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Guns

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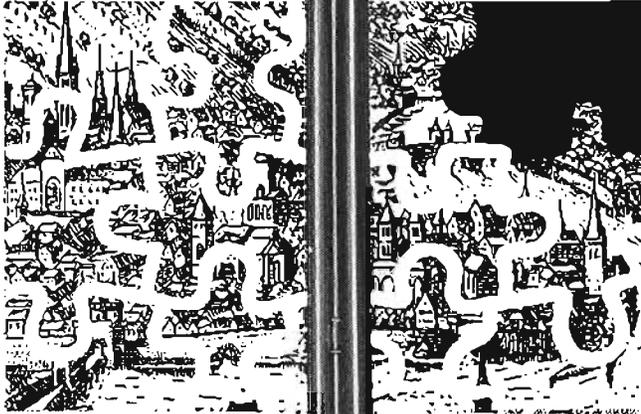
GUN FAKES...

by James Serven

GUN SHOW

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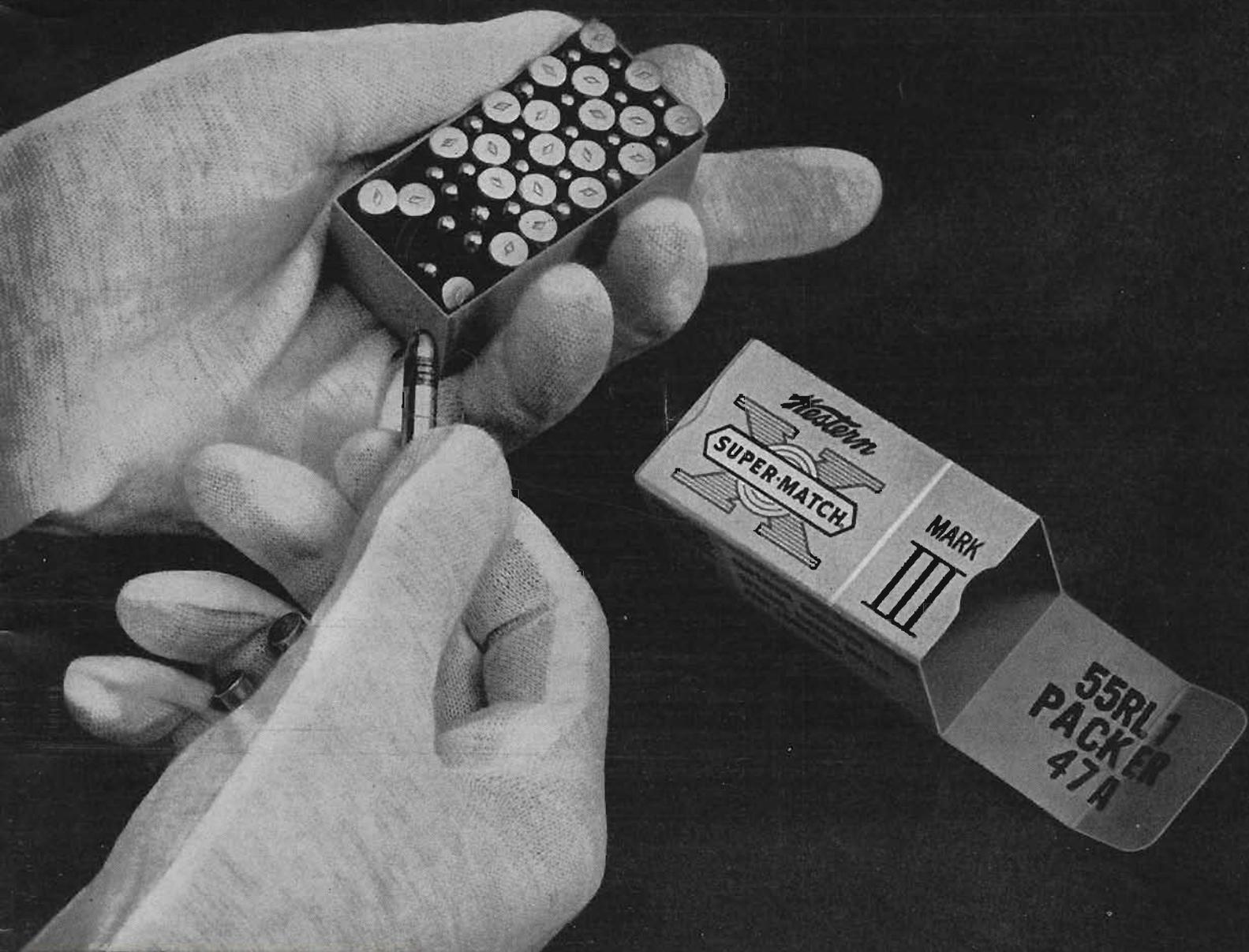
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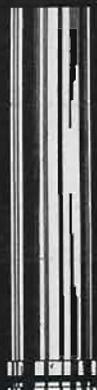
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KNOW YOUR LAWMAKERS

IMMEDIATE ACTION ALL GUNS READERS: A bill, HR 613, introduced by Congressman Anfuso, New York, in the Congress, would require every one who owns a pistol to register it with the Director of the F.B.I. Every pistol would be registered separately, as to caliber, maker, serial number, number of cartridges held, and from whom the gun was obtained, plus "Such other information as the director may by regulation prescribe." A purpose of the bill (Sec. 2, ff2) is "In the event of a future war involving the United States, information as to the number, location, and types of pistols in the U.S. would be indispensable to the prosecution of such a war." Yes, indeed; but to whom?—Editors.

Hon. William F. Quinn
Governor of Hawaii

HAWAII INCLUDES in its constitution (Sec. 15, Art. I) the words "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." Chapter 157, Revised Laws of Hawaii as amended . . . require that a person must acquire a permit to purchase firearms, other than a rifle or a shotgun, and that he must register such firearms with the police department. One may keep firearms and ammunition at his place of business or residence but he may not carry firearms except from the place of purchase to his business or residence, or between these places and a place of repair or a target range. A person 20 years or older who can show good reason to fear injury to his person or property may obtain a permit from his local police chief to carry a concealed weapon. Law enforcement officers are excepted from the law. Unlawfully failing to register firearms, or unlawfully carrying them can bring fine or imprisonment. I should also like to commend Guns Magazine for your interest in the firearms laws of the nation. These laws must be written so as to provide maximum protection for the general public, without unduly restricting the sporting and recreational use of firearms by intelligent and law-abiding citizens.

Congressman John W. Davis
7th Dist., Georgia

I FEEL GENERALLY sympathetic to the provisions of the Second Amendment to the Constitution and would be averse to making any changes or to supporting any measure which would abridge its provisions.

Congressman Hjalmar C. Nygaard
At large, North Dakota

WHILE I FEEL I would resist any attempt to abridge the Second Amendment, I also would be reluctant to project my views into a hypothetical situation. My vote on legislation in this field will be governed by the specific problems, and I certainly shall welcome the views of shooting sportsmen when these problems arise.

Congressman Richard L. Roudebush
6th Dist., Indiana

THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS to own firearms, whether for personal protection or for use in sporting events, is a right which was granted many years ago by this government. On taking control of a country, a dictator's first command is for removal of firearms from that country's private citizens. I believe the right to own firearms and maintain them in one's own household is one that should be guaranteed to all of our people. I want to assure you that I will resist any effort to discontinue the right of individuals to own and maintain firearms.

Congressman Peter H. Dominick
2nd Dist., Colorado

ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS while serving as a State Representative in the Colorado Legislature I took the floor to protect against proposed licensing or registration of firearms. I have been hunting and fishing for most of my life, and I can see little or no reason for Government regulation of these activities. In addition, it is perfectly apparent that registration of firearms is of no particular benefit in controlling crime.

I would prefer not to try and give examples of what would constitute an infringement of the 2nd Amendment as these problems more properly come in court cases where the Judiciary decides the situation on the specific facts before them. I can, however, say that the disarming of mobs protesting against legislation or court decisions is certainly not an infringement of the 2nd Amendment. I would say that the same situation would be true in the case of impounding of hunting weapons where the owner has violated the game laws.

Readers Note: All *Congressmen* may be addressed at "House Office Building," and all *Senators* at "Senate Office Building," both at "Washington 25, D. C." Address all *Governors* at: State Capitol, name of capital city, name of State.

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GUN RACK



If controversy could kill, there would be no gun experts. We believe that honest controversy, fairly stated and accurate within the experience of the writer, is good for a magazine and for its readers. Bullet design is among the most controversial of all gun subjects. We have printed Elmer Keith's beliefs regarding handgun bullets; we print here, with Keith's full knowledge and approval, the other side of the argument. The writer, Mason Williams, is Treasurer of Shooters Service, Inc., Stanfordville, New York, licensed manufacturer of Prot-X-Bore and Jugular Jacketed bullets.

The Story of the Harvey Bullet

... BY MASON WILLIAMS

The long continuing search for accuracy in handgun bullets has been accompanied by a desire to increase the effective range of a handgun and to provide sufficient shock or stopping power to broaden the range of handgun use.

Back in the late 20s, Colt came out with the super .38 automatic pistol and cartridge. This outfit could shoot through bullet-proof glass and riddle existing bullet-proof vests. It would blast a tremendous crater in sand. Unfortunately, when used on game, it simply drilled a hole and went its way. Despite its velocities, it lacked shocking power.

The next major step came with Smith & Wesson's .357 Magnum revolver. In order to obtain velocities of around 1400 fps, a very hard lead bullet was used, with maximum lubrication, the idea being that if the bullet were hard enough and lubricated enough, the handgun would not lead. Up to a point, this proved out; however, these magnums do lead badly. Accuracy was excellent, and this handgun-cartridge combination would shoot like a rifle; but the stopping power of the hard lead bullets was poor. Finally, the ammunition companies reduced the loadings so that the .357 Magnum came to be not much more than a highly souped-up .38 Special, still better than most of the current cartridges in general use but not as good as many had hoped.

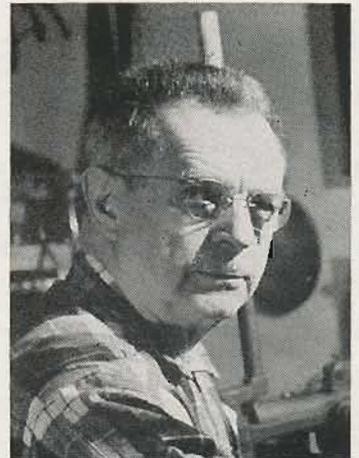
Meanwhile many people had been working on the problem of bullet expansion. Something had to be done to get these hard lead bullets to open up. Hollow pointing was widely used. A hollow point bullet would provide more shocking power than the same bullet with a solid nose; but unfortunately, hard lead has a tendency to shatter. When a projectile strikes and shatters, much of the shocking power is lost.

Everyone knew that the ideal bullet was a pure lead bullet. Nothing has the shocking power of pure lead. Pure lead is a soft, cohesive metal that flows and holds together

under impact. Rather than shattering, the pure lead flows around a bone at the same time that it is crushing it under the impact of the full bullet weight. Attempts were made to combine a softer bullet with larger calibres. This proved relatively successful. But there is a limit to practical bullet size for use in a real working handgun.

Elmer Keith reached the maximum combination in his .44 caliber bullets. They were probably the finest all-around hunting handgun bullets then available. The Thompson gas check design brought this type of bullet to its peak development. The gas check protected the base of the bullet from the intense heat of the burning powders, cutting down on leading and at the same time giving a slight increase in velocity. These two classes of bullets, the Keith and the Thompson, remained for many years the accepted standards for powerful handgun bullets.

Yet, many shooters still wanted higher velocity, longer range, and more shocking



Jim Harvey built bore scraping zinc-based lead bullets.

power—with accuracy, of course. The projectile was the stumbling block. About 15 years ago, an entirely new approach was tried. Engineers have known that zinc has an affinity for lead. Zinc will pick up and adhere to lead. Pure lead provided maximum shocking power, but pure lead could not be fired in handguns without rapidly leading the handgun so badly it would jam. Even excessive lubrication would not correct the situation. But supposing bullets were made of pure lead, fired down the handgun barrel and then the lead that remained in the barrel was scraped out with zinc? Zinc, with its affinity for lead, should keep the barrel clean.

The idea of firing pure lead bullets at even nominal velocities to provide shocking power

far in excess of anything currently known, proved to be the spark that set off a series of tests using zinc as a barrel cleaner. James Harvey of Lakeville Arms, Inc., finally settled on a locked-on, machined, zinc base for a bullet. The bullet was swaged from pure lead wire, giving a bullet with maximum potential shocking power plus much smaller weight variations than any bullet then available. Cast bullets could not be taken directly from the mould and used for fine accuracy, due to air pockets, variations in metal, and other factors. But the pure lead, swaged bullet was perfect in both weight and density, and the machined zinc base provided a perfect bullet base, one of the requisites for match accuracy.

Jim Harvey spent years experimenting with zinc alloys. Not all zinc alloys worked. Finally, one correct alloy was found and used. The results were far beyond expectations. First, the pure lead gave shocking



Soft lead packed into jacket makes big punch in .44, .357s.

power that dropped game in its tracks. Secondly, leading was slight and after two or three hundred rounds the barrel became sherardized by the zinc bases. This generally eliminated leading as a source of trouble.

But a few handguns would not fire the zinc base bullets; leading was excessive. It was found that this was due to roughness within the barrel. Barrels that had been lapped or smoothly machined gave no difficulty. In many cases, troublesome barrels were lapped or simply replaced. This corrected the situation. The fault lay inside the barrel, not with the bullet. . . Third, accuracy appeared to be excellent, exceeding accuracy with cast bullets and with standard factory ammunition. In fact, some groups were so consistently small that nothing was said about them.

Public reaction to these bullets was one of complete disbelief. Such an unorthodox approach could not possibly be right! Army officers, national shooting organizations, and writers of renown refused to have anything to do with this development. Even men like Elmer Keith turned thumbs down on it.

In 1951, a series of tests were commenced by the H. P. White Laboratories in order that Lakeville Arms, Inc., could have specific, proved information obtained by scientific methods in an independent laboratory. (About this time, the name Prot-X-Bore was applied to the zinc base bullet. This name is a Trade Mark, now the property of Lakeville Arms, Inc.) Out of all the tests, just a few will be listed here.

December 11, 1951 152 grain, Lyman Experimental, swaged pure lead bullet with zinc gas check. Average velocity, 10 shots, 1153 fps. Pressures 23,250.

(This meant that a 152 grain zinc base bullet could be fired at magnum velocities in a

.38 Special cartridge with acceptable pressures.)

March 16, 1953 Cal. .44 Special 220 grain Prot-X-Bore bullet. Average velocity 10 shots, 1291 fps. Pressures 20,310.

March 25, 1953 Cal. .44 Special 170 grain Prot-X-Bore bullet. Average velocity, 10 shots 1516 fps. Pressures 19,770.

(Again, in .44 caliber, these bullets gave magnum velocities with acceptable pressures.)

At this point it is interesting to note comments made by H. P. White: "You may be interested to note that the standard factory bullet, at 786 fps and 11,270 psi, delivers about 340 foot lbs. of muzzle energy, while your 220 grain bullet, backed by 15.5 grains of #2400 at almost exactly the same pressure, travels at 1047 fps, delivering a muzzle energy of about 540 foot lbs.

"After all the firing we have done so far, and especially the amount of high velocity rounds that have been fired, there is no sign whatever of any leading in the bore of our pressure barrel from the use of your bullets." And, in another letter: "Frankly, we were amazed at the uniformity of weight we discovered. Of the entire lot, there was a difference of only 0.8 of a grain between the lightest and the heaviest bullets. This shows excellent manufacture indeed and provides the handloader with one of the few constants he'll ever have to work with.

"We are again including a Range Test Sheet on ten rounds of commercial ammunition for use as a control. We might also

(Continued on page 50)

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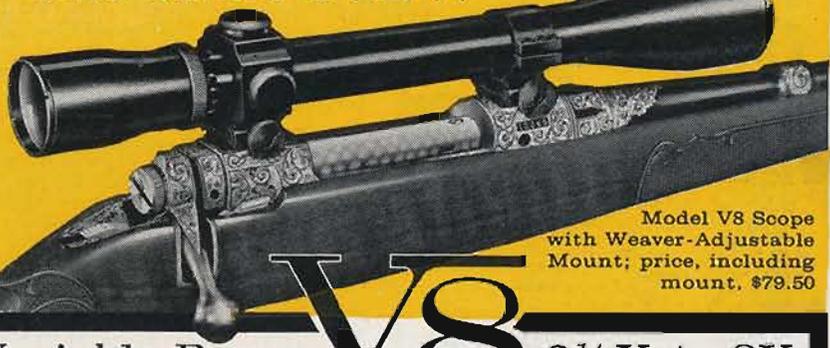


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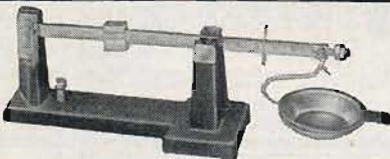


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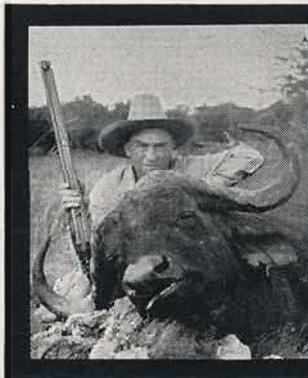
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**Elmer
Keith
says . . .**

Colt Gold Cup .38 Special

For many years, gunsmiths have attempted to meet the requirements of many of our top target pistol shooters for timed and rapid fire work in the National Match pistol course. Some of these conversions have worked very well. Many have been very temperamental as to ammunition used, but they have created a demand for such a weapon. Colt's new Gold Cup .38 Special is designed to meet that demand.

Externally, the new Colt looks exactly like the famous and wonderfully accurate Gold Cup National Match .45, but internally it is vastly different. The new gun is designed for light loads only. Specifications call for mid-range or wad-cutter ammunition only, and reloads are not recommended; but there is no reason why reloads should not work as well as factory ammo if cases are fully resized and the loads are held rigidly to standard velocities and pressures.

The match target shooter now has a .38 caliber auto that will shoot as accurately as a revolver and still give him that big advantage in timed and rapid fire. Users of the new Colt will have ample time for careful trigger squeeze and centering of sights between shots, instead of having to cock a



revolver and then try and get back on the target. Match records have long proved the accuracy of the good old Colt .45 National Match and accurized weapons, and the new .38 Special should be just what the doctor ordered for timed and rapid center fire matches. The new gun is priced at \$125, much less than many gunsmiths have charged for altering the .45 auto to .38 Special.

As to accuracy, Colt claims the new .38 National Match will shoot into 1½ to 1¾" at 50 yards, which is good enough for any man and far above the holding capabilities of most of us. Thus accuracy is assured for both 25 and 50 yard match work. Light loads have quite a trajectory arc, however, and different aiming points may well have to be worked out for the two ranges. Like the .45 Gold Cup National Match Colt, the new gun has the long adjustable trigger and the old 1911 straight grip housing. Personally, I

much prefer the shorter trigger and the arched housing, but many of the best match .45 shooters prefer the long trigger and the straight housing. I have a short fingered, heavy, square hand, and the arched housing and short trigger fit me best.

Being made for light loads only, and giving a very minimum of recoil and upward movement, this gun is intended as a target gun only, not for defense or hunting use. I hope they will furnish a stronger recoil spring to order later, so that shooters may also use standard loads, as well as high speed, for small game shooting.

Front sight is a square faced blade for target work, and the rear sight is an improved version of the fully adjustable Colt rear. Internal parts differ so much from the conventional .45 action that I will leave the details to Colts' own detailed description, available from your dealer.

The new gun gives considerably less recoil than even light loads in the .45, and less disturbance of the gun in recoil, so it should be much faster to get back on the target after each shot. Match pistol shooters should go for it in a big way, and we would expect to see some new records set with the new gun within a couple years. Present day match pistol shooting is a highly specialized game, and the finest procurable tools are necessary to get even the best shooters into top places. The new Colt is a tool designed with that in mind, and we expect it to become very popular on the target range.

Bolt Welding Jig

Bob Brownell, Montezuma, Iowa, has a bolt welding jig that holds both the bolt shell and the handle in proper position and angle for welding, when one wishes to alter a Mauser-type bolt to low position for scope usage. This jig is a well made and practical tool. Brownell forgot to mention the price to me, so you will have to write him for prices. A 45° transparent triangle is furnished with each jig for setting up the bolt and handle.

Blu-Blak Blueing

For many years, H. Tom Collard, who owns and operates Protective Coatings Inc. under the Lynx Line brand, Box 3985, Detroit, Mich., has furnished a very superior hot blueing solution and instructions. A great many leading gunsmiths and large gun shops have used Blu-Blak for many years, with perfect success. However, no gunsmith can blue any better than he can polish, and the instructions must be followed to the letter. Given a clean and perfect polish job to start on, Blu-Blak properly handled will give a
(Continued on page 65)



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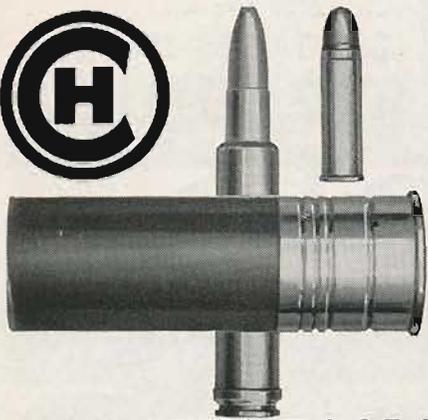
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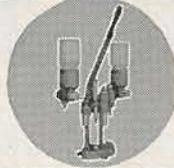
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CROSSFIRE

The Free State of Arizona

Each month when I receive my copy of your magazine I turn first to the "Know Your Lawmakers" section. I think this is in itself worth the price of the magazine.

In the February issue I noted the comments of His Honor Governor Price Daniel of Texas, suggesting that the sale and possession of pistols is one reason for the murder rate in that state. This assumption lacks any semblance of logic. Pistols have been in the hands of people there for a long time; how can this be blamed for a recent change in crime statistics? And how can a sociological problem such as murder be blamed on a mechanical instrument?

Thank God for men like Paul Fannin of Arizona who still defend our Bill of Rights. I like my own home state very much as a place to live, but its gun laws make me seriously consider moving to a free state like Arizona!

Frank Lee Barney
Sherman, New York

from the so-called do-gooders with their anti-gun laws.

The picture of Karl Grund nearly made me homesick for Germany. He was one of our instructors at the Instructor Examiners school. He also signed my certificate from that school and my Hunters Certificate. He is also a swell fellow and a true German sportsman.

James R. Pierson
Oildale, California

Letter To Lawmakers

Thank you for the fine letter suggestion in the "Know Your Lawmakers" column, March issue. It stated exactly what I have long wanted to tell my representatives in Boston and Washington. The letters I send today are to be the first in a series of my fight against anti-gun legislation. Thank you for a fine magazine,

George R. Mooza
Watertown, Mass.

Cheers For Johnson

Three cheers for Al Johnson's article "How to Stop Gun Accidents" (February 1961 GUNS.) I've seen this type of gun and hunting education first hand and it is the answer to our ever increasing gun accidents. I'm not saying it is the only answer, but when you compare our gun accidents with those in Germany, it seems the best answer known. If anyone can come up with something better I'm for it.

I've just come back from three years in Germany. During those three years I hunted nearly all the German game, have been on numerous drive hunts; one of these hunts included 135 persons, and I never saw an accident related to guns. I got my German hunting license in 1958 in January. In February 1959 I went to the Instructors-Examiners school at Berchtesgaden and became an Examiner.

When I went to Germany in October 1957, I thought the set-up for getting a license was screwy but the more I looked at it the more it made sense. In Germany, a man in order to obtain a license must know what he is doing both gamewise and gunwise. I went to a German Hunting Club course which lasted two weeks, 4 hours per night. It was quite a course. I can supply anyone interested a copy of the outline used in the course.

Germany is not the only hunting I've done. I've hunted in this country for about 20 years both big and small game. I'm a life member of the N.R.A., also a hunter safety instructor, so I've seen both sides of the picture and can see that something needs to be done on this side in order to cut our hunting accidents and take nearly all the ammo

Kid Dugan

Francis H. Doran died at the hands of a holdup man in Memphis, Friday, Sept. 2, 1960. Under the name of "Kid Dugan," Doran was a popular welterweight boxer back in the twenties. His boxing days were over when he entered the army during World War II. After the war and until his death, he operated a liquor store on the south side of Memphis. The holdup and murder occurred in the morning and the wanted man was wounded and captured by three police officers in late afternoon, not far from the scene of the crime.

The Kid tried to defend himself, but the gun he reached for was an old .41 caliber derringer and it failed to fire. The gun might have been defective, or it may have been had ammunition, or both may have been had.

Old, mis-used and abused firearms should be relegated to a glass case or a museum. An armed robber usually means business, and only a weapon in good working order should be used in defense against him.

William H. Wilson
Millington, Tenn.

Applause and Appraisal

Applause for another fine issue of GUNS. There are so many good things in this issue I don't know where to begin—unless at the beginning.

The pattern letter in "The Editor's Corner" is very good, just what has been needed. I'm going to make use of it in the very near future... Wonder how Elmer Keith keeps from leading his gun barrels with hot loads behind cast bullets. I get leading with 17.5 grains of H-240 behind a 235 grain cast pill.

Would like to hear more about that .50 caliber rifle by Al Weber, and that .45-70 revolver. Like to see what they would do on big game . . . The letter in "Crossfire" from Clifton Camp of New York sounds not unlike an article of mine in the Nov. 1960 issue of "The Handgunner Magazine." . . . The article by Frank DeHaas on "Renewing the New Service" hits the spot. I've been wanting to do something to mine (a .38-40) for some time. A grip adaptor has helped some, but I'm going to make or have made grips like those shown. I've been trying to get a new barrel but can't seem to find one . . . "The Luger For Fast Draw" is of particular interest. I've often thought the Luger should do very well for this, but haven't seen one in action. Mr. Hartwell's statement that his draw time of .45 second is "not startling" is too modest; that's doggone good! If Mr. Hartwell were in the Southern California area we'd like to have him in our Combat Pistol Club . . . We here would like to see an entire issue devoted to Keith's comments. . . . This issue caused two friends who had decided to drop their subscriptions to GUNS because it didn't have enough pistol stuff, to change their minds. Keep up the good work!

W. E. Hensel, Jr.
West Covina, Calif.

Quotation

You may have published this quote before, but I don't remember reading it. Anyway, it was written by one of the great social scientists of all time, and its age does not detract from its value as a guide to government today:

"The Chief foundations of all states, whether new, old, or mixed, are good laws and good arms. And as there cannot be good laws where there are not good arms, and where there are good arms there must be good laws, I will not now discuss the laws but will speak of the arms."

Interested? The quote is from "The Prince," by Niccolo Machiavelli, written in 1513.

Norman McKinnon
Fairview Park, Ohio

Warning

Re "How to stop Gun Accidents": In Germany, as in the rest of Europe, the hunter hunts on game preserves, either his property or leased. No other hunters are allowed there, so there is little chance of sportsmen shooting each other. That is the reason relatively few accidents happen here.

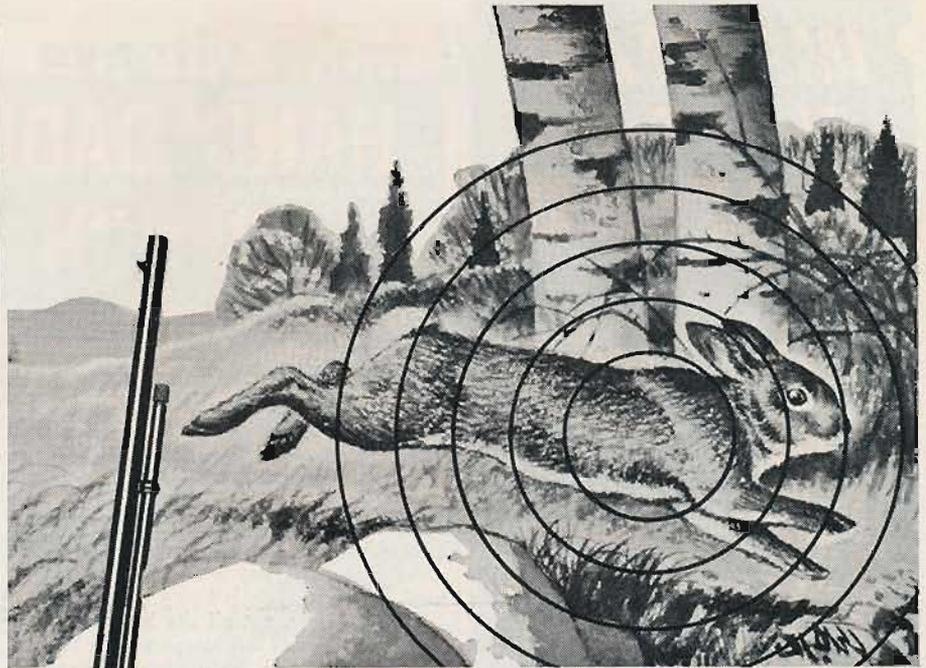
Most accidents are caused by rashness and imprudence, just as in driving, and no examination will put an end to faults of character. Beware of more and more regulations, because in the end you will find yourself spun in till you suffocate.

S. H. Brongersma
Santpoort, The Netherlands

Thanks, Dave

Congratulations on your articles, "How To Stop Gun Accidents," by Al Johnson, and "Back To School For Shooting." This is something that every Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs should take up through all their member clubs.

David E. Fisher
Penn. Outdoor Writers Ass'n.
Allentown, Penna.



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HANDLOADING BENCH

By KENT BELLAH

Tricks For Turret Loaders

Good workmen deserve good tools—and vice versa. Turret-type loading tools are high priced, highly effective, made for the man who wants to turn out his ammo in quantities, fast, on a production line basis. They are made on the assumption that this kind of man is a good, careful craftsman who will use the tool the way it was intended to be used.

Unfortunately, not all the buyers of such tools have been in this category. And because machines, whether loading tools or cars or guns themselves, depend on their users for brain work, handguns have been blown up by cartridges which received double powder charges on this type of loader, and other users (a far greater number) have complained about cartridges coming out of turret loaders with no powder at all. The first, of course, is serious. The second is merely annoying, since bullets lodge in the barrel throat, lock the cylinder, and have to be driven out with a rod. (I said it's merely annoying; it could be considerably more than that in a gun used in combat.) But neither accident is the fault of the loader; they simply prove carelessness on the part of the operator.

Star and Phelps tools, for example, in the hands of any operator who will follow the simple routine of operation, perform to perfection. The Star came out 25 years ago; Phelps Engineering Co. of 487 Main, East Orange, N. J., brought out a similar machine about three years ago. Most parts fit either make.

The Phelps has a few new features that I like. Let's discuss their .38 Special Deluxe Model. It converts to other calibers. I'll give you tips for goof-proof operation, and suggestions to improve a fine machine. Most tips apply to Star and Phelps tools, to Standard Models that load .38's only, and Deluxe Models in other calibers. Factory directions with either make are inadequate for anyone not intimately familiar with this type of loader.

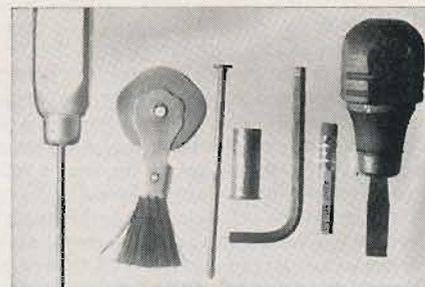
A rotating shell plate ("shell holder" on conventional tools) has stations at 8, 6, 4, 2, 12, and 10 o'clock. You feed shells manually (or better automatically) to the 8 o'clock station where they are turned to 6 o'clock to resize and decap, to 4 o'clock to be primed and expanded, to 2 o'clock for charging, to 12 o'clock for bullet seating, and 10 o'clock where the finished round ejects automatically. The tool handle is operated each time the shell plate is advanced, which loads a round with each down-up movement of the handle. It's that easy.

Manual shell feeding loads up to 500 rounds per hour. A Hulme Automatic Case Feeder (Hulme Firearm Service, Box 83, Millbrae, Calif.) will double production. I highly recommend a feeder, even if the extra

speed is not needed. It nearly eliminates double charges by jamming two cases if the turret is not advanced. I wouldn't do without it. Three clear plastic magazines, nicer than the old aluminum tubes, each hold 41 hulls. You can watch cases drop, and hear the feeder working with a cheerful Click! Click! Maintain a steady rhythm and your machine will dance the light fantastic all day long.

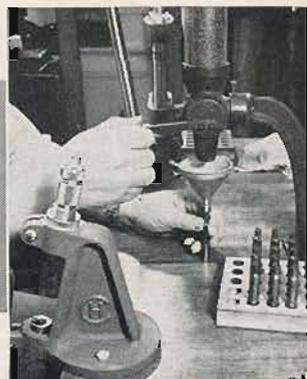
The Mark II feeder is for .38-45 hulls. But many .38 shooters load a few .357's. You can't get a .38-357 selector plate. (See Hulme literature.) To save \$5.80 for an extra .357 plate, I made a ⅛" shim to go under my Mark II plate. It works dandy. Tools made by Star since October 1958, and Phelps since March 1959, are factory tapped and drilled for a Hulme feeder. A drill, tap and jig are available to make the one hole on older machines. Use the feeder without a tub for short runs, and you can feed it faster than the shell plate. I do not consider these loaders complete without a case feeder.

A novice can goof. An instructor may say, "Put a bullet here, pull the handle, turn the turret, and repeat." It's that simple. But don't forget: THE TOOL PERFORMS ALL OPERATIONS EVERY TIME THE HANDLE IS PULLED DOWN AND UP *whether you want them performed or not.* You'll get blanks with a dry hopper or caked powder. You can see the powder in the newer Phelps hoppers. If some pistol powders stand a while, they cake lightly. Stir it to the extreme bottom with a blunt ice pick. Blanks are the fault of the operator, not the tool.



Blunted ice pick, small brush, nail, Allen wrench, pencil gauge (see next page), and stubby screwdriver serve as handy additions to a loader's kit.

The safety cam prevents more than one pull of the handle until a round is ejected. Idiots may remove the cam, or pull it, and get double charges. If you have a tie-up and must work the cam manually, remember to advance the turret for each pull of the handle. Establish a rhythm of operation, work without conversation or distraction, and you'll have few troubles.



Deformed cases, an odd .357 hull, or other defective components will break your rhythm and cause a tie-up. GI brass may give priming trouble unless the pockets are swaged or reamed. If you take a short break, use my idea to lock the safety cam after flipping it manually. Insert a 20d Box nail in the 10 o'clock station. It prevents the uncontrollable urge some otherwise normal people have to pull the handle.

Check for a double charge or blank if you have a tie-up or get mixed up. My idea is positive. Use about 2 3/4" of the eraser end of a pencil for a gauge. About 1/8" of wood should be exposed when it's dropped in a case with a normal charge. Part of the fer-



Bellah's pencil gauge in shells shows normal load, double load, and no load.

rule enters an uncharged case. A double charge exposes about three times as much wood.

Leave the tool handle up, an unseated bullet in the last hull, and the safety cam locked. To resume loading, gauge the 2 o'clock shell. Gremlins may have charged it. It happens once in a blue moon, but it happens. A gauge may save your gun or life!

What are max changes for Phelps slides? Up to 4.5 grains Bullseye, or 9 grains Unique in a 5/16". Or 23 grains 2400 in a 1/2". Phelps 3/4" slides are for Star tools only. The powder cam jiggles the slide for uniform charges. You can ream a slide for a different powder, but if it isn't re-stamped it could cause a blown up gun.

The seater stem hole is to bleed-off accumulated lube. If the seater isn't cleaned a worm of lube extrudes after a few thousand rounds. Bullets seat too deep and the turret gets gummed up. Spilled powder mixes with the lube and hardens. It takes half a day to disassemble, clean, and readjust a goosed up machine. Best deal is to keep it clean! Keep the seater clean. Use a small brush to remove spilled powder pronto. Catch powder in an odd size shell when a station runs empty. You can often free a gummed up turret with lacquer thinner applied freely. Bullet lube should have a high melting point, and cut clean. Anderol has just developed an excellent new lube, the cleanest I've used.

Run a few dummies in a new machine with the shell locating straps removed, to make minor adjustments and learn how it works. Straps are held by a screw. They could have a spring-loaded screw, and be designed to turn out of the way in case of a tie-up, for single stage loading, or to remove shells for a different charge. I may redesign the straps on my Phelps, at 6 and 2 o'clock.

Handle operation is very easy, due to a
(Continued on page 45)

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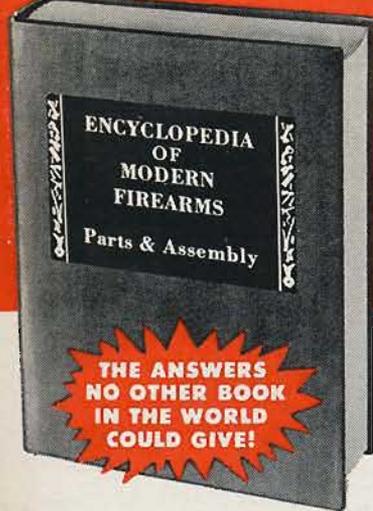
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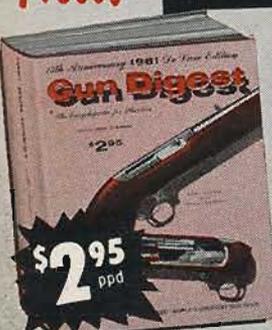
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Variety of targets, from trap birds of both sizes to bits of coal, cardboard discs, or what have you, adds spice to aerial handgunning practice.

BUSTING FLYERS WITH HANDGUN BULLETS IS NOT EASY, BUT THESE TIPS WILL HELP YOU TO DO IT



How to get **HANDGUN HITS ON FLYING TARGETS**

By CLYDE G. HOWELL

YEARs AGO, when I was a firing member of the Illinois National Guard Rifle Team at Camp Perry, I spotted a used .22 caliber Colt Official Police revolver in a display case on Commercial Row. It was in excellent condition, and the price was right.

I haunted the place, trying to make up my mind whether or not to enter the handgun game. In an exuberant frame of mind after racking up a 95 on the 1000 yard range during the final team match, I threw caution to the winds and bought the gun.

For years, I packed that Colt constantly, in the field, around the farm buildings, even doing chores, using it mainly for plinking at anything and everything presenting itself as a potential target. Handling the Colt dozens of times a day, seven days a week, soon proved to be an ideal way of becoming a good shot. Targets of various sizes, and distances anywhere from a few feet to several yards, made tough going at the start since the gun was equipped with fixed sights. But time and practice make a man expert at Kentucky windage and elevation—a deadly form of shooting for the man who thoroughly knows his gun. (I do not imply that adjustable sights are worthless; they should be used whenever possible for accurate shooting. But where it's a matter

When one target gets too easy, try two—or three. Here the author has three down, one to go, of three hand-thrown clays.



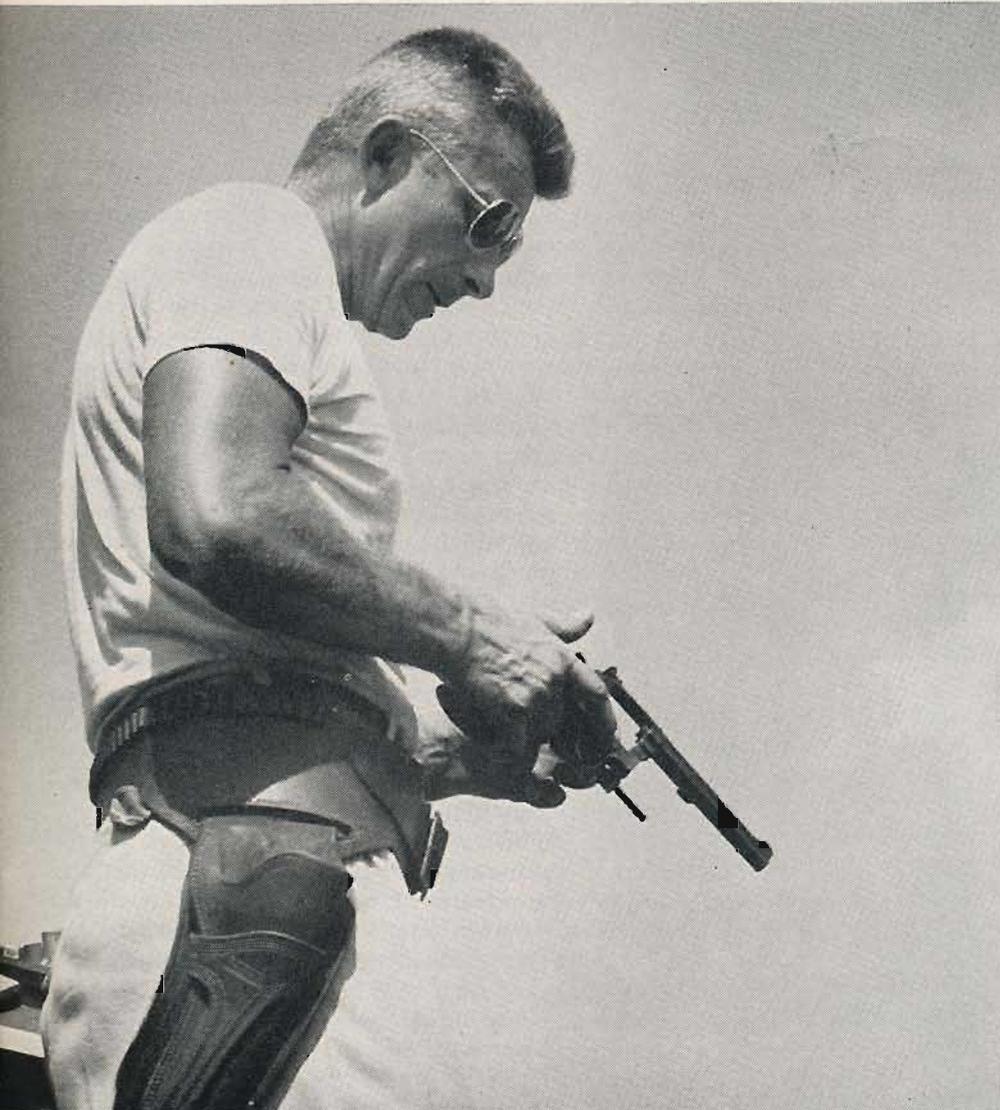
of split seconds between having a good shot or none at all, you often need Kentucky windage with best of sights, so fixed sights are not an insurmountable handicap.)

Sparrows, starlings, crows, ground squirrels, and other varmints, though still quite plentiful, became very suspicious indeed whenever "that man" was in evidence. Even the pigeons, although I never shot at them, gave up their usual landing field on the barn ridgepole. So, with live targets becoming more and more scarce, I looked about for new worlds to conquer.

Aerial target shooting had always intrigued me and, never having been blessed with any particular restraint, I followed the advice of a tongue-in-cheek wit who said, "When tempted, yield; it saves time." I yielded.

As every aerial shooting plinker has found, results at first were anything but gratifying. After a week of seemingly useless folly, I got my dander up and swore an oath that I would one day become good enough to shatter half-inch flying targets. I ordered a couple of cases of .22's from the DCM, a Smith and Wesson K-22 with McGivern 1/10 inch sights, and sent off an order to Walter Roper for his then famous made-to-order hand grips. Then, with the latest handgun shooting equipment

Invasion? No, but don't overlook Junior's toy-box in your search for targets (right). A partner willing to learn the all-important art of throwing targets will smooth your path to aerial gun skill.





Midget Mo-Skeet-O clays from self-operated trap are severe but not impossible test of gunner's skill, as proved by photo sequence of aim (above) and hit (below).



available to members of the lodge, I set out to become an aerial artist with a revolver.

Why a revolver and not an automatic pistol? Simply because a revolver suited my particular needs and wants for all-around shooting better than the autoloader. The latter is unquestionably better for target work in my estimation and possibly for aerial work; but for top speed in the field of fast draw, to which I had also become addicted and wasn't about to give up, the auto is outclassed.

Why not two guns, one for fast draw and one for targets? For several reasons: A pistol sometimes doesn't function any too well when choked with field dust, oat and corn chaff, and the et cetera found in the line of duty in general farm work. Too, I subscribed to the idea that a one-gunner is a good gunman. Any person can, I think, through constant one-gun handling, become so familiar with its grips, balance, sights, and trigger pull that sure hits are as easy as feeding the face without a mirror.

Shooting at miscellaneous debris of various sizes wasn't paying off, so I started over on gallon cans, something that could be tagged with some degree of regularity. If you can't stand this kind of humility, do as I did; go find an isolated spot away from prying eyes and the usual uncomplimentary remarks. You'll find, too, that it is comparatively easy to ring up solid hits, that it helps salve the ego, and is a great self-confidence builder.

When regular hits became monotonous on these fat targets, I acquired an abundant supply of quart-size ones and was surprised how easily they were to hit. In less than a week, these gave way to much smaller baby-food cans.

Troubles set in the moment I tangled with these. Up to this point, little attention was given to tossing the cans. Some didn't go high enough, some flew out, others went to the side or directly overhead. Apparently it's a common fault of the aspiring aerial plinker, for I have watched the same thing happen to others.

Heaving targets into the wild blue yonder with wild abandon just won't work. Not at the start, at least. Besides, it's a highly discouraging procedure. Undoubtedly it is why many shooters give up aerial work after shooting only a few boxes of ammo.

Think! Trap shooters never have helter-skelter targets to shoot at. True, they never know *the angle* at which a bird may fly, but there is a definite pattern of flight. They vary but little in height, and seldom exceed more than 45 degrees to left or right. The shooter's position is that in which he may easily cover a bird regardless of the throw.

Or take it a step farther. Remember the time you witnessed an exhibition shooter going through his bag of tricks? Did he have his targets tossed all over the landscape? Not much. Why should you attempt targets more difficult to hit than the experts try?

I learned to throw my targets carefully, trying to have them complete their upward arc about twenty feet above ground and some ten feet to the immediate front of my gun. Scores picked up considerably, for I had eliminated the need of shifting my gun to right or left. All that was needed now was to follow the target straight up or straight down, depending upon how long it took to pick up the sights and get them on the target.

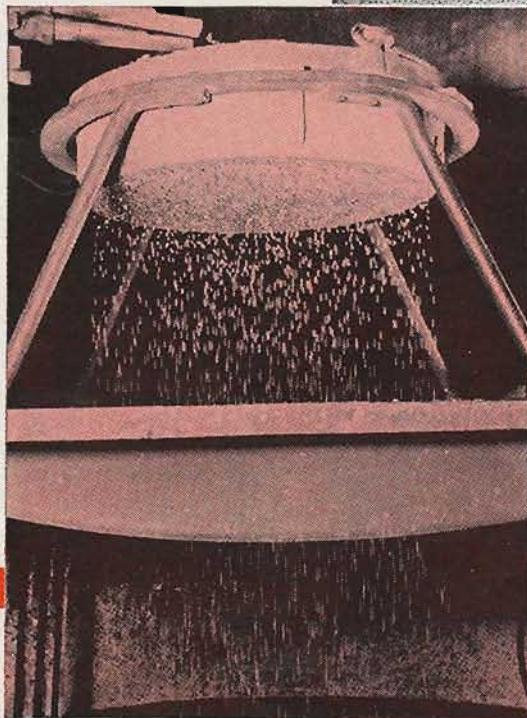
Targets two or three inches in diameter are well within the realm of every handgunner with only a minimum amount of ammunition, if the targets are tossed to rise and fall in a regular pattern. Flying targets of these dimensions drilled with regularity make (Continued on page 46)

EARLIEST OF ITS KIND IN AMERICA,
PHILADELPHIA SHOT TOWER DEFIES AGE

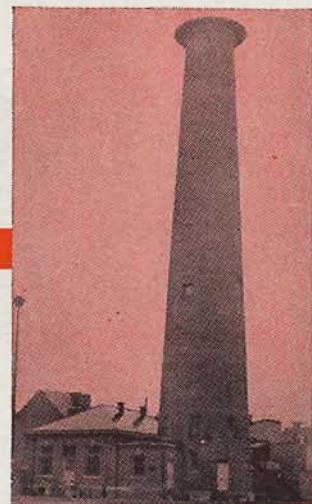


SHOT TOWER

1807-1961



By JOHN W. BOYLE

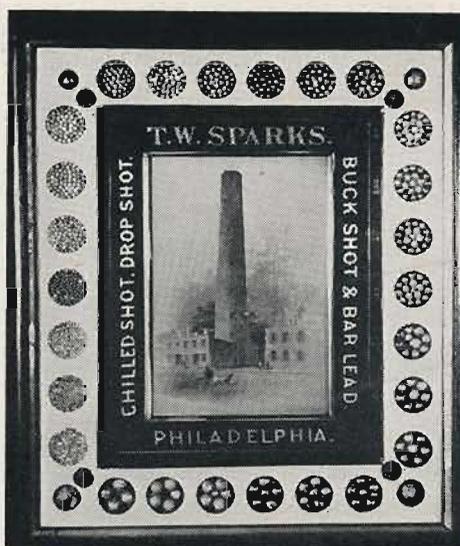


ONE OF THE FEW remaining shot towers in the United States is the first one built in this country. It stands in the city of Philadelphia, at 131 Carpenter Street (South Philadelphia, between Front and Second Streets).

In 1807, John B. Bishop and Thomas Sparks, who were in business as plumbers, suggested the building of a shot tower. The idea took hold, and when the United States Government agreed to contract to take the entire supply of heavy shot, the idea was developed and financed. The corner stone was laid on July 4th, 1808, and a year later the tower was completed. It was constructed from data obtained from an English shot maker. The tower, circular in form, arose to a height of 142 feet. It was 30 feet in diameter at its base and 15 feet in diameter at its top. The tower was so perfectly built that, from its measurements, the United States Light House Board have constructed many light houses in this country along the Atlantic Coast. It is interesting to note that not a brick has fallen or needed replacing to this date.

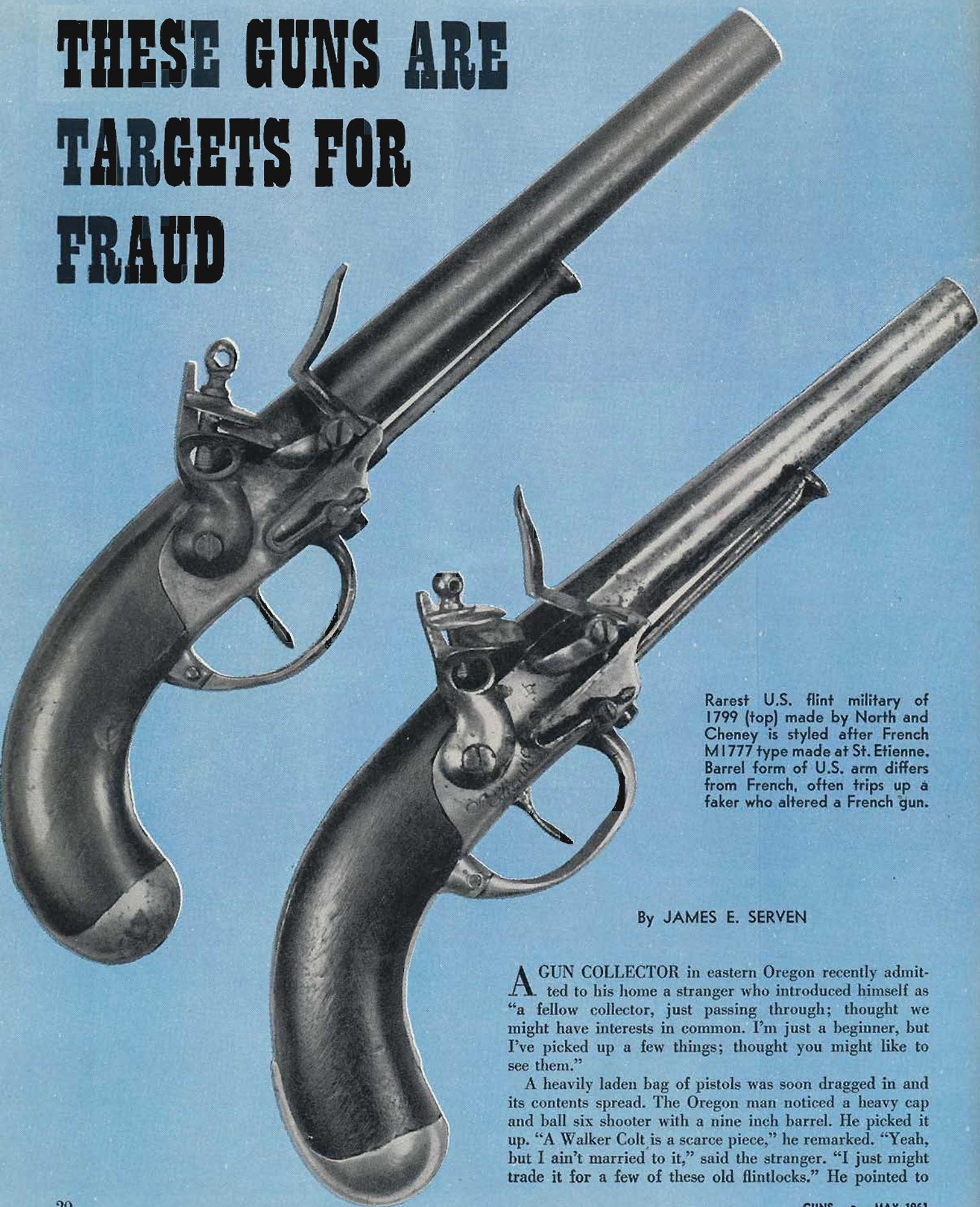
The firm was known as Bishop and Sparks from the year 1808 until 1812. Bishop, who (Continued on page 61)

Same idea of dropping melted lead to form in balls is used at Western Cartridge, East Alton, Ill. today. Philly tower, now playground, was once model for Coast Guard lighthouses.



Display cabinets on shot tower office held samples of drop, chilled, mold shot including buck sizes. U.S. purchase of all large shot gave firm its beginning, but Sparks' Quaker partner backed out during the War of 1812.

THESE GUNS ARE TARGETS FOR FRAUD



Rarest U.S. flint military of 1799 (top) made by North and Cheney is styled after French M1777 type made at St. Etienne. Barrel form of U.S. arm differs from French, often trips up a faker who altered a French gun.

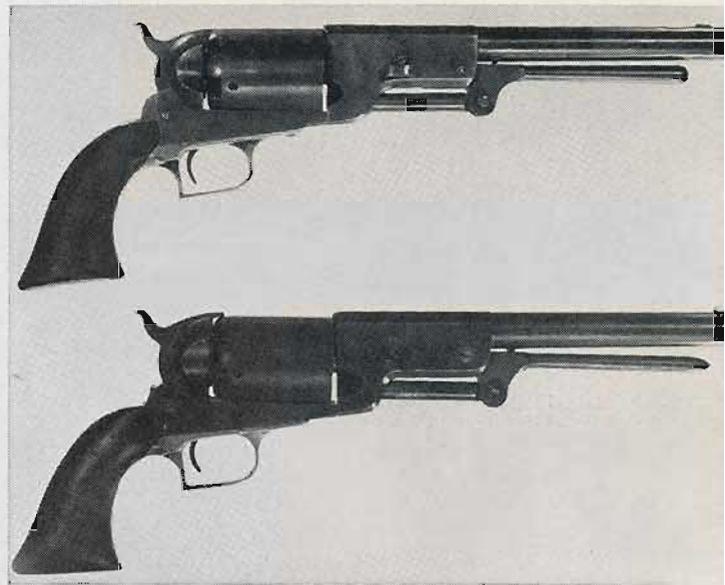
By JAMES E. SERVEN

A GUN COLLECTOR in eastern Oregon recently admitted to his home a stranger who introduced himself as "a fellow collector, just passing through; thought we might have interests in common. I'm just a beginner, but I've picked up a few things; thought you might like to see them."

A heavily laden bag of pistols was soon dragged in and its contents spread. The Oregon man noticed a heavy cap and ball six shooter with a nine inch barrel. He picked it up. "A Walker Colt is a scarce piece," he remarked. "Yeah, but I ain't married to it," said the stranger. "I just might trade it for a few of these old flintlocks." He pointed to



Thuer cartridge ring is back plate to cylinder, contains firing and shell ejecting parts. Fake "conversions" from Mexico have plagued experts.



Most famous of all Colt fakes are Walkers made by welding up Dragoon barrel (top) on which bullet cut, lever tip reveal change.

CSA pistols are field for fakes. Dance Texas gun can be made by flattening breech of common Colt.



Most common pocket '49 Colt is often altered by removing its loading lever and welding to resemble "Baby Dragoon" (top), "Wells Fargo" rare variations.



HERE ARE SOME TIPS FROM THE TOP THAT COULD SAVE YOU FROM BEING TAKEN BY SELLERS OF PHONY FIREARMS FORGERIES

several North-Berlin martial pistols; a rather good choice for a novice.

Luckily, the Oregon man was wary. He made careful notes of the markings and other features of the "Walker," told the stranger he would think it over. When the Oregon man gave me the precise information, I chanced to know the source of supply and modus operandi of this gun trader. The pistol was an artificially aged, improperly marked, modern copy of the rare Whitneyville Walker Colt. Unluckily, not all buyers were as wary as my friend in Oregon. Several of these bogus Walkers were unloaded on eager buyers. A young Korean War veteran in New

Mexico paid \$1,500 for a Walker as phony as a three-dollar bill. So far as I know, this gun trader is still at large. He, or others like him, may be headed your way.

Imitations, replicas, rebuilds, and all stages of restorations are an old story to collectors of antiques of all kinds. Phony antique furniture, forgeries of paintings and other art objects, are often reported. There has always been, also, some skulduggery in the sale of antique arms; but the rise of values of antique guns in recent years has attracted more and more dishonest artisans and salesmen whose policy is *caveat emptor*—let the buyer beware.

United States flintlock (Continued on page 38)

Take a Big One For the Big Ones



Beyond those hills there are no gun shops. Be sure your rifle—load combination has adequate power.

Heart shot with .338 Win. Magnum this big bull caribou still did not drop; was dead on its feet.



Author confesses to bad hits to illustrate dangers of relying on too-small calibers. Sportsmanship demands a hunter have thorough knowledge of calibers he will use.



**THE MAXIMUM IN
SPORTSMANSHIP, NOT
THE MINIMUM IN
CALIBER, IS YOUR
CRITERION IN CHOICE OF
BIG GAME LOADS**

By CLYDE ORMOND



Top stopping power is needed for game of great vitality, like grizzly shot with .300 by author's pal John Phillips.

THE OLD SAW that "any animal can be taken with any caliber if you hit him right" is probably true, but—it's a big "if." Many species, including several kinds of North American game, because of sheer poundage and toughness, need an extra measure of power behind the bullet if they are to be taken cleanly and consistently. This is definitely true of elk, grizzly, brown, and polar bears, Rocky Mountain goats, trophy moose, and big bull caribou.

True, all of these species have been taken with medium-powered loads, sometimes with clean kills. But weighing heavily against the clean kills are the ones that "got away," the ones that had to be

(or should have been) followed up and dispatched, and the ones that weren't followed and died somewhere in hiding because the hunter thought, "He didn't act hit; I must've missed."

Too many hunters approach the problem of taking really big game from the wrong end. It isn't just a question of how much the beast weighs and what is the minimum power necessary to kill an animal of that weight; the fundamental question is, "What will a certain cartridge do under the actual conditions in which it will be used?" This means the hunting condition—and the hunter.

Let's approach the problem from field experience.

(Continued on page 36)



Among best for big ones in C.O.'s experience are .300 H & H, .338 with 200-250 gr. bullets, .375.



Among first big game hammered down by .338 Winchester cartridge in developing new cartridge was this handsome Canadian moose. Extensive field testing has helped armsmakers improve old calibers and design effective new loads, guns.



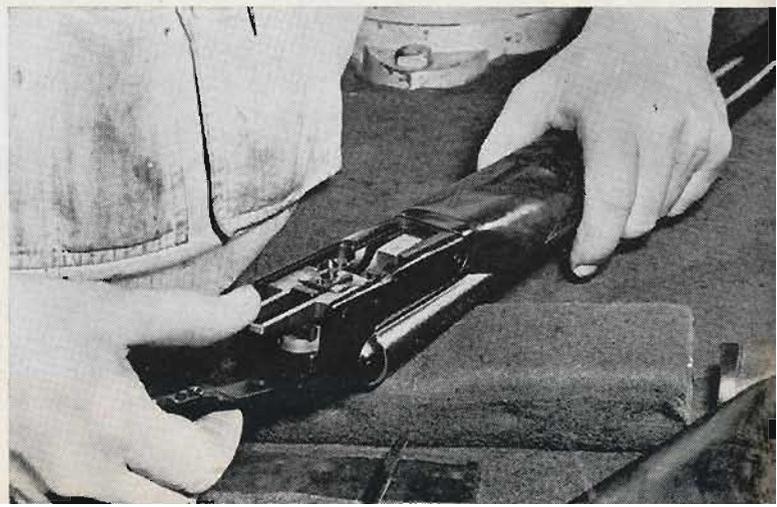
Royal grade of gun, Model 21, is liked by man of the people, "Ike" Eisenhower. Five stars denote war rank.

Who Makes a Better Double?

By WILLIAM B. EDWARDS



Luxury engraved but machined to tool-room standards, M21 is hand-finished.



**BUILT FOR BEAUTY, TESTED FOR GUTS,
WINCHESTER'S LOVELY M 21 VIES FOR
TOP PLACE AMONG WORLD'S FINEST**

ARE AMERICAN GUNS as good as European guns? According to the craftsmen who still hand-make the last quality double gun to be produced in America, the answer to the challenge is a resounding "Yes!" From master engraver John Kusmit, who puts the last touches to a gold head of King Buck, famed Labrador retriever, on the trigger guard, to a host of unsung metalsmithing heroes in the huge Winchester plant in New Haven, the great Model 21 "Grand American" is the expression of workmen of every grade of skill who possess one significant trait in common: each is his own inspector.

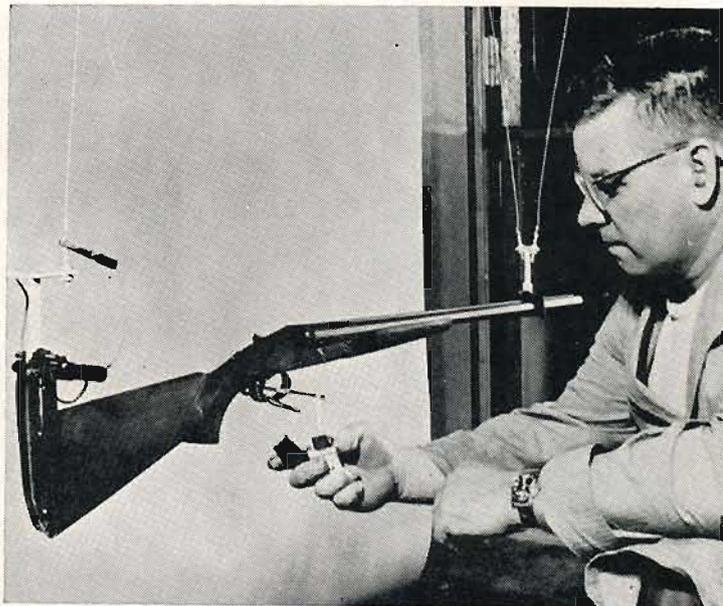
This is an important clue to a unique gunmaking accomplishment in the mass-production factory once known the world over as Winchester Repeating Arms Company, and now distinguished as the Winchester-Western Division of the Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation. Here, in what is really a shop within a shop, the Model 21 double—light, facile, elegant, durable, and expensive—is put together. Its listing as a standard factory model is discontinued: you cannot now buy a "plain" Model 21; can only obtain one on special order. Tabs on the crisply finished latest issue of 21s begin about \$1000 (the Custom), to \$2500 (Pigeon grade), to the top of \$3500 for the Grand American model. All grades are made in 12, 16, and 20 gauges; 26, 28, and 30-inch tubes, and chokes of Skeet No. 1, Skeet No. 2, improved, modified, improved-modified, and full. The 12 gauge guns can also be fitted with 32-inch barrels, and all grades have a gold plated trigger and traditional gold oval name plate on the toe of the stock. Chambers up to 3" are optional on Pigeon and Grand American guns.

The grades differ in finishing details. The Custom is scroll engraved with matted rib. The Pigeon Grade has a heavily gold plated, engraved pistol grip cap, and ornate engraving with specially carved stock of finest-figured walnut. On the Grand model, engraving goes wild: careful scroll with animal figures in gold. Also, each Grand has two sets of barrels, with a fitted trunk case. The stocks of all Model 21s today are custom made only. At select stores in the U. S. are gun fitters to take your measurements for the Winchester Model 21.

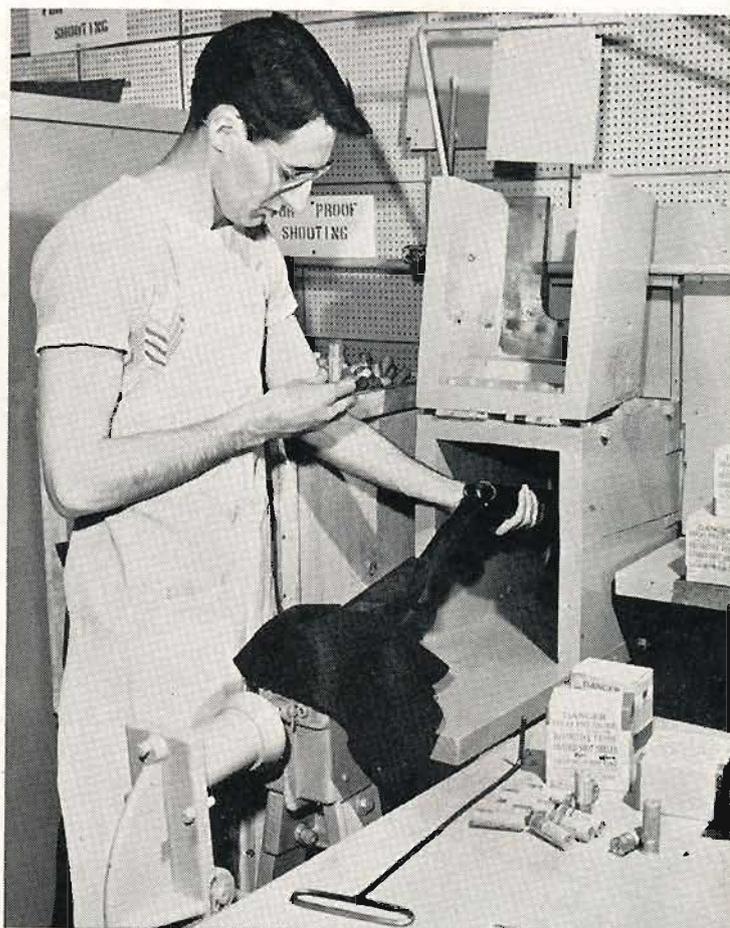
The finish and fit of a custom Model 21 will be acceptable to the most discerning gunner, but the surface is only a part of the story. At half the cost of a new automobile, the American Model 21 is one of the cheapest shotguns in the market. Durability and quality retained for a lifetime are not commodities lightly bartered. For the sportsman who is wedded to the classic double, Winchester's gun craftsmen can supply an arm without peer.

Inside the Model 21, the fact of handwork needs some explaining. This last surviving of America's great doubles—and still going strong—

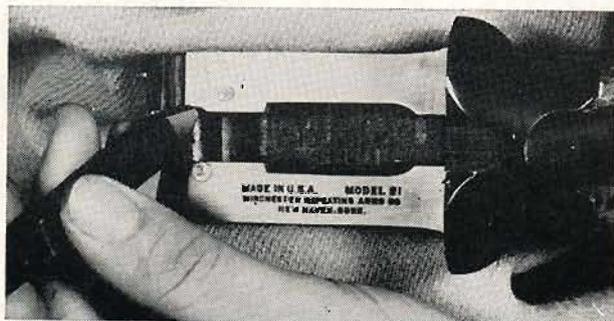
(Continued on page 55)

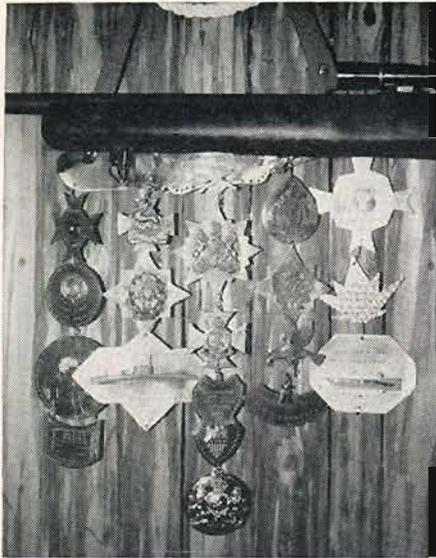


Flame breaks string, releases spring to trip gun trigger on Model 21 wired to recoil-indicating rig at Winchester lab. Gun swings, measuring kick.



Proof test unexcelled by any gun in world was done using Model 21. Each barrel was fired 1,000 times to stress gun to maximum but no change in original dimensions could be measured. Proof stamp (left) on each Model 12 of course is for standard test only.





LOOK IN YOUR OWN BACK YARD

By DICK MILLER

Schuetzenkoenig gets to wear medals made by preceding shoot winners.



Avon Rifle Club members include all-around shots, scattergun and bigbore.

DESIRE, A LITTLE INGENUITY, AND WORK

CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEMS THAT FACE EVERY INFANT GUN CLUB



Now-flourishing club in Skokie Valley has weathered hard times; kept interest high by tough and challenging matches. Using 20X scope on .22 at 50 feet tests shooter's nerve by exaggerating pulse twitch.



At Lincolnwood, Ill., government range made available to DCM-enrolled club, the Avon Rifle Club lines up to fire handguns as well as smallbore courses weekly.

EVERY GUN CLUB in existence today has experienced some trials and tribulations in its efforts to establish itself as a going concern. Most of the problems a new club faces are similar, if not identical to the problems faced by all clubs. They are not insoluble problems; the difference is that one group finds a solution, the other doesn't. Typical are the problems of finding a place to shoot, of getting members, of maintaining member interest. These are not insoluble problems, and the story that follows could supply the spark or the idea needed to make your club effort successful. This is the story of the Avon Rifle Club.

It all started back in 1932, when a group of friends, interested in shooting, set out to find ways and means whereby they could get together, shoot together, and enjoy the good-fellowship that is so much a part of the shooting sports. They thought of the age-old German "schuetzenfest" as a pattern of what they sought. The first medal offered was home-crafted out of scrap metal. With it went the responsibility that the winner must, during the year, make another medal to be put up as a prize for the next shoot. Shoots were held once or twice a year, with competition for originality and artistic effect in the making of the medals running a close second to the competition for high score in the match itself. Each year, the group grew, and each year a new medal added to the club's tradition.

One member of this family-friendly group, employed as an employee-recreation executive with Avon, a large cosmetic firm in Morton Grove, Illinois, took it upon himself to find a larger and better place to shoot, and to find possible new members in his own company. Twenty-five people expressed interest in the idea, and Avon's Rifle Club was born in April 1958, at a meeting which featured the showing of a Sportsmen's Service Bureau film. The core of the club consisted of Avon employees, 50 percent of which were women. This was a case of employees producing face powder in the day time and doing a bang up job of burning (Continued on page 61)



Palm rest hook butt American rifles reflect original "schuetzenfest" idea that caused club to be founded.

Once yearly a President's Match is held. Individual honors may earn the coveted President's gold medal.

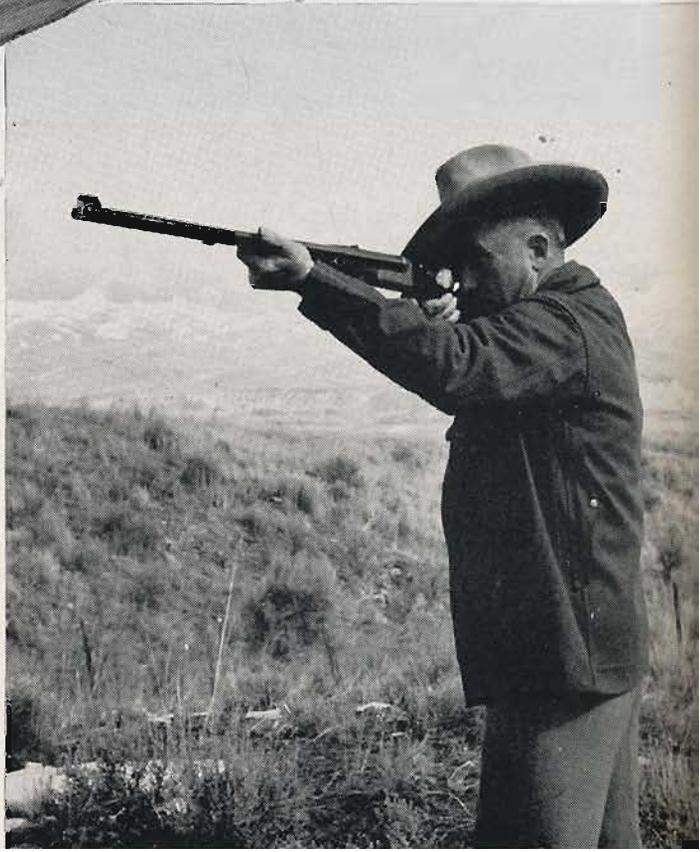




Years ago, as shown by old picture of Keith shooting .375 Model 70 custom-stocked, Elmer preached virtues of up-slanting comb in kick.



Nate-Bishop-stocked .458 chopped to 22" is same overall length as Keith's favorite .476 Westley Richards. Light M70 kicks like wild mule but comb plus pad make it a one-hole grouper at 100 yards, "if you can hold it."





RECOIL?

RELAX AND ENJOY IT

By ELMER KEITH

KICK IS REAL, BUT FLINCHING FROM IT IS LARGELY CAUSED BY MENTAL AND MUSCULAR TENSION, CURABLE BY PROPER STOCKS AND PROPER HOLD

FEAR OF RECOIL is the bugaboo of many shooters. Anticipation of the recoil is worse than the actual physical effect itself. It may be likened to the natural inclination to duck when something is thrown at you. Fear of recoil is the cause of 90 per cent of all flinching, and flinching is fatal to good shooting with any hand or shoulder weapon. Let us see what can be done to overcome this worst of all shooting habits.

The larger and heavier the shooter, the more recoil will actually be absorbed by his shoulder. This is the reason why many small men and women can shoot heavy caliber rifles of heavy recoil with far less discomfort than big, heavy, powerful men. In recoil, the small, light person's shoulder moves backward with the gun stock, while the heavy massive shoulder of the large shooter, being more resistant to the inertia of the moving gun stock, naturally absorbs more of the blow.

Facial recoil is much worse than shoulder recoil, and is more conducive to flinching. Let us analyze the actual effects of recoil, so that we may work out a cure, both for the physical discomfort caused, and also for the fear that is worse than the fact.

Facial recoil is more apt to cause flinching than shoulder recoil. A shotgun or rifle, when fired, starts to move to the rear from recoil. Then, if the center of the butt plate is very far below the plane of the barrels, the barrels

lift in recoil, causing the comb of the stock to thrust sharply against the shooter's cheek. If the stock comb is very much higher than the heel of the stock, this upward movement of the stock comb is increased. The net result is that it hits the cheek bone a hard blow, and will in time bruise the cheek and cheek bone of the shooter. Cure for this type of facial recoil is less heel drop in proportion to comb drop, and the real cure is a Monte Carlo comb with the point of comb actually lower than the bump or rear end of the Monte Carlo portion of the stock.

I designed such a stock nearly 30 years ago for rifles, and it was written up and publicized in the old and now long gone "Outdoors Magazine," as well as in other publications still with us. Many scoffed at the idea at the time I brought it out, but John Dubiele made the first one to my design. Later, C. W. Frost made several more, and now most custom makers, and most of the big arms companies as well, are using some sort of Monte Carlo stock on their rifles.

An eight pound .400 Whelen made and given to me for Xmas of 1925 by James V. Howe, with a stock of my good friend Col. Townsend Whelens' design, was what led me to the design of my Monte Carlo comb rifle stock. Ten shots prone with that rifle, with 350 grain slug and 63 grains of 17½ powder, would give me a gun headache, and I set out to see what could be (Continued on page 42)

HUNTED IN BLACK DARK ON JAGGED WOODED MOUNTAIN
SLOPES, THE AUERHAHN IS WORLD'S RAREST FEATHERED TROPHY—

The Cock of the Alps

By MSgt. ROBERT J. WOOLVERTON



Tyrol gunmaker in Ferlach checks *bockbuchseflinte* as used for hunting auerhahn like bird mounted on wall. Below, jaeger dashes forward to wrap hit bird in coat.

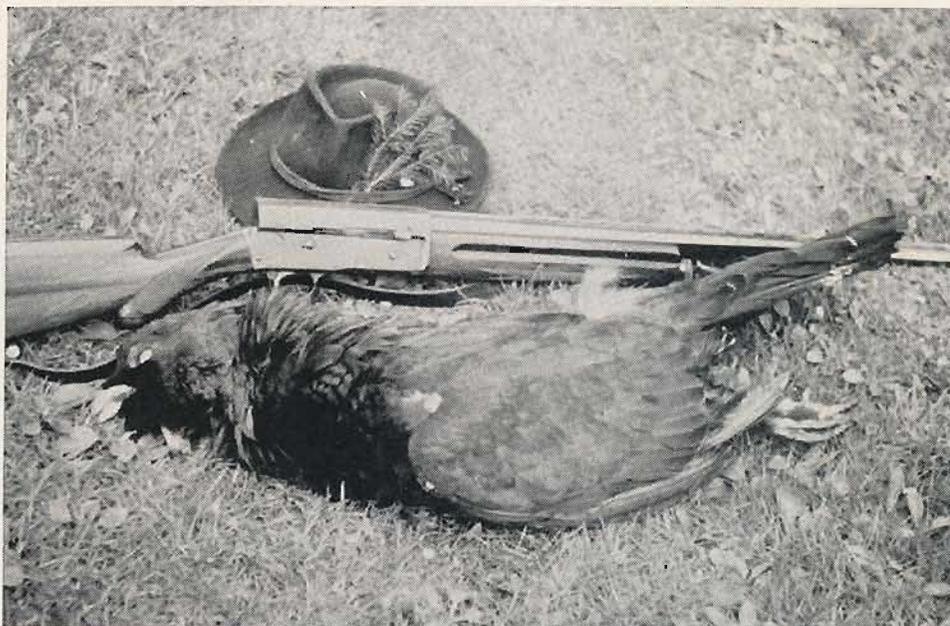


IF YOU HAVE EVER aspired to the truly bizarre in hunting, try conquering an Alp at night in search of that feathered legend, the Auerhahn, or Capercaillie.

The largest of grouse, and probably the oldest (known over 12,000 years ago), this almost extinct mountain cock is one of the highest ranking trophies in Germany, so valued that it is listed as Big Game along with the equally famous chamois, and tougher to collect than a royal stag. Seldom seen, much less heard, except during the mating season in April and May, and then swathed in swirling mist and inky blackness atop some high and windswept Alpine promontory, he challenges any man with guts enough to stalk him at night in the Urwald—

any man willing to settle for the stingiest bag limit in birdland.

Rarer than the ermine petaled "Edelweiss," the unwritten law allows only one per a hunter's lifetime, and you defy death collecting this one. Not only do you hunt him at odd hours, but to further satisfy ancient custom, you stalk him like a wary kudu, leap from one Alpine peak to another, and in the end discover you can't shoot him in flight or on the ground. Furthermore, no dogs, beaters, or artificial lights are permitted on this nocturnal safari. It is strictly man versus bird—the nimble hunter pitted against the watchful cock, his alert harem, the perilous terrain, and the elements that act as the auerhahn's evil allies.



When guide hears "hauptschlag" sound of auerhahn mating call, you move out to stalk great bird. Shotguns taking maximum of No. 2s are best: some jaegers refuse to guide you if No. 4s is your shot size.

Perched on a lichen-covered branch somewhere close to timberline, elevation 1400 meters plus, you battle the elements all the way. Sometimes it doesn't even pay to crawl out of bed, but this realization never seems to come until you're halfway to your trophy and the night is almost spent. Then it's too late to do anything but curse your insanity. Either the damnable fog drifts in to shroud the hangout of the serenading cock, or the pelting rain drowns out all sound—the only thing that can guide you to him. And if these two arch enemies don't sabotage your plans, you've got that infernal wind to contend with. Singly, or combined, they make a venture after this trophy cause for getting him mounted for posterity.

A rare delight to the taxidermist, the auerhahn is a vision of primitive elegance and might. Beautifully plumed, with a shimmering green breast plate, a slate-grey head and neck, dark brown wings, and jet-black tail and upperparts, he combines practically every delightful shade natural to his forested domain. In conformation, he looks like a startling cross (*Continued on page 48*)

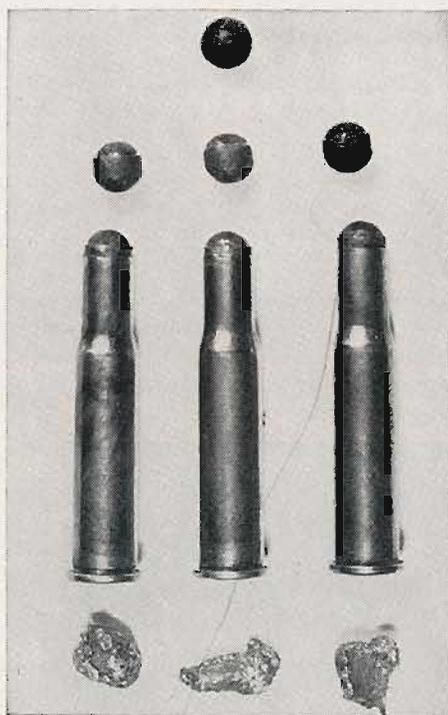
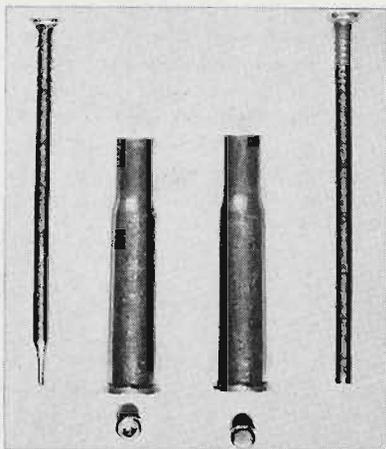
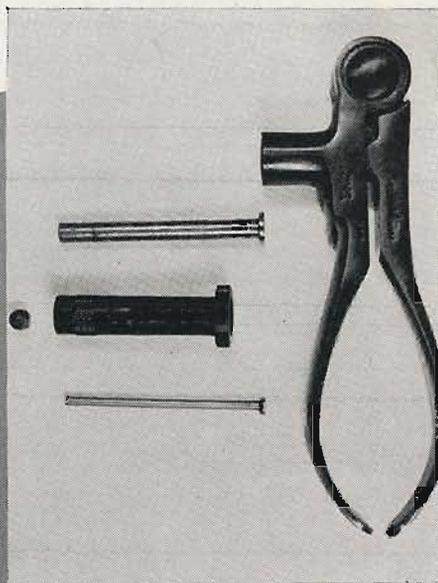
With beak like eagle, tail like turkey, auerhahn may gross 14 pounds, is typical engraving ornament to shotgun-rifle combo Ferlach firearms.



HERE IS CHEAP INSURANCE AGAINST THOSE MISSED SHOTS THAT CAN SPOIL A BIG GAME HUNTING TRIP

By VERNON F. SCHULTZ

Little Loads for BIG RIFLES . . .



Ideal tong tool (top) is "fancy" in this simple reloading plan. Nails are deprime, reprime punches; about 2.6 grains of Bullseye, a .22 case full, makes good load with power to flatten bullets or kill small game.

A MISSED SHOT can ruin an expensive, long-looked-forward-to hunt, and many missed shots are the direct result of lack of practice with the hunting rifle. Here is a means by which you can practice with your big game rifle in relatively settled areas, even in your basement, at minimum cost. Load your big bore empty cases with pip-squeaks.

As basic equipment for all calibers you will need primers, Bullseye powder, and a couple of pieces of facial tissue. Special equipment would include a bullet sizing die, a twelve-penny nail with the tip cut off, and the proper size buckshot. For the .30 calibers, I use size 0 buckshot, miking .313 to .319, and weighing about 49 grains.

Fancier gear is the Ideal tong tool, plunger for round nose #308291, and a .311 sizing die.

Take a fired case that fits the chamber, and punch out the spent primer with an ice pick or ground down nail.

Seat the fresh primer, using a vise as power and the cut off 12 penny nail as a plunger against the bottom of the case.

Bullseye is the hottest powder available to the hand loader. In the .30-30, 2½ to 3 grains (weight) of this powder will produce a good, accurate, cellar and small game load, with a killing velocity of 800-1000 feet per second.

If you have no scale, a .22 rim fire case holds about 2.6 gr. of this powder.

Place the sized buckshot in the neck of the case. It should have a friction-tight fit. If the fit is loose, take a single thickness of facial tissue and cut it into two inch squares. Put one square over the mouth of the case and then seat the bullet. Tear away excess tissue.

There is no need to worry if the shot gets pushed back into the neck of the case. But if the shot gets pushed back into the body of the case, throw it away or reclaim the components.

Treat these loads with respect, for they are as deadly at close range as a .32 revolver bullet. With them, you can now shoot that rabbit out of the cabbage patch or ventilate last week's tin cans. Best of all, your can acquire confidence in your ability to use that big game rifle.



Pull!
BY DICK MILLER

SHOOTING PARKS are springing up across the nation as an effective answer for the total family recreation needs of our space-age people. A host of authorities in a wide range of fields agree that recreation, especially family recreation, no longer can be regarded as a luxury, or even an optional facet of living, but is now a very real necessity.

Shooting parks make a significant contribution to meeting the recreational necessities of our time. This is not to say that gun clubs, as they are now operated, do not themselves make an important contribution to the recreation needs of millions of citizens, American and global. But the concept of the gun club and the shooting park is different.

Most gun clubs offer members and guests recreation in the specialized field of shooting. Certainly many forward-thinking gun clubs offer varying degrees of entertainment and recreation for members and their families. These clubs recognize that it's easier to get and keep Dad as an active member if his shooting activities don't orphan his family.

But we cannot escape the conclusion that the principal business of a gun club is shooting. All other recreation and entertainment is incidental to the central theme. And only a small percentage of existing gun clubs are operated principally as commercial ventures. In most cases, the gun club exists to provide shooting at a fair cost to members, and not to amass a profit.

The newest concept of the shooting park markets recreation, including shooting, as a commercial venture. When Mom, Dad, and the moppets enter the front gate of the shooting park, circa 1961, they can picnic in the park, and find recreation in season, including tennis, badminton, golf driving ranges, batting cages, ball diamonds, basketball, trampoline, ice rinks, and even ski runs, to name only a few possibilities, along with the complete shooting picture.

Since this column is more directly concerned with the clay target sports of trap and skeet, we are interested in the shooting park as a means to bring the shooting sports to more people. All trap and skeet addicts know that giving someone a taste of these great games is the surest way to lead them into the fold. But, how do you get 'em out to the gun club so that they can have that taste?

In the shooting park, they will be exposed to all the shooting sports as one more means of recreation. And the operator of the shooting park has recreation to offer twelve months of the year. While many gun clubs are year-round operations, it remains that the most active seasons are the warmer months.

The shooting park is interesting to another booming field of recreation, that of industrial recreation. Don Neer, executive secretary of the National Industrial Recreation Association, reports that many member companies of NIRA have built and are building these recreation areas. He reports that many other industrial recreation directors are keeping an eye out for the possibility of renting such facilities for periodic employee recreation programs. The same observation holds true for recreation directors in some of our large trade unions.

This column would not be complete without mentioning the commercial possibilities of the shooting park which, while it does not include all the other recreation areas, does offer the complete course of shooting sports.

A pistol club operated solely as a pistol club loses the rifleman and the shotgunner. A rifle club fails to attract the handgunner and the clay target fan. A skeet and/or trap club without other facilities does not pull into the fold the rifle and handgun buff. And, the trap and/or skeet club which does not offer such novelty games as duck tower, quail walk, rabbit run, pigeon ring, MoSkeet, etc., loses the sizable number of shotgun fans who, while they are not bugged by formal trap and skeet, get a big bang from the novelty games.

Put these all together and you have a shooting park inherent with great commercial potential for the operator, and a great potential for building the ranks of all shooting sports.

Give these observations a think. Look around you, especially in the urban areas, and you'll see some great possibilities for shooting parks, either with or without additional recreational facilities. It all adds up more shooting, and we'll all be better off with more shooters and more shooting. More shooters make for more and better facilities, and more and better facilities mean better shooting.

o o o

A recent column by the great trapshooter Vic Reinders in "Trap & Field" raises a point which is worthy of passing on.

Vic describes in some detail the almost superhuman task performed by such organizations as the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA) and National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA) in keeping records on the performance of the nation's shooters. He points out that, without these records, tournament competition would be next to impossible, and at best, a horrible headache for the local club.

When a group of local shooters square off for a match, most shooters' abilities are known, and some sort of equitable handi-

(Continued on page 45)

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Cal. 8MM



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Cal. 7MM



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Cal. 7MM



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Cal. 6.5MM



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Cal. 7MM



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(Those few with asterisk (*) above are partially shootable but fully componentable.)

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Cal. 8MM



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Cal. 8x50 Austrian



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Cal. 8MM Lebel



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Cal. 6.5 Italian



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Cal. 6.5 Italian



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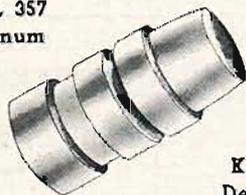
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TAKE A BIG ONE FOR THE BIG ONES

(Continued from page 23)

Take that six-point Selway elk. . . . It was late when we located him. The rut-crazed bull had moved into a basin, thick with waist-high alders. Three of us were hunting, but because the bull was in heavy cover, ears tuned for trouble, it would be foolish for more than one to attempt to stalk him. The other two insisted I try for him. They'd wait, up on the canyon-rim.

From the crest, I bugled once on the bamboo "Judas," and the bull answered. Putting the call into the pack-sack, I started downward into the alders.

It took me over half an hour to make three hundred yards. I stopped, listened. If he hadn't moved, he'd now be within rifle-range. Ears and eyes straining, I could hear faint, tiny, twig-breaking sounds—not many; not often; just a tick, and a wait, and then another faint whisper of movement.

As any veteran elk-hunter knows, that bull was suspicious. He figured from the bngling that another bull was there, and he was stalking that rival, moving very slowly, cautiously, all his senses tuned like a wireless antenna.

I waited a full fifteen minutes. There was no noise now; nothing. One minute there was nothing—then, suddenly, there was the antlered head sticking out around a pine tree, at 75 yards. Just the head and a foot of neck.

Inch by inch, I eased up the .300 Weatherby Magnum. It was full of 180-grain soft-noses at near-maximum—certainly an adequate elk outfit. The only position possible was to stand on tip-toe, get the barrel above the alders, and shoot off-hand. This I did, aiming to break his neck.

At the blast of the rifle, the bull went down. I yelled for my partners, Burn and my son Ted, and waited till they scrambled down to me. Then we went to dress the bull.

That elk, however, was not there! There was a big puddle of blood, and tracks leading away. Obviously, instead of breaking his great neck, the bullet had missed the spinal column.

We tracked that bull a quarter-mile. Only Ted's keen eyesight, detecting a fleck of blood here and there on an alder leaf, enabled us to find him. When we did, I leaned the Weatherby against a tree-hole, and started to take a picture, head-on. Burn, certain as I was that the beast was dead, reached for a hind leg to roll him over, so we could dress him. The bull exploded to his feet, head still down, and plunged that monstrous rack of "swords" straight at me. I can't believe he was charging, only pain-crazed and still trying to escape. I do know that if Ted hadn't up-ended his .300 H&H and shot the beast in the brain at six feet, he'd have had me.

That bull's neck measured exactly eighteen inches thick. No wonder he'd absorbed that bullet. I'm sure that with a lesser cartridge, I'd have lost that trophy.

Then there was the Wyoming grizzly I shot full through the lungs with a 180-grain Silvertip from a .300 H&H at 92 paces. He keeled over with all four legs up into the air. I watched several minutes before moving up, until his paws no longer moved.

But as I approached, another cartridge in the chamber, that bear rolled over, staggered

to his feet, bolted, and ran a paced 125 yards, before he died in mid-stride and landed on his belly. That much remaining vitality would have enabled him to disembowel a hunter. Surely, no lesser cartridge would have been adequate.

Another British Columbia grizzly, the largest I've ever taken, absorbed three 180-grain Silvertips from another .300 H&H. The first broke his left shoulder and blew up in his lungs. Ten minutes later, as he rose and staggered from the bush, another one did exactly the same thing, in the right shoulder. A third, ten more minutes afterward, broke his neck at a matter of yards. Yet that grizzly was still up on his hind feet, chest flat on the earth but still alive and still defiant, when I reached him. . . . Would you say that I was over-gunned?

Or take the case of Evelyn Vissing's Rocky Mountain goat. That old patriarch stood broadside to us on a sheer pinnacle, overlooking a quarter-mile of Salmon River precipice. Evelyn, who can shoot minute-of-angles from prone all day, laid three shots from a .30-06 into his heart. Billy just stood there. Fifteen seconds after the third shot, with Evelyn nearly in tears and refusing to shoot any more, Billy simply let go and toppled. All three bullets had gone into a space the size of her doubled fist, over his heart. But goats are tough cookies.

Or consider the four bull caribou Don DeHart and I killed in Alaska, in 1958. Each of us killed two bulls, both using the amply adequate Winchester's .338 Magnum, shooting the wonderful 200-grain Power-Point bullets. All hits were in the heart-lungs area. Ranges varied from 175 to 328 paced yards. All were clean kills, but not one of those bulls went down at the shot. All staggered around—one I swear was about to go on grazing, then folded up and keeled over.

Lastly, and in a way more typical of the adverse hunting conditions that often confront the hunter at the time of his only-chance shot of a hunt, consider a Wyoming bull elk taken in 1958. This one loped across an opening about a hundred yards from me, a spot I was watching. Again I was packing the .338 Magnum. By the time his feet hit the snow the second time, the 200-grain slug had smacked him full in the lungs. I saw him go down as momentum carried him on into the pines.

The thing here was this: there was time for nothing but a snap shot. A hunter, in such a situation, is lucky to put his bullet anywhere "between hame-strap and britchin'." With a less powerful outfit, I certainly would not have fired. But I knew what the big .338 Magnum would do.

These are the conditions under which really big big-game is hunted and shot. Paper ballistics, theory, conjecture, have no place in such hunting situations. The current situation, the individual conditions, the hunter, and the relative adequacy of his ordnance determine the outcome.

It's true that the Selway bull, had he been shot with a .257, a .270, or a .30-06, would have surely died. So would the Wyoming and B.C. grizzlies. All four trophy caribou would have died (eventually) had they been lung-shot with even a .32-20. The difference is that the wolves, not the hunter, would have collected the meat.

The vital difference is that the hunter of big tough game doesn't want merely an outfit which will cause an animal's death. He wants one which will kill cleanly, certainly, and consistently. He wants to collect the trophy, not leave it for the predators; and he doesn't want such game as grizzlies to collect him.

Because the hunting condition can never be determined in advance, and because they always reduce the killing-power ratio, the hunter needs a surplus of power for the really big ones. A margin of power, and the acquired ability to use it, will cover a multitude of unforeseen hunting adversities.

The long-standing argument against this, repeated till we're black in the face, is this: "A hunter kills big-game cleanest with the rifle he shoots best." There's just enough truth in that to mislead. Any man shoots his very best with the rifle of least recoil, which is the .22 rimfire. Don't tell me he should shoot big-game with that cartridge. My conviction, based on long big-game experience, is that cartridge should never be compromised in favor of what a hunter can currently handle well. I believe the hunter has no ethical right to hunt the biggest game until and unless he can handle a cartridge-rifle combination adequate to do the job cleanly and consistently.

Fortunately, any person with strength and stamina enough to climb the hills after big-game can learn to handle an adequate outfit. It's simply a process of learning to walk before learning to run—of graduating the shooting experience from lesser calibers and cartridges to those of more horse-power. This, and more practice.

What, then, is an ideal cartridge for the biggest, toughest species?

I'd say it should be no smaller than .30 caliber. It should handle bullet-weights of from 180-grains on up, and be capable of sending such bullets, of 200-grains and above, at 2700 feet per second or more. The cartridge should have its heavier factory loadings in bullets with good brush-bucking ability, and with muzzle energies of 3,000 foot-pounds and up. And the rifle-cartridge combination should be capable of at least 2-minute angles. Add to this that the ideal should also be a cartridge which is non-critical to handload, one that has a wide range of good bullets, and you have a load for the biggest game which is hard to beat.

In factory cartridge-and-rifles, three fill this rather large order: The standard .300 H&H Magnum, Winchester's new .338 Magnum, and the time-proven .375 H&H.

Yes, I know, the .300 H&H is intrinsically a poor cartridge. Its long tapering shape was designed for cordite powder. Its neck is wrong for modern powders. It wears out throats reasonably fast. Despite all this, the .300 H&H is accurate, and it's adequate. I've used it on grizzlies, moose, bull elk, big caribou, rams, goats, mule-deer bucks—most everything. And under a wide range of conditions and game, it will come through.

The newer .338 Magnum is, in my opinion, the best American factory cartridge, bar none, for the really big stuff. With its 200-grain bullet, it will take all the big stuff cleanly. The 250-grain bullet is needed only in heavy cover.

As for the great .375, nothing more need be said. I do believe, however, that eventually the .338 Magnum will replace it for all the big species of North American game. Almost equalling the mighty .375 in per-

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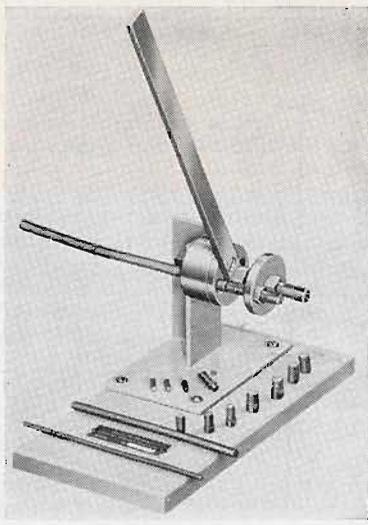
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formance, the .338 has advantages which appeal to the hunter; such advantages as shorter cartridge length, and less recoil.

Wildcats and blown-out versions of these three factory cartridges which duplicate their performance are, of course, adequate. First among these are the Weatherby Magnums, Ackley Magnums, Mashburn Magnums, etc. Perhaps the most recent and interesting of the wildcats for the really big stuff is tentatively called the "Belted .30 Newton." It is simply the .338 case necked down to .30-caliber. Fred Huntington of Oroville, California, already makes dies for this number, and does chambering. Since a velocity of 3200 fps and over with the 200-grain bullet has been safely achieved in this cartridge, it seems a good bet that it will eventually be factory-produced. It's that good in velocity and performance.

Deliberately I have left the most important element till last—the bullet. The bullet, not the cartridge or rifle, does the job. As to the ideal, at least two current bullets stand out. Either will up the performance of any cartridge. These are Winchester's rather new Power Point bullets, currently loaded in the .338 Magnum and the new .264 Magnum; and the second is Nosler's Partitioned Bullets. It's enough to say here that these two approach the ideal in performance on game. They surely will lead the way to other better game bullets.

Because of such improved bullets, and with constantly improving powders—notably the slow-burning granular powders and the new ball powders—the slightly smaller-calibered, high-intensity magnums, which are now marginal on the biggest stuff, are bound to improve in capacity for use on the big tough

ones. I'm referring largely to the 7 mm series—the Weatherby 7 mm Magnum, the 7 mm Mashburn Magnum, the 7x61 Sharpe&Hart, and so on. These calibers perform wonderfully well on big game where the ranges are long and the country is more or less open. With their maximum of 160 grains in bullet weight, they do lack the brush-cutting ability and knock-down power often needed, not to kill, but to stop the biggest critters in heavy cover.

Right now, I'm experimenting with Winchester's brand-new .264 Magnum. From initial tests, I would say this new one is going to fit into the list of 7 mm's very well indeed. I believe though that it, too, will prove to be wonderful for the species for which it was developed, but marginal for the really big, tough ones.

Finally, if you'd line up one hundred hunters and ask, "What objections do you have to a very powerful cartridge, for shooting the biggest game?" I think the answer would be consistently, "I don't like the recoil."

Recoil is a relative thing. It amounts to the "bump" your pet dog gives when he bounds up, happy to see you. It's no harder a jar than a four-year old boy can hit, if he punches you on the shoulder. It's a less "awful" jar than you get when jumping a ditch. The rest is in the shooter's mind.

I know a way to cure a hunter of fear of recoil. That's to have a grizzly bounding straight at him in heavy bush, as I have. Then, brother, you pray for more recoil. You yearn for its effect on the other end! Remember this could happen to you, and you may have a more friendly feeling for the big rifle!

THESE GUNS ARE TARGETS FOR FRAUD

(Continued from page 21)

martial pistols came in for an unusually heavy share of reworking several decades ago. The restoration on the lock is sometimes rather difficult to detect, especially when done by such master craftsmen as the late L. E. Davis of Illinois. Actually, some collectors make no bones about having converted U.S. martial pistols put back to their original flintlock form; and as long as the collector or dealer represented the pistols honestly and valued them accordingly, no harm was done. But honest intentions are frequently lost in the passage of time or change in ownership. Today's buyer becomes tomorrow's seller, and may have no scruples.

Probably the most valuable and most eagerly sought American-made flintlock is the North & Cheney pistol. This gun was patterned after the French 1777 model. French pistols of this model being rather easy to find and relatively cheap, there were inevitable attempts to rebuild French pistols into the rare North & Cheney model. Some such forgeries have gone undetected a long time, but sooner or later they are exposed, and then the sparks do fly!

Today, there are workmen in Japan, Italy, Austria, Germany, Belgium, and England who can duplicate any firearm ever made. There are men of equal skill in America. It is the manner in which such skills are used which concerns firearms collectors and which will have a great and possibly grave influence on the future of arms collecting.

Colt firearms, having led the field in pop-

ularity and high prices, have been a prime target of those who like to make easy money by converting cheap weapons into valuable ones. The Whitneyville Walker, the Paterson, the pocket pistols which collectors like to call the Little Dragoon and Wells Fargo, the Thuer conversions, the flat-top target and storekeeper model Bisley and SAA (Frontier), and various models with detachable shoulder stocks, are most often copied. A gun dealer in Mexico has been the source for replica Thuer conversion rings; but, as in most full-scale replica making, there is something about the work to trip up those who try to represent spurious copies as originals.

Colt's single action army revolver; generally referred to as the Frontier, is one of the most popular of all models. Countless efforts have been made to transform the standard centerfire models to the rarer rim-fire variation. Surreptitious attempts have been made in locked workshops to produce the old long-barreled "Buntline," the short-barreled and ejectorless storekeeper's model, or the flat-top target model. All specimens with these features call for very careful examination. For a fee of two dollars, the Colt company, when furnished with the serial number and other pertinent information, will search their records to provide original specifications and sales data for Frontier revolvers.

Colts are by no means the only firearms which have drawn the attention of the fast-buck traders. Confederate shoulder arms and pistols have been very popular subjects. It is

a simple thing to turn an octagon pistol barrel round for part of its length, grind off the markings, and make up a C.S.A. stamp. Where the frame was supposed to be brass, some who believed in short cuts merely gave an iron frame a brass plating job. Collectors have gotten on to this, and now they test brass-looking parts with a magnet.

The prized Dance Bros. & Park pistols made in Texas have a distinctive flat-sided frame without a projecting recoil shield. So some commoner pistols have had their sides flattened, given other face-lifting, and then represented as good products of the Lone Star state.

A favorite trick of the faker is to select some make of arm about which not much is known. Then he can work freely without too much fear of comparative analysis. I cannot urge too strongly that collectors be wary of the unique or the unusual.

Special markings and inscriptions call for a good, close look, too. Once a fellow tried to sell me a Model 1866 Winchester which bore the obviously fictitious stamping "1 of 1000". He was quite indignant when I told him someone had lowered the value of a good, plain gun by butchering the barrel. And he seemed quite surprised to learn that Winchester never placed this inscription on any of their Model 1866 rifles. For a few dollars anyone can have General U.S. Grant's name engraved on a gun. More evidence than someone's say-so is required to establish the authenticity of value-increasing markings.

Even sworn affidavits are not always reliable. I was once offered an affidavit which purported to show that an old Frontier Colt, for sale at a fancy price, had been the favorite shooting iron of not one, but three of the most famous outlaws ever featured on a wanted poster. Another fellow tried to sell me a derringer pistol he claimed had been in the pocket of the minister when he married Abraham Lincoln. I've heard of shotguns at weddings, but this was the first nuptial derringer in my experience.

There are different shades of misrepresentation in the buying and selling of antique firearms. Perhaps the least harmful and easiest to detect are the imitations produced in a period contemporary with the popular models they attempted to copy. In this class, we have the Belgian and other caplock imitations of the Colt, many of which now have a value comparable to bona fide Colts. Henry Deringer imitations may be spotted when found to bear a name closely resembling the original; Deringe and J. Deringer are examples. Col's Patent and "Made Exclusively for Smith & Wesson Cartridges" are misleading markings found sometimes on Spanish and Belgian imitations of Colt and Smith & Wesson firearms.

Next we have the more serious business of restoration. Not everyone is agreed on what is or is not legitimate restoration. Certainly some restoration can be considered necessary and proper; but all will agree that any extensive restoration which is deliberately done to deceive for profit must be condemned.

Somewhat different in nature and generally more deliberate in illicit purpose is the alteration or rebuilding of a firearm to make of it a more valuable or unique specimen. The application of spurious engraving or value-increasing inscriptions are also devices employed to give a firearm a dishonest face.

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menaces to the uninformed is the full-scale, identically marked replica of valuable models. There is need for some types of muzzle-loading arms which duplicate the old time weapons which black-powder marksmen like to shoot; the manufacture of these brings forth little complaint. But collectors organizations have expressed strong and widespread opposition to the duplication of non-shooter models like the Paterson, Walker, Dragoon, and Wells Fargo Colts, or any other rare and valuable collector's models and their accessories. It has been shown that such replicas almost always fall into the hands of short-memoried people who conveniently obscure the weapon's non-historic origin and attempt to sell it at many times its fair value.

A careful, side-by-side, comparative inspection of a suspected specimen with a pistol or rifle known to be bona fide will usually reveal the faults of a "doctored" gun. I earnestly recommend that collectors follow this procedure whenever a gun appears to be of questionable composition. This testing method is quite simple and is especially effective in spotting full-scale replicas or major restorations measurable from the exterior. I recall a case where the serial number on the cylinder of a well-worn Colt Dragoon pistol (represented as one of the scarce Whitneyville-Hartford transition models) appeared to the practiced eye of a dealer to be a bit too far forward. Sure enough, when he checked the measurements on a specimen which showed the standard scroll line framework for Dragoon serial numbers, it became apparent that the serial number on the pistol offered to him could not possibly have been applied in its present

position by the factory.

Experienced collectors and dealers have a "feel" about the appearance of various firearms models; but even experienced reaction to a weapon is not infallible, and comparative analysis and various kinds of metallographic testing may become essential.

One of the simplest procedures in studying a suspected weapon is to examine it under magnification—a binocular microscope of about 20 magnification often can reveal tell-tale work not otherwise visible to the eye.

The red flag of suspicion should go up when one finds a high-priced offering which is replated, reblued, or which shows evidence of artificial browning. There is an amusing story about a very prominent collector who, during the early period of his collecting, was sold a valuable pistol by a neighboring collector, presumably a very good friend. The pistol was represented as having all its original finish, whereas in fact it had been heat-blued, a poor job quite obvious to an experienced observer. In time, the collector became wiser in the ways of gun collecting and learned the truth about his pistol. It is said he then placed the pistol in a case with some of his choice and most prominently displayed weapons, where his "friend" could always see it and be tortured by his deception.

When we get into rebuilding which involves welding or brazing, we face the problem of looking deeper into a firearm's structure. Here, modern science has given us a strong helping hand. There are metallurgical testing laboratories in the larger cities where x-ray, Magnaglo, or supersonic tests can be made. I have found it very rewarding to talk with specialists in this field. As most of you know, x-ray provides a shadowgraph wherein differences in density and granular structure are shown—the thicker the metal the lighter the picture. While it is possible that the alloys used in welding rods could be of the same composition as the old parent metal, it is extremely unlikely, and in most cases a clear picture of welded parts may be obtained.

Another system which has become popular, and which is used for testing at Springfield Arsenal, is a process developed by the Magnaflex Corporation called Magnaglo. A solution containing fluorescent magnetic particles is applied to the part to be examined; this part is then viewed under a black light. Welds, cracks, defects, are thus revealed that would otherwise not be visible to the eye. Ultrasonic tests are sometimes used too, when checking for voids or other faults deep within the metal.

A technician of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation advises of a simple method to show up variation in the crystalline grains of the outer surface of ferrous firearms parts. A ten per cent solution of ammonium persulphate (in water—held at room temperature) is swabbed on the metal parts to be examined. In about a minute, the crystal grains of the surface will undergo a very mild etching which may reveal a weld, plug, or variation in the basic metal. It is believed that the mild action of this process will in most cases, be unobjectionable; but for those who have done no metallographic work, it may be well to test the process on another piece of steel before proceeding with your firearm.

On the brighter side of the collecting picture, we must not lose sight of the fact that fraudulent transactions and doctored up or phony firearms represent only a very small (Continued on page 42)



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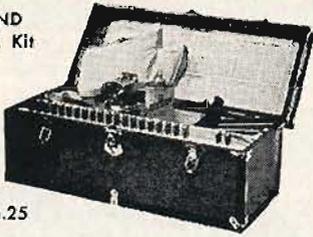
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(Continued from page 40)

percentage of the activity in this fascinating field. The purpose here is merely to bring a few pertinent facts out in the open and to suggest some defenses against those few who would deceive.

The Gun Collectors Committee of the National Rifle Association, on which I have served for some years, is responsive to the thoughts and recommendations of approximately fifty affiliated gun collectors associations. One of the early endeavors of this committee was to prepare a clear and concise code of ethics, a code of conduct, and a list of condition standards for antique firearms. These instruments spell out the moral and the orderly approach to arms collecting. Subsequently, many collectors have suggested that something further should be provided to assure compliance with the principles set forth in the codes. Therefore, after considerable study, a suggested bill of sale was prepared. The object of a bill of sale is to provide a record to show that the seller gives a warranty as to the facts concerning a firearm he offers for sale. If a seller identifies a firearm on the bill of sale as a Colt made at Paterson, N.J., and it turns out to be a replica made somewhere else, then the seller is in trouble and must make restitution.

The legal elements of fraud are relatively simple, and are: the making of a statement of fact, knowing such statement or representation to be untrue; the statement was known to be untrue by the party making it; the representation was made with intent to deceive and with the purpose of inducing the buyer to act on it; the buyer did act on it

and suffered damage as the result.

A seller cannot avoid responsibility by silence, for silence in itself constitutes fraud and deception where the seller has notice that the buyer is acting upon a mistaken belief to a material fact. This is especially true in the case of firearms dealers, for once a man sets himself up in business, he is by law assumed to be an expert.

There is no one simple defense against being "taken" by a dishonest seller of collector firearms. There are, however, safeguards we can employ. Important among these is a policy to deal only with those dealers and collectors known to be reputable and solvent. We must be cautious in our dealings with unknown individuals. If you see an advertisement in the newspaper which reads, "Grandpa Selling His Old Guns," don't break your neck to be the first to relieve the poor old gentleman of his treasures at half their apparent value. Maybe in that cottage at the end of the lane you'll find a human wolf in grandpa's clothing. And this is no fable—it has actually happened.

If you have any doubts about the authenticity of a gun, seek out an experienced collector or dealer who has a known original and, with him, make a careful comparative study. Should doubt still remain, do not hesitate to spend a few dollars at a good testing laboratory; it is cheap insurance. And in any case, where an important sum is involved, do not fail to obtain a carefully drawn bill of sale. This can be the instrument which turns on the green light of value received. More important, it will put up a legal stop-sign to value deceived.

RECOIL? RELAX AND ENJOY IT

(Continued from page 29)

done to eliminate it.

That Whelen stock fitted me perfectly for all off-hand shooting, and the rifle always came up with sights right on the game. It was, and still is, a very fine stock design, especially good for quick, off-hand shooting; but from a prone position with sling, it will punish the shooter's cheek bone.

My design called for a comb drop of 1 1/2" at the point or forward portion, and only 1/2" at the bump or rear end of the Monte Carlo cheek piece. The front of the stock comb was actually lower than the rear portion of the Monte Carlo. Result was that the point of comb just slipped out from under the cheek bone in recoil rather than lifting upward and bruising the cheek bone. My stock design thus eliminates facial recoil of that sort.

Another type of facial recoil, however, is caused by too short a stock, either on shotgun or rifle. In shooting any arm of heavy recoil, the thumb should be over the small of the stock for a good firm grip with the shooting hand. When the stock is too short, the thumb comes back and pounds the nose or lips in recoil and can be painful. Elimination of this phase of recoil is easy: simply lengthen the stock by addition of a recoil pad or of spacers under an existing

pad. (The pad itself, though it helps to soften shoulder recoil, does not prevent facial damage.)

Another phase of recoil, particularly on rifles and shotguns with considerable recoil, is the jerk on the head and neck caused by the shoulder being jerked or punched to the rear by the buttplate while the head has not started to move to the rear. That is, in reduced form, identical to the neck-breaking "snap" effect of a rear-end collision in automobiles.

Having shot about everything, from a big Mauser rifle made up for the 50 caliber Browning machine gun round by Al Weber of Lodi, Calif., down through the double 3 bore elephant rifle by Greener, to the .600 and .557 Nitro Express, I believe I have found the answers. With all shoulder arms of very heavy recoil, the teeth should be closed tight together and the head, shoulder and shooting hand and arm should be used as a unit to hold the stock firmly to the shoulder, so that the head and shoulder and shooting arm moves to the rear as a unit with the stock. The shooting hand should pull the buttstock firmly against the shoulder and hold it so; and except for the unit of head, shoulder, and arms, the rest of the body should be relaxed as much as possible.

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You must be 21 or over. Police use as second gun.
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Pull that stock back firmly and contact the comb with your cheek; then relax the rest of your body as you would when dancing with your favorite gal. Make no attempt to fight recoil or to tense the muscles against it. Fight kick, and you will get kicked. Simply pull the gun tight to the shoulder with hand, shoulder, and head all gripping the piece by the stock; then relax the rest of the body and let it roll with the recoil, just as a ball player allows his hands to give and come back with the impact of the ball and thus cushion the actual blow.

If the butt stock is thus held firmly to the shoulder, and the shooter's head moves back with it, while the rest of the body from the hips upward, being relaxed, acts as a shock absorbing mechanism, the actual shock of recoil is cushioned and slowed down until rearward movement is stopped.

The left or forward hand, depending on whether the shooter is right-handed or left-handed, can take up some of the recoil by gripping the forend. It can accomplish more in this direction if a beavertail forend is used. But the main grip on the stock should be at the wrist of the stock by the shooting hand. Recoil of the .600 Nitro Express from a 12 pound John Wilkes double I used to own would make my teeth click together unless I closed my jaws firmly; but when I did so and held the big rifle firmly to my shoulder, it did not bother me at all, even though the barrels raised high in the air and my body was twisted around to the right at each shot.

Too long a stock can also cause recoil discomfort, because the muscles of the shooting hand and arm are in a strained position to reach the trigger and grip properly. The stock should be long enough to keep your thumb away from the nose in recoil, but not so long as to cause strain in any way, to reach the trigger. A good rule of thumb is to stand the butt of the gun inside the bent elbow and see if the finger reaches the trigger properly. Too long a stock may also punish the shooter by making it difficult for him to get the butt in properly against the shoulder. If the butt winds up on your upper biceps instead of in the hollow of your shoulder where it belongs, a hard-kicking gun will soon cripple your shooting arm.

The straighter the stock on any arm of heavy recoil, the less recoil will be felt. This is because the gun with the straighter stock tends to drive straight back, with less up-thrust. The more excessive the heel drop, the higher the barrels will raise in recoil and the more excessive the up-thrust of the piece. The longer I shoot, the straighter the stock I can and do use.

Properly held, no gun or rifle should bruise the shoulder if the stock fits the shooter. During the last war, I shot a case and a half to two and a half cases of 12 bore buckshot daily, Sundays and all, for over two months, and never had a trace of a discolored or sore shoulder. This was when I was testing shotguns Uncle Sam had bought for arming M.P. and other guard organizations. My hands, however, did swell,

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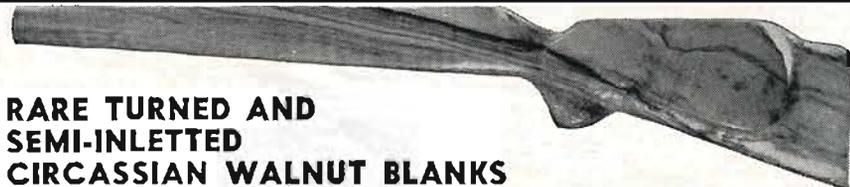
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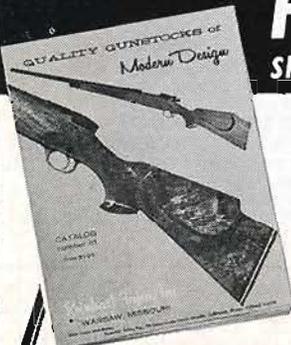
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and my arms would be so sore I could hardly move them in the morning, simply from the work of functioning the great many pump guns daily. When you do that much shooting daily for over two solid months, you learn something about recoil and how to abate it.

Good soft recoil pads should be on all shotguns or rifles of heavy recoil, and they should be large, long, wide enough to distribute the recoil evenly over as large a surface of the shoulder as possible. Keep that butt pad on the heavy shoulder muscles, never on the collar bone, and never inside the shoulder on the ribs of the chest. Keep the elbow of the shooting arm up at least on a level with the butt of the piece, pull the stock back firmly against the shoulder, and hold it there.

I have an eight-and-a-half pound .458 Model 70 Winchester restocked by Nate Bishop and barrel cut to 22" by Russ Hightower. The overall length is now the same as my .476 Westley Richards double with 26" barrels. That rifle kicks like a wild mule because of its light weight, but with my stock design it does not hurt the face in the slightest, and its big soft pad prevents it from hurting the shoulder. It is wonderfully accurate. I fitted it with a Redfield Sourdough front and a Williams Foolproof Receiver sight, and it will cut single holes at 100 yards from a bench rest, if you can hold it.

Patterning magnum ten bore shotguns is hard work. The recoil is heavy, and you feel it when shooting at a target, the same as you do if sighting in a heavy elephant gun. Turn the same big ten bore on wild geese, or the rifle on an elephant or buffalo, and you never know if it kicked or not. In the case of an elephant, even a big rifle feels like a .22 in your hands when you get up against one of those animated boxcars.

I have taught many small women to shoot both double rifles and .375 and 404 Magnums, and they did not complain of recoil. This recoil hugaboo is largely in the head. Forget it, concentrate on your sights and the exact placement of your bullet or shot charge, and the recoil battle is won. I remember asking Mrs. Ellinger if her .375 Magnum, a light Hoffman Arms Co. rifle, kicked after she had just killed a couple brown bear. She answered, "Elmer, I don't know if it kicked or not. I was so busy trying to get my sights just right for each shot, I never noticed." I asked if her shoulder was sore, and she said, "No, not even discolored."

You can expect the big gun to kick when fired at a target, but constant practice both in shooting and handling them will inspire confidence, not only in the arm but in your own ability to handle it. When you reach that stage, the battle is won and you will have no further fear of recoil.

Practice holding the rifle or shotgun correctly, as well as allowing the body to roll with the recoil, and you will soon forget recoil entirely. I have seen men shooting heavy sixguns, brace their fully extended arm and try to hold the gun down. Naturally, it hurt their hand. But when they gripped the big sixgun firmly, left a trifle of bend in their elbow, and quit tensing their muscles, the gun raised naturally in recoil and did not bother them or their hand in the least.

To misquote an old saying, kick is inevitable, but if you relax you can enjoy it. And when you do relax and stop fearing recoil, you can start hitting.

HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 13)

Carboly sizer. Ordinary dies could be worn out in a few days with uncleaned cases. This die burnishes shells, requires no lube, and will outwear a dozen ordinary dies without scratching. If the tool handle is ever hard to operate, stop immediately and locate the trouble.

You can drill a hole for a shingle nail in the primer magazine below the stop collar. Then slot the base so a nail can be inserted. It acts as a primer cut-off, and to remove a loaded tube. A FITZ Flipper is a great convenience in loading primer pick-up tubes.

If a .357 hull is mixed with .38's it jams the case feeder. If you can't jiggle it out with your fingers, remove the selector plate and feeder tube, draw back the plunger and work it out. Remember, powder is thrown with each pull of the handle, and that the turret must be advanced each time. Use the pencil gauge after every tie-up, at least until you are extremely familiar with the machine.

If you suspect a round is imperfect remove it at the 11:30 o'clock cut-out. Drop these in a can with a hole barely large enough to take a cartridge. They won't get mixed with good ammo before they can be broken down for salvage. Keep a tool lightly oiled where directed, and absolutely oil-free at the powder and primer assemblies. If you have more than one powder slide, mark the charge of the installed slide on the housing with a grease pencil. Where several people have access to a club or police loader, check the charge stamped on the slide before you start loading; be sure a Bullseye slide hasn't been reamed for a more bulky powder, and not re-stamped!

Soft, swaged, half-jacketed bullets load okay. Most (but not all) H & G No. 51 seater stems seat Harvey Jugulars, and C-H

or Bahler semi-wadcutters. Those cut shallow will mark bullet noses. Other swaged bullet designs, except full wadcutters, require special stems. The bleed-off hole is not needed, and may deform bullet noses. Adjust the expander and seater to load .357's with .38 dies.

Watch the powder supply, the primer indicator rod, and shells in the turret. A supply of spare de-capping pins can save delays. Inspect a finished round out of every 50, or when you change feeder tubes.

Star suggests mounting the tool on a shelf on a 1' x 5' chair-high bench so the operator sits on the bench. An extra hand can sit at the back and feed bullets. I like my idea better.

My machine is installed with Tee-Nuts on a table-high bench. An operator sits in a comfortable chair. If a lad feeds bullets he sits at the left. The bench has a 3/4" hole for fired primers and a 2" hole for ammo to drop through. A 2" deep drawer under the bench is handy for tools. A 2" x 3" box lid is glued in the drawer, and a box in it catches several thousand primers. A 2" hole in this drawer lets ammo drop into a 6" deep drawer below, where a box catches several hundred rounds. You can open the top drawer a few inches to catch a round for inspection, or a short run of different loads. I think this is real neat!

Turret loaders are not for a lad who wants a box or two of ammo on week ends. They are for production speed, which should always be in the tool, not the operator. Ammo quality depends on your components and know-how, as with any tool. I've never had a single goof that was the tool's fault. Many target shooters and custom loaders swear by the machines. They are fast, efficient loaders.

PULL!

(Continued from page 33)

capping or classification is not too difficult. But suppose some fellow from a few miles away shows up and wants to shoot. His record is unknown to any of the club or handicap committee. Where does he shoot? In a low class or in a high class? On short yardage or long yardage? When and if the visitor shows an ATA or N SSA card, the burden is lifted from the harassed handicap committee. It's difficult enough to sandbag club personnel to serve on handicap committees now. It would be next to impossible without the services performed by ATA and N SSA.

Vic also mentions the shooter who shoots just enough registered targets to maintain a minimum ATA record, and who hopes to cash in big at non-registered shoots. This shooter is not supporting the game, and is not repaying years of toil and effort in his behalf to make competition shooting the game that it is.

Vic does not say so, but he knows. I know, and you know that competitive shooting is the backbone of the clay target sports. Sure, many shooters shoot only for fun, and don't follow the tournament circuit; but the tournament makes the clay target games. For most of us, there arrives a point where practice shooting no longer tingles the spine. We want to square off with someone else, and see how good we are, or how good the opposition is. We don't, however, if we can

break only 85 percent of our targets, want to tangle with some hothead who can break all or most of 'em every trip out. That is no contest. But, we like to have at this fellow shooter who, give or take a few, shoots at about the same pace we do. Today could be the day we were up, and he was down. Next time out, the pattern could be reversed.

Your ATA or N SSA card is your passport, your key, your letter of introduction, to almost any gun club in the world. So, if you shoot skeet or trap, why not join your national association, register your own targets, and insist that your club register most of its targets? There is ample evidence to support the conclusion that the more targets a club registers, the more targets it throws. It makes sense to conclude that the more you do for ATA and N SSA, the more they can do for you. And if the ATA and N SSA are strong and effective, your chances of having your rightful prize taken from you by a "ringer" are almost nil. Furthermore, a strong and effective ATA and N SSA can do a better job of fighting our individual and club promotional and legislative battles.

You can join ATA or N SSA at the next registered shoot you attend, or write them. Their addresses: Amateur Trapshooting Association, Vandalia, Ohio; and National Skeet Shooting Association, 3409 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 215, Dallas 19, Texas.



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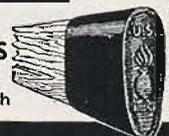
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HANDGUN HITS ON FLYING TARGETS

(Continued from page 18)

a neat impression on the innocent bystander, especially if he has already given it a try and bowed out early in the game. And, frankly, it's darn good shooting.

My goal, however, was targets only a quarter of this size. (Remember my oath?) So far, it had cost me but a scant 500 rounds of .22's and an hour every day for two weeks. Things were looking up. I could measure the ultimate end now in fractions of an inch. Another 500 rounds and another two weeks and I'd have it made.

Ha!

Trying to find something suitable yet inexpensive to shoot in the inch category wasn't too easy. Catsup bottle tops were good but unstable when the wind was blowing. Wooden blocks didn't last long enough to warrant their making, and a basketful of burned out 5 watt electric bulbs proved to be a messy menace to man and beast alike. Small chunks of coal about this size proved to be ideal; spectacular, too, when hit, since they dissolved in a cloud of dust.

Being only human, I couldn't resist the temptation of dropping down to half inch pieces of stoker coal while still unable to make 80 percent hits on chunks twice their size. This was the point where real trouble set in.

I bought several 25 foot pistol targets that closely coincided with the one-inch coal targets. Immediately, the answer was clear. A sight set for 50 feet was absolutely no good for 15 to 20 foot aerial targets. How stupid can you get? Naturally, a rear sight needs elevating from the 50-foot setting to hit "on the button" at 20 feet.

I also found that only about 75 percent of my shots hung well within the black. Some 20 percent were close to, but not touching the black and the other 5 percent were—well, they were just plain flyers. From this it was easy to deduce that one out of every five shots would miss completely. The answer? More target practice; enough to place every shot within or, at the very least, cutting the outer circumference of the object I was trying to hit.

Dead center shots, as any shooter knows, are extremely difficult to make. But, we also know, they are not an absolute necessity for perfect scores. A 10X on the small bore target is a 10X whether perfectly centered or hanging on at 4:00 o'clock. So also is a hit flying target, whether dead centered or barely chipped.

To emphasize this more clearly, supposing you are shooting a .50 caliber slug of lead at a one-half inch bullseye. Your first try barely grazes the bull at 12:00 o'clock, your next ticks it at 6:00 o'clock. Both for all practical purposes are hits. Yet measuring from the extreme edge of the first hole to the extreme edge of the second will give an overall spread of one and one half inches— $\frac{1}{2}$ plus $\frac{1}{2}$ plus $\frac{1}{2}$. Therefore, if a shooter is capable of making inch and a half groups at say 25 feet with a .50 caliber gun, he will also be able to run possibles at that range on half-inch bulls. Twenty-two's, needless to say, do not offer this latitude; but it's worth remembering that perfect "dead center" hits are not a necessity. Shots that can be kept

(Continued on page 48)

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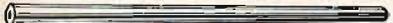
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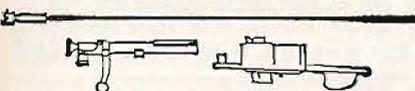


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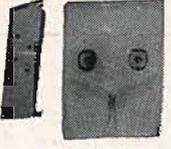


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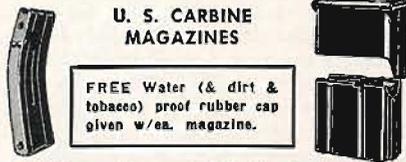
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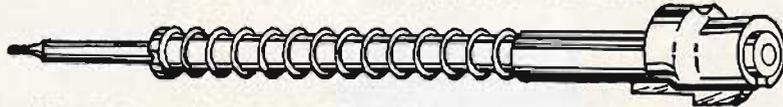
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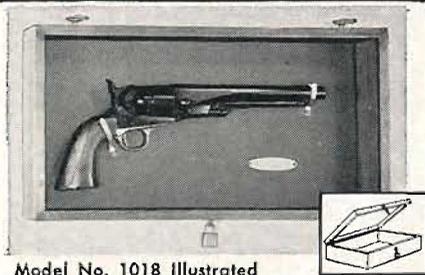
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(Continued from page 46)

well within a one inch circle with a .22 will produce 10X possibles every time on a half-inch bull.

As scores slowly increased on the target range, hits also increased on flying targets—but not in direct proportion. Not too sure other factors than those I had already found were holding me back, I made a methodical progressive study of the whole shooting sequence, from body position in relation to the target, to follow-through after the shot. Rather than reiterate a running account of these experiments, let's point out the major requisites for becoming a proficient aerial target shooter.

First, and aside from the fact that plenty of practice and determination is needed, use targets that are large enough to score on repeatedly. Quart cans will usually suffice as a starting target. Don't quit them too quickly for smaller marks. Rather, try picking out a certain section of the can to hit, say the center section. If the bullet fails to fly true, there will be enough of the can exposed to catch the shot, showing just what you did wrong.

At this stage you are apt to run into some trouble. If so, look for these faults. *Check the throw.* Whether you do your own tossing or have someone do it for you, endeavor to have the object always in a vertical line with your stance, never so far to the right or the left that the gun hand must move sideways as well as up and down.

Check your sights. Target in on a stationary bulls-eye for the range you are most apt to be shooting, generally about 18 feet.

Check your swing. I have not mentioned this before, for I had very little trouble with this phase. From here on in, remember that a smooth rhythmic swing is absolutely neces-

sary. Never move the gun hand or arm independently of the body. Swing from the waist. Swing the entire upper half of the body as a trap or skeet shooter does. With a handgun, assume a pistol shooter's stance, arm outstretched, elbow and wrist locked. Now raise the gun to the approximate elevation your target will reach in the air. As the target comes into view, start following its flight, not with the hand or arm but by bending slightly backward or forward from the waist.

With practice, you will find the sights are always in alignment with this wrist-elbow-shoulder-locked position, regardless of where you have to aim. The only remaining problem is setting the target on top of the sights.

Check sight alignment in relation to target.

Always aim at the bottom of the target, not its center. Trying to shoot dead center is almost an impossibility for anyone but the professional, and even he can't do it every time. Remember the .50 caliber half-inch target lesson. If the target rises and falls in a vertical plane through the line of sights, it will have to pass through the bullets flight, which offers an inch and a half margin for scoring a hit.

Lastly, *check that trigger pull.* A smooth, fast squeeze, or pull, is as necessary in aerial shooting as in any other form of shooting. A fast pull is *not* a jerk. Needless to say, you will never become expert at any shooting sport unless you have complete control over your trigger finger. Volumes have been written on this subject, therefore I'll not attempt it here. But I will offer this much advice for what it's worth. If, when shooting at paper targets, an occasional flyer pops out of the black, chances are you are jerking the trigger. The same goes for that miss on a flying target.

THE COCK OF THE ALPS

(Continued from page 31)

between an eagle and a wild turkey, having the huge curved beak and knife-like talons of one, and the great fan-like tail of the other. To complete this rather awesome effect he sports a livid scarlet sear over each eye, and weighs between 12 to 14 pounds.

Getting a chance to hunt this magnificent bird is about as hard as drawing a bighorn ram permit in Colorado. There just aren't enough birds to go around. But if you're one of the handful of lucky applicants, you can figure on spending at least three days on the hunt. The first day is devoted to hiking in. Usually it takes anywhere from 2 to 4 hours to trek back to the auerhahn's lonely citadel, and everything you'll need for the hunt is packed on your back. This includes food, extra clothing, and weapon. Arriving at the deserted hunting cabin, you slip out of your gear and then hurry up to the mating area to witness the bird flying in to roost just before dark. Following this hasty reconnaissance of trophy and terrain, you return to the hut, eat under a kerosene lamp, rehearse the stalking ritual with your guide, and then pile into a crude wooden cubicle to dream of auerhahn.

Starting his mating song and dance about 0200 hours in the morning, the auerhahn cock remains in the tree until just about daybreak. This means you get up "on the graveyard shift," and you can be sure that your work will be in the most treacherous belts of timber and granite upheavals this

side of the Himalayas. Invariably the night is as black as a well digger's pocket, and the terrain is littered with all manner of rocks and vegetation designed to binder your advance and profane your speech. Hoping your guide is a student of Braille, you attempt to adjust your bi-focals to the inky blackness, feel out the dangerous ground ahead of you with your "bergstock," and start the risky climb to the "balzplatz." Slipping, falling, trying hard to keep the dim figure of the guide in view, you sneak through the forest and over the rocks, ears working like radar in the hope of picking up the auerhahn's call.

Picking up this call is difficult enough; identifying it as the real McCoy is almost an impossibility. Sounding much like "Telac-telac, telac-telac," the rhythmic snapping of the cock's beak is easily mimicked by the sound of dripping water, or of tree limbs in the wind. Once taken in by either of these or any other phoney sound, you can spend tortuous hours stumbling around in the dark, not knowing you've been duped until you reach its source. Then usually dawn is with you, signifying the end of the night's hunt. You stagger back to the warmth of the cabin, forego shaving and sometimes even breakfast to seek haven in the inviting bed.

Although he is equipped with ears like those of a nosy landlady, and is as suspicious as a jealous wife, the wily auerhahn

goofs off while he is rendering his mating call. If it wasn't for this, every cock would die a natural death. Lasting for only a minute or so, and repeated at short intervals throughout the night, the first part of the call ends abruptly on a loud note sounding like a cork being wrestled from a champagne bottle. This is called the "Haupt-schlag." Then the ecstatic bird goes into the second stanza, a weird hissing noise which lasts for several more seconds. During this stage, the cock closes his eyes and becomes totally oblivious to sound. Taking advantage of this, a hunter, moving only then, can stalk right up to the very tree where the otherwise watchful bird is serenading. But this takes a lot of doing.

Unless you are pretty close to the source, the auerbahn's hissing call is practically inaudible, so you stand endlessly in the dark, listening for your cue, the "Hauptschlag." If you hear it, you move, following in the exact traces of the guide, taking two or three, never more, rapid steps. Then you freeze again until the cock repeats this portion of his song. It may take an hour to traverse 300 yards, but it's the only way of getting within shooting range.

In this manner the guide maneuvers up the timber-tangled slope, you following if you can. One step too many, or a shotgun butt banging against an unseen tree, can put you out of business. Another frightening possibility is that you may spook a feeding roe deer which, when terrified, starts barking like an agitated dog. It's a nerve-wracking, stamina-testing process, and when you reach the crest, you're pooped and in a nervous tizzy.

If you are lucky and the bird is there, you must remember that the auerbahn takes an awful lot of killing. Tales of missed and wounded birds are legion in Bavaria. Everything, except possibly the proverbial kitchen sink, has been thrown at this cock in an effort to dislodge him. He has been blasted at with shotguns loaded with shot and with ball, and he has been pelted with rifles of every caliber, vintage, and design. Padded with a lot of rugged feathers, and a past master at camouflage, he is tougher to hit and bring down than most birds flying. He has a maddening habit of hiding behind a network of twigs and branches that are invisible in the darkness and he rarely appears as anything more than a black blob against an even blacker background. Shooting conditions couldn't be worse. As a result, you go loaded for bear.

A weapon enjoying a great deal of popularity and well suited for taking this unique grouse, although primarily designed for drive hunts where you can bust a boar and pheasant all in the same day, is the modern lightweight version of the drilling, or its less expensive cousin, the epic "Bock-Buchsflinten" with one shotgun barrel over a rifle. These combination jobs, weighing between 6 and 7 pounds, bored to 12 or 16 gauge and backed up by a rifle slug, are tough medicine on any auerbahn. When conditions permit, you can drill him cleanly through the meaty part of the breast, insuring a well preserved trophy; or you can more safely blast him with a lethal pattern of shot and let the feathers fall where they may. The jaeger religiously picks them up afterwards, anyway.

The preferred shot for a smoothbore is No. 2, and definitely no smaller than 4's. Some jaegers may even refuse to guide you with

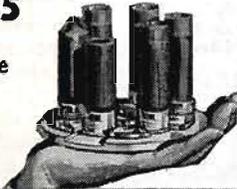
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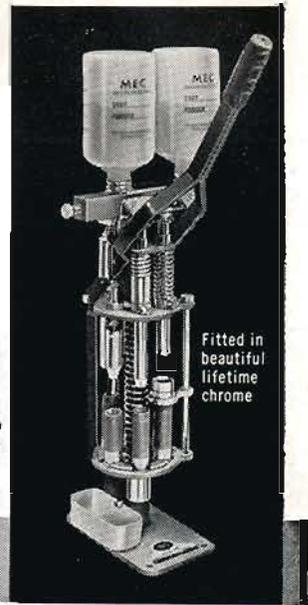
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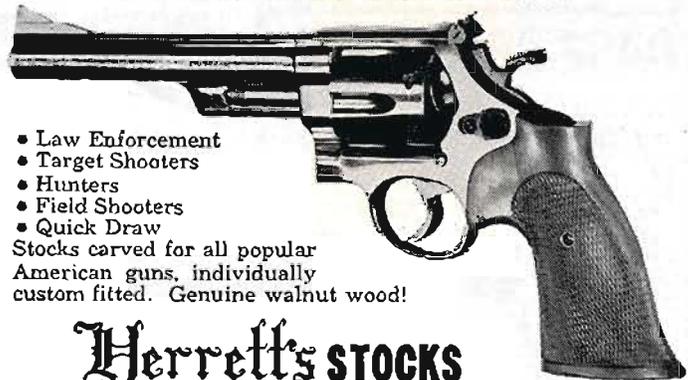
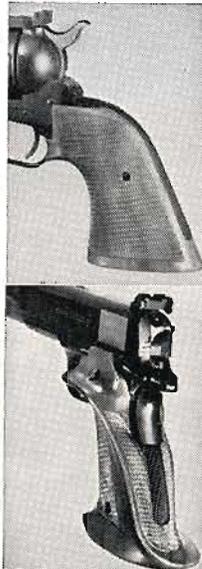
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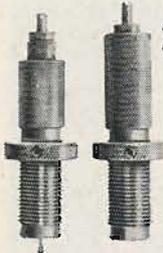
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the latter. The Germans mostly use a pellet measuring $4\frac{1}{2}$ millimeters, which is equivalent to our BB.

An auerhahn not totally kaput, and that means on the ground at your feet, will almost invariably go into a long glide, sailing out over the boulder infested canyons to eventually crack up in some impenetrable second growth of juniper. Thus leaving no blood sign, and often winging out of sight, he ends up in the maw of the fox or the huge raven. At twenty bucks a head, even wounded, plus guide fees and the cost of lodging, this can be a disappointing episode in a hunter's life. Especially if you don't get another chance for several more years, and this is being optimistic.

Ranking right behind the combination guns, the standard shotgun is most used on auerhahn. Barring mishap, you can approach within generally short range of this weapon. Getting this close, you forget the front bead, which you can't see anyway, and slowly elevate the muzzle until it blots out the cock's rocking image. Sometimes this is hard to do, when you can't tell where the foliage ends and the bird begins. But you seldom take a chance on waiting for better shooting light. Instead, as soon as you get the bird's position plotted, you clobber him. They don't linger long when the horizon starts paling somewhere over nearby Austria.

While some tyros lean towards the exclusive use of a rifle shooting a full-jacketed bullet of medium velocity, they usually transfer their allegiance after viewing the target area in the predawn gloom. Auerhahn have been known to change mating trees quite often, so it's sheer folly to plan on getting a clear shot just because he might have been in that same area shot this way, but they are an exception rather than the rule. On one hunt, I saw a cock change locations three times in the course of fifteen minutes, leading us a

hectic chase. Not once could I have wagered on a clean kill with a rifle. Other times, the birds left their roost so early that even the finest sighting wouldn't have disclosed the many branches in the way.

Coupled with these factors, the angle of aim is usually about 40 degrees from the vertical, and your aiming point is small. The bird is almost $\frac{1}{2}$ tail and you're shooting for a vulnerable spot about 4 inches square, concealing the chest cavity. In an exhausted condition, with your nerves hopping like Mexican jumping beans, it's tough even with a rest.

My advice to any hunter going after this bird is to leave the rifle in the rack. Pin your faith on shot. These birds don't die easily of fright; you have to weigh 'em down with lead. Then you anxiously survey the ground ahead to see whether you've clobbered an auerhahn or a pine bole. You never know for certain, since they both sound like a sack of sour mash hitting the ground. But if it is an auerhahn, then you're practically a candidate for the Iron Cross, and no one can say you haven't deserved it.

Following a confirmed kill, the joyous jaeger dashes towards the stricken trophy and wraps the still thrashing bird in his coat. This traditional act out of the way, he then rushes off down the slope with a pair of dainty evergreen sprigs. One he dips in the wound of the auerhahn and presents to you on his knife blade or hat, with the accompanying words, "Waidmanns Heil," plus a firm handshake. The remaining branch is then placed in the cock's frozen beak as a final tribute to the King of the Bavarian Redoubt.

A silent witness to this sacred embellishment of the fallen game you have to admit that the auerhahn is the world's top grouse—if hunted German style. He is a worthy opponent, and surely the world's rarest feathered trophy.

GUN RACK

(Continued from page 7)

add that while we did get some leading of the bore of the pressure gun from the use of commercial ammunition, we got none from the use of your bullets."

Armed with this data and information, Lakeville Arms, Inc. did not hesitate any longer in aggressively promoting the sales of their bullets, in spite of continuing criticism. Reports and letters came in from the field where the American public shot game. The one outstanding fact that stood out above all other comments in these letters was the shocking power of these Prot-X-Bore bullets. At least, the handgunner could use the full potential of pure lead.

In machine rest tests, the accuracy of these bullets remained a source of continual amazement to all neutral parties. Two inch 10 shot groups at 50 yards were "normal." A $1\frac{1}{2}$ " group was common. This included both .38 and .44 calibers. But still the writer-experts screamed that these bullets *could not* be accurate. They deformed. Anyone knew that a hunk of pure lead, rammed at high speed down the chamber of a handgun, flung violently into the forcing cone of the barrel and then twisted, turned, and accelerated through the barrel simply would not *could not* shoot accurately.

They were proved wrong, millions of times

over. It's the old story of the bumblebee that engineers can prove cannot fly. But somehow the bumblebee manages to get along quite well, despite the engineers.

However, these Prot-X-Bore bullets were not the full answer to the problems that bothered handgunners. These bullets had increased velocity only slightly over what Keith and Thompson had done years before. The important thing that the Prot-X-Bore bullets had done was to provide the handgunner with shocking power far in excess of anything he had known in the past.

A Prot-X-Bore bullet travelling at 1047 fps delivers muzzle energy almost double that of conventional bullets and shocking power even greater yet. This is not high velocity for a .44 caliber bullet. What was needed was to retain the advantages of pure lead, and increase velocities. The answer was so simple that shooters had been looking at it for 50 years. Again, Jim Harvey stepped into the picture and swaged a bullet formed from pure lead and a jacket. This jacket was not a full length rifle type jacket. Rather, it was a half jacket covering the base and extending up the sides of the bullet. This jacket protected the bullet and kept most of the lead from bearing on the

(Continued on page 52)

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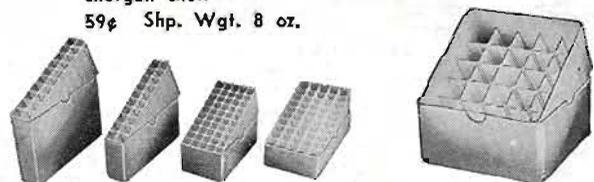
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(Continued from page 50)

barrel. As a result, leading was practically eliminated, and velocities took a sharp rise.

Turning again to reports from testing laboratories, here are some figures on the new jacketed bullets. Laboratory testing has been a constantly repeated thing with Lakeville Arms, Inc. It is always going on.

October 26, 1955 Cal. .357 Magnum 127 grain bullet, Jugular Jacketed. Average velocity, 1951 fps. Pressure 44,950.

October 27, 1955 Cal. 357 Magnum 114 grain Jugular Jacketed bullet. Average velocity, 2025 fps. Pressure 42,970.

(Both of these loads had the jackets crimped onto the cores.)

November 16, 1955 Cal. .38 Special 114 grain Jacketed bullet. Average velocity, 1272 fps. Pressure 17,150.

Comments: Experimental bullets, jackets not crimped to bullet, shedding in flight, causing bullets to keyhole.

Comments: Bullets keyholing at 15' from muzzle.

November 16, 1955 Cal. .38 Special 127 grain Jacketed bullet. Average velocity, 1254 fps. Pressure 17,480.

Comments: Jackets crimped to bullets.

This series of tests proved that, at high velocities, it would be necessary to crimp the jackets onto the lead cores to prevent shedding of the jackets in flight. About this time, the name Jugular Jacketed was Trade Marked and is now the property of Lakeville Arms, Inc.

It was found that crimping the jackets not only kept the jackets on the cores, but that the crimp reduced the bearing surfaces as much as one third. This crimp is a swaging process that does not loosen or deform either the jacket or the core. Actually, it makes the jacket even tighter on the core. Crimping also controls expansion of the lead nose upon impact.

Now what do we have? First, we have a bullet that can take full advantage of the modern powders, magnum primers, and specially designed and built magnum handguns. These bullets can be pushed as fast as possible without leading or injury to the handgun. Bearing surfaces of these bullets have been kept to a minimum and additionally reduced through crimping so that even at maximum handgun velocities the pressures

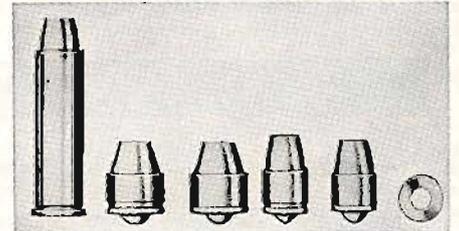
are acceptable. Upon impact, the full force of pure lead travelling at high velocities will produce a shock and a killing effect that can only be compared to rifle bullets at rifle velocities.

A few figures taken directly from loading tables are extremely interesting. Remember that these are not experimental loadings, but recommended loadings released for use by all handloaders. These are not top maximum figures, but safe, working figures.

Cal. 375 magnum: 127 grain bullet, Jugular Jacketed, 1951 fps. 156 grain bullet, Jugular Jacketed, 1625 fps. Cal. 44 magnum:

170 grain Jugular Jacketed bullet, 1950 fps. 220 grain Jugular Jacketed bullet, 1614 fps. 240 grain Jugular Jacketed bullet, 1575 fps. 270 grain Jugular Jacketed bullet, 1445 fps.

These figures are taken from data compiled from laboratory tests and speak for



Zinc washer is fixed to bullet base by tit of lead; helps clean the bore.

themselves. Never before has a handgunner had such performance available to him. These are without doubt the fastest, most accurate and most deadly handgun bullets on the market today.

Public reaction to these bullets was instantaneous approval—except for a few people. Criticism is good for both business and progress, but blanket condemnation is another thing.

Let us review some facts. The steel used in modern handguns is the equal of steels used in high power rifles. Barrel steels today are excellent and give long life. The handgun velocities listed above are high for handguns, but when considered as rifle velocities must be classed as low or moderate. Rifles will fire tens of thousands of rounds of moderate velocity loads using rifle bullets with heavy jackets and hard lead cores. Jugular Jacketed bullets are made of pure lead with special jackets designed and alloyed to handle handgun bullets. There is a tremendous difference between the jackets used in rifle bullets and those used in Jugular Jacketed bullets. There is even more difference between the design and construction of .45 ACP bullets and Jugular

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Jacketed bullets. There cannot be any comparison. According to government manuals, the life expectancy of the .45 ACP barrel, fired with issue ammunition, is about 5,000 rounds. This same barrel would fire bullets of Jugular Jacketed construction in excess of 20,000 rounds. There are .44 and .38 handguns that have fired far in excess of 5-10,000 rounds of Jugular Jacketed bullets. These handguns show little wear and many can still pass a new gun inspection at the factory. Therefore, the condemning of Jugular Jacketed bullets because they wear out barrels fast does not stand.

Another point of criticism is that firing Jugular Jacketed bullets or zinc base bullets injures handguns. Some people have stated that handguns using these Jugular Jacketed and Prot-X-Bore bullets will jam and fail to function properly and must be repaired constantly. Any handgun must be cleaned. The more it is shot the more it must be cleaned. This is simple common sense. There are several specific handguns that have fired many thousands of rounds of Jugular Jacketed bullets, Prot-X-Bore bullets, and conventional type bullets. These handguns show absolutely no sign of abuse, abnormal wear or difficult functioning.

Grease builds up in a handgun when shooting conventional type bullets. It is not right to commence firing Prot-X-Bore or Jugular Jacketed bullets at this stage without cleaning the handgun first. High velocity loads firing Jugular Jacketed bullets will so vaporize the conventional lubricants that this deposit will build up throughout the entire handgun. This building of layer upon layer of vaporized grease will eventually lock and jam the handgun. This is not normal, but it has been seen to occur in handguns that have fired many thousands of greased, low velocity cartridges.

In reply to the few remaining critics of Prot-X-Bore and Jugular Jacketed handgun bullets, it is only fair to state that if things were as bad as pictured, the American handgun shooter would certainly have revolted by this time and filled the mails with his tales of woe. For some reason, this has not happened. Sales continue to increase. Furthermore, some of the most famous and successful names in the handgun bullet business have commenced producing half jacketed bullets, a true and long overdue tribute to Jim Harvey, the originator and pioneer of this bullet form.

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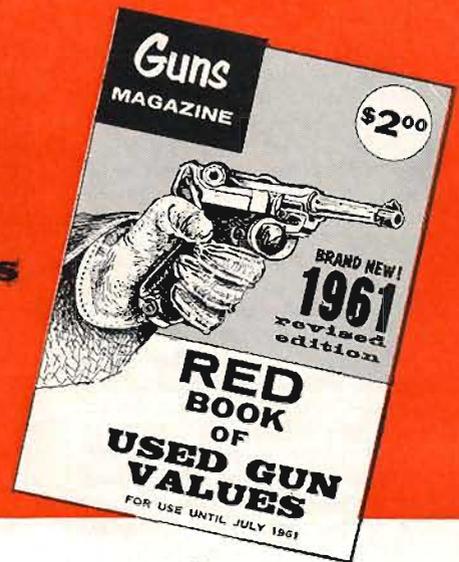
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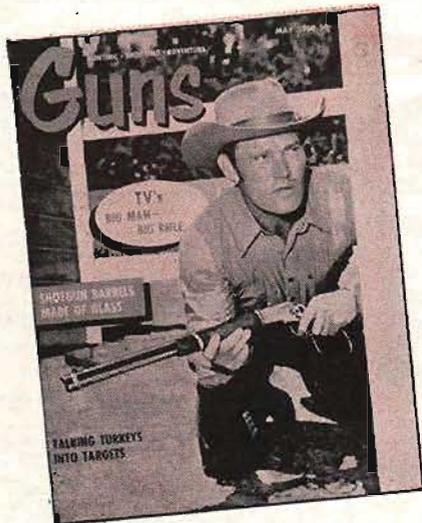
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WHO MAKES A BETTER DOUBLE?

(Continued from page 25)

was not always a premier gun, though it always expressed solid, reliable, durable gunmaking by Winchester.

"Back in 1931 when the Depression put Winchester up for sale," veteran WRACo gunsman Paul Doane told me, "I was on the road for Western Cartridge Co. Western, as you know, eventually bought Winchester; is the origin of what today we call the Winchester-Western Division of Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation.

"But in those days I can recall seeing Model 21s in the window of Bob Smith's store in Boston, priced at \$49.50 or thereabouts. For that price, you got two triggers and no automatic ejectors, but it was a good, solid gun!"

The purchase of Winchester by Western was the beginning of the repeating arms firm's climb back to the top, not only in the spiral bore arms field but in the business of making scatterguns. Winchester had always wooed the shotguns, but really could not be considered "properly wedded" until after 1932, when Western took over. Back in the 1880s, when WRACo operated a large retail enterprise, the New York Winchester Store distributed a good-quality Birmingham, England, contract double gun, the rabbit-ear variety, with Damascus tubes, in several grades. These early smoothbores engraved "Winchester" on the top rib are really rare today, but even rarer are men who collect shotguns, so they have never been much esteemed. Clubby, with too much stock drop and barrels as likely to uncoil today as a tensed rattler, and as deadly, the primitive English-made Winchester double is yet the direct ancestor of the glittering Grand American double trap of today.

Repeating, in shotguns, was the emphasis for years, and is still the main stream of production for smoothbores with the big Oval-W-P proof stamp on them. But to men of discernment, the close-holding double, with its barrels almost lying in the palm of one's guiding hand, has always been a favorite form of fowler. To John M. Olin, even before the merger of his Western Cartridge Company and Winchester, the shotgun field had been a source of pleasure, profit, and technical achievement.

Olin's career has symbolized American gun firms' never-ending search for better materials and ways to do things, to build things better. At a time when U.S. gunpowders were lagging in development, Olin went to Belgian, German, British powder makers for loads for his shells. But he also went into the powder business, and from pioneer emerged as a leader. The Olin Ball Powder, now licensed in half a dozen countries abroad, is the logical reverse on his earlier searching in foreign markets. All this development went into shotgun shells: the famous Leader, the Western Super-X, and other loads that achieved trap and game records.

One of Olin's personal favorites has been

the 20 gauge 3" shell, 1 1/4 ounce load, pouring out of his little Model 21, barreled full and full, with which he loves to go duck shooting. Olin's personal affection for fine shotguns and his leadership in shotshell ammunition, reached a happy solution when Olin bought Winchester. For the previous management had just launched the Model 21.

It was a machine-made gun. Today, machines do their part, though far more hand-finishing is the rule. But when Olin first became not just the pleased sportsman who could shoot a "21," but the man upon whom ultimately the responsibility for its success or failure must devolve, the Model 21 began to take on a different character.

It did not "flop" in the Depression. Economists often comment on a thing of curious nature during a depression. Some men hold onto their money. Those who retain their wealth often are more interested in spending it for leisure-time activity than they would be if pressured by full production into devoting their full time to business. In a sense, they can afford to retire to Florida and play. Shotgunning, naturally with a fine double gun, is often such a form of play. In the depths of the Great Depression, the Model 21 grew into a luxury arm. It expressed in line and detail what Doane summed up by declaring he honestly believes the 21 "is the finest double gun made anywhere today."

The 21 in this era was a lot like the Cadillac car. Seldom heard of up till then as a premier marque, it challenged the leadership of Packard, Pierce Arrow, and a host of others; even the great Duesenberg. The Cadillac has survived. And in competition with the great Parker Bros. guns, the luxury Ithaca doubles, those of exquisite form and finish by Ansley J. Fox and L. C. Smith, now vanished from the scene, Winchester's brash new entry remained ahead.

It was at first a typical production gun, with a high degree of interchangeability, which to some extent meant less critical tolerances on many of the parts. "Even the fore-ends would interchange, after a fashion," Doane reminisced.

What did you get in those days for \$49.50? A gun "required to endure tests as great and searching as are applied to the famous Winchester repeating shotguns," says the November 1932 catalog. Says Paul Doane, "We proof tested a Model 21 in comparison with other 'comparable makes.'" (When I asked what other makes were tested, I was informed "telling would not be ethical.") The test, according to Doane, was to subject each bore of this Model 21 to ONE THOUSAND CONSECUTIVE PROOF LOADS! At the conclusion of this test, no change in dimension of tubes or action could be measured. The closest other U.S. gun, Doane told me, withstood 87 or 89 proof loads before shaking loose.

This test has never before been published, but the reasons why the Model 21 will take such a beating are evident when you study

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the design of the arm. Hard-headed Connecticut engineers can compete with hand craftsmen any day, the Model 21 design seems to say. "The frame of this Winchester Double Gun is made, not of the usual case-hardened material but of Winchester Proof Steel, treated to have a tensile strength of over ninety tons per square inch . . ." claims the catalog. Next time you pick up, say, a top grade British fowler, look at the 14 tons per square inch proof marking on the gun and compare . . .

The Model 21 has a long action, which means minimum angular movement of the barrels in opening to load. The smaller arc the barrel at the hinge pin travels through, the less wear there is possible at the pin. And a 21's hinge pin is abnormally large. Unlike the European proof houses, which permit a gun after standing proof in the white to be "knocked up" tight again by the maker upon blacking and finishing, the WP proof stamp goes on the finished gun. A 21 hinge cannot be loose after proof and be acceptable. The latch or bolting of the 21 is simple. Doane, whose lifetime of experience with Winchester and Western explains quite honestly his lifetime bias in favor of these guns and shells, is pretty hot on the bolting of a Model 21. "You can buy any number of guns abroad that have cross bolts and top bolts and doll's head extensions into the breech and Lord knows what all, with side clips to cut your fingers and everything else calculated to make you fumble in quick loading. But you don't buy a stronger gun."

"We have taken a 21, and removed the bolt, and tied the barrels to the breech with black silk thread," he told me. "Then we fired the proof loads in it and the thread was not broken. You don't need Mickey Mouse ears to hold the Model 21 shut and safe!"

The emphasis which Winchester-Western now can put upon materials in the Model 21 is nothing new. There were very few gun factories in Europe which could match the know-how of the Research and Development boys in New Haven on metallurgy. Chrome molybdenum alloy steel was specified for the Model 21, when in actual blow-up strength a lot of cheaper foreign guns were being farmed out with proof marks on them, made of low-carbon steel and frames of little more than a "good grade of gun iron," suitably carburized by the case hardening process. Why all the emphasis on hard, tough steels in the bores? John Dear, long a WRACo Research & Development man, had the answer to that, and John owns three M21s; one of which has been his constant companion in the field for more than 20 years.

"I know it will not fail me from some part breaking when I'm far from gunsmiths up in Canada," Dear explained. "And it's good for my lifetime, at least, so far as the shooting goes." In terms that sounded for all the world like the praises of a British "best gun," Dear justified the selection of chrome moly for the relatively low-pressured shotgun tubes. "The choke is cut into the bores, not just swamped down by swaging," he said.

"That choke will still be there 20 years from now and after half a lifetime of shooting, even at constant trap and skeet clays, in addition to game shooting. The choke won't stretch, and the tubes won't shoot thin; not on my Model 21 . . ."

Dear's 21, from "before the war," though a rugged piece of gunmaking, is not the luxury gun of today. From being a top piece of machine-gunmaking, it has evolved now to assume the honored title of America's best double gun. It is not enough to scoff that it is, with the exception of a low-priced machine-made gun, the *only* good double made today. Its claim to that title is that it weathered the same era, the same reverses of the depression, the same hardships in competing for the shooters' attention, that its peers did. And, it survived. The men of Winchester, and especially 20-gauge-magnum booster John M. Olin, believed that "somebody in the U.S. should build a good double." Today's custom 21 is the final answer.

Crafted in a special shop, within the big humming industry that is Winchester, the Model 21 is touched only by the most skillful, talented workmen of the plant. A few footsteps away, M-14 rifles chatter through acceptance function tests in the proof bunkers. In another direction, a gigantic monolith of a machine, the barrel hammering set-up, turns out micro-finished .264 high velocity barrel blanks, completely chambered, at the rate of 40 an hour. But inside the Model 21 shop, all is serene and unhurried.

Like good wine, the Model 21 is taken through its paces to perfection in a deliberate and careful manner. The barrels are smoked to fit; the cocking of the hammers is checked and rechecked for perfect operation. Inner parts are engine-turned to a jewel-like surface. Once, some gun writer reported widely that "engine turning in guns hides scars and bad marks in poor metal work." This might be true in the guns he spoke of, but engine turning has a function on a fine gun. Among other purposes, it tends to help the steel hold oil, for protection. Even though some parts may be alloyed and rust-resistant, for a gun that may never need opening up in a couple of lifetimes, it is wise to have the inner surfaces retain a protective film of oil.

The chasing and engraving is done by men who neither affect the "floral arabesque" so common in the Ferlach school of engraving, nor yet the deep Teutonic Relief favored by some more northern European sculptors. The layout on the Model 21s is American traditional, and the vignette game scenes, the inlaid gold head of Nilo Farms' great retriever, King Buck, or the delicately turned scrolls in borders and edge-engraving, are done by men who have the fullest comprehension of what they are trying to achieve, who are in a very real sense, their own inspectors.

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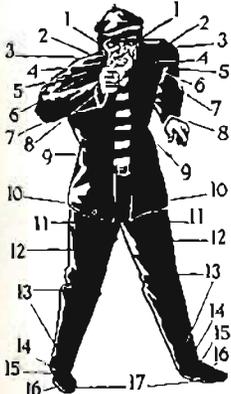
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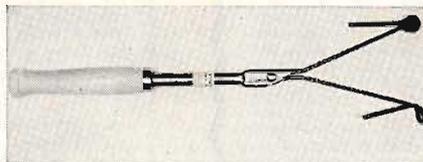


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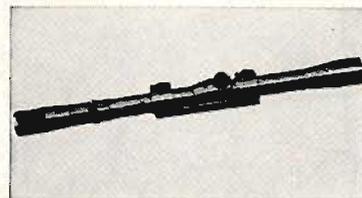


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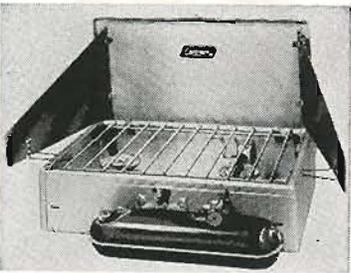


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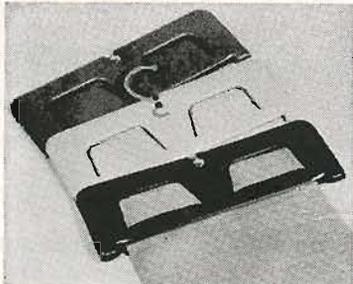


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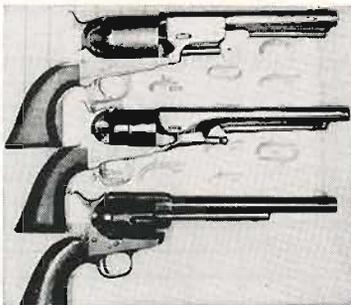
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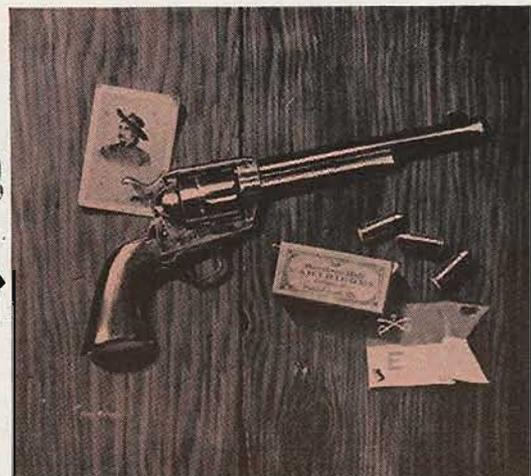
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SHOT TOWER, 1807-1961

(Continued from page 19)

was a Quaker, withdrew from the firm when the War of 1812 caused the shot tower's products to be turned into munitions, and Sparks became sole owner. In 1838, the name was changed to T. & T. Sparks, Jr. In 1854, it came into possession of a nephew of the same name. In 1875, Thomas W. Sparks, his son, became the fourth generation owner. In 1874, the Swedes' Burial Ground behind the building which belonged to the old churches of Wicaco, Kingsessing, and Lower Merion, was purchased by Sparks and added to the factory area.

In 1903, the plant was sold and the place abandoned as a shot factory. It remained idle for several years and finally the Board of Education purchased the area in 1916 for a playground and to preserve the historical tower. Today, the place is known as "Shot Tower Playground."

T. W. Sparks had 45 different types of shot listed in his catalog, falling into three categories: drop, chilled, and mold. His office at 121 Walnut Street was just around the corner from another famous landmark, the Kreider Gun Shop. The two cabinets pictured here hung for many years in that shop after the discontinuance of Sparks' business.



BIBLIOGRAPHY: *Encyclopedia of Philadelphia, Volume 4, pages 1086 and 1087, Jackson, Joseph: Harrisburg—The National Historical Association: 1933. The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin: Editorial Page: December 18, 1918.*

LOOK IN YOUR OWN BACK YARD

(Continued from page 27)

gun-powder on shooting nights. Outsiders were treated as "honorary" or "guest" members.

The club acquired, as its first range, a frame building in nearby Glenview, which had served as the Glenview VFW Hall. After just one shooting night in this location, (and, I hasten to add, through no fault of the club or its members!) the building burned to the ground. Result—one shooting club with no place to shoot. This was just one of many set-backs this group of shooters was destined to endure, some of which would have kayoed a less dedicated band. But the urge was strong and would not be denied.

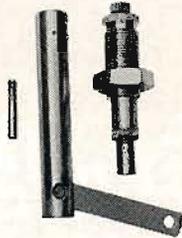
Don Perser, present club president, recalls that in the club's opening stages, equipment was of the most rudimentary sort. First rifles were field models rather than target types. There were no spotting scopes, slings, shooting coats, or any of the shooting accessories near and dear to the dedicated target gunner. All of these came later, as the bug bit and the club grew. Each member put his back to the wheel of progress—one obtaining a deal on shooting coats, others conducting a fund raising program to support their founding club and purchase necessary equipment.

Several ranges were secured, only to be lost for various reasons. In some members interest began to dwindle; but the solid core of shooters held on. The desire to shoot was too great for them to give up. But they faced real problems. Where might they gain more members? Where could they find a range? How could they build a strong club again?



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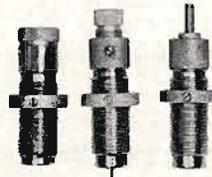
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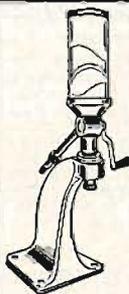


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A letter sent to the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, Department of the Army, introduced the Avon Rifle Club to the five-point firing range at the Lincolnwood Reserve Armory on Chicago's North Side. The club, having obtained affiliation with the National Rifle Association, applied to the DCM for support under its program which lends rifles and equipment to new clubs. (Information on this program may be obtained by writing National Rifle Association.) Firing nights were scheduled, and once again, gunfire was heard. Next was the question of membership—and what better place is there to look for interested shooters than in your own backyard?

The Avon Rifle Club contacted the Skokie Valley Industrial Association, representing industry in the area, offering to open its doors to any Industrial firm in its membership. The challenge had been met—and the battle won. Today the Avon Rifle Club is an independent club, having within its ranks shooters from many industrial firms. It is a strong club now, participating in rifle, handgun, and shotgun events.

"It is surprising," Don Perser says now, "how many persons you can find who want to belong to a club, but are not able to contact the right person—just by looking around you. Any small group of shooters could, we believe, inquire of industry in their area, find interest, and pool their efforts for a mutual effort."

A typical night at the Lincolnwood Armory finds the club gathering at seven p.m. for fifteen minutes of sighting-in. From 7:15 to 9:30, rifle shooters fire five shots prone and sitting, plus ten shots in the kneeling and offhand positions. Handgunners fire two matches over regulation courses. Then a novelty shoot takes over, time permitting. The ingenuity of club members in devising novelty shoots has certainly contributed to the club's active life. Don Perser reports that members often keep the regulation shoots moving swiftly so that they can plink away in the novelty events. Some of the novelty events have found shooters trying to hit a target sliding down a taut wire, controlled from behind the shooter by a fish line. The uneven movements resemble that of a curious rodent. A pendulum clock provided another novelty game. One member rigged up a bobbing piece of chalk—something to try for, for the stalwart target shooter.

Another club policy bears emulating by all shooting clubs. An informed club is an interested club, and so a memo, listing all scores

is mailed to each member after each shoot.

Active participation in the National Rifle Association's sponsored events always is an interest-getter. The 1961 Winter League and Sighting-in days were recently completed, with outstanding results. The Sighting-in day was held at the Fox Valley Rifle range on October 8, 1960, for Big and Small bore fans, and for the hunter as well as the targeteer.

Everyone who has served as an officer of any sort in any club, expects the volume of work that goes with the honor. In the Avon Rifle Club, a direct switch is held, at least for one night. Once each year, a "President's Night" is held. Shooting hours are extended to permit the individual rifle and pistol competitions which are held. Prizes are secured so that everyone, even the novice, will walk away with something. The most honored prize for the evening is the "President's gold medal," awarded to high gun in the rifle competition. Refreshments are served during the evening, and the turn-out is always good.

Every three months, an individual medal is offered to the high shooter in the rifle competition, and to the most improved shooter. The most improved shooter may be a fellow who can't beat anyone, but he's out there trying—and he does receive recognition for his efforts and faithful attendance. The club doesn't overlook a single bet for keeping members shooting and happy.

The original group of close friends are still holding their "scheutzen-koenig" competitions in addition to their activities in the Rifle Club. But the club is now their main interest.

Competition isn't just limited among its individual members. From time to time the club, as a group, competes shoulder to shoulder with other gun clubs in the Chicago area. Trophies are bought out of the combined club dues for the evening, and the fun is on. Recently, the Avon club won a pistol trophy on their visit to the Strowger Gun Club of the Automatic Electric Company, held at the Oak Park Sportsman's Club, in Oak Park, Illinois.

All of these activities and policies have made it possible for this club to survive three range moves, and to overcome the problems of transfer, transportation, and a wide variance of shooting abilities which are often common to the industrial gun club.

So if you are ever in the dilemma of not having enough persons interested in shooting to form your gun club—look in your own backyard. Perhaps you have a few targeteers in each of several local business firms. It just needs someone to draw them together.

Current officers of the Avon Rifle Club are Don Perser, President; William Ballert, Vice-President; Jim Asher, Executive officer; Ed Siemon, Secretary-Treasurer, and Robert Steffen, Range officer. All are convinced that it doesn't take wealth, or elaborate facilities, not even "store bought" medals, to nourish a shooting club, what it takes is—

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(Continued from page 8)

very deep and very lasting blue, something not always attained with some hot bluing chemicals now on the market. The fact many of the largest gunsmith shops in the country have used Blu-Blak for many years with perfect success is recommendation enough.

Swaged Target Bullets

We have just tested some .38 Special wad cutter swaged bullets by the Northridge Bullet Co., Box 64, Northridge, Calif. They are correctly sized and well lubricated, and they shoot very well at 25 yards so long as light to normal loads are used. These wad cutters are intended primarily for 25 yard Timed and Rapid target shooting and are very good for the purpose; but all wad cutters that we have ever tested, either factory or hand swaged or cast, tend to tip and lose accuracy at 50 yards. These fine swaged bullets, like the good Speer product, are made in .38, .44, and .45 caliber, in 147 grain, 215 grain in .44 caliber, and 180 and 200 grain in .45 caliber for the .45 auto. They cut clean full caliber holes in all calibers, and are held to very close tolerances.

Dove Call

Just received a dove call from Bob Hinman, Outfitters, Box 1222, Peoria, Ill. It certainly will produce the call of the turtle or morning dove, and does a very good job of it if you practice. Doves have been called for years in Europe, but it is something new in the U.S. Doves are very sporty shotgunning targets, and they make excellent eating. The new dove call is priced at \$2.00 postpaid.

New Lyman Sight For Model 99

Lyman is now out with their new Model 57 sight for all Savage Model 1899 rifles, including their new model with shotgun safety. This is a fine precision Lyman receiver sight, with either the rounded unobtrusive hunter knobs that can be set with

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stant. Priced at \$8.50, the new Lyman 57 SB sight offers the hunter a very fine, low priced, receiver sight for his model 99 Savage.

Speer "Plinkers"

Speer Products Co. of Lewiston, Idaho, have announced the newest addition to their bullet line—the Speer "Plinkers." These are 100 grain .30 caliber bullets designed pri-

marily for varmints, small game, and plinking. They are priced to sell at \$2.85 per hundred. Speer reports surprising accuracy at velocities up to 3200 feet. The half-jacketed swaged bullets disintegrate on impact, eliminating ricochets. Free data slips included in each box of "Plinkers" cover loads for .30-30 Winchester, .30 Remington, .300 Savage, .308 Winchester, .30-40 Krag, .30-06 Springfield, .30 Short Magnum, .300 H. & H. Magnum, .300 Weatherby, .303 British, and the 7.65 mm Belgian.

New Case Cleaner

The Casebright Company, 1130 Emerson St., Rochester 6, N. Y., has a new case cleaning compound that you mix with water and that has done a very fine job of cleaning badly corroded cases for us. We tried it on corroded and dirty .44 Specials, and also on some ancient black powder .45-70 cases. It cleaned two batches perfectly except where brass was eaten away by corrosion. On the third batch of cases tried in the same cleaner, however, it failed. The cleaning ingredients had by then been exhausted. This is a simple, easy to use cleaner, not dangerous to use, and if directions are carefully followed it will do a first class job, leaving the case really sparkling bright.

New Jefferson Autoloader

An improved version of their handsome .22 long-rifle autoloader is the newest member of the Jefferson family of fine firearms for sportsmen. According to the manufacturer, the improved Model 159 autoloader features a finely tuned, jam-free, semi-automatic ac-

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The Jefferson Model 159 can be loaded singly. This helps to make it a fine rifle for primary instruction of youngsters in all phases of shooting. The rifle is priced at \$44.95. Scope sight, complete with mounts, is only \$10.00 extra. For catalog, write The Jefferson Corporation, 112 Quinipiac Avenue, North Haven, Connecticut.

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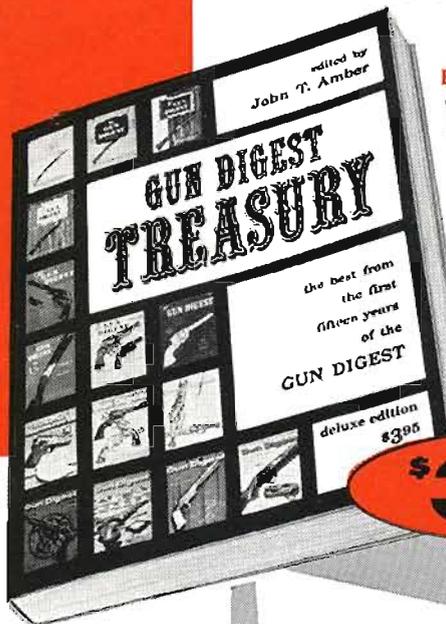
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