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WELL, there was this Indian guide, and a hunter asked him if he knew much about tracking. "Heap much," grunted the guide. "Let's see you track something," said the hunter. So the Indian pointed to a footprint in a patch of mud, and said, "Man go by here two hours ago. Him white man. Him short. Him weigh 155 pounds. Him in hurry. Him on way to hunt squirrel. Him carry Marlin Golden 39-A .22 with Micro-Groove Rifling* for heap accuracy. Ugh!"

"Wow!" said the hunter. "How can you tell all that just by looking at one footprint in the mud?"

"Heap easy," said the Indian. "Him passum here two hours ago because footprint almost dry on edges. Him white man because wearum heavy boot instead of Indian moccasin. Him in hurry because most weight on ball of foot. Him short feller because no duckum down to get

under low limb here, or footprint be different. Him weigh 155 pounds because footprints go same deep like mine. Him huntum squirrel because this trail lead to beech grove where plenty squirrel!"

"Gosh, that's terrific!" said the hunter. "But tell me—how did you know he was carrying a Marlin Golden 39-A with Micro-Groove Rifling for heap accuracy?"

"Heap easy," said the Indian. "Only short white hunter weighum 155 pounds this neck of woods is Oscar Whipple. Last week me and Oscar have tracking contest, him win my Marlin Golden 39-A with Micro-Groove Rifling. You think I fool around with this bow-and-arrow for sentimental reasons?"

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See Your Sporting Goods Dealer



By CARMEN BASILIO

World's Welterweight Champion

When I was a kid my Dad, who always liked hunting and outdoor life, taught me how to hunt and shoot. I got my first game with his Ithaca, a gun that he swore by and still uses after 40 years. When I grew up and could have guns of my own, I picked up one and gradually a few more. Through the years I've collected a dozen or so of all makes. A few years ago I bought an Ithaca Model 37 Featherlight repeater. Maybe Dad's teaching had something to do with it. I hunt and shoot a whale of a lot, and of all my guns, Ithaca is my favorite. Money couldn't buy it if I couldn't get another.

MY FAVORITE GUN

By MILTON F. PERRY

Curator, West Point Museum

As a member of the staff of the West Point Museum, my favorite gun is logically among those in this great collection. Of these treasures, I like most the Colt Peacemaker carried by General George S. Patton, Jr. This is because I have spent some two years in research about it. Not only is the gun a beautiful weapon—silver plated, finely engraved, with ivory grips—but it was the symbol by which Patton was known the world over and represents one of the nation's greatest soldiers.

Its story parallels the life of Patton. He acquired the gun in 1916; used it in his first battle, and in peace and war throughout his life.



TRIGGER TALK

IN A MANNER of speaking, this issue of GUNS is dedicated to the guy who is the mainstay of the gun game—very simply, but logically enough, to the guy who likes guns, likes shooting, wants more guns and better shooting. We don't have a story portending the immediate demise of our Ordnance Department because the Russkies have invented something new. We don't cry "wolf" because American shooters weren't top dog in international competition. We don't shoot off rockets in all directions about some earth-shaking thing, but instead have trotted out a stable of pacers, standard guns-and-shooting stories with, we hope, new twists.

But this enjoyment of stories about guns is in jeopardy right now. Clubs are appealing to the shooters of many states to write to their legislators about the new crop of anti-gun bills.

It is up to the individual gun fan, and voter, to show his elected law-maker what the facts are by writing or wiring him at the state capital now. Or the privilege to own guns may cease to exist, and the arguments or "what bullet?" and "what rifle?" will become but a memory—pros and cons like, for instance, the writings of two star Canadian outdoorsmen, Lee Straight of Vancouver and Bert Stent of Summerland, practically next door neighbors, one of whom preaches the merits of bigger guns for small game, while the other preaches the value of smaller guns for big game. For the shotgunners, Charley Askins comes up with some novel findings on patterns and power of the big magnums. His long, hard look at claims of 100-yard waterfowl-killing performances with shotguns merits close reading.

A sense of "how to do it," sort of a fun with guns theme, also runs through other stories. Bill Thompson's "How to Buy a Gun" is long, but about as brief as he could make it and still touch on important points. Thompson, who works closely with GUNS' staff in Chicago, has owned thousands of firearms, never could afford to hang on to them. The tips he gives on buying a used gun, or selecting a new one, are based on hard-bought experience.

Tech Editor Bill Edwards offers some unusual tips on fitting up a Colt revolver, partly based on an interview with Arnold "Goodie" Goodwin, custom service department manager of Colt's. Edwards worked in the Colt assembly department for about three weeks in 1947, wrote the story to show Goodie that he did learn something there after all, before getting fired.

Next month we have a gem of a story, an article illustrated with amazing photographs stripping bare the legend and mystery about the gunmakers' most jealously guarded secret. We won't tip our hand on this one, but to get you guessing in the right direction, it describes in exact detail a gunsmithing job you can do, easily, in your own home, with nothing more than your gas stove, an iron plate, and some charcoal.

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

MAY, 1957

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SHOOTING NEWS

Canton, Ohio. The 13th annual indoor match held by the Canton McKinley rifle club started off with a monotonous tally of "possibles" in prone. High man in the low position was John Ungar, of Euclid, Ohio, with a perfect 300-30X, followed by Pittsburgh's R. J. Maguire with 26X's and Dean De La Mater of Parkersburg, West Va., with 25X's . . . De La Mater, with the dead-eye skill of a feudin' West Virginian, drilled the "elusive tens" for high winner, scoring 291 in the 3-position iron sight match and 296 in the 3-position any sight event . . . Grand aggy scores were 1066 for De La Mater, 1065 fired by James Eberwine of Akron, O., Larry Wilkins of Seville, O., was third with 1063 and first master honors.

Pinehurst, N. C. Beautiful gunwoman Mrs. Francis Wood, Jr., of Fort Lee, N. J., collected another silver trophy by winning the ladies all-bore event in the mid-winter skeet championships at Pinehurst. Mrs. Wood was also runner-up in class D for men and women.

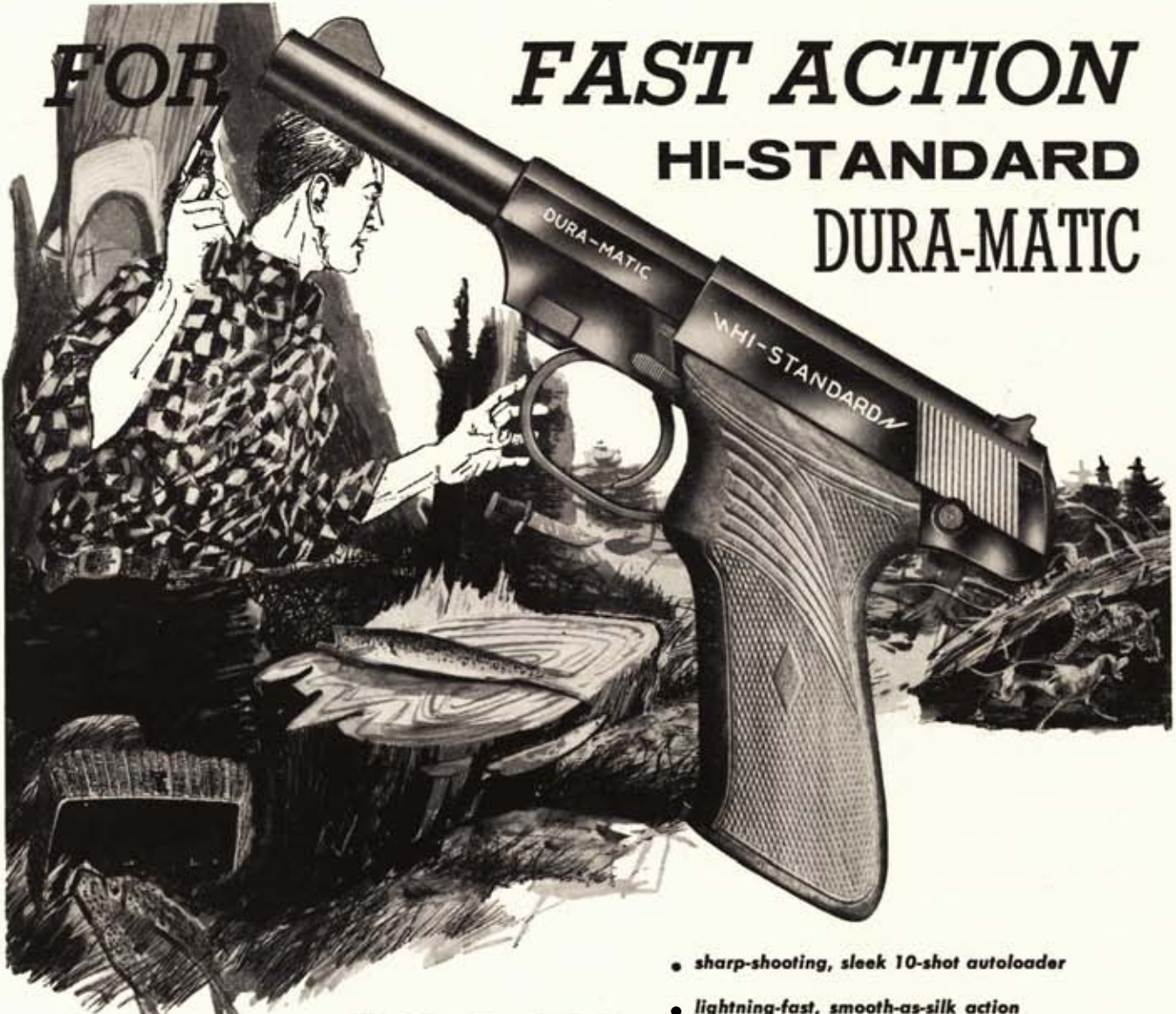
San Leandro, California. Andy Laird of Stockton defeated Jay Fischer, San Francisco, in a 15-bird shoot off to win the 12-gauge championship at the East Bay Open Skeet shoot on the Bay Area Gun Club layout . . . In the shoot-off for the 20-gauge title, Jim Pierce of Oakland beat Laird by one bird . . . Pierce and Laird joined forces to win the 2-man team AA crown, scoring 195 x 200 . . . Class B winners were Hume Larson and Cliff Allen, 196 x 200 . . . Judy Allen of Oakland Annie Oakley'd for the woman's title with 97 x 100, with Helen Johnson close for second, 93 x 100 . . . Junior JoAnn Wallis of Piedmont took home the trophy with 93 x 100.

New Haven, Conn. A crack pistol team from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, preserved its undefeated 1957 record by outshooting three New Haven area teams recently in a match on the New Haven Police Academy range . . . Paced by 1st Classman Don Buckner, the Cadets compiled a total of 1,372 points. Buckner had the top score, 280 . . . Second were the "Deep Hole Borers," the High Standard team, with 1335 . . . The New Haven Gendarmes shared third honors, the men scoring 1301 and the New Haven policewomen 1273 . . . It was the fourth straight victory for the well-balanced Cadet team, which has lost only one intercollegiate pistol match in the last six years . . . Match was 15 yards, .22 auto pistols; 30 shots fired 10 slow, 10 timed in two groups of five each, 20 seconds; and 10 rapid . . . Second in the individual ratings was Jim Abbatello of High Standard with 278 points . . . George Rogers, West Point team captain, and Bob Roy of H-S tied for third, 275 all . . . Top New Haven officer was Steve Tiddei firing 266. Lt. Felix Gilroy, the New Haven team captain who is the police official armorer, and officer Peter Horn, had 260 each . . . Patrolwoman Annette Davis topped her teammates with 254 . . . Coach of the Kaydets is Joe Benner . . . Top shooting coach, top shooting team. It figures!

San Francisco, California. When the Blue Rock dust settled at the Lake Merced Open all-bore race Wm. Hay Rogers of Atherton emerged champ with a straight 100 . . . Runner-up was Ed Williams of S.F., and top gun in class AA was Oakland's Jim Pierce, both busting 100 . . . Pierce also totalled 294 x 300 for the all-around champ high overall title. Seems like Jim manages to keep himself in the winnings . . . Class A high score fell to Harry Ten Eyck of San Mateo with 99; class B winner was Andy Clausen of Berkeley, also with 99. Ed Peterson from San Leandro topped the "C's," scoring 97. Dr. L. F. Bullock of S.F. broke 95 for firsts in class D. Class E champ was Alex McCabe of Burlingame with a 97 . . . Seems like this class business gives a lot of people a chance to win in spite of competition . . . The ladies had their innings with 19-year-old Judy Allen taking the champion's laurels firing 97 x 100.

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CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Here's One Contestant

I'm writing to you because I don't know of any other way to get into this "Top Gun of the West" contest business between Ed McGivern and Colt's. In Trigger Talk you asked "Where are the offers?" Well, here's one: Jay Alexander, as "U.S. Marshal J," WMT-TV, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Now, the question, where and when?

I sure do enjoy your magazine, and I could add that about fifteen fellows at the station wait for me to finish with a copy so they can read it. I got smart after fighting for a copy on the newsstands . . . I took a subscription and let the mailman deliver it.

Jay Alexander,
"Marshall J," WMT-TV,
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Askins and the Pronghorns

Just finished reading Askins antelope story. First, I've held an airplane radio license for years, tried to get permission to use it just for business at times. No soap! Always was a \$10,000—five year in jail business on illegal use. I put 17,000 plus hours in an airplane. Ranchers, and airplane pilots too, are half way educated and intelligent nowadays, and Askins' men don't sound so.

But what caps it is, "They put out \$500 for guide service." Gosh, who pays such? We and everyone I know in the Wyoming—Montana area hunt antelope on a per day basis with jeep or car. Only when we pack into high altitude do we charge a minimum day rate. Then it's a big outfit—everything furnished, etc. Somebody is all wet. Sure, there is jeep or pick-up chasing. It's hard to stop, but FCC violations are federal. We shoot over the hood of a jeep, occasionally, but never while it's in motion. Also, we never let guys willfully shoot at the rump of any animal except bear.

Les Bowman
Cody, Wyoming

I give Colonel Askins credit for the roast on antelope hunters. They had that coming in a big way. There is too much of it here, but different. Here you can find an outfitter who will guarantee you an elk, for a price, but won't guarantee to show it to you alive. The best ones won't do it, but not all are the best!

Don Martin
Salmon, Idaho

Very Dull Fellow

Wyatt Earp was not a fast-draw artist. His favorite weapon, and the one that he carried during his Tombstone days, was a Colt single action with a ten inch barrel. This gun was given to him by Ned Buntline, the Western

writer, and often referred to as the "Buntline Special." With such a "tool" any semblance of a fast-draw would be next to impossible, though Earp often used it to good advantage in his "pistol-whipping" bouts. Earp's favorite gun when the chips were down was the very unglamorous double barreled shotgun, and he kept several hidden around town at convenient places. The truth is that Wyatt Earp was really a very dull fellow.

Ed McGivern is known as the fastest shot in the world, and rightly so, but he never made any claim to being the fastest draw. His record of two-fifths of a second was firing five shots in that time, not drawing and firing. Also Mr. McGivern used double action revolvers exclusively. Incidentally, McGivern did not count any of his timed strings unless all bullet holes could be covered with the palm of his hand, and some of his shooting feats verged on the fantastic.

Herbert W. Hunt
Boulder City, Nevada

Earp carried two guns, one of which was a Buntline Special. According to Stuart N. Lake ("Frontier Marshall: An Autobiography of Wyatt Earp") Earp said he used the Buntline Special for all purposes and that it did not slow his draw. . . McGivern never claimed to be the fastest man on the draw, but he did make some draw-fire-and-hit records which are still standing. And he did use single as well as double-action revolvers, in fanning as well as speed-draw tests.—Editor.

The Shooting Priest

I wish to commend you on the fine articles "The Shooting Priest of Texas," (February, '57) because I feel this kind of story helps to promote the sport of shooting to many people who might otherwise not be interested.

Ken Guggemos
Winsted, Minn.

More Auto Pistols?

I am deeply interested in small arms, as well as all other weapons past or present. My interests in this line are mainly in the military vein, with auto pistols tops, followed by revolvers and rifles. Nils Kvale's articles on machine-gun shooting interest me greatly. Too bad we can't have them here.

I should like to see more auto-pistol articles like you did on the Lugers and the Browning Hi-Power 1935.

John W. Rockefeller
Grand Island, Nebraska

The Harvey Schur Story

My subscription to GUNS has given me many pleasure filled hours of reading. I especially like the good illustrations.

The thing that prompted me to write was the Harvey Schur story. I am 16 years old, and also like guns and hunting. I have a Win-

chester .348 cal. rifle which cannot be beaten for deer, moose, and bear hunting. I am hoping soon to get a .375 Magnum. For the dangerous African stuff, my choice is the .470, because I believe more than simply high velocity and a light bullet are needed for such hunting. And too, I like the short double.

Schur probably has some nice guns, but I have twenty myself and a fair size cartridge collection for which I have paid with my own efforts, not with my dad's checks.

To me, hunting means more than just shooting. It means to hunt; not just go out and blaze away at a herd of animals 500 yards off. Mr. Schur tells about the amount of game being shot. This wouldn't give any real sportsman very much pride, and I, for one, do not envy Schur this type of hunting.

Keith Lehman
Goshen, Indiana

To Do It Well, Do It For Fun

The article by Nils Kvale ("The Case For Legalized Machine Guns," Feb. '57) is wonderful. It would be fine, I think, to revoke the whole National Firearms Act, as it is widely abused and misunderstood.

I was in the infantry during the big war. I never saw a good machine gunner on our side and I heard of only one. For a nation of riflemen we didn't do so hot in WW I. And in WW II we were a nation of riflemen when the competition was going to highly mobile automatic weapons.

A friend of mine said that you don't get good at anything until you start to do it for fun. I believe it.

William H. Lange
Warsaw, New York

Unfair Situation For Pistolmen

I have just purchased my first copy of GUNS and it is truly a fine magazine for anyone interested in guns.

In your Crossfire section, I see that one of your ardent readers is having the same trouble as I am as a handgun enthusiast. I think that our trouble is not having an uncle or a cousin in the city hall. The way it is here, you either know somebody, or you don't have a pistol. It's as simple as that.

Colin Campbell
St. Louis, Missouri

Correction

I received a copy of the January '57 issue of GUNS and on reading over my story on the Browning Hi-Power I found one major blunder which is rather embarrassing. The picture of the lad with the big mustache shooting the Chinese Browning is not me but the executive secretary of the Canadian Civilian Association of Marksman and ex-top gun in Canadian competitive pistol shooting. His name is Sam Hershenkopf. He is extremely well known in Canadian shooting circles and a better shot than I am ever likely to be! So you can see that the mistake is likely to cause a certain degree of comment in this part of the world.

One other detail. In the editing of the story, you make mention of accurized Brownings being used in Canadian military matches. Such guns are never used in military competition. The guns are issued in an "as is" condition and are not eligible if they have been altered in any way whatsoever.

A. S. MacTavish
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Marlin 56 Levermatic .22 has Big, New Improvements!

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The more perfectly shaped Micro-Groove projectile flies truer than the conventional projectile, holding closer to its course through both still air and cross winds. Also, since there is less than the usual gas leakage past the Micro-Groove projectile, its accuracy is less affected by muzzle "flip".



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Champion root-cutter of Northwest, called "marmot" in Canada, woodchuck in U.S., is prime target for longer range shooting.

**PIN-POINT ACCURACY AT
EXTREME RANGES REQUIRES
BULLETS WITH SPECIAL
CHARACTERISTICS FOR
WIND-BUCKING VELOCITY
AND HITTING POWER**

Bullets for

British Columbia varmint shooter Barney Rushton used .270 on coyote at 200 yards. Heavy bullets retained energy at long range for effective kills on varmints.

By LEE STRAIGHT

VARMINT shooters are an opinionated and outspoken clan given to disagreement about everything under the sun, from the name of their targets (varmints or vermin, woodchuck or marmot or groundhog and are they edible) to and especially including what kind of rifle, what kind of scope, what kind of bullet is best (or worst) for them. The only point on which all varminters agree is—varminting is fun. It is a challenging sport enjoyable anywhere, in almost any season; enjoyable in one form or another with almost any rifle and any equipment you happen to own or cherish.

You can kill varmints with a .22 rim fire iron-sighted rifle, using cheap, standard factory ammunition. Or you can go as far as you like in the way of highly special-rifles, high-power scopes, and high-speed ammunition. It all depends on how ardent you are, how much you can or will spend, how far off you prefer to hit 'em.

Mention varminting in any shooting group, east or west, and the talk swings automatically to such calibers as the .22 Hornet, the .218 Bee, the .22 Remington, the .219 Zipper, and the .22-.250 or .220 Swift. You will hear talk, too, of the "improved" types, the wildcats, in these or similar calibers and bullet characteristics.

But there is a hard-core group of varminters who get the biggest boot of all out of busting varmints at ranges at which even the above-named varmint-busters won't reach. Call us crazy if you like—and there's no denying that 500 yards is a pretty fantastic range at which to demand both killing power and pinpoint accuracy on woodchuck-



Straight holds up a very dead woodchuck killed at 200 yards with his .270 Mauser.

Long Range Varmints



Author's hunting partner, Barney Rushton, uses back rest in rocky country to support his Bear-Cub scoped .270 varmintier in chuck-busting session.

size targets—but what we want is a gun and cartridge that will deliver a long, lean, heavy, wind-bucking bullet starting at velocities greater than 3,000 feet per second and preferably 3,400 feet per second or more.

At such ranges, the bullet used must have wind-bucking ability, which means high sectional density—which means that the bullet must be long and thin—combined with high velocity. These factors take precedent over such other considerations as rifle weight (though it is next most important), shape of cartridge case, cost per cartridge, killing power, or that other and sometimes over-emphasized characteristic, noise.

At the beginning of World Fracas II when rifles were becoming scarce, crows that would wait around along any road in these parts while one got set for a "long" 100-yard shot with the .22 rimfire were also scarce.

I remember muttering to my partner one day, "Even with scope-sights, a rimfire is just too lame for this work now. Those danged crows can tell a rifle from a shotgun at 100 yards and just move back to 150 to do their caw-and-teeter routine!"

So I started casing North America for a .22 Hornet, then a very scarce commodity. I found one finally; a Model 23D Savage, at \$50. A second-hand Weaver 29S scope was eventually found also and, for a while, I thought I was just the deadliest crow stuffing-remover in British Columbia. I soon found, however, that others chasing crows in the congested farm area of the lower Fraser Valley were teaching these black schemers a thing or two, and not even the Hornet would reach to the ranges at which shots were offered.

Next, I had my gunsmith ream the Hornet out to a Kilbourn version. By now the Weaver J4 scope was on the market and I tried its slightly higher power. The faster bullet-better sight combination helped, but I was still not satisfied. But now, with the shooting part of the war ended, I got a break. General McArthur was reorganizing Japanese industry, and I was given one of the first Jap six-power scopes to leave Nippon. Like many gun nuts, I used that scope to justify the purchase of a new rifle. I planned to startle the local crows and ground-hogs with a .219 Improved Zipper on an Enfield action,

the finished job to weigh in at about nine pounds plus.

I had tried a fancy grade .270 Mauser hunting rifle in a 12-inch rifling twist (rather than the usual 10) on one hunt and that taught me it is folly to try to make one rifle do for deer and vermin if you go in for either very much. For vermin it was a disappointment with its four-power scope and light barrel. It will shoot 1.5" five-shot groups and its point of impact moves around only an inch or two from hunt to hunt, but that's not good enough for a whistle-pig-popper.

Well, that Zipper seemed fine and I might still be happy with it, as many are. But my hunting partner, Barney Rushton, was executing a quiet plan which made me think he was a bit "tetched" by the writings of Elmer Keith and Roy Weatherby, both of whom I dismissed at that time as "the high-power boys." One season of attacks on assorted groundhog villages (yellow-bellied marmots—*marmota flaviventris*) had taught me just everything, I thought, about the Zipper.

The .219's 50-grain pills (it wouldn't stabilize heavier bullets well) evoked instantaneous judgment on the whistle-pigs at up to 200 yards and scored better than 50 per cent up to 300. This beat the light, seven-pound .270 because the Zipper shot flatter. And I had yet to realize how many of my misses were caused by cross winds.

By the following year my part- (Continued on page 49)



Using 10X Unertl "Vulture" scope on long-bullet .270 Super varmint, McIntosh shot crows near Vancouver.



Savage .22 (left) to Kilbourn Hornet proved poor at long range, caused Straight to graduate to 14" twist .270 (right) for varminting at longer ranges.

Popular 200-yard varmint loads, like (l. to r.) .222 Hornet, .222 Rem. and .220 Swift, had light bullets, proved inefficient beyond that range where heavier-bullet 6mm's like .244 Remington shot well.





Hunter using standard loads in Remington 12 gauge waits in swampy feeding area till ducks are lured close by guide's calling.

IS THERE A GUN FOR 100-YARD DUCKS?



**TALL TALES ARE THE HUNTER'S PREROGATIVE, BUT
IT TAKES PELLETS AND PUNCH TO DROP THE HIGH-FLYERS**

By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS

WHAT IS THE longest range at which a 12 gauge gun stuffed with the heaviest magnum loads will rake down migratory fowl? How far will the more powerful magnum 10, with its Roman candle-size case, transfix a winging Canada goose? Is the answer 100 yards for the big 10, 80 yards for the 12? Or should the ranges be much less than those? Or will the 10 really reach to 120 yards and the 12 kill regularly at from 90 to 100 yards, as some contend?

It isn't difficult to get answers. The man in the nearest duck blind will give you one answer; the books written on the subject will give you another; editors of gun departments in various magazines will give you still others. So what can you believe?

The *best* way to get the right and irrefutable answer to this question would be (editors and publisher of GUNS please note!) for me to gun my way delightfully down



Browning automatics with Cutts Comps and standard 12 gauge loads were used for ducks at moderate range.

the Mississippi flyway from somewhere in Manitoba to the Gulf, and from there across Mexico, through the Banana Republics and down the length of South America to that seventh heaven for wildfowlers, Tierra del Fuego, hard above Cape Horn. So doing, by shooting at carefully staked out ranges and noting the exact results of each shot, I'd have the answer.

But the researcher must ever bow to such mundane things as time, finances, and unsympathetic bosses and it became apparent that I'd have to hit upon other tests that would be basically sound and a mite less grandiose. So, cancelling my flight plans to Manitoba, I set to pondering what it takes to kill a goose, or a duck, or even a snipe. Nobody knows. My old man said that it takes five pellets to stop an old Canada's clock and that these must hit him in a vital spot and possess sufficient power to penetrate. Each of these pellets must develop three foot pounds of energy at the target. This, as we can see, means an aggregate blow of 15 foot pounds.

For ducks, a minimum of four pellets must hit, and each must deliver 1.5 foot pounds of blow, or a total force of six foot pounds. Game like snipe, doves, bobwhite quail,

Patterning tests by Askins revealed 25-30 per cent patterns at 70 yards, far below 100-yard requirements.





Magnum 10 if fired by standing hunter, instead of regular choke-bored M12 pump he is using, would give both a bath when boat was tipped from kick.



Big 10 magnums kicked enough to stun elephant. Shells varied 100 f.p.s. from same box over velocity range, lacked energy for sure 100-yard duck kills.



need three pellets as a minimum with a total force of three foot pounds.

These figures are assumptions. But my father, Major Charles Askins, was an authority in the field of shotgun usage and his "assumptions" were acid-tested before he made them. He died when he was 86, having hunted until within a few months of his death. He was an able veteran of around 75 years in the game fields. His figures are calculations but for rule-of-thumb estimations, I'll accept them.

So we are face to face again with our question: how far will a shotgun carry and place five killing pellets on a target the size of an old honker?

The goose has a vital area about 12 inches in length by six inches in height when he passes at right angles. This does not include his wings, head, or neck. Many geese are downed with lucky hits in these areas, but I chose to disregard these lucky shots and count only hits in the solid body regions. The 6" x 12" vital area figures out to 72 square inches. The patterning circle commonly used to check choke percentages is 30 inches in diameter, containing 707 square inches. Slap the 6" x 12" rectangle over the 30-inch circle and what do you see?

At 40 yards a full-choke gun firing the new 1½-oz load of No. 2 shot will put an average of 8.4 pellets into the

bird. Returning to our formula of five pellets needed to connect with total blow of 15 pounds, we find that our goose would be killed. Not only has he been pierced by more than enough shot, but the cumulative blow amounts to 57.96 ft lbs. The No. 2 shot at the muzzle has a pellet energy of 18.7 foot pounds, which at 40 yards has fallen off to 6.90 foot pounds.

But what happens at 50, 60, 70, or 100 yards?

At 50 yards with the same load, a ten-target average shows 6.72 hits falling within the 72-square inch outline. No. 2s at this yardage deliver 5.5 ft. lbs. per pellet. The blow: 36.96 pounds.

At 60 yards, hits average 4.5 and energy per No. 2 pellet runs 4.12 ft. lbs. The blow, 18.54 pounds. At 65 yards—still short of the 70 so glibly bandied about—hits worked out to barely 3.36 and total energy only 12 foot pounds. This is not only shy on the required numbers of leaden missiles, but the blow is too puny to dump a goose.

The story with the big magnum 10, the old bruiser that burps out a full two ounces of shot whooped along by 5¾ drams equivalent of powder, is somewhat more rosy. At 65 yards this gun placed 6.1 pellets in the 6" x 12" pattern, for an average blow of 21.77 pounds. *Bueno* for geese both in number of pellets and in striking force.



Half-dozen magnum 10 gauge guns were checked by Askins in studying long-range effect.

Standard Brownings did the job by scoring three mallards apiece for Illinois sportsmen.

At 70 yards, the margin is not quite so good. Hits averaged 4.9, energy per pellet, 3.25 ft. lbs.; total blow 15.92 ft. lbs. It can be seen that the gun has just barely scraped under the wire as a goose killer. What we need, just to reiterate once again, is five shots in the bird for a total blow of 15 foot pounds. We've just barely got it here.

Did I test the big 10 at 80 yards? Nope. At 80 yards, the No. 2 pellet, best of all shot sizes for goose-taking, has a pipsqueak energy of only 2.25 ft. lbs. Even had I been so fortunate as to have gotten the required five pellets into the target—which I couldn't do even at 70 yards—the total blow would only have aggregated 11.25 pounds.

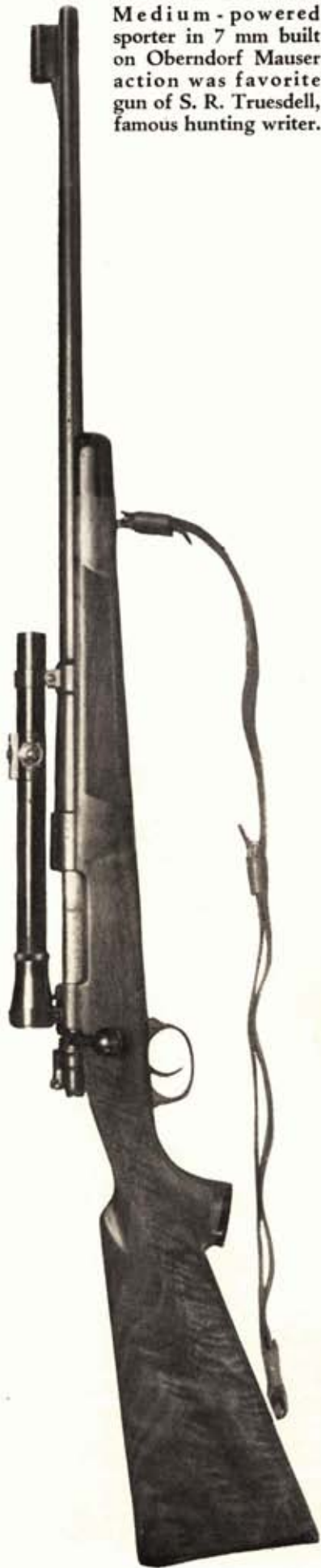
To be an 80-yard goose gun, a 10 gauge magnum would have to pattern 95 per cent at 40 yards. The best I've gotten out of some half-dozen I have tested is from 83-87 per cent. The gun that will pattern 95 per cent at 40 yards for 10 shots or more just ain't being built these days. Carried further, the 10 would have to crack 80 per cent at 50 yards; 65 per cent at 60 yards, 50 per cent at 70 yards, and a full 40 per cent at 80 yards. The best of them can muster about 25-30 per cent at 70 yards and not all will do that. So where is this cock-and-bull saga about 100-yard wildfowling?

Shooting at a square of paper 4 ft. x 4 ft. and inscribing

a neat 30-inch circle in a selected spot after the shot is fired, takes advantage of the best concentration of shot. Thereafter the experimenter slaps his 6" x 12" rectangle over the heaviest part of the chosen pattern. This kind of skulduggery gives the gun and load every advantage; advantages that do not apply when your target is a whistling honker drifting by at around 85 feet per second. Not only must you judge his distance to a neat fraction but you must, all in the same instant, calculate a lead which at 40 yards is theoretically 10.4 feet and actually half that.

A not unimportant part of the equation is this matter of shot stringing. The shot load does not reach the target like a ball from a rifle. It goes like a kite-tail in the wind. The pellets that are mutilated in the cartridge, in the cone, up the barrel and through the choke, lag behind and cause what we refer to as shot-stringing. A shot string from a big 12 or the larger 10 will have a total length of approximately 12 feet at 40 yards. A rough rule for calculating the length of the string is to say that for every 10 feet of range there will be 12 inches of elongation of the shot load. With shot stretched out from head to rear a full 12 feet at 40 yards, at twice that distance it is quite safe to assume that the string would have more than double its length, probably close to 30 feet. *(Continued on page 59)*

Medium-powered sporter in 7 mm built on Oberndorf Mauser action was favorite gun of S. R. Truesdell, famous hunting writer.



SMALL GUNS FOR BIG GAME



IT'S THE NUT BEHIND THE BUTTPLATE, NOT THE DIAMETER OF THE BORE, THAT SPELLS SUCCESS OR FAILURE IN BIG GAME SHOOTING


By H. V. STENT

ACCORDING TO SOME of today's writers, a man could wade across hell on wax legs easier than he can kill big game dead with any rifle less than a Magnum. Some will grudgingly admit the .30-06 or .270 to the fold of possibilities, but only a .300 or .375 or some private wildcat is the real McCoy, and Elmer Keith is said to be working on a sporting version of a 280 mm cannon for use on soft-skinned game. You need a recoil pad even to read the stuff.

Likewise, you need binoculars, for hardly any critter is now shot in print under 300 yards. Most are much farther, often so far you just can't see to read

about them without the help of magnifying glasses.

Yet when you get away from the printed page, you find that most big game on this continent is actually killed with what these writers would call feeble, short-ranged popguns. The old .30-30 is still Winchester's biggest seller, and has been for over two million copies. Savage, Remington, and Marlin have sold hundreds of thousands of similar calibres. Contrast this with all the Magnum ballyhoo in the magazines and you feel, as the deacon did when the choir entered church minus their clothes, that here is something worth a closer look.



Medium-powered Savage M99 lever gun in .300 caliber is excellent gun for deer which are majority of "big game" hunted. Unique Savage has extra .410 barrel.

The contrast becomes almost amusing when you live, as I am privileged to do, all the year round in hunting country. Some flossy sport drives up in his Cadillac, clobbers his deer or whatever at 500 yards with his scope-sighted .300 H. & H., and all us natives stare with respectful bug-eyed awe. He purrs proudly away—and his guide (a fair to middlin' hunter himself) throws a battered, open-sighted .25-35 or .32 Special into his Ford or Chevrolet and goes out to collect his own winter's meat. Neither his gun nor his car is a prestige job like his client's, but they seem to get the job done just the same.

This happens not just in the eastern deer woods, either. In the far west and south-west, it's the flat-sided lever action carbines in mild calibres that most resident hunters flip out of saddle scabbards to knock over mule deer, black bear, and a surprising number of husky bull elk.

Up here in Canada, although we still

have plenty of moose and a good few grizzly bears, a Magnum is almost an oddity among resident hunters. According to our one big ammunition manufacturer, Dominion (a division of Canadian Industries Limited), the biggest-selling center-fire rifle cartridge here, as in the United States, is the .30-30. Cheap military rifles for conversion have put the .303 British and .30-06 next in popularity, but among commercial calibres it is the .300 Savage and .32 Special which crowd closest to the .30-30. The .270 is behind them again, and jostling it in the popularity poll is the old .25-20, which some benighted backwoodsmen claim is all you need to get venison and even moosison, if I may coin a word.

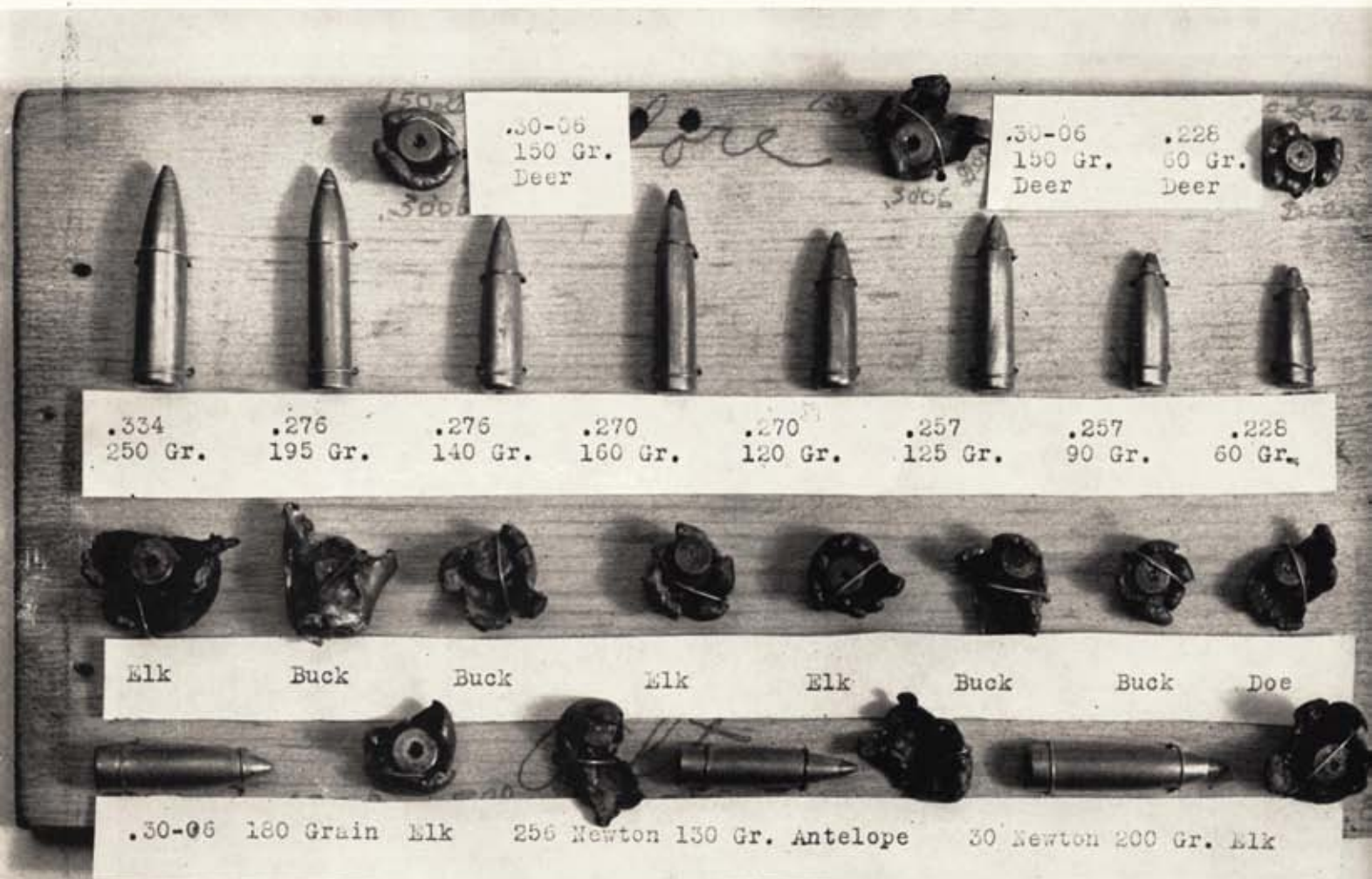
Appalling news, that, for all who have been suckled on the gospel according to St. Magnum. But I've hunted and talked with a lot of trappers, prospectors, stump-farmers, etc., to whom a rifle is a tool rather than a fetish, and

there's no logic in their point of view.

Which is simply this: if a hunter has even a moderate amount of skill and sense, he has no need for a super-powerful rifle. Even a tiny bullet, properly-placed, will kill any game that walks. What makes a rifle effective is not the size of its cartridge, but the "nut behind the buttplate." And after seeing what some outdoorsmen can do with a light rifle, I've often wondered why many magazine writers boast about the super-duper power of their hunting arms.

"You need bigger guns, more power, because game has to be shot much farther away than it used to be," is often the excuse. But that's like saying you had to work late at the office when the pretty secretary is the real attraction. You can find long shots if you look for them, sure; but it's nearly always possible to stalk to close, sure range instead of whanging away at unknown far distances. It takes some

Bullets making clean kills on big deer and elk include minor calibers like Barnes .257 which, when well placed, killed just as dead as heavy .334 and .30-06 slugs.



know-how, but it's a lot more exciting. And seeing game far off is not nearly as common as some writers let on. The more an animal is hunted, the more it hides, and your best chance of seeing it is to happen on it suddenly as you come through the brush, around the rock, or out overlooking the gully where it is lying doggo.

Men who live in the mountain country—ordinary hunters, not dudes or gun fanatics eager to show off their shooting skill—generally agree that sheep, goat, and grizzly are shot at average ranges of under 200 yards—often very much under. As for the wooded country where elk, moose, and deer are hunted, average shooting range is 100 yards or less. And deer make up, please note, some 95 per cent of all the big game shot in America. So, in spite of all this foofaraw about souped-up long-range portable cannon, the comparatively short-

ranged and moderate powered .30-30 type of rifle, derided by experts as good only for deer at moderate ranges, is for that very reason a sensible choice for 95 per cent of our hunters.

And this goes even for mule deer. Wavering between the Magnums in the magazines and the carbine-carrying residents, for years after coming to British Columbia I toted a .30-06 after mule deer. My first buck was indeed hit at 300 yards—after being twice missed through misjudging the range. But only one of the dozen killed since was *seen* over 200 yards and for that one, having in the interval acquired more sense, I made a thrilling stalk to within 50 yards. Most others have been killed at similar close ranges, and three years ago I began to leave the buxom .30-06 at home in favour of a petite .30-30. To some, such desertion would be a crime worse than murdering your *(Continued on page 56)*



Canadian hunter-guides insist that not even the lordly moose is too big for rifles of the .30-30 class if hunter stalks close and places shots for sure kills.



Hunter swings for fast shot at mule deer in typical Canadian winter woods. Light, handy British .303 sporter is among most popular Canadian rifles.



Maze of guns confronts would-be shooter in well-stocked store like Abercrombie & Fitch; demand arms knowledge for buyer to make wise choice.

BUYING

BUYING THE RIGHT GUN IS NOT A MATTER OF PRICE ONLY. IF IT FITS YOU, PLEASES YOU, DOES THE JOB FOR WHICH YOU BOUGHT IT, IT'S A BARGAIN

By WILLIAM C. L. THOMPSON

HAVE
FUN
WITH
GUNS

BUYING A GUN can be the open sesame to hours and years of fun and sport. But buying the *wrong* gun can make the embryo gun enthusiast wish he had stuck to armchair safarizing. Stock fit, caliber and power, sighting equipment, bore and choke, type of action, barrel length, weight and balance, all are factors in buying a gun; and whether you buy a new gun or a used one, those factors must be considered if the gun you buy is to be "a bargain."

There is an old saying that nobody ever wanted to buy a post-hole digger: what the buyers of post-hole diggers really wanted was—holes. It's not quite true with guns. Of the ten million shooters who bought guns last year, a few undoubtedly bought just because they wanted a gun. But 99 per cent of them bought because they wanted to go shooting—at targets, with rifle, shotgun, or pistol, or at game. The gun was bought as a tool for sport. And the buyers who got the most sport

were those who bought the gun best suited for them and the uses to which they intend to put it.

Selection of a new shotgun can be an easy decision or a tough one. Standard American brands are solid, reliable guns, built in grades priced from \$25 to \$2,500. The \$25 gun will probably outlast a lifetime of average shooting, give you very good performance, bust any target or kill any game at which it is properly pointed. The \$2,500 gun will be prettier, with more hand finishing, fitted to somewhat closer tolerances, will give you a wider choice in fit and other refinements. There are many choices in between these prices, and you get what you pay for. It just depends on what you can afford and how much "pride of ownership" you want to buy.

Fitting a shotgun to the shooter is a matter of primary importance. Because a shotgun is pointed, not carefully aimed as is a rifle, it must be so shaped and sized that it will come to

Adjustable try-gun offers gunsmith an opportunity to duplicate exact stock design needed by customer, then copy it in wood for individual gun or rifle.



BARGAINS IN GUNS

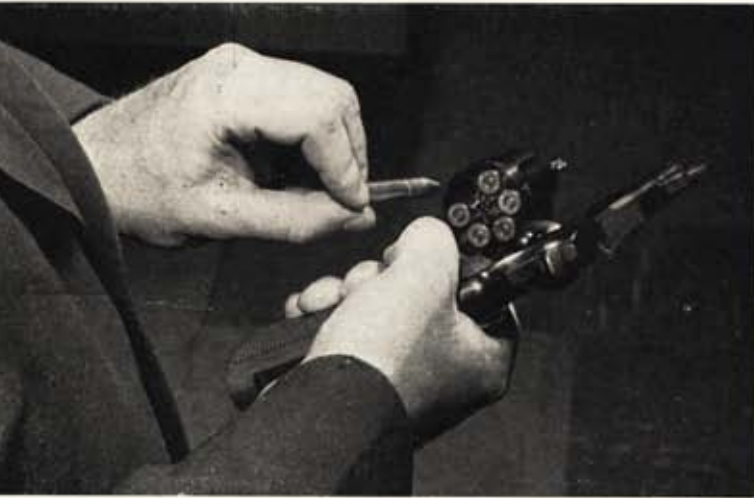
Choice of scope depends on type of shooting: high power for target or varmints, 4X or less for hunting.



your shoulder quickly, smoothly, in such a position that it will point where you look. This means that, for best results, the length, drop, pitch, and comb of the stock should be tailored to your physical dimensions. If you intend to shoot only occasionally, will be satisfied with mediocre to fair results, you can make do with a run-of-the-mill factory stock built to "average" measurements—just as you might wear a friend's shoes for an hour or two if your own were wet. But you wouldn't want to wear ill-fitting shoes very long; and if you expect to shoot much, or well, it will pay you to spend a double sawbuck

or more for a fitted stock. A good shooter can shoot well with any gun, but experienced shooters agree that it's easier and more fun with a gun that fits you.

There have been dozens of magazine articles and books on gun fit. Read them, if you like. Then go to a gunsmith who knows his business and tell him your troubles. He may fix you up simply with a butt pad that will enable you to forget kick, cure you of flinching, improve your scores at trap, skeet, or live targets, and make you completely happy. If so, it's a good bet that your gunsmith gave you something more than just a cushion against



Check condition of ratchet and lock work on used revolver, and note if current or obsolete ammo is used.



Snub-nosed .38 for defense should lock right, not hang up in quick double action, have fast holster.

Shotgun's bores should be smooth, free from rough spots or rust. On side-by-doubles, avoid twist tubes.



Watch lever rifles for wear on locking surfaces and correct headspace. Try a few shots to check extraction.



Lighter shotgun is best bet, may be shot a dozen times but carried a dozen miles. Correct stock can cut kick.

recoil. He set that cushion shrewdly to give you stock length and pitch better suited to your specifications. Sometimes this is enough. But sometimes the shooter's physical conformation requires stock alterations that cannot be accomplished so easily. In either case, a well-fitted stock is worth what it costs if you're going to shoot a lot.

Barrel length in shotguns is a hot subject and one that will probably never cool, even though Churchill, the English gunmaker, went all out years ago in his book, "The Twentieth Century Gun," to prove that 25" barrels burn the powder just as efficiently, point just as well as do longer barrels. This is because all you see when a shotgun is shouldered is about one vertical inch across your line of vision. The barrels, regardless of their length, are foreshortened to nothing but front-sight bead and receiver top. Some shooters will tell you that long barrels will "reach out" further for more distant targets. Others believe that proper choke or a properly set variable-choke device will give you the same results, regardless of barrel length. Don't worry about it too much. Buy what seems right to you. By the time you've shot up a case or two of shells you'll have ideas of your own on the subject. Whether those ideas are right or wrong won't matter nearly as much as your belief in them. Confidence in your gun is more important than a couple of inches, more or less, in the length of the barrel.

Whether you buy a single barrel, a double, an over-under, a slide or bolt action, or an autoloader is again a matter of personal preference and intended use. Any shooter, any gunsmith, and gun dealer will give you ideas on the subject. But don't worry too much about this, either. One nice thing about a gun investment—you can liquidate it quite painlessly, if your ideas change on the subject, either by trade or by sale and re-purchase.

Buying a used gun is like buying a used car. You can find a real gem of a bargain. (Continued on page 41)



Scope should have bright, crisp image; be placed so eye naturally takes sight as rifle is brought in line.

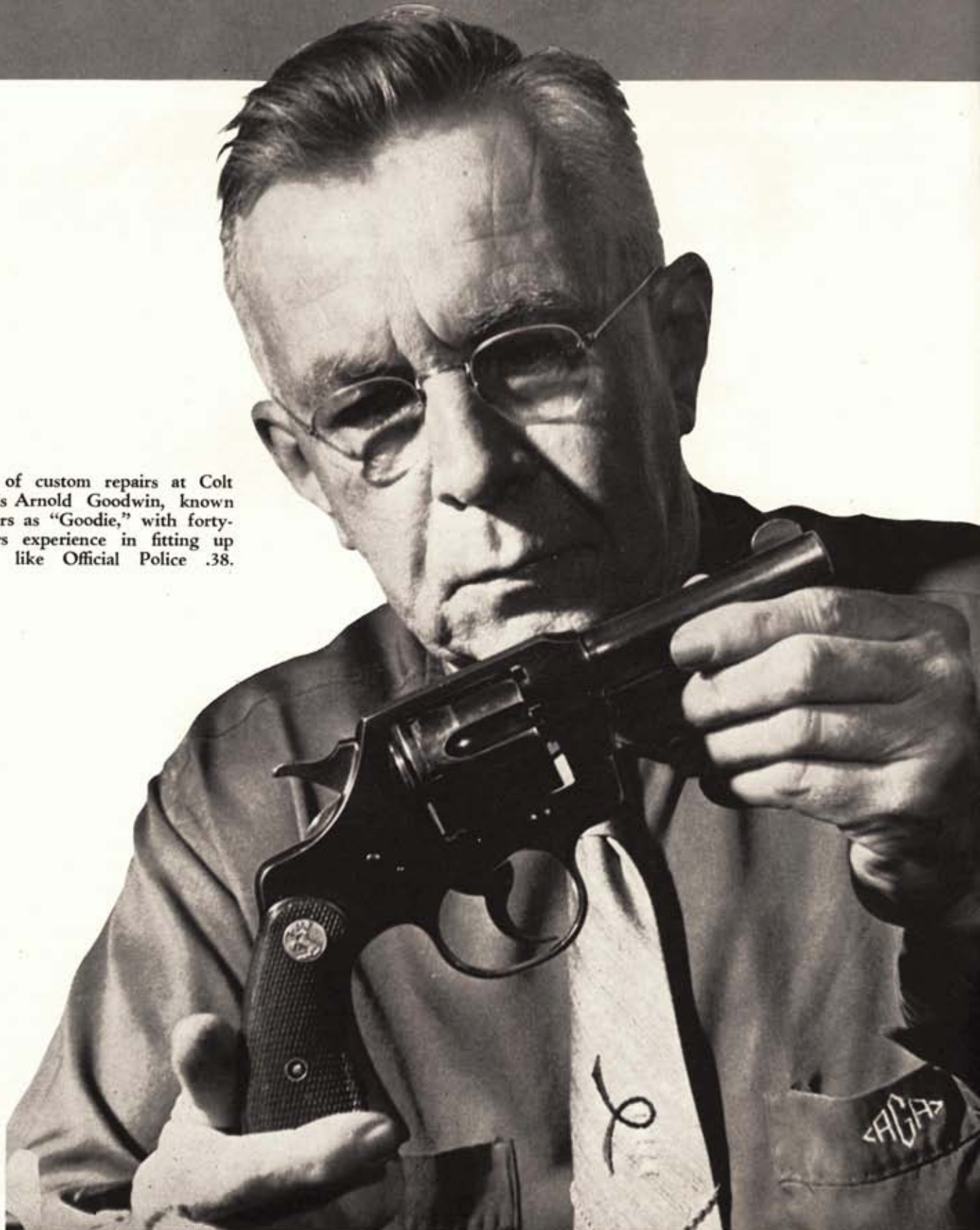
Stock length should be chosen for clothing thickness worn during use, longer for thin spring jackets.



**SERVICING
THE**

COLT REVOLVER

Foreman of custom repairs at Colt factory is Arnold Goodwin, known to shooters as "Goodie," with forty-two years experience in fitting up revolvers like Official Police .38.



LOGICAL DESIGN AND SOFT FITTING
TECHNIQUE USED BY MANUFACTURERS
MAKE REVOLVER REPAIR EASY WITH
CARE AND SIMPLE PROCEDURES



Colt revolver strips down into few parts, but fitting new ones takes knowledge of tricks of trade to do job well. Skilled man can tighten up gun using no new parts.

First step in taking apart Colt is removing cylinder crane lock screw on right side of all frames. Late models have single cap screw with inside lock.

By WILLIAM B. EDWARDS

I CAN TAKE any worn out Colt and make it pass new-gun inspection," boasted the soft-spoken man as he sat at his bench in the Colt hut at Camp Perry. Busily he tapped away, peening the inside cut face of a worn cylinder pawl to stretch it a few thousandths of an inch and close up a tolerance. I watched him at work, and knew it was no idle boast. The speaker was Arnold Goodwin, "Goodie" to thousands of shooters, who is foreman of the custom repair department at Colts.

The gun he was reworking was an oddity in some ways. Now discontinued, it was a heavy-frame Colt New Service revolver like those on which Goodwin got his start in the Colt assembly department in 1916. Then he hammered the emergency government Model 1917 revolvers together for the army. Last summer at Perry he saw a good many of his old friends, these same M1917 revolvers or their commercial counterparts, the New Service guns, come in for the free repair which is a Colt service to shooters at Perry. Pistolmen who wanted a big

Colt bought these war-surplus guns and worked them over into target guns, often fitting sights salvaged from another make of heavy-frame target revolver. Then they would hand them to Goodie to "tune" for timing and tightness.

"Our first steps in rebuilding a Colt," Goodwin told me, "begin with an overall inspection to determine condition. Barrels must be wiped out, and guns checked to see if they are loaded. We have had guns come in for repair which still had cartridges in them.

"We completely disassemble the gun and check each part for wear. Next we see if the alignment of cylinder chambers and bore is correct by placing a close-fitting steel range rod down the barrel and through each chamber. If a gun has been stepped on or dropped, the cylinder may not rotate, or may go around stiffly. This has to be re-aligned."

To put the cylinder into correct alignment, the stripped frame is laid on a work pad. At the factory this is simply a large wooden block covered with rubber, with a cut-



With screws removed, sideplate is pried up $\frac{1}{4}$ " , then handle frame tapped to jar plate loose without burring. Next step is to unhook mainspring from hammer stirrup. Pin of long rebound lever is then punched out, lever, pawl, trigger, hammer, and safety levers removed. Sideplate is replaced with cylinder pin and latch, to check cylinder alignment.

out for the boss of the breech so the frame will lie flat. Then the sideplate with cylinder pin and thumb latch is replaced, and held by one screw. Next, the crane is inserted with cylinder, into the frame. If the cylinder is bent too far, it will bind, and the latch will not close correctly.

"There are four cylinder positions that could cause looseness resulting in latch failure," Goodwin said as he worked the cylinder around between thumb and forefinger.

"If the cylinder is in too far, the joint where the crane swings against the frame front will be sprung, and instead of a line crack there will be a real edge gap. This has to be closed up, and is done by tapping the cylinder gently, using a rawhide mallet. The crane is swung open and the cylinder supported with the fingers in the flutes, while the mallet hits the edge of the cylinder close to the frame opening. Swing the cylinder into place from time to time, until the latch just drops into position."

Cylinder too low is corrected on bottom by hitting with mallet, while backing up with finger tips in flutes. Too-high cylinder may be realigned by lifting entire assembly out, then bending crane arm slightly, making cylinder center-line ride lower in frame. Cylinder too far in is straightened by holding crane solidly open and hitting on right side.



Short hand (top) can be stretched by cross-peening in rebound lever relief cut to stretch metal. Bolt (2nd) should fit stop slots snugly. Slot burrs can be knocked down, reducing play. Trigger and safety levers (3rd) must be linked together in reassembly. Rebound lever (bottom) should be flexed to check bolt operation, hammer rebound action, before replacing spring, sideplate.

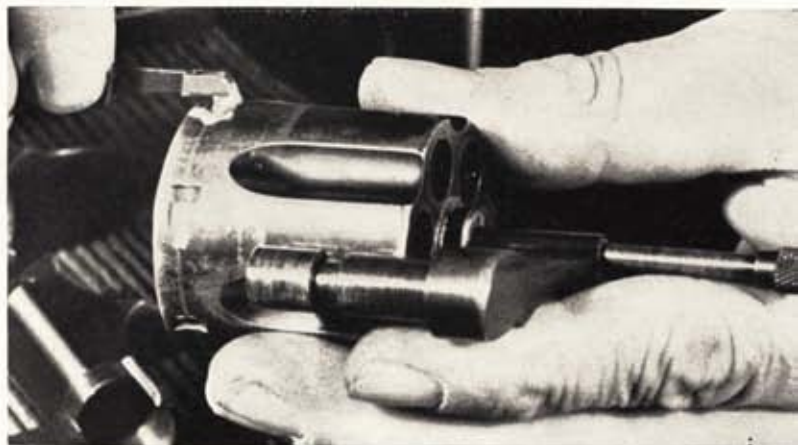
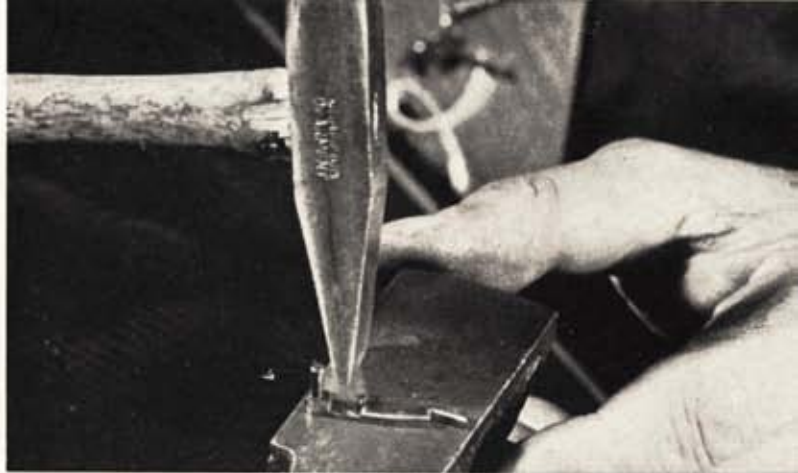
"If cylinder is not in far enough," Goodwin continued to explain, "the crane is swung open, holding the gun upside down. Then hit the cylinder with the mallet on the side next to the trigger guard. The cylinder should still be backed up by the fingers held stiffly in the flutes. Remember to tap gently, not sharply," he said, "and rotate the cylinder between taps so as to alter the alignment of the cylinder 'quill' or pin in a uniform manner. Continue this tapping, as before, until the cylinder latches into place.

"If cylinder is too low, again the latch will not position correctly. In this case, hold the gun with the crane just swung out a little, say $\frac{1}{8}$ " clearance, and tap gently on the 'bottom' of the cylinder next to the frame, checking the working of the latch constantly. If you should hit too hard and spring the cylinder so it rides too high, it will be necessary to remove the complete cylinder-crane assembly. This is easily done by unscrewing the lock screw on the right side of the frame, being careful to see that the crane lock doesn't get cramped and bind. Then the crane, with cylinder attached, can be slid free." Late models of Colt revolvers have a lock with a spring-loaded plug, covered by a cap screw.

Goodwin placed the cylinder on the bench. "I protect it from being marred from chips or grit," he said, "by padding it with a heavy cloth or rubber matting. Tap the crane post gently; then slip it back into the frame to check the latch. When it closes easily, you will have re-aligned the cylinders. This is one of the simplest jobs to talk about, and one of the most sensitive to do, in refitting a Colt. Remember always to back up your rawhide mallet with stiff fingers to take the shock, and prevent pushing the cylinder too far the other way by over-correcting.

"The next step, with the cylinder and lock stripped out, is to check the bolt for looseness in the stop slots. Try the bolt in all six cylinder cuts, and if too loose, with wear on the bolt, replace with a new bolt. If the wear is in the cylinder slots, there are two ways to remedy it. First, a new cylinder can be fitted. Second, and one which takes great care but can be done so that even the blue is not marked, is to peen the burred fins of metal edging the slots back into place. This is a delicate job, not recommended for the casual tinkerer, but the experienced gunsmith who can handle a hammer will find that slight looseness often can be corrected this way.

"With the bolt screwed back into the frame," explained Goodie as he deftly slipped bolt and spring back, "replace cylinder and crane and check for movement in 'locked' position. If the cylinder will move as much as $\frac{1}{64}$ " around, the bolt is loose in the frame. To correct this, counterbore the frame slightly so the bolt pivot screw will tighten up. But if the bolt is too tight, the side flat of the bolt will have to be filed to free it so the spring can push it up easily. With the cylinder in place, make (Continued on page 38)



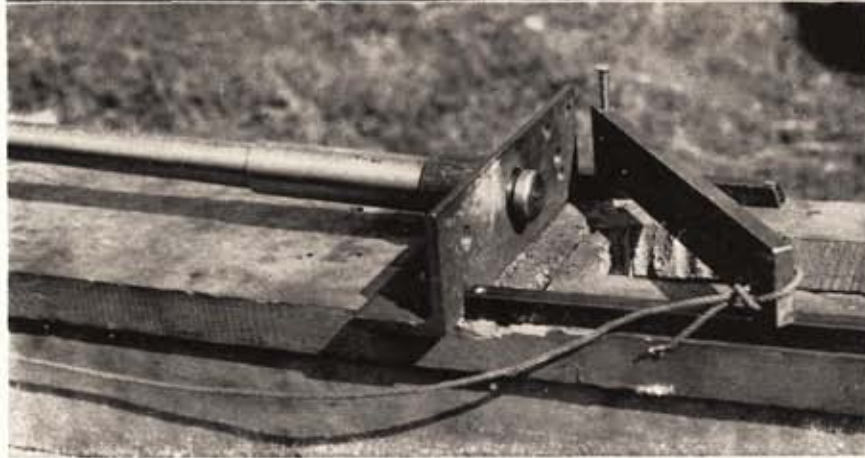


Firing .505 Gibbs from bench rest illustrates hefty bounce of caliber but muzzle brake which has cut recoil, prevented scope from jamming shooter's face.

Muzzling the **WILDCATS**

By JOHN R. BUHMILLER

**MUZZLE BRAKES DESIGNED ON NEW PRINCIPLES CAN
REDUCE KICK OF LATEST BIG MAGNUM CARTRIDGES
TO COMFORTABLE LIMITS WITH SAFETY IN RECOIL**



Special test action made by Buhmiller had threaded cap with firing pin to slip over barrel; primer was snapped by hitting with hammer. For testing big bores on steel plate, string operated pin-slapping plate for remote control firing.

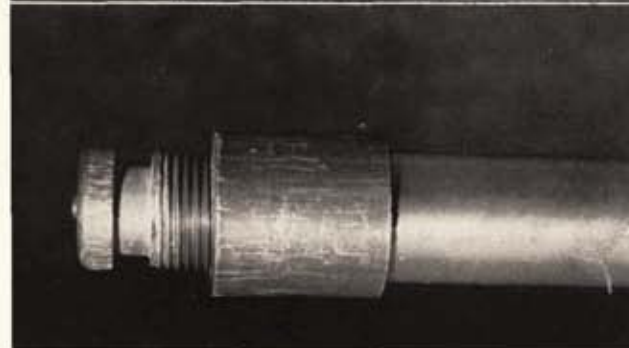
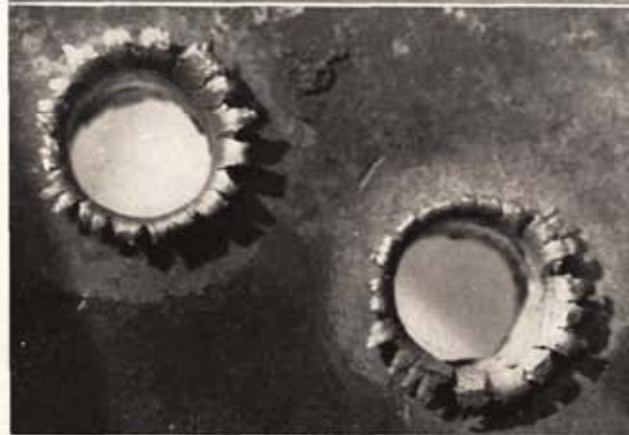
Muzzle brakes made up (top) for testing recoil of various .40-.45 magnums had slots of different sizes. Magnum .45 threw 400 and 500 grain bullets through $\frac{3}{4}$ " steel plate (middle), were shot with concentric test action (bottom).

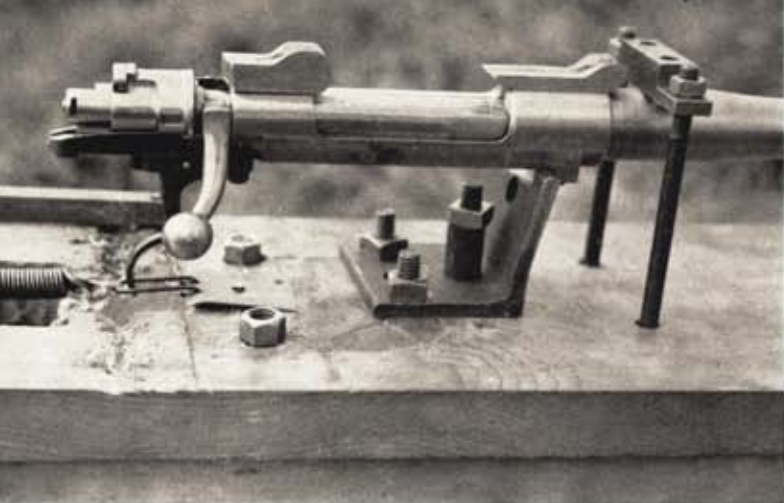
THAT BOOMING YOU HEAR on ranges these days is the increase of interest in big bore rifles. Since the advent of the .458 Winchester, a great many shooters have become interested in acquiring a heavy rifle. Not only the .458 and Weatherby's .378, in factory rifles, have appeared, but a whole flurry of brother bombshells of about .40 to .45 caliber based on large "express cases" have sprung up in the ranks of wildcats. These heavier arms have one feature that many of us are not inclined to welcome, and that is recoil. Muzzle brakes reduce recoil—but shooters of the big rifles are wondering just how much relief can be expected in the different calibers by using a muzzle brake.

This gadget was used to some extent during the late war, but it has failed to catch on with the shooting public as it should. The subject of brakes was first drawn to my attention by a South African gunsmith, who specified that a full diameter portion be left at the muzzle of some .50 caliber barrels he ordered for a .505 Gibbs, which would permit him to make an integral muzzle brake. He later sent a sketch showing details of his type of brake. This inspired us to make one up for a try.

The .505 Gibbs was a terrifying thing to unloose at first, but after a few shots, and no casualties, shooting it turned out to be fun. You relax when touching her off, standing or sitting, let your shoulder give with the recoil, and it's not too bad, but tie yourself up in a sling, or brace yourself against the recoil, and you'll get it. This first brake was built integral with the barrel, so there was no way to check the recoil with and without, to make a comparison and evaluate the gadget.

This same .505 was carried by me on two safaris after elephant and buffalo. It did its work well—except why, oh why do they make a grand gun like this, and then furnish thin-jacket soft-point bullets that are unsuitable for the big game for which the gun was intended? Most buffalo hunters prefer to use solids, except in herd shooting where a





Special clamps held receiver and barrel rigidly against recoil in tests which compared effectiveness of muzzle brakes on big-bore magnums firing slow, heavy bullets.

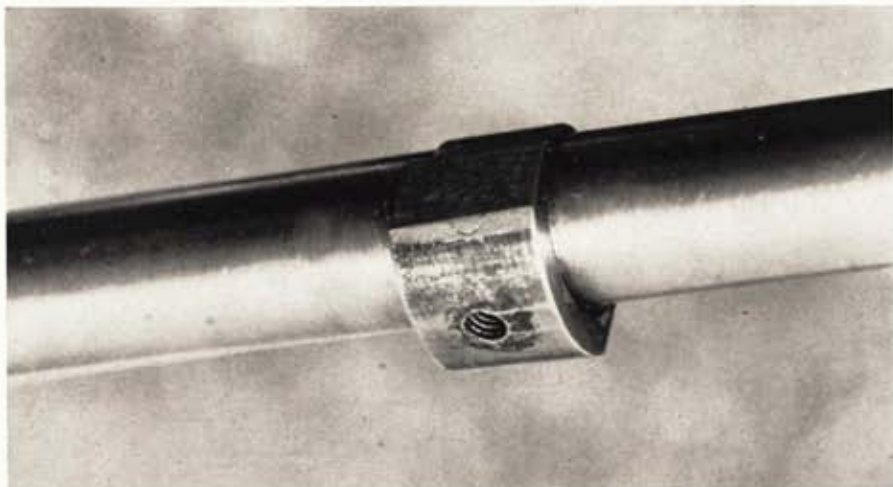
Supplementary recoil lug made as part of barrel with stock screw for forend attachment was found to be useful in avoiding splitting stocks from energy of big calibers.

bullet might pass entirely through one animal and wound a second. There was some difficulty in obtaining ammunition for this .505 in East Africa, and some old loads gave me two miss-fires while staring over the sights at a big surly bull about 60 yards away. While he was looking at that rattling commotion in the edge of the tall buffalo grass, I fished around in my pockets and found one fresh round of good stuff and dropped him in his tracks. There is now plenty of fresh ammunition available for the .505, and it is to be hoped this splendid gun will be around for a long time.

Our .505 muzzle brake had been in use for some time and seemed to be doing a good job, but there had been no way to put a yardstick on it. We really wanted to know what it was doing, in some sort of measurable terms. The problem seemed simple enough: just let it kick against something movable, with and without brake, and measure the movement. We set up our equipment accordingly, intent on studying the effect of this brake on this rifle and also of this and other brakes on other big bore rifles, both factory and wildcat.

Firing was into solid steel plates, and since steel penetration gives a good indication of velocity, it was relatively easy to arrive at proper powders and loads. Shooting into steel can be dangerous because of metal splash on impact, so our firing was done by remote control. Shots were fired also at wood blocks, backed up with steel to prevent stray bullets. Remote-control firing was accomplished by means of a string attached to the trigger.

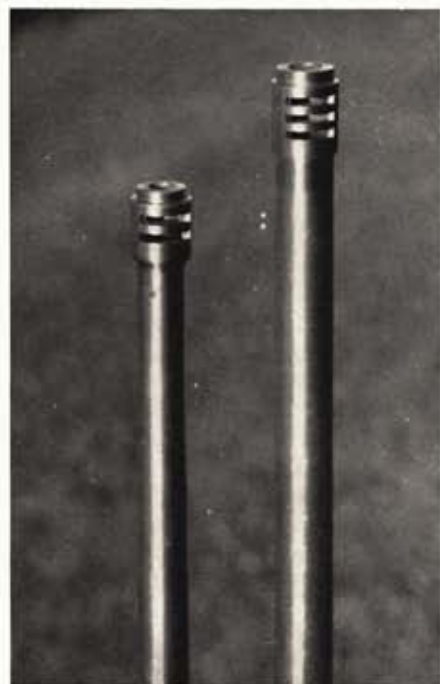
For testing a barrel with heavy overloads, we frequently use a special action made up by threading a collar all the way through, using the Mauser thread. This is screwed on the barrel breech, and a threaded plug containing



a firing pin is screwed in from the rear. This type of action was fired by means of a tap on the firing pin with a light mallet or, for the steel shooting, by plinking a .22 bullet, fired from a shielded position, onto a small steel plate leaning against the firing pin.

Thirty caliber was used to begin with, being cheaper to shoot and less noisy than a bigger bore. It would serve as well as anything in developing a properly working model of brake. Many different brakes were made up and tried, ranging from small diameter to large. We tried them with round holes and with slots, narrow-to-wide, one or several, slanted this way and that. We finally wound up with a decent looking gadget that was cutting the recoil of the .30-06 by about 50 per cent, and that was encouraging. The .375 came next and with about the same results. We seemed to be on the right track.

But these two calibers are of relatively high velocity. According to past theorizing, (Continued on page 52)



Two of most effective slot brakes used by Buhmiller in tests were little larger than the barrel diameter.

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GUN RACK



By H. Jay Erfurth

New F1-Star .45 Pistol

The affection which the American hand-gunner has for large caliber weapons is shared by his Spanish and Latin-American targeteering brothers. To supply our Spanish-speaking neighbors with *pistolas*, the Eibar firm of Bonifacio Echeverria has long turned out well made auto pistols of the basic Browning system with some changes in pattern. Their latest import, handled by Firearms International Corp., 6521 Kirby Hill Rd. S E, Washington 22, D.C., is the .45 model, almost identical to the .38 "Super Star" which is the Spanish service automatic. It is slightly larger through the frame and slide, to accommodate the larger barrel.

Slide takedown on the Star .45 is identical to the .45 Colt (Browning system) but there the resemblance ceases. The mainspring is contained in an arched and knurled part of the frame which is fixed, integral with the handle, and does not remove for disassembly. Instead, it is necessary to unscrew both grip plates (made from nicely grained and checkered walnut) and then turn the safety all the way to the low position. This low position cannot be reached with the left grip plate

screwed in place. With the thumb safety turned down, the left end of the hammer pin is exposed and the pin can be pushed out from the opposite side. This frees the hammer and its attached spring strut. Then the mainspring and cap or follower will come free.

The trigger is pinned to the frame, and can be removed by punching out the pin. But this is a "gunsmith" job and not to be done in field stripping. The trigger then removes with its related trigger bar which hits the sear. The trigger bar is single, and passes to the right of the magazine. The disconnecter, acted on by the slide in the same manner as the Colt, is in the right side of the frame and protected by the right grip plate. With trigger bar removed, the disconnecter bar can slide free.

Trigger linkage is on the side of the slide and frame for two reasons: First, it is less difficult to manufacture than the Colt type with the "U" bar trigger. Second, the Star pistol in Spain comes in a fully-automatic version which uses side-placed parts, simple flat metal additions, to convert the gun to full automatic firing. This conversion would be more difficult to make if the basic trigger-sear parts were literal copies of the established

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M1911 pattern. Since the gun is intended as a military and police service pistol, the full-auto feature was considered as desirable. Of course, the FI model imported and distributed in the U.S. is the standard semi-auto civilian model.

These differences make it a desirable model from the standpoint of the collector, since the big .45 pistols from Spain have never been



Star .45 automatic resembles standard army auto but has solid spring housing.

distributed here before the past couple of years. But they do not adversely affect its quite satisfactory shooting qualities.

The sights are fixed, military. But the rear one can be shifted with a punch for zeroing, and the front sight is a big, 1/8" blade that is very visible against the paper. The rear sight is a wide square notch, American style. Accuracy was good with this pistol at 20 yards. Several shooters tried it and the general consensus was "okay." Point of aim varied between two right handers and a left hander, but the deeply curved rear spur and checkered back made it a natural pointer.

Tricks in tightening up the standard army

.45 would work equally well with the big Star. Trigger pull was even and regular for the limited amount of shooting we gave it, about 7 pounds. This is not too heavy for a military pistol altho a little heavier than that liked for fine shooting. But on the plus side must be mentioned the little lump at the front of the grip frame which helps the hand get a constant hold, much like the similar shaping in custom grips for the regular .45. That together with the back of the frame and the sharply grooved trigger make the big Star feel right, and aid to its good shooting qualities. Firearms International retails this cannon for \$75.50 in a service blue finish.

Unusual Shooting Service

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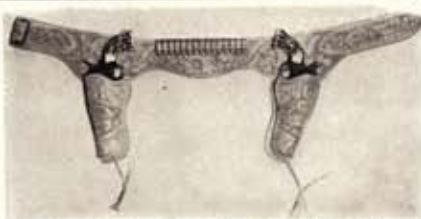
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SERVICING THE COLT REVOLVER

(Continued from page 31)

sure the bolt drops into all cuts correctly. "In reassembling the lock work," Goodwin commented as he pried off the sideplate with a screwdriver, "there are some places to watch for wear and damage." He picked up the L-shaped safety bar, slipped it into the slanting cut inside the frame. "Be sure it works freely," he said, "and do the same with the safety lever. Hook the safety lever and safety bar together, and hook the other end over the pin on the off-side of the trigger. Slip all three parts into the gun, the safety lever over the hammer pin, and the trigger on its pin.

THEN insert the hammer and check firing pin protrusion. The pin should be round, not filed sharp, and should stick through the frame recoil plate .040" to .050". Replace the hand or pawl in the trigger, then the rebound lever and its pin. Flip the rebound lever several times to make sure the bolt operates over the cam on the inside edge of the rebound lever. Then hook the mainspring back into place, oil with a few drops on pins and surfaces, and work the action, checking alignment of barrel and cylinder with a steel range rod slightly less than bore diameter. The parts of the lock should also be polished on contact surfaces with No. 320 Aloxite cloth, then wiped clean and lightly oiled, before reassembly.

As he clicked the revolver, the cylinder moved but not enough to lock briskly into position. "When the bolt will not lock the cylinder in place, the gun is out of time," he noted, pulling the hand out of the trigger and letting the rebound lever snap down. "The hand must be drawn out a few thousandths by peening gently with a cross peen hammer on the narrow part of the hand just ahead of the post, the relief cut for the rebound lever. It should only be hit on the narrow portion, not on the thick end, nor on front or back.

"The peen marks should be removed with

a file," Goodwin said, explaining that if the hand is peened too much, the gun will creep, throw by, or hit the bolt with such force that the stop slots become burred. If this happens, the cure lies in filing only one part of the hand, the lower contact point. The upper point just starts the cylinder rotating, the second point completes it on each cocking motion.

"Check the several contact points on the ratchet by working the cylinder around once," Goodwin explained as he turned the cylinder carefully. "You will find, perhaps, one ratchet lug where the hand works the cylinder just right. If not, file the bottom point of the hand until it cocks freely on one chamber. Then file individual contact points on the ratchet to conform to this, trying to get the action on each chamber uniform."

What bothered me in watching the Colt mechanic's movements with the gun, was the seemingly effortless way in which he pried up the sideplate by inserting a screwdriver at the back edge, bearing on the rebound lever. "Doesn't this burr the sideplate fitting?" I queried.

"Yes, if done incorrectly," he replied. "But watch this as I do it slowly. See, after the sideplate screws are removed, I pry up the back edge gently, to raise it about 1/4"; then tap the frame lightly and this loosens the plate without burring the front edge. You can hold the gun upside down and hit the grip frame to jar the plate loose, but in production work, this takes too much time. I've been hammering guns like this since I started assembling .45 revolvers at Colt's in 1916. In 1935 I transferred to the custom repair department, after going through about every phase of gun fitting. There I was a cost estimator. You tend to get the hang of it after a little while."

Goodwin showed me that the two most important tools of the gun fitter were the rawhide mallet and a clean file. "If minor adjustment won't clean up cylinder or ratchet

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trouble, for instance," Goodwin said, "we have to file-fit a new part, either just a new ratchet, or a whole new cylinder.

"The well in the back face of the cylinders is a finished dimension, but the ratchets are purposely left deeper, with more stock on them than needed, so we can clean them up to fit. Like this," he cautioned as he took up a new cylinder with ratchet fitted, and assembled it on a stripped crane for another revolver. "The crane is already polished and blued to match a particular revolver," he said swinging it out so I could see the duplicate serial numbers stamped on the matching flats of the two parts. "Notice that even with the sideplate off, this new cylinder doesn't fit closed in the old frame. The new ratchet is too long. At the factory we use circular file gauges like this one, which slip over the ratchets and prevent the workmen from cutting too much away, but a gunsmith could exercise care and get the same results if he is a good man with a file." Briskly he began to file across the bright steel ring, cutting the ratchet star on the back face with smooth, even strokes. After a few cuts, he slipped the crane into the frame and tried to close the cylinder. It was tight, but could be shoved closed. Then, upending the gun in his left hand, Goodwin picked up his rawhide mallet and hit the front frame corner hard, several times, while rotating the cylinder around between thumb and finger.

"This eases up the tight fit, as you can see," he said, "and allows the cylinder freedom to rotate, yet minimum clearance at the back. If too much metal is taken from the ratchet, the cylinder will be loose on its bearings.

"This can be also corrected," he went on, "by rolling the front of the cylinder collar to stretch the metal slightly. In case a cylinder is loose on a used gun, correcting the play may involve rolling the collar. This has a front bearing surface that pushes against the crane, and throws the cylinder to the rear. If the gun is a used one, the

operation will increase clearance between barrel and cylinder face, which is bad. But if a new barrel is to be fitted, the barrel may reduce the clearance. It's all a matter of fitting to meet the parts you will be using."

Pointing to the ratchet on the new cylinder, Goodwin touched four star-shaped nicks inside, where ratchet and ejector rod were punched together. "Sometimes this junction of ratchet and rod will wear loose and punching it again is necessary to fix rod and ratchet together," he explained. "The two little cuts on opposite prongs of the ratchet should match their respective pegs in the cylinder face, so that extraction is easy after shooting, and so the cylinder turning motion has a minimum of play."

SIDE play at the rear of the cylinder is also important, as it may indicate wear inside the ratchet cut where the cylinder latch pin bears. A new ratchet or a new pin may be needed in this case. Trying the new pin first may tighten up the movement.

"Uncomplicated as the pin may appear, some fitting is often needed to get an easy motion of the cylinder latch and thumb piece in the sideplate. The spring should have good tension, and the little spring plug or follower must be there for easy operation. At the factory we have these tiny plungers by the hundreds of thousands in stock room pans. But in the field I have made emergency plugs by snipping the head off a pin. It isn't essential to latch operation but it makes the latch work easier."

If a new thumb piece is to be fitted, the thumbpiece tracks or grooves must be filed, not the thin sideplate section, Goodwin cautioned. He pointed out that the back of the thumb piece groove should be rounded so the piece will have maximum movement. "Otherwise you may get the sideplate assembled and find you can't release the latch pin enough to swing the cylinder out," he said. "The small pin that joins thumb latch and cylinder pin may have to be

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shortened a little—it all depends on the amount of wear in, for example, the original latch piece," the Colt serviceman continued. "Here, an examination of the parts you have to work with will show which have to be filed or polished. To tighten thumb latch motion, and prevent it from rocking and binding, the bottom curved flat can be peened slightly along both groove edges. This peening is inside the gun and not seen when assembled. But it will tighten up a rocking latch. The spring should always be in place when checking latch movement."

"Then it seems that much of the work in making a Colt revolver, whether factory new or repairing, is hand work?" I asked. "Yes," Goodwin said, "and one of the advantages of Colt's 'soft fitting,' as we call it, is that an old Colt can be repaired by a man who knows what he is doing, without even having to replace a part." Goodwin himself is the leading example of the man "who knows what he is doing."

From 1940 until 1956, Arnold Goodwin was foreman of the assembly department at Colt's. Under his supervision, production of .45 Colt automatic pistols for the army increased from 11,500 a month in 1941 to 25,000 a month three months later. This production rate was continued under great difficulties until the end of the war. Then in

July, 1956, Goodwin became foreman of the Custom Repair Department.

For the past eight years "Goodie," has visited thousands of shooters at all the major pistol matches. As Colt's representative, he has repaired free of charge the target shooters' Colts, replacing parts as needed. But with the skill of a sculptor in coaxing a Colt to do what he wants, Goodwin has used far fewer parts than might have been needed by a less talented mechanic.

Displaying the insides of a Colt revolver is also part of the lecture he has given to many engineering groups throughout New England, where he has talked on Colt guns. As props for these informal discussions he uses some of the early pistols such as the famous Model 1851 Navy, a revolver almost identical in mechanical design to the current popular Single Action .45, plus a complete display of current double action and automatic Colt guns.

"It always amuses me," Goodie smiled, "when some one at these talks points out that Sam Colt pioneered in mass production and interchangeable manufacturing, yet Colt guns today, as they were when Sam Colt was making them, have a large amount of hand-work in them to make them shoot right. A Colt revolver is not a 'hand made gun,' but is certainly a hand-finished gun."

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(Continued from page 27)

or you can be stuck with a clunker. A used gun can look good as new outside, be n. g. for shooting because of barrel wear or inner defect. On the other hand, a piece scarred and worn of finish may be a prize in disguise. Unless you know guns pretty thoroughly, or unless you are guided by someone who does know them, you can be "had" in the used gun market. But there are some easy checks that can help even the novice to avoid the obvious booby traps.

FIRST, for shooting shotguns avoid those with damascus or twist barrels. With modern loads, such guns are dangerous. And not even handloading with black powder is always safe, because the steel and iron may have interior rust weakening the tubes.

If the barrels are nitro-steel and the bore looks smooth, unpitted, bright—look closer. Run a stiff brush, tight patch, or swab through the barrels to wipe out any oil or shoe polish that may be giving the surface that bright sheen. If the shine comes off, leaving a pitted or otherwise damaged bore, reject it. If the bore still looks good—

Snap off the forend and, with the barrel closed against the breech, hold stock and barrel solidly and try to wiggle them. This will reveal hinge-pin wear, apt to be found especially on 12 gauge guns and magnums. Trap and skeet guns show their age here, too, because of the amount of shooting they get. Such guns can be fitted with new pins which makes them as solid as new. Old guns can also be peened on the locking lugs or doll's head to make them close up tightly.

Check to see if this has been done. Properly done, this repair may be satisfactory. But if the job was done just to pass a casual inspection, the gun may shoot loose again very quickly.

Look for erosion and corrosion around the firing pin holes in the breech. Snap the firing pins and see if they are worn sharp and likely to punch a primer, thus letting gas into the action which may spurt out into your eyes or may blow up the gun. Firing pins should fit the pin holes neatly, with no burring, and the pins should be rounded at the tips.

Next, cock the gun and hit the butt sharply several times with the palm of your hand. If you can jar the hammer down, the gun has a worn hammer or sear which could cause an accidental discharge. In the case of a double, the shock of recoil can cause a gun with this fault to fire both barrels.

Check stock and forend for line cracks which may betray repaired breaks. Such repairs, if really well done, can last for years. But you should buy the gun with the knowledge that a new stock costing from \$35 to \$200 may be needed.

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smooth surface. Bright receivers indicate much use, warn you to look at locking lugs, firing pins, bores, and all working parts for signs of excessive wear.

Some guns have locks which lift off. Detachable lock guns may be bought at prices from \$85 to \$1850, FOB the factory in Europe. To the uninitiated, they look pretty much alike. But a few details mean the difference between a long-wearing heirloom gun and something that gets dumped in the used gun ads.

ENGINE turning, for example, is a form of decoration on the bright steel parts inside many high-priced guns, finished in overlapping circles. These hold oil the way contour ploughing holds water, resisting rust and stain through the years. Cheap gun makers copy the engine turning to make the casual buyer assume he is handling a quality gun. But there are some points of quality to watch in these foreign jobs, especially in the \$100 to \$300 class.

European guns are not always the best guns possible to make for the money. I examined several magnificently engraved foreign shotguns recently which bore a famous name and good engraving. But mechanically they were very poor. Examining the side plates, I could see that the pins on which the lock mechanism turned did not fit snugly into the holes in the lock plates. As the guns were opened, cocked, and snapped, the pins rotated as the hammers fell and twitched sideways in their bearing holes. This was not a poor design, but just inexcusably bad workmanship. The guns were made with lots of fancy engraving and cheap workmanship to pass off on an uncritical American shooting public. Curiously, this maker was known for good-quality guns of other types. But the same shotguns would not have passed a

critical buyer, and at the prices asked, anyone would get critical.

While European gunmakers rank from makers of constant fine quality to cheap trash, American gunmakers are in a transition stage where modern manufacturing systems are allowing production of quality at a price. Design and production are geared to turning out reliable, safe guns, which often give the appearance of "quality" without the expensive handwork formerly necessary to achieve this goal. In the rush to turn out competitive guns which sell at fair prices, American manufacturers have been pushed into a race to sell more and better guns for less money. One producer has combined costly engineering with low-cost production in their newest lines of rifles and shotguns. Trigger groups which do not take the force of the explosion are cast in one piece in an intricate and ridiculously cheap piece of tough aluminum. Steel sleeves line the holes where pins pass through to tie this unit into the frame. Then the frame, with its simple, wide surfaces, is inexpensive to polish. Thus the maker can afford to give extra attention to that lustrous, frosty "rust blue" typical of their line. Another manufacturer has done some clever cutting of corners, by using non-stressed yet virtually unbreakable Nylon as a trigger guard and clip magazine housing. Replacing older, tremendously ingenious masterpieces of expensive machining, these new guns permit the company to offer rifles at prices people can afford to pay. The net result is that their .22 autoloaders, for example, have beautifully polished flat receiver sides in a high blue finish, and the guns sell for under \$40.

In buying a second-hand or custom made rifle, the inletting, that junction of wood and metal, is a thing to watch. Remove wood from metal and check the wood for stain, the

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metal for rust. Even excellent inletting can leak, and water between wood and metal, if left untended, can cause problems. Moisture freezing there can throw the gun completely off its normal point of aim; rust can weaken parts, foul up actions. Sloppy barrel-to-stock tolerances can be cured by packing with commercial "glass bedding" plastic-like compounds—and this you had better do if you're buying an "outdoor" rifle for use in all kinds of weather.

Wear in a rifle shows up in two places: in the bore and in the mechanical motion of the action. Bore wear is difficult to spot unless it is exaggerated. Erosion will show up as a shadow at the chamber throat. A ringed barrel, one that will foul up and cause persistent fliers and finally complete inaccuracy, makes an egg bulge seen by glancing along the barrel outside, and a circular shadow in the bore. If you buy this one, figure in the cost of a new barrel.

A rusty-barreled rifle is another name for trouble, but sometimes you may be pleasantly surprised, and your rusty "bargain" will clean out. I once bought a finely engraved lever action "wild west" .44-40 as a collector's item, but decided I wanted to shoot it. I wrapped a wire brush in coarse steel wool and started to scrub the rusted bore. Clouds of rusty "smoke" hazed the air every time the brush popped from breech and muzzle. After hours of scrubbing with steel wool, I wiped the barrel dry, and found an almost perfect tube! Rifling was shiny, sharp and clear. There was not a mark of pitting except two tiny dents near the muzzle.

A worn action can be shown up by using a headspace gauge. Excess headspace is caused by bolt set-back against receiver locking surfaces. Loose headspace affects accuracy. Too much headspace may cause a blown-up gun if the cartridge case ruptures when not supported solidly.

This set-back may be from bolt lug wear, or receiver wear. If a shot-out, unserviceable rifle is restored to service simply by sticking in a new barrel, trouble may be the result instead of fun. Headspace is important, even in newly-barreled guns, and should not exceed factory limits.

Lever guns wear at the bolt flat where the locking block seats, on locking block at front and rear, and on the frame where the locking block finally bears when closed. One motion rubs all these contact surfaces. Lever guns are often bought by men who use them constantly, and it is little wonder they may show excess headspace and be called "unsafe" for the bigger calibers. Wear in these spots must be checked before buying a used lever rifle.

Checking scopes and sights is a school course in itself. A used scope should pass "new scope" inspection, or it is no bargain.

Revolvers and auto pistols can be tricky items to buy. Shooters who want to get the very most for the money find a matched set of pistols is a sound investment. To enjoy target competition and know just how you stack up against others, you must fire match scores in .22, "centerfire" and .45 calibers. You can use a .45 in the "centerfire" course but you won't win many match aggregates that way.

YEARs ago "experts" said that beginners should "start with a single shot because it's safer." But you won't find a single-shot target handgun in the market today. If you should discover one of the beautiful match tipping-barrel pistols for sale, it is usually priced as a collector's item. But the .22 automatics can be handled just as safely. By loading the clip with only one shot and using the slide stop release to drop the slide, the beginner has the safety of a single-loader and gradually gets used to handling a

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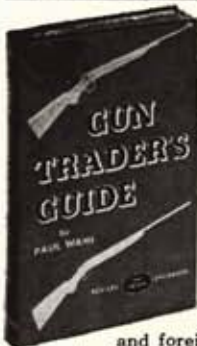
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a "good" gun. Polish should be even and regular, with no scratches. Scratches in the finish come from dirt, contaminating the factory polishing wheels. The surface of a flat-side auto pistol will be like glass when viewed edgewise, but may have deep lines where the dirty polishing wheel cut through the fine, even, finishing cut. Some guns are brightly polished, mirror-finished, and this finish costs a premium. You have a right to demand a finish that is a premium finish, not simply one buffed to put a gloss on it and "hide" the scratches.

Some handguns have a much duller finish, but a good-looking one. The dull-cut polish, done with coarser polishing grit, makes a satiny surface and gives a rich look of quality machining without the high-gloss buff. This finish should also be free from scratches. And whether gloss or satin polish, the filing marks at trigger guard edges, and where the grip frame curves into the lock frame, should all be polished off.

Some of the cheaper revolvers and automatics use sandblasting to give a dull, even, pebbled surface to steel or light-alloy frames. Here clever engineering has mated with good design to produce a mechanically fine gun at a low price. For low cost the beginning shooter can indulge his hobby. There are three price brackets in handguns, and the extent of hand-finishing controls the price bracket. For the \$30 to \$50 class, you get a serviceable gun, often in sand-blasted light alloy or dull-out polished steel. For slightly more, the \$60 to \$80 class, guns have target sights, fine satin blue, smooth actions. From \$80 to \$140, the shooter gets adjustable target sights, target grips, and extra hand-finishing. This means brilliant surface polish

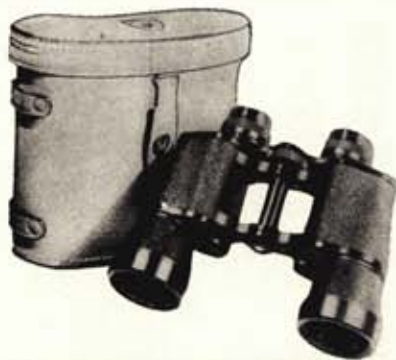
and interior hand-adjusting for constant sear break-off or smooth trigger pull, as in double action revolvers.

When clicking a revolver, hold your other hand on the cylinder, to retard its rolling. As the hammer falls, the stop or bolt should have dropped into the notch on the side of the cylinder to hold it in line. Some guns are adjusted to drop the bolt before the slot comes into line. In fast double action firing the cylinder will be held and not throw-by. These revolvers have a scarred line on the cylinder surface from one stop-slot to the next. A revolver timed so the bolt drops during rotation, is a worn revolver or badly timed. If used, it is a bad buy because it needs adjusting; if new, it is a bad buy because it means factory inspection passed a revolver which has too-early lock timing. Such a new gun will wear so that it does not unlock at all when the trigger is pulled, and jam. But a revolver that is timed too late is even worse, and may be dangerous. If it is clicked suddenly, the cylinder may run beyond the point where the firing pin will bust a cap. A missfire may mean disaster when attacked by a wild animal, or for a police officer in a gun fight. To be acceptable, a revolver should lock into place whether clicked very slow, or as fast as it can be triggered—and this goes for new or used handguns.

Some of us are a little nuttier about guns than others, and what one man likes is poison to another. But we all agree, guns are fun. Smart shopping, looking carefully and having a good idea of what you want, and why you want it, will lead straight to the very real bargains in guns made and sold today, and a bargain in fun from using them.

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HANDLOADING BENCH

By KENT BELLAH

Is expensive equipment really necessary to enjoy handloading as a hobby? I've loaded ammo using tools valued from hundreds of dollars to nothing at all. Extreme precision and uniformity are important points, but let's see what tools are necessary.

When I was a youngster in the mid-1930's and had the best equipment available at that time, I met an old river rat who practically made a living with a .32-20 Winchester rifle. The old man loaded his own ammo, and his equipment had a cash value of less than \$1.

The only store-bought item was an ancient and rusty bullet mould. Lead was melted in a 4" pipe cap in the fireplace. An old table-spoon served as a dipper. "Dies" were simple holes drilled in a piece of scrap iron to size bullets and case necks and to crimp the case mouth. He tapped a case in a hole to size the neck, tapped a bearing ball on the mouth as an expander and punched out primers with an ice pick. New primers were pressed home

by brute strength, holding a rod in the case. Was the ammo good? Not very. It was effective because the old gent was a hunter, rather than a marksman, and he seldom fired at game more than 25 yards away.

My conclusion is, and I've proved it, that a large investment is not necessary to reload superior ammo. Yet a moderate amount of equipment is desirable for both uniformity and reasonable speed. Either beginner or expert can start with top-notch tools costing under \$50 for one caliber. Adding other calibers is not expensive. Such tools positively will load superior ammo fast and easily.

A good scale is a "must" and will give more than a lifetime of use. One with rider weights and hydraulic damper reduces weighing time by more than 50 per cent. The Webster RW-1 and Redding scales are this type. Add one of the time-tested "C" presses such as C-H or Pacific Standard, complete with dies, and you have the initial outfit in

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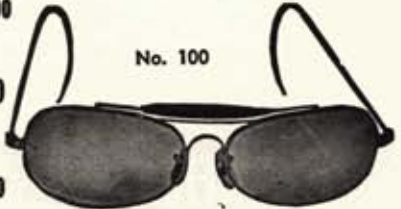


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the forty dollar class. A powder measure is a convenience to speed up loading, and can be added any time, but a novice will do well to weigh all charges for a while.

The little Ideal tong tools loaded much good ammo long ago, and are still used to some extent. They are rather slow to use and may discourage reloading. They have two attractive features: low price and compactness. I suggest starting with a good bench tool using standard $\frac{7}{8}$ x 14 thread dies, with power for full length resizing.

The man who is willing to spend over \$50 for an outfit has a selection of tools that will make your head swim. I do not believe the higher priced tools will do better routine reloading than the "C" types mentioned. Some are slightly slower to operate, and some are slightly faster. Some do heavier operations easier. Best way to make a selection is to try several models at your dealer. These come in various makes and models.

Lyman has two new "C" type presses, the All-American Comet and Turret that will work on either the up or down stroke. The Senior Hollywood is a down-stroke "C" frame. The Super Pacific is a beefed-up model of their Standard tool. Dunbar makes a heavy weight "H" frame that holds two dies. The C-H Precision Magnum is an extra heavy duty "H" frame with a single center die that gives perfect alignment, and ground and chromed uprights for wear resistance. A popular combination loading tool and bullet swaging press is the heavy-duty RCBS Model A with an "O" frame. It works on either the up or down stroke, and swages all calibers of bullets. The lighter

(Continued on page 66)

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BULLETS FOR VARMINTS

(Continued from page 15)

ner's cannon was ready. It had three physical characteristics which, in the .270 caliber he had fixed upon, seemed startling but which proved the exact ticket for the game:

Built on a Mauser action, it had a barrel with only slightly more personality than a crow-bar. Its total weight was 11 pounds without sights. And it had a 14-inch rifling twist. By now, gunsmith Ian Dingwall of Vancouver had made a name for himself as a builder of rifles that never left his hands until they shot tightly puckered groups. He chambered this plump, stiff Ackley barrel and—wow! This was before the National Bench Rest Shooters Association was rolling, but groups of less than one-half-inch at 100 yards are good anytime out of a .270. Then, they looked like magic. That rifle seemed positively bewitched when pointed at a groundhog or a crow.

SIMILAR evolution, I have since found, was staking place among my acquaintances. Fellows like Harry Estlin, then living at far northern Prince George in the heart of coyote and crow country, local skeet and trapshooting stars Jack Robertson and Len Parker, and John Garrett, one of the province's great duck hunters, all find relaxation and spend plenty vermin hunting.

These men weren't working on just theory and range practice, or at coffee bull sessions. All were, and are, taking advantage of their residence near an area where yellow-bellied marmots are plentiful and offer made to order long shots. Most of these men got rolling before I did, back in the days when we all coveted a Winchester Hi-Sidewall or Farquharson single-shot action, and talked about .22 Lovells and .22-250's as THE vermin cartridges. Some still keep their pet .22's polished, but they've pretty well settled upon .25's and .270's in one form or another, or the new 6 mm calibers.

Robertson has a lightweight Winchester .243. Garrett has tried and likes the .257, and the .25-706 in particular, much more than any .22. Estlin went whole-hog and used the .300 Magnum in target version for several seasons. Of course, he was in wilderness country where one seldom need worry too much about ricochets or adequate backstops. Estlin even used vermin hunting tactics on big game with his 180-grain and 150-grain slugs splitting the air at 3000-3500 feet per second and retaining velocities 'way out there as no .22 ever could.

Partner Rushton and I haven't hunted with a 6 mm, either the Winchester or Remington versions, but we hardly need to. The "paper" characteristics of those calibers in the heavier bullets tell us that they will shoot flatter and buck more wind than will any factory-loaded .22, and will match Rushton's .270 with either 100- or 110-grain bullet. So a 6 mm will be my next rifle, soon I hope. It's the first factory-made tool that caters to long-range varmint hunters, whether they want such a tool heavy or light. Some like the Remington at about nine pounds. Others, like me, prefer the Winchester because it can be bought in the target version, either with heavy barrel or bull barrel.

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PAT. PEND.

I won't try to give measurements or statistics that will explain why the larger calibers like the 6 mm, the .25's, and the .270's are better, except to point out that even a 55-grain .22 bullet lacks the wind-bucking characteristics of the .270 slug. Rushton, incidentally, is having a .22 made up for his daughter and as a spare or just to own a different caliber. But, even there, he has gone to a 12-inch instead of the conventional 14-inch rifling twist and will chamber the rifle for the improved Zipper, to use only the long, long 63-grain bullet—sectional density being the prime requisite.

Here, then, are a few conclusions we've reached which we feel are irrefutable, based on plenty of shooting under all conditions from crow and seal shooting in comparatively still coastal air to the dry, bright, very windy ranges of the interior dry belt region of this province, where magpies, more crows, gophers, and groundhogs (or rock-chucks) live.

Most important in a vermin rifle is flat shooting; not just a high muzzle velocity but retained high velocity. A bullet that is long for its diameter (high sectional density) performs better even at moderate velocities (3000 feet per second or over) because it yields this "carry-up." A short, light bullet doesn't do this, even at much higher initial velocity. The long bullet bucks wind better.

SPECIFICALLY, a 110-grain .270 bullet or an 80-grain 6 mm bullet starts out much slower than a 48- or 50-grain .220 Swift or Zipper bullet, but the larger calibers stay on course noticeably better in windy weather and shoot flatter at extreme ranges.

In 300-yard shooting, just a moderate range for rock-chucking around Kamloops, with a

cross-wind of 15 miles per hour, in places where we could spot misses by dust puffs or rock splashes, we have seen my 50-grain Zipper bullets blown as much as two groundhog widths off course with careful shots from sandbag rests. Yet the .270 required no hold-off in the same situation. The latter at worst plunks bullets into the edge of the target.

On several occasions we've been able to set up sand bags in a comfortable spot well off the road, along the talus slopes where one gets targets among the rocks of from 100 to 600 yards, or even more if it were possible to make them. We've made several kills, some on the first try, at those ranges with the .270. These barrel-straining shots have proven just too much for my .22 Zipper.

Though a few vermin hunters are toying with extremely lightweight versions, such as the lightweight Winchester model 70 in .243, we feel that, while it's a useful model because the .243 is also a good deer and pronghorn caliber, it won't stack up with the heavier version of the same model, which is far easier to score with on vermin.

Any competitive target shooter knows how a rifle's point of impact moves around under different holding conditions. Well, many a vermin shot is made from hurried, uncomfortable positions, so the less affected, heavier rifle can't fail to perform more consistently.

Barrel weight has a similar importance. Many a light barrel will group like a bench-rest rifle—on the bench and if carefully bedded. But the heavier irons seem to retain a more consistent point of impact from day to day or month to month, and are certainly less affected by climatic changes that affect the stresses and strains in the rifle's furniture. The big .270 we use seldom re-

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quires re-sighting. My Zipper, and especially my Hornet, are as touchy as an old ground-hog on a cool day.

Starting from scratch, here is how I would order a varmint:

I would choose almost any cartridge case (or chamber). That is a feature long since proven unimportant except as to volume. But, whether the cartridge is to be 6 mm, .25, .270, 7 mm, or even a .30, the barrel should be ordered in a fast twist, for the longest bullet one can drive at well over 3000 feet per second.

I would choose a heavy, straight-taper barrel of not less than .75 inches at the muzzle diameter, not less than 24 inches long. Barrel and action are better bedded in glass, though a careful, snug bedding job right in walnut is hard to beat. The rifle should weigh more than ten pounds without sights. A stock of standard dimensions will result in this weight with the barrel recommended above.

THERE are just two stock-design characteristics I've found important and which are not usually on rifles: a comb so high one must cheek it snugly like a trapshooting shotgun or a target rifle, even if the comb has to be notched at the front corner for bolt removal, this with scope sight of course; and a flat underside on the fore-end, somewhat like a modified bench-rest rifle.

Any good varmint rifle with heavy barrel should be so accurate that only the best scope sight, of not less than eight power, will yield its full potential. We tried lesser sights but, particularly on the big .270, we feel handicapped by lack of light gathering power and definition and by the common occurrence in cheap scopes of parallax in

the reticule. Now we're using Unertl Vultures in 10-power and feel we've at last found a sight that is better than the rifle. Any good target scope would do, too, though we'd keep the magnification under 15-power to retain some width of field. We just like the shorter, vermin type scope, in dehorned mounts, because it has less overhang at the ends and is therefore less delicate in transport and while getting into action quickly.

Finally, after this rifle has been built around the correct long, heavy bullet, one should stick to the one weight and make of bullet, once an accurate load has been worked up. Amazing records of consistence and accuracy are then just a matter of course.

What caliber of bullet would I choose? If I wanted to stay with a factory rifle—an important point when considering re-sale value—it would have to be Winchester .243 because the rifle comes in a target weight. If I chose a custom job, it would be the standard .270 chamber but with a 14-inch twist, or a 6 mm.

If I sought the absolute best, with no regard for barrel life, I'd pick a .257 Weatherby or the .25-06, both on the .30-06 case, or the .270 Weatherby or new .244 Holland & Holland, the latter two on the .300 H. & H. case.

The reason most frequently given, other than the negligible saving in cost, for confining oneself to a .22 of any type, is the noise feature, the smaller caliber being somewhat quieter. But I have yet to see the occasion where a touchy farmer or other citizen would be less alarmed at the sharp, startling snap of a hot .22 than he would at the loud pow! of a .270—particularly if he hates varmints as most farmers do!

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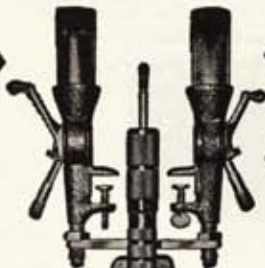
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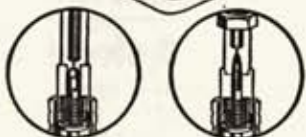
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MUZZLING THE WILDCATS

(Continued from page 34)

they should respond to the action of a muzzle brake better than the heavier bullets at lower velocities in the larger bores. These larger bores are the ones that put out the most punishing recoil, and if a muzzle brake will not provide a worth while amount of relief there, the whole project might as well be thrown overboard. Theory can be wrong. We know best when we can see a practical demonstration of the answer. A study of brakes on the .378 Weatherby and .458 Winchester seemed in order.

THE .458, using 70 grains of 3031 powder and a 500 grain bullet, recoiled seven inches with brake and 12 inches without. That is taking off almost one half of the kick, and that is a big slug at moderate velocity. Oddly, my first impression on firing this gun from the shoulder was that the powder was not properly burning, as the recoil was so mild. A .450 magnum, using 90 grains of 4320 and a 500 gr. bullet, showed 11 inches with, and 17 inches without the brake. That 11 inches is still very mild for such a load.

Winchester's .458 has stirred up a lot of interest in the .45 caliber. Now shooters everywhere are conjuring up excuses to build or otherwise acquire one of these brush cutters. They can be used for deer hunting, and for elk, moose, and bear. Since the .458 is a shortened case, a standard .30-06 action is long enough to take it, rendering it a simple job in gunsmithing to make one up. This short case is loaded with a 500 grain bullet to give velocity and power comparable with the usual run of big bore cordite express cartridges, such as the .450, .465, .470, etc. It may be equally powerful, but laid beside a .475 No. 2 it looks puny, is an inch shorter. Thus, its appearance will not sell it to some African hunters who put great stock in a cartridge of imposing size. However, we who study ballistics know that a large cartridge may be equalled by a smaller one that is loaded to higher pressure.

A friend in East Africa has been using a .458 rifle we sent him by air in July, in response to an urgent appeal. The "varmints," as he called them, referring to beasts a ton or more in weight, were about to take his crops. He writes now that this .458 seems to equal

the .470 on buffalo and elephant; that a soft point properly placed in the shoulder puts a buffalo down on the spot, where the same shot with a .375 lets them go 200 or 300 yards, which can be costly.

For those who may wish to use the full length magnum case in the .458, it is suggested that the chamber may be lengthened to take this longer cartridge. Such a chamber will handle either the .458 cartridge or the full length magnum. The magazine will need to be lengthened also. Better still, use a Brevex magnum action which will take five cartridges plus one in chamber. This chamber will permit use of factory loads if your wildcat or hand loads get lost or are used up.

When Weatherby announced the .378 case, it was interesting news for the big bore experimenters. The .378 case is a durable one. The brass is very heavy, will stand considerable overloading without much sign of excessive pressure. This means that reasonable loads will give long case life. A charge of 107 grains 4350 powder is said to give about 3200 feet per second with a 270 grain bullet, at less than 50,000 pounds pressure and over 6,000 foot-pounds energy. The only bullets available for testing at this time broke up too much in wood and lacked proper penetration, but penetrated 3/4" steel plate. Recoil is moderate, compared with other arms of anywhere near the power, and accuracy very good. There is power and accuracy for a long range elk, moose, or bear rifle. A fine cartridge in its own right, the .378 also makes an interesting case for "improving."

That case of heavy brass with great powder capacity was just asking to be made into something big, like Rigby's .416 caliber. The .416 Rigby, long a favorite in Africa, has never caught on here. Cartridges are hard to find in the U. S., outrageously expensive, and Berdan primers discourage handloading. But this .378 case can be made into a .416 by turning off the base belt and shoving it into a .416 sizing die. RCBS has the dies. The .378-.416 case then takes American primers for easy reloading.

Experienced hunters agree the .416 makes one of the world's best magazine rifles for heavy game. An 80 grain load of 4320 pow-

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Velocity	3100	2927	2757	2593	2433	2278	2130
Energy	3411	3039	2698	2385	2104	1844	1612
Trajectory	x	.1	1.6	4.4			

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der behind a 400 grain Barnes heavy jacket bullet will about duplicate factory loads, and with a muzzle brake it is accurate and pleasant to shoot. Or 90 to 100 grains 4320 can be used for more power, as can up to 110 grains 4350 if desired. These top loads will give power far beyond the regular figures for this gun.

The next logical step with the .378 case is to open it up to .45 caliber. It will take all the big loads you wanted to use in the .450 magnum but couldn't get into the shell. The case is big and requires the Brevex magnum action. Three cartridges in the magazine and one in the chamber make four lethal shots which can be very comforting.

When this case is opened up to a larger caliber, it really comes into its own. The .416 has been mentioned. As a large .45 it can rival the famous .505 Gibbs in power, with the further advantage of a variety of bullets, 400, 500 and 600 grain weight, with heavy jackets that will penetrate and smash bones. When loaded with a top load of 4350 and the 500 or 600 grain bullets, with heavy jackets as made by Barnes, it should be adequate for any game in the world. Exactly 100 grains of 4320 and a 400 grain bullet is mild on the shoulder, and beautifully accurate in a scope sighted rifle. The thick-jacket soft-points are literally turned inside out when fired into wood, although they hardly open up in wood at the standard 2150 feet per second velocity. This load could be fired prone for a long shot at buffalo, and should be effective. Buffalo range is often eaten down to short grass which would allow lying-down shooting, but a prone shot is just not being done with a big double. Sitting? Maybe, but those open iron sights on a double are no match for a scope sighted chuck rifle, large edition, which is what this .45 is with a Weaver 2½ power scope, with long eye relief; Pike mounts, the genuine by Pike himself, instantly detachable; and iron sights ready for close work.

There are various loads that work well in this .45, ranging from light to the heaviest. When a wounded buffalo goes into brush or tall grass, you are required to finish him off, thus removing a menace to life and limb for the next hunter or native that happens along. The 600 grain bullet with plenty of 4350 powder should be very suitable for this job. For a light load, 3031 powder pushing a 400

grain bullet can be used, giving mild recoil, and sufficient power for a variety of the more common big game. However, due to the size of the case, ordinary primers will give numerous miss- and hangfires. Federal primers, size 215, should be used, and will entirely eliminate this trouble. They are obtainable only from Weatherby. The makers issue a warning that these primers *must not* be used in cases smaller than magnums, as a powder charge in a small case may be detonated by their use.

Relative Recoil of Big Bore Wildcats

Caliber	Powder weight (grains) & type	Bullet (grains)	Braked Recoil (inches)	Unbraked Recoil (inches)
.30-06	Nati Match	172 BT	1¼	2½
.300 H&H Mag	Western Ctg	180	1¾	3¾
.375 H&H	68-4064	300	4½	7¼
.378 Wby	100-4350	285	6	12
.416	80-4320	400	7	13
.416	110-4350	400	11½	13
.458 WCF	70-3031	500	7	12
.450 Mag	90-4320	500	11	17
.378-45	100-4320	400	11	17
.378-45	100-4350	500	13	23
.378-45	110-4350	500	18	31
.378-45	105-4350	600	20	32
.505 Gibbs	90-Cordite	625	21	27

In our kick-meter, the .378 opened up to .45 caliber with a heavy load of 4350 and 500 grain bullet gave 15 inches recoil with brake, 24 inches without. This load penetrated cleanly a ¾" steel plate, indicating high velocity for so heavy a slug. It seemed amazing that a huge 500 grain bullet could be given that velocity without heavy recoil.

With the 600 grain bullet and a full load of 105 grains 4350, the .378-45 showed the greatest comeback of anything tried so far, 20 and 32 inches. As a comparison, the .505 Gibbs gave 21 and 27 inches. Direct comparisons may not be too exact, due to variables involved. Each barrel had a different brake, of more or less varying design and dimensions, and undoubtedly some variation in efficiency.

CARRYING a wildcat rifle to far away places may be asking for trouble. If you get separated from your ammunition, or use it all up, your shooting is finished. To forestall the former, one should ship his rifle and ammunition in the same box, keeping them together. If you wish to sell your rifle there to avoid shipping it home, it will have to be some standard caliber. The .458 ammunition

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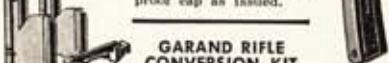
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is not in stock now in Africa, but should be available there sometime next summer.

Which of these rifles will go with me to Africa next year? Most likely I will send a .505 and a .450 Magnum ahead to my friend soon, then personally take a .416. I can use a reduced load with 300 grain bullet for the smaller stuff encountered in plains shooting, and hand loads of whatever kind may be deemed necessary for the buffalo, which are my main interest—the larger bores being available if needed.

On my last trip, country lines were crossed many times, and the customs examinations were rather an ordeal. The less stuff a person can have at such times is an advantage. Besides, in East Africa a gun can be something of a responsibility. You must not permit your gun to be stolen. You must not leave a gun in a car unattended, or in a hotel room. You must not leave a gun and ammunition together, or leave a gun anywhere unless some part of it has been removed to render it inoperative. By taking just one gun, things are somewhat simplified.


Whether to use a double or a magazine gun is a question that keeps coming up. In my case, a familiarity of long standing with the bolt gun was the main factor in deciding my choice. It seems only sensible to choose the type of arm which can be used instinctively in a tight place. Four shots from a magazine gun always seemed like good life insurance to me, although we freely admit the double has some advantages.

When these large bore rifles are properly stocked, with a comb which will not hit you in the face, a muzzle brake, and a soft rubber recoil pad, any of them including the .505 can be fired from bench rest with no great discomfort, nor danger of a properly mounted scope hitting the face. This makes the hunting scope with long eye relief practical on the heaviest magazine rifles. However, the trigger guard has a tendency to pound the second finger which will soon become swelled up like a lump-jawed steer. Padding the finger will give some relief, but the guard should be altered to a gentle slope so the finger will slide past the hump. That

is the way the big doubles are made, and they don't pound your finger.

Some shooters may object to the increased blast caused by a muzzle brake. This is an unfortunate feature, but once in the big open spaces the blast seems very much lessened. A guide might inadvertently place himself near the muzzle of his client's rifle, the better to observe the results of the shot. Just once, he might. Next time he would stay back, where maybe he belongs. Or a rifle muzzle in close proximity to the ever-present African ant hill could all but bury one in a fog of dust from muzzle blast. But that, too, can be easily avoided.

Our kick machine showed that three slots $\frac{1}{8}$ " wide in the brake were sufficient for the heaviest loads tested. Two slots is enough for the .458, and for .375 or smaller, the body of the brake can be reduced in diameter. The inside of the brake body is bored out to a diameter about twice the bore diameter of rifle. Brake body walls should be about $\frac{1}{8}$ " in thickness. The bore at muzzle where bullet emerges should be plenty large so that there is no possibility that the bullet will touch. For a .375 it should be about .400", for .45 caliber it can be .500" without apparent loss in efficiency. A port can be placed in top of the brake to hold the muzzle down if desired. We found that some of the recoil is dissipated in elevating the muzzle, and were well enough satisfied to let it go at that.

Working with muzzle brakes on the big wildcats proved that they need not be man-killers as well as game killers. Kick they all do, but the muzzle brake will muzzle them and turn shell-shock calibers with their fascination of power and energy into controllable, practical shoulder rifles for the biggest of game, while low loads give the largest high power calibers a versatility on soft-skinned game not found in smaller high-velocity rifles. There is nothing secret about these muzzle brakes. Any competent gunsmith or lathe mechanic can turn one out which will do the job. Creating a brake with maximum efficiency for your big rifle and loads will give you a free education in the working of your gun. 

GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]

☐ Yukey Inouye of Highland, Utah, was awakened from his nap by hunters' bullets whining too close to his home. Going to the window to warn them away, he spotted a four-point buck standing in his own yard, grabbed his rifle and filled his license.

☐ Don Anderson of Sun Valley not only got himself a buck but service. He spotted the animal on a ridge and fired. The deer lurched forward and rolled down the hill—stopping within three feet of the tail gate of his truck.

☐ In Louisville, Ky., a man was arrested for putting lead "slugs" into a pinball machine. They weren't the usual kind of phony coins, though—they were real bullets. He shot up the machine in a cafe because "it wouldn't pay off."

☐ At Pontiac, Mich., a man was arrested for blasting his shotgun away at telephone wires because he became exasperated at the delay it was taking to place a long distance call.

☐ When his wife spotted a wild blue goose flying by their house in Wahoo, Neb., Bill Behrens honked hopefully at it, found that the bird liked the sound, kept talking to it while his wife got his shotgun. Then, remembering the law against hunting inside city limits, he got in his car, kept talking loudly to the bird as he drove slowly down the road. The fowl followed along, apparently enraptured. Once in the open country, Bill Behrens stepped outside his car, aimed, and brought down the silly goose.

☐ Having heard all his life that a lot of hunters are hurt trying to get over fences while carrying shotguns, Robert Guard of Zanesville, Ohio, carefully placed his gun over a fence and then attempted to jump the barrier. He broke his ankle.

☐ This is a story making the rounds of Sandusky, Ohio: Two hunters, who'd been hunting during a season when quail shooting was forbidden, were stopped by a game warden in upper Ohio as they were about to step into their car. They were empty handed but the warden noticed that they had a bird dog—and that he was at rigid point—straight at a wheel of the car. The warden went on to find a quail hidden in each hub cap.

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SMALL GUNS



FOR BIG GAME

(Continued from page 23)

mother, but the little lever action is lighter, handier, and gets vension, so what?

Mind you, I have no slightest objection to any seasoned shooter's carrying a powerful rifle as a matter of personal preference; but to urge every hunter to do likewise is self-centered foolishness. Even if our game animals were as armor-plated and as often seen far off as the big bore boosters claim, there would still be one more potent argument against Magnums for the masses—the upsetting effect of their recoil.

Ordinary Joe Casual Hunter is a lot more kick-conscious than the target-shooting minority realize or admit. In fact, firing as he often does only half-a-dozen high-power rounds in a year, he is very likely to flinch and miss from the recoil of even a .270 or .30-06. In which connection, let me quote from a letter from a veteran Rocky Mountain guide and outfitter, F. H. Riggall, now succeeded by his son-in-law Andy Russell:

"I am more than ever convinced that the average 'once-a-year' big-game hunter will do far better with a .250-3000 than with a .30-06, .348, 8 mm. or .300 H. & H. With these latter the average man is badly over-gunned, and 80% at least will develop a habit of flinching which is very difficult to cure. The other 20% will not control their shots nearly as well as they would with the lighter recoil and report of the .250, and a 100 gr. .250 bullet in the neck or lung area is vastly more effective than a 200 or 300 grain missile in the ham or tail!

"Once I had a dude out with a .30 Newton (an early .300 Magnum) who fired 29 shots at big game on one trip without touching a hair! On the other hand, I had a couple of doctors using a .32 Special carbine and a .250 Savage. Neither of these ever missed, and got every head they shot at.

"Except on the very rare occasions of a wounded bear or elk or moose in thick brush, the little old .250 with 100 gr. bullet loads will bring home the bacon as surely as any gun on the dealer's shelves. I use the .250 Whelen and the .30-06 myself, but I still have and use a .30-30 and have a great respect for the little shrimp. I have pulled off a lot of clean kills at 150 to (occasionally) 300 yards, and with the latest loads it is a deadly little weapon. . . ."

There you have the judgment of a man who has spent 40 years hunting and guiding hunters, using every kind of gun. I'd have a lot more faith in him than in the feverish recommendations of some fanatic trying to boost a favourite. Too many shooting writers advise rifles of far more range and recoil than the average Joe can handle.

Me, I'm convinced that weapons of moderate power and recoil, like the .30-30, .32 Special, .250 Savage, .257, and probably the new .243s and .244s, are quite adequate for deer-sized game—deer, black bear, sheep, goats, antelope, caribou. Even the little .25-35 has been used with success by many; this district's deadliest deer killer carried one for 30 years, and a record mountain sheep was recently bagged with one.

The biggest game we have can be killed cleanly by such rifles; indeed, the .30-30 and its ilk are popular among local hunters in all Canadian moose areas. One guide of my acquaintance bought an old .30-30 for \$20 and killed two moose, two deer, and 9 coyotes with the first 13 shots from it! As for grizzlies, let me quote another Rocky Mountain hunter and gun crank of wide experience, famous game warden Jim Osman:

"I have shot four grizzlies with a .30-30. One chased my dog, and when he couldn't catch the dog turned on me. He had to cross

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the Elk River to get at me, and I shot twice in the water ahead of him to try and turn him. He just put up his hackles and came at me on the trot. I blew the top of his head off at 30 yards, and that was that.

"I shot another big one that had wrecked a meat house at a logging camp. He was about fifty yards, and the first shot broke his back and the next one finished him. I ran into another on the trail once, and as I wanted a hide I took him along. One shot killed him dead. It went through his heart and smashed it to pieces and came out the other side in four pieces. I shot another in the Yellowhead Pass. He was about 150 yards away, and when hit came down the slide bawling his head off. I am afraid I got a little rattled and broke him up pretty bad with six shots. A grizzly bear is not as hard to kill as an elk or moose, providing you hit him good the first time. He is harder to kill after that, as he usually bawls his head off, which rattles most hunters, and on account of his low stature and long hair it is harder to pick a good place to hit him.

"You are quite right about the Magnum rifles (being unnecessarily powerful.) Two years ago I was cutting up an elk which I had shot with a .257 Roberts when two Americans came along. One had a .375, and the other some big English bolt action. They wouldn't believe a .257 would kill an elk!"

In such hands as Osman's such rifles are certainly enough for any game. Yet many of us might feel more confident after really big stuff—elk, moose, grizzly—with a gun packing a little more punch.

Not necessarily a Magnum, or even the .30-06—.270 class; there is a considerable group of rifles of lesser reco'l which still speak with authority. The .35 Remington, in slide, auto, or Marlin lever action models, has long been a noted killer for ranges not over 200 yards. So has the .300 Savage, without the range limitation, and the .308 is fast building a great name for itself, though it is close to .30-06 power and recoil.

Very popular in Canada is the .303 British, which Dominion loads with a 180 gr. bullet at 2540 f.s. Another good bet, too little known, is the 7 mm. Dominion gives it a 139 gr. bullet at 2900 f.s. which is deadly on lighter game, while with the standard loading of 175 gr. at 2490 it has won great respect on tough African game. Boyd Williams, of Williams' Gun Shop, is one of its fans; so is Jim Osman. Biggest mule deer buck I ever heard of in this area, weighing 365 lb. dressed, was brought down by a 7 mm., and it seems to corpsify moose, elk, or bear just as well.

Any of these, if you aren't quite satisfied with a .30-30, .250, etc., for that 5% of big game hunting which is for other stuff than deer, should be quite adequate.

Many magazine writers won't agree, of course, scorning such weapons as too light. Many local hunters, all over North America, will damn me from the other direction, profanely wondering why in asterisks I advise anything so big.

"After all," they argue, "if a man can hit his game in a vital part, he doesn't need a big rifle. If he can't, no rifle is big enough and he has no damn business shooting."

There'd be more game clean-killed and fewer disappointed hunters if we all adopted that sane, simple philosophy.

100-YARD DUCK GUN

(Continued from page 19)

All these tag-along pellets finally reach the pattern sheet and register thereon. The fact that it took some of them a lot longer to reach the mark than others doesn't register on the paper except that the stragglers invariably hit on the outer perimeter of the target.

On a winging goose these late-comers do little damage. The poppycock that if a gunner over-lead his bird the tail-end of the shot string will catch the target is pretty well exploded. These trailing pellets are damaged and out-of-round and don't have the oomph needed to penetrate a tough old Canada. These are the shot you hear rattle off his pinions.

My tests should not be accepted too literally. Actually all figures are on the optimistic side. If the same firing could have been done on live game, neither the guns nor the loads would have turned in such rosy performances.

FINISHED with the pattern sheet and the 72-square-inch rectangle of the goose, I turned to the silhouette of a duck in flight. This duck outline measured 12" x 18" and included the head, neck and wings, the latter outstretched. Pellet hits were counted regardless of where they fell.

I commenced firing at this cut-out with the most popular duck load in the book, a 12 crammed with 1 1/4 ounces of No. 2 shot and 3 3/4 drams-equivalent of powder. Five rounds at the bird at 60 yards showed an average of 4.6 hits per shell. Energy, 4.12 ft. lbs. Result, an average of 18.95 pounds, more than three times the blow needed to murder the mallard.

At 70 yards with the same load and same number of trials, a grand total of 19 pellets hit the mark. Energy per pellet is 3.25 ft. lbs. Average blow per shot, 12.35 ft. lbs.

I then switched to the new standard magnum load of 1 1/2 ounces of shot, this time No. 4s instead of No. 2s. I got an average of 7.8 hits per round at 60 yards. Pellet energy for the No. 4 shot at 60 yards is 2.20 ft. lbs. The load showed a reserve of power for mallard and canvasback, producing 17.16 ft. lbs. for each of the five shots.

I then switched back to 2s and at 70 yards got an average per shot of 4.2 hits in the silhouette. Energy in this larger pellet is 3.25 ft. lbs. Final tally, 13.65 ft. lbs., or twice as much as we calculate we need to kill ducks.

At 80 yards the 12 magnum and 1 1/2 ounces of No. 2s resulted in 14 pellets striking the mark out of the five shots. This is an average of 2.8 hits with an energy per pellet of only 2.25 lbs. The puny blow of 6.3 pounds might kill the duck but it is doubtful. By our formula he has been struck the six-pound blow but he hasn't been ventilated with the requisite four pellets. These are the unfortunate fowl that set their wings and glide into the tules to suffer miserably and finally die.

The big 10 magnum came next into the picture. At 70 yards with No. 2s I poked 47 pellets into the duck with the five shots. This is an average of 9.4 pellets per blast,

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with a final figure of 16.57 ft. lbs. per cartridge. This would not only kill ducks but geese as well.

With No. 4s at 80 yards, I got 33 hits, an average of 6.6 hits per shot, for a blow of 9.76 ft. lbs., still potent enough for ducks. Switching to 2s, really the only shot to use seriously at the extreme ranges, I got 19 hits with five shots. The No. 2 pellet at 80 yards has a force of 2.25 ft. lbs. Each shot averages 3.8 pellets into the mark for an energy of 8.55 foot pounds. This would probably kill the duck, but my hunch is that he would only be crippled and would have to be hunted down and a finishing shot delivered.

DOC CUMMINGS, chief of Remington's ballistic laboratories, says that a charge of No. 2s will drift 23 inches at 50 yards in a 30 mph cross wind. He does not go on to conjecture what the drift would be at 80 yards but I'd estimate that it would be easily twice 23 inches or in the neighborhood of four feet. A moment's cogitation on this factor will persuade the most sanguine that he's going to have to be pretty cute about figuring windage to slap his shot charge on a web-foot at 80 yards. Say, for instance, that the bird is flying directly away from the gun and there is a 30 mile crosswind. The shot charge would drift four feet, enough to cause a complete miss. At 80 yards, a normal lead in a dead calm would be something around 15-24 feet. If this lead were further compounded by the drift of the shot in a 20 or 30 mile wind, not really such a gale on a good ducking day, a feller would have to have a slide rule to make the necessary corrections.

Still another angle to this extra-long-range shotgunning is the decidedly short distances which the shot will travel. Wallace Cox, who has just retired after a couple of centuries as chief of the Du Pont ballistics laboratories, says that a 10 gauge gun elevated to 40 degrees will poop out its charge of No. 2s to a maximum distance of any 330 yards or 990 feet. This means that, at 80 yards (240 feet), the fall of the shot is between three and four feet.

Slapping the charge on a bouncy old gander at 80 yards then simmers down to a simple little deduction about his speed—he generally churns up something around 60 mph—the drift of the shot which amounts to four feet in a 30 mile breeze—plus the fall of the shot charge which is 40 inches or thereabouts. The equation appeals to me as being just the stuff for one of these gun directors which we use on the 90 mm anti-aircraft guns. Certainly the hombre in the blind is going to have to have a touch of Einstein about him if he is to come up with an answer during those split seconds when the game is in range.

So now we come to the question set up in the title of this article: Is there a gun for 100-yard ducks? There ain't no such animal. There is just barely an 80-yard gun, and I'd not have much confidence even in it. Tales about duck killing at 100 yards are shaggy dog stories, or—to give their tellers a break—stories of lucky shots. Not only will the shotgun fail to hold its charge together to any such distance as 100 yards, but the pellets at that yardage have hardly enough remaining energy to punch through a wet paper bag.



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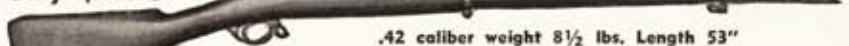


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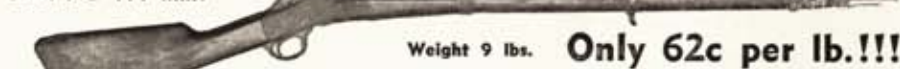


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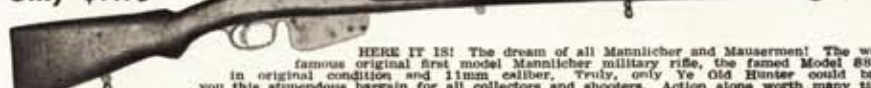


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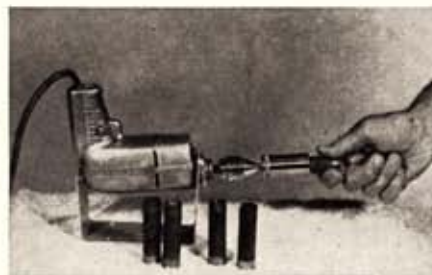


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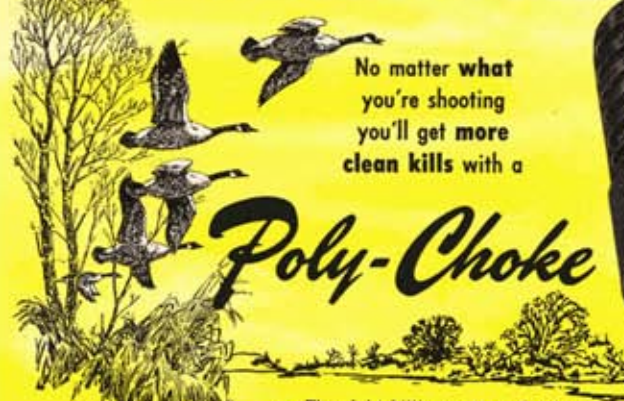
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Built-In Accuracy

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CAMPGROUND GUIDE, new 1957 edition, locates the thousands of public campgrounds throughout the U.S., Canada and Alaska. \$1.00 postpaid. Campgrounds, Box 7-E, Blue Rapids, Kansas.

WILL TRADE nearly new Polaroid Camera for old gun or old coins. Cost new \$104.45. Lipford, Box 68, Shouns, Tenn.

WANTED: OLD coins. Paying \$4.00 per hundred for Indian Head pennies. High prices paid for other old coins. Lipford, Box 68, Shouns, Tenn.

RIFLE SLINGS, web, new, U.S. Gov't Surplus. 1 1/4 inch, 69c each; 3 for \$1.50. Leather Army Rifle slings, used, good condition, \$1.00 each. Public Sport Shops, 11 S. 16th Street, Phila. 2, Pa.

COLT. MINIATURE Gold Filled Tie Clasps with Colt stamped on each one. 45 Automatic, 45 Colt Frontier. Your Choice. \$2.00 each Postpaid. Public Sport Shops, 11 S. 16th Street, Phila. 2, Pa.

1956 **CREECOACH** FOR 3/4 Pickup—\$800.00. Lee Lorenz, R.R. #5, Wabash, Indiana.

OUTDOOR JOBS—Forestry, Park Rangers. Game Management. Expanded Programs will need thousands. Send \$1.00 for complete information. Conservation Associates, 1120-A Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

GOLD-PLATING—Inlogs (gold-silver-ivory) Engraving—Checkering wood—Ivory grips. Bright Bluing shotguns stocked. Martyco, Box 5204, Asheville, N. C.

"ALASKAN ADVENTURE—Big Game" in color and all other Alaska subjects. Send 25c in coin for sample slide and free catalog listing over 400 best quality color slides. Northern Color Film Co., Box 6, Cooper Landing, Alaska.

MAKE, SAVE Money. 50% off. Magazine Subscriptions. Bonus. Personal Orders. Qualified Agency, 451QF Kingston, Brooklyn 25, N. Y.

"WINEMAKING," \$1.00. "HOW to Make Beer—Ale," \$1.00. "Rare Oldtime Beverage Recipes," \$1.00. "Indian Herb Cancer Treatment Described," \$1.00 Illustrated. Eaton Publications, Box 1242-N, Santa Rosa, California.

BUSS BED-DING Keeps Fishworms, crawlers alive all season in box. Makes little worms big fast. Carries alive thousands miles hottest weather. Season supply special \$1.00. Buss Buckets (wooden) for worms and minnows. Free catalog shows all sizes. Buss Mfg. Co., Lanark, Ill.

TURKEY HUNTERS—Try my boxtype calls \$1.50 postpaid. Bobby Locke, R. #1, Benton, Tenn.

35c COPY OF "Tam"—The Archers' Magazine. Send 10c 1200 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

30c COPY OF "The Aquarium." Send 10c to 12th and Cherry Sts., Philadelphia 7, Pa.

1,000 **BUSINESS CARDS** \$3.20. Van, 419 1/2 W. 5th St., Long Beach, Calif.

GUNS — BOUGHT — Sold — Leaded — Re-blue—Shotguns & rifle stocks made. Complete line of reloading equipment. Browning & Husqvarna dealer. Gevarm 22 rifle. Discounts to dealers & Gunsmiths: List 25c—Jimmy's Custom Guns, 570 Union Ave., Providence, R. I.

CALL ELK, Deer, Coyotes, Foxes, Cats! In daylight, within shotgun range! S. V. Higley, Burley, Idaho.

GRIPS — PEARL — Ivo Ry — Stag — Fancy checkering, gold platinum, ivory coatofarms inlays, collectors grade. Repairs. Gunreblu, Biltmore 15, N. C.

G. E. TRANSISTOR PORTABLE Radio with car phones and carrying case; used about 5 hours. Will trade for Forty-Five automatic in good condition. Glenn Lane, 408 S. Coulter, Centralia, Mo.

OLT'S GAME Calls, Crow, Fox-Coyote, and Hawk \$2.75 each. Instruction records, Crow and Fox \$2.00 each. Phillip S. Olt Co., Dept. G, Box 350, Pekin, Illinois.

INVESTIGATE HOW you can earn up to \$2000.00 or more monthly with automatic hot beverage and food dispensers. Proven plan. No obligation. Information free. Superior, 4555-R East Warren, Denver, Colorado.

RCBS Model B is a smaller edition, recommended for swaging bullets smaller than .270 Caliber, and all reloading operations.

This has merely skimmed the surface, and is not a recommendation for any particular tool. You'll have to decide for yourself what make and type you want. It's almost impossible to go wrong on a much advertised make.

Dies are fully as important as the tools. Fortunately, dies in general are much better than they were 20 years ago, or even five years ago. The best makes are perfection. Prices for standard 7/8 x 14 thread dies run \$12.50 to \$13.50 or more. Your real bargain is in top quality rather than first cost.

No one can load good ammunition with inferior dies that may be off-center or over or under size at critical points. The integrity of the maker is a really priceless ingredient. More dies are ruined by rust than by wear, and those made of naked steel must be given the care you would give any precision steel product. Some, like the new Lyman All-American and C-H dies, are chrome plated to stay perfect for life.


Those who intend to reload handgun cases in quantity, and many handgunners do, might do well to consider a tungsten-carbide resizing die. These have an insert of the hardest metal known to man, that can be worked only with diamond tools and polished with diamond dust. The first cost is higher, but it's the cheapest in the long run, and by far the best. They give even corroded cases

a beautiful burnished finish. They can't scratch or gall, and will outwear more than 20 ordinary sizers.

They are made only for straight-wall pistol cases.

Loading for the scattergun may save 50 percent or more on shell cost. Hollywood makes an expensive but very excellent set of dies. The Acme Loaders are complete in themselves and do fast work for custom reloaders or individuals. Lyman still sells their old Ideal Straightline set, and has new dies for their Turret and Comet tools. I haven't used their dies yet, but they look okay. C-H brought out their excellent Magnum press with simple step-by-step shotshell dies. The press is easily converted to load either shotshells or metallic cartridges. Lachmiller presses also take either dies.

A complete shotshell reloading set that has been a sales sensation since it hit the market a few years ago is the Thalsen. Simple and low priced, it does good work easily, and leaves your metallic cartridge press "open" for rifle and pistol loading. Even this is not a complete listing; there are several other makes which I have never used.

Today's beginner in reloading has a big advantage in better equipment and a larger selection at moderate prices than ever before. Another thing, he won't have to unlearn a lot of bad practices that are a hangover from black powder and mercuric primer days. There will never be a better time than today to get started in the fastest growing do-it-yourself hobby of ammo reloading. 

PARTING SHOTS



"We should go hunting more often, Phelps."

Here they come!
I wonder if
they're using
SIERRAS?



6 MM
75 grain

You will be surprised how many "impossible" hits you make when you hand-load with Sierra Bullets. Choose the exact bullet for your needs from Sierra's complete line of 39. Discover what handloading can do for you. Write for Sierra's **FREE** brochure, "An Introduction to Handloading." Dept. 75C.

FOR TARGET OR GAME
... THE NAME'S THE SAME

**SIERRA
BULLETS**

600 W. WHITTIER BLVD., WHITTIER, CAL.

Reading Time: 2½ Minutes

It took \$97,535.00 to perfect our Weatherby Imperial Scope...

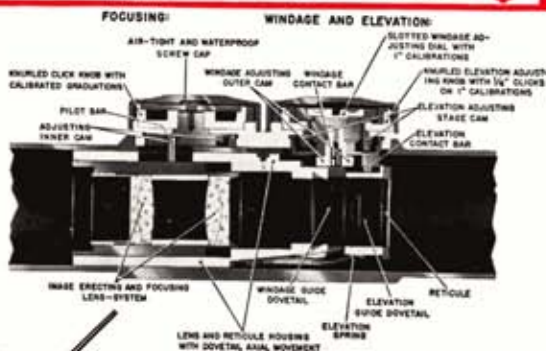
You can buy it for \$69.50



Never before could you buy the world's finest precision-built scope for \$69.50, a scope which is unsurpassed for light-gathering power and field of view. New, easy and quick binocular-type focusing... dual-dial windage and elevation for lightning-fast adjustments. Guaranteed fog-proof, dust-proof and air-tight with an unconditional lifetime guarantee against all defects. Available in 2¾ X, 4X, 6X and the new variable 2¾ - 10X.

Weatherby Imperial

CUT-AWAY VIEW OF WEATHERBY IMPERIAL SCOPE



AMERICA'S MOST POWERFUL RIFLE

Weatherby Magnum

Now available from \$250.00 in 257, 270, 7MM, 300, 375 and 378MM. SEE YOUR NEAREST DEALER or write for free information.

Send for the NEW 1957-58 "Tomorrow's Rifles Today." 132 pages of valuable information, ballistical data, profusely illustrated.....\$2.00



WEATHERBY'S, Inc.

2796 FIRESTONE BLVD., SOUTH GATE, CALIFORNIA (7 Miles from downtown Los Angeles)

MAIN FEATURES

BARREL - 21½" tapered barrel with crowned reinforced muzzle and reinforced also around the chamber to prevent vibration. Made of high tensile steel to ensure maximum hardness to the rifling. The barrel action assembly has been designed for best presentation.

TANGENT • LARGE SURFACED SLIDING REARSIGHT

No side play. Windage and elevation. Graduated from 25 to 100 yards. Its base is hand fitted on to the barrel (to increase accuracy) and is maintained with a set screw to facilitate assembly.

Tunnel foresight with 5 interchangeable elements: 1 cross-wire, 1 bead, 1 peep, 1 half-disc, 1 picket. Hand fitted on to the barrel, as the rearsight. Spare foresight elements in the trap of the pistol grip.

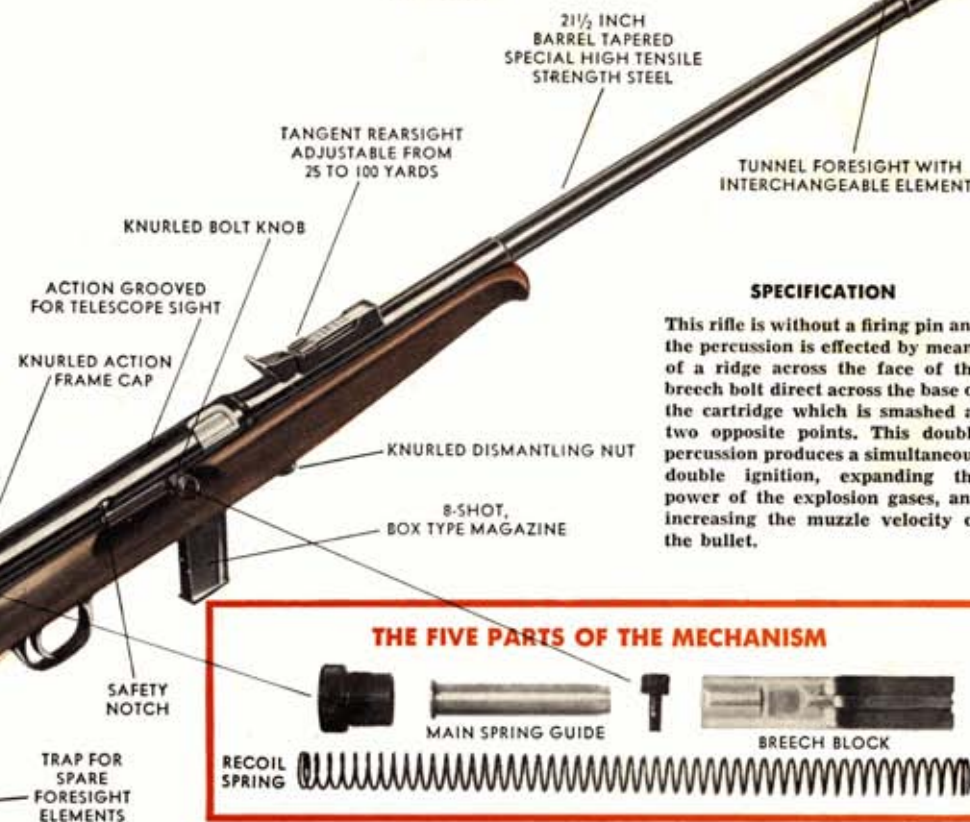
Reversible spring guide with end masses of different weight to increase or decrease the inertia of the breech block depending upon the ammunition used (rimmed rear-end mass for standard type ammunition, fore-end mass for high velocity ammunition).

See NOTE (Working Principle).

Stock of fine French walnut. Carefully polished and varnished. Specially designed to insure proper shooting positions. Snobble fore-end.

GÉVARM

CAL. 22 LONG RIFLE RIM FIRE SELF LOADING 8-SHOT



SPECIFICATION

This rifle is without a firing pin and the percussion is effected by means of a ridge across the face of the breech bolt direct across the base of the cartridge which is smashed at two opposite points. This double percussion produces a simultaneous double ignition, expanding the power of the explosion gases, and increasing the muzzle velocity of the bullet.

OVER-ALL LENGTH: 41"
WEIGHT: APPROX. 6 LBS.

Position of the bolt: the rifle can be carried about either with an open or closed bolt. 1) To close the bolt pull out first the box magazine slightly, 2) Close the bolt, 3) Push the magazine fully in. No cartridge has thus been introduced into the chamber. For the first shot - when firing - simply pull towards you the cocking handle and the breech block will be set in position for firing. Alternatively, the breech can remain open for immediate firing with the box magazine fully introduced.

NO OTHER SELF LOADING RIFLE IS MORE ACCURATE

No firing pin • no extractor • sturdy recoil spring • Breech block made of thermically treated special steel • "Mauser-type" 4-groove rifling of high precision, 1 turn in 450 mm (approx. 17½") • Easy dismantling and re-assembling by hand without any tool, with the sole help of a coin.

WORKING PRINCIPLE

When you press the trigger, the breech block is thrown forward, under pressure of the main spring. (The trigger pull can be regulated.) In its travel, it feeds a cartridge from the magazine, introduces it into the chamber of the barrel, and fires it.

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

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

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

AMMUNITION Any make of cartridge teamed up with .22 GEVARM rifles will give a higher muzzle velocity than in other rifles.

List Price \$72.50
Extra Cartridge Clip, 8 Shot Capacity \$3.50

TRADEWINDS, INC.

P. O. BOX 1191-H • TACOMA 1, WASHINGTON