

MAY 1958 50c

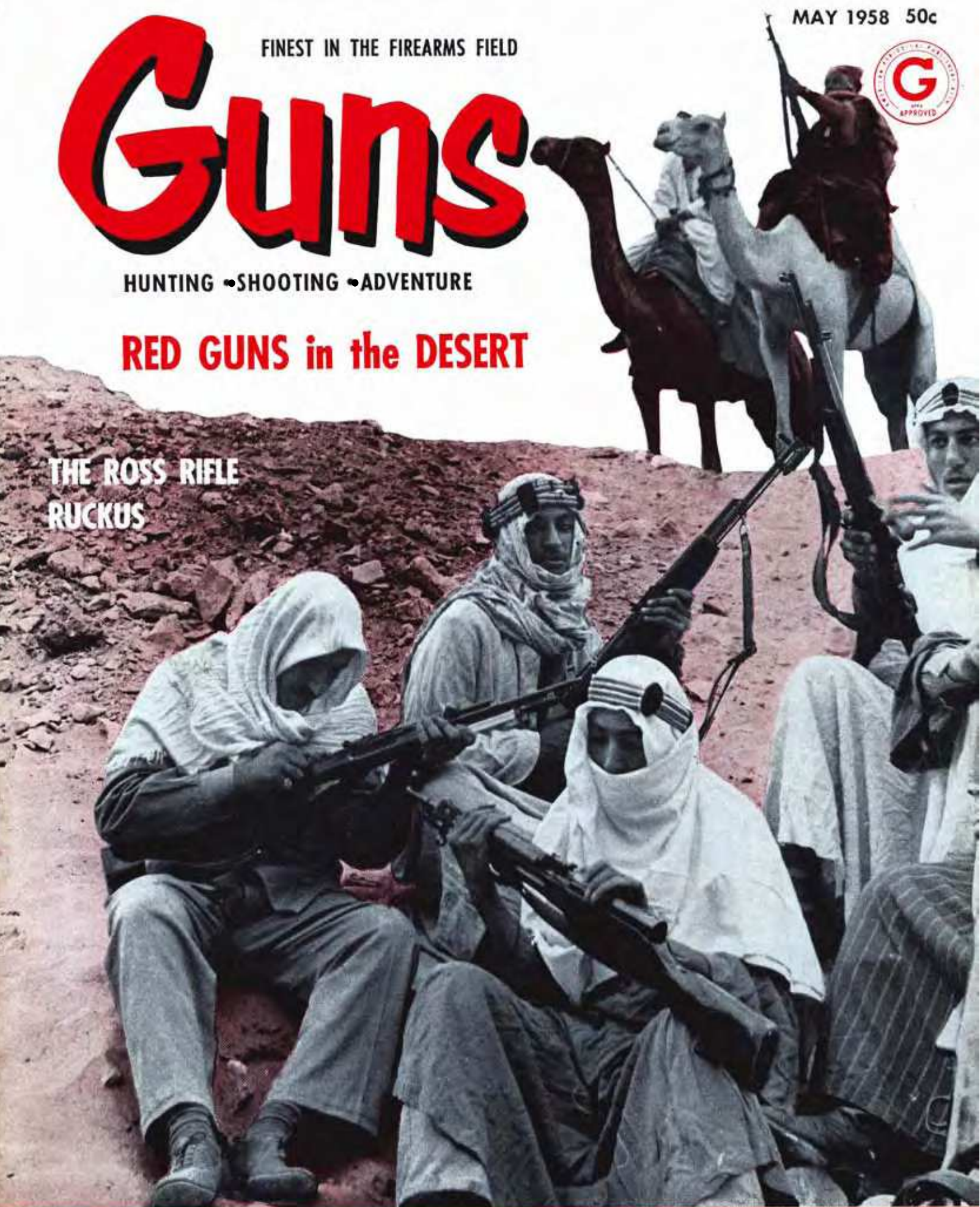
FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

# Guns

HUNTING • SHOOTING • ADVENTURE

**RED GUNS in the DESERT**

THE ROSS RIFLE  
RUCKUS



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*The Shooting Priest*

**M**y Golden Gun was a gift from E. A. Hatton, of San Antonio, on my golden anniversary as a priest. It was custom made by the Royal Arms Co., El Cajon, California, with a .22-250 Gebby Varminter barrel. The ebony stock had to be soaked in oil a year before being carved by Beall into a work of art trimmed with ivory. The magazine section, trigger, and trigger guard are plated with solid gold. Accuracy is so good I can put five bullets in one ragged hole at 100 yards. The story about me in *GUNS* last year brought letters from all over the country from people amazed that I could be so active in hunting and shooting at my age. I say it's good medicine for young and old, clears the mind, and is a "fountain of youth."

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## MY FAVORITE GUN

### RODD REDWING

*Film Gun Expert*

**M**y favorite firearm is a handgun introduced by Colt's in 1873. It is known by many names, Colt .45, Colt Frontier, Hog Leg, Single Action, and others. The Colt .45 I use has the 4¾" barrel. For the type of work I do, it is the best balanced. Since 1936 I have been performing and teaching what I call the "Gun Dance." This consists of many gun spins done in sequence—you might try it sometime when you want a little exercise. The evolutions of the gun are described by the names: Forward and Backward spin, over and under; the Interrupted spin; Over the shoulder, right and left; the Independent spin; the Front pinwheel; the High side pinwheel; the Forward pinwheel into the holster; the Back pinwheel into the holster; the Forward pinwheel out of the holster; the Back pinwheel out of the holster; the Sweep draw; the Twist draw, and the Cross draw. The short 4¾" barrel length Single Action is perfectly balanced for the straight "Fetch," or plain draw. All these motions and many others will be described in detail in a book I'm now working on. I have had the privilege of teaching many movie stars, and proud to say they have often become top gun hands. My teaching is not limited to westerns—I teach the use and handling of all guns and rifles, shotguns, Tommy guns, Gatling guns, the Queen Anne's salute, butts manual, American drill, British drill, and practically anything with guns. Recently I enjoyed stumping the experts on "What's My Line?" They didn't guess mine.





# TRIGGER TALK

**G**uns at home and abroad are discussed in this issue. Close at home is Francis Sell's study of "Bullets for Brush." Much talk and little fact surrounds the behaviour of bullets fired at game protected by underbrush. Woods' hunters will need to read Sell's article.

The much maligned Ross rifle gets a going over on page 28. The Ross, Canadian-made and U.S. by adoption, is one of the best rifles built. But she may be a killer at both ends if improperly assembled. There are life-saving details in "Bert" Stent's resume of Ross facts and fancies.

Peaceful competition abroad between G.I. and German has replaced the warlike spirit of 1944. Today, U.S. Army personnel and German civilians enjoy competitive shooting matches. How important this new friendship may be to world peace is an underlying theme of "G.I.-German Schutzenfest."

In this month of GUNS' actual sale, April, several things occur, most notably the paying of individual income taxes. And it might just so happen that your big game hunt could be deductible, if you plan it accordingly, and can report it as collecting for a public museum. Read Wurzbarger's story on hunting and taxidermy, beginning on page 16, then check with your tax accountant to see if a deductible hunt could apply to your particular circumstances. You might find you can combine a hunting expedition with a useful public service, and come out ahead all around!

Brief, but the sort of stuff that research is made of, sums up Don Simmons' "Colt Pocket Autos." Taking one basic model in detail, Simmons has given the collector all the necessary facts to categorize one model of gun into types and rarities.

"Red Guns in the Desert" (page 12) expands in detail on a brief statement in TIME magazine for February 24. Said the national news weekly, in an editorial discussing Soviet preparedness, "With more than enough of the new small rifles for itself, Russia has already shipped some of its new rifles to Egypt and Syria." What weapons were shipped, and how they are being used, is the subject of our story.

Upcoming issues have a galaxy of stars, in big name authors and in top quality stories on guns and gunning. One in our next issue will catch the firearms fans' fancy—on the world's most unusual lending library, where the shelves hold guns, and the borrowers have library cards.

The man behind the star is one "shooter" who will be featured in the next issue of GUNS . . . the police officer. Then we will detail our program to recognize the exacting, low paid, and often far-from-glamorous job of keeping the peace. GUNS will, each year, make an award to an outstanding law enforcement officer. The 1957 award was to two Chicago policemen who, operating as a team, trapped a dangerous dope peddler. Read in next month's GUNS how you can nominate the lawman of your choice for this outstanding firearms award.



THE COVER

Behind Middle East tension lies Soviet influence. Heralds of the USSR, like robins before spring, are gifts of new automatic rifles and machine guns to small nations lacking big domestic gun factories. Russian-made and Soviet-influence weapons are main equipment of Egypt-Syria union.

# Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

MAY, 1958

VOL. IV, NO. 5-41

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## GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

◆ Washington, D. C. Outdoor experts here are saying that, when you go hunting, bring along a bottle of "perfume" as well as your rifle. This odor, designed to bring game close by simulating the musky mating smell, is supposed to lure and entrance romantically inclined deer so that pulling the trigger and bagging 'em becomes mere child's play.

★ ★ ★

◆ The following announcement appeared in the "Ohio University Post," campus newspaper: "Rifle Club will meet 7 P.M. today, rifle range. Execution of officers."

★ ★ ★

◆ James Whalen, a Chicago laundry truck driver, has foiled with gunfire 13 of 14 robbery attempts in the last 36 years. Recently, he claimed his first prisoner. Whalen identified Eugene Crawford, an ex-convict as one of two men who attempted to rob him in his truck. Whalen chased Crawford four blocks and held him at gunpoint until police took him into custody. Whalen said he shot and wounded Crawford's companion, who escaped. Whalen's first experience with hold-ups was in 1922 when a gunman took \$10 from him and Whalen had to make good the shortage. Dollars were worth more then than now, and Whalen determined that he would not be robbed again. Since then, he has kept a .38 revolver in his truck, has shot 13 men who attempted to rob him.

★ ★ ★

◆ As an aid to the harvesting of surplus deer, Colorado has passed a bill providing for the sale of a second deer license to hunters who have already cashed in on their original licenses. Fee for a second non-resident license is \$7.50, resident license, \$5.00.

★ ★ ★

◆ Washington and Nevada have new rulings which require juveniles applying for their first hunting licenses to pass tests in safe gun handling.

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says...**

### Boyt Gun Scabbards

Experienced African hunters say that the best and about the only way to keep a fine scope sighted rifle in perfect shape and its scope in adjustment while jolting around the African landscape in a Jeep or Safari car is to have it in a full-length heavy leather scabbard, with a boot over the butt end to keep it as near dirt and dust proof as possible and also to protect it from jolts. One of the best scabbards I have found is the Boyt full-length heavy saddle skirting scabbard that is full imitation-fleece lined. This inner liner may be removed for cleaning.

This heavy saddle scabbard comes with excellently positioned straps for attaching to the saddle. It carries the rifle with scope, or sights, up as they should be, to prevent injury. A heavy, durable zipper allows the whole butt end of the scabbard to be opened for removal of the rifle, yet when zipped up it prevents dust, dirt, snow, or rain from touching the arm. Made by the Boyt Company, Des Moines 5, Iowa,

good walnut, with a hinged forend tip for those who wish to fold this down and use it as a handle, a la Tommy gun; and it does come in handy sometimes for rest shooting. The arm is clip loading and holds seven rounds. It has open sights as well as the Mossberg Variable power scope with cross-hair reticle and internal adjustments in their sturdy clip-on mount. The carbine has sling swivels on the left side, and a sturdy web sling.

Tests with three makes of ammunition show excellent accuracy. The bolt handle retracts and then can be pushed into round slots to hold it in various positions. When it is seated in the first position to rear of battery, it retracts the breech bolt and locks both trigger and sear. While this is a very strong and certain safety when in position, I for one do not like it or its position. It is slower and harder to operate than the old swinging lever on top of the grip that was used on so many good Mossberg rifles and which I think they would do well to incor-



### Hand Made Custom Holsters

M. J. Houver of Salmon, Idaho, makes the finest hand-made fully lined sixgun holsters to my latest design that I have ever seen or used. Made right or left hand, also for cross draw if desired. They are, of course, open top, with the gun riding high, with trigger guard and hammer clear of the leather, butt tipped slightly forward for fast draw. A long safety strap is included when desired to snap over the gun in back of hammer spur. It can be folded over in back of the holster, under the gun or waist belt, when not wanted and is then out of the way for fast gun work. These holsters are carefully hand tailored and fitted to the individual model of gun from best saddle skirting and fully lined with high grade calf skin. They come plain or flower stamped or with initials to order. Houver is an old Navy pistol-team shot and a gun man in his own right, so knows how to fit a holster to a gun. Not the cheapest but the best that we know of.

"A lot of gun for the money" is what Keith says of new Mossberg .22 auto. Magazine is adjustable (see slots at top) for LR, long, or short ammunition.



porate in this otherwise fine little carbine. Except for the safety, I like the whole outfit. It is a neat small-game hunting rifle for man or boy or girl. The 18" barrel no doubt develops just about maximum power for the .22 L.R. Cartridge and it makes a short, handy little arm that weighs just under six pounds with scope. The scope is adequate for the usual small game and plinking, and is a great improvement over the usual iron sight equipment.

### The Whitney Automatic

I have just finished testing the new Whitney .22 autoloading pistol. This little arm is built with an aluminum-alloy frame, barrel housing, and grip housing, making it a very light arm. It is streamlined to the ninth degree and has one of the best shaped grips I have ever found on any automatic

(Continued on page 52)



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## CROSSFIRE

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Appel Barrels

The article you published on the Appel barrel, by Louis Corbeau, titled "The Barrel I Could Not Wear Out," did not give the name and address of the barrel maker. Could you please supply this information?

George Hayes,  
Crandon, Wisconsin

For information on the Appel barrel, write directly to John Greenwood, Fellows Gear Shaper Co., 1048 North Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, Michigan. This firm has the license to make Appel barrels.—Editor.

#### Likes Lee

Congratulations on a fine magazine. Most American magazines give the impression that every American hunter loads his own ammo and shoots nothing but a custom made rifle. GUNS, by having a variety of authors express their views, gives a perfect cross-section of hunting and gunning not only in the U.S.A., but in other countries as well. It may interest American owners of the Enfield rifles chambered for the .303 British, that the Canadian Industries, Ltd., loads the .303 British in 150 and 180 grain bullets. The 180 grain has a muzzle velocity of 2540 and at 100 yards gives out with 1910 ft. lbs. of energy. This is only 110 ft. lbs. behind the .308 Winchester. I thoroughly enjoyed the Lee Enfield article in the January issue. Keep up the good work.

S. S. F. Drew  
Sherbrooke, Quebec

#### Taunton, Not Providence

In the Sept., '57 issue of GUNS you printed an article referring to the Whitmore rifle given to General Grant. I would like to make mention of the fact that this firearm was made in Taunton, Massachusetts, not in Providence, R. I., as the article would lead one to believe. Taunton was the home of many fine guns, not only Whitmore's but Diemar's, Foster's and others which are claimed by other cities and states.

Kip Pierce  
Orleans, Mass.

#### Pro-Gun Story in Sat. Eve. Post?

I have just read your article on "Why Not a Pro-Gun Law." I want you to know that this is the best I have ever read on the subject of firearms regulations. I would like to have at least 50 reprints as I truly believe this subject needs to be brought to the public eye. I am a life member of the National Rifle Association and the Associated Gun Clubs of Baltimore. If we had people such as yourself in our state and federal legislatures, our job as gun-lovers would be a lot easier. Please see if the Readers Digest and Saturday Evening Post will run your article. I would like to see it in our Baltimore papers. This

machine gun law has a personal interest to me as I have longed for a commercial model 1928 Thompson sub-machine gun, but can't afford the \$200.00 tax. Please let me know how I can help to further the cause.

Thomas Rutledge  
Baltimore, Maryland

#### Articles Our Readers Liked

Just a few lines to let you know how much I enjoy and look forward to your magazine. I think it is the very best of its kind, never miss an issue.

I just finished reading "Why Not A Pro-Gun Law" and think it is one of the best articles yet. I am an amateur antique gun collector and it almost made me sick to see the picture of the police dumping Civil War muskets and the like into the New York harbor. How many valuable collector's items are destroyed in this way?

Keep up the good work. I'm looking forward to each new issue.

Pfc. Norman E. Bemount  
Hanau, Germany

Just a few lines to tell you how much I enjoyed Carl W. Breihan's "Guns and Gunners of the Feuding Clans." Articles like this are what is needed to clear up the fiction that has built up around such legendary figures as the Hatfields and McCoys. Keep up the good work.

Pvt. Charles Zelch  
Fort Bragg, N. C.

I enjoy your magazine very much and would like to see more articles about hand-gunners of the caliber of McGivern, Toney, and some of the other top men.

James R. Herrington  
Kansas City, Mo.

I am taking advantage of your fine Xmas Gift Offer, which is a huge savings on a very fine magazine. Keep up the good work! I have been getting your magazine from the newsstands but have missed a few because of not getting to the stands on time.

I think that all of your articles and departments are authentic and very well written. Not to single out any one article or author, but I really appreciated "Why Not a Pro Gun Law." I say again, keep up the good work on the only real gun magazine on the market. I have been Sold!

James H. Auble  
Ithaca, New York

Have read all but one issue of GUNS so far published, and have enjoyed all of the articles and contributions in it. To me, one of the most interesting stories that I have read is that written by Miss Ruth Douglas, and printed in the July issue. I like her spirit, her attitude, and her style of writing, and sincerely hope she will come again.

D. G. Kramar  
Oakland, California



## They Like Keith

I just finished the March copy of GUNS, and was pleased as ever for the coverage you gave Elmer Keith. I am very much interested in the battle between high velocity and big bullets. I would like to see you keep publishing this type of stories, and maybe put Roy Weatherby vs. Elmer Keith in a good old fashioned argument on killing power. I have done a little hunting myself, and tend to stick to the higher velocity with a good controlled expansion bullet, like Hornaday or even Nosler.

I like your magazine very much and hope you keep advertising to guns and gun equipment. Thanks again for a good magazine; keep up the good work.

Sam Barington  
Mankato, Minnesota

May I offer my congratulations on the March issue. It is the best that I have had the good fortune to read. The articles were all quite good, with the best, as always, turned out by Elmer Keith.

I was very glad to see the point made that Elmer ruled out the light bullet rifles as practical only by testing them in the tough school of experience after being one of the most prominent experimenters in the high velocity school for years. I shoot a 7 x 61 S&H, but this is being used for California deer and varmints, purposes for which it is unexcelled; but when and if I get the chance to take a crack at a heavy animal, elk or better, I'll have a rifle of .333 caliber throwing 250 and 300 grain bullets.

G. K. Parmenter  
San Bernardino, California

## Wrong Issue, Wrong Time

I've wanted to write many times to praise your fine magazine, but was always busy. Unfortunately, when I find I do finally find time to write, I also find that your latest issue (February 1958) "stinks."

The beef is that after two years of fine facts and fine specifications on fine paper you finally print one that I don't like just when I renew my subscription.

The fault with the February issue was too much theory, too many dreams, and not enough guns. "Guns of the Future?" "The .410 a Duck Gun!!!" "Buy Your Way to Pistol Mastery?" "Are Bolt Actions Obsolete?" and the only good article only one page long.

I know I don't have the right to carry this too far, especially since I haven't been saying thanks when things are good but please keep up your "only" magazine to what it has always been: "Good paper," "Good pictures," "Good tales," "Good magazine."

John J. Kocis  
London, Ontario

Same paper, same picture specifications, same writers. But as Lincoln might have said, "You can't please all of the people all of the time." We wish we could.—Editors.

## Speaking of Ball Powder

Your letter of January 8 asked for more information and background with respect to a statement in "Winchester Proof," Vol. 2, No. 2, that "we certainly would not recommend the use of salvage 'Ball Powder' for hand loading. Such practice might result in blown up guns as a result of a mix-up of samples."

As you can well appreciate, we are in no

position to check on the procedures used by any concern engaged in salvage operations on "Ball Powder" for resale. Obviously, this operation can be carried out with extreme care, with no care, or any condition between. After the "Ball Powder" has been salvaged and sold, there exists the chance that the user may use the wrong powder or may mix powder. In "Winchester Proof" we tried to explain our concern that the great similarity in appearance between fast and slow "Ball Powders" precludes the possibility of identification by physical examination. Therefore, there certainly exists at least two areas in which mix-up can occur; one, in a salvage operation, and two, in the hands of the user.

The intent of the article in "Winchester Proof" was not to cast any aspersions on the salvage practices of any person, but rather to point out to the public the dangers which are inherent in use by hand loaders of salvage "Ball Powder". We believe that this recommendation is a proper one in view of the possibilities of danger which exist.

R. S. Holmes, Director,  
Research & Development  
Winchester-Western,  
New Haven, Conn.

## Gun-Nut's Tour

It was with much interest that I read your article "A Gun-Nut's Tour of Europe" in the March issue of GUNS. I was stationed in Wiesbaden from 1951-54 and managed to visit a few of the gun places. My greatest interest was in Austria. Ulm was just emerging as a gun center of West Germany with the establishment of the Government proof house there.

In March, 1954, my friend, Helmut Dschulnigg of Salzburg, my wife and young nephew and I drove from Salzburg to Ferlach. It was noon when we arrived and my visits were of necessity hurried. My notes show Albin Obiltschnig as 60 years young at that time. This *Graveurmeister* has been working in engraving since 1909, hours from 6 AM to 7 PM. Copies or transfers designs, patterns or pictures without tracing. His son, 15 years of age at that time, was the only student Herr Obiltschnig would teach. The son worked rapidly without guide except master guide lines. My impressions of the beautiful guns I saw in Ferlach, though fleeting, still remain.

Was impressed by the modern plant and guns of Franz Sodja and the fine O&U shotguns of his uncle, Anton Sodja. Johann Michelitsch gladly arranged his guns for photographing. I still remember the one I should have come away with—but didn't.

Karl Hauptmann, Gasthaus and gun shop near the Bahnhof was making a beautiful four barreled gun which I should have brought home.

My recollection of the Proving Station was the desire I had to examine the pile of confiscated guns taken from the "black hunters" (poachers). Saw a Winchester '66 that had been converted to some local cartridge.

Franz Sodja remarked to my friend and guide Helmut Dschulnigg that the Americans would be happy to see his plant built with Marshal Aid.

Again, I enjoyed your account of the trip. I considered making it but couldn't buy both transportation and guns.

C. C. Williams, Colonel, USAF  
Alexandria, Va.

# MERSHON Shooting Accessories



## DELUXE "WHITE LINE" Recoil Absorbers

World's Finest . . . Instead of "mushy" cushioning or abrupt "bottoming" the DELUXE offers gradually increasing resistance to recoil. Designed for maximum effectiveness on all caliber rifles and all gauge shotguns. For quality, function, performance and value it has no equal. Used and preferred by shooters the world over.



## "10-POINT" Grips

For all modern Colt and S & W Revolvers and Pistols. Will not slip in moist or wet hands. Guaranteed unbreakable. Easily and quickly installed without changing or marring gun. Can be cut or shaped to fit individual hand. Fits all square and most round butt models.



## "SURE-GRIP" Rifle and Pistol Cartridge Packs

For safely and conveniently carrying cartridges of all calibers without danger of loss. Bullets are kept safe from nicks and scratches. Shells won't stick as Cartridge Packs are made of waxed rubber. Fit on any belt up to two inches wide.

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# Red Guns

Brand new Russian SKS-46 rifles are used by Egyptian raiders called "Fedayeen" who are mostly Palestine Arabs.

Syrian miss sights newest Czech SHE rifle, supplied by Reds to Popular Resistance Movement of Syrian defense. Party is made up of girls, 14 to 20 years old.





GUNS "FOR LOVE OF ALLAH" SYMBOLIZE TROJAN HORSE STRATEGY THAT  
IS TURNING MIDDLE EAST INTO ARMED POWER

# in the **DESERT**

By WILLIAM B. EDWARDS

WITH THE UNION of Egypt and Syria into a new nation, Red arms and Red power have captured the spotlight in the Middle East. No longer is Soviet influence confined to the land mass of continental Asia and a part of Europe. Now, following Russia's newest-style ambassadors, Soviet weapons, the influence of the red star is eclipsing the power of the star and crescent.

While the agreement between Syria and Egypt which united the two countries was important news to the West last February, its meaning to the people of these nations surpassed anything which had happened to them in recent decades. Now, armed with Russian weapons, aided by Soviet engineers and military men, Syria and Egypt are Russia's first steps to toughen up that "soft underbelly" south of the Crimea. In the Soviet scheme, the people of the Middle East shield Russia from retaliatory land invasion from the "South".

At the close of World War II Syria possessed vast quantities of Italian small arms, notably Beretta submachine guns and Carcano carbines. But by 1954 the wooing tones of Krushchev, backed up by shipments of new Czech SHE light 7.62 mm X 38 folding-bayonet automatic carbines to the Syrians, permitted officials of this government to dispose of many Italian weapons. Gun-conscious newspaper readers may recall pictures of guns at dock-side confiscated "for the Algerian Rebels," by Tunisian French authorities. These were Beretta "moschettos" and Carcano Italian carbines by the ton, but not from Italy. Routed from Egypt, they were part of

Vz52 Czech light machine gun is easily stripped by Syrian girl who spends two hours each morning learning weapons before school classes.







Fedayeen were issued Russian arms before raid on Israel town. Rifles were new, may have been surplus from Soviet withdrawals of troops from East Germany shortly before.

the huge war surplus arms cache which Syria had inherited in 1945. Unknown to most of the West at that time, Syria by the fall of '56 had been largely re-armed with Soviet-sponsored Czech weapons of the latest types.

Egypt, too, received liberal "lend lease" from behind the Iron Curtain. Egyptian authorities restricted the issue of these new weapons only to the responsible members of society. The "New Egyptian Liberation Army" formed during the Suez fight was recruited from among the intellectuals, the churchmen of Moslem Egypt, the students. Headed by such distinguished leaders as Education Minister Kamal El-Din Hussein, Youth Organizations commander, and Sheikh Abdel Rahman Tag, rector at Al Azhar University, principal theological institute of Islam in Cairo, the better class of Egyptian citizens flocked to the call to arms. Young women of the Teachers' Club of Cairo vied for rifle range honors with the coeds at Cairo University. In other parts of the city, smartly-dressed upper-class Egyptian ladies took their places in ranks beside devoutly Moslem

women who, still garbed in traditional flowing robes and head shawls, had cast aside their veils and taken up Lee-Enfields, surplus from the Egyptian Army. Their faces, no longer hidden in ancient traditions, were the faces of a New Egypt.

The mass distribution of British-made WW II Lee-Enfields (No. 4 rifles, mostly) indicated another thing about Egypt's preparedness. It indicated the new republic had enough modern arms; could issue Enfields to "militia." For Egypt, caught two years ago in the emergency of the Suez nationalization, had made three moves to rearm its forces.

First, a contract for 50,000 rifles was placed with Fabrique Nationale in Belgium. With traditional impartiality, while supplying the U.S. and Britain with the machine rifle sometimes known as "T-48," the great factory in Liege, Belgium, also made a similar (wood stocked) rifle for Egypt. FN rifles in the hands of UN troops faced FN rifles in Egyptian's hands.

But enough FN rifles were not available to Egypt in time. Erroneously labeled "Red arms in Egypt" by zealous "Life" Magazine captioners, the FN's were pictured as part of the National Liberation Army battery. Augmenting the FN's were other types.

Egypt had actually adopted the Swedish Ljungman L/42 semi-automatic gas operated rifle. A factory in Egypt to fabricate this excellent service automatic was under construction several years ago. Swedish Kpist m/45 9mm submachine guns were also widely used by Nasser's Nile troops. But the ace in the hole, when Egypt was sorely





pressed in the Sinai War, came in the form of new weapons from Mother Russia.

These later were to include reciprocal training agreements whereby Egyptian officers were trained in Iron Curtain countries, guests of the Reds. But, at first, material to wage war was what Nasser urgently needed. The exact quantity of rifles supplied is not publicly known, but Egypt and the Suez were the proving ground for the new Soviet light automatics. These included the light SKS-46 folding bayonet Russian 7.62 mm x 38 short-cartridge caliber rifles, and Avtomat 1954 machine carbines. The SKS-46 rifles were standard models, laminated stocks, blued metal, well finished, reliable in operation, using the above-barrel gas system similar to the Tokarev and the FN-Saive rifles. A tipping breech block locks at the rear inside a reciprocating block carrier. The ten-shot magazine can be unlatched and hinged down below the rifle, but ordinary loading is from the top, using a ten-shot curved Mauser-type stripper clip. Avtomats appeared in Egypt equipped with 100-shot drum magazines, and a belt-fed model of the same basic wood-stocked machine carbine was used in vehicle swivel mounts. The appearance of the 1943 Goryunov 7.62 mm medium machine gun, one of Russia's best belt-fed squad weapons, in the sandy war confirmed further information about the state of armament preparedness inside the Soviet—that Russia has completed her rearming with modern conventional weapons, as well as making great progress in nuclear and rocket design. Russia now has surplus arms, old and new. The truth that all communist countries (Continued on page 47)



Sheikh Abdel of Cairo theological school takes aim with surplus British Lanchester burp gun.



Ancient Beaumonts and long Mausers were used in border clash in Aden but arms-hungry tribes are ripe for Soviet influence after gun gifts.



Newest Czech submachine gun is issued to Syrian civilians; is here shown in Israel-made version, the "UZI," used by girl fighter in Sinai War.

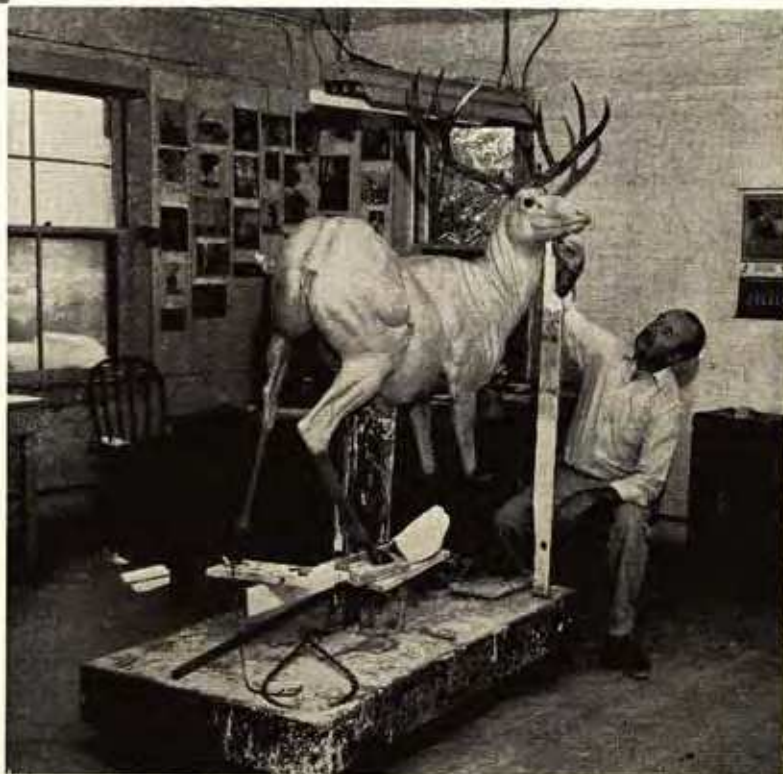


# Make Your Hunt Deductible



**HUNTING SPECIMENS FOR  
MUSEUMS OPENS NEW SPORT VISTAS  
TO HUNTERS WILLING TO TRADE  
EXTRA WORK FOR NEW SHOOTING  
THRILLS PLUS TAX REDUCTION**

Fine buck deer was shot by author using M70, .30-06, Weaver 4X. Hunt collected group for LA museum.



Mature buck deer bones are boiled, dried, mounted on armature; then taxidermist Adams modeled body for hide.



By **GEORGE WURZBURGER**  
*President, Los Angeles Adventurers' Club*  
As Told To **JAMES JOSEPH**

**A**LL ACROSS AMERICA, big museums and small are hanging out "Hunters Welcome" signs. They're asking you—the trigger-sure guy with game-wise eyes—to take gun in hand, for the sake of natural science. They're urging that you bring back trophies not for your den, but for habitat groups, those true-to-nature animal exhibits which yearly lure millions to our museums.

It's a challenge—the museum's call. And also, of course, an honor—this collecting of trophies for a worthy public purpose.

But probably you're thinking, "Who me? Nobody ever asked me to organize a museum hunt. I never realized museums really cared about the average fellow with a penchant for tracking down wildlife."

Nor did I . . . until that bitter-chill November, deep in Utah's rock-ribbed Poverty country. Yet that day I found myself shooting on orders—orders from museum taxidermist George Adams, with Adams himself crouched close behind me, half-concealed by a granite outcrop, his 6-power binoculars working far down the pine thatched canyon.

It had been an hour since gnarled Jack Butler—our guide and the grand old man of Poverty—disappeared into the pines. "I'll fetch up some mule deer worth the stuffing," Jack had reckoned, as he took off; and taxidermist Adams had smiled wryly. "Stuffed" is a swear word in the lexicon of taxidermy. But George took it good naturedly. For nowhere in all western America was there a craftier game man than Jack Butler who, in his 74 years, has bagged more game than most men ever see.

Patience—and when you're museum hunting you learn patience—we'd waited, there in the wind-seared canyon. Some game had driven out of the mixed thatch of juniper, pine, and manzanita. But we weren't just after "game." We'd come gunned for "specimens"—for mule deer perfect enough, representative enough, for preserving.

Suddenly an antlered beauty broke from cover. I threw up my .30-06, but held fire. "He's big enough," George murmured, measuring him through the glasses. "Antlers well formed. Hide . . . looks perfect . . ."

For a long moment more Adams waited, studying the animal ranging there 300 yards away. Then, decisively, he ordered, "OK, George . . . take him!"

I lined up the sights, knowing that my first shot would have to kill clean, lest we damage the hide. The shot-blast slapped hard against the granite walls, rebounding down the length of the defile. A clean kill! I sensed it even before the buck fell.

Behind me, Adams breathed excitedly. "Not much different from casual hunting, eh, George?"



Complete habitat group "secured by George Wurzbürger" is source of pride to sportsman who was pleased to learn sponsoring for museum can be tax write-off.





Careful sighting-in and frequent use of scope is needed when game killed must be practically perfect specimens.

"Plenty different," I said slowly, "and it's the difference that makes it the most rewarding shooting in all the world!"

I'm not sure George Adams understood my answer. He'd been too long a scientist—and a museum's taxidermist is that, for sure—to share my feeling; the feeling of an average hunter who finds himself gunning for posterity. But I was just a hunter, not a scientist, not a museum man.

It had begun casually enough that day, back in 1948, when I'd met Mel Lincoln, senior curator of Los Angeles County's Museum. I already knew something about Mel's museum—about the 1,000,000 visitors it attracted every year, about its famed fossil groups and habitat displays. Yet I found Mel Lincoln eager to talk about his job—and how I might fit into it.

Mel assured me that he, like most curators around the nation, relied to a considerable extent upon the "casual" hunter for specimens. I was surprised. Scientists, I'd always thought, considered the average hunter akin to a killer, decimating wildlife without reason or rhyme.

"Not so," Mel said. "Almost any hunter, with a little study and practice, can direct his aim at specimens worthy at least of his hometown's museum, maybe even good enough for the big exhibits."

"And," he added, "we need the hunter. Particularly, we curators of municipally-sponsored museums need him. We haven't the money to outfit an expensive safari. Why, to collect a rhino group in Africa might cost \$30,000. So we rely upon 'sponsors'—on fellows who'll take along one of our taxidermists, get specimens for the museum while they're bagging trophies for their dens."

"Sponsor" and "safari" sounded expensive. Yet, as "sponsor" since then of two "safaries" for Mel's museum, I've found the cost no more than had I hunted alone, or with a buddy. The only additional expense is the taxidermist, and grub for one man is a small extra.

Seriously, that Poverty trip after mule deer cost only about \$400—for a 1500-mile trip, two weeks in some of America's roughest country and more meat than my deep-freeze could hold.

Figure it yourself. It would cost you \$400, give or take a few dollars, to make the trip alone. Yet I had Utah's top guide, a talented taxidermist—and the blessings of Utah's Fish and Game Department. The meat was mine. The museum wanted only the bones and hides. And my "sponsorship" made the trip a legitimate tax deduction—as is any contribution to a recognized institution. In a word: I hunted in the name of science and, considering the tax write-off, hunted practically free. Anyway you look at it, that's a bargain . . . something not easy to find in this bargainless age.

Can any hunter shoot for posterity? The answer's yes—with some reservations. Gathering a habitat group is plain, hard work. Especially if, as with many a museum, you're on your own—without benefit of a taxidermist.

But there's nothing to equal the thrill a fellow gets, moseying the hushed halls of his local museum—and coming upon animals he's shot, and reading that hand-lettered acknowledgement: "Mule Deer Habitat, Secured by George Wurzbarger." Substitute your own name on that sign, and you've an inkling of the self-satisfaction that rewards even the most arduous of collection hunts.

What of the opportunity to shoot for your town's museum? It's never been greater—nor the need more urgent.

As Mel Lincoln explained, "Museums are forever replacing their animal groups. That's particularly true of specimens gathered and mounted 15 or 20 years ago, in the days before modern taxidermy. Then, a hide was taken—and literally 'stuffed.' We curators, like our taxidermists, dislike the word, but it describes a lot of animal groups you see in older museums. (Continued on page 60)



# GUNS FOR FOWL WEATHER



THEY SAY WILDFOWLING IS A FORM  
OF INSANITY, BUT IT'S FUN TO BE A  
LITTLE CRAZY IN MINNESOTA IN DUCK SEASON

By JOE LONG

**A** LOT OF PEOPLE say that wildfowling is a contagious form of insanity. It isn't hunting, they say, because for the most part it's just a business of sitting and waiting for the birds to come to you. And it isn't sane, because no sane person would sit, wet and miserable, in the bitter cold on the off chance that a few fool ducks will fly within shotgun reach—and that, frozen stiff, he can hit them even if they do.

Yet it must be contagious, because some two million gunners per year spend more money for shotguns, shells, decoys, and wildfowling equipment than is spent by any other hunting group for any other hunted game in America.

I'm one of the two million. When the first frost glistens in the land of 10,000 lakes, I get the urge. In the words of the old song, "I wanna go where the wild geese go." My friend, Bill Miller, has the same brand of insanity, so, each fall, we heave our sleeping gear, ammo, guns, and what-have-you into the station wagon and take off. Even the trip is fun. It's rough, because we drive long and hard;





Mallards are one of many varieties of wildfowl awaiting hunters in Minnesota.



Careful choice of cover to conceal hunter, and proper placement of decoys, help to insure successful shooting. J. C. Higgins gas-operated M60 autoloading shotgun pleases many wildfowlers.



but it's fun, humming and singing as we roll along through sleepy towns and wide-awake cities and frost-painted countryside, slowing for the unwelcome detour, heading always toward that wildfowlers' paradise—a section we think of as our very own, near Bemidji, Minnesota.

Last fall we left Detroit before the season's opening and drove for 17 solid hours, stopping only for gas and sandwiches and coffee. A hundred miles from the Canadian border we stopped, stretched, and checked into a motel. We hit the sack, dog tired after 500 miles of travel—but happy, because this was it, after a year of waiting. We set the alarm for 3:00 A.M.

I'm not one who likes getting up in the pre-dawn black of a winter morning, but even that fades into unimportance as soon as I'm awake enough to remember that it's duck season. We filled our two big gallon jugs with steaming hot coffee, filled our bellies with good solid food, and took off. The town was still sleeping—and why not, with stars still shining through the breaks in a wind-blown cloud cover?

It was still dark when we stopped; a dark, gloomy, bone-chilling dawn. We were in low country, with small pools reflecting the faint light of scattered stars. And we were silent men, both cold and miserable, both wondering why we had to be bitten by this particular insanity . . . when the first long, noisy V of birds went over us. They were little more than ghosts in the sky, and their cries came wavering down the wind in pulsing wails, and they were south bound, not stopping—but we were cold no longer and we knew, knew, that this was the best possible brand of insanity in all the world. We hurried as we unpacked and piled and tarped our





Field grade Browning O/U scatterguns are often used by all-round shots who fit tubes bored for long ranges for waterfowl, use set of open-bore barrels for skeet.

gear, driven by an almost breathless urgency. We wanted to get our decoys in the water. No telling when another wedge would come wailing over, and the decoys might stop them.

Setting decoys is an art, and every duckhunter is his own artist, but there are general rules. Ducks are like man-made aircraft: they land up-wind. And they like to come down to a lee shore. Wind crossing in front of the blind is ideal, gives you the probability of shots at incomers and birds that flare just before the touchdown. Next best is with the wind at your back, so that incomers come straight at you. Worst possible location is with the wind in your face, bringing the ducks in from behind you—if any ducks come, which is unlikely, since they are almost sure to see you before they see your decoys.

Number and placement of decoys depends a lot on the size of the water and other local conditions. Generally speaking, if you've all the water in the world before you, the more decoys the better, because ducks love company and get a feeling of security from numbers. But a small pool had better not be crowded, because ducks (geese, too) want room for landing. I have a theory of my own, too, that when birds are flying in small flocks, a few decoys are better than too many—that small flocks want company but don't want to be out-voted. One thing sure, when you lay out your decoy pattern and leave landing space for the live ones, leave it close to your blind! There's no use setting up a successful decoy layout that brings the birds down out where you have to stretch your gun-barrel to reach them.

There are all kinds of decoys, and all kinds of patterns in which to place them. Some old-timers swear by the V-shaped pattern; others set the floaters in a sort of J with the open side of the hook facing (Continued on page 44)



Magnificently engraved Ithaca single trap 12 is made for shotgun games, but trap is good practice for long shots made in duck or geese shooting.

Hunters rent shooting blinds in farm fields for shots like this at honkers.





Burgermeister Raab fired heirloom Martini offhand rifle in 200 meter match. Germans often use rifles in black powder sizes but now nitro-loaded; compete with U.S. soldiers.

# A Modern Gi-German Schutzenfest





U.S. Army range at Oberammergau is scene of fraternal soldier-civilian match. Various calibers from old 7 mm's to newest .243's are used in shoots. Jaegers like conservation officer Karl Weber (right) are hearty supporters of new matches.

**THEN, HE WAS A RIFLEMAN IN GREEN, YOUR  
ENEMY. TODAY, YOUR COMMON LOVE  
OF THE SHOOTING SPORTS HAS MADE YOU FRIENDS**

By LT. COL. G. O. ASHLEY

**Y**OU KEEP REMEMBERING the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. The man beside you was a rifleman there. He knew the numbing cold, the silent snow, the persistent fear, and the tension. Like you, he wondered whether the next sharp snap of a passing rifle bullet would end the life of one of his friends. He also wondered when the *unheard* bullet would find *him*. You keep remembering all of these things as you watch his target being lowered 200 meters down the range from where you both lay on the firing line.

In a moment, the target is raised. A white spotting marker has been placed about two o'clock at the edge of the "V" ring. The man turns and smiles shyly at you. He speaks quietly.

"Now you, Herr Oberst. You're next to fire."

There is one odd aspect to this situation. At the Battle of the Bulge, in World War II, the man beside you wore grey-green. He was on the other side. *He was your enemy.*

You try to forget this as you settle into a careful shooting position. Your scope steadies on the bullseye, and you can see the faint white circle of the "V" ring. Your forefinger cocks the set-trigger. You've not become completely familiar with the new trigger that a local gunsmith put on your re-barreled Springfield. Your finger gently moves forward to make contact with the firing trigger. Your breathing is good. The hold is steady. Your gentle pressure on the firing trigger begins, and the .243 Winchester suddenly snaps firmly back against your shoulder. A carefully handloaded 100 grain Sierra bullet speeds down the range at a velocity of something over 3,000 feet per second. Your target is lowered. There is no doubt in your mind.

The target is raised. The spotting disc is well in the "V," only slightly toward six o'clock. There is cheerful applause from the spectators. The Germans





sincerely admire this relatively new American caliber. They are eager to tool up for it. Several of the gunsmiths have asked for a cartridge, to admire it and to think about producing dies for it. They say that they think it will be a wonderful cartridge for rehdeer and gemsbuck, and maybe even for hirsch at close range.

The man beside you speaks quietly, as he comments on your shot. "*Prima, Herr Oberst.*" This means that he thinks that your shot has been first rate or high quality.

Then, he reaches over to his loading block and selects another long slim 7 mm cartridge for his ancient heirloom falling block rifle. As you watch him do this, you cannot help but admire the intricate and delicate carving on the fancy stock. With his rifle loaded, he settles again into place and concentrates once more on the black target face that stands down range. He gently takes in a restrained breath. His finger steadies on the trigger.

This man beside you was your enemy at the Battle of the Bulge. Here, he's your friend; a highly competitive friend, but generous with praise where praise is due. What accounts for the change?

Without allowing this account to get out of proportion, a fair share of the credit lies with the German-American shooting program. This program has been actively encouraged in Germany during the last eight years. The match partially described above was sponsored by the Oberammergau Rod and Gun Club in the famous Linderhof Valley. The range we used was a U. S. Army-maintained combination 200 meter rifle and 25 yard pistol layout. It is located about five miles from Oberammergau, on one fork of the highway, and about nine miles from the winter Olympic games center, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, on the second fork. The participants and spectators were German jaegers, forest masters, and citizens, standing side by side

with and shooting in competition against U.S. military personnel of all ranks from the Air Force, the Army, and the Navy. This match was one of hundreds that are fired each year from Holstein to Berchtesgaden. It was one fundamental part of a full coordinated program of U.S.-German community relations that may one day affect the world.

This shooting match, and others like it, are of real interest to the readers of this magazine. It is further concrete proof of the fact that genuine interest in and admiration of fine guns and quality shooting can not only cut across national and cultural boundaries, but can be used to further re-create community interest here at home.

The recipe is disarmingly simple. Combine a fair program of varied events with good food, adequate facilities, and a sincere friendly atmosphere. Mix in some limitations on some of the events to help spread the prizes among all varieties of marksmanship skill. Add a few surprise or bonus targets, where anyone can win providing they get on the paper at all. Stir the whole event with well-seasoned good humor and fun. Discourage those who take themselves much too seriously. Provide safety precautions that are adequate but that are not harrassingly picayune. Keep the prizes plentiful and simple and inexpensive, so the financial side of the event takes its appropriate supporting place where it properly belongs.

This program worked in Germany, after World War II. It was born in the worst possible circumstances. After the war in Germany, military and civilian arms were confiscated, "liberated," and sometimes simply stolen. The word got around. In addition, unfortunately, a few Americans presented a very poor example of hunter-sportsmanship. Thousands of head of hoofed and small game were literally slaughtered, and little (Continued on page 43)



Jaeger Lindebner views Garmish valley. His carbine is the only rifle he can afford so far, because many fine rifles were confiscated, "liberated," or just plain stolen during the war.





Gun club member Capt. L. Courtney gets set for 200 meters. In pistol match Germans shoot Frankford Arsenal national match .45's to make scores.



Instruction for children is a part of meets. Army officer's daughter, Cindy Craig, dry-fires Ruger from "bench rest."



The author enjoys hunting in the gruenwald of middle Germany. Reh buck, small deer, is popular game animal.

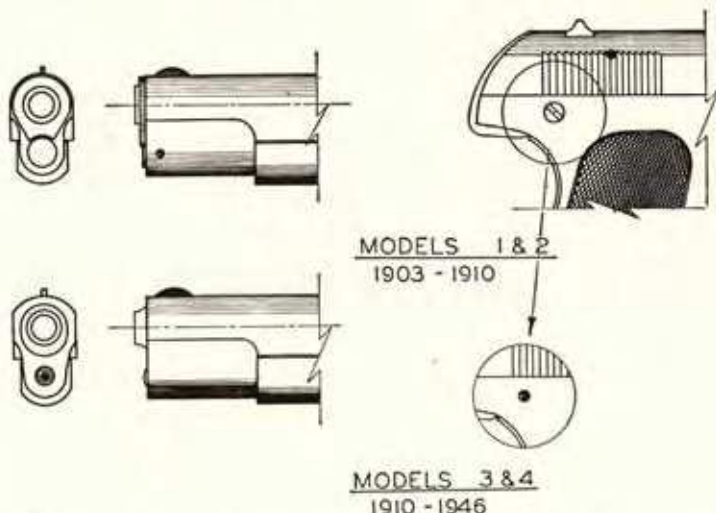


# THE COLT'S



# POCKET AUTOS

## IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF COLT POCKET AUTOMATICS



Main differences between earliest and later pocket Colts are in hammer pin or screw, and in front of slide design.

**TOO GOOD TO CHANGE, COPIED AROUND  
WORLD, BROWNING-DESIGNED POCKET AUTOS  
ARE NOW MUCH VALUED AS COLLECTOR'S ITEMS**

By DONALD SIMMONS

**P**IONEER MAKER of .32 caliber automatics in the U. S. at the turn of the century was the Colt's Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company. Licensed to use the pistol patents of John Browning, the guns made acquired the name "Colt" rather than Browning. The inventor was characterized by all who knew him as a man of great modesty, and J.M.B. was content to take the royalties, while the firm took the credit. Among obsolete and obsolescent arms which today attract the attention of collectors, the pocket-sized pistols of the Hartford gunmakers rank foremost.

The .32 pocket automatic as originally invented by Browning was never made in the United States. Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre of Belgium began its manufacture in 1900. This pistol, unlike later .32 Brownings, was striker fired.

Browning's first American pocket automatic made by Colt appeared in 1903. In gun cranks' discussions this pistol is usually described as being *standard with no unusual features*. This statement is the highest form of compliment. Rather, what should be said is that most of the rest of the world's pocket automatics are more or less copies of the Colt Model 1903. The pistol was so good that even a company as demanding as Colt never made any major changes in it as long as it was made, 1903 to 1946, almost a half century.

The Model 1903 pocket automatic was made in two calibers—.32 automatic and .380 automatic. It weighed 24 ounces and had either a 4" or 3¾" barrel. The magazine held eight cartridges in .32 caliber and seven in .380 caliber. The pistol had an over all length of 6¾" or 7" depending on the barrel length. Finish could be either





Over 700,000 of the Colt pocket autos have been made and gun is now beginning to interest collectors. Complete set in original box with caliber tag and instructions is rare.

blued or nickel plated, the former being much more common. When last sold commercially in 1941 the gun cost \$26.50; yet today, a second hand one sells for five to ten dollars more than a new one did. This is in part because of inflation but also the ever magic Colt name is a primary factor. Colt made over 700,000 of these pocket automatics. This figure is probably greater than the combined number of pocket automatics made by all other United States manufacturers.

There are four model variations in the Colt 1903 pocket automatic. A word of warning should be given here. Recently many reblued and refinished Colts are on the market, making an external identification very hard by such features as grips and general finish.

#### Model I—32 Caliber only:

This gun has a barrel bushing, similar to the Government Model 45 automatic, which can be seen in front. Also, from the side, a pin passes through the recoil spring housing. Its main difference from subsequent models is the four inch barrel. The markings are, on the right side of the slide:

AUTOMATIC COLT  
CALIBER 32 RIMLESS SMOKELESS

and on the left slide side:

BROWNING'S PATENT      COLT'S PAT. F.A. MFG. CO.  
PAT'D APRIL 20, 1897      HARTFORD, CONN., U.S.A.

Also at end of slide is a rampant colt in a circle.

Grips are hard black rubber with a coarse checkering; COLT at top bordered by scalloped edges. Rampant colt in circle at bottom. The first model was made from 1903-1908, and serial numbers, .32 caliber only, from #1-#71,999.

#### Model II—.32 and .30 Caliber:

This model differs from I only in having a 3¾ inch barrel. The markings on the right slide side are the same as Model I. Left side slide:

PATENTED      COLT'S PT. F.A. MFG. CO.  
APR. 20, 1897, DEC. 22, 1903      HARTFORD CT. U.S.A.

The grips are same as Model I. The gun was made from 1908-1910, and serial numbers, in .32 Caliber, #72,000-#105,050; in .380 Caliber, #1-#6251. This

(Continued on page 54)



# THE ROSS



**LIKE BILLY THE KID, THE ROSS WAS  
HERO OR COLD BLOODED MURDERER, DEPENDING  
ON WHO WAS TELLING THE STORY**

By H. V. STENT

**P**ROBABLY NO OTHER RIFLE and cartridge since the first repeater has stirred up so much controversy as the Ross. It was a deadly killer, it couldn't slay a rabbit. It would make six-inch groups at 1100 yards; it couldn't hit the proverbial barn door at ten feet. It was the safest, strongest rifle ever made; it was the most treacherous man-killer ever butted to shoulder. Its bolt didn't turn like an ordinary rifle—it just slid back and forth; and it was fast!

Furious discussions boiled up out of hunting-camps and gun-shops into the pages of all the outdoor magazines. Prominent authorities thundered at each other in print from opposing sides. The Canadian army carried it proudly into World War I, and when one Canadian armorer-sergeant first announced it was unsafe, his camp commandant bawled him out unmercifully. But within half an hour, the sergeant had demonstrated the rifle's dangerous action before the officer's astonished eyes and soon after that the Ross was withdrawn from army use and its manufacture ceased.

So the Ross has been dead since 1916. But you never saw a livelier corpse. For years after World War I, second-hand dealers did a lively business disposing of surplus military Rosses. In World War II they popped up again, officially issued to Canadian troops, and were again offered for

Ross bolt varied. From top to bottom, they are: Mannlicher-like M1897; 1903; Model R .303 Sporter; 1905 first issue with flat extractor; 1905 with triangular extractor; 1909 target model, segmental bolt head; M1910 with vertical lugs.



# RIFLE RUCKUS



Spiral cams on multi-lug M10 Ross bolt gave slick operation but could be reassembled wrong. Screw in bolt makes careless reassembly difficult. Ross bullets were good at long range.

Ross enthusiast Herbert Cox shows how accidents were badly reported. Thumb should be injured if bolt blew back when locked, as claimed. Ross bolt (opened) could slam back into shooter's face on some models.

sale by dealers after the ruckus was over. Thousands are still in use in the United States and Canada. As recently as 1954, when the Russians startled us by winning the World's Shooting Championships at Caracas, they won the Running Deer event, top testimony to the speed and smoothness of a bolt action, with-guess what! Ross rifles. Rosses rebarreled to Russian 7.62 caliber, but Rosses just the same.

If guns have schizophrenia, the Ross in life and death was certainly one of the splittest personalities in rifledom. Even at this distance away in time, it is almost impossible to assess its qualities justly. But it seems fairly certain that, ballistically, the .280 Ross cartridge was a humdinger in its day. With 3350 feet per second with 130 grain bullet, 3150 f.p.s. with 146 grain., and 2900 f.p.s. with 180 grain, velocity of the bullet, it still beats the factory loads for either the .270 Winchester or Remington's new .280, which are, respectively, twenty and fifty years more up-to-date than Ross' brain child.

When this fast-stepping .280 first appeared, it stood out among the slow-poking 2000 f.p.s. calibers of its day like a nude at a church social. Excited users boasted of "shooting point blank at 500 yards," of misjudging ranges badly yet still scoring because of the string-straight trajectory. The explosive effect of this high velocity bullet, new then, filled



Solid-lug M1905 rifle was issued to Canadians in WWI, withdrawn from trenches because of weak extraction. Caliber .303 offered no advantage though .280 Ross cartridge was great.





Rear sight on stock heel and glass plate foresight were fitted to .300 H & H Magnum target rifle. Arm was used for fine accuracy at 1000 yard's range. Shooter lay prone on back, held gun over feet.



First known Ross (top) was built in 1897. Small exposed hammer backed up bolt that was improvement on Mannlicher. Middle, Quebec Ross caliber .370/375 with Lancaster of London oval-bore barrel. At bottom, Model R sporter in .303 British, solid lugs on bolt.

many with awe. "Why, you can shoot a bear's leg right off with it, or let daylight clear through him sideways," marvelled one old hunter.

Of course, the Ross was a Magnum, one of the first. Its case is bigger, longer than the .270, .280, .30-06 tribe. Filled with modern powders, it could probably make many of the modern 7 mm wildcats say "Uncle." After all, the famous .280 Halger, which received so much publicity in the 1930s and '40s as the ultra ultra super high velocity rifle, was merely the .280 Ross cartridge.

The only thing appreciably wrong about the .280 Ross was the rifle which fired it—and arguments about those guns are as long-winded as the very name of the inventor, Sir Charles Henry Augustus Frederick Lockhart Ross, of Ross-Shire, Scotland.

Information on Sir Charles Ross is not plentiful, but he was a Scottish engineer who got the idea of making a straight-pull rifle while in India near the turn of the last century. Whether he thought the turn-bolt Lee-Enfields issued were too slow for hunting tigers, or wanted to give sporting guns a lightning speed of action, is not known. He knew the problems of deer stalking in his Scottish highlands, where long shots with "express" rifles were the rule, and his emphasis on high velocity long-range weapons may have come from such association. Charles Lancaster, the gunmaking firm of London which developed many advances in arms, including oval-bored rifling to reduce fouling, built some of his first experimental models. The Model 1897 had an outside hammer, like the Winchester lever guns, similarly cocked by the bolt riding back over it. Some early models were also built in Hartford, Conn. Model 1903 Rosses exist of both Lancaster and Hartford make. Distinctive features include the right-side thumb lever with the magazine follower could be depressed for fast loading, and safety slide on the stock forward of the trigger. Sporting back sights were fitted.

Ross came to Canada about 1903 to supervise hydroelectric installations, and decided to make rifles in Quebec. First production models there were the Sporting M1903 and the Military Mark I. The Mark I had several flaws, one being that the action flew open too readily. Some were issued to the North West Mounted Police and, when the butts were banged on the ground or floor at (Continued on page 39)





Early Mark II\* (1905) military had magazine lever; was fitted with tangent curve rear sight for caliber .303.



Modified Mark II\*\* is sometimes called "1st sniper model," with accessory rear sight that is attached using stock bolt.



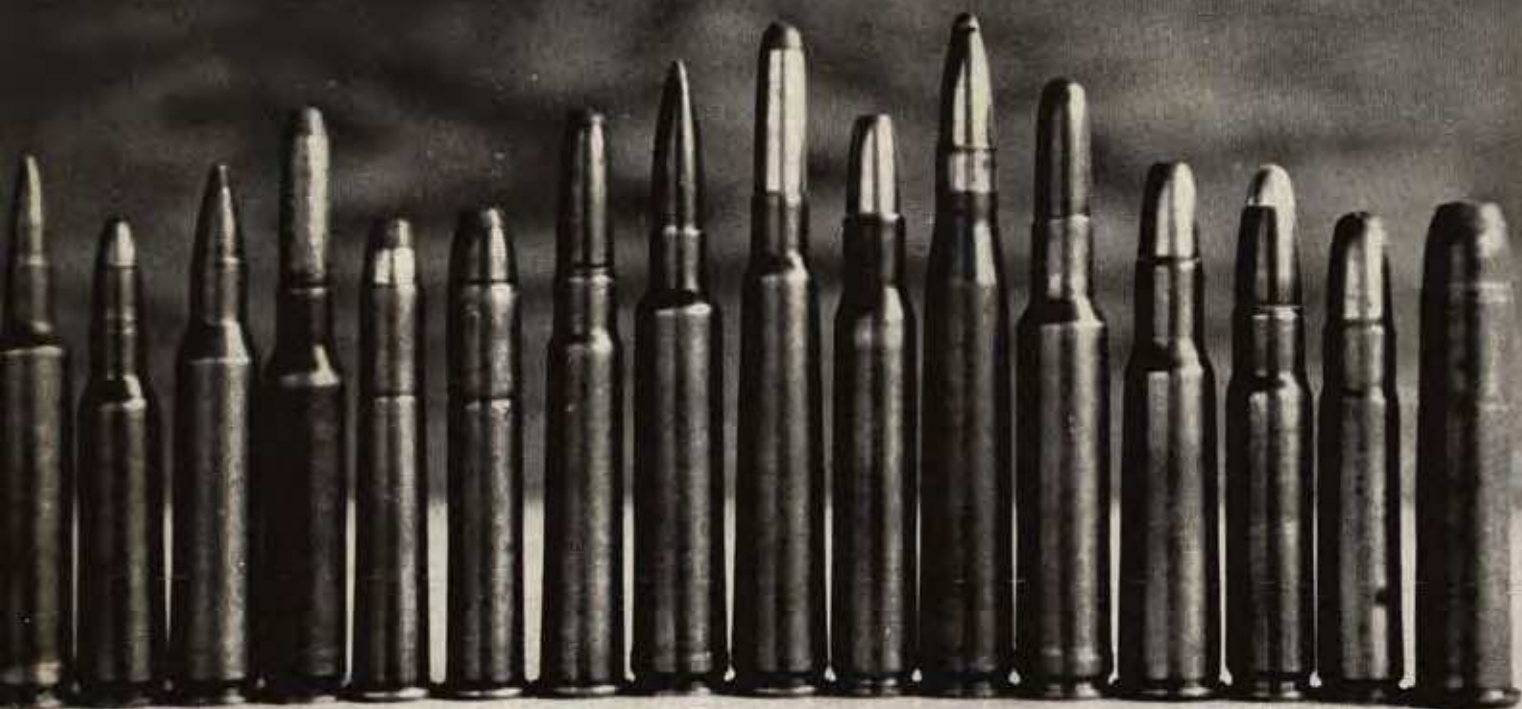
Mark II\*\* has longer barrel (30 1/2" instead of 26 1/2") and sight fixed permanently to receiver, may be target issue.



Model 1910 Mk III is common Canadian service rifle, has multiple lug bolt head that can be assembled unsafely.



# *Bullets* **FOR BRUSH**



Comprehensive brush deflection tests by Sell included .228 Ackley Magnum, .250-3000, .257 Roberts, 6.5 Mannlicher, .32-40, .38-55, .30-40 Krag, 7X61 Sharpe & Hart, .280 Ross, .30-06, .300 H & H Magnum, .300 Ackley Short Magnum, .348 and .358 Win., .35 Rem., and .45-70 Gov't.



Custom-stocked Mauser in fiddleback walnut chambered .300 A.S.M. was fired in the tests.



## BULLET PENETRATION, BULLET EXPANSION MEAN

NOTHING UNLESS THE BULLET GETS TO THE TARGET AT WHICH IT WAS AIMED

By FRANCIS E. SELL

**S**TANDING THERE where the trophy buck dropped, I looked back at the place where Art Richardson had stood when he made the shot. It wasn't an easy place to make a kill, with that big grey faced buck spooking along through the mountain willow, with only a small and only partly open space for the shot. Plenty of big game bullets wouldn't have done the job. For even here, in this small opening, the bullet had to buck brush to reach the all important vital area for a clean kill. And this one was clean; the buck hadn't taken a step after the bullet hit him.

This was truly remarkable—because that bullet had cut brush to get to its target. It had cut off a mountain willow limb about fifteen feet from where the deer lay. Another limb, a full inch in diameter, hung by a few bark shreds five feet closer to the target—limbs the bullet hit *before* plowing through to make a clean kill.

In many ways this was a typical big game shot, especially on deer or elk, except that the range was a bit longer than most. Art took his buck at a hundred yards. Most

brush shooting in typical big game territory is done at shorter ranges.

Art used a 348 Model 71 Winchester, and the 200 grain Remington Core-lok bullet, factory loading. At the target, where ballistics count, that heavy 200 grain slug was ambling along at 2100 feet a second. It had cut the mountain willows in its passage, expanded beautifully at the target, then held together for deep penetration, angling through from behind the left shoulder, breaking the off shoulder before leaving the game.

How many modern, high velocity calibers would have gotten a bullet through to the game, after hitting those willows? Not many. Bullet deflection and bullet blowup would have stopped them short of a clean kill. You see, the things a bullet does *before* reaching the target can and often do determine its performance after it gets there. Eight inches deflection here would have meant the difference between a clean kill and only a wounding hit, with a good chance that the trophy would be lost.



Even heavy bullets keyhole at too high velocity and, once tumbling, will deflect badly if they hit a twig.



Bullet driven at too high velocity blows up when it touches brush, reaches target only in bits if at all.



Erroneous concepts of field performance of bullets are furthered by showing gelatine blocks under the stress of bullet passage in laboratory tests. This places the emphasis on bullet performance *after* its arrival at the target. It would be interesting to place some of these gelatin blocks behind a screening of brush, *then* examine bullet performance, after the bullet had had to buck brush to get through to the target. The very thing which gives the greatest disruption in these gelatin blocks, under ideal laboratory conditions, are those which cause poor results out in the brush.

Ballisticians talk learnedly about the time element in bullet expansion. They say, the faster the expansion, the shorter the period in which energy is given up, the more shocking power. That means high velocity. And as velocity is reduced, if this premise is correct, the longer period of time in which the work load is delivered, the less killing power a bullet has. These learned men advocate extremely

high velocities and light bullets for *all* big game shooting. Each time they report a kill, with the bullet completely blowing up in the body cavity of game, they cheer lustily for ballistic progress.

But out in the brush, with that trophy buck in front of your rifle, the story is different. Sure, if you have time to be selective, and the countryside is not over run with other hunters, you can down a deer or elk with just about any bullet, driven at about any velocity. But if you have to take the first shot at legal game offered, considerable prayerful thought must be given, in the selection of proper big game bullets, to circumstances not considered by most of the experts.

I have killed more than my share of deer and elk, with just about all the popular calibers and bullet weights considered even remotely suitable for big game. But it was only recently that I took the entire problem of suitable big game bullets out into the woods where it belongs, and began testing them from the standpoint of a big game hunter with a rifle in his hands and deer or elk on his mind.

I only had about two simple questions to be answered. What happens to bullets cutting through brush in typical big game cover? What does it take in the way of velocity and bullet weight to blow up a bullet in the brush?

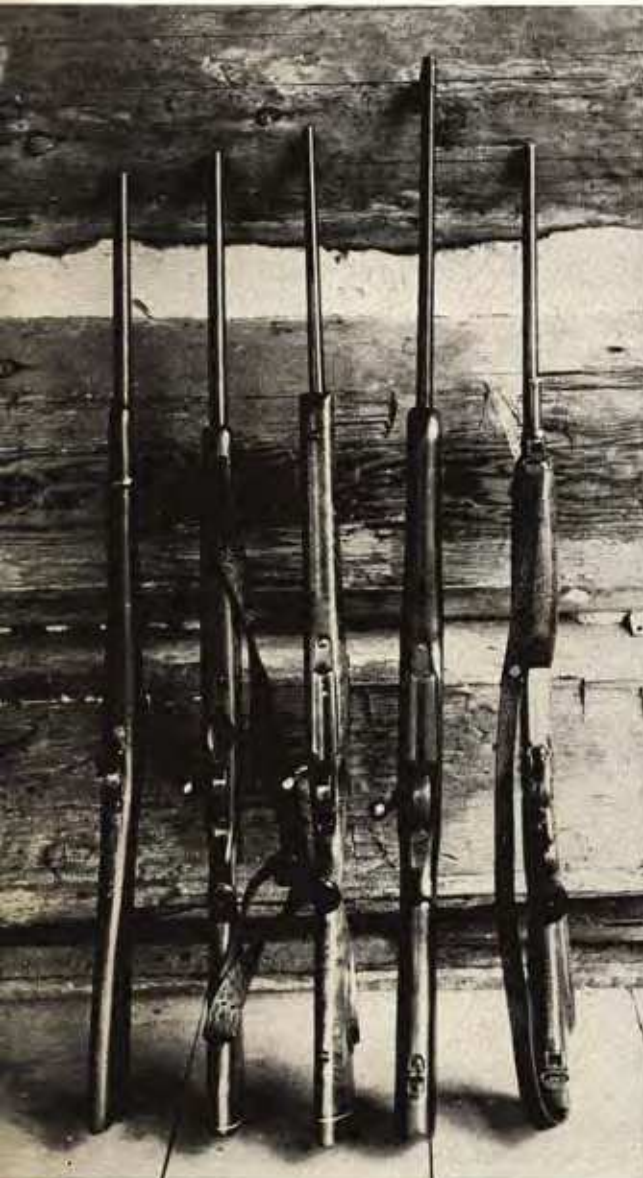
Tests were started with the .228 Ackley Magnum. This splendid little wildcat has given excellent results on big game. Jim Bond, the famous Alaskan hunter, used it with complete success on Caribou. Such shooting however, is open shooting, and there is none of the slapbang, snap-shooting at a buck deer in the brush, or a bull elk in the jackpine thickets such as there is in Oregon's Umitillas.

Bullets used in this .228 Magnum wildcat were the Ackley Controlled Expansion, 70 grains weight. They were driven at 3500 feet a second, muzzle velocity.

I used the 100 yard small bore target in all testing. This was placed behind a screening of brush, such as a deer might use, standing in heavy cover. Five shots were fired at typical, 50 yard deer ranges in heavy cover. The target was placed two feet behind a screen of brush where there was a maze of limbs from a quarter to one inch in diameter. Only two of the five shots caught the target. Both bullets showed they were keyholing, or tumbling. Three shots were deflected enough to miss the fourteen-inch-square paper. Neither of the two shots caught on the paper would have given a clean kill. Both had enough deflection to have missed the vital area of a deer.

Moving the target farther back in the brush, ten feet behind the screening of limbs and small trees, where it was still sufficiently in view to afford accurate aiming, none of the next five shots appeared on the paper at all. Tracing the path of these bullets through the thicket showed that they were so designed that none indicated a blowup. All had driven through, their course plainly marked by the curving paths they took through the screening.

This same test with the .243 Winchester showed similar results, when the factory 100 grain bullet was used. The first attempt gave me three hits on the target, with an average deflection of five inches per shot from the point of aim. Moving the target back ten feet behind the brush screening kept all five shots off the target. The only difference in performance I could detect was the fact that the Winchester, with 100 grain bullets, factory loading, very consistently blew up in the brush, many of them before reaching the target. The (Continued on page 55)



Rifles used in bullet tests ranged from brush-cutting .45-70 to the high velocity .228 Magnum.





On famous Camp Perry firing line, author Moore fires pet rifle, nicknamed "Bigglebaum," barreled by Eric Johnson. Moore's score: 6380-470X out of 6400 for 6th place in 1956 National Championships.

# BARRELS for CHAMPIONS

By LARRY F. MOORE

**FAMOUS AS MAKER OF SUPERB  
CUSTOM RIFLE BARRELS,  
ERIC JOHNSON AT 71 IS STILL A  
FORMIDABLE MATCH OPPONENT  
WITH HIS RUSTY OLD GAS-PIPE RIFLE**

AH, NOW I KNOW the secret," exclaimed Señor Jose Gonzales as he noted the name "Eric Johnson" on my barrel. I had just completed a stage in one of the National Mid-Winter Matches at St. Petersburg several years ago when this Cuban competitor came up to my firing point for a closer examination of my rifle as it lay on the shooting mat. I had been fortunate in turning in some exceptionally good scores for the wind conditions and, therefore, had attracted the attention of this expert-class shot.

There was no point in denying that the Johnson barrel had contributed to my success. It had. As a matter of fact, my tests have demonstrated that a Johnson barrel is as likely to improve the accuracy of an ailing rifle as any other device or accessory. Needless to say, "the Old Swede," as Eric is generally known, got another customer.

No other maker of custom caliber .22 rim fire barrels





Competitors change targets at Perry. Ten ring on smallbore 100 yard target is 2" in diameter, with inner X ring 1" across. To place, shooter must keep all shots in 10 ring with most shots Xs.

has produced so many match-winning barrels as the Old Swede. Without going into his records he is unable to tell just how many barrels he has made since he went into business under his own name 24 years ago. My most recent barrel is stamped #1383, so it is certain that he has produced a considerable number.

There are several advantages of a custom barrel on a caliber .22 match rifle. While the quality and performance of many factory barrels leave little to be desired, one is more likely to get a top-performing barrel when the manufacturing operations are not performed on a mass-production basis. Each Johnson barrel is inspected at each operation and, if it should not come up to expectations, it is discarded. Also, the weight and center gravity of the barrel affect the holding qualities of the rifle. The holding qualities are very important in a smallbore match rifle when one is shooting at a one-inch X ring at 100 yards. Since the physical characteristics of smallbore shooters vary greatly, it is reasonable that there would be a wide range in the weight and balance of the rifles which are found to be the optimum for each shooter.

Eric Johnson specializes in caliber .22 rim fire match barrels. While he has made match-winning barrels in other calibers, he prefers to make the small-bores. He has three standard barrel sizes but he will make the barrel to the customer's special dimensions if requested to do so. His number one barrel size is one inch at the breech and  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch at the muzzle; the number two size is  $1\frac{1}{16}$  inches at the breech and  $\frac{15}{16}$  inch at the muzzle; and the number three size is  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches at the breech and 1 inch at the muzzle. Eric recommends a length of 28 inches. The Johnson barrels being made presently have eight grooves, although they have been made with as many as 12 grooves. John Crowley won a number of matches with a three-groove Johnson barrel.

The Old Swede identifies each barrel with the words ERIC JOHNSON, MADE IN U.S.A., and FOR .22 L.R. ONLY stamped on the barrel just forward of the receiver. In addition, the more recent barrels have five stars arranged in



Author's left-handed custom-stocked Dunlap action, Johnson barreled, is a prized precision instrument.



Master barrel-maker Eric Johnson, shown mounting barrel blank in deep-hole drill, is 71 years old, still active, still tough competition in any shooting match.

various patterns. But it is almost as easy to identify a Johnson barrel by looking through the bore as by reading by the name on the barrel. The lands are very narrow for a minimum deformation of the bullet, and the finish is like a mirror. While Eric does not polish his bores, it is seldom that a tool mark can be seen with the unaided eye.

The grooves in the Johnson barrels are cut. This method, while requiring a great deal more time than some recently developed methods in which the metal is displaced, has the advantage of putting less stress on the barrel during manufacture. A free-cutting steel is used to assure a bore of uniform dimensions and minimum wear on cutting tools. While this material would not be desirable for a high-velocity round, it gives a barrel life of about 50,000 rounds in the caliber .22 rim fire.

Eric takes considerable pride in his ability to have the deep-hole drill exit at the center of the blank in the first operation of making a match barrel. Should the drill not go through the center of the blank, it may be necessary to bend the barrel so that the bore is straight.

The operation of barrel straightening is done by means of a hand-operated press. It takes a considerable amount of skill and experience to straighten barrels. While it takes a good eye to determine whether or not a barrel is bent, the trick is to tell *where* the barrel is bent and how much. In straightening the barrel it is necessary to bend the barrel at the right point a sufficient amount so that when the force of the press is removed, the barrel will spring back just the right amount for a straight bore.

In the reaming operations, only a few thousandths of an inch of metal is removed to eliminate the drill marks and to leave a bore of uniform diameter. The final reamer is a burnishing tool. The bore now looks like a mirror.

Cutting the rifling is probably the most critical operation in making the barrel. The rifling is done with a single cutter which is carefully made and heat treated. The cutter takes out about 0.0002 inch of (Continued on page 41)

Rifle at right carries Johnson barrel on fine Morgan "lefty" action.





# Gun of the Month

By HOWARD L. BLACKMORE



THE OLD • THE NEW • THE UNUSUAL



**TREEBY CHAIN GUN MADE IN BRITAIN IN 1850'S WORKED LIKE PERCUSSION REVOLVER BUT HAD HIGH MAGAZINE CAPACITY OF REPEATING RIFLE.**



Firing Treeby gun is author, noted arms expert. Lever below barrel holds it tightly on chamber front slope, avoids gas leakage, giving more power.

EVER SINCE THE DAWN of firearms, gunmakers have sought to increase the rate of fire of single barrel guns. Elisha Collier and Sam Colt introduced their successful revolvers, but still people wanted more firepower. Increasing the number of chambers in a fixed revolver cylinder was not satisfactory, though French and Belgian designers did it—their guns are awkward things to handle. A more satisfactory solution was offered by Thomas Wright Gardner Treeby of London. In 1855 he patented (No. 1552, Great Britain) his "Chain Gun."

The cylinder was replaced with an endless chain of chambers, moving around a geared spindle. Each chamber had a percussion nipple recessed in it. Each chamber was beveled at its front edge, to seal the joint against loss of gas and consequent pressure and force. Some revolvers so designed moved the cylinder against the barrel; Treeby instead reversed the process. The barrel is separate from the frame and the two are connected by a threaded sleeve, controlled by a handle. Rotating the sleeve shifts the barrel forward and back, a quarter turn being sufficient to clear the chambers.

To produce a really gastight joint between barrel and chamber, Treeby at first fitted a rubber ring into the mouth of each chamber. Though he discarded this idea and tapered the ends of the chambers, the ring seal is used on modern revolver cannon where gas-tight fitting is required. Treeby's use of coned chambers was effective—photographs reveal no significant flame at the breech, when the century-old gun is fired.

It seems unlikely the Chain Gun was made in any quantity. It was suitable only for military use. In 1859 Select Committees of officers at Hythe and Woolwich tried it. A chain of 30 chambers seems to have been used in the gun and all 30 shots were fired successfully within one minute on several trials. It was also shot at 200 yards for accuracy and produced a satisfactory group in just over a minute. However, as many other inventors learned, it was one thing for the experts to approve, and another for the authorities to hand out a contract. The Treeby gun in the Vokes collection is 39" overall, 20" barrel of .50 caliber, five grooves. There are 14 chambers 2¼" long. Total weight is 10½ pounds, no serial number.



## THE ROSS RIFLE RUCKUS

(Continued from page 30)

"Order ARMS", the actions would clatter open embarrassingly, adding red faces to red coats.

The Mark II (Model 1905) was a better gun; probably Ross' best. In .303 caliber, both military and sporting models, it had solid lugs which were horizontal when locked. The military rifle was made in Military Target and Military Presentation grades, the Presentation grade being better wood and better outside finishing. Its straight pull bolt was fast to operate, and this model bolt stayed shut. Trigger pull was crisp, and the follower could be depressed for fast loading, or could be dropped to allow closing the bolt on an empty chamber. Several Canadian units received this Ross, and both soldiers and sportsmen seemed to find it satisfactory.

While his factory produced this model, Ross developed his new .280, which came out about 1908. A new rifle for it was built (sporting and match models), similar to the 1905 or Mark II except the locking lugs were interrupted thread type, similar to the newest Remington slide and auto sporting rifles. The lugs locked horizontally.

Besides the commotion it stirred up in hunting circles, the new rifle in match model swept the boards at Bisley in 1908. An article on the .280 by E. C. Crossman, one of the most influential shooting writers in North America in his day, appeared in 1909 in "Arms and the Man." Crossman says the Ross .280 scored a possible at 900 yards at Bisley, 72 x 75 at 1000, and 73 x 75 at 1100. Its user won the long-range championship of England that year. Crossman also describes his own .280 Ross sporter, that came with targets made by it from machine rest measuring 7 1/4" and 5 1/2" extreme speed respectively for 10 shots at 500 yards. That would be good going for our best rifles today. Ross developed accurate bullets for his match .280 cartridge, and Dupont developed a new powder (No. 10) especially for this calibre.

It might well be that if Ross had made no other models and concentrated on ironing the bugs out of what he then had, the Ross and its .280 cartridge would still be in use.

But he couldn't stop designing. Crossman called him the world's foremost authority on firearms and ammunition. He got onto an automatic rifle kick, patented it in the U.S. in May of 1910. As with his straight pull designs, the autoloader was a little bit unlike anything seen anywhere else in the world. It was a short-recoil, locked breech gun that must have shocked the shooter by a succession of jumps and kicks. At the shot, the barrel and breech block recoiled inside the receiver. After an inch of travel,

the breech block, which surrounded the multi-lug barrel root, unlocked. The barrel collar up front had compressed a heavy spring and this threw the tube forwards, jerking it off the fired shell and kicking out the empty case. In full front travel, the heavy barrel had compressed a second spring, which now pushed the barrel rearward again, sliding it over the bullet of the second round from the magazine. In the full recoil position for the second time the barrel and breech block re-engaged, the springs pushed the whole assembly back to the "in battery" position, and the gun was ready to fire again—if the shooter still had the nerve. Brilliant engineering of the details could not salvage the basically unsound design of this novel autoloader. Ross also tried his hand at machine gun making, and a specimen of his machine gun was supposedly on display in the Radio City Music Hall museum during the 1940's.

Turning again to rifles, Ross redesigned the straight pull another time. Maybe he did it to satisfy new Canadian government specifications for their new army. In 1910 Ross came out with a new Mark III .303 military rifle and sporters (1910 model) in .303, .280 and .35 Winchester. While the regular Military model was .303 British caliber, some were made in the Military Match version for the hopped-up .280 Ross shell. About seven Canadians showed up at Camp Perry in 1913 with these special rifles, and swept the boards in the military matches. Significant today is the rule for N.R.A. Military rifles which specifies that the gun must in "caliber .30-06." The military match .280 had a modified magazine which took five rounds and was just long enough for the match .280 cartridge.

No doubt the new model was an improvement in some ways, but there was change in the bolt which had sinister portent.

Any Ross rifle, being straight pull, has both bolt and sleeve. When you take this complete bolt out of the breech, the bolt head stays in the unlocked position, about an inch out of the sleeve. Snap it a quarter-turn to the right and it is then tight back against the bolt sleeve in the locked position. As this is at right angles to the bolt-ways in the receiver, the bolt-head has to be pulled out and turned to the unlocked position again before you can return the bolt assembly into the receiver.

Now, on the Model 1905 or Mark II Ross, with the bolt out, you can only turn the bolt head to the right, because the extractor blocks it to the left. But on his new Model 1910 or Mark III, Sir Charles chose to make the bolt-head move through a different arc—it locks vertically, opens horizontal-



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ly—and because the extractor interfered with this, he had it cut away so that the lugs could pass underneath it. So there was little to prevent the Ross bolt from turning left instead of right. When it did, the bolt head would slide into the receiver, but wouldn't lock; not a good thing for the complexion if you tried to fire a cartridge with it . . .

Maybe nobody did at first, or maybe reports of such little peccadilloes were hushed up. Anyway, the Canadians seemed well enough satisfied with their new army rifle. It was accurate on the range.

Then came World War I and Canada plunged in. The armies she raised were of a size unbelievable compared to her small peacetime establishment; and all except one regiment were armed with .303 Rosses. Sir Charles' factory in Quebec saw its production skyrocket into hundreds of thousands.

Early grumblings that the 30-inch barreled Ross was too long and unwieldy for the trenches were soon followed by blasphemous blasts about jamming. The Ross is weak on extraction, and with soft case war-time ammunition and trench mud making things worse, many rifles simply froze shut. Men shoved them butt down on to the ground and hammered and even jumped on the bolt handles, and collective curses poured down on Sir Charles Ross.

He heard enough of the complaints through official sources, and sought a simple solution for the jamming by over-boring chambers. The rifles still jammed, so he overbored the next batch still more. Then the dissatisfied Canadian government took the plunge in June, 1916, and gave up the Ross. Canadian troops were reequipped with the reliable old British Lee Enfield. Manufacture of the Ross rifle ceased; indeed, the Canadian government expropriated Sir Charles' Quebec factory, and I believe Sir Charles sued them for \$3,000,000 or some such trifle, in consequence.

Other faults found with the .303 Ross overseas received less publicity. One was that in war-time production, at least, bolts varied from very soft to very hard, and armorers often had to re-heat treat them. For another, one armorer at least discovered that the extracted Ross bolt could have its bolt-head turned the wrong way and still would go back in the rifle, pick up a cartridge from the magazine, and fire it—unlocked.

He saw a comrade dead in the trenches with the firing-pin, mainspring, and cocking piece of his Ross imbedded in his face; another dead with the bolt out of his rifle and the lugs badly torn. He saw a group of buddies set a "trench mousetrap" with a Ross; the cocked and loaded rifle aimed at a piece of cheese, with a string from cheese to trigger; and the bolt blew out of the rifle when the "trap" went off.

He became an anti-Ross crusader, this sergeant Lindsay Elliott. He showed everyone who would listen to him just how easy it was to flick the Ross bolt the wrong way

when it was out of the rifle. When the colonel called him up on the carpet for it, he did his trick with the bolt and issued his quiet challenge:

"Would you fire this rifle now, sir?"  
"Of course I'd fire the rifle; why the devil shouldn't I?"

"Because it would blow your face off, sir," said the sergeant with grim satisfaction and, laying the rifle over sandbags, he pulled the trigger with string and the bolt blew out with a bang.

It may or may not have had any connection with the withdrawal of the Ross from army use. But after the war, that same Lindsay Elliott startled many a proud Ross owner as much as he had astonished his colonel. He could take a Ross, remove the bolt action, flick it wrong, and replace the action unlocked in a matter of seconds. Ross fans, and there were thousands of them, have often claimed that *their* rifle would not accept a wrongly-assembled bolt action without the use of considerable force. But Elliott, who got about Canada a lot in his work as salesman for an ammunition company, had numerous chances to try out various Rosses, and he told me he had never found a Ross Mark III or Model 1910 which would not accept its bolt action readily when wrongly assembled.

When Ross proponents challenged him to prove that such wrongly assembled bolts had ever hurt anyone, he had the gory details of peace-time accidents as well as wartime ones to prove his points. A man named A. L. Thompson, in California, had a Ross bolt let go on him in 1922. Thompson was lucky he shot right-handed and escaped with serious wounds. An Alberta man named Louis LaValley had a .280 Ross bolt blow when he fired from his left shoulder. Instead of hitting the side of his face, it struck full center, and LaValley died eleven hours later.

Ross bolts even let go in the middle of a series of shots when they could not have been wrongly assembled. One big ammunition company, developing their first .280 ammunition, had a Ross rifle in machine rest blow out at the 37th of a series of shots. The bolt flew through a heavy wooden door, and production of ammunition in that particular caliber by the company ended right there.

Lawsuit after lawsuit was launched against Sir Charles for accident compensation. On one occasion he blurted Britishly, "Do you expect me to be nursemaid to the whole Canadian army?" and on another admitted that his rifles were not altogether foolproof.

Yet even before he died in the United States in 1942, the Canadian government was digging old Ross .303s out of storage and issuing them to home guard units in another war. I understand that they were made safe against disassembly by having a screw or stud inserted through the bolt sleeve to block the bolt's turning the wrong way, and soldiers using them are warned to be sure the bolt handle was pushed as far forward as it would go before firing.

None of this means the Ross was not

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strong when perfectly locked. It certainly was. Ross used a working pressure of over 50,000 pounds in his .280 half-a-century ago, and it is said that they withstood experimental pressures up to 100,000 pounds. Colonel Whelan, in *The American Rifle*, published in 1918, stated, "I consider the Ross to be the safest and strongest action on the market today so far as ability to withstand the explosion of the cartridge is concerned."

Maybe the strongest, yes; but not the "safest?" If the action was always properly reassembled and fully closed, the Ross was moderately safe. I know men who have used one for twenty and thirty years with never a complaint. But for me, there are so many cases in my records of Ross bolts blowing partly out, half-way out, and all the way out that when any Rossophile invites me to a shoot, I'm going fishing.

There is the same sharp disagreement on Ross accuracy. Crossman claimed six and eight inch groups at 500 yards with his .280 Ross sporter. Whelan said the best he could get was 12-inch groups at 200 yards. Again, when killing power comes up, some called the .280 the deadliest killer ever made, while others claimed the bullets blew up on the surface or drove right through without expanding at all.

## BARRELS FOR CHAMPIONS

(Continued from page 37)

metal on each pass through the bore. After each pass of the cutter, the barrel is rotated one eighth turn for an eight-groove barrel. About ten passes must be made per groove.

The barrel is turned to the specifications of the customer, fitted to the action, and chambered. The sight bases are then fitted. Finally the barrel is blued. By today's standards, the price of \$58 for a Johnson barrel appears to be very modest.

While I have never tested a Johnson barrel which would not give match-winning accuracy when mounted on a suitable action and properly stocked, I do know that he has replaced barrels because the customer was dissatisfied. In fact, for five years I have been using a barrel which was removed from a customer's rifle.

I was in Eric's shop one day and he asked "You don't know anyone who wants a slightly used barrel do you? I can give a good price on it." Since the barrel was threaded for the M37 Remington action and the price mentioned was a bargain, I bought it. This barrel was stored away in a closet and almost forgotten for several years until the original Johnson on the "Biddlebaum" rifle failed to perform. The bargain barrel was screwed on and it has now fired about 30,000 rounds. It has won state and regional tournaments, and it has placed in the top ten in the National on several occasions. On one occasion, its score was a single point below the winning record. I sometimes wonder what kind of performance I might have turned in with a really "first-class" barrel.

Most frequent of the complaints Eric

A key to these discrepancies may be the ammunition used. The bullets varied considerably between weights and makes in performance. The 143 or 146 grain copper tube bullets made by the defunct U. S. Cartridge Company appear to have been the best, and very effective performers on soft-shelled game. None of the lighter bullets was particularly accurate in the average Ross sporter; accuracy records were set by the 180 grain match bullets.

Ross was far ahead of his day. If only he had made all his .280 rifle-cartridge combinations as accurate as some of them were! If only he had made all his bolts proof against being turned the wrong way when out of the rifle, and against being fired before being fully closed! Both were easy to fix. The last Mark III .303s had a change in the extractor groove which made turning the bolt head difficult, a rivet or screw would have made it impossible. All Ross actions had a pawl connected with the trigger which rose up behind the bolt lugs when fully closed; it could have been made impossible for the action to be fired except when fully closed. Even the weak extraction might have been overcome. His .280 might still dominate the sporting and target world if Sir Charles had just given that rifle design a little more thought.

receives is that the rifle is too heavy. Since there is no restriction on the weight of the smallbore target rifle used in National Rifle Association competitions, the customer is inclined to order a barrel that is heavier than he can handle with comfort in a smallbore tournament. In a smallbore tournament, the shooter generally fires 160 record shots, plus about as many foulers and sighting shots, in a day. This means supporting the rifle in the prone position for as long as 160 minutes in 20-minute stages.

The average weight of the smallbore rifle is about 13 pounds with sights, although some individuals, such as Fred Spencer, use a rifle which weighs in excess of 17 pounds. While a heavier rifle can be held steadier, it also causes greater fatigue. The result is that, in the last stages of the competition, the shooter may be so tired he has to concentrate mainly on the operations of loading and firing, and therefore forgets about the wind.

When a rifle is returned with a complaint of poor accuracy, Eric checks the sight bases first. He says that this is a common reason why the customer has failed to obtain good accuracy with his barrel. Should the sight bases be secure, he then checks the stock on the rifle. The stock must be securely attached to the receiver, and the relationship between stock and barrel must remain constant from shot to shot.

My first Johnson barrel was on "Biddlebaum," a custom-stocked M37 Remington rifle which I purchased in 1947. While I purchased the rifle on the assumption that it was in perfect condition, I found that the

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bore was pitted as the result of rust caused by firing a lot of 1946 match ammunition advertised by the manufacturer to be non-corrosive. Nevertheless, this rifle shot so much better than anything else that I had used previously that the inside of the barrel was not of great concern. This barrel was fired until the headspace became too large to be measured with standard gauges and a depression developed ahead of the chamber. The depression ahead of the chamber is generally believed to be caused by the priming mixture of the unburned propellant. Since 1947 most of my smallbore rifles have had Johnson barrels installed mainly because I have found that a barrel having a diameter of 1 1/8 inches at the breech, 7/8 inches at the muzzle and 29 inches long gives the rifle the weight and balance best for me.

While I have had some disappointing deals with other custom barrel makers presently in the business, both with respect to service and quality of workmanship, the Old Swede has given me excellent service. It is not uncommon for a shooter on the West Coast to call Eric in the night and give him a sad story of his pet rifle going sour. Eric makes every effort to get the individual back into the game of making bull's-eyes as soon as possible. He usually has a number of barrels of various sizes ready to fit to the customer's action and he can generally fit a new barrel in a few hours after the rifle is received in his shop at 668 State Street, New Haven, Connecticut.

While most Johnson barrels are installed on factory-made rifles which failed to give the degree of accuracy expected of them, frequently barrels are installed on new factory rifles which the customer has not fired. Also, makers of custom rifles generally employ Johnson barrels.

Unlike many barrel makers who have concentrated on production by using quick methods or unskilled labor, Eric has maintained a high quality of workmanship by personally performing all of the operations on the barrel. Johnson has several advantages over other individuals in the barrel-making business. He has had a lifetime of experience in shooting as well as in making barrels.

On September 13, 1957, Eric celebrated his 71st birthday by taking the day off from his shop. Eric was born in Sweden and came to this country when he was a boy. In the old country Eric had been instructed in marksmanship by his father, an enthusiastic hunter and target shot. In 1906, Eric joined the Connecticut National Guard and soon established an enviable reputation as a shooter in military-type competitions. He competed in many matches, including those at Sea Girt and Camp Perry. In 1924, he entered smallbore rifle competitions, and here he was equally successful. In 1926, he was setting national records with the smallbore rifle. He won the national gallery championship in 1926 and the outdoor championship at Camp Perry in 1929. He was exceptionally good in the 200-yard smallbore matches.

I saw Eric for the first time at my first registered competition, the 1936 New Hampshire State Smallbore Tournament. I knew that this small wiry individual was the famous barrel maker because I had seen his picture many times in magazines.

It was common to have a re-entry match in those days as part of each tournament. One could shoot the re-entry targets at any time during the tournament when not firing

a scheduled match. A certain number of the best targets were counted for record score. A fee was charged for each target fired and a percentage of these fees was returned to the top shooters. A dozen or so shooters were sitting in the clubhouse, and the time for the first scheduled match was about an hour away when Eric jumped to his feet. "Come on men," he said. "Let's get into this re-entry match." A considerable number of shots, myself included, formed a line to get tickets. Eric used to pick up some good money in those matches.

Eric is a practical joker and he has a keen sense of humor. For example, I had previously noticed what appeared to be a quarter on the shop floor at one end of a deep-hole drill. Since one can expect to see some unusual things in a gunshop, and since I was sure that it wasn't my quarter, I gave it no further attention. However, on my last visit, a local shooter of outstanding skill came into the shop and during the conversation that followed he observed the quarter. After a considerable amount of effort he succeeded in separating the quarter from the floor. At this point Eric noticed his activity and explained that this was his special quarter. It was returned to its special holder secured to the floor.

Eric likes to relate some of his shooting experiences. He likes especially to tell about the performance of some of his barrels. When I first met him he was using a special straight-pull bolt-action rifle. On this action he had a barrel which had never been blued and consequently it had become red with rust. The stock didn't have much finish either and the outfit would not look out of place on a scrap pile. It was obvious that Eric took little care of the outside of the rifle since he laid it in the grass between matches. Undoubtedly the inside of the rifle was in excellent condition, because Eric turned in an excellent performance and took a lion's share of the prizes. He undoubtedly got a big kick out of shooting this "gas pipe".

At 70 years, Eric is not to be underestimated in a smallbore rifle match. He participates regularly in the matches conducted on the Lyman Ranges. In the 1952 Camp Perry Any-Sight Championship, Eric turned in a score of 1598-107X for fourth place. However, Eric's pet hobby presently is trout fishing in Northern Vermont. Unless he has promised a barrel on a certain date, he is ready at the drop of a hat to be off on a fishing trip.

Johnson got his start as a barrel maker with the Meriden Firearms Company in 1903. He was in charge of the barrel department at Colt's in World War I, and he made barrels for the Hoffman Arms Company for five years. He put in four years at Winchester's as a barrel straightener, and he set up and ran the barrel department at the High Standard Manufacturing Company for one and one-half years. He started his own business in 1932. During World War II, he closed up his shop to be a chief inspector for the Standard Products Company which was engaged in the manufacture of the M1 Carbine.

Eric has found it unnecessary to do much advertising. He believes that producing a good item at a reasonable cost is the best form of advertising. There is no written guarantee with a Johnson barrel, but Eric says, "If it doesn't shoot, you know where I live."



## A MODERN GI-GERMAN SCHUTZENFEST

(Continued from page 24)

if any effort was made even to save the meat. Game was gunned down from veritable barrages of every caliber, from carbines to jeep-mounted caliber .50 machine guns. This word got around, too.

We were the conquerors. From the game management point of view, however, in a country where game management had almost produced a culture, and where the traditions of the hunt were older than any soldier in the area, we tended to be viewed as ravagers. The situation became serious enough to require official attention. Belated regulations and sportsmanship training was begun under the direction of many far-sighted commanders and men. The build-up of tension among American-German hunters reached a plateau, then slowly declined.

In successive legislation, arms were restored to hired German guards and to forest wardens who had been examined for Nazi affiliation. Those who had been cleared were re-instated to protect the dangerously dwindling supply of small and large game. In another year or so, jaegers were allowed to re-arm. Gunsmiths reopened their shops, in time, and began to produce the wonderful handwork that has been admired around the world for generations. The wealthy Americans bought almost all the output of these shops for several years, and the price of work raised beyond any known former standard. In the early days, few Germans could afford a new rifle. But they could afford to get a pellet gun. Indoor pellet shooting was revived and became increasingly popular among all ages. It had formerly been a program of amusement in the gasthouses on wintry evenings.

It was difficult, but not impossible, for an American to arrange a good hunt with a qualified jaeger. Wise Americans began to invite their favorite jaeger or forest master to their local club meetings, to their indoor and outdoor matches, and to their informal barbeques. The Germans began to meet other interested hunters and their families, and they found them to be interesting people. This word got around, too. The language problem wasn't a problem for very long. Everyone concerned soon discovered that people who want to find a way to communicate with each other soon discover a way, especially when it involves a shared desire to exchange experiences about guns and hunting.

The individual clubs became strong, and then strengthened themselves still further by forming the European Rod and Gun Club. Informed senior commanders of all services sponsored and participated in the goals of the new federation. Special rates for sporting gear were available to all members at their own clubs. A discount was provided throughout Europe to members in good standing who dropped in to buy something from another store. At the yearly assembly of the federation, mutual problems were discussed, evaluated, and resolved. A spirit of cooperation among club members developed, and this began to spread in their relations with Germans.

Some of the Germans, however, had long memories. Some of them hated Americans, anywhere they saw them; for to them any American was a living symbol of the occupation of their country. These people

magnified the tales of slaughter of game, and fabricated their own stories when they ran out of actual incidents that they could embellish. This word got around, too.

Many jaegers didn't like to take Americans on hunts. When they had no other course, they would grudgingly guide an American hunter. But, it was as often a downwind walk through an empty forest as it was a sincere effort to provide the hunter with a shot. As influential Germans began to be re-armed, bit by bit it became clear that they got the best heads during the favored hunting times.

The American gun clubs recognized this. They took the intelligent long-range course of action. Instead of creating much additional furor, a training program was developed for hunters and enthusiastically sponsored. This made a great impact on the Germans. A few took it as a sign of weakness. Most others thoughtfully raised their eyebrows, and remarked to their neighbors that this was a different attitude than they had ever been accustomed to. The training program for hunters included a liberal history of and investigation into European hunting customs. It included sound reasons for the development of such customs. There was a definite recognition course in all large and small game. The program provided many details about the normal behavior of game, about game's feeding preferences, and about game's rutting habits. Specific hunting rules were explained. Reasonable minimums were established for rifle and shotgun loads. At the end of the course, a stiff comprehensive examination was given orally and in writing. A certified and trained examiner gave this test. The application for a license was finally personally indorsed by each man's commanding officer.

There still remained, however, the matter of arranging a good hunt with a German, either through military-civil sources or through a personal connection. It was in this final aspect that the German-American shooting program did its real good.

The Germans had heard about the new training program. They were usually curious about the results. Most of the wise ones had found it hard to believe that all Americans were "forest-butchers." The Americans heard about the new training program, too. Those who were not real embryo sportsmen and rifle lovers found the program just a trifle too stiff for their sporadic interest. The ones who buckled down and completed the program were better equipped for a hunt than any of them had been, before. Their confidence and assurance grew proportionately. As this developed, they tended to stop wild, reckless shooting. They went to the range more often. In the field, they became selective, careful, and discriminate because they knew that they were protecting their own right to hunt as well as the right of other Americans.

The shooting program was a part of a program to overcome the reservation and hatred of a conquered nation. Everyone admits that it took time. We all realize that it would be the same in any land.

The change came . . . slowly, at first, then with increased speed. Germans began to realize that America had produced some real hunters and riflemen, men whose skill in the woods and on the range deserved

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respect. Admiration followed slowly in its proper time. As the friendly relations grew, the interesting thing is that both sides began to learn from each other.

It would be pleasant to be able to say that everything turned out perfectly. Unfortunately, it didn't. A few stubborn American hunters continued to feel that they had some classical right to poach. There were some unfortunate incidents. A careless gunner or two also fired at whatever moved. In several cases, the creature that moved was a woodsman or a collector of firewood. The deep hate against Nazis still seethes, in some cases, and unreconstructed Nazis still hate Americans. It is unfortunate but true that these two small groups still exist and have some influence.

It would be pleasant to report that the German-American shooting program completely democratized Germans of all ages in a few years. It would also be pleasant to report that all Americans learned some fine hunting traditions from the Germans, and left with increased respect for game and its place as a wildlife crop, properly respected but properly managed. Unfortunately, both of these statements are a bit too strong. But, not by very much.

The combined shooting matches did a lot. They are still doing a lot to cement more friendly relations.

## GUNS FOR FOWL WEATHER

(Continued from page 21)

downwind; others use an oval or triangular pattern with open space in the middle. Some hunters will change their decoy pattern several times in a morning. It's up to you. I sometimes think that if they're coming in they'll come and if they're not, they won't.

Picking a blind is an art, too. I know from long experience that you can't take too many precautions against a wildfowl's eyesight and against his suspicion. He doesn't have to see and identify you as a hunter; if he just sees something that he thinks is wrong with the scenery below him, he'll pass it. A few minutes or an hour in the early dawn spent picking just the right cover and just the right path for the incomers can save you from going home empty handed many hours later.

Calling is something else again, and much of the calling I've heard over duck waters is an unprintable something, as unlike duck lingo as is the blare of a klaxon. Nobody can tell you how to work a duck call. When you get one, listen to ducks, or get you a phonograph record of duck talk, and practice. Practice away from duck water where others are shooting. Justifiable homicide is defined by duck hunters with one short sen-

In America, today, two of the same problems that were faced in Europe still vex serious gun enthusiasts. Poorly trained hunters are still in the field, causing damage to other hunters and to the whole shooting fraternity. Secondly, the attitude of all too many hunters and riflemen is *anti*—anti-conservation, anti-tradition, and even all too often anti-their own best interests. The problem of control, in Germany, was geographically and militarily simple for the occupation armed forces.

Here at home, the problem of control rests instead in the hands of informed citizens who love guns and shooting. The formula that worked in Germany is a formula that finds a sympathetic response deep in the roots of human pride. Modified properly, it will work here if it is enthusiastically sponsored by knowledgeable people. The recipe is simple.

Any report of the ultimate outcomes of the German-American combined shooting program cannot be closed. The results are not yet in. In a generation, we'll know more about what its impact has been. The same span of time applies to the American shooting problem here at home. In a generation, we'll likely know what its impact has been. In the meantime, the success of our program largely depends on you and me.

tence: "His callin' was scarin' the ducks!"

On this particular morning, a hiding place was easy. There were thick growths of tall weeds on the shoreline of our chosen water and it was easy to find cover among them. Our decoys were set the way I like them, and there was just enough chop in the water to make them look alive without too much rolling and bobbing. It was going to be a good day; I could feel it.

You could write a book about what gun and what loads are best for wildfowling. In fact, several people have done just that. You can say that any gun that kills ducks is a duck gun, and that any gun will kill them if you shoot it properly, and you'd be right. Or you can say that a duck gun has to be 12 gauge or bigger, and long-barrelled and full-choked and magnum-loaded—and you could be right there too, if that's what suits your style of shooting. A little gun won't bring down much meat at long-range pass shooting; and a heavy big gun won't score on fast cross-flyers for a man with a slow swing. I'll say this: I've seen a lot of men carrying big, full-choked magnum 12's and even 10's who were, in my opinion, packin' more gun than they knew how to handle.

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You'll hear wildfowlers argue by the hour, too, over which type of action is best—and, to me, this is foolish. All you need to say is, "I like a double—or a pump—or an autoloader . . ." and that's your answer. You'll shoot better with the gun you like; and there's no duck living who can tell the difference between a pump and an over-under.

Choke, again, is a matter of personal choice, best made on the basis of the individual hunter's shooting style and the conditions under which he does most of his shooting. Choke is a constriction in the muzzle of a shotgun which is supposed to (and does, more or less) determine the density of the shot pattern on the target. Full choke guns deliver from 65 to 75 per cent (frequently, a little more) of their shot into a 30 inch circle at 40 yards. Improved-modified, or three-quarter, choke puts 55 to 65 per cent of the shot in that 30 inch circle. Modified or half-choke guns deliver a 45 to 55 per cent pattern; improved cylinder choking gives you 35 to 45 per cent density; and cylinder (no choke) gives 25 to 35 per cent. My own personal choice of duckgun is an old side-by-side Ithaca double, one barrel full-choked, the other barrel modified or half-choked. Bill uses a 16 gauge, and swears by the pump action and uses a variable-choke device which lets him "pick the choke that suits him best" for existing conditions.

But do you want to know the most important factor in that whole choke business? It's that seldom noticed pair of innocent words, "forty yards." If every hunter kept his shooting down to that range limit, duck mortality figures would hit dangerous new highs and ammunition makers would think they'd been hit by the world's biggest recession. Ducks aren't really hard to hit; the hard part of it is to wait until they come within hitting distance. Most hunters won't do it, and so most of their shots are misses, no matter what gun, or what choke, or what load they're using. Understand, I'm not complaining—much. I do it myself. I do complain when some nearby hunter cuts loose at ducks a hundred yards off and spooks a flock that might otherwise have come within shooting distance; but, after all, shooting is half the fun, and if a man is satisfied with noise and gunsmoke, he's entitled to his pleasure. The only thing is—if you're hungry, wait. Remember that 40-yard pattern.

I do think that a man should pick a gun big enough to compensate, partially at least, for his inevitable errors in range estimation. A big load of heavy shot will probably get that 45 or 50-yard-distant duck you thought was going to fly right down the gun barrel, where a small load of light shot

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might only cripple him. I say, shoot the biggest gun you know you can handle, and don't shoot at any duck more than 40 yards, and you'll do fine. Like me, you'll probably take most of your shots at 50 yards, swearing he looked closer than that to you.

Size of shot is another factor in wildfowling which can get you into bitter argument no matter what size you pick. Me, I like No. 4 shot for ducks, No. 2 for geese. This is because those shot sizes have performed well for me, and not for any scientific reason worked on slide rule or paper. Let's just say this: wildfowl are, on the average, fairly heavy, fairly heavily boned, and certainly heavily feathered flyers with a tremendous lot of life-tenacity. You want shot size and shot load heavy enough to fold them up, and that means after cutting through the feathery armor. I've seen plenty of gunners score consistently with 7½ shot on birds coming down to decoys—and I've seen plenty of ducks fly off to die uselessly after being wounded with No. 4 pellets; but I still think 7½ shot makes a better load for quail or dove than for ducks, and that No. 4 balls are more apt to bring my mallard down where I can eat him.

Some gunners compromise this shot problem by loading double guns with one shot size in one barrel, another shot size in the other. I've done this, myself. But it seemed to me that I spent more time keeping my shells assorted and the barrels correctly loaded than I did picking up ducks, so I quit it. Now, if I can't get 'em with 4's, they can keep flying.

On this particular morning, plenty of them kept flying, but plenty of them stopped, too: some permanently. We got a nice variety of shooting, at highballing passers as well as

incomers to our decoys. Bill and I both filled our tickets and then moved back into a field blind to take a crack at the geese that were winging in like laden bombers. This is where I like those No. 2's in that full-choke barrel, and the combination paid off that morning; paid off almost too soon, if the truth must be spoken, because I had my quota before I lost my hunger for shooting.

That's why I say that this is the wildfowlers' paradise. Here, it's only the truly hard-luck hunter who can't bring home his share of either ducks or honkers. And the area is not over-run with hunters, like so many of the spots nearer to the population centers.

And there are birds a-plenty. As one high-up conservation official put it, "There are countless thousands of birds winging down from Canada and spreading out into many sections of Minnesota where they find plenty of food. And Minnesota welcomes them. We are proud of the many farmers in the state who are helping us encourage the flights year after year, and helping us welcome the hunters drawn in by the wildfowl migrations." The man wasn't just woofin'; the farmers do welcome you, seem to be glad to have you shoot over their land. They expect you to use proper precautions, of course, and to be sportsmen. But that's not much to ask in return for the sport offered.

So if you're one too, one of the two or two and a half million avowed victims of the wildfowler's happy insanity, pick your gun and pack your wagon and head north—for Bemidji. It's fowl country in fowl weather in fowl season in Bemidji, and not even the Chamber of Commerce will argue, so long as we stick to that spelling.

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**HERTER'S INC. SINCE 1893 WASECA, MINN.**



## RED GUNS IN THE DESERT

(Continued from page 15)

have completely modernized their aircraft armor and ground weapons, was borne out in the high quality of newest model weapons available to the Arab world from their oil-hungry friends, the Russians.

In only one detail was the Arab world unprepared for the recent Suez and Sinai conflict: training. The "Liberation Army" was formed by Egyptian president Nasser by proclamation from the volunteer forces of National Guardsmen, Youth Legion, and the women of Egypt who came to their nation's defense. Its original role was to support the



Girls like Czech light rifles for training because 7.62 x 38 cal. has less recoil.

regular Egyptian army in the Suez crisis. Its continued role is one of preparedness and training, a school for the citizen-soldier. This in Egypt is deemed critical now, correcting the lack of weapons training among the civilians. A despatch from Cairo after the British capture of the city last Novem-

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ber, 1956, noted that the Egyptians were armed with the new Russian weapons, "but did not know how to operate them properly." Moscow was quick to remedy that. On November 14, 1956, Tass (Soviet News Agency) stated that Egypt had "requested the aid of Russian volunteers," which would logically include Russian small-arms experts.

Meanwhile, Red influence was waxing strong in other parts of the Middle East. Not at all surprisingly, it is supported by numerous former Nazi soldiers now in the service of the Moslem armies. One man, known only as "Fritz," a former SS Security officer in the Afrika Korps, is now serving in Egypt as a specialist in organizing surprise raids. His training for guerilla combat includes service with the little-known Nazi Moslem SS Division, Arab volunteers who were recruited in Yugoslavia in World War II. There "Fritz" met many ardent Arab nationalists who later became leaders in their own countries. Inactive in Yugoslavia, "Fritz" transferred to Africa, fought at El Alamein, and escaped capture when his unit was defeated by the British. He worked as a bouncer in a Cairo bar until the departure of King Farouk. Then, his talents recognized by the new government, he was hired as political and military adviser to the Fedayeen. This semi-official nationalist Arab group was being organized early in 1957 from Palestine Arab refugees, to continue the border raids into Israel. Originally based in Gaza, the Fedayeen now must operate across Jordan. Their headquarters is Cairo.

About a year ago even these newest echelons of Egyptian military strength were armed with new Russian light rifles. Organized with desert cunning, trained by Nazi experts, mounted on swift fighting camels, and with modern rapid-fire arms, the Fedayeen have pulled many devastating raids into Israel borderlands. A German correspondent described one such raid, referring to the arms with: "They moved to the crates and opened them. Inside I saw the latest weapons from the Communist countries. There were modern automatic Russian rifles with switch-blade bayonets and Czech Tommy guns. They were brand new. Obviously, the Fedayeen was well supplied with arms."

Here, training was not deficient. Long accustomed to the British automatic weapons—the Lanchester, the Sten, the Bren guns of Israel-Arab fighting—these desert soldiers found a brief few minutes familiarization were all that was required to "train" them on the Russian rifles. They snapped the magazine boxes open and shut, worked the bolt handles back and forth, unclipped the bayonet blades and swung them forward.

Then they were ready. The viciousness of their raid on an Israel village was complete. The town, its few huts burning from gasoline fires, was destroyed. All the people were machine gunned by the Fedayeen. The Fedayeen sheik justified his attack by saying, "It is they who have tortured and tormented us, they who have chased us from our homes. We are only fighting for our lost homeland." Not realizing how much a pawn he was in a higher game of war, the Arab actually believed he was fighting for his homeland. Actually, he was fighting as a part of Russian policy for world domination. For where Russian weapons go as gifts, Russian influence follows.

In Syria, Egypt's new right arm, Russian influence is strong. There the Syrians have received large supplies of Czech 9 mm sub-machine guns, SHE rifles, and the newest Vz52 light machine gun. Both SHE and Vz52, as well as the SKS-46 Russian rifles, and the Avtomats, use the short 7.62 mm x 38 cartridge. This peppy, short, .30 caliber round is the East's answer to western NATO standard cartridges.

Most remarkable of the new weapons is the Czech Vz52 light machine gun. Supplied with an ammunition chest holding 13 box magazines, 25 rounds each clip, the new bipod gun weighs only 7.8 kilos, or about 17 pounds. Length overall from hooked shoulder-support buttplate to detachable flash-hider is 105 centimeters, 42 inches. The air-cooled gun fires from an open bolt. It is an engineering refinement in details of earlier Brno Czech designs, but its main significance is that it proves the Iron Curtain is still improving conventional weapons, as well as more spectacular arms.

The centerline of the Vz52 is occupied by top-mounted clip, barrel change lever, and handle. The lever can be hit to the left an eighth turn and the barrel instantly unlocked and slid off to replace with a cool barrel. Front and rear sights are offset to the left. A right eyed shooter can handle the gun well; a left handed shooter cannot cross the stock easily to take a sight. The rear sight is novel; it also is believed to serve as the cocking handle. Sturdily shaped in a "T," the bottom limb is capped by a knurled screw which raises the sight blade in elevation, while at the outside of the top limb a windage nut shoves the blade to right or left. Operating springs are housed in the butt, away from the heat of the barrel which, added to the desert heat, might produce problems in functioning and cause the springs to become weak. Ejection is to the right. The gun's openings may be sealed by folding covers against the entry of sand and dust, until used. Designed as a crew served



Photo courtesy of Golden State Arms Co.

Russian light rifle is gas operated, has tipping bolt. Design is not radical but is advanced over types used by West. Bayonet is attached, can't get lost.



weapon, the Vz52 is light and facile enough to be handled by one man—or woman.

The Czech SHE rifle also is Syria's main infantry weapon. A tipping bolt gas operated arm somewhat resembling the FN and Tokarev in operation, it is similar enough to the other basic weapons of the New Middle East to pose no problem in training. The box magazine holding ten of the new short cartridges is detachable, may be removed from the gun and a new clip inserted for package loading. Hinged to the right of the forestock is a bayonet that swings forward for use. Steel parts, unlike the nicely blued Russian rifles, are finished in a dull grey rust resisting treatment. Machining and stamping on samples seen was extremely good, up to the high quality characteristic of Czech arms. But the weight is high, about 10 pounds loaded, though this includes the bayonet. Most remarkable thing about the Czech guns which the Soviet world has in sufficient numbers is their very quantity—they have enough to arm not only first line troops, but women in the reserve militia, too. While their contemporaries in other parts of the world have their heads full of rock 'n' roll, Syria's teenage girls are learning the deadly art of war.

Members of the Popular Resistance movement, the girls are no "tom boys," but young ladies from some of the best families of Syria. They range in age from 14 to 20; undergo training with light machine guns and automatic rifles for two hours each day, before going to school or to work. The girls themselves shoot enthusiastically at the firing range. Lacking in modern range facilities and any tradition as "a nation of riflemen," Syrian army officers overseeing their instruction march the girls to a desert area, clear away the loose stones for a firing point, set up targets at 50 meters, and start in shooting. Frills like shooting mats are scorned, but the girls learn practical marksmanship, using sandbags and natural rifle support.

Their natural inspiration is Hanaa, the classic college beauty who is the daughter of Syria's former president, El-Kuwatli. Wife of the Syrian consul in Cairo, Hanaa finds no incongruity in wearing blue jeans at the Cairo rifle range where she practices rifle marksmanship. Back home in Syria, thousands of other women are mustered part-time into the Syrian armed forces, drill and learn to shoot machine guns and submachine guns. Whole companies are armed with the Czech 9 mm burp gun of recent pattern, with magazine in the grip. This same gun is one redesigned by the Israel Military Industries, designated the UZI, and produced in neighboring Israel for that country's own defense.

But Syria looked not to Israel, but Turkey, for "aggression." And all this is part of the

(Continued on page 51)

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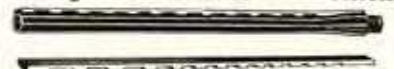
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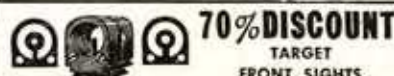
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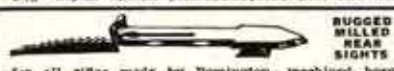
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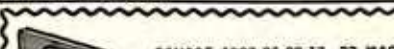


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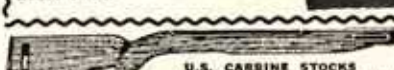


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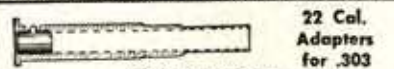
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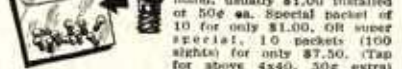
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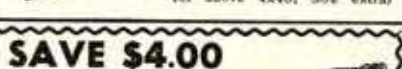


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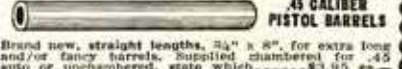


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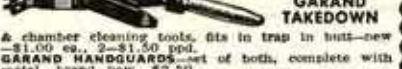
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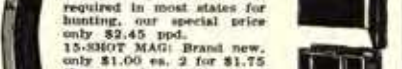
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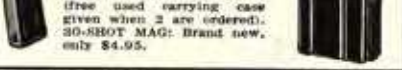
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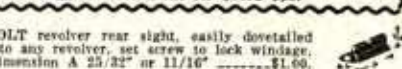


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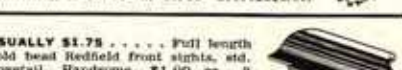
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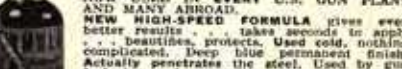
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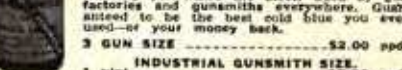
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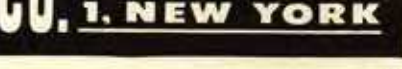
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(Continued from page 49)

Soviet master plan, to extend Russian influence and increase the protective envelope of Satellite powers about Mother Russia. New automatic rifles are the Trojan Horse of modern mailed diplomacy.

On the other hand, the Yemeni tribesmen, disputing the border with Aden, are ill-equipped. Their weapons are antique Dutch Beaumonts and old long Mausers. They, and their women, would welcome new arms.

Training women to fight is an old Russian custom. The West has forgotten the lesson of such heroines as Molly Pitcher—to most Americans, that is only the name of a race horse. But Russians respect Comrade Sharpshooter, whether man or woman. And Russian arms training programs make sure that there is no deficiency in the weapons familiarization of its citizens. Years ago the "Voroshilov Marksman" shooting medal required qualifying with rifle, pistol, and light machine gun. Today the equivalent honor is bestowed on young Syrian teen-agers who spend the cool early morning hours on the firing range, learning the uses of modern conventional weapons, before they go to school. They think they are learning to "defend their homeland" against Turkey, Israel, or Britain at the Suez. But it could be they are the fall guys—and gals—set up by Russia, to make retaliatory invasion of the Soviet Union impossible.

If trouble starts, and limited war must be carried to the Soviet Union from the southern front, it will be necessary first to cross the Middle East. The free world has firm friends there. The free world needs more friends. So far, Red arms have aided the Soviet in peacefully gaining the upper hand in the Middle East.

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## ELMER KEITH SAYS . . .

(Continued from page 8)

pistol. It not only fills and fits the hand naturally but best of all, it points exactly right, in this respect much like the Luger.

The grip housing comes back well over the web of the hand, preventing any chance of the skin injuries here which those of us with heavy hands so often incur when shooting the .45 autos. The trigger is generous in size and correctly placed. The sights are both mounted on the barrel housing and do not move; only the breech block moves to the rear to extract the fired case and pick up a new cartridge from the top of the ten-round magazine. Sights are excellent. They are Patridge type, wide, and show very clearly with sufficient light on either side of the front sight for centering. The gun has a visible hammer and can be cocked either by the thumb or by pulling back the breech block.

The magazine is ten-shot, well-made, and it loads about the easiest of any .22 caliber auto pistol magazine I have tried.

The little gun has an excellent trigger pull and shot very good groups. I much prefer this gun to about any of the foreign .22 autos I have tested, for design as well as for balance, sights, and "feel." The gun cannot be fired when the magazine is removed, making it one of the safest auto pistols on the market. I call it a lot of gun of very modern design for the price, which is \$39.95.

### More New Remingtons

One of the finest bolt action big game rifles ever "made in America" is the new Deluxe Lightweight Model 725 caliber .30-06 and .280, by Remington. The new arm features a 22" crowned muzzle barrel with no sight slots, as both front and rear ramps are silver soldered to the barrel. The fine oil finished dark walnut stock is well checkered at both grip and foreend and closely follows my old Monte Carlo rifle stock design. Sling swivels could well be made narrower, as there is no need for a harness-tug sling on a fine light weight rifle. The 725 has Remington's fully enclosed breech with bolt recessed for the shell head as on the model 721. The receiver top is matted. Front sight is fitted with a pin for easy removal and is centered in a generous hood that can be used. Rear sight is a well designed open flat topped U with white triangle insert below notch, a great help in dim light. Rear sight may be removed by removing one screw and has screw-driver windage adjustment. Safety is perfect, well positioned and locks both bolt and sear and striker. Rifles are tapped for receiver sights or scope mounts, but no barrel slots.

The stock comb slopes forward like my old design, eliminating much of the facial

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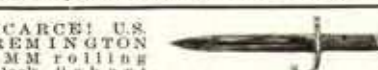
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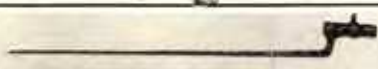
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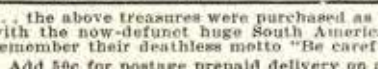
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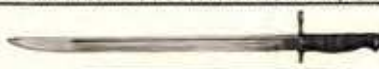
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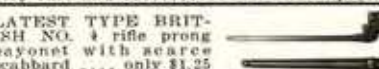
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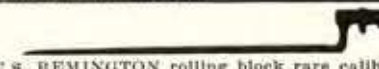
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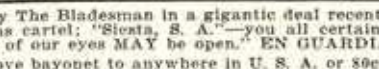
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Elmer Keith (right) talks guns with visitor to 1957 NRA convention in Washington.

recoil common to standard stocks. Foreend is full and well rounded and the arm balances perfectly. Magazine and follower are 3 3/4" long, long enough for most magnum cartridges including the .300, .375, and .334 O.K.H. Trigger guard and floor plate are well shaped of aluminum alloy, with hinged floor plate. The release is located in front of trigger guard. Magazine capacity is four cartridges, which makes for a very slim, neat, streamlined rifle. Weight is just 7 pounds.

Years ago, Frank Kahrs sent me a pilot model of the 721 Remington in .270 caliber and I then wrote him, urging them to bring out the best bolt action possible, better than anything on the market, and then figure costs. I kicked on all the cheap stampings, and the magazine, sights, etc. They did not take my advice, and in spite of my gripes, the 721 and 722 proved very good, accurate, reliable rifles, excellent for the price.

The new 725 goes a long way beyond the 721 and these faults are eliminated. The new rifle has a wide, well shaped, match-type trigger which, with stock removed, can be adjusted with the two adjustment screws. This specimen has a very fine clean pull after adjustment. The easily opened magazine permits loading from the bottom and one can pour in four hulls after one cartridge is already loaded in the chamber. It also permits loading more hulls in the magazine while the arm is loaded and cocked, as when watching downed and wounded game. This is a very good feature and should be on all magazine arms. Bolt release is out of the way in front of the trigger and inside the trigger guard, entails no stock cuts, is not apt to be accidentally tripped.

The stock, while perfect for scope sights, is also just right for the current high iron sights. I would suggest that forend screw be added, especially when heavier calibers are brought out. The safety, like the old 1917 Enfield in shape and position, is one of the best ever put on any bolt action rifle

and is ideal for scope use. The bolt handle is low for low scope mounting, and also short enough that it does not project very far to catch limbs or make a huge hump in a saddle scabbard. The full and very well shaped pistol grip is capped with black composition material of good shape, and the butt plate is thick but light in weight and of generous proportions to distribute recoil. It is sharply checkered to hold on the shoulder. Down pitch is ample to keep the rifle at the shoulder while bolt is being worked.

Body of bolt is chrome plated and rest of rifle and action is a very well finished black blue. Recoil lug is typical of the Model 721. The Monte Carlo comb is under cut at the front end on both sides for more room for the base of thumb, like my old design. Stock is well and closely inletted and the forend has a good upthrust against bottom of barrel at tip. The checkering pattern on both forend and grip are of generous size. All told, I consider this Remington 725 about the neatest, trimmest, best shaped, and best engineered production-line bolt action on the American scene.

We tested the new rifle with 180 grain round-nose Corelokt ammunition. It shot into 1 1/2 to 2" at 100 yards with open iron sights. If fired slowly so the barrel will not heat unduly, it will stay under one inch at 100 yards with scope sight. A good hunting scope is needed to bring out its inherent accuracy. There is no sloppy bolt throw and the rifle works as slick as any National Match Springfield I ever used.

I would like to see this action made in .300 magnum, .373 magnum, .334 O.K.H., and also in the .458 Winchester. With a 22" to 23" heavier barrel, and with a good soft recoil pad, it would make a most excellent bolt action rifle for Africa in caliber .458 Winchester.

Have just tested, also, a pair of the new Remington 572 rifles in .22 L.R. caliber. These are the lightest man-sized rifles I have ever seen. They come in two colors, called Crow Wing Black and the Buckskin Tan, accomplished by using aluminum alloy for both frame and barrel. The barrels are about standard size but are lined with rifled steel liners, which greatly reduces weight.

The rifles have the usual Remington shape fine push button safety. Front sight is a bead made of solid stock that looks like bronze, and the adjustable flat-top open rear sight is a stamping screwed in place. Stocks are of excellent shape and will fit most adult shooters. They are man sized but extremely light, weighing around 4 1/4 pounds. These rifles have top of receiver grooved for the usual clip-on scope mounts.

Both rifles functioned perfectly and seemed

(Continued on page 65)

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## THE COLT'S POCKET AUTOS

(Continued from page 27)

model is the rarest of all the four.

Model III—.32 and .380 Caliber. The barrel bushing was discontinued in this model. Markings on the right slide side:

**COLT AUTOMATIC**

**CALIBER 32 RIMLESS SMOKELESS**

Left side slide, same as Model II, but smaller letters. Rampant colt no longer in circle.

Grips were hard black rubber with fine checkering, COLT at top with straight border. Rampant colt larger, and no longer circled. Model III was made from 1910-1926.

Serial numbers, in .32 Caliber, #105,051—#468,096; and in .380 Caliber, #6252—#92,893.

Model IV—.32 and .380 Caliber. The outstanding change to this issue was the desirable addition of a magazine safety disconnect. This device insures that, should a live round be left in the chamber and the magazine withdrawn, the gun will not fire. Markings were changed; on the right slide side:

**COLT AUTOMATIC**

**CALIBER .32 HAMMERLESS**

Left slide side:

COLT'S PT. F.A. CO. HARTFORD CT. U.S.A.

PATENTED APR. 20, 1897, DEC. 22, 1903

Grips were now checkered walnut with rampant Colt escutcheon at top. This last model was made from 1926-1946 in .32 Caliber, and 1926-1945 in .380 Caliber.

Serial numbers run in .32 Caliber, #468,097—#572,214; and in .380 Caliber, #92,894—#138,000.

A final word on Model IV: the Colt's Company made a number of pocket automatics for the U.S. Government during World War II. These guns can be identified by the U.S. Government Property stamp. Some had blue and some were parkerized finish. They were carried by high brass and also by members of the OSS. While production is listed through 1945, civilians could not get the gun after 1940 or 1941 at the latest.

The Colt Model 1903 pocket automatic is of the concealed hammer type, blowback operated, with four safety features. They are as follows: 1. Grip safety, 2. Manual safety which also holds slide back, 3. Disconnect safety which prevents more than one shot being fired for each pull of the trigger, 4. Magazine safety in the last model only. Internally the gun resembles the .45 Government automatic a great deal, with the exception of all parts which have to do with the .45's recoil operation principle.

Field stripping is done in the following manner. Remove magazine and be sure gun is empty. Take the piece in the right hand with the thumb on the front of the slide and the forefinger wrapped around the trigger guard. Push back on the slide with the right side of the pistol facing you. On the front of the slide a line and an arrow are stamped. When these marks are in line with the forward edge of the frame the barrel is grasped with the left hand and given a quarter turn counter clockwise. This permits the slide, barrel, recoil spring and recoil spring guide to be drawn off forward. By turning the barrel back to its original position in the slide it can now be removed from the slide. This completes field stripping and is done without any tools other than God given, the hands and the head. I have a .32 Colt in my collection with marks of a Stillson wrench still on the barrel. The cardinal rule of all gunsmith work and just plain taking guns apart is not to get excited and start swinging a five pound ball peen hammer or gas pliers. Use your head and your hands in that order.

Though discontinued, the years have paid tribute to the Colt pocket automatic. There are very few foreign pocket automatics manufactured today which do not to some degree imitate these American guns. John Browning can rest happy for after all, it is not the sincerest compliment imitation?

New pocket pistol designs are now being considered by the Colt company. Exact details are still confidential, but it's a good bet that when Colt's once again makes a .32 or .380 pocket automatic, it will show some debt to the design of its popular predecessor.

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## BULLETS FOR BRUSH

(Continued from page 34)

target was peppered with very fine holes from pieces of lead core and bullet jacket.

Tests run with the .250-3000, using a 100 grain bullet and factory loading, placed one shot on the target out of five, with the target set two feet behind the brush screening. A repeat on this placed three bullets on the target, with an average deflection per shot of six inches from point of aim. Moving the target back ten feet in the brush, five shots were fired, with none appearing on the target. Is this a brush rifle and load? What do you think?

My next test was of a popular big game caliber, the .270 Winchester factory loading, the 130 grain Silvertip. Firing from 50 yards, and with the target placed two feet behind a brush screening, I managed to get one bullet on the paper out of five shots. With the target moved back ten feet in the brush, no bullet drove through to reach the target, except with a few scattering pieces of bullet jacket and core. Unfortunately, I had no heavier bullets for this caliber on hand. But I believe that if the 150 grain bullet were used, driven at modest velocities, it would be a good brush buckler. Sectional density of the .270 150 grain is about that of the .30 caliber 180, and if both were driven at modest velocities, there would be little difference in deflection between the two bullets. Such difference as there would be, however, favors the heavier, 180 grain .30 caliber bullet.

After these tests of comparatively high velocity big game rifles, I turned to the .35 Remington, Marlin lever action, shooting a 200 grain bullet. This caliber, it seemed to me, was actually the first woods rifle tested. It drives a heavy 200 grain bullet at around 2200 feet a second.

Five shots were fired, using Remington ammunition, 200 grain Corelokt bullets. With the target placed two feet behind a brush screening, average deflection for five shots was just one inch per shot. Target holes showed no keyholing, though some did show a bit of wobble. Moving the target back into the brush fifteen feet, the next five shots were still on the target, though they showed an average deflection of four inches a shot from point of aim. But shots were still close enough to hit the vital area of big game for a clean kill. That sounds more like a brush bucking bullet, doesn't it?

But what would happen if that 200 grain bullet was stepped up in velocity to around 2500 feet a second at the nozzle? Would deflection be greater? Would it blow up? Suppose that deer Art Richardson dropped

in the mountain willow had been only 50 yards away, instead of 100 yards. Would the higher velocity at this range have deflected the bullet enough to wound instead of giving a clean kill?

First I tried the .348 Winchester, using 200 grain Hornady flat point bullets. Of course the test would have been more exact if Remington Core-Lokt bullets had been used, but, unfortunately, I had none available at the time. Five shots with Hornady bullets, driven at 2500 feet a second muzzle velocity, with the target placed two feet behind the brush screening, 50 yards from the gun, showed excellent bullet stability. Deflection was little more than with the 200 grain, .35 Remington factory loading. Moving the target ten feet back into the brush, I still had five bullets printing on the paper, with an average deflection per shot of six inches from the aiming point.

Later, I used the .358 Winchester and handloads of 200 and 250 grain Hornady, at factory velocities, about 2500 feet a second for the 200 grain, 2350 feet a second muzzle velocity for the 250 grain. I got almost a repeat on these tests, with deflection so very little different it was scarcely noticeable. That .358 Winchester, with either weight of bullet, adds up to an excellent brush bucking combination for deer or elk.

Obviously, bullet weight is very important as a factor in stability for brush shooting. But how important is it when divorced from velocity in certain indicated brackets? You can have velocities too low, as well as too high, for brush bucking. Using the old obsolete .45-70 and a 405 grain bullet driven



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at about 1450 feet a second, I got more deflection than with any other caliber tested. And the most deflection occurred when this slow, 405 grain bullet struck heavy limbs. Where faster bullets would buzz-saw through the larger limbs with a bit less deflection than when they struck lighter stuff, such as huckleberry brush, this .45-70 bullet acted just the contrary. It showed good stability when ploughing through light brush, but went howling off through the woods when it struck heavier limbs. None of the .45-70 bullets showed on the target placed ten feet inside the brush screening.

I turned now to the .30 caliber bullets, duplicating all velocities and bullet weights from the .30-30 Winchester, .300 Savage, .30-06, and .300 Magnum. In this test I used Nosler Partition Bullets, Ackley Controlled Expansion, Hornady, Herter's and Speer bullets.

The firing occupied the better part of ten days, what with the handloading and such. A detailed report of this would extend much beyond editorial limitations, so results must be summarized to cover the wealth of data on bullets best suited for big game brush shooting.

For example, the Hornady 170 grain, flat point, 30 caliber bullet designed for .30-30 Winchester velocities, showed no more deflection than the 220 grain .30-06 bullet, if it was kept within its velocity bracket of 2200 feet a second muzzle velocity. But the moment it was used in the .30-06, and its velocity stepped up to 2400 feet a second, the average velocity of the 220 grain bullet in the .30-06, things began to happen. It not only deflected but came apart at the seams.

As a matter of curiosity I stepped this

170 grain bullet up to the velocity of the 130 grain .270, using my .300 Short Ackley Magnum. The 130 grain .270 and the 170 grain .30 caliber bullets are ballistic twins from the standpoint of sectional density, both having about .241. And they acted very much the same in the brush. None of the five 170 grain bullets, driven at 3100 a second muzzle energy, got through the brush screening to touch the target, except as minute flakes of lead and bullet jacket.

Driving the 150 grain .30 caliber bullets at normal factory velocities of 3000 feet a second deflected them badly. When the velocity of these same bullets were dropped down to around those of the 150 grain .300 Savage loading, they showed a marked improvement, though still deflecting enough to make them undesirable as woods bullets for big game shooting.

The 180 grain .30 caliber bullet, driven at .300 Savage velocity of around 2400 feet a second, proved very stable in all the different bullets tested. It could be stepped up to around 2550 feet a second before any apparent deflection increase occurred. Velocities higher than this with this weight bullet reduced hitting-through-brush efficiency beyond acceptable standards. When I drove it at 2950 feet a second in my Ackley Short Magnum, I got only two bullets out of five on the target, through a two feet screening of brush. With the target moved back ten feet in the brush, only one bullet showed on the paper.

Using the .30 caliber 220 grain bullet, I approached 2600 feet a second before hunting accuracy was canceled out by deflection. The 200 grain round nose came to 2500 feet a second before encountering instability and tumbling in the brush.

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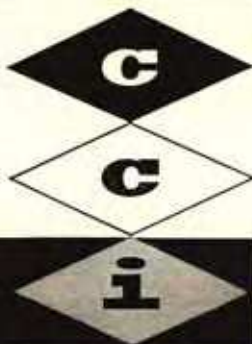
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Obviously, for brush shooting, velocities must be carefully matched to bullet weights first, and sectional density second, for maximum performance. A sectional density of at least .300 is required for all bullets driven faster than 2500 feet a second muzzle velocity. As sectional density is lowered, there must be a corresponding decrease in velocity for best stability.

The 200 grain, .35 caliber bullet appears to be most efficient at about 2300 feet a second muzzle velocity. The 250 grain, .35 caliber bullet can be driven faster than this, having a sectional density of .279. It is entirely feasible to drive it at 2450 feet a second in a woods rifle, with excellent stability and brush bucking ability.

In evaluating woods bullets, a pertinent consideration is the bullet's ability to drive through intervening bush without blow-up. The human eyes have the habit of filling in lacking detail. A big buck, standing with a hardwood tree protecting its shoulder will be seen *within* the intervening tree sheltering it. Are there any bullets presently available which will drive through four inches of hardwood, expand and hold together to make a clean kill? In proper weights, driven at proper woods velocities, yes. Tests showed that the 220 grain Hornady, driven at not over 2500 feet a second would get through. That is also true of the Nosler partition, 200 grain blunt nose bullet. This latter proved to be an exceptional woods bullet, both from the standpoint of stability and proper expansion. The 200 grain Speer, round-nose proved exceptionally good too, showing excellent expansion and penetration without blowup. The Sierra 180 flat base, at proper woods velocities of around 2350 feet a second, was also an excellent bullet on this test for penetration, driving through, expanding, and holding together.

I had some trouble with the 200 grain, .358 winchester, using Silvertips at factory velocities. The 250 grain proved much superior. The 200 grain consistently blew up, coming out of trees four inches in diameter in pieces. This was not a characteristic of the 250 grain Silvertip, however. And the Hornady 200 and 250 grain both showed excellent brush bucking characteristics.

One odd fact turned up consistently in these penetration tests. A 150 grain bullet driven at around 3000 feet a second would penetrate four or five inches of wood and hold together. But the moment it touched anything *after* this it literally exploded. This same thing occurred with the 130 grain, .270 Winchester. It could be stopped with two trees each an inch in diameter. But a tree three times this thickness would be penetrated without blow up. The same thing occurred when the heavier bullets were stepped up to extremely high velocities.

You cannot get a way up there with those velocities and have a good big game woods bullet. Examine those bullets listed here, which gave excellent performance, and you will find they are very clever compromises between violent expansion and deep penetration, when driven at medium velocities. And expansion with penetration, without deflection, is the very heart of clean killing in heavy cover. A good rule for brush bullets is to select the heaviest one available in the caliber you use, and drive it at least 200 feet under maximum velocities. Then, if you miss, it's not the fault of the bullet.

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## MAKE YOUR HUNT DEDUCTIBLE

(Continued from page 18)

Today, taxidermy is an art—combining artist, naturalist, anatomical expert, and psychologist. It means the hunter has to do a better job, and lots more work."

Before you take gun in hand, your museum man will carefully spell out what he wants. He'll begin with a definition of a "habitat group." It is, in a word, a representative, true-to-life family of the species you're after. A museum won't turn down a record sheep, or the biggest grizzly shot in North America. But such "big fellows" aren't "representative," any more than a 300-pound Japanese wrestler is typical of Japanese. The museum wants an average family. In the case of my mule deer group, Mel asked that I get an average buck, a doe, a half grown male, and a youngster. By "average" he was talking size—not condition. The animals would need to be as nearly perfect as obtainable.

Mel took care of the contacts—arranged things with Utah's Fish and Game Division so we could bag what we needed. Often this means you'll shoot out of season—with the game warden's blessings! If you do shoot off-season, it will be for a good reason: to take animals when their hides are prime.

While Mel worried over details, I huddled with his staffers. George Adams would go along to field-prepare the hides—the all-important job of skinning and deboning the animals. The museum's artist, who would paint in the exhibit's background—briefed me on his needs: he wanted color photos of the terrain, of every species of vegetation. The staff naturalist needed samples of all flora—field-made casts of their leaves, color photos, and pressed specimens. He even asked that I gather soil samples—several quarts of dirt so he could duplicate Poverty's characteristically iron-red soil.

When it came to guns, Mel wasn't so specific. A .30-06 or .270 would suffice. And while a clean kill with the first shot was desirable, taxidermists could conceal a second shot, if necessary. With Mel's approval I chose a .30-06 and an expanding bullet of 180 grains.

Our "safari" truck—my station-wagon Jeep—became a regular naturalist's laboratory. Besides sleeping bags and the usual camp gear, we took along 100 pounds of coarse salt, 100 pounds of plaster-of-paris, a gallon of formaldehyde, assorted boxes for floral specimens, and George's field-kit. This was something more than a "kit," what with its block-and-tackle (500 pound capacity), a wooden A-frame on which to sling the hoist, a 10' x 12' tarp, tape measure, 20" outside calipers, and an assortment of skinning and deboning knives and saws. Included, too, were gunny sacks for shipping the hides, sawdust to control blood flow, a pair of 6-power binoculars, and a portable ice box for the meat. I furnished the jeep, grub, gasoline and camp gear (which I had anyway). The museum chipped in the specialized equipment.

"Actually," Mel told me, "a hunter could go it alone, do his own skinning and deboning. Admittedly, it takes skill, but plenty of men are old hands at skinning. Follow a few simple rules, and most hunters can skin-out a museum kill."

After that buck crumpled, there deep in Utah's Poverty country just east of Zion National Park, I learned first-hand what it takes to field-prepare a museum specimen.

The buck lay wedged between boulders, his shoulder and brisket splashed with black. Painting his otherwise white tail was a smear of black. He was typical of his species—a superb animal.

George had turned him over when suddenly he gasped. "Damn! Of all the lousy luck!" The guy was all but in tears as he pointed to the deep rent in the buck's shoulder, there where he'd been impaled on a sharp rock. But then his mood brightened. "By golly, we'll preserve him yet! I'll mount him so his injured side won't show. He's too perfect to waste."

And preserve him George did, thanks to painstakingly long hours of exacting work.

First, we photographed the animal in color. We wanted to extract from the death scene every shading of color and texture. I suppose we snapped two dozen color photos. Just as soon as we had a color record, we trundled the buck into the shade, got him out of the sun. For sun can ruin a newly-killed hide. Then George propped the carcass up so blood wouldn't spill on the hide when we made the cuts necessary for cleaning. Blood is a museum man's deadliest enemy. Taxidermists can work wonders, but blood stains are all but impossible to remove. That's doubly true of stains on the white hides of polar bear, Rocky Mountain goat, Alaskan white sheep, Snowy Owl—all the white-furred and white-feathered creatures.

George opened the buck with a single, ruler-straight incision that ran from chest-cavity to pelvis, down the critter's belly. Carefully he removed heart, bowels, and intestines—the easily-spoiled innards. That was the only "field-cut" George made. Later, back in camp, he'd complete the skinning. Even then, he'd cut but sparingly—a single incision down the inner sides of the legs, another mid-center of the neck, from antlers to shoulders. He was far too canny to spoil the hide by anything as rashly irreparable as a frontal throat cut.

After the innards were disposed of, George got out a mixing bowl, water and plaster-of-paris, preparatory to molding a "death mask."

Why a "death mask"? The taxidermist aims to recreate a living exhibit—the animal's posture, his facial expression, the lay of every muscle and tendon. A death mask, taken soon after the kill and before shrinkage sets in, becomes invaluable during reconstruction.

George mixed a wash of "clay water"—finely ground artist's clay stirred into a kind of mush. Very carefully, he brushed the stuff over the animal's head. Clay water insulates the hide against plaster-of-paris, protects the hide. Then, just as painstakingly, he batched up plaster-of-paris. The slurry was heavy with plaster, almost sticky to the touch. This he spread heavily over the clay-water moistened hide, the plaster about six inches thick. It set-up hard in about seven minutes. Then George worked the mold loose—and we had an exact replica of the buck's facial expression.

Meantime, I had collected several quarts of Poverty dirt, carefully labeling each jar. I'd snapped innumerable color photos of the flora, had snipped off whole branches and pressed them between boards, preparatory



to shipping them back to the museum. Also, I'd taken plaster-of-paris castings of leaves from characteristic flora. The process duplicated the death mask—the leaves were coated in clay-wash, the plaster poured and allowed to set-up.

That completed the field work. When Jack Butler came in from the pines, we loaded the buck on horseback, stomach down across the saddle, his head on the horse's right side, his front and hind legs made fast to the cinch on opposite sides. The buck's head was tied so the antlers wouldn't injure the horse or hang up in brush.

Back at Jack Butler's mountain-top ranch, George took measurements of the fork-horn as the animal hung there, head down, feet hefted from the block-and-tackle. Some taxidermists use calipers to take facial measurements before skinning. Others, like the world-famed Jonas Bros. (taxidermists with headquarters in Denver), suggest measuring after skinning. It depends pretty much on who's doing the work. But whoever does the reconstruction, he'll need exact measurements, taken in the field, soon after the kill. Calipers measure the face. Probably most important is the distance between tip of nose and the inside corner of the eyes. Additionally, you'll need to tape another dozen more general dimensions, listed here from Jonas Bros.' booklet, "Game Trails":

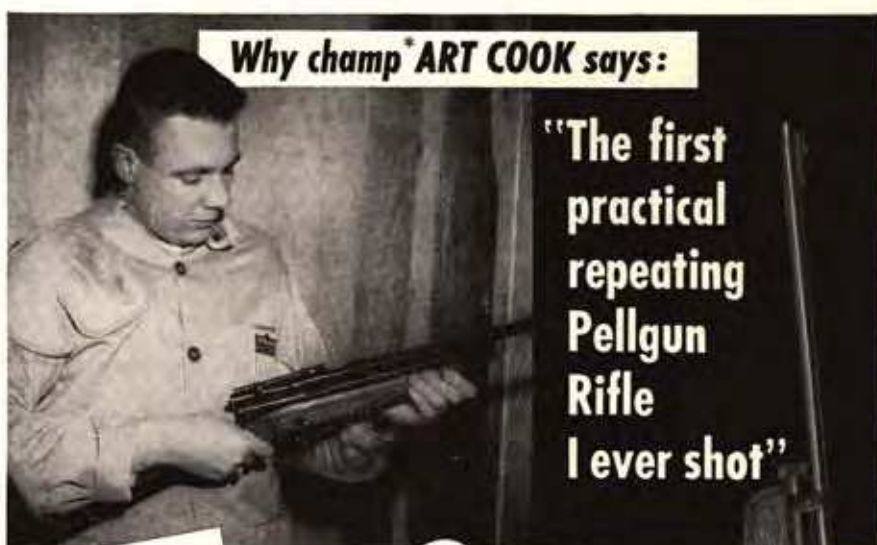
- (1) Length of head and body from tip of nose to root of tail, following back line.
- (2) Height at the shoulders (from top of hoof).
- (3) Circumference of body, back of elbow.
- (4) Circumference of the middle of body.
- (5) Circumference of neck (a) in front of shoulders; (b) behind ears; (c) around middle.
- (6) Depth of flank.
- (7) Thickness through body at head of humerus.
- (8) Thickness through body at femur.
- (9) From head of humerus to head of femur.
- (10) Head of brisket to head of femur.
- (11) Brisket to ear pit.
- (12) Length of tail, from root to tip of bone.

Adam's measurement technique differed slightly. For one thing, he measured the animal unskinned. And when he took note of tail length, for instance, he calibrated from the tail's root to the tip of its longest hair.

That done, it was time to skin. Generally, cuts were taken down the belly, inside the legs and from the antlers down the back of the neck to the shoulders. It was tedious, working the skin free with extreme care to avoid nicks and tears, and George spent hours at it. Afterward, more hours went to scraping the hide free of flesh and fat, salting it, and finally wrapping it, flesh-side out, in sacking. Any flesh or fat allowed to linger on the hide would putrefy, causing a "hair slip" or worse at the contaminated spot.

The "Do's" and "Don'ts" of museum skinning are book-length; as a matter of fact, there are a number of books and pamphlets on the subject, Jonas Bros.' "Game Trails" being a particularly good example. The point is, if you're really serious about collecting for a museum, you either already know the technique or should take along someone who does.

Blood must be washed away with soap



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and water immediately. To allow stains to dry dooms the hide. And you've got to watch for wrinkles—for skin laps may elude salting, and that means decay and slipped hairs. There's also a real trick in preserving the eyelids—the way you use your left fingers as guides on the outside, while you feel your way inside with a knife. Then there's the matter of game tags. If they're allowed to repose on the hide, you run risk of rust.

From all this you can see that a museum's restoration depends on how well you skin the animal, and how well you care for the skin after you've stripped it off.

While the skin was salting, George got to the tedious job of deboning. It was an unsavory job, cutting away the flesh (which George put aside for me) and extracting the skeleton. Later, at the museum, the bones would be boiled and dried. For the moment, George merely wanted every bone—the skeleton as intact as possible. Typically, he separated the front legs, but left them attached to the shoulder blades. He duplicated the technique on the hind legs, separating them from the pelvis. He kept together spine and ribs, separated skull from the 1st vertebra, leaving antlers attached to the skull. Carefully, he removed the brains and salted the brain cavity. Once he had the bones scraped clean, he sprayed them with a solution of formaldehyde. After that, they were allowed to dry, then gunny-sacked and tagged.

For the average guy used to taking a deer head, all this may seem endless work. Maybe, even pointless. But it isn't. Back at the museum, Adams and his fellows would put

the skeleton together, use it as basis for a plaster-of-paris, life-sized casting. From this would come a wood, wire, and papier-mache form, with every muscle etched into the mold. And over it, eventually, the skin would be stretched. No "stuffing" here—which is the reason modern-day taxidermists, who spend months over a single casting, cringe at the word. Finally, too, every leaf mold would be cast in plastic . . . re-creating the flora of Poverty. The floor of that deep-hidden canyon would be minutely copied as real as the canyon itself.

The shooting? That had been but a minute part of the job. The real work had come afterwards. But the day the museum announced its new mule deer habitat, I realized it had been worth all the work. I stood there, scarcely believing I wasn't still in Utah's Poverty country—the habitat was that life-like. (Matter of fact, a magazine photographer later put a hunter into the exhibit, published a picture of him shooting a deer, and fooled even the game-canny editor.)

Then, a week after the exhibit opened, I met a hunting buddy.

"You shot that group?" he asked amazed. "Why, I never knew museums welcomed us ordinary hunters!"

Yet museums do. And all across America they're hanging out "Hunters Welcome" signs. They're asking you—the trigger-sure guy with game-wise eyes—to take gun in hand, for the sake of natural science. Answer their urgent call and you'll find yourself gunning for fun, and for posterity. And—it's tax-deductible!



GUNS Technical Staff

## Shooting the Buntline Colt

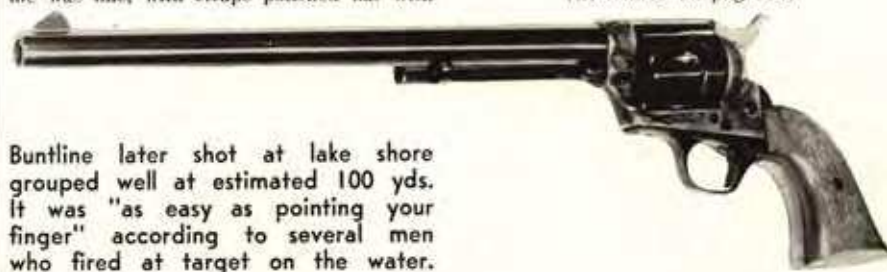
TOOK THE BUNTLINE Special .45 Colt down to Herby Harris' new range the other day and burned up a boxfull. The range was beautiful, the sound proofing good, the lighting fine, but 20 yards is just no place to shoot a 12" barreled pocket rifle. I scored well with a group a little to the right—I'm left handed, and probably trigger pressure threw the group out—otherwise, it seems to be sighted right for a short range—or a long one. I put five shots into one rather tremendous hole, using hand rest. Making a "good group" seems easy with a half-inch bullet, until you compare the actual group size, center to center, with a target .22 group!

The finish on the specimen gun shipped me was fine, with straps polished flat with

the frame, and the color good. Trigger pull was also good, though a trifle heavy. As I watched the hammer carefully, there was none of the hammer shifting which sometimes happens when a gun is badly fitted and the trigger cams itself out of the notch. On my gun it was true and clean-disengaging. The long barrel gave a steady feel to the gun, and muzzle whip in recoil was negligible. About four inches muzzle rise was noted when the gun was held firmly, but not tight.

Though the blueing and case-coloring were good, and the whole effect pleasing, the grips needed further finishing. Wood grips now fitted by Colt's are two-piece, and there is too much wood left where grips join frame. After some careful work with

(Continued on page 64)



Buntline later shot at lake shore grouped well at estimated 100 yds. It was "as easy as pointing your finger" according to several men who fired at target on the water.



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## GUNRACK

(Continued from page 62)

a pocket knife and cabinet makers' file, the grips now fit properly. On other contact edges, along the straps and at the butt, the grips fit okay. One thing is missing from this interesting weapon—the original shoulder stock. For about 75 years the shoulder-stocked handgun was a legitimate part of the U.S. outdoor sporting scene. The Buntline Special, though romantically linked with Ned Buntline, famous western writer, was actually Colt's bid for business in the pocket rifle field. Stevens in 1871, Warner, Frank Wesson, Sharps, Smith & Wesson, all made pocket rifles. Marble made the "Game Getter," an excellent combination .22 and .44 shotgun pistol-rifle. All these arms had their particular niche in the sports field. Then after World War I shiploads of Luger pistols were imported by such firms as Pacific Firearms Corp., (now out of business) and Sports, Inc. In an endeavor to merchandise these Lugers with shoulder stocks, imaginative advertising men listed them in catalogs as "Combination Rifle, Pistol, and Baby Machine Gun, All In One." The inference was that the public would fall for these extravagant claims. The unhappy consequence was that Congress fell for it, too. Confronted by the anti-gun fanatics, who showed them such ads, Congress agreed to pass an Act that banned shoulder-stock weapons on the grounds that they were as lethal in the hands of criminals as machine guns.

The outcome is the situation faced by the Colt Co. today. They can make the 12" barrel "Buntline," said to be a replica of guns given by Buntline to Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, Bill Tilghman, and other frontier lawmen. But they are prohibited by law from making the shoulder stock for the gun. Yet in the powerful .45 Colt caliber, the Buntline may be an adequate deer gun and could have many legitimate sports uses, just as, for generations before, the old time "pocket rifles" had their day. Meanwhile, at the premium price of \$140 in black rubber grips, or \$145 in wood (needs shaving down a trifle) the new Colt's Buntline is a real man's gun, worthy of more use than 20 yard indoor range. Pack one the next time you go hunting—you'll be tempted to try it instead of your rifle.

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FOR PEACE OFFICERS, DETECTIVES, SHERIFFS AND GUARDS

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38 W.C. 144 grain  
Boveled Base  
per 100 \$2.80  
.45 semi W.C.  
180 grain  
per 100 \$3.30  
Write Direct, or See your Dealer



## ELMER KEITH SAYS . . .

(Continued from page 53)

very accurate in spite of their extreme light weight. I could have used one to great advantage on my African trip for guineas and lesser bustard, francolin, and sand grouse.

The breech bolt of these rifles is very small in diameter but is made of very good material as it handles high speed loads perfectly. In fact, the rifle handles shorts, longs, or Long Rifle equally well; but I believe in using Long Rifle only in rifles chambered for it. Magazine is tubular and holds a lot of ammunition. I still favor the tubular magazine over any clip for a hunting or plinking rifle.

Anyone wanting a man sized but extremely light trombone action .22 rifle will do well to try the 572 models. Due to the aluminum alloy exterior and the chrome plating these rifles are practically rustproof, would be excellent for use in the tropics or any damp, rainy country.

### High Speed Ammo in Lightweight Smith & Wesson

Colt's advertise their lightweight Cobra and other revolvers for all .38 Special ammunition, everything from mid-range wad cutters to high speed or .38-44 loads. I have received a great many inquiries asking whether or not Smith & Wesson revolvers will also handle the heavy loads, and to settle the question in my own mind, I fired 1500 rounds of high speed .38 Specials through three of the lighter weight S & W revolvers. One was a 10 3/4 ounce aluminum frame Chiefs Special. Another was the famous Centennial hammerless with steel frame and some 17 ounces weight. The third was a 4" barrel Combat Masterpiece on the K frame; a six-shot arm.

500 rounds of the high speed ammunition, Remington, Peters, and Winchester makes, were put through each of these guns. The guns took the test in stride, but my hands did not. Recoil of those little lightweight guns was the worst I have experienced from any sixgun or pistol. The Chiefs Special lightweight was worst of the three, the Centennial next. The Combat Masterpiece was pleasant to shoot even with the heavy loads.

So I came up with the answer to all who want to shoot high speed .38 Specials for emergency defense use in these lightweight Smith & Wessons (also the Body Guard that came out the next year after my test).

Shoot all of this heavy ammunition you wish. I am sure it will never be enough to damage the gun.

These little guns are well designed and well made and the fact that they have but five chambers places the bolt cut between chambers rather than over center of the hole as with six shot arms. The fact that the barrel protrusion through the frame is also cut to a very minimum, further strengthens the little guns for heavy loads; and, in addition, these, like all other Smith & Wesson arms, have front cylinder locks. This adds up to plenty of strength. You need not worry about your S & W standing high speed ammo; how much of it you'll want to shoot is up to you.

### Saeco Micrometer Powder Measure

The Santa Anita Engineering Co., 2451 E. Colorado St., Pasadena, Calif., have long had on the market one of the most accurate powder measures ever made. This was the old Saeco model of 1946. Its one crying need was for a faster and more certain adjustment for any given charge.

The new 1957 Saeco measure is greatly improved, having a micrometer dial adjustment easily adjusted to any desired charge by the fingers alone. The number of turns and clicks can be recorded for future return to that same charge. The new measure will still accommodate the drums of the old model for those who have drums set and locked for some pet charge. Also, the old model Saeco measures can be converted in one day at the factory to the new micrometer setting drum.

The measure is locked to the stand by two heavy Allen screws and, with its long, high stand, the drop tube is held up handy to the scale pan or empty case. Four heavy screws anchor the base or mount to the work bench for permanent installation.

Adjustments of the new measure range from two grains of Bullseye pistol powder to 95 grains of 4350 rifle powder, all by turning the dial with the fingers alone. An Allan screw is provided for locking the adjustment at any desired charge. The new model has also proven more accurate than the old model due to the drums being hard chrome plated and finish ground and polished to only .00006" clearance. We recommend that all powder measures be set for any given charge by the use of an accurate powder scale.

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OUTSIDE CONDITION FAIR TO GOOD. \$24.95  
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VERY GOOD BORE. OUTSIDE BORE. OUTSIDE BORE. \$24.95  
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SPECIAL**

Talk about accuracy in a handgun! The "Buntline Special" has a long, *long* 12" barrel—which makes it not only one of the most accurate-shooting revolvers on the market, but one of the most talked-about.

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The Colt .45 caliber "Buntline Special" is a fine reproduction of a famous early Western gun—built, like every other Colt weapon, in a tradition of greatness. Its overall length is 18 inches (count 'em!) and it hefts at 43 ounces. Sights are fixed type, stocks smooth-finished genuine walnut or checkered ebony rubber. Frame is case-hardened, and barrel, cylinder, trigger guard and backstrap are finished in the famous Colt blue.

This collector's item lists at just \$140 in rubber stocks, \$145 in walnut. See it at your Registered Colt dealer's. For his name, call Western Union and ask for Operator 25.

*Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Co., Inc.,  
Hartford 15, Conn.*



Also ask to see the **COLT Single Action Army**

The original "Peacemaker" of Western fame, now available in 4-3/4" barrel for the fast-draw specialist. Calibers: .45 Colt; .38 Special.



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