lewis, Jacob, Martin, and John Wetzel. All were famous, but Lewis was the best known; a legend while he still lived, a figure of history and fiction ever since. He was perhaps the most controversial man to ever appear in American frontier history. To some, he was a vicious, cold-blooded killer. The United States Army certainly thought so, and it did its best to hang him for shooting an Indian under a flag of truce, a not uncommon Wetzel trick. To others, he was a frontier hero, ever ready to save the life of a white man, woman, or child from Indians on the war path. History records that there was an element of truth in both views.

One historian who accepted the former view was Theodore Roosevelt. In his "Winning The West," he compared Lewis Wetzel unfavorably to Boone and Kenton, using such word as "brutal" and "coarse" to describe him. On the other hand, Zane Grey wrote him up as a hero in three of his novels ("Betty Zane," "Spirit Of The Border," and the "Last Trail.") Grey repeated the old wives' frontier tale of how the Wetzel boys turned Indian killers after their father, mother, and younger brothers and sisters were massacred by Indians. The documented facts show that their mother lived to be an old woman, and while their father was eventually killed by Indians, it was long after they had won their reputations.

Whatever the historical controversy about Lewis Wetzel, there has never been the slightest debate regarding his ability with the rifle. He was 5', 9" tall, barrel chested, with long black hair that fell to his waist when un-

wound, and the stamina and running power of a wild Indian. Of his many adventures, two will serve to indicate why he became a legend in his own time, and why to this day some historians consider him the greatest individual Indian fighter of the early West.

One day a wild turkey gobbled across the Ohio River from Ft. Henry (now Wheeling, West Virginia), and a young pioneer bent on a turkey dinner that evening paddled his canoe in the direction of the sound. He never came back. Then next day another settler who had gone turkey hunting failed to return. The following morning Lewis Wetzel heard the turkey's gobble. His trained ears detected a false note, and so he crossed the river far down stream and circled back behind it. The turkey gobbled again, only it wasn't a turkey, but a brawny Shawnee warrior hidden in a cave. Wetzel shot him in the back of his head, and returned to Ft. Henry wearing a fresh scalp.

Once Wetzel was jumped by four Indians in the Ohio wilderness. When

they realized who he was, they moved cautiously, knowing they were on the trail of one of the most dangerous men on the frontier. But when he fired his rifle and killed an Indian, the remaining warriors thought that he was unarmed. The only thing wrong with this reasoning was that Wetzel, like Kenton, had mastered the knack of reloading the Kentucky rifle on the run. He reloaded twice, and killed two more Indians. The remaining Indian gave up the chase, supposedly saying: "Him man with always loaded gun." But it is highly unlikely that any Indian ever talked that way.

In 1804, when Lewis Wetzel was 40, he accompanied Lewis and Clark on the first leg of their expedition. But after four months he grew tired of Captain Lewis' rigid military discipline and returned to his old stamping grounds. Four years later, he contracted yellow fever and died.

Dissimilar though these three men were, they must be numbered among the real masters of the Kentucky rifle.



## FREE RIFLE GAME

(Continued from page 22)

were virtually forgotten. When we decided to get back into the free rifle sport we knew exactly whom we would have to defeat. It has been that way since 1952, undoubtedly it will continue that way for a long time to come.

In the Olympics of '52 the USSR was first; we were 6th. In '56 the Russians again won; we were 8th. In 1960, Austria was best and we were 7th. In '64 we were not only top dogs but won 3rd place as well. Not only did our boy, Gary Anderson, take the measure of the Commie gunners at Tokyo but he hung up a new world record, a score of 1153. The best the Soviet marksman, Kveliashvili, could do was 1144. Gunnarsson, an U.S. army sergeant was 3rd, with 1136.

This is a sort of quickie history of free rifle shooting down to the present. While our participation, until recently, has been pretty spotty, there is reason to believe that from now on we shall continue to win. We have learned a lot these past few years, and have perfected both our shooters and our shooting irons. And maybe more than this, we have sharpened up our training methods so that our marksmen perform at peak efficiency.

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that the firing distance is 328 yards, approximately, and the 10 ring measures 3.94 inches. There are many rifles made today, and a great deal of ammo, that won't shoot a four inch ring at 328 yards. The marksman who plays at this game not only has to hit that elusive and exceedingly diminutive ring, but for one-third of all the shots he fires must do it off-hand!

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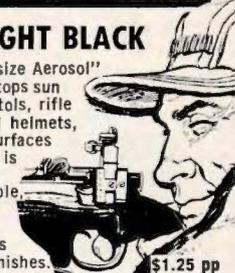


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tended aluminum prong which passes under the armpit. The buttplate is adjustable for length, for vertical direction, and may be tilted or canted out of the vertical; all these adjust by the use of Allen screws and a wrench. The stock has a cheekpiece and may be carved after the fashion of the German Schutzen stock. These days, the stock has a pronounced pistol grip and a hole is drilled through the wood so that the thumb may be passed around the pistol grip. There is an adjustable rest beneath the fleshy part of the palm as it grips the rifle.

For the other hand, there is a palm rest. This moves along a rail, and while it can be shifted forward or back, it also has a further axis in that it may be swung to the left or right; and may be moved upward and downward on a shaft which is a part of the assembly. There is a removable sling swivel. This too is adjustable, mov-

position the sight for prone, and reposition it for the offhand.

The trigger may be any weight so long as it is safe. This means in some cases a weight of pull of only 2 oz. It may be of the set type or may be single stage. Seldom does the pull go over 1/2 lb.

Firing is done from an enclosed firing point. This shooting stand is protected from three sides and has a roof. The front may be open. The idea is to immunize the gunner from the elements. The International Shooting Union, supervising authority for free rifle shooting around the world, had in mind a set of rules which would enable the gun and the gunner to put forth a joint best effort. With this in mind, the firing point has been designed to protect almost completely from the elements.

What do we see in our international free rifleman? We see a shooter who must be strong, young, and tough; a



Walther's KKM is one of the most popular for .22 competition.

able along the same rail that supports the palm rest.

The front sight is a hooded aperture. While the 10 ring at 300 meters is only 3.94 inches in diameter, the aiming bull extends out to include the five ring. This gives a mark with a diameter of 23.62 inches. Almost universally, the free riflemen use an aperture front sight and do not use a post. It is more precise, is not so tiring on the eyes over the long 120 shot grind, and is more easily seen in any light condition. The rear sight is a precision micrometer-adjustable affair, movable usually in 1/8 minute clicks with a selective aperture sighting disc, with sizes in increments of .004", starting at .30" and going up to .058". This sight is on an extension rail and will have a movement, forward and back of, generally, 1.5 inches so that the marksman may

man who must be trained over a long period of time to hold the extremely heavy rifle and to shoot it well. On the side of the rifle we realize that here, virtually, is a firearm without any limitations; a kind of gun that the ISU fathers have deliberately attempted to make free. Hence the name "free rifle" game.

What is the good of such a highly specialized sort of sport? The ordinance cannot be used for anything else; it is too heavy for the game fields, too bulky and hefty for war, and it would scarcely do for the specialized game of sniping. What then are the practical aspects of this sport? Why follow it in this country? These are good questions and deserve honest answers.

Free rifle marksmanship is sort of like the Indianapolis 500 mile auto race. In itself there may be little

that is wholly practical, but the side effects are monumental. The auto jousting has contributed to the betterment of engines, chassis, gear train, tires, and wheels. The free rifle sport has improved barrels, actions, triggers, sights, stocks, and loads. Beyond this, it has improved marksmanship by attracting a class of individual who have been so intensely devoted to winning that he has unearthed shooting facts and developed techniques which might never have been discovered.

A most significant facet to the game has been the political one. The Communists have used their winning to make propaganda hay. When they have defeated us they have brayed out to the world that we are decadent. When we have won they have been silent, but have returned to Moscow determined to try all the harder on the next round. If we should withdraw from the international tournaments at this stage—as we did during the 30's—we'd play right into the hands of the Soviets. There is little danger of that.

In 1937, as I've said, the Estonian, Kivistik, shot a new world record score. The Estonian team was just as hot and walked off with the world team honors. In 1939, another international series of matches were fired and again the Estonian team walked off with the No. 1 spot. Shooters all over the world commenced to study the shooting style of these gunners. What was it, they asked, that the marksmen from Estonia (Estonia is located on the Baltic Sea, was gobbled up by Russia after WW II) had that others were slow to discover?

It was found that in the prone, for example, that Kivistik and his teammates did not belly down flat on the ground, twisting and squirming until the body was at an angle 45 degrees to the target. Instead, the Estonians lay more directly behind the rifle, the angle between the body and the target not greater than 25 degrees or so. And maybe more important, the marksman pulled his right leg up until there was a noticeable bend at the knee. The left leg remained straight and the foot was not laid flat. Instead the heel was turned up in quite a natural fashion.

This posture did a number of things, all of them good. The most beneficial was to throw the weight of the upper body off the chest and thus relieve the lungs and the heart to considerable extent. The only objection to the Estonian position is that if the right knee is bent too abruptly and the leg pulled up too high, the center of gravity shifts leftward to such ex-

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tent as to put an unreasonable burden on the left arm.

Our shooters have adopted this new shooting stance but have revised and perfected it. While the body is almost directly behind the rifle, the shift to the left side is not as pronounced as that originated by Kivistik and his mates. There is a sort of compromise, and this has taken the shape of less bend in the right knee and a somewhat lower leg position.

The free rifleman must fire kneeling. Next to offhand, no shooting stance is more uncertain. The rifle is balanced on the left knee and the posture is a shaky one. In the U.S.A., and most especially in the military, we have developed a kneeling position in which the marksman turns his right foot over and sits on it as it lies flat on the ground. This takes a pretty supple ankle joint but it can be done with a little practice. If he can—it requires the long, lean, hungry type to do this—he leans well forward and rests the left elbow not on top of the left knee but actually ahead of the knee joint and below it. This, we have long concluded, is the staunchest, steadiest and best kneeling pose of all. It has been taught to army recruits for many years.

It remained for our ranking free rifle marksmen to completely explode the theory that this is the best way to shoot from the kneeling. These bucks, by current ISU shooting rules, use a padded roll which they slip under the left ankle. They then sit on the left heel. The roll is of such a height and thickness as to permit the gunner's toe to touch the ground but the padding takes up the body weight. The marksman does not slope his left leg forward in the old style, but pulls it back to his body sharply and achieves a position where the shin is completely vertical. He rests his left arm, at the elbow, on the knee—not inside the knee, not ahead of the knee, not down the shin, as we've done so long in the military, but directly atop it. The body is upright—not leaned forward and certainly not slanted backward or to the side. The position is called the "high kneeling" stance and despite the fact that at first blush it might appear to be unsteady, it is so remarkably solid that our top gunners now knock out 300 meter scores within 1 to 2 per cent of the prone totals!

The offhand, or standing, position has been just as thoroughly overhauled. It has been our conception that the fellow who shoots best offhand must spraddle his legs out at least 24 to 30 inches and must stand rigidly erect—not leaning forward in-

to the gun and certainly not leaning backward in an awkward effort to hold it erect. We place the left hand directly under the piece and extend it some inches ahead of the normal balance point of the rifle. The right elbow is lifted sharply and extends on a line with the shoulders. It is believed that when it is lifted in this fashion that it aids in the support of the rifle.

Study by our sharks shows this position is pretty poor. In the first place, the rifle must be held in place largely by the use of the hands, the arms, and the back. This can be done for a few shots but tires the shooter very rapidly. The notion that the body is held motionless by the widely spraddled legs is another misconception. The shooter must continually fight a tendency to teeter over on his face because the center of gravity, due to the heavy rifle is well in front of the body.

Now our free rifleman exhibits an entirely different stance, a most unique and seemingly awkward one it would appear at first blush. Instead of standing on his hind legs and spreading his feet wide, he places his feet no more than 10 inches apart; barely as far as the width of his shoulders. Then he leans backward—not a great deal, but enough to shift the center of balance of the heavy rifle from a place in front of his body to a center directly over the spine, the hips, and the closely bunched feet. After leaning over backward, the gunner then rotates his shoulders a few degrees counter-clockwise. This peculiar shooting position shifts the rifle load from the muscles of the arms and back to the bones and the ligaments of the spine. When the twist is made counterclockwise the ligaments of the back are brought to a rigidity which further helps to keep the shooter steady.

The offhand position, when it is first examined, looks simply awful. It appears decidedly awkward, and it is. It takes a long time and assiduous practice to master. At first the odd posture brings a lot of muscles, bones and tendons into a pronounced strain, and only a long training grind accustoms them to the stance.

Such extraordinary marksmen as Gary Anderson and Lones Wigger, cant the rifle while aiming. It is believed that some harm is done to the shooter's equilibrium if the head is inclined sidewise when aiming. To beat this, the free rifleman simply twists the entire piece to the left and thus contacts the comb of the stock while the head remains erect. This is pretty radical, and certainly would

require a lot of practice to be sure the cant was precisely the same each time!

Another extraordinary theory of our international champion, Anderson, is that the contact between the rifle and the man must be a loose one. Instead of crowding the stock into the shoulder and gripping it firmly, quite the opposite is done. The rifle is supported by the palm rest and the hooked buttplate. The trigger hand is of lesser consideration. "By reducing the active contacts the body has with the rifle," confides Anderson, "to those absolutely necessary, it is possible to consequently minimize the role these contacts may have in affecting reactions of the rifle."

Last year at the World Matches in Wiesbaden, Anderson fired 375 off-hand. This means of the 40 shots banged off he lost on the average only .6 point per shot. In other words, he was hitting slightly better than a seven inch ring at 328 yards every shot. Any laddy-o who can shoot like that has simply got to be listened to!

In the beginning, the free rifle game was played largely with centerfire shooting irons. More recently the .22 caliber has been added. The .22 free rifle is a dead ringer for the bigbore with identical weight, the same sights, palm rest, hooked buttplate, trigger pull, stock, and the other details. The course of fire is 50 meters on a target that has been scaled down. The customary prone, kneeling, and off-hand positions are followed.

Schultz & Larsen, the Danish arms firm, make an excellent international rifle. It was a free gun in the fullest sense. It was ordinarily chambered for the 6.5 mm cartridge but on the insistence of our gunners it was also chambered for our 7.62 mm (.308) loading. Hammerli, the splendid Swiss manufacturers, likewise make a top-drawer free rifle. Efforts were made to build a suitable free rifle around some of our better barreled actions. This worked out pretty well, but there were objections to the slowness of our lock time and we had no really suitable triggers. Usually, a set trigger with a weight of 2 to 8 oz. is needed. Our makers had never had any demand for such triggers, and as a consequence we had no reason to make them.

The Advanced Marksmanship Unit went to Remington and asked that a rifle be built around the 40X action. The rifle was to be quite on a par with anything the Europeans had, and if possible a little better. The Remington outfit had a special shop at the Iliion plant which did nothing but

make target rifles. The job was dropped in the lap of Mike Walker, a national benchrest champion, who heads up the Special Rifle Shop. The rifle which resulted is now made in both center fire and a .22 Long Rifle calibers. This rifle is a single shot, built on the 40X receiver with 27 1/4 inch heavy barrel. The laminated thumbhole stock is finished pretty much in the rough, so that the shooter may whittle it down to suit his own ideas of how it should feel. There is the usual hooked buttplate and adjustable palm rest. The sling swivel is adjustable, also removable. The trigger is adjustable down to 2 oz. Weight of the rifle is about 15 pounds. It may be had with either the customary right hand stock or a left-hander, if desired. Besides being chambered for the .22 Long Rifle the Remington is also available in the following centerfire loadings: .222, .223, .222 Rem. Magnum, 6 mm Rem. 6 mm Int. 6x47 mm, 6.5x55 mm, 7 mm Rem. Magnum, 7.62 mm (.308), .30-06, and the .30-338.

In the .22 Long Rifle field, the Anschutz-Savage Model 1413 Match 54 rifle is the most popular choice. This rifle is used by a number of our headliners and also by the European contingent. It is made by the German firm of Anschutz, and is imported and sold, exclusively, by the Savage Arms Corporation. The 1413 Match 54 weighs 15 1/2 pounds with 27 1/2 inch heavy barrel, single shot, turning bolt, the international type stock with thumbhole, hooked adjustable buttplate and palm rest, and an absolutely superb trigger, adjustable down to 2 oz. Ignition time is lightning fast and accuracy is extraordinarily good. This is the most popular .22 free rifle in the world today.

Other splendid international models include the Walther KKM-Int. with 28 inch heavy barrel, a weight of 15 1/2 lb., turning bolt, international stock, hooked buttplate and palm rest, trigger pull adjustable to 1/4 lb., finest micrometered rear sight and hooded aperture front, and an accuracy potential second to none.

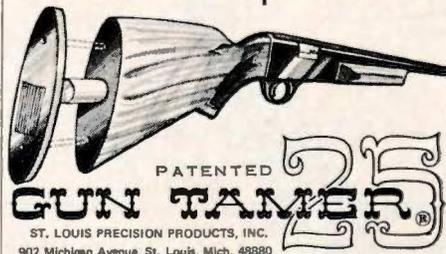
The BSA Martini-International Mark III rifle, imported from England by Freeland Scope Stands, is another of our very finest. This excellent rifle has a 29 inch barrel and a weight of 14 1/2 lb. with a trigger adjustable to 6 oz. The receiver is tapped for a dovetail base so that the Freeland tube sight can be mounted. Freeland also provides the adjustable hooked buttplate and palm rest. This rifle is superbly accurate and represents one of our outstanding offers for the free rifleman.

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## WHAT IS A CUSTOM RIFLE?

(Continued from page 43)

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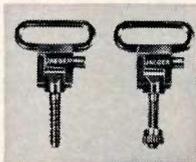
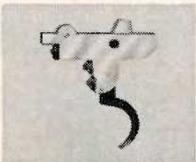
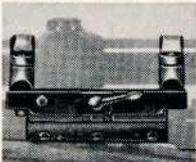
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If one suits you, you're in business. If not, most custom gunmakers will have catalogs from their wood suppliers, and you can have him order the type and grade of your choice from these. One tip: A good custom rifle maker is a better judge of wood quality than you. Don't bring in a "bargain" blank and expect him to jump with joy. Making a "silk purse out of a sow's ear" would be easier than making a beautiful stock out of a piece of lumber—no matter how good it looks to you—that is full of sap wood, flaws, and impractical grain patterns. Remember that he will guarantee satisfaction, but only if he has good basic materials to begin with.

**Stock Dimensions.** This brings us back again to our statement about beginners and custom rifles. If you are this far along with the selection of your custom rifle, I hope that you will—or at least take the advice of your stockmaker—know the proper stock dimensions for your physical stature and shooting stance.

**Stock finish.** Here you have a wide choice of products to select from; everything from fast, spray-on types to real, hand-rubbed oil. Several factors should be considered in the selection of a stock finish. Many stockmakers agree that an oil finish is the best, but it takes a lot of work, and therefore is more expensive. A noted stockmaker once said that the majority of the good custom stockmakers turn out their best work with oil, the rest turn out equally good work with other finishes. Ask your gunmaker what finish he prefers—you shouldn't be surprised if he says "oil," for a good many use some form of linseed oil—and take it from there.

It is appropriate here to talk about quality of workmanship as far as the stock work is concerned. A truly great stock needs four things; good wood, a good finish, a pleasing style, and the talented hands of a craftsman. With only the first three ingredients, it may look good from afar, but not from near by. The only way to recognize real craftsmanship is to move in close. Seek out gaps between wood and metal; run your hand along the stock, feeling for signs of roller coaster ripples; put a magnifying glass on the checkering and try to find flat diamonds, run-overs, or rough against-the-grain cuts. Any of these are signs of a wood butcher, not a gun craftsman.

**Metal finish.** Here, too, you have a

wide choice, from those that look like a bad black paint job to those with the blue-black sheen of a diamond. Ask your gunsmith for samples of the bluing finish he uses and examine it carefully. Look beyond the color to the finish of the metal itself. If you spot corners rounded by excessive buffing, file marks, or patchy spots, think twice before giving him the job. Generally, your gunmaker will use one of the several commercial bluing solutions, Blu-Blak, Heat Bath, Du-Lite, etc. If so, and if he is a careful worker, the results should be excellent. If he farms out his bluing, he should be able to assure you of a top quality job under his guarantee of satisfaction.

**Sights.** By this time you have selected your sights, and chances are that you'll have chosen a scope. If so, get the best you can afford, one that is suited for the type of shooting you'll do; and get mounts which are compatible with the scope and the rifle design. This is not the time to let up on your demand for quality workmanship. Don't accept a scope mounted on bases that are shimmed, or a mount with bugged screw slots.

**Accessories.** In this category, we can include an adjustable trigger, if your action does not already have one. A beautiful gun with a rough or strong trigger seems to lose some of its glamour, and a good trigger pull is essential to accurate shooting. A sling and swivels are fine if you want them, and if so, get the best; the cost is less than that of a couple of boxes of ammo. A butt plate is essential, and this is no place for plastic or hard rubber. Invest in a good steel plate or a top quality recoil pad.

As long as I'm spending your money like a drunken sailor, let me interject a personal note. There is nothing which puts the final touch to a custom rifle as a few spots of engraving. Not the exorbitant coverage seen on many guns, but subtle little hints of elegance; perhaps an engraved trigger guard or floor plate, a few scrolls on the top of the barrel, or an engraved gold or silver shield on the bottom of the buttstock. This is the icing on the cake, and about the best ego builder I know.

**Quality Workmanship.** This requirement should be uppermost in your mind before you begin to think about getting a custom rifle built. It takes a lot of looking at a lot of guns before you can recognize real quality workmanship, but once you acquire this

talent, you'll turn up your nose at anything less than the best. Let's be fair about this. Don't expect top quality at less than top prices, but at the same time, don't accept less quality than the price deserves. Be critical, for there is nothing so shattering as to have one of your shooting cronies find a flaw in your pride and joy.

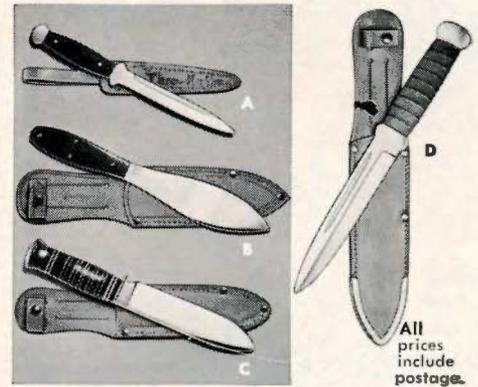
Here are a few tips on getting the best rifle you can with the least amount of problems. First, take the gunmaker's estimated date of delivery, and add a month or two. If there is one thing you don't want to do, it's hurry him in the final days of your rifle's manufacture. Don't change your mind in the middle of the job. Although the gunmaker works on one part at a time, he is following a comprehensive plan, and a change of component during a critical phase could result in a sorry mess. Discuss everything covered here—and whatever else is important to you—with the gunmaker before you agree to his doing the job, and be sure each of you understands the other. This will save you both time and money.

Some readers will check several custom rifle maker's catalogs, add up the cost of a rifle they would like to own—gulp a few times—and say; "This guy is out of his cotton-pickin' mind! I'd have to blow about \$800 to get the kind of custom rifle I'd like." Yet these same readers will think nothing of buying a \$3,000 automobile and piling on another \$1,000 worth of gadgets.

Sure, you've read where a custom rifle has practically no resale value, and this is entirely true—in some cases. Where the caliber is an orphaned bastard, where the stock

dimensions are far from the norm, or where the design is far out, then the gun may be a drug on the market. But a custom rifle, without these abnormalities, built to the requirements discussed here, could become a better value than AT&T stock. I recently saw a Griffin & Howe custom sporter, in practically unfired condition, sold for about three times its original cost.

I would guess that there are less than 50 gunmakers in the U.S. today who could, if they put their mind to it, build a rifle to the admittedly rigid requirements spelled out in this article. But the majority of the rifle craftsmen of today are no longer spring chickens, and the young group of custom smiths striving for their titles are, for the most part, yet unproved. It may be that they will, indeed, replace the old tried and true craftsmen, or it may also be that the craftsman of old that are still in business today may be the last of a breed. I hope not, but I'm fearful, because I've seen too many of the new breed snicker at a classic stock design as they worked on some garish monstrosity; I've seen more than a few of them—calling themselves custom gunsmiths—complete a custom rifle without ever picking up a polishing stone. But then, too, I've seen a few of the old craftsmen sell their soul to the "new look" and the "customer be damned" school of doing business, and I think that perhaps among the hundred or so young men who are serving their time in hell, learning the tricks of the trade, there are another 50 or more who our sons will choose to have them build their custom rifles—not because the price was right, but because the quality was right for the price.



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## THE .218 BEE

(Continued from page 33)

mental program and this was really no major problem. As discovered later, the real problem was lack of communication.

Winchester and Western set about stiffening the cartridge case by adding thicker walls and head. In the Remington-Peters camp, the problem was resolved by altering the load to reduce breech pressure. How about that, sports fans? Now the cases would give no more extraction troubles.

Suddenly the handloaders found that their pet .218 Bee loads were spilling out primers when they opened the action. Many of the previously popular .218 listings were showing unmistakable signs of high

pressure! Why did this happen?

It soon became apparent that factory cases could vary in capacity by an amount that fluctuated between six and eight per cent! This variation from brand to brand could change the loading density of maximum charges and rocket up the chamber pressures. A high percentage of died-in-the-wool varmint shooters are handloaders and you can be sure that the unprecedented occurrences we have described certainly shook them up to a considerable degree. When you lose confidence, you lose enthusiasm. The .218 Bee, a truly good little cartridge, was badly bruised in this letdown.

Please remember that this fiasco occurred around 1949-1950 and that

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currently manufactured .218 Bee brass is of good, uniform construction controlled by the standards of the "Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute." This excellent organization precludes the lack of communication that "bumbled" the Bee. Our manufacturers have wisely standardized their practices within the structure of SAAMI and our present products are all of the very best quality. As we can now realize, the .218 Bee is certainly a safe and stable item and a good cartridge to boot! Now let's take a look at its ancestors.

The .218 Bee was not born in 1936—it was reincarnated! Yes, an almost identical cartridge was created in the early 20's. In "Field and Stream" of February, 1923, Hervey Lovell (who later created the .22-3000 Lovell cartridge) wrote an article on .22 High Velocity Cartridges. He mentioned the work of Emil Koshollek, a well-known gunsmith of the time, who had necked down the .32-20 cartridge to .22 caliber. His cartridge is a spitting image of the Bee! Koshollek used 49 grain hand made spitzer bullets. Using Sharpshooter powder, they had fine results. An experimental Dupont I.M.R. powder number 50 was tried and gave velocities estimated at 2800 fps. Accuracy average was given as 4½ inches at 260 yards with Pope machine rest in husky single shot actions.

Later, the Neidner Arms Corp. produced a number of rifles for a similar cartridge called the Neidner "Baby .22 Hi-Power." Yes, the Bee had ancestors and they were good ones. The Bee was a fine wildcat before it was introduced as a factory load. Speaking of wildcats, let's see what else happened.

The .218 Bee was born in an era of wildcatters. A number of gunsmiths had a go at souping up the Bee case for strong single shot rifles. It would never do to cut these chambers into Winchester M-65 leverguns or the

light M-53 boltgun. Out of the many, the improved Bee by Art Mashburn got the most publicity. I must admit that the Mashburn Bee struck me as being a bit too radical as regards shape. The shoulder angle was sharp and the neck short and there was, sometimes, an excessive case loss in fire forming.

I will further state that although I did not wildcat the Bee case, I *did* make up some drawings. I felt that the case walls should *not* be straightened, to facilitate extraction. Further, the neck length was to remain unaltered. My only change was to sharpen the shoulder angle to 30 degrees. This should increase the capacity just enough to ease the 46 grain bullet into the three grand speed level. That's plenty! So I played it smart and never made it up. (This is one of the smartest things I ever didn't do.)

I do not mean to belittle the Bee when I say that its range limitations should be considered about equal to the Hornet. Using identical bullets, a velocity difference of 170 feet per second does not add any appreciable range to the rifle. It's faster, but not *that* much faster. The same holds true regarding wind deflection. Therefore, for all practical purposes, the range, effectiveness, sighting and trajectory factors are remarkably similar for the .22 Hornet and our .218 Bee.

The .218 is probably easier to reload than the Hornet with good bullet retention due to slightly heavier brass at the neck. It works very well using 50 grain bullets and I would advise you to check your tables for a good load with this bullet weight.

The Bee, like the Hornet, is as good a cartridge as it ever was. It is accurate, economical, has negligible noise and recoil and it is certainly a very fine small game rifle for settled areas. A real "fun gun," the .218 Bee is a joy to shoot and a real "stinger" up to 200 yards. Ever try one? 

## BAT MASTERSON

(Continued from page 31)

publicly staged, with the casual flamboyance that was to characterize Masterson's later actions.

Ed Masterson went home with his half of that money; he was homesick. Billy bought drinks for most of Dodge City, ended up broke again, and decided to be a buffalo hunter. This was a booming business around Dodge, and young Masterson had little difficulty in joining a crew. His marksmanship quickly won him acceptance in one of the wildest and certainly the

dirtiest fraternity the West ever knew—for no man could be a hide-hunter and be other than filthy, at least most of the time, and that was one of the things Masterson hated about it. It was a stinking job, literally as well as figuratively. But it was the best way available to make relatively sizeable sums of money, and Masterson's brief contact with his half of that first \$300 had taught him that money was essential to the kind of life he wanted: fine clothes, good whiskey, expensive

women, and the prestige that comes from free spending.

His next gun was a Colt Single Action, white-handled and nicked, bought with his first hide money. This is the type of gun with which he is most often pictured, worn low in front of his left hip, the butt turned to the right, level with and nearly touching his belt buckle, positioned for the short cross draw. It was a handsome gun, the perfect accessory for the well-dressed man-about-town; yet Masterson wore it only briefly. As his experience broadened and his need for dependable gunhandling became more acute, those fancy grips (prone to

to 1000—long odds indeed against the 28 men and one woman occupying the Adobe Walls. (The woman was Mrs. Olds, wife of William Olds, who ran a restaurant in the camp.) The only factors favoring the whites were two: they would fight behind walls—and they were as well armed and as skilled with rifles as any group it would have been possible to gather together.

No reporter of the happenings at Adobe Walls fails to mention that it was an accident that saved the inhabitants. Just before daybreak on the morning of June 27, 1874, a ridgepole in one of the hastily reconstructed

*Though Masterson was not a big man*

*he was respected everywhere he went.*

slippage in a man's hand) would be replaced by well-checked, factory-issue "gutta percha." This will appear later, with unimpeachable documentation.

In the spring of 1874, buffalo were becoming comparatively scarce around Dodge City, and Masterson was one of a considerable party of experienced hunters who decided to ignore federal Indian treaties and stage a last big hunt in the Southwest—a land strictly forbidden to white hunters. Here, Masterson thought, was a chance to make a really big stake; one which, this time, he would not squander. It was a decision which was to land him in the middle of one of the West's most famous Indian battles.

Adobe Walls was the name given to the remains of an ancient Spanish settlement. Located some 150 miles southwest of Dodge, these ruins, rebuilt with sod and lumber into buildings stocked with supplies furnished by Dodge City merchants, became the headquarters for a hunt that immediately set the bees of war to buzzing in countless Indian wickiups. Such traditional enemies as the Comanches, the Kiowas, and the Southern Cheyennes were suddenly united in the grim determination to punish this blatant breach of the Medicine Lodge Treaty which had set the Arkansas River as the deadline white men would never cross. Encouraged by the announcement of a medicine man named Minimic that he could provide every warrior with a war paint which would make him, and even his pony, impervious to white men's bullets, the tribes united under the command of half-white, half-Comanche, Quannah Parker. Estimates of the number of red warriors engaged range from 700

buildings cracked under the weight of the thick sod roof, making a resounding noise that waked every sleeper. Minutes later, the Indians struck. In a stunning departure from common Indian tactics, they struck in mass—hundreds upon hundreds of screaming warriors, armed with guns and bows and lances, their painted ponies at a dead run, their guns blazing.

But, thanks to that broken ridgepole, other guns were ready: better guns, better aimed, fired from walls that stopped Indian bullets and split the masses of the attackers. It was touch and go for a time, with Indians battering at the walls, men desperately reloading to keep pace with the targets offered. One thing was instantly apparent: Minimic's magic paint would not stop the white men's bullets, and the initial attack was broken finally, the Indians falling back to count their grievous losses. Among these was Quannah Parker himself, not dead but wounded. Of the defenders, two men had been killed when they were caught outside the walls by the initial attack; but not a person inside the buildings had been hurt.

There were other charges, but they were less determined, of shorter duration, as the Indians realized that massed assaults against those walls (and those rifles) were suicidal. The fight became a siege that lasted for five days. Billy Tyler, a special friend of Masterson's, was killed by a shot fired through a window by a wounded Indian who died before he could complete his victory warwhoop. William Olds was killed by an accidental shot from his own rifle as he climbed down a ladder from the roof of one of the buildings. Olds' gun was a big



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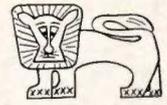
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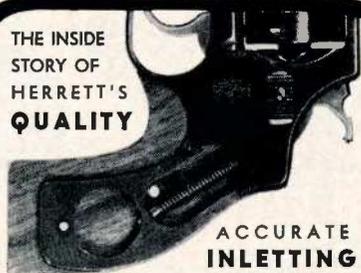
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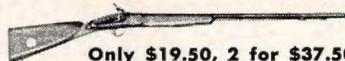


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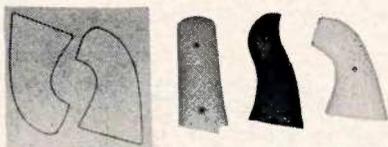
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Sharps, and Masterson used the rifle for a time after Olds' death, wanting its longer reach in preference to his own "repeater of lighter caliber"—possibly a Spencer or a Henry.

Returned to Dodge, the Adobe Walls survivors were heroes of a sort, even though they were to blame for the very real threat of major Indian wars that now enveloped the country. But it was not an adulation that freed them of obligation; this was a time for every man to do his duty, and if he had proved himself a fighting man, his duty was all the greater. With his good friend and Adobe Walls companion, Billy Dixon, Masterson signed on a scout at \$30 a month under former Major General (now Colonel) Nelson Miles with the Fifth Infantry to campaign against the aroused tribes. It

with whom Masterson had become friendly.

Aided by major surgery not usually successful in that day, Masterson's hip healed slowly, leaving him with a limp which led to his use of the famous cane. He was not a big man, nor a truculent one either; but he was fearless, cat-quick with his hands, and (as one of his friends tells it) "as cock-sure of himself as a bantam rooster." As a hero of the Adobe Walls, Indian scout and Indian fighter, and as the one-shot killer of the notorious Sergeant King, Masterson was now a man of considerable reputation. All this, plus his dudish style of dress, made him a personage to be noticed in any company—and his company, too, was notable. Ben Thompson was only one of many.

In 1876, Masterson appeared again

### Wyatt Earp said of Bat Masterson

*"Even as a cripple, he's a first class officer."*

was hard, dangerous duty, and Masterson liked no part of it—except possibly the fighting, of which there was a fair share. It ended finally with the surrender, in February, 1875, of Stone Calf's band on the Texas-New Mexico border, and Masterson found himself at Fort Elliott, Texas, still drawing his scout's pay but with few duties. This was not far from the fairly lurid town of Sweetwater, and Masterson resumed there his study of cards and women, and his pursuit of fortune. All three were spiced with excitement.

It was here that Masterson killed his first white man, a Sergeant King of the Fourth Cavalry, who attempted to take over a girl named Molly Brennan with whom Masterson was currently smitten. King was a brawler and a man of considerable reputation as a fighter—a man, in fact, who had once challenged no less formidable an opponent than Wyatt Earp, and who was still bitter with the humiliation of the way Earp had handled him. Determined not to risk similar humiliation here, he attacked Masterson in the Lady Gay Saloon, drawing without warning and firing before any one guessed his intention. His first shot hit Molly; his second smashed Masterson's hip. Falling, Masterson drew, fired one shot, and killed King instantly. King's soldier friends closed in on the wounded Masterson, intent on killing him, but were driven off by none other than the deadly Ben Thompson, then a faro dealer in the Lady Gay and a man

in Dodge City, where Wyatt Earp "chose" him as an assistant marshal. A younger Masterson brother, James, (described by Earp as "a good, game man who could handle himself in a fracas") was already a deputy under Earp, so Earp knew the breed. Earp says, "Bat's gun hand was in working order . . . (and) he patrolled Front Street with a walking-stick for several weeks and used his cane to crack the heads of several wild men hunting trouble. Even as a cripple he was a first class peace officer."

Earp, in common with other of the less-bloodthirsty peace officers, made it a practice to subdue offenders by cracking them over the head with the barrel of a Colt's Single Action. Masterson varied that procedure by using his cane, and there is little doubt that his efficiency in batting men over the head with that weapon earned him his name, "Bat" Masterson.

Arrests were frequent in Dodge City in those years, and each arrest put \$2.50 into the "kitty" from which police officers were paid. Bat's share of this pay came to a bit over \$200 on an average month—considerably better than the pay he had earned as an army scout. This job gave him spare time for other activities, too, and Bat was proving himself as a gambler. Gambling was an honorable profession in that time and place, and Bat used his winnings to buy a part interest in the Lone Star, a saloon, gambling emporium, and dance hall. As a solid and moderately successful citizen, he ran for Sheriff of Ford

County (in which Dodge is located). Experienced as a deputy marshal under Earp, and as a deputy sheriff under Charlie Bassett, and popular in his own right, Bat won—by a landslide majority reported to have been exactly three votes.

Bat's older brother, Ed, returned to Dodge at about this time, and he too became a member of the town's rather formidable police force. But Ed seems to have lacked some of the self-assurance, some of the lightning reactions, with which his brothers were endowed. Or perhaps it was only luck that was lacking. He was well-liked, well-respected, a good officer; but he simply could not believe, in his heart, that the rough men around him were potentially deadly. He believed that a man warned of the law's presence would surrender.

He carried that belief into the Lady Gay Dance Hall one night, noted that a pair of hard-drinking Texans had failed to observe the city mandate against guns worn in public, and advised them to check their weapons with the bartender. Both said they would do so; but when Ed Masterson left the dance hall, the Texans, A. M. Walker and Jack Wagner, followed him. Ed saw them, saw that both were still armed, demanded that they now surrender their guns to him. "You can get them at the sheriff's office in the morning, when you're sober," he promised. Both men refused. There was a scuffle, a shot, and Ed Masterson reeled backward, his coat on fire and a bullet in his abdomen.

Bat Masterson, having received word that his brother was in trouble, was some sixty feet down the street when the shot was fired. Seeing Ed fall, Bat fired four shots. Every shot, in spite of distance, bad light, emotional stress, hard breathing from having run a considerable distance—hit its target. One bullet hit Wagner

in the middle of the body. The other three hit Walker, one puncturing his lung, one his shoulder, the third his arm. Both died.

So far as this researcher has discovered, that completes the list of Bat's provable "tallies." He was a participant in more than a few "shootouts," but (Hollywood notwithstanding) men were far more often wounded than killed in such engagements—if, indeed, anyone were even wounded! Disillusioning though this may be, the fact is that only a few of the men who wore guns in the Old West were skilled gunmen, and most of the gunfights were between drunken, town-happy, gun-awkward cowboys who "couldn't hit the floor unless they had their feet on it!" And even the skilled gunmen missed, on occasion; missed hitting lethally quite often. Ed McGivern, life-long student of six-gun arts and sciences, offered a reason for this, long later. As McGivern said, "Most of the shooting was in bars and the like; and after a couple of those old black-powder guns let loose, the smoke was so thick nobody could see a target."

A number of men suffered more or less seriously from Masterson bullets. There was, for example, the man who fired through a window into a bed in which he thought his enemy was sleeping. He then fled on horseback, not knowing that he had killed a woman. Masterson, in hot pursuit, fired at him with a rifle and wounded him. Learning the identity of his victim, the killer was most repentant. "Damn you, Masterson," he said, "you should've shot straighter!" "It was a poor shot," Masterson agreed. "But it was fired with the best of intentions!"

The further adventures of Bat Masterson, and more about the guns he used will be found in the next stirring episode. Watch for it next month. —Ed.

## SHOTSHELL RELOADING: PART III

(Continued from page 29)

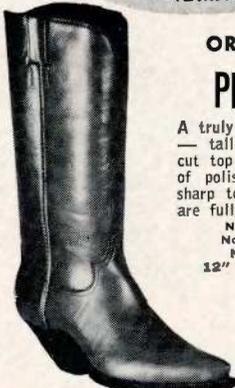
soft-mouthed cases by shortening them. Trim off the frayed portion and a good, solid crimp can again be produced. You'll have to have a spare crimping die shortened the same amount to handle the short cases. No specific value can be placed on this saving, but it *does* exist.

Another money-saver often ignored is reduction of shot charge. For example, in target loads for the average gunner, what can 1½ ounces of shot do that 1 ounce won't do? And, that extra ½-oz. of shot adds up to almost

\$1.20 in a hundred shells. That's half-again as much as can be saved by going from the highest to lowest priced wads, and it's a lot less trouble to boot.

Then, there's the matter of primer caps—seemingly a fairly dead issue these days, but quite popular a few years back. When a battery cup shot-shell primer is fired, the battery cup and anvil remain in good order. Only the cap containing the priming mixture is damaged—and it may be replaced. This is, in effect, "reloading" the battery cup. Since primer caps cost

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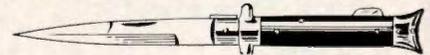
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only \$8.60 per M as opposed to \$15.50 for complete primers, a savings of 69¢ per hundred shells can be obtained. Of course, it's extra work, but if economy is your major goal, it's worth looking into.

Up to this point, we've determined that in loading a hundred shells, the following additional savings can be obtained: Replace cup-wad with fibre, 40¢; replace plastic over-powder with nitro-card, say, 25¢; use of primer caps, 69¢; and reducing short charge another \$1.20. Those add up to an additional savings of \$2.54. Deducting that from the Skeet load costs above, we come up with a cost of \$4.15 per hundred or \$1.04 per box of 25 rounds. Compare this to the \$3.05 of factory loads and things begin to look pretty good. Boiled down, it amounts to shooting for 66 per cent less than if you were buying factory loads.

Those are the tangible and significant cost reductions you can make—but there are others, some of which we've hinted at in the earlier portion of this series. Case life is one area for improvement. Life is best with both paper and plastic cases when plastic shot-cups are used; very nearly as good when shot wrappers are used.

Anything that prevents naked shot from bearing directly on the case as the crimp is forced open will reduce eroding or tearing away of the case mouth.

Cases that will no longer hold a firm crimp can often be restored for 3 or 4 more loadings. Heated shell mouth re-

formers smooth and strengthen the crimp area when properly used. Then, as mentioned before, when the original crimp area is completely shot, cases can be trimmed back for still a few more loads. Anything that increases case life decreases your cost.

Careful powder and load selection—to utilize minimum quantity of the least costly powder will produce some savings also. Of course, heavy loads, produce shortest case life.

Then, of course, there is the matter of shopping for the best available components prices. Often it is possible to get together with a few shooting compatriots and buy in quantity at significant savings. This is particularly true of shot. While we've quoted shot cost at the current retail price of \$9.95 per 25-lb. bag, it is often possible to beat that by a couple of dollars.

And, as you go along, you'll discover other little penny-pinching ideas cropping up. Some will be good, others may reduce the effectiveness of your ammo. I know one fellow who makes his own filler wads, cutting them from scrap Celotex board he gets for nothing. They work pretty good, but another's idea of using compacted newspaper between nitro cards for filler wads produced easy patterns. You'll have to try your ideas to determine whether they work.

So, there's lots of economy in shot-shell reloading. The more economy you demand, the more you'll have to work for it. Whether its worth the effort is for you to decide. 

## TARNISHED TRIO

(Continued from page 25)

locks the trigger when the magazine is out of the pistol. The steel used is hard and good. The pistol is made from forgings, not sand castings as were the export Spanish automatics of the 1920's. No, the Astra is a truly good pistol of uncomplicated design and is one of the only blowback, high power pistols to be safe and successful.

The next of my fallen angels is a little French number called the Model 1935A. This pistol was designed in the early 1930's by a Monsieur Petter and was manufactured after government acceptance in 1935 by S.A.C.M. (The Alsatian Society for Manufacture of Mechanical Devices). Petter's design owes a lot to our own John M. Browning and also to F. V. Tokarev of the U.S.S.R. Petter took some of the best from each and came up with a real beauty. This pistol is sometimes called the Swiss "SIG," comes in calibers 9 mm, 7.65 mm Luger, or .22 long

rifle, and has both shooters and collectors drooling and reaching for their check books to write checks of three figures. Yet if the same gun is called a French Model 1935A, you will never be trampled in the rush of buyers. Why this seeming paradox? I think it again stems from under pricing and distrust of the technological progress of the country of manufacture.

*La belle France* for years used the worst type of Spanish-made automatic as a military side arm. This came about as a matter of expedience during WW I when all of the combatants were scraping the bottom of the barrel for sidearms. France's barrel bottom was her next door neighbor, Spain, who was not at war and who could make pistols. The Spanish method of manufacture is somewhat unique in that the parts are all subcontracted out to villagers who live around the assembly plant. The family subcon-

tractors sit around hand filing and grinding one type of part per family. The semi-finished parts were returned to the assembly plant and there were made up into a low cost pistol. These "Ruby" type pistols were sold to the French Ministry of Supply in large numbers. They not only helped to pull down the Spanish armorer's reputation, but they even led to a feeling that non-existent French pistols were no good. The Petter pistol was made of first class material and was anything but a jerry-built "Ruby," but it takes a long time to build back a shattered reputation.

The next mark against the Model 1935A is the Model 1935S which is a pistol that takes some features of the Petter's M-1935A and crosses them with the Spanish "Ruby." This is like mating an Arabian stallion with an aging brood mare.

One would think that this would have been bad enough, but fate had at least two more strikes to loose against the M-1935A. The external finish of the 1935A is black paint. This type of finish has been seen more frequently in recent years. The Webley & Scott .38 caliber revolvers of WW II had this type of finish and the W&S people felt so badly about it that their revolvers with this finish were also marked with the cryptic apology "war finish." Whatever the merit of this type of finish as a preserver, it looks like hell.

The last body blow to the French Petter was the cartridge picked to be its life partner. The M-1935A uses the 7.65 mm long. This round has been called in the U.S. the .32 Automatic Magnum with Madison Avenue tongue-in-cheek. The actual antecedent of this caliber is the WW I Pedersen-device cartridge. This was found to be not powerful enough for a high fatality rate and was under constant year to year revision and upgrading in power until it was finally abandoned as impractical in the early 1930's.

Even had this become an effective cartridge in French hands the M-1935A would not necessarily have been accepted here. We generally think there is no better way of killing our fellow man than with a .45 caliber bullet. Add to this prejudice the fact that there is no domestically loaded cartridge which will work in the 1935A, and the gun is doubly cursed.

With all this against the pistol it is little wonder that the price at which they are being sold here today could only pay a small fraction of their manufacturing cost. But to the plus side of the ledger; let me try to rebuild this dainty pistol's reputation.

First, there finally is original am-

munition available at a reasonable price. The automatic is an accurate shooter. There is on this light pistol not only a magazine safety, but also a loaded chamber indicator. This device can be seen in daylight, and what is more important, felt at night. The manual safety is of the best type. It is mounted at the rear of the slide and when it is applied, a large cylindrical steel face is placed between the hammer and the end of the firing pin. This safety has another feature not often found. When the safety is "on," the finger operated lever shows beside and above the rear sight giving the shooter, while sighting, an immediate indication of whether the safety is "on" or "off." The magazine release is operated by the firer's shooting hand as on the U.S. Model 1911 Colt .45. The slide stays open after the last round is fired—this feature too is found only in high class pistols. The recoil spring is trapped permanently on its guide rod. This eliminates the possibility of the spring flying when the pistol is field stripped. The Browning-type locking link is further developed in the 1935A by having two links instead of the usual Browning one. The additional link adds to the barrel's stability during recoil.

I've saved what I think is the best feature for the last. The 1935A borrows from the Tokarev the advanced feature of having the entire hammer firing mechanism immediately removable as a subassembly during field stripping. This makes it possible to keep the hammer, the sear, and associated parts clean. The painted finish is external only. Before the paint was applied the entire pistol was given a grey coat like our "Parkerized" pistols of WW II. This really means that unlike normal guns, which have only one external finish, the 1935A has an extra finish to go through before parts are rubbed and rust can form. The French pistol has a very well designed grip and the plane of sighting is low in the shooter's hand. Both features make for good instinct shooting.

The last of my trio of ill repute, is my all time favorite courtesan and there is no way I can avoid showing my heart on a slightly threadbare sleeve. I'm talking about what was at one time erroneously called the "mass production Luger" or still more cuttingly the "sheet metal gun." Yes, I'm talking about the Walther P-38, the German Army's pistol in World War II. I'm loathe to tramp on my fellow collector's toes, but to mention the rather antiquated Luger in the same breath as the ultramodern P-38 is almost blasphemy. The Nazi powers

(Continued on page 77)



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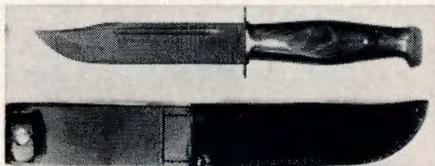
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KA-BAR Marine Survival Knife has just been introduced in a new, modern version for civilians. It's slightly shorter with a six inch blade and a narrower blood groove. A black plastic-impregnated Ka-Wood handle has replaced the former leather washer type. The blade of the knife has been



Parkerized to give extra resistance to the elements. It comes with a top grain cowhide sheath, which has a four inch belt loop. The GI-94 Marine Survival Knife is priced at \$12.00. Write Ka-Bar Cutlery, Inc., Dept. G-4, 867 North 8th Street, Olean, New York.



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HUNTER RINGS from Conetrol are just as sleek as their Custom rings, yet cost little more than half as much. They're projectionless, streamlined, and now economical. The only difference is that Hunter rings don't have stud screws to keep them anchored when the scope is off the Conetrol base. They'll appeal most to the price-minded hunter who rarely takes the scope off his rifle. For information on Conetrol Hunter Rings, Custom rings, and their projectionless bases, write Conetrol Scope Mounts, Dept. G-4, Hwy. 123 South, Seguin, Texas.

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REDDING-HUNTER'S all new Model 25 turret reloading press gives you new ease and speed in producing really high quality metallic reloads. Available with either four or six station turret, the press accepts every standard 7/8 by 14 thread die. The

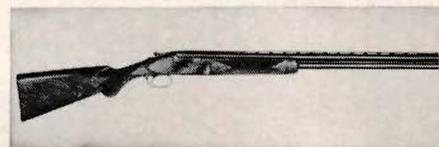


positive action stop produces perfect alignment, so that there's no need to move the brass from station to station. The toggle-type leverage system gives extra power for major case reforming and is available in your choice of up or down stroke. With a price tag of just \$34.95, you may not get there fast enough to find one at your Redding-Hunter dealer.



ROLLING BLOCK pistols from Navy Arms are accurate copies of the famous Number Three Remington Rolling Block pistol. It has a precision rifled ordnance steel barrel in the traditional half round, half octagon pattern, and is finished in a custom high luster blue. The action has a rich color case hardening, and the walnut stocks have an oil finish. In popular .357 Magnum, the Navy Rolling Block is priced at only \$89.50 complete with handsome case and cleaning accessories. For further information write Navy Arms, Dept. G-4, 689 Bergen Blvd., Ridgefield, New Jersey.

FAMOUS LAMES shotguns, now available from L.A. Distributors, feature light weight, fine balance, and fast pointing qualities. Available in a wide variety of chokes and gauges, these over-under shotguns are available in either a field model or trap and skeet models. They feature the



Browning-system single selective trigger and a box lock action of a new design. For full information on Lames shotguns, and their entire line, write L.A. Distributors, Dept. G-4, 1983 West Tenth Street, Brooklyn, New York.



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BEAR ARCHERY is featuring their new Golden Triangle series of bows for every archery activity in a new four color catalog. An exclusive full-size, natural color section of the catalog makes it almost as good as having the bow in your hands. Look for the Bear Golden Triangle catalog at your archery tackle dealer or write Bear Archery, Dept. G-4, Route One, Grayling, Michigan.

## GUN RACK

(Continued from page 11)

ing was aimed at establishing which scope among a dozen tested, would clearly define the targets longest. This is a gruelling sort of comparison but is highly definitive. It is also of crucial importance to the hunter who very often must make shots during the first weak light of the morning; and during the waning light of the dusk of the day.

The new Mossberg Model 84, a 4X glass with 32 mm objective lens, was superior to four other Japanese-made hunting scopes and was on a par with three of the better domestic-made hunting glasses of similar power.

The Mossberg Model 84 is mounted in a high-lustre 1" tubing, with permanently centered, fine crosshair reticle. The scope is nitrogen filled and should be fog proof so long as it retains its nitrogen filler. The lenses are



coated; field of view at 100 yards is 29 feet; luminosity is given at 64; eye relief is about 3.5 inches; adjustments for windage and elevation are internal and are audible to the ear and are stated at 1/2 minute at 100 yards. The glass is 12 inches in length and weighs nine ounces. Parallax is corrected for 100 yards which is the common thing to do.

Mossberg provides a set of scope mounts. Mount bases are intended for the Model 800 Mossberg high power rifle. The mount is of the two piece kind and is quick removable. A series of tests which included the removal of the scope in its mount and its replacement and subsequent firing, indicated a change of zero of approximately one MOA each time this dodge was done. This is accounted for by the fact that one time the user gets his locking screws tighter (or looser) than the time before. The moral of this story is to leave the scope in place. The quick-detachable feature is a gimmick for the sales people. It has little practical worth in the game fields.—Col. Charles Askins.

### Williams BAR Sights

William Gun Sight offers two receiver sights for the new "BAR" Browning automatic rifle. The first of these is an open sight, the WGOS, and

attaches to the two front screw holes in the receiver. These holes are for a scope mount but Williams has milled a special base to the radius of the Browning receiver and attached their best known and most popular open rear sight. There are four different types of notches available. I like the one dubbed the "B for Britisher" an extremely shallow notch—and an exceedingly fast one—exactly as you find on the famous double express rifles of East Africa.

The second Williams sight fastens to the two rear screw holes in the receiver. Like the forward ones these holes were put there for a scope mount. The Williams offering here is a dandy peep sight. Adjustable for both windage and elevation and with a removable target disc this baby is known as the WGRS model. This sight is real fast and with the target aperture taken out it is okay until the light has completely pooped out.

There is also a Williams scope mount, the QC, which fits into those 4 screw holes. It is one of the quick-detachable kind of jobs and can be had with scope rings of 3/4", 7/8", 1" or 26 mm. Too, you can have the Ace-in-the-hole peepsight if you want; or the Williams micrometered windage ring if you like your adjustments in the mount.—Col. Charles Askins.

### Bonanza Powder Measure

During the past several years I have been loading and using over 10,000 rounds of ammunition a year. I have tried a dozen different makes of powder measures, always hoping to find one with which I could throw consistent charges. I wanted these charges to be within .02 grains for the coarser powders and to stay under .01 grains variation for the fine powders.

A number of my handloading friends tried these same measures and it was soon apparent that the operator and his technique was even more important to consistent accuracy than the make of measure. One thing I did find out about the designs was that a deep and narrow measuring cavity was much better than a shallow, flat one, and further that the deeper the powder container, the more the thrown weight changed as the powder was used up from the container.

When the new Bonanza measure arrived, I took it apart and gave it a thorough inspection. With the exception of it having no micrometer ad-

justment, I liked what I saw very much. I've used it a good deal now and for me and my operating technique this is the most accurate and consistent measure I've ever used. It has a large diameter powder container which holds a considerable supply of powder, but it is fairly shallow and the weight of the powder is relatively constant from a full hopper to a nearly empty one. The well which holds the metered powder is deep and moderately small in diameter. It can be used on both fine grain powder for small cases and course powder for large cases with similar results.



The metering device adjusts for capacity by unscrewing the adjusting plunger locking knob and placing it in the proper hole at another location in the adjusting piston. It took a bit of practice before I was able to set the adjustment to a predetermined accurate amount, however this is a relatively minor matter and with practice it becomes easier to operate.

My measure is mounted quite rigidly on a steel pedestal. I use a firm stroke and instead of just one tap, I use four. This seems to settle the powder more evenly and I can throw charges to .02 grain consistently in big cases. For the fine powders, I can consistently throw loads of .01 grain or less variation. The measure handle works very smoothly and freely and has a good, solid feel at the end of each stroke. It is a simple operation to change the powder in the container and the measure does not have to be removed from the stand. This excellent new measure retails for \$22.50 direct from Gopher Shooters Supply, Dept. G, Box 246, Faribault, Minn.—Les Bowman.

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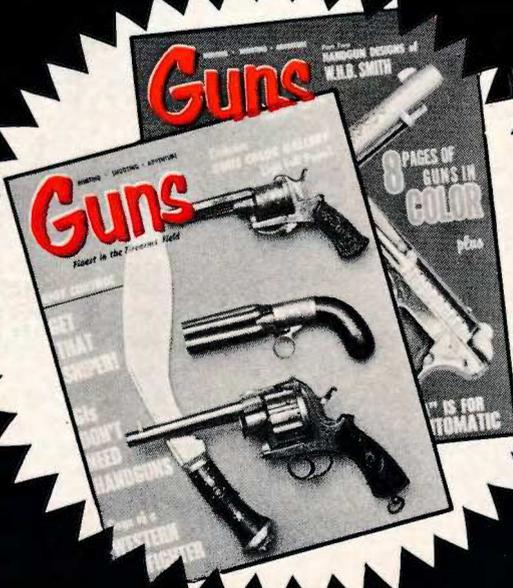
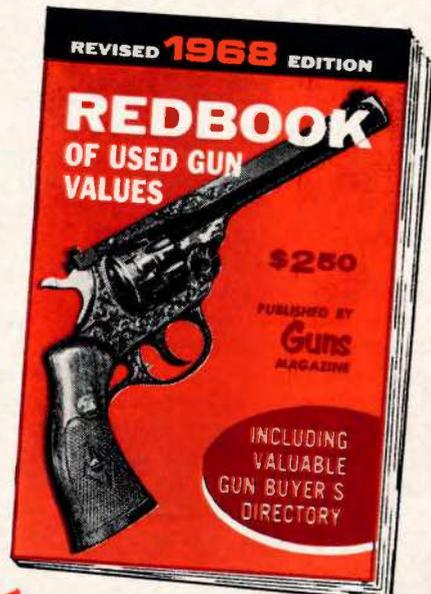
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(Continued from page 73)

realized soon after the rise of Hitler that the Luger pistol left much to be desired as a field weapon. There was always the problem of failure to feed because of magazine troubles, but even worse, it was probably one of the most expensive and labor consuming of pistols to manufacture of all time. In order to function properly the Luger must be hand fitted to a gnat's eyebrow. The Ministry of Supply saw that they needed a replacement which could be easily hand fitted and could be made with fewer man/hours. The Walther P-38, known then as the HP (Herres Pistole) or Army Pistol was looked on as a desirable Luger replacement. The Walther was an ideal answer to the Luger's admitted crankiness.

I think today the Walther is starting to come into its own. On every hand we see some of its features being copied (S&W Model 39). The most important point to remember is that this is an automatic designed to use sheet-metal parts, not as is so often true, one modified for sheet-metal fabrication after machined parts became too costly or slow to manufacture. I have in my collection a beautiful Swedish Walther HP circa 1939 which has the same sheet-metal parts as the last crude SVW, Mauser-made P-38 of 1945. Only the external finish is really different. As a yardstick of how ingrained the feeling of the buying public is against using sheet metal, I notice in the superb postwar variety, the trigger and the slide stop are now forgings, not sheet metal.

The P-38 is truly a great pistol, because it was made in a highly technologically developed country. Hand fitting of parts is reduced to an absolute minimum. You can take any number of P-38's and mix up all the parts and assemble different pistols with very little difficulty and no fitting—what a testimonial to dimension control on each individual part. Beyond all these advantages we have a double action hammer, a hammer drop safety which not only blocks the firing pin, but at the same time lets the hammer fall safely. The Walther P-38 can be field stripped in under 10 seconds without any tools. It is not a cheap pistol to make; it just has many more features than most modern automatic pistols for the same price. By saving on stampings, such things as the hammer drop safety and the loaded chamber indicator can be supplied.

Two of my three ladies have already started to gain a more savory reputation just on their own obvious merits, but the French one is still something of a tramp.



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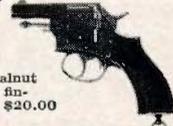
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seem reasonable to assume that the multi-barrel arms of Henry Harrington, either of the type just described or his patented multi-shot arms at least served to encourage the development of the many "pepperbox" pistols which soon thereafter came forth from many New England gun shops.

In the early gunmaking trade, the personal background of the individual under study is often as interesting as the surviving examples of his genius



The muzzle of this Harrington gun shows how the barrels were joined.

and his labors. Henry Harrington was born in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, on September 10, 1796. He was only 16 when the united colonies began their second fight for independence in the War of 1812.

In the years following the war, Henry Harrington learned the cutler's trade. During 1818 he acquired a piece of property in Southbridge in a neighborhood now known as Brookside. Here, at 22 years of age, he con-

structed a 14'x16' wooden building to house a forge and workshop. That same year he married 18-year-old Anna Oakes. They started off in the business of making cutlery and raising children. Evidently they were good at both. Six sons and two daughters lived to be more than 80. The youngest son, John, died in Southbridge on April 19, 1936, at the age of 93.

Dexter Harrington, one of Henry's sons, joined his father in the business at an early age, and carried on the cutlery business after his father's death in 1876. Had Henry Harrington lived a day longer he would have reached his 80th birthday. Slim and wiry, a few years before his death he could leap into the air and click his heels twice before touching the ground. Such was the stuff of which some of our pioneer gunmakers were made.

Dexter Harrington, joined in 1891 by his son Charles D. Harrington, changed the company name to Dexter Harrington & Son. The Harrington cutlery business under their guidance was greatly expanded. Today the corporate name of the continuing enterprise is Russell-Harrington Cutlery Company.

And so it was that the founder of a successful cutlery dynasty, who turned briefly to armsmaking, is better known for the quality of his blades than the production of guns. Gunmaking, however, was a field that provided Henry Harrington an outlet for his inventive urge and doubtless gave him much pleasure—possibly the same kind of exhilaration which comes to a collector today who is lucky enough to own a very rare Henry Harrington firearm.



## POINT BLANK

(Continued from page 9)

would close. It seems that a lot of shotgunners objected to this latch. They did not want to reach inside the receiver to spring the action shut. And most especially the women complained that it was ruinous to long fingernails.

The '68 version of the Model 1400 has a latch outside the receiver. It lies on the under side of the action and is large, convenient and easily operated. This, you may be sure, will be hailed by those thousands of Winchester users who used and like the Model

1400. The next question, of course, is whether the original 1400's can be modified to utilize the improved new release.

All skeet and trap versions of the 1400 and the 1200 carry raised ventilated ribs. So, too, do many field guns these days. The vent rib is a very much worthwhile accessory and it does contribute to more precise gun work. On the two Winchesters it was found that sometimes when the rib was welded to the top of the barrel that inside the bore a series of spots

would appear where the torch had been laid. This did not harm the barrel, did not adversely effect patterns or performance, but some persnickity owners did not like it. Raised ribs will continue to be attached but hereafter there will be no weld spots showing within the bore. A new process has been perfected so that this does not occur.

Both the 1400 and the 1200 have been notable for spongy triggers. There are those who contend that a raspy trigger pull on a shotgun does no harm to wing gunning performance but I am not one to agree. The trigger pull ought to be as clean on the scattergun as it is on a good target rifle. Winchester is now giving a lot of attention to trigger let-off and hereafter the automatic, and its running mate



Winchester Model 1200

the pump repeater, will feature improved triggers.

No one says much about it but the facts are that the Model 88 lever action rifle and the Model 100 automatic rifle are some of the best selling models in the entire Winchester line. The gun writing hacks tend to poor mouth these fine hunting arms electing to reserve their kudos for the bolt guns. Somehow or other the word never gets through to the average man in the hunting fields. He just keeps right on buying the 88 and its working mate, the 100, in ever-increasing volume.

Both rifles have always been available with 22 inch barrels and checkered stocks. Last year, as a sort of flyer, the Model 100 came along as a true carbine. With a barrel of only 19 inches, a barrel band around both gun tube and forestock and without any checkering whatsoever. The rifle was an instant hit. It sold for 10 bucks less money which helped its popularity too.

This year the Model 88 has joined the parade. Now it, too, is offered as a 19 inch barreled carbine with the identical forward barrel band and sans checkering. And like the M100 it sells for 10 dollars less money.

The only truly new firearm in the Winchester line for '68 is, of all things, a lowly single barrel shotgun, the new Model 370. It is made in all the gauges, has a weight in 12 gauge of but 6 pounds, and is chambered for three inch shells. This is not to say it won't do an excellent job of shooting the standard 2 3/4" cartridge just as

well! Every big gun maker feels that the line isn't complete unless he can offer at least one cheap single barrel 12 gauge gun. If you will cast back over your memory you will be hard put to recollect a single acquaintance who owns and shoots a one-barrel one-shot smoothbore. Nevertheless these gas pipes sell like firewater to blanket Indians.

The new M370 has a top lever to break it open and this lever can be swung either to the left side or the right. It has an outside hammer, an auto ejector, is a takedown, and offers barrels in various lengths from 26 inches to 32 inches. The choke is full in every length and all the gauges.

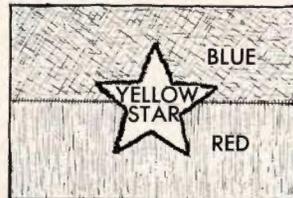
The Model 101 over-under continues to warrant its fine popularity. Besides the field grades a lot of emphasis will be placed this year on the matched sets of skeet barrels; also the new single barrel trap tube. This conversion of the two barrel over-under to a single barrel trap model is a very clever piece of firearm engineering and must be seen to be appreciated. So far few of the guns have been available although announced a year ago during the annual seminar for all the gun writers.

As announced earlier in this opus there will be no new calibers in either metallics or shot cartridges this year. There are some new loadings however and these are confined to the shotshells. In both the standard 12 gauge 2 3/4" and 3" magnum loadings the company has added powdered polyethylene to the No. 2 shotloads and the No. 4 shotloads and with this cushioning agent present have gotten some fantastically high pattern percentages at 40 yards. Bill Talley, in speaking about these new loadings at the briefing given the gun editors in Rome, said that many percentages ran as high as 87 per cent in a 30 inch ring at 40 yards. This will make these new magnum rounds exceedingly potent on both ducks and geese at ranges far beyond the regulation distance of 40 yards!

The addition of powdered polyethylene in the loads of twos and fours isn't exactly new. This was first done quite successfully by Winchester four years ago but at that time was confined to buckshot. The W-W buckshot cartridges, under test, showed an ability to run higher patterns, place more pellets into such targets as deer and turkey at longer ranges, and generally give more satisfactory performance than any shotshells tried up to that time. It was a natural conclusion that the poly-packed loads would be carried over to smaller pellets like the twos and fours.

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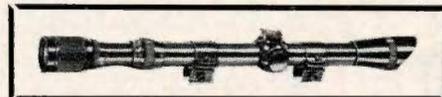
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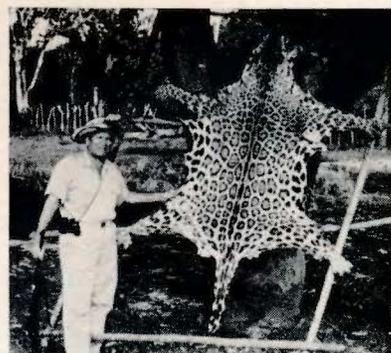


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## BOYS' SINGLE SHOT RIFLES

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Those who already have the first two volumes on single shot rifles by Jim Grant have been waiting for this one, and the wait was well worth it. In this book Grant covers the lower priced, mostly .22 caliber, single shot rifles that were dreamed of by myself, and thousands of other youngsters in the early part of this century. As usual, the individual guns are covered well, both technically and historically.

Earlier editions of Grant's works on single shot rifles did not have the general appeal of this one. Whether you are a single shot rifle fan or not, you'll want to read this book, for it is filled not only with good sound technical data, but also with enough nostalgia to make those of us who can remem-

ber the .22 Hamiltons, Floberts, and Stevens—some of which were earned by selling seeds or salve—wish that the "good old days" were back again. For the dyed-in-the wool single shot rifle fan, Grant has added coverage of some of the bigger models. New data on Franklin Wesson, Merrimack Ballards, etc. In short, this is another fine example of a good reference work, with the added spice of something for those of us who are not single shot rifle collectors, but who were once boys.—J.R.

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By Chapman J. Milling  
(A.S. Barnes, 1967. \$4.95)

Readers of GUNS Magazine will remember Dr. Milling for his controversial article on hunting deer with shotguns (Sept., 1965). Well, Dr. Milling has not given up yet, and in this book he sings out the virtues of hunting deer, with a shotgun, in drives such as have been practiced in the South since the first "y'all" echoed south of the Mason-Dixon Line. The deer drive, how it is organized, what guns to use, the role of dogs, etc. are well covered, and the easy writing style of Dr. Milling is spiced by his sly digs at us rifle hunters; the Introduction tells us to watch out, "They're (legislators) reaching for your rifle." Although the book is small in size, it is rich in information, from how to bag your deer to how to eat it. But most of all, the book is filled with one idea, how to enjoy all of the pleasures of the hunt. The book may not make you a better hunter, though it might do that too, but it will surely give you a new insight into a manner of hunting that is less competitive than you now know, but nonetheless filled with enjoyment and nonethical qualities found only in the South.—J.R.

(Continued on page 84)

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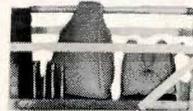


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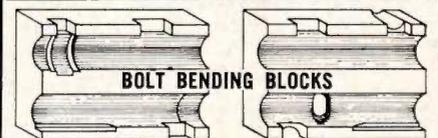
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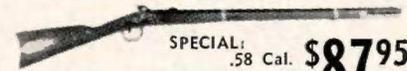


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(Continued from page 81)

### THE AMATEUR GUNCRAFTSMAN

By James V. Howe

(Funk & Wagnalls, N.Y. \$1.50 paperbackbound)

This book, in its first printing, back in 1938 was a classic among books on gunsmithing, and it still is, if you want good clear understandable basics. However, it is sad that this book is a direct reprint from the original, and has not been updated. When the author tells about the guns made by Colt and mentions the Shooting Master, or when the directory places Redfield Gun Sight on Gilpin Street in Denver, well, it kind of gives you the feeling that you can smell the mustiness, and that the publishers should have left this as a grand old classic, not put a bright new cover on it and palm it off as something new and up to date. In spite of this, I must admit that if you are interested in gun tinkering, there is more than a buck-and-a-half's worth of practical information in this little book.—J.R.

### WEAPONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

By Warren Moore

(Funk & Wagnalls, New York City, 1968. \$10.00)

This is a splendidly illustrated guide to the weapons used during the American Revolution. Divided into four sections, shoulder arms, pistols, edged weapons, and military accoutrements, the book has a large number of photos showing each type of arm or accoutrement discussed. There are also a number of four-color plates which show various of these arms in their natural colors.

One fascinating inclusion in this book is a section on personal powder horns, many of which were engraved or inscribed. Much of this engraving takes the form of designs or scroll work which looks antiquated and primitive in comparison with our modern gun engraving. Many others of these horns were decorated with maps of the areas in which their owners lived or fought. All are quite interesting and deserve close study.

For anyone beginning a collection of Revolutionary War arms, this is an excellent book. For the advanced collector, this should be on his "must" list.—E.P.

### BOOK CATALOGUE NO. 3

(N. Flayderman & Co., Inc., R.F.D. 2, New Milford, Conn., 1968. 25¢)

This year's edition of the Flayderman catalog contains over 600 titles. Part of this increase is due to the addition of a special section devoted to hunting, but a good deal of it is due

### ARMS AND ARMOR FROM THE ATELIER OF ERNST SCHMIDT, MUNICH

Ed. by E. Andrew Mowbray

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to the addition of titles which are new this year. Now you may be able to get part of these books at one other place, and you may be able to get all of them, eventually, if you write to enough other places, but I guarantee that for the fastest service on any arms book you should go to Flayderman.—E.P.

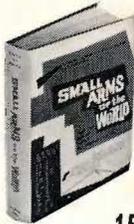
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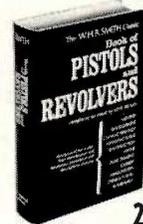
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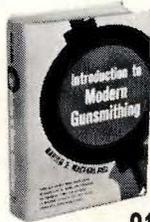
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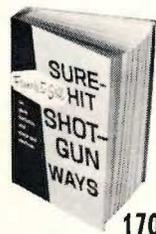
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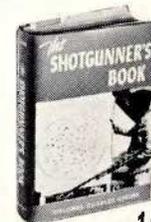
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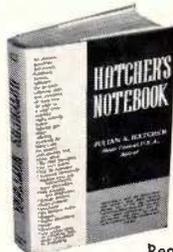
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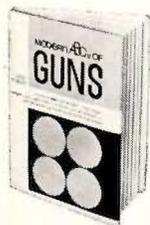
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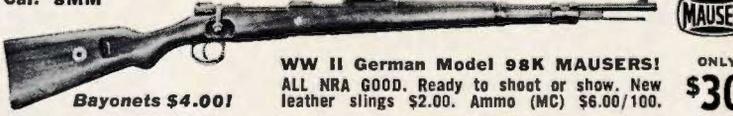


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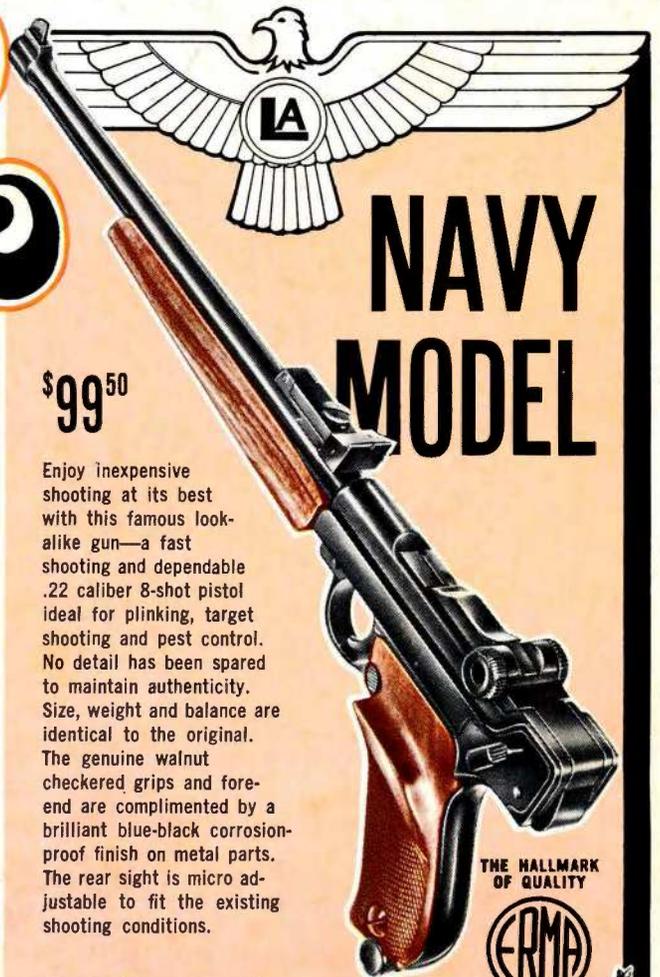
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