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MAY 1967 75c

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HE NAME OF THE GAME is "let's get the Warren Report." But rather than tear it apart, Shelley Braverman offers some ideas in his "Backfire" article which could actually help the report. He asks, and rightly so, why the Commission did not take the time and trouble to look into aspects of the assassination which could have strengthened its case. As this is going to press, the newspapers are filled with rumblings from New Orleans, where the alleged assassination plot is reported to have originated. From these reports we keep hearing the names Castro and Cuba. We can't help but wonder what an investigation of the availability of 6.5 Carcano ammunition-in all its various loadings-would reveal if we could look into the Cuban underground gun market.

Coming up next month we have several outstanding articles, including the first of a double length feature on the Winchester Single Shot Rifle-by the man who "wrote the book," James Grant. Also, some amusing but provocative thoughts on winning the war in Vietnam. All of our regulars will be aboard with articles pertaining to their specialties.

In case you haven't heard, we have a new anti-gun lobby in Washington. This is called "National Council for a Responsible Firearms Policy," and is headed by James V. Bennett, former director of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. First reports indicate to me that this group is not only out to push for strong anti-gun legislation, but also to "get the hunters." This quote is from a press conference held by Cleveland Amory, one of their charter members. To get some idea of the intent of this organization, you will be interested to know that the vice president of the Council is Carl Bakal, author of "The Right to Bear Arms." No need to say more.

Here in Illinois, we have proof of the effectiveness of letters to stop anti-gun legislation. Proponents of a "gun registration" bill have enlisted the aid of civic leaders for the sole purpose of getting a flood of mail into the state capitol urging passage of this bill. The legislators, it seems, are afraid of the numbers of pro-gun letters, and want to combat it by soliciting an equal or larger number of anti-gun letters something they have never been able to do before.

#### THE COVER

After reading the article on the assassination of President Kennedy by Shelley Braverman, you will see how the 6.5 Carcano cartridge shown on the cover answers a great many of the mysteries surrounding the events in Dallas on November 22, 1963. This cartridge is from the extensive specimen collection of Mr. Braverman. Photo by Gerry Swart.

MAY, 1967 Vol. XIII, No. 5-149

George E. von Rosen Publisher

Arthur S Arkush Ass't to the Publisher



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# CROSSFIRE

# **Gun Laws and Security**

I have just finished reading the January issue of your fine magazine and would like to comment on "Our Man in Washington" column. It looks like we are going to have another fight this year against the anti-gun crowd. It is suggested that the Hauska destructive device bill deserves our support. I disagree with this for several reasons.

First-The second provision of this bill defines destructive devices as "explosives, bombs, grenades, rockets, missiles, mines and any weapons having a bore of .78" or larger." The word explosives is objectionable since it could refer to primers and powder, both smokeless and black, as used by reloaders.

Second-I also would object to restrictions on weapons having a bore dia, larger than .78". This would include all surplus cannons; many of these guns make interesting additions to a gun collection. There are only a couple of instances where weapons of this type have been used illegally, so why all the fuss?

Third-The seventh provision increases penalties for possession of weapons which come under the National Firearms Act. Again, this is a case of penalizing the ownership of an inanimate object instead of punishing the illegal use of them. Would it not be better to relax some of the restrictions on the ownership of machine guns and encourage proficiency in their use?

Today we abhor the thought of a citizen owning or using a machine gun, but at the same time we put our young men in uniform, give them a machine gun, ship them off to Viet Nam and say "go get 'em." The American Rifleman had a very interesting article last month on Swiss gun laws. About 11% of that country's population keep military weapons in their homes. This shows the trust this government places in their citizens. Are we in this country any less trustworthy?

It seems to me that some of the lawmakers who propose this legislation are not interested in what the people want but only what "THEY" want. Legislation of this type seems like something that the commies would dream up since they are the ones who would benefit most from a disarmed American public.

So this year let's make no concessions to those who would deny us our Constitutional right to bear arms.

Paul R. Ellis S. Ft. Mitchell, Ky.

## **A** Dissenting View

The article by Nameer Ali Jawdat, "A Dissenting View of Today's Hunting Car-tridges," in the February issue of GUNS is one of the most enjoyable pieces of writing in this field that I have read in a long time.

On page 60 appears the following, speaking of battered softpoint bullets in a magazine rifle:

"The solution I suppose would be either a rotary magazine on the Mannlicher-Savage model, or one of those cartridge steadiers soldered inside the magazine that you used to see advertised. I wonder if these really worked?"

If one will take a look at the magazine of the Mossberg Model 800 in either .308 or .243 caliber, he will see that we have taken care of this necessary problem in a very satisfactory manner.

> John T. Boone Vice President of Sales O. F. Mossberg & Sons North Haven, Conn.

## And Anti-dissidence

I protest articles such as "A Dissenting View of Today's Hunting Cartridges" by Nameer Ali Jawdat in the Feb. issue of GUNS Magazine. The article is sensationalistic, corny, misleading, confusing, sarcastic, and devoid of proofs.

I don't protest the author's opinions. But, if he's going to write about his opinions, I think he should present some facts to back them up. Sarcasm proves nothing.

Also, I think that GUNS Magazine should require its writers to write clearly and cut out the corny dialog. It seems that more and more writers are confusing us with a maze of cov words and phrases.

> H. A. Bailey Oakridge, Oregon

## Shame On Us

On page 30 of your December issue, you show a pistol and refer to it, as a "Colt Army." That's a Remington, sir, and, I might add, a better gun.

> James E. Jones **Operations Sgt.**, KMAG **APO** San Francisco



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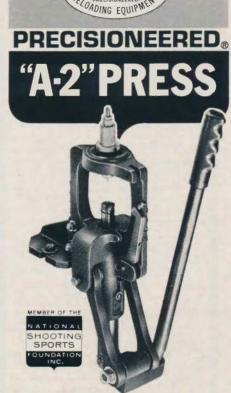
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By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

THERE ARE THOUSANDS of old '03 Springfields in the hands of using sportsmen. No rifle, with the exception of the Mauser '98 has been more enthusiastically sporterized than this venerable musket. It is still for sale today and at a whale of an attractive figure. The Springfield was made from 1903 until well into the middle of WW II. Just how safe is it? Especially some of those old turnips?

From 1903 until 1927, both the receiver and bolt were made of WD 1325 steel. This was a high carbon steel which was subjected to a single heat treatment. This was a very hard receiver and was well liked especially for rapid fire because the bolt worked as withstood successive proof loads of 80,000 psi successfully. When subjected to blue pills of 125,000 psi a number of receivers blew.

The success of the improved heat treatment by Rock Island persuaded Springfield that this was an essential improvement in the rifle. Springfield swung over to the double heat treatment and it is recorded that between receivers numbered 750,000 and 780,000 this change was being made. Unfortunately, due to the press of the war which was in progress at the time, an exact record was not made of the lot of receivers which enjoyed this improved manufacture. Suffice to note, however, by the time the #800,000 receiver was completed the new heat treat-



Scene at Camp Perry in the day when the Springfield '03 was top dog.

slick as glass. It was regularly fired with the 50,000 psi service load. It was proofed at 70,000 psi, a full 40 per cent overload. Some 700,000 Springfields were made of WD 1325 steel before any changes were made.

As far back as May, 1918, Rock Island Arsenal decided that the single heat treatment on the carbon manganese receivers was probably not sufficient, this despite the fact that extremely few blowups had occurred. The Arsenal commenced with receiver #285,507 to give the bolts and receivers what came to be known as the double heat treatment. Commencing with receiver #319,921 they adopted a nickel steel, running approximately .35 per cent carbon and 3.5 per cent nickel. Rockwell C hardness was from 44 to 52. A test lot of these receivers ment process was in full force. It can be accepted that an '03 from Springfield with a number higher than this is okay.

There have been some exceptions to this rule but the chances of an owner getting a Springfield-made receiver with a number over 800,000 and not double heat treated is pretty remote. It is a fact that for some reason unexplainable from this time and distance a small number of receivers were somehow not given the double heat treatment and between 1917 and 1929 there were a total of 68 blown up guns. One of these was #801,548. It could not be established with complete surety but it was suspected this one was a dog that somehow escaped the double heat treatment.

(Continued on page 58)

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# GPO-5

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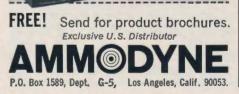
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"I, and the Gun, with our Brother Ball, In whatever fight we equal all."

T HE ABOVE RHYME, was found carved on a powder horn of Revolutionary War vintage, and in some ways explains why we who collect antique arms are so fond of our hobby; for though the combination of iron and wood in a firearm or edged weapons may only be worth a few pennies, the romance, history and adventure that lie behind them are beyond any estimation of value.

As a gun collector of many years, firearms dealer, and supposedly a firearms authority, I am asked one question many times over by people from all walks of life. . . "Why collect firearms; wouldn't I be better putting my money into sure blue chip stocks, or real estate. I like guns and would like very much to start a collection, but am not sure if my money, hard earned as it is, would do the best for me in the long run; also I am not really sure as to what to collect and where to start." My advice is this: Collectors firearms today are an important investment, just as important as blue chip stock in my estimation. Well-chosen collectors arms have in the past been as safe as any investment in the common stocks of more than three-quarters of the corporations on the Board. Gun value, what you collect and own in terms of dollars and cents, is important to everyone; but if you wish to be a real collector-one who loves firearms for what they are and have been-the true value of what you collect will not be money, but that you are also investing in history and workmanship. The true collector's dividends are in happinesss, and his wealth will be in knowledge of historical and scientific endeavors. The true arms collector can leave his workaday world of reality and join in his imagination the first settlers from the Mayflower, his ancesters as they fought under an English flag in the Indian Wars, the fight for freedom with the Continental Army, the ride with Captain Walker as he fought the Mexicans using Mr. Colt's new revolvers, or trace the battles on each side during the Civil War. He can, with his firearms and imagination, transport himself throughout our world and the old world.

A type collection, one with a direction or purpose, will take a long time to build, for antique arms cannot, like current goods, be purchased at any given moment. Before starting your collection and before you become too deeply involved, consider your direction. For I believe that a collector should have a purpose, and collect one type or one field .... for it is too difficult today to collect all types and models that appeal to you at a given moment. For the man that collects all types of arms is just an accumulator, and really never becomes knowledgeable in any field and is

# COLLECTOR'S CORNER

By ROBERT MANDEL

never satisfied with his collection.

Percussion arms, which are still able to be found at relatively low prices, are increasing in value every day. As the percussion period lasted only some fifty odd years, as against the over two-hundred and fifty or more years of flintlock, the arms of this period will over the years become increasingly rare. The early breach loader in musket and carbine will be on the rise, as this period of type arm were used only for about a decade and are certain to go up in collectors interest and value over the years. The Military arms of Europe and America are commanding much interest, since through them you can trace the country's development as a nation. To list just a few more of the very interesting fields of arms collecting: The derringer, both percussion and cartridge, would hold much interest to any collector and the field is vast. Oddities: the weapons that were turned out by companies that thought they had something new in firearms to solve some problem in the weapons field. Practical or impractical as they might have been, they are to me one of the most interesting of the collectors field. Arms made by Remington are of much interest. One of the earliest of American gun makers, he made his first rifle in 1816 and over the years the Remington Company has turned out some of our countrys finest firearms. Colt's, the name that means firearms, enough said.

Winchester firearms have over the last two years been climbing in price and collectors value steadily. Though high priced now, many models can still be found at a fair price. Smith and Wesson collectors have been increasing in numbers over the last year, and arms made by this company are numerous and of fine quality. The modern and semi-modern arms present a rich field for the collector. The Colts, Smiths, Mausers, Walthers, and others have found a warm reception from the collectors. There are many directions that one can go in the semimodern civilian and military firearms field. These are just a few of the collections that could interest a collector. There are many more and in time I will try to cover them.

Poor or just good specimens seem to be easy to find and in most cases should be acquired until they can be replaced by better condition pieces. This is one of the secrets of collecting. Buy a fair or good piece at a low price and hold it until you find one in a better condition; in the meantime the fair to good arm will have risen in value and your own knowledge in your field has also increased. So, collect firearms. Invest in them as you would your future, but do not forget the wonderful story to be told from your arms, for there lies the true value in collecting.

# Legislative Bulletin...

# **CONTROL OF FIREARMS**

By JEROME RAKUSAN

O N FEBRUARY 18, the "President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice" released its report. Chapter 10 of this report is of vital interest to all readers as it deals with gun controls. We would like to examine some of the statements made in this report, since it is likely that what has been said here will greatly influence those legislators—Federal and State—who are considering anti-gun bills. Direct quotes from the Report are printed in italic type.

The first several paragraphs of this report are indicative of the hysteria which permeated the minds of the members of the Commission, and which has been the battle cry of anti-gun forces for the past several years. The Report begins: The assassination of President John F. Kennedy with a mail-order rifle offered a grim and tragic illustration of what can result when firearms are easily available to anyone in the United States.

The report continues with "statistics," which try to show that our country is faced with a "gun problem" but really only point out that the problem is not the gun, but the criminal. It is interesting to note that whenever the Commission uses statistics which present a situation helpful to their case, they are rather precise; they report percentages as 65.9 and 46.4 when telling of the crime rate of certain of our cities. Yet, when a figure is used which could dispute some of the commission's tenets, they are rather vague; such is the case when the report states: Many millions of the estimated 50 million privately owned guns in the United States belong to hunters, gun collectors, and other sportsmen. You will note that while they estimated the total number of guns, they merely said many when reporting on legitimate ownership; of course, they wouldn't have used "the overwhelming majority" or even "the bulk," for these phrases would have been less dramatic even though they are closer to the truth than the vague word "many."

The report continues to plead its case by citing the 1966 Gallup poll which contends that 56 per cent of the firearms owners . . . indicated that they favored police permits to purchase guns. I wonder just which firearms owners this poll includes—did they ask you? In all of the correspondence from literally thousands of GUNS Magazine readers, we have yet to encounter one who was approached by a Gallup pollster. I am sure that they didn't ask the thousands of people in Orlando, Fla., who attended the firearms safety classes; nor did they ask the thousands of New York residents who are afraid to walk in Central Park; nor did they ask the many residents of Chicago, who are categorically denied pistol purchase permits no matter what their reason or no matter how law-abiding their background. If the Gallup poll questioners really wanted to get a response that was in favor of firearms permits, why didn't they go to the nearest penitentiary; there they would have been able to report that 100 per cent of the people want strict gun laws!

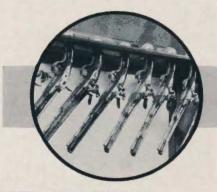
Under the heading "The Controversy About Firearm Controls," the report states: While the majority of the public favors reasonable firearms control, the National Rifle Association and other citizen groups have provided an effective legislative lobby to represent those hunters, gun collectors, and other persons who oppose additional regulation. Many arguments are offered by this opposition.

The most emotional position—one this Commission must reject outright—is that licensing and registration provisions for handguns, rifles, and shotguns would disarm the public and thus render it easy prey for violent criminals, or an invading or subversive enemy. In fact, all proposals for regulation would permit householders and shopkeepers to continue to possess firearms.

First, we should ask why the Commission chose to change the wording of the poll; no where is the word "reasonable" found in the two polls cited in this report. I am sure (*Continued on page 55*)



Not all news media are anti-gun. This cartoon is reproduced from the "Daily Calumet" of Chicago.



**GUN RACK** 

**NEW AIR PISTOL** 



The Walther Model LP-2 air pistol is intended for match target shooting. With a weight of 46 oz., a barrel of  $9\frac{1}{2}$ ", and an overall of  $12\frac{3}{2}$ ", this pistol ain't meant for boys! It is a big gun and it takes some living with to hold it steady. Imported by Interarmco Ltd., the new LP-2 carries a price tag of \$72. For the handgunner who is determined to stay in best practice during the winter, this target number is worth its price.

The pistol has the new Walther nonrecoiling air system. There is no observable vibration when fired. The trigger pull is 8 oz. and is adjustable for both let-off and travel. The sights are Patridge, the rear micromovable for elevation and windage, radius  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The pistol cocks through a swinging lever which pivots at the bottom of the stock. To load the .177 cal. pellet, a spring lock beneath the barrel is depressed and the muzzle tipped downward. This exposes the chamber.

Ten slow fire scores on the NRA 50-ft. slow fire target gained totals of 94, 96, 96, 98, 95, 93, 95, 95, 99, and 97. This is a pistol which must be lived with to be mastered. The sear is cracking good—and fast! But that sear releases the spring-actuated plunger which develops the air pressures behind the waisted pellet. The release of the piston, its movement, the build up of air pressure, and the final movement of the slug down the bore all take a lot of time. You have got to be a rock-hard holder to keep the sights dead on while all this takes place, believe me!—Col. Charles Askins.



#### **GALEF IMPORTS**

The English firm, BSA Guns Ltd., ship to their American reps., the very well-known J. L. Galef & Sons, a bolt action rifle. This bolt gun comes in two sizes, the first with a receiver of  $7\frac{34}{7}$  for cartridges like the '06; and a second action of only 7" for popular peewees like the .243 and the .222. Both rifles are known as the Monarch Deluxe.

The Monarch sports a stock with some exceedingly American lines. The dimensions are well nigh perfect for the average man and the Monte Carlo with its mating checkpiece along with a comfortable pistol grip and a sizeable forestock all add up to a comfortable, good-feeling arm. The stock wood is some kind of light colored walnut. There are contrasting darker pieces at the pistol grip and at the fore end tip. The grip and forestock are checkered.

The action features a bolt with a countersunk bolt face and two large locking lugs just behind which turn into a big ring receiver. The very head of the bolt is shrouded by a barrel extension, thus support for the head of the cartridge is extraordinarily good. It's one of the strongest lockups I have seen. The bolt has a gas shield at its tail end; the safety is a push button beside it. The trigger is adjustable for both weight and travel. The floorplate drops by the release of a conventional latch in the trigger guard. The rifle is a machined job throughout: no stampings, no investment castings, no short cuts in this baby!

I have shot the BSA for a solid year. Mine is an '06. I've benchrested it with Remington, Western, Norma, Canadian and GI-issue loads. I've shot every factory weight of bullet. My best shooting with a long string of twenty 5-shot groups at 200 yards have been



with the Remington 150-gr. Ptd SP Corelokt. This load has produced 4.88 inches for the hundred rounds.

The BSA is one of those good rifles that somehow has escaped the attention of the American shooting man. It is extra well designed, extra well built and an extra value sort of shooting iron that has a lot going for it.—Col. Charles Askins.

# **ULTRA MOUNTAIN RIFLE**

Peter Alport, who is the kingmaker at the Norm Thompson Co., the Alaska outfitting firm, is building in limited numbers the latest thing in mountain rifles. Alport is a high country huntsman and knows what he is doing. His rifle is designed for the sheep stalker, that laddy-o who toils into the lofty reaches after the Dall and the Bighorn. The Alport ordnance is slimmed down, peeled off, cut away until the last possible ounce has been skinned out.

The model sent me is a .308 made up on the Sako L579 action. The barrel is 20 inches and is contoured to save every last ounce of weight. There are no iron sights. The stock is on the peewee side: it is of selected French walnut, oil finished and hand rubbed. It is fetchingly figured and checkered at pistol grip and forestock by a real master. There is a simple contrasting cap in exotic wood at the pistol grip but no matching forend tip. There are studs for sling swivels.



The stock has a graceful cheekpiece but is sans Monte Carlo. The butt plate is a solid rubber pad. Stock measurements go 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. Rifle weighs w/scope 6 lb 14 ounces.

Rifle sports the Redfield 4X scope with a %-inch tube. The mounts look like the Redfield 2-piece but carry no name. The Sako receiver is grooved for the Sako mount, one of the best systems: the Alport would have been improved by using the Sako mounts. The tiny little Redfield 3/4" scope is for plinking rifles, certainly a poor choice for a high mountain country rifle.

Fired at 300 yards this rifle maintains good zero if it is cooled between shots. Fired 5 shots in rapid fire and then turned on the target, it shows a propensity to climb. The light barrel accounts for this. The sheep hunter will get off only single shots and for his game the rifle holds its center of impact okay.-Col. Charles Askins.

## CARTRIDGE BOX

The Geo. Lawrence Co. makes a rectangular leather box which carries a wide loop and can be swung on the pants belt. It will hold 20 cartridges. These pouches are made of saddle skirting leather with a covering flap of the same good stuff. This flap is held by a turnbuckle. The gunner drops the box of cartridges into the Lawrence container and is ready to hunt. I have tried cartridge belts, pants pockets, shell loops, and many other



innovations for packing my extra fodder. The Lawrence Box is the best. This is not to say it is perfect, however, it can be improved. The cartridge beads rattle against the top of the box. When you stalk an elephant to 60 feet these little noises are mighty troublesome. I take a strip of polyfoam, daub it with Elmer's best glue, and affix it to the under side of the box top. This dampens unwanted clatter .-- Col. Charles Askins.

# The consistent ammunition

norme

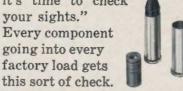
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#### IN THE ANNALS of firearms history one single development stands out as being the most significant in making possible the highly efficient guns which we take for granted today. The advent of the selfcontained cartridge, with its essential obturating case, made possible a tremendous leap forward in gun design and efficiency. Without that case, we would still be carrying about loose powder and ball and percussion caps to muzzle-stoke our smokepoles.

Consequently, this scribe considers the cartridge case the most important single element in todays ammunition. Not only is it absolutely essential to the production of our fine, modern, factory-loaded ammunition, but it is the very foundation—the heart—of handloading. Without top-quality cases, we might be able to fabricate some form of fixed ammunition—but we certainly would not be able to reload as we understand the term today.

The shiny, brass case we take for granted today didn't come into being overnight. There were many unsuccessful and impractical attempts to produce a case before the type we know now evolved. Unless you are a cartridge collector, you've probably never seen a rubber or leather case. But they did exist, being early attempts at producing a cheap case that would seal black powder gases in the chamber and barrel, at the same time tying bullet and power charge together into a single, conveniently packaged bundle. Needless to say, they didn't work out too well. One of the earliest reloadable cases was fabricated from steel. It was called a "loading chamber" and was employed in the Agar "Coffee Mill" rapid-fire gun of Civil War vintage. It did not enter the chamber of a barrel, in usual cartridge fashion, but rather was wedged against the rear face of the barrel and functioned as does a single chamber of a revolver, combining the functions of both chamber and cartridge case. Loaded with loose powder and ball, and with a percussion cap in place on the chamber's nipple, they were placed in a triangular hopper to feed by gravity into firing position as the gun was actuated by a hand crank. Though reloadable, the Agar device was not actually a case in that it did not obturate.

Successful obturating cases were in existence prior to the Agar chamber, but they were rimfire only and not reloadable. But the rimfire case did form the basis of the successful reloadable cases to come. These cases followed the American Civil War by only a few years, and were made of thin brass or copper sheet drawn to shape. Their distinguishing characteristic—the one that limited the pressures to which they might be loaded—was that they were formed from a single

# HANDLOADING BENCH

By DAVE WOLFE Editor and Publisher of The HANDLOADER Magazine

piece of soft metal that varied but very little in thickness at any point. The thin walls were simply folded or pressed into the shape required to form the rim, the case head, and the pocket for the external primer. When fired, every internal surface of the case was equally exposed to the powder gases and the various folds could be opened up by that gas. Reinforcing cups were tried, but they failed to keep gas out of critical areas like the fold in the rim. This type case we know today as the "folded-head."

In black powder days, folded-head cases could be—and were extensively—reloaded. Fired Berdan primers were easily pried out with a "cap awl," while Boxer primers could be pushed out as we do it today. Primers were mercuric, consequently their residue weakened the brass somewhat. Even so, the large charges of black powder apparently diluted the mecuric residue considerably, and the cases were able to withstand repeated reloadings at black powder pressures. Because of their thin construction, folded-head cases could not be full-length resized as we are accustomed to doing today. For one thing, re-



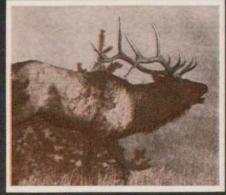
Left to right: Folded head case; a balloon head; and a solid head.

sizing dies of the day required that the case be driven into the die, then driven out by means of a metal or wood dowel. Even when well lubricated, the force required to either press or drive such a case from a full-length die almost invariably deformed the head beyoud further use. Consequently, such cases were reloaded either with no resizing at all, or a small amount at the neck.

True folded-head cases, as described above, have not been manufactured for more than a half a century. Cartridge collectors encounter them often, but the handloader does not unless he is attempting to locate the cases for some long-obsolete black powder cartridge. Some of those half-century-old cases can be reloaded today, but more of that later.

The obvious weaknesses of the folded-head case led rapidly to the development of what was then known as the "solid-head" case. It was drawn from much thicker brass sheet, thick enough that the rim and primer pocket could be formed without any folding of the metal. This also allowed case walls to be left much thicker near the head than at the (Continued on page 14)





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# HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 12)

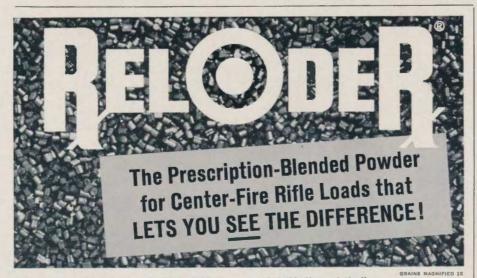
mouth-whereas folded-head case walls were nearly uniform in thickness from one end to the other. Those solid-head cases still did not possess a "web" or head thick enough to allow complete formation of the primer pocket except by bulging the brass of the head inward into the powder space. No matter how objectionable you might find that characteristic today, the solid-head case was so superior to what had been previously available that several makers actually placed the letters "S. H." on the head so the customer would be certain he was getting the best. These new cases were just as reloadable as anything we have today. They could be driven in and out of a full-length resizing die; they would last for many more reloadings than folded head cases; they were virtually immune to primer pocket damage common to the earlier type; their rims were vastly stronger, allowing for more positive extraction; there were no folds or gaps in which black powder fouling could be trapped to weaken the case by corrosion; and, most important of all, they could withstand pressures several times higher than the foldedhead variety. This last characteristic was indispensable to the use of smokeless powder propellants. The old folded-head case could not possibly withstand pressures of nearly 50,000 psi which became routine with the coming of smokeless powders.

There were those who thought they had the perfect case in the new solid-head design. But nothing is perfect, and it was soon improved by making it from a much thicker sheet of brass, allowing a head or web thickness that would completely accommodate the primer pocket without requiring any bulge or expansion into the powder chamber. And this is a design we have with us today.

With the two types of solid-head case in existence, the term "balloon-head" was soon applied to the older one. Production of balloon-head cases continued, particularly in pistol calibers (and rifle calibers normally loaded to relatively low pressures), up until WW II. In fact, there were considerable quantities of pistol caliber cases produced in balloon-head form after WW II.

Because of this continued production of balloon-head cases, it is not uncommon for a handloader to encounter them in pistol calibers today. If in good condition, there is no reason whatsoever that they cannot be used for all but the very heaviest loads. Unfortunately, some information has appeared in print to the effect that such cases are not safe for reloading. This is probably due to the fact that some of the younger writers—who never really had any experience with true folded-head cases—have referred to them as "folded-head" design.

So where does all this leave todays handloader? Let's back up and start over with the old fashioned, folded-head case. As mentioned before, when in good condition, they can be reloaded on todays tools and equipment. They must, however, be restricted to use with loads that do not exceed black powder pressures. Fired cases you might encounter will almost invariably have been fired with mercuric primers and black powder. Unless they were thoroughly washed and dried-removing all black powder fouling from every crevice-immediately after firing, corrosion induced by the fouling will have weakened vital areas probably to the point where the cases are not safe for further use. They may look perfect on the outside, but in-

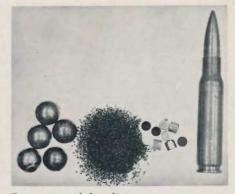


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side will be deeply pitted and corroded. Even when they look good on the inside, they are quite likely to be seriously weakened by fouling-induced corrosion inside the folds of rim and primer pocket. And there is no way you can determine the presence of such damage except by cutting the case open at those critical areas. The logical conclusion to be reached from this is simply that you should never attempt to reload folded-head cases that have been fired with black powder.

Occasionally, though, one will encounter new primed, unfired folded-head cases. If clean and free from corrosion, both inside



From muzzleloading components to the modern cartridge and its case.

and out, these cases are perfectly safe to reload (keeping in mind that pressure limitation), providing the existing primers are removed and discarded. The old primers will undoubtedly be mercuric. When fired with smokeless powders, they will virtually destroy the usefulness of the case in a single firing. In addition, those old primers were designed for black powder which is far, far easier to ignite than modern smokeless. So, when you encounter unfired folded-head cases, use modern primers.

At this point you may be wondering just how to identify folded-head cases. A thin wire probe inserted in the case mouth will enable you to feel the slight recess where case wall folds back against head. All varieties of solid-head cases will show a smooth radius at this point.

And what about balloon-head cases? Many of these you might encounter will have heen fired with black powder and mercuric primers. The effect of powder fouling is the same-to a lesser degree-as on folded-head cases. Here, though, if the inside of the case is smooth, clean and bright, then it is safe from the ravages of powder fouling. There are no folds in the head to trap fouling while it does its dirty work unseen. However, those old mercuric primers may have badly weakened the case even though it looks perfect. Mercuric vapor released by firing penetrates the case metal and amalgamates with the brass, making the latter quite brittle, destroying its strength. Simply squeeze a case-mouth tightly between thumb and finger, and it will usually crack or crumble if it has been fired with a mercuric primer. The case is suspect also if the mouth feels extremely hard and unyielding. When this happens crush it with a pair of pliers. If the metal bends and flows like modern case brass, then its alright. But if the brass cracks raggedly, then that old devil mercury has done its job and the cases are useless.

Once you have determined that the bal-

14

loon-head cases were not fired with mercuric primers, and are in good physical condition, then you may reload them just as you would modern brass. But avoid maximum loads. Should you run across unfired, primed balloon-head cases, they may well contain mercuric primers. The same procedure outlines for folded-head cases should be followed. There is no point in taking a chance on ruining a batch of perfectly good cases when it is relatively easy to avoid it by substituting new primers.

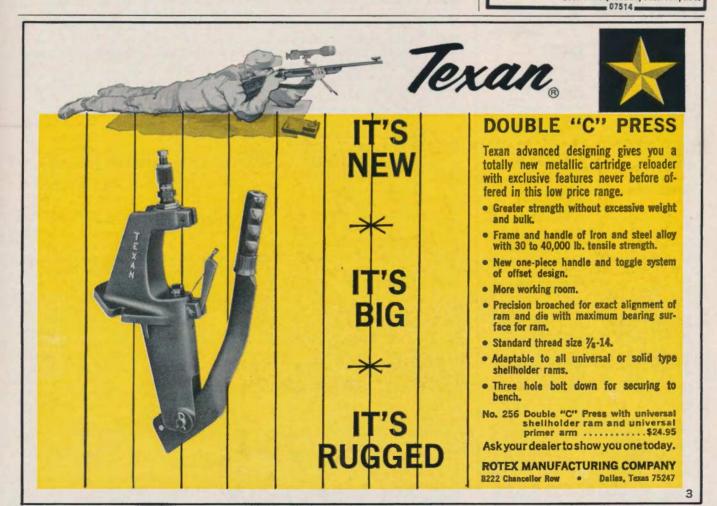
There is another aspect of balloon-head cases that is sometimes overlooked. Since they contain less metal than our latest solid-head cases, they quite naturally have a greater powder capacity. Consequently, loads worked up in modern cases produce a lower loading density in the balloon-head variety—meaning somewhat less pressure and velocity. Working in that direction, everything is fine, but—use balloon-head heavy load data in solid-head cases and you may well push pressures over the limit.

This should particularly be kept in mind in .44 and .45 revolver loads. Many highly recommended heavy loads in .44 Special and .45 Colt were developed 15 or more years ago in balloon-head cases. This data has been published many times in many places, and is not identified as being for balloon-head cases. Test have shown that solid-head .44 and .45 cases will develop the same velocity and pressure with as much as one or one and one-half grains less powder. They also show that the old balloon-head loading data might well take a gun apart if used in the smaller capacity, late production cases.

It goes without saying that the modern, solid-head case is far superior in strength to anything that has been produced in the past. While balloon-head cases have been used at pressures up to 50,000 pounds per square inch, they do not possess as great a margin of safety as their modern counterparts in the higher pressure loads. This is particularly true in the older guns which do not support the case head as well as do the more modern designs. For example, a balloon-head case in an unaltered M-1903 action results in relatively little support for the area of the case where the wall joins the head. The thicker head of modern brass results in much more solid support at this critical point. By the same token the so-called "safety breeching" of the latest Remington and Winchester bolt action designs, completely surrounds this critical area of the case, resulting in a much stronger combination.

As stated in the beginning, the cartridge case is the heart of not only handloading per se, but of the modern firearm. The reloadable, metallic case, as we know it today, has been with us only a relatively short time somewhat less than a century. What we have today may look exactly like what was in use in the 1870's and '80's, but it has been improved tremendously. Improvements have been not only in design, but in the quality of materials, efficiency of tooling, and standards of quality that a newer technology enables manufacturers to maintain. So don't pass over that case lightly—it is a most important single component you will use.







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# THE ADMINISTRATION MAY SUPPORT NEW GUN BILL

As expected, the anti-gun bills were re-introduced at the start of the 90th Congress. Sen. Thomas Dodd again offered his bill, which had died last session before the Judiciary Committee. Over on the House side, the expected re-introduction of similar bills also occurred.

Not expected was the omission for the so-called Dodd Bill, actually written by the Administration, of the backing of the President. Mr. Johnson's "State of the Union Message" on January 10 did not even call for legislation "such as the Dodd bill," which was the case last session. This time the President called only for "strict controls on the sales of firearms."

Washington lawmakers take the new language to mean one of two things: Either the President is willing to accept whatever Congress chooses to write into law, or the Executive Branch has a new bill up its sleeve. The latter looks more realistic.

There has been at work for some time a "National Crime Commission," created by the President to make recommendations on crime prevention. The Commission has now submitted its recommendations to the President. Over a year ago, this GUNS contributor asked the Commission Chairman, the then-Attorney General, Nicholas DeB. Katzenbach, if gun legislation would be part of the Commission's recommendations. He said it would. Now, sources inside the Commission will say only that the whole Commission considered the question of more gun legislation and that nothing further can be said until the President releases the Commission's final report.

So the whole Commission, not a group of Commission members, considered this portion of anti-crime recommendations. This means the now second man in the State Department, Katzenbach, chaired the proceedings. With Katzenbach in the driver's seat, it is reasonable to assume more gun legislation will be part of the Commission's final report.

Up on Capitol Hill, the start of Congress saw little anti-gun activity other than the introduction of last year's bills. The only real activity, as predicted in previous issues of GUNS, was Dodd's getting his reintroduced bill again referred to Judiciary instead of the Commerce Committee where it ordinarily belongs.

This maneuvering started while Congress was in adjournment. Regular readers will recall that last session Dodd had the gun bills referred to Judiciary. Previous to this, he had been critical of Commerce's not moving gun bills. Dodd also succeeded in getting the gun bills further referred to his Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee for hearings. After nearly two years of consideration, his Subcommittee then referred the so-called Dodd bill, the most restrictive measure pending before it forward for full Committee consideration.

The full Judiciary Committee refused to go along with the harsh measure and instead referred the nowfamed Hruska compromise to the Commerce Committee for a quick look-see. Then Congress adjourned and the bill died.

During adjournment, Commerce had tentative plans to hold hearings. Sen. Dodd, however, wrote to Commerce requesting the Committee not take any action until he again held hearings on the need for gun legislation; Commerce acquiesced.

After Dodd re-introduced his bill this session, he then persuaded Commerce to again refer the bill to Judiciary. We now have the same situation as last Congress-only Sen. Dodd is not expected to take any action until the President releases the Crime Commission report.

The ground rules have been somewhat changed, however. An ardent anti-gun supporter and former member of the Dodd Sub-committee, Sen. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) has resigned from his post on Judiciary to accept an appointment on the more important Appropriations Committee. Replacing him is the ardent friend of the shooting sportsman, and former-Democrat, Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.). So it is two votes for our side; Dodd has lost a supporter and gained an opponent.

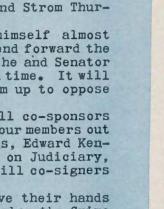
The Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee now consists of the following members: (Chairman) Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.), Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.), Birch E. Bayh (D-Ind.), Quentin Burdick (D-N.D.), Joseph D. Tydings (D-Md.), Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), Roman L. Hruska (R-Neb.), Hiram L. Fong (R-Hawaii), and Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.).

Last session, Sen. Hruska found himself almost alone when the Subcommittee voted to send forward the restrictive Dodd bill. This session, he and Senator Thurmond should have themselves quite a time. It will be interesting to see how the two team up to oppose Dodd.

Interesting is the comparison of bill co-sponsors and Senators on Dodd's Subcommittee. Four members out of a total of nine signed-Dodd, Tydings, Edward Kennedy, and Fong. If Javits were still on Judiciary, there would be a majority of anti-gun bill co-signers on the subcommittee.

Still, Thurmond and Hruska will have their hands full. The action is expected to start when the Crime Commission's Report becomes available.





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# A GUNS Magazine Exposé





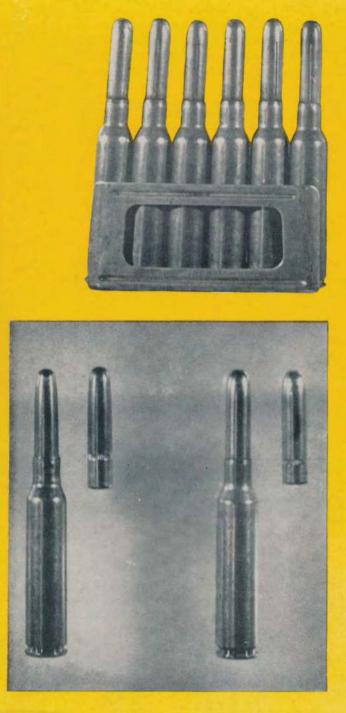
# By SHELLEY BRAVERMAN

An evaluation of the investigation into the assassination of John F. Kennedy, as related to firearms and forensic ballistics

# EDITOR'S NOTE

\*

The author, Shelley Braverman, is well known to readers of GUNS Magazine for his regular column, "An Inside Look," and his participation on our "Panel of Experts." However, probably not many readers are aware of his extensive background as a firearms consultant. Braverman has acted as a qualified firearms expert in more than 100 court cases in the U.S. and abroad. He is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the International Association for Identification. His private laboratory is furnished with a reference collection of about 300 firearms, a complete optical section with four microscopes and specialized camera equipment, and a research library of more than 1,000 books and publications. Braverman is author of the section of the Encyclopaedia Britannica "Criminal Investigation; Firearms."



# Is this the bullet that killed Kennedy?

Above: Mitrgliada bullet shown in cutaway case (left), and the bullet opened, exposing "cannister" contents. Lead cylinders weigh 40-45 grains, and are composed of two sections, which sometimes separate (see bottom pair). Top section is either lead, hardened with antimony, or is sometimes jacketed. Complete bullet weighs 263 gr.

Left: Original 6.5 Carcano case (left) "re-bulleted" with soft nose hunting bullet—without resizing. Next to this is a Western 6.5 Carcano case with military bullet. Full clip of Mitrgliadas shown at top, left.

The assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy on November 22, 1963, was a cruel and shocking act of violence directed against a man, a family, a nation, and against all mankind.

WITH THESE WORDS, the "President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy" began its report—some 883 pages of fact, speculation, error, and theory. The Warren Commission, created to "evaluate all the facts and circumstances surrounding the assassination . . . "will long be remembered—not for what its report contained, but for what it omitted; not for the questions it answered, but for those it left unanswered; not for the mysteries it solved, but for those it created. The usual way to handle a "hot potato" that has political angles is to appoint a committee and ride out the storm. This was done in the Sacco-Vanzetti case (the Lowell Committee) and in the more recent Pearl Harbor scandal (the Roberts Committee).

The Kennedy assassination triggered the Warren Commission, which wasted little time in turning on the stupidity. In its clumsy efforts to calm more than half of the civilized world, it dropped the ball—and this fumble raised more questions than it answered—thus the Warren Commission joined two famous predecessors as failures.

The very real tragedy is that its inept gyrations actually worked against its own purpose; obvious errors—if not in fact, at least in judgement—made suspect much which was

# **BACKFIRE!**

originally acceptable. As its study progressed, the Warren Commission encountered evidence that it *felt* was in conflict with its hope for a simple explanation, i.e., that Oswald, alone, was the assassin. Actually, this was not necessary; competent investigation by firearms experts would have made unprofitable much of the illiterate trash spawned by status-seeking "researchers."

Of the many blunders attributed to the Commission's hearings, possibly the greatest dereliction was the failure of the Commission to appoint a vigorous "Devil's Advocate" or cross-examiner. Use of expert witnesses presents terrible dangers, and cross-examination is absolutely essential if truth is to be approached. The witnesses may swear to tell "... the whole truth," etc., but this is limited to the actual questions asked. Expert testimony without crossexamination can result in little more than compurgation. If the expert witnesses had been cross-examined by properly coached counsel, it is more than likely that the shadows now hanging over this mess would have disappeared long ago—particularly in regard to firearms.

When compared to the scope of the investigation—the 10 months of work and the 26 volumes of testimony—the lack of quality and limitations of the firearms intelligence are shocking.

Experts are expert only in their specific fields. A fingerprint expert is an expert on prints, not fingers; for a problem involving fingers one should consult a physician. A firearms identification expert is actually a "bullet print" expert, not a firearms expert. The results of this confusion are sometimes pathetic. In the Sacco-Vanzetti case, an identification expert with 20 years experience did not know how to field strip his own gun, a Colt Pocket Auto! On another occasion, the Commanding Officer of the Ballistics Squad of one of our largest cities did not know that one might look for efflorescence around a primer to distinguish between discharged shells found inside a store and another alleged to have been exposed to the elements for a week.

Contradictions are more apparent than real. Had the Commission retained *firearms* experts in addition to firearms *identification* experts, avenues for study would have been suggested which should have resulted in more—if not complete—clarification and more satisfaction.

When errors are encountered in a report, the entire document becomes suspect immediately; when errors are unwarranted—in that they indicate inefficiency—they are inexcusable.

The Warren Report would have us believe that one bullet -the one and only completely whole bullet in evidencefollowed this course: it entered the President's back (or neck?), bruised the top portion of the right lung and ripped the windpipe as it left. It then entered Governor Connally's back, traversed the chest and shattered his fifth rib, then went on to strike the bone in the Governor's wrist, exit, and enter his thigh. However, upon examination of this bullet, it was found to be in "pristine" condition! This bullet, according to the Report, was found at Parkland Hospital, and "on Governor Connally's stretcher." How easy it might have been to confirm this conclusion-but before this bullet arrived at the FBI Laboratory, "it was washed with Hydrosol, a blood solvent;" thus eliminating any possible attempt at blood tests or groupings which might have determined if it had passed through either the President or Governor Connally, or both-or neither.

To this day, the Warren Commission has not been able to prove exactly how many shots were fired at a President of the United States in broad daylight, in the presence of numerous government officials including trained secret service agents, assorted police personnel, and hundreds of spectators. Two shots have, in the opinion of the Commission, been accounted for; one striking the President and Governor, and the other causing the President's head wound. A third shot is said to have missed, both the car and its occupants. Also, three empty cases from the Carcano rifle were found on the *(Continued on page 56)* 



Left: When reenacting the assassination, why was rifle placed on tripod rather than "gunrest" box? Right: Officer points to spot on ground hit by bullet—or was it really a fragment of a Mitrgliada?



Why was evidence bullet (above) washed before it was sent to FBI Laboratory? How could it have lost only 2.4 grains and left fragments weighing more than three grains in Gov. Connally's wrist?

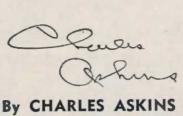
Lt. Day of the Dallas Police is shown carrying evidence rifle. Why did he withhold "Oswald's palmprint" from the FBI for four days? How could rifle, which was described as "not conducive to recording a good print" produce the palmprint reportedly found on barrel?



# A TREATISE on TARGETS

America's standard target is impractical







Both the running deer and running boar targets are increasing in popularity for training and matches.



The military has swung away from the bull'seye target to drab colored silhouette target at unknown distances.





One of the most practical pistol courses is the running man. Here electric power runs Colt's silhouette. The U.S. Border Patrol begins on regular targets, then shifts to silhouettes.

# and hurts our shooters in international competition

ONCE A YEAR the army gets all its best shooters together down at Fort Benning and holds some matches to pick the hotrocks who will journey off to the Nationals at Camp Perry. Among a lot of other events is a 20-shot match at 200 meters, rapid fire, from a comfortable and secure sitting position. This is one of the best matches fired because the distance is about right for combat or game killing; 10 shots have to be banged out in 50 seconds, and during this time the marksman must drop down from standing to sitting, and also must load during the 50-second interlude. For my money it is one of the better events due to its practicality.

When they fired this match there were more than 400 entries, and the fellow who "cleaned it," that is to say came out with a perfect 100 score, was a Private First Class named McGinnis. Twenty bull'seyes is a mighty sweet total. McGinnis let his chest swell a little bit. After all he had never won a big match before and in this one he was contesting against the best in the army.

When the official match bulletin was posted PFC McGinnis was 119th. There were 118 marksmen ahead of him each with a nice, shiny 100 score. The others outranked our hero by virtue of more V-ring hits. The V-ring, let it be explained, is placed within the bullseye and is for settling just such ties as these.

In the match under discussion there were 16 shooters each of whom had 10 V's. There were 19 with 8 V's each; 15 with 7 V's and another 19 with 6 V's each. If you think this may have piled up some problems for the harassed match officials, let me go on to explain that there were also 88 competitors with scores of 99 and 69 with totals of 98 each.

What accounts for all these perfect scores? These nuisance ties that becloud the issue as to just who among the 119 possible scores is really best? The analyst might conclude it was due to the high quality of the marksmen present. But of the 427 entries some 174 gunners had never before attended a shootfest of this caliber.

These were new shooters, greenhorns, tyros, beginners who by reason of turning in some hot totals at home, got to make the Benning trip. Any hasty assumption that the 119 perfect totals were due to the hot quality of the gun pointers in question is not the total truth of the matter.

The facts are the target is too big. It is too often bulbous, the distance is too short and the match is altogether too easy. It represents a soft touch. The skill of today's marksman far outreaches the difficulty of the target. And while the small inner V-ring helps somewhat to settle ties, it is a far cry from the full answer. As indication of this is the fact that innumerable shootoffs had to be scheduled, neither the V-ring nor the application of the old Creedmoor rule sufficed to unscramble the standings.

The present bigbore centerfire bull should be given the one-way ride. It measures 12 inches. Once not too many years ago it was only a 10-incher and was shot at both 200 yards and 300, but the boys got to crying in their beer that it was too tough for the longer distance so the fathers added a couple of inches to the diameter. They might better have gone in the other direction, and shoved a couple of inches off the bull.

The skill of our match shooters has never been so remarkably high. The targets we (Continued on page 70)

# WINCHESTER WAGES WAR!

TO ATTRACT NEW SHOOTERS AND PROMOTE MORE SHOOTING WINCHESTER-WESTERN HAS BEGUN A BATTLE OF THE BULLET



N O, THAT WASN'T a major battle you Florida tourists may have thought you heard last December near Lake Wales in "Sunland, U.S.A.," but there was a lot of shooting! A lot of shooting, a lot of fun—and (Senator Dodd please note!) nary a drop of blood spilled, nary a crime committed, and nary a juvenile delinquent seen!

"Shooting Is Fun For Everyone" is a slogan adopted for the shooting sports a number of years ago, and Winchester is out to prove it. The cannonading that set the Spanish moss to swaying on the live oaks at River Ranch Acres near Lake Wales last December was the culmination of the 1966 campaign of Winchester's "war" to convert nonshooters: the finals of the nation-wide Winchester National Claybird Tournament—a combined trap-and-skeet shoot-out, the preliminary rounds of which were fired at Winchester-franchise gun clubs from Maine to Florida and points west to the Pacific.

This was a competition with a difference, in more ways than one. First, it included shooters from all classifications, from expert to novice, on each team. Scores and averages of all contestants at all the Winchester Franchise Clubs were fed into a Honeywell computer, and shooters were graded in five classes. Top shooter in each class became a member of that club's five-man team. Regional shoots—East, West, Southeast, and Midwest—were held, By E. B. MANN



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Roy Rogers, Governor Burns, and Connie Mack, Jr., chat during a break in the shoot.

Winning team members in the Winchester National Claybird Tournament, Douglas Nurse, Glenn Eubank, Carl Thacker, Jeff Eley, and Connie Metcalf, received Model 21 Winchesters

from Hayden Burns, Governor of Florida. Others attending the tourney included Connie Mack, Jr., and Roy Rogers.



William L. Wallace, Vice President and General Manager of Winchester-Western, spoke at the welcoming banquet.



and the winners of each regional were brought to River Ranch Acres to decide the championship.

Another "leveler" was the requirement that each shooter must be graded on scores from both trap and skeet, and team competition was based on five-gun totals on halftrap, half-skeet shooting. This was a real hurdle, especially for the more expert shooters. Surprising as it may seem to the non-claybird-adict, few trap experts excel at skeet, and few skeet experts excel at trap. Less-than-expert shooters, lacking ingrained prejudices for one sport and against the other, required to shoot both, learn both, can continue both, or can choose the sport they like best.

River Ranch Acres situated some 25 miles out of Lake Wales, Florida, is a sports-slanted residential and hotel community designed and managed by Gulf American Land Corporation. A similar Gulf American development is in operation at Cape Coral, near Fort Myers, on the Florida Gulf Coast.

Coming into the finals in Florida, the favored team was the one from the Columbus (Ohio) Winchester Public Shooting Center, representing the Midwest region. Class 1 shooter for Columbus was Hiram Bradley, a trap shooter with Grand American experience, but who had never shot at a skeet target until midsummer 1966. Two other members of the Columbus team were trap shooters of some competitive experience; one was Garth Henley, age 14, who had been shooting clay targets just 10 months; another was Don Tuggle, who had never shot either trap or skeet until fall, 1966. This wide spread of experience was typical of all the four teams in the finals.

The Northeast regional team represented the Clear View Lodge Public Shooting Center at Greene, New York, and was the only other team which included a registered Amateur Trapshooting Association shooter: Frank Little, who represented the U. S. in the Japan Olympics.

The Southeastern team was from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida —and they were all skeet shooters. Top gun here was Gerald Schuh, who won several national skeet titles in 1965 and was voted that year's Skeet Rookie of the Year.

But it's the score and not the pregame odds that count, and the winner at River Ranch Acres was the four-manone-woman team from the West, representing the Otay Winchester Public Shooting Center at Chula Vista, California: Glen Eubank, Carl Thacker, Jeff Eley, Douglas Nurse, and petitely charming Connie Eubank, the only woman in the national finals. The final scores: West — 1818x2000; East — 1804x2000; Southeast — 1788x2000; and Midwest — 1772x2000. Each of the 20 shooters of four teams in the finals had already won an Olin swimming pool and a trip to England via (Continued on page 75)





NOT TOO MANY YEARS AGO, a hunting rifle was, for most of its owners, just another piece of working equipment. It was usually hung on hooks, on the wall, on the back porch, or stored in a closet in the house. This rifle was the best one available for multiple purposes and was usually a rifle like the .30-30 Winchester '94 or, following World War I, a converted military .30-06.

Guns were, like other tools, seasonal in use. The proper equipment, as far as guns were concerned, mostly consisted of a .22 rim fire rifle, the .30 caliber rifle, used for the larger type game, and a shotgun, nearly always a twelve gauge, either side-by-side double or early slide action, such as a '97 or Model 12 Winchester. These three guns were considered to be a fairly complete set of hunting tools.

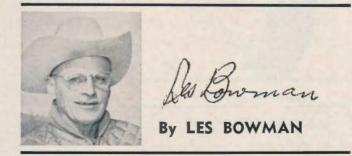
My first .22 was a Stevens, and I had other single shot .22's following this one. My first big game rifle was a Model '94 Winchester carbine, in .25-35 caliber. Marlin rifles were also quite popular and .25-35's, .30-30's, and .32 Specials were all used around my home area, in Humboldt County, California.

This was the time, not long after the turn of the century when our bays and river marshes were alive with ducks and geese of all species. My first shotgun, a used side-byside double hammer gun, which would fly open every time I shot it, was quickly replaced by a new Model '97 Winchester 12 gauge. For my new gun and a case of shells, I was to pay my mother back by killing, cleaning, and selling ducks to town residents. Town was about five miles from our home and I delivered them to the housewives, on foot. Two for a quarter. There was no limit, no license, and very little profit on game birds in those days.

With my .22 Stevens, my Winchester carbine, and my new shotgun, it seemed to me that I owned a regular arsenal. I never dreamed of needing another gun.

Like all youngsters of that day I always did some trapping during the winter months. At the small ranch, in the Trinity mountains, where my trapping partner and I made our headquarters, were several old rifles with loading tools. powder and bullet moulds, etc. These were .40-65, .45-70 and .40-82 calibers. During the winter months we would amuse ourselves by loading for these guns and shooting at a rock and clay bank, some 400 to 500 yards away. across the Trinity River. These black powder guns were sure slow. We would shoot and take the gun down from our shoulder before we would hear the bullet hit. We never did use these heavy, black powder guns of the 1880's

Over the years American hunters have favored the 94 Winchester, Remington's 721, the Savage 99, Winchester's M70, and the Remington M600.



for game, preferring our modern, flat shooting .25-35 and .32 Special. Even at this early age I liked the flatter, faster, smaller caliber the best.

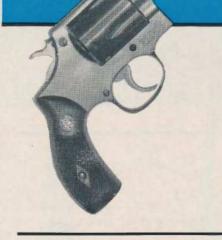
We had a great many bear in northern California, but only the black bear was now left, as the big California Grizzly had long ago been killed off. These huge bear had been called the golden bear in southern California but up around my home they had been known as a cinnamon bear.

Most of these bear were fairly small, 125 to 175 pounds being average, as I remember. Occasionally, one of 500 or more pounds would be killed. The largest I ever saw was run by hounds and brought to bay by the dogs, who belonged to Lee Murphy, the leading bear-dog and cougardog man in our area at that time. It weighed 615 pounds on the barnyard balance scales. We got 15 gallons of pure fat from it and wasted more than this. I killed this bear with my .25-35 at just a few feet distance. He was too fat and heavy to run fast or far. During those years I killed many bear. They were considered predators and were not protected. The .25-35 proved to be a sure killer at the ranges at which I used it (mostly under 100 yards).

We also had a large cougar population in our country and we hunted these with dogs, the year around. Airedales were one of the most popular cat dogs at this time and I had several that were excellent on both cougar and bear. I used my .25-35 on the cougar and also for the large lynx cat, the wildcat and the bob cats, native to this area. Smaller animals were killed with the .22.

My experiences with guns in those days was fairly typical of all the young hunters in this country. Some of them had smaller calibers, like the .25-20 or .32-20, but they nearly all had a .22 rim fire, too. This caliber was used to kill rabbits, as this game animal was shot for food and our mothers wouldn't cook one that had been killed with a shot gun.

The gun world of today is greatly changed from those days. The .22 Long Rifle now does a better job than our old .25-20's or .32-20's did in those days, with the loads we had to use. The .22 caliber (really a .224 caliber) center fire rifle, in many car- (Continued on page 67)



# **New Products**

J. M. Bucheimer, Frederick, Md., has just announced their new "Hank Sloan" adjustable holster. Welt is adjustable to assure a tight grip on the gun even after years of wear.

Ammodyne, P.O. Box 1589, Los Angeles, Calif., has a new space age coating for guns that defies rust and corrosion. Called "Gun Kote," this product



protected a new shotgun which had been submerged in salt water for six months. It's not a simple wipe-on process, but well worth the effort.

F. Morton Pitt Co., 1444 S. San Gabriel Blvd., San Gabriel, Calif., is distributing the new telescopic "Titan Taper." This is a versatile defensive



weapon which can be used as a judo stick when closed and a baton when fully extended. Simple buggy whip action extends the baton to over 16 inches. Price is under \$10.

# GUNS and

# SIMULATING COMBAT CONDITIONS

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

The following is excerpted from "Crowd and Riot Control" by Col. Rex Applegate. This is one of the Colonel's pet projects, and one that he feels is a real test of a man's ability to face adversaries under conditions of stress. Strong men have been known to emerge from the "House of Horrors" with ashen faces and clothes wringing wet with perspiration. "Crowd and Riot Control" is published by Stackpole Books at \$6.95.

T HE CONDITIONS OF actual close-quarter combat with handguns nique necessary—are as follows. (1) In most cases, the time to take an aimed shot will not be available, and the handgun ordinarily will be used at distances of 50 feet or less; (2) The light necessary to see and use the sights (if the time were available), is not always sufficient; (3) The grip on the weapon is a convulsive one, because of combat tension; and (4) The instinctive position assumed by a handgun user in a fire fight will usually be an aggressive forward crouch. Most or all of these conditions are usually present in every case in which handguns are used by men shooting at each other. It follows, then, that systems of practice and practical ranges should be developed, to give the shooter actual experience in combat shooting.

be developed, to give the shooter actual experience in combat shooting. Silhouettes. Silhouettes are facsimiles of men. If the primary objective of handgun training is to teach men to shoot men, these silhouettes should be the principal type targets used. They should be placed, and fired at, on ranges that simulate all foreseeable conditions under which a soldier or law enforcement officer would ordinarily use his weapon.

After being trained in combat firing on silhouette targets—under all possible light, terrain, and other conditions—and after he has had shooting training on a range of the type to be described, the student no longer will harbor doubts as to why he should receive training in combat firing. He will realize that there is a vast difference between being able to hit a stationary bull'seye target, at a given number of yards and under ideal conditions and being able to hit a target that shoots back.

**Results of Practical Range Training.** The practical handgun range described below, known as the "House of Horrors," was in operation over a two-year period. During this time several thousand handgun shooters, of all degrees of training and experience, fired over it. A study of the records led to the following conclusions: (1) That target shooting proficiency alone is not enough to equip the average man for combat, where the handgun is his primary weapon. (2) That the instinctive-pointing technique of combat firing is the best all-around method of shooting the handgun without the aid of sights. (3) That this type range is a reliable test of the combat effectiveness of all the known techniques of handgun shooting without the aid of sights. (4) That there must be greater appreciation, by most training officers, of the physical and psychological effects of combat tension upon the handgun user. In addition to the changes in established techniques which were demonstrated, those shooters who were psychologically unsuited for combat or who had the wrong kind of temperament were discovered.

**Constructing a Practical Range.** If an old unused basement or a warehouse of medium size is available, a good combat range can be constructed at very little expense, using local materials. The first precaution, naturally, is to make the walls and ceiling bullet proof against the caliber gun to be fired. This can be done by adding 5 or 6 inches of rough planking to the walls or ceiling, or by sand bags, or by a dirt filling inside a wood retaining wall.

In this range, at irregular intervals, place bobbing silhouette targets, stationary silhouette targets, and actual dummies. These can be painted to resemble men and can easily be set up, using hinges, springs, and trip latches, so that they pop out, or up, by pulling a cord or wire control. Steps, movable floor sections, or similar innovations may be built into this basement. Passageways, made of scrap lumber or burlap hung from the ceiling, can be built in or installed, to give realistic close-quarter effects such as might be found in a house, alleyway, or basement. The silhouette targets may be placed at appropriate intervals, in conjunction with what-

# the LAW



Instructor retains body contact with trainee over entire course.

ever built-in effect it is desired to simulate. The result, naturally, should be that which the students expect to encounter most frequently. General lighting effects should be dim, so that only outlines are visible. A sound effect system of amplifiers and records can be installed, if available, and can be coordinated with the targets. Guns which fire blanks at the shooter can be put into dummies. Other innovations which help to create combat tension and realism can be installed. The possibilities, in building a range of this type, are almost endless, largely depending upon the available local materials and the ingenuity of the builder.

A word of caution here. The tendency to use boobytraps, false floors and other trick devices, such as are found in a carnival "fun house," should be avoided. These trick devices can defeat the purpose of the range.

Described in the following pages is one such range (The House of Horrors), constructed and used for the successful training of large groups of men for specialized military duty. The basic floor plan took its shape simply because of the original construction of the only available basement, which consisted of three separate compartments. The floor is dirt and the original rock walls and pillars are covered by 6 inches of dirt held in by a wooden form made of 2-inch planking. The training weapons used in this range were standard .38 Spl. revolvers, the .45 cal. automatic, and the Colt Ace.

In all cases the shooter is accompanied by an instructor, who guides him through the course and makes comments or makes corrections during the shooting sequences and immediately after they occur.

Let's follow a shooter who, in this case, is armed with a .22 cal. Colt Service Ace. First, he is brought into a small room at the head of the stairs, indicated in the lower left in diagram. He is seated in a chair and left alone in this room, which has dim lighting. He is given a knife and sheath to strap on, and is told to read the following instructions:

You are equipped with a pistol, 24 rounds of ammunition and a fighting knife. Upon these weapons your life depends as you go down into the darkness. Below are twelve of our enemies awaiting you as you make your way along. You will fire at these enemies in bursts of two shots. You will use your knife at appropriate times.

You will fire directly to your front, to your left, or to your right. You will never fire to your rear. A coach will follow immediately behind you to act as your guide and confessor.

Are you one of the quick or one of the dead?

If you come out alive, please tell no

There are no boobytraps, collapsible stairs or trick devices in the darkness below. Just enemies who shoot back!

(Continued on page 65)



## **Reloading Problem**

Recently an order was issued by our Superintendent limiting us to the use of cartridges for our .38 caliber revolvers having a muzzle velocity no greater than 1000 fps, with bullets of the round nosed, solid type, factory loaded.

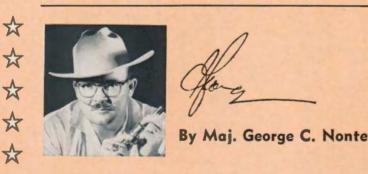
Police officers of our city have found themselves face to face with armed felons and were required to shoot these persons. This usually required several rounds of the type cited to incapacitate the subject involved. Many of us believe these loads are inadequate. I have noticed a trend which is developing in many police departments, which appear to be leaning away from factory loaded ammu-nition. We have read that some departments are experimenting with the use of hollow point and soft point bullets with regular and "beefed-up" loads. Could you give us any information about the merits of these and any personal opinions you may have on F. P. P. this subject?

#### New Orleans, La.

Your problem is one we encounter frequently. In order to stay as close to the letter of your departmental directives as possible, I suggest that you obtain a mould for the 200 grain, round nose, Lyman bullet No. 35875. Cast the bullet rather soft, about one part tin to twenty of lead, and size it to groove diameter of the barrel. Load this with a charge of 6 grains of Hercules Unique. Crimp the case mouth heavily on the bullet, or you might wind up with a bullet working its way forward out of the case. This load will give you approximately 950 fps. muzzle velocity. The soft bullet will expand some, and its weight will give it maximum penetration. I do not recommend that you use this load in any of the light two-inch barreled guns.

Frankly, I think your department is taking a very short lighted view of the whole thing. By far the best manstopping results are produced with a lighter, soft point or hollow point bullet at about 1200 fps.—Dave Wolfe

# A MILITARY A SELF-LOADERS A FOR A CIVILANS



THIS IS THE DAY of the self-loader—the automatic, if you will—the thunderstick that spits out bullets just as fast as the shooter can work the trigger. Centerfire, high power, self-loading rifles have been with us for better than half a century. Even so, their use did not become really widespread until well after World War II.

The early self-loading designs may have been entirely suitable for sporting use, but they simply could not meet the rigorous demands of military service. Consequently, it wasn't until the mid-1930's that acceptable military designs were finally developed. In 1936 the United States adopted the U.S. Rifle, Cal. .30, M-1 (Garand), and in 1938 the U.S.S.R. began issue of the Tokarev M-1938. Both arms developed considerable teething troubles, though such trials and tribulations are not well remembered by the general public today. Though the M-1 was rapidly improved and millions saw service in the next two wars, the Tokarev faded from the scene after about a decade.

Though the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. were the first to adopt really suitable self-loaders, all of the world's major powers had been hard at work on the same problem for many a year. In spite of its reputation for small arms excellence, Germany did not produce a really successful military selfloader until well into WW II—the G-43, sometimes called K-43. Neither was Great Britain successful in producing one, though some of the smaller powers produced a few experimentally. On the other hand, the U.S. produced the Johnson, recoil-operated, infantry rifle which was sold in considerable quantity to the Netherlands during the war. Consequently, only two self-loaders fought to any extent in WW II—the M-1 on our side, and the G-43 among the German military forces.

Because of its many advantages which had become so obvious during the big war, development of the self-loading military rifle was persued assidiously by virtually every government after WW II. The FN SAI, produced earlier in very small quantities by Belgium, crystallized into an excellent gas-operated gun, and was adopted by the Belgian government. It was also sold abroad, particularly to Arab and Latin American nations. The basic design involved was soon revised into a completely new Belgian design known as the FAL. In a relatively short time this rifle (FAL) became the most widely distributed new design in the free world. Spanish interests further developed German wartime ideas into the CETME rifle, which is now being produced in considerable quantity. France in 1949, Above: German G-43 mounted with a ZF-4 scope. Below: Garand was used by U.S. in two wars.

> Top: The recoil-operated, rotary-magazine Johnson M1941 made for the Netherlands. Bottom: FN M1949 for Egyptian contract is one of several models seeing wide service.

# CHARACTERISTICS

	Garand	G-43	FN M-1949	Ljungman	MAS 49	Johnson	Tokarev
Caliber	.30-06	7.92 mm	7, 7.65, 7.92 mm,	6.5, 7.92 mm	7.5 mm	.30-06	7.62 mm
Length	43.6"	44"	43.7"	47.8"	43.3"	45.87"	48.1"
Barrel Length	24"	22"	23.2"	24.5"	22.8"	22"	24.6"
Weight	9.5 lb.	9.5 lb.	9.48 lb.	10.4 lb.	10.4 lb.	9.5 lb.	9 lb.
Feed	strip clip	det. box	fixed box	det. box	det. box	fixed rotary	det. box
Capacity	8	10	10	10	10	10	10
Operation	gas	gas	gas	gas	gas	recoil	gas
Locked By	rot. bolt	flaps in bolt	tip-bolt	tip-bolt	tip-bolt	rot. bolt	tip-bolt
Sights	aperture	open	aperture	open	aperture	aperture	open
Stock	wood	plywood	wood	wood	two-piece wood	two-piece wood	wood
Muzzle Velocity	2805	2550 fps.	various	various	2705 fps.	2770 fps.	2756 fps.
Bullet Weight	150 gr.	198 gr.	various	various	139 gr.	150 gr.	148 gr.

# SELF-LOADERS

finally adopted the MAS-49 self-loader, which had a severe case of the uglies but was (and is) a very efficient design. Great Britain, in conjunction with Fabrique Nationale, developed and produced limited quantities of the EM-2 in .280 cal. Perhaps unfortunately, that unique weapon soon dropped from the scene-a victom more of politics than technology. Sweden began to produce an earlier-designed rifle based on Ljungmann designs. It was adopted domestically, and sold to some extent among Arab nations. Italy, possessed of large stocks of M-1 rifles and production facilities for same, elected to further develop the basic gun into a much improved product known as the BM-59. This gun could not only be built from scratch, utilizing some M-1 production facilities, but could be produced by converting existing M-1 rifles-at considerably less cost. In the U.S., many new designs and ideas were extensively tested, however, the M-1 Garand was eventually much further into a lighter, more efficient arm now known at the M-14.

This has resulted in the world's greatest powers being armed today with second—or third—generation, selfloading military rifles, usually possessing some degree of selective-fire capability. This hurried turnover in basic infantry rifles that followed WW II (and has continued since) has resulted in significant quantities of military self-loading rifles becoming surplus to the requirements of their original owners.

Consequently, many, many thousands of such surplus rifles have been imported into this country and sold on the open market. Where fast-firers were once as common as a martini at a temperance luncheon, today one may run into ex-military self-loaders in the smallest hamlet of the land. And that brings up the real subject of this disertation—the characteristics and general desirability of those miltary self-loaders which are or have been available on the open market in this country.

Probably the most common model offered for sale is the M-1 Garand. Not only have thousands been sold by surplus dealers, but they have been available from the D.C.M. (Director of Civilian Marksmanship) of the U.S. government to N.R.A. members. Parts have also been readily available, a prime factor in keeping the guns in service.

Basically it is a gas-operated semi-automatic, caliber .30-06, with 8-round "en-bloc" clip type magazine. Unfortunately, the M-1's sold by surplus dealers have varied greatly in condition and quality. While those procured from the D.C.M. have met all government serviceability standards, everything from unsafe junk to perfect new guns have come from surplus channels. Many have been assembled from parts rejected by government inspectors and sold as scrap, others have actually been built up from receivers originally destroyed by cutting them in half. Most receivers thus destroyed were worn beyond hope of repair, and welding them back together certainly doesn't help the original condition. Other M-1's have been made up in whole or in part from parts manufactured privately, often without benefit of proper drawings, specifications, or testing and gauges.

The average owner has no way of telling whether his M-1 is good or bad, aside from (Continued on page 50)



Left: Swedish 7.92 mm Ljungman. Center: A German G-41 by Walther. Right: Tokarev M-38 is similar to the M-40.

# IS AN UNLOADED GUN A DEADLY VEAPON?

The Legal Aspects Of Pointing An Unloaded Gun

By JOHN WARREN GILE

MOST PROPILS TODAY its not have the same comto their lass and propils are being separated to be a last first lass the very last are being separated to a last last last property, and even that provide state of the last property and even that provide state of the last property and even that provide state interacting which are not in the last the experiments in last provide the pendan state after personant of damater the provide state in the last the experiments in last provide the pendan state after personant damater the pendant of the the last the United States that provide an an exclude gue at a penson for a damatic provide the pendant is an exclusive gue at a penson for a damatic provide state to an exclusive gue at a penson for a damatic provide a pull contents.

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the approximation of the bracket to affect a resonance from between breadil and here weakers, in the hope that it would result in a reconstitution between him and his with Recommend Wills pressness was made.

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# **GUNS OF ANNIE OAKLEY**



As a young "old lady" of 50, Annie had lost none of her remarkable shooting skill.

By E. B. MANN

IN 1885, Annie Oakley and her husband, Frank Butler, joined "Buffalo Bill's Wild West—The Greatest Show On Earth!" Now, at last, Annie found her small feet firmly planted on the stairs to greatness.

Whatever else he may have been, William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody was a great showman and one of the great publicity men of all time —on a par, in fact, with P. T. Barnum and Samuel Colt. Convinced that the Legend of the Great American West was a saleable commodity and that he himself was the colorful epitome of it, Cody built a "circus" of rough riders, Indians, and gunmen straight out of that legend. In Annie and her shooting wizardry, Cody saw a unique attraction: a woman —better still, a lady—more skillful than men with tools men thought were for men only, her prettiness and charm framed like rare flowers against the rough wild-western backdrops, each emphasizing the other by contrast. How the papers would love it!

They did love it, and so did the crowds. Annie Oakley was a sensation.

Cynics, then and since, have sneered at the Buffalo Bill-Annie Oakley shooting stunts as fakery. "Why, heck," they say disdainfully, "they used *salt* in their cartridges instead of bullets! *Anybody* could do what they did, with that kind of ammo!"

They should try it! Actually, Cody and Annie (and every other exhibition shooter who performed indoors or under tent canvas, used not salt but extremely fine shot in their rifle and pistol cartridges—thus transforming rifled guns of .22 to .45 caliber into "shot-

PART TWO

# TOURING THE WORLD WITH BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST SHOW, ANNIE BECAME AMERICA'S SHOOTING AMBASSADOR

guns" of very small bore. This was necessary. After all, what theater or circus owner would permit having bullets shot through his ceiling, or through his Big Top, at every performance? But Annie used these loads only for indoor, or in-tent, aerial shooting, and insisted that the audiences be told that she was using them, and why. Such ammunition is available today, and anyone who has experimented with it knows that it still requires tight grouping! The small charge of pellets, each no bigger than a mustard seed, must connect very quickly if it is to retain force enough to break even a light target; and at such short ranges, it spreads only a few (maybe as much as ten) inches. If hitting aerial targets with these loads, from foot or horseback (as Cody and Annie did), is easy for you, then you should be a champion at trap or skeet, and a bird shooter without peer!

But the performance that brought Annie an unexpected kind of fame was a relatively simple one. It consisted merely of firing a



Specially finished L.C. Smith double has Annie's signature on trigger guard.

quick series of rifle or pistol bullets into a playing card, aiming for the pips. Whether the pips were always hit or not, the card would be spectacularly punctured, and would be given to a customer as a souvenir.

It was the custom in "show business" that complimentary tickets be punched, to distinguish them from paid ducats in totalling the receipts. Sometimes these tickets were used several times, acquiring many punctures. A showman, given such a perforated ticket, remarked, "It looks like one of Annie Oakley's targets!" So Annie had shot her way into the American idiom; for, to this day, free show tickets are often called "Annie Oakleys."

In March, 1887, Buffalo Bill's "Greatest Show On Earth" set sail for England as a part of The American Exhibition at the international, year-long Queen Victoria's Jubilee, prototype of many subsequent "World Fairs." London newspapers and London society were smugly critical of the American Exhibition at first, but neither could long resist the shy manners, the pretty charm, and the shooting skill of Annie Oakley. The Prince of Wales, later King Edward, an ardent outdoor sportsman and gunner, requested a special performance, to which he brought his Princess, their three daughters (Louise, Victoria, and Maude), the Marquis of Lorne and his wife, Princess Louise, the Duke of Cambridge, the Comtesse de Paris, the Crown Prince of Denmark, and numerous Lords and Ladies.

Annie's act delighted the royal party, and she was asked to present herself. The Prince stood as she approached them, and offered his hand. But Annie had been taught the ancient and honorable American custom of ladies first, and she gave her hand first to the Princess. But the Prince was not displeased by this gesture of American independence. Later, Annie shot with Edward and his friends at the royal gun club; and, later still, a letter from the Prince was delivered to Colonel William F. Cody:

"Will the little girl, Annie Oakley, who shoots so cleverly in your show, object to shooting a friendly match with the Grand Duke Michael of Russia? We will arrive at Earl's Court at 10:30 in the morning."

It was a royal command; there was no choice but to accept. But the situation was a ticklish one. The Grand Duke was reputed to be one of the best shots in Russia or in all Europe. He was in England, according to wide-spread rumor which British newspapers showed no hesitancy in printing, to establish closer ties between Russia and England by negotiating a marriage between himself and Princess Victoria, the daughter of Prince Edward of England.

Buffalo Bill Cody, the publicity-minded diplomat, urged Annie to let the Duke win. Annie refused. "If he's as good as they say, he may beat me; but not if I can help it!"

It has been reported that those in charge of that match "screwed the traps down to 65 yards, to make it a real test." This would not mean that targets would be hit at that distance, but it would mean extremely fast-flying targets, to which both shooters would have to adjust if they were to win.

Soon after Frank (Continued on page 62)

IN DESIGNING AND MANUFACTURING THEIR MODEL 210 HAMMERLI MAY VERY WELL HAVE PRODUCED THE . . .

# WORLD'S Hottest Rapid-fire Pistol

By C. GEORGE CHARLES



To clear the slide for cleaning, first remove rear sight, drop barrel weight, and ease slide back off frame and then forward.

HAVE YOU EVER stood on the sidelines of an important match and watched a competitor rap out five very fast shots into five different targets in a mere four seconds? If not, you've missed something. International Rapid-Fire is the name of the game, and in my considered opinion, it is the most demanding of both man and gun, and the most exciting phase of competitive handgun shooting to be found today. A fellow has to stand out there in front of God and everybody and fire 60 shots in five-shot strings-a third of them at five different targets in 8 seconds, a third in 6 seconds, and a third in 4 seconds. And there is no way to fudge a point here and there, the targets being faced toward the shooter for only the prescribed periods of time-and "skidders" are likely to be scored as misses. One miss out of all that 60 rounds puts you near the bottom of the list, no matter how high your nu-

merical score might be. Anyone without a miss ranks ahead of you.

It wouldn't be quite right to say that the Swiss firm of Hammerli has a monopoly on International Rapid-Fire guns, yet it is a matter of record that its guns have made remarkably good showings over the years. Hammerli Models 206 and 207, as well as some earlier models, have long been popular for this game. But now the Swiss boys at Lenzburg have really gone all out in producing a highly specialized gun possessing virtually every feature one might desire for this demanding type of shooting. The result is the new Hammerli Model 210, which lies, though somewhat sullied by powder smoke, gleaming on my desk as this is written.

It is not a totally new design, representing rather a number of intriguing refinements applied to the basic design of

## Hämmerti

The Hammerli Model 210 is a pleasing eyeful, despite an all-business design approach.

the 206-which in turn followed closely the design of earlier Walther .22 Rimfire "Olympia" target pistols.

Because of the rapidity of fire required at different targets, International Rapid-Fire Shooting calls for a gun with special characteristics: minimum recoil; minimum muzzlejump; minimum disturbance as recoiling parts slam back into battery; and weight and balance that allow it to be easily and surely shifted from target to target in small fractions of a second. The Hammerli 210, chambered for the .22 Rimfire Short cartridge, appears to meet those conditions admirably.

Examining those characteristics above, let's see how this gun measures up. Recoil: Use of the .22 Short in a gun weighing 2.6 pounds holds recoil energy and velocity down well. In addition, the 210 barrel is fitted with 6 individual, circular gas ports in top of the barrel just ahead of the chamber. These ports go completely through into the rifled bore, and half are threaded for plug screws. A tap is furnished for those who might want to plug all six. Consequently, it is possible to have all ports open, all ports closed, or any combination thereof-the purpose being to bleed off powder gases, reducing velocity of the bullet which of course reduces recoil. By experimentation, one can quite easily determine just what velocity and recoil level will produce the best results with a particular shooting technique. In regard to muzzle-jump, there is a large, clamp-on type compensator (Continued on page 72)





for reaction to gases measuring % by one inch.



AS WEAPON DEVELOPMENT progressed from the wheel lock to the flintlock, the obsession for more and more firepower grew. Every avenue was covered in man's search for a firearm with greater power than the single shot. The inventive minds added another barrel, then another. Of the many multi-barrel firearms designs, those shown in this month's color gallery are neither unique nor are they typical; let us say that they are representative. All of the guns shown are from the collection of Frank Bivens; color photography by Dick Friske.

#### FACING PAGE

These two French flintlocks have brass frames and barrels. The upper pistol utilizes a single lock to fire the barrels, which are rotated by hand. The lower pistol has a single lock and hammer, but a separate frizzen and pan for each of the three barrels; these, too, are rotated by hand.

#### **CENTER SPREAD**

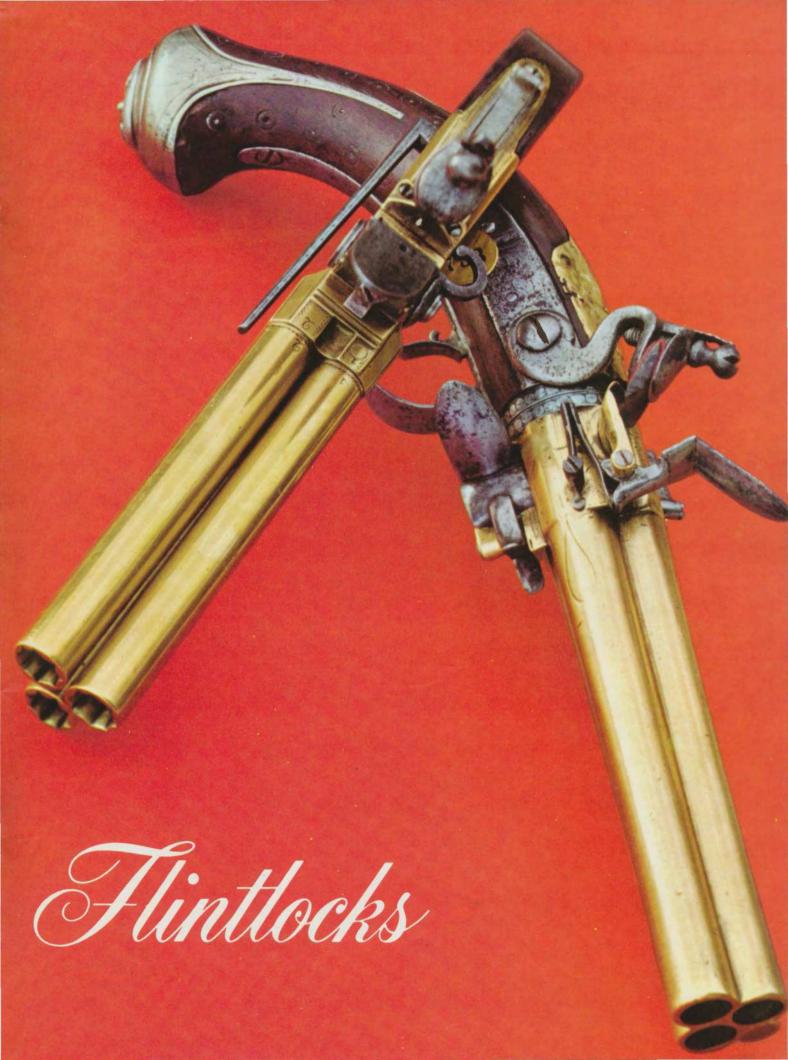
The French four-barrel pistol (top) has two hammers and two triggers. The swivel, cannon-shaped barrels are easily removed for fast loading. The English four-barrel pistol (center) is signed "Henshaw-London." This type changes fire position by way of a lever on left side of the frame. The three-shot English pistol (bottom) is of a cloverleaf pattern. Lever on left side of frame changes fire from one barrel to another by a roller flash-pan bottom.

#### **BACK PAGE**

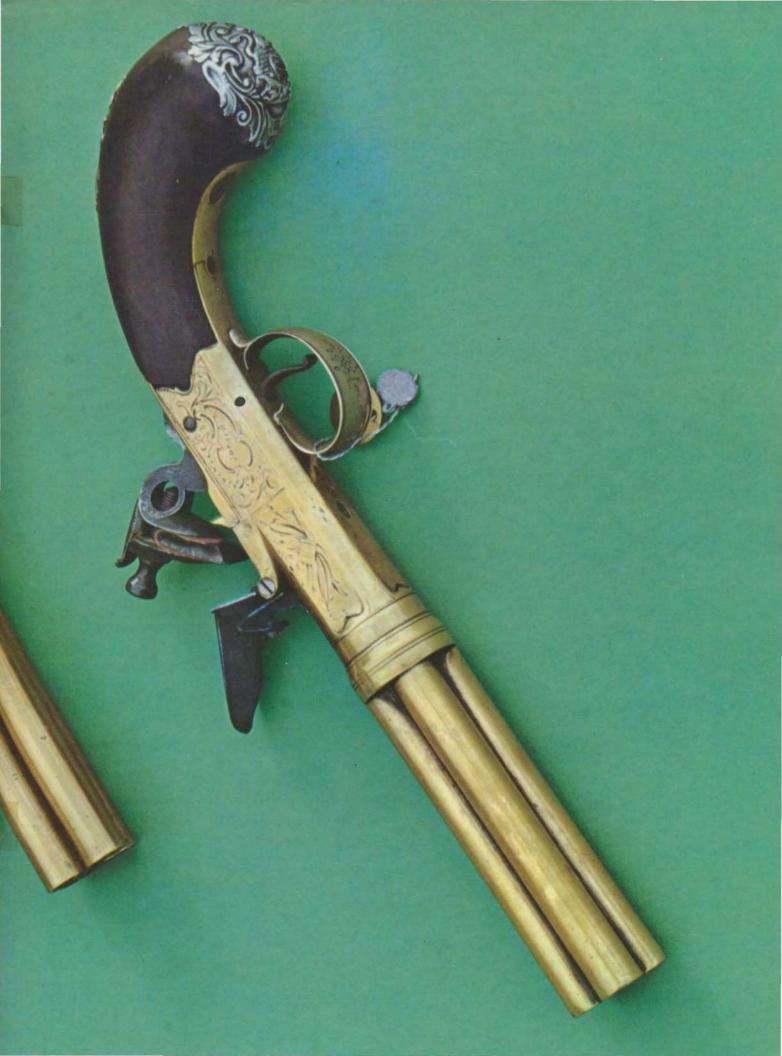
These two "duckfoot" flintlock pistols are truly volley guns; all four barrels fire at the same time. Upper pistol is signed "Tickers-Chester." The rare brass barrel and frame pistol (bottom) is signed "Palmer-Rochester."

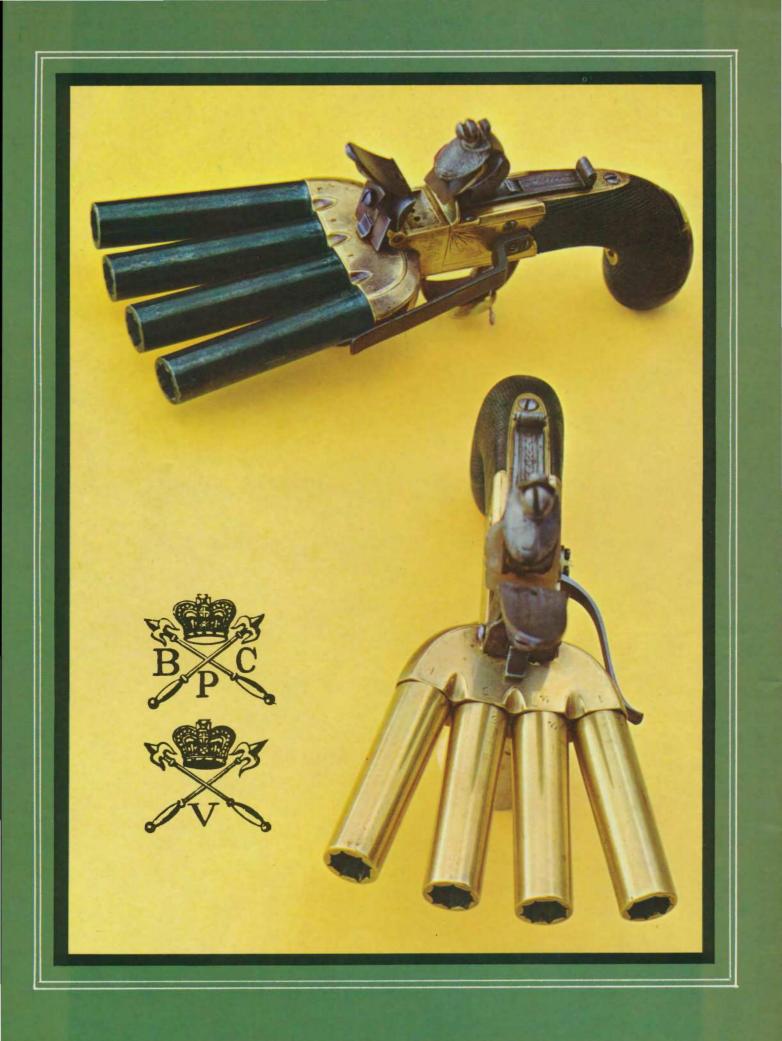
## GUNS COLOR GALLERY

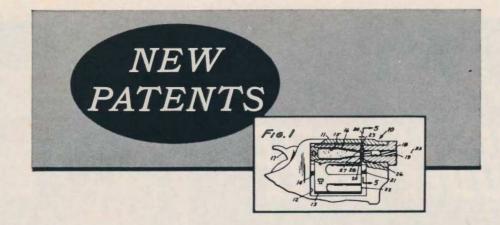
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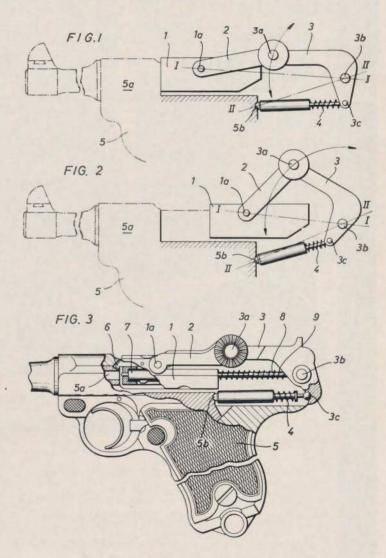




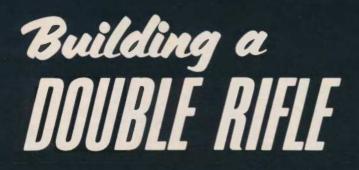


1. A firearm comprising a body, a barrel in said body having a mouth, a breech block slidably mounted on said body adjacent the mouth of said barrel, toggle linkage means connected to said block and to said body and having extended and retracted positions for moving the breech block respectively between closed and open positions, and closure spring means connected to said linkage means and urging the latter to its extended position, said toggle linkage means comprising a front lever having a pivotal connection with said block, and a bellcrank lever pivotally connected to said front lever and having a pivotal connection with said body, the pivotal connection between the bellcrank lever and the front lever being disposed above a line joining the pivotal connection between the front lever and block and the pivotal connection between the bellcrank lever and the body when the linkage means is in extended position, the pivotal connection between the front lever and the bellcrank lever moving upwardly and away from said line as the linkage means moves to its retracted position, said closure spring means pivotally bearing against said body and having pivotal connection with the bellcrank lever at a location below a line joining the pivotal connection between the bellcrank lever and the body and the location where the closure spring means pivotally bears against the body such that as the linkage means moves to its retracted position, the spring means is compressed to increase the force by which it urges the linkage means to extended position whereas the line of action of said force is moved closer to the pivotal connection between the bellcrank lever and the body whereby the moment exerted by the spring means on the bellcrank lever tending to urge the linkage means to extended position remains substantially constant for all positions of the linkage means.

3,220,310 BREECH CLOSURE FOR FIREARMS Josef Eder, Dachau, Germany, assignor to Erma-Werke Waffen- und Maschinenfabrik G.m.b.H., Dachau, Germany, a corporation of Germany



To get a copy of patent, send the number and 50<sup>4</sup> to the Commissioner of Patents, Woshington 25, D.C. To communicate with an inventor or assignee, if the address given is insufficient, send a letter to him in care of the Commissioner mentioning the patent number.



IS THE PINNACLE OF THE GUNMAKER'S ART WHEN PERFORMED BY HOLLAND & HOLLAND

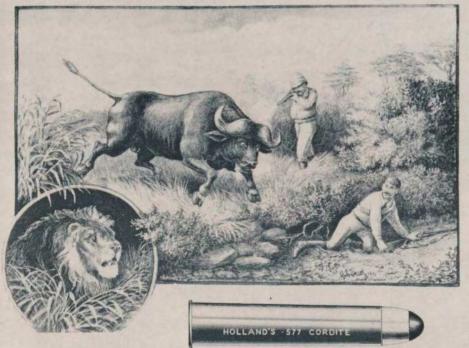
By LOUIS C. KLEBER



#### HOLLAND & HOLLAND LTD.

## Special '577 Double Express Rifles

For Bison, Lion, Rhino, and all the larger kinds of Game. Made for Cordite or Black Powder to order.



Velocity 1950 F.S., Striking Energy 5485 ft. The

This is one of the most powerful Express Rifles made, firing 90 grains of condite, and a  $n_{30}$  grain nickel coated bullet, weight of title about (z, to, z) thus. We have supplied these rifles to most of the sparting expeditions that have solution in various parts of Africa and other countries during recent years, and the reports we have received of their performances have been highly satisfactory. Also made to shoot 6 or  $\gamma$  drams of black powder and 5 to grain bullet.

This special rifle was first made to the order of the late. Sir Samuel Baker, and has received great momentation from him, and most others of the leading "big game" sportsmen,

PRICES. Same as 1430 rifles page 16.

Winners of all "The Field" Rifle Trials, London.

Catalog page dating from before WW I shows an enormous 5485 ft./lbs. as the striking energy for Holland & Holland's .577 Nitro Express.

CAFARI IN AFRICA, shikar in India, hunting the most S dangerous game in the world—it is hardly possible to discuss the subject without also discussing the double rifle.

Despite the considerable cost, ownership of a fine double has been the ambition of many who want and prize the best in firearms. It has never been a mass-produced weapon, and if it is to reach a standard anywhere near the doubles made by England's foremost gunmakers such as Holland & Holland and Purdeys, then it simply must remain a handmade product of genuine craftsmen. Today, outside of England, double rifles are made only in Germany and Austria.

With the opening of Africa and India it was necessary to construct a rifle which could deliver a large bullet with sufficient velocity to cope with elephant, buffalo, rhino, lion, and other highly dangerous game. The first men to face such animals with double rifles were armed with the then available flintlocks.

Prior to 1800 a very few were made in England. Ex-

price. Just recently an excellent example by John Dickson & Son sold for £135 (\$380.00) in London. This rifle was a 12 bore side by side with 30" damascus barrels, engraved, and weighed just over 12 pounds.

Testimony to the double's reliability, perhaps the most vital factor of all, and effectiveness are not hard to find. It has always been the favorite of the professional white hunter. Sutherland, Major "Miguu" Anderson, and Rossi preferred the .577 double. A. B. Anderson favored a .450/ 400 and Simpson a .600. Andrew Holmberg, one of the top white hunters in east Africa who took Ernest Hemingway on safari, carried a .470 using a 500 grain bullet for elephants. Holland & Holland supplied Teddy Roosevelt with a .465 Express "INDIA" double for his well-publicized African expedition.

With its natural shotgun quick handling and pointing the double adds a plus to its reliability. It can also take the enormously powerful larger cartridges, such as the .577, which are not suitable for Mauser type actions.



with chisel and file is precise.

H&H, carves a double's fences.

double for the lock mechanism.

amples by Joseph Manton, John Manton and H. W. Mortimer still exist. These rifles had side-by-side barrels and side locks. During the same period, around 1795-1800, Germany and Austria produced a very limited number, but they were of over-and-under design. Even the U.S.A. witnessed the production of a small quantity of doubles. Between 1810-1825 the Pennsylvania gunmakers who figured prominently in the development of the "Kentucky" rifle built flintlock double rifles. In most cases they featured swivel barrels designed to turn over. However, sideby-side barrel specimens do exist.

The popularity of the flintlock double increased and Purdeys, for example, was producing them in considerable numbers by 1830. Flintlock doubles are now rare, and the collector possessing a good example can count himself fortunate indeed.

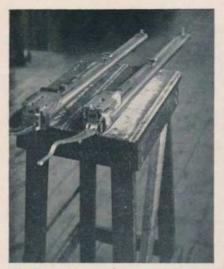
With the advent of percussion the double rifle gained its preeminent position in the really big game field. It is still possible to buy a fine percussion double at a reasonable

Only rarely will a hunter fire at, say, an elephant at more than forty or fifty yards. Many experienced professionals prefer the first shot from as little as twenty yards on the premise that it is the first shot that really matters. A necessary second shot can be fired almost instantly from a double (the first trigger fires the right hand barrel and the second the left), depending on the shooters reaction to recoil.

The best double rifle hunters can fire both barrels of an ejector model, reload with two cartridges carried in the fingers of the left hand, and fire again in less time than four shots can be fired from a magazine rifle. It should be noted that the big caliber magazine rifles carry only three or four, and not more than five cartridges.

After firing the first shot from a double, there is always a second ready without danger of the metallic "clang" from a bolt action ejection revealing a concealed hunter's position to wounded and dangerous game.

Another feature which has made the double a favorite of the professional hunter is the fact that they do not jam. On



4 Actions just begun (left) and nearly finished have wedges.



5 Wedges, as on this .500/465, adjust the point of impact.



6 Manager of Holland's Shooting School, Clifford Potter, spots for Regulator Peter Wells who is readying a .375 for a first shoot.



Though more than 50 years have passed between these two photos, the treadle lathe is still used in drilling out trigger guards because it works best. lowing examples are taken from a 1936 catalog and illustrate the effectiveness of Kynoch metallic cartridges at moving an enormous bullet at relatively slow velocity: The .577 Nitro Express, using 90 grains of cordite to produce 12.5 tons per square inch of pressure, drove a 750 grain bullet at 1800 M.V. and with 5400 ft./lbs. M.E. The .600 Nitro Express used 110 grains of cordite behind its 900 grain bullet,

double.

producing a velocity of 1950 fps and 7600 ft./lbs. of muzzle energy. Note: The above pressures were calculated at 60° F. The barrel length was 28".

one occasion a game scout in Tanganyika was found dead with his rifle nearby. Jammed in the breech was the empty case from his first shot. He had apparently fired at a buffalo which did

In G. G. Rushby's book, "No More the Tusker" (W. H. Allen & Co., London), it states "the .375 cal. magnum, among other similar rifles, gives most excellent results when used on soft skinned game, but when used on elephants with their tremendous bulk and weight, it has no more 'shock' effect or stopping power than a .318 rifle." Proponents of the small bullet traveling at ultra high velocity may argue the case, but most professionals feel

there is no substitute for the massive shock resulting on impact from some of the large cartridges common to the

Long before the First World War the big doubles turned in very impressive results in the ballistics charts. The fol-

not give him a second chance.

What about recoil from a double rifle? The author fired a .375 magnum at the Holland & Holland Shooting School in Northwood, and found the recoil remarkably acceptable with the additional weight of the extra barrel coming into play.

One hunter fired a .577 twenty-six times in rapid succession and it took him two to three days to recover from the punishment. However, he added that the recoil was not excessive when firing up to six rounds in the heat of the moment, the effect being more like a strong push.

In his book, "Hunting in Africa," Frank C. Hibben mentions one particular case when he was hunting with the son of a local farmer. Both had taken refuge in a tree to avoid a herd of elephants when "Nick's double rifle (a .577) blasted out. The end of the limb (Continued on page 52)

46



# SIX SHOT ENIGMA

By GRAHAM BURNSIDE



Despite a "C.S.A." stamp on the butt of the frame and cylinder, with a "2" on the trigger, the author does not believe this gun is Confederate.

I N THE COLLECTION of Russell Mathews of Frankfort, Indiana, rests a rare, unusual, and disturbing revolver. This six-shot percussion handgun bears no manufacturer's name or any proof marks.

The only marks on the piece are: the number "2" on the trigger; "C.S.A." on the frame under the trigger guard, on the rear face of the cylinder, and on the cylinder arbor.

This raises the question of whether or not this piece was used by or made by some organization in the Confederate States of America. To be honest with Mr. Mathews and other collectors, I don't think so.

This revolver is certainly old enough to have been used by Confederate forces. In fact, the flush cylinder-style was normally abandoned by manufacturers by 1850. The style of the revolver is quite European; as a matter of fact, almost everything about it smacks of European manufacture. The grip style, front sight, side swinging loading lever, grip screw escutcheon, and the very contours of the entire piece are all of European type. Not conclusive evidence that the piece is European, but enough to satisfy me.

As to its use by the Confederacy-well, again I

doubt it. For one thing, this revolver is very rare. The number "2" on the trigger may well be the serial number. Since to my knowledge not one other specimen has been located, it is obvious that not too many of them were made in the first place, and any revolver stamped "C.S.A." in three places would or should be one of a group—not a single item.

It just doesn't make sense to me that the Confederate Ordnance would go around stamping their mark on single revolvers—or even a few pieces that were made in Europe some ten years prior. If such pieces did fight with Confederate forces, they were usually private property, and if marked "C.S.A." the marking was done by some individual—not by the official authorities.

However the piece came to be marked with the initials of the Confederate States, the revolver is still an early and rare percussion firearm. Anyone having information concerning this revolver—or another example of this type—should write to Russell L. Mathews, 405 W. Walnut, Frankfort, Indiana. You may be able to clear up the enigma of this unusual six-shooter.



W HY DO YOU read GUNS Magazine? and more specifically, when you read GUNS, why would you read this "PULL!" column. Regardless of your field of interest, shooting or otherwise, read on in this month's "PULL!," and see if you can identify yourself.

The answer to the first question, concerning why you read GUNS, is obviously a complex one. No answer, no matter how detailed, could hope to include all the people by category who read this magazine, and the reasons why they read the magazine.

A quickie answer would be to say that you read GUNS because you have some form of shooting interest.

On second look, this answer is by no means a quickie, or short one, because the words "some form of shooting interest" cover an extremely broad spectrum of humanity.

GUNS readers include the teenage or subteenage boy, who because of his inborn interest in guns or shooting, gets some of his exposure to shooting vicariously from these pages. At the opposite end of this spectrum, we have the senior adult who enjoyed shooting or some form of activity involving firearms in his salad or youthful years, and for a variety of reasons now fulfills this interest via the printed page.

Other readers are collectors, who enjoy firearms not so much from a use standpoint, but from the attitude of collecting, which is a special drive within itself.

The hunter is a great reader about all things related to shooting, probably because the printed page extends his seasons and participation. The pages of this magazine appeal to the target shooter, who in some instances does not hunt at all, but whose firearms interest tends toward skill, precision, equipment, and competition.

All of us, whether we realize it or not, read GUNS because of the historical association that firearms have with the creating and building of a great society and association of societies into nations, continents, and the world as we know it.

Some of us read GUNS for business reasons, because the magazine's pages chronicle items of interest to the manner in which we make our livings. It would be unthinkable that anyone in the retail, wholesale, or manufacturing ends of the firearms, hardware, shooting accessory, or sporting goods business would fail to follow these pages, wherein the barometer of his fortunes is contained.

Either as a full group or sub-group, we have the reloader, who conceivably follows a number of the other interests detailed here, and extends them further into the field.

As I said in the beginning, it is difficult or next to impossible to come up with an exact profile of the GUNS reader, because his interests in shooting are many and varied. And now, on to the second part of my opening question, concerning why you as a GUNS reader, with all of your legions of reasons for reading the magazine, would read this column, called "PULL!" It is quite possible that many of you are not sure why this column is called "PULL!"

The column is called "PULL!" because that word is the one usually used by a clay target shooter to indicate that he is ready for a target to be thrown into the air. Who reads "PULL!" The obvious answer

Who reads "PULL!" The obvious answer is that the column is of interest to those persons who are directly concerned in one way or another with the target games of trap and skeet. Within this framework there are certainly some sub-reasons as varied as the readers. Most tournament shooters are intensely interested in the performance of other tournament shooters, no matter where the tournaments are located. Many tournament shooters have at one time or another met or competed against shooters whose names are mentioned in a column of this sort. Other shooters read the column in the hope of seeing their own name in print, which is a powerful and accepted drive.

Beginners in the clay target games read "PULL!" in the hope of getting tips to improve their own shooting performances. Experts or top-flight shooters read the column, curiously enough, for the same reason.

Readers who have never fired a shot at a flying clay target read the column because they suspect it might be fun to shatter a few clay birds, and would like to know something of how to go about this if and when they decide to try their hand at some future date. Beginners, or would-be beginners, read the column because no one likes to appear gauche or poorly-informed about the game, and they hope to find some of the tips to amenities on the field in this column.

"Pull!" does offer something to every facet of shooting interest listed before, and a lot that are not listed. The games of trap and skeet offer much to all teenagers, and subteens. There are age and ability groupings for both in most clay target tournaments. Youngsters can and do beat their elders in open competition, and youngsters who for various reasons are excluded from the contact sports or sports requiring a high degree of physical coordination compete on an even basis in the clay target sports. The age of social security and retirement is no bar to the clay target sports. Club, regional, and national shooting champions are often in their seventies and even eighties.

The rifle or pistol shooter who sneers at the "scatter-gun" sports ought not to sneer until he has tried them. I was a competitive small-bore shooter for many years before being exposed first to skeet, then trap. Try the clay target games, and you may get the bug, just as I did and as others I know did.

Far too many hunters overlook the clay target games as a means of improving gun handling and shooting skills. Even if you don't intend to make a career of following the tournament circuit, you will enjoy a few rounds of trap or skeet just before seasons or during the off-seasons. Only a few practice rounds will greatly add to your enjoyment of the seasons when they do arrive.

I sometimes think that the hunter is the only sportsman I know who feels that he can perform well at his chosen sport from one year to the next without any practice at all. I know you, the reader, do not feel this way, hut those of your friends who do are only kidding themselves.

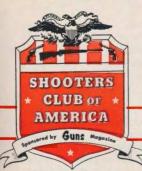
But, another reader says, I am only interested in the historical aspects. I'm not really a shooter, and don't intend to be. This may be true, but I remind you that town shooting matches during the growing years of this great nation were as much a part of history as were the spread of law, churches, and education. And, without a man and a gun, many of the benefits of society which we accept without question would either not have come into being, or been much delayed in arriving. Even if you don't intend to shoot, I challenge you to attend a shooting event near you. You may be surprised at what you see, and you may even get the clay target fever. Trap and skeet are hard to resist when you get up close to them.

Naturally, these pages faithfully attempt to give shooting tips, concerning both skill and customs, that can help the shooter or would-be shooter. Every top flight competitor knows that somewhere, some day, he may pick up that one little wrinkle that will keep him great, or make him greater. Some little gem found here in this column may be that one, when used by you.

The reloader comes into his very own on the fields of trap and skeet. Not only does reloading permit much more shooting, at lower cost, but there is a tremendous amount of satisfaction to be had in clobbering a flying clay with one of your own reloads.

Now, if there is a reader who is still with me, and who is none of the persons I have described, there is a place and a reason for you on the trap and skeet field. No matter where or how you live, the pace of the world is accelerated today, and you, being human are affected by all the irritations and frustrations of living. Taking out your irritations on an inoffensive and inanimate clay target may be the best prescription any doctor ever gave you. That the trap or skeet field is an excellent place to blow off steam may be one of the reasons so many doctors are avid shooters. Years ago I introduced a non-doctor friend to the shooters assembled at one gun club. After the introductions, he commented that if someone were to yell "Is there a doctor in the house?" we would be trampled in the rush. It bad not occurred to me until then that a majority of the men I knew as shooters at that club were doctors, dentists, or optometrists.

If you are a fully composed person, not included in any of the previous categories, come on out to the club anyway. Clay target shooting is fun. And after all, that's reason enough for its existence, and PULL!



## News from the ... **SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA**

Dedicated to the Constitutional Right of Every Citizen to Keep and Bear Arms

Senator Dodd, expressing complete confidence that he will be vindicated by the Senate Ethics Committee when that body has heard all the evidence regarding "certain financial affairs and other activities" of the Senator from Connecticut, asserts that "if there was any error in the handling of travel expenses, this was the work of an incompetent and deceitful ex-employee." He adds: "In the course of a long and active political ca-

reer, I have made many powerful enemies, running all

the way from the communists to the gun gangs." The "gun gangs" are with you, Senator, in every-thing you do against the communists. And the communists are with you in your fight against private gun ownership. You are, it would seem, caught squarely in the middle. Which way will you move? And speaking of the good Senator Dodd.

In a letter to a Connecticut attorney, forwarded to us, Senator Dodd writes: "It is a fact that in those areas of the country with stringent firearms controls, the percentage of gun crimes is substantially lower than in those areas with either no laws or ineffective laws." Statistics were enclosed to

prove this statement. But you can "prove" anything with statistics. Ask back-country Eskimos and you can prove that children overwhelmingly prefer whale blubber to candy. Why does Senator Dodd ignore, in his statistics, the case of Milwaukee - which has no firearms license or perof Milwaukee — which has no firearms ficenes of per-mit system, no handgun registration law, no police record-keeping of firearms owners or buyers; yet Milwaukee, the nation's lith largest city, is lowest in the nation in its incidence of murder, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary?

Other statistics the Senator should study are those of the Armed Forces - ours, and those of other nations. If "easy availability of firearms" breeds crimes of violence with firearms, surely no statistics would be more convincing than those pertaining to large groups of men who live with guns and are taught to use them. But the opposite is true. The incidence of crime with guns in the Armed Forces is amazingly low.

But the anti-firearms crusaders reject these sta-

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tistics - because, they say when challenged, "Those men are under strict discipline, subject to quick, sure punishment."... Okay; let's hold that thought for a moment.

Proponents of anti-gun laws love to point triumphantly to England, where the British Firearms Acts limit private ownership of guns and police go un-armed except for truncheons. The British Firearms Acts do limit private gun ownership, unnecessarily. But the British laws also specify harsh and certain punishment (backed by no-nonsense courts and juries) for crimes committed while armed! And British law enforcement leaders and criminologists agree that it is this foreknowledge of quick, sure, extra punishment, and not the restrictions on private ownership, which has reduced the incidence of crimes with guns in England.

This is the approach the firearms industry, the shooting organizations, and the shooting sportsmen have preached for years. Punish the criminal use of guns, and you won't need to worry about firearms ownership by law-abiding people!

Proponents of anti-gun legislation, from the President down, insist that their sole objective is to curb crime. If they would only make their legislative proposals reflect that intention, without harassment to the law-abiding, responsible citizen who wants guns for sport or for protection, they could

wants guns for sport or for protection, they could pass such legislation without opposition! It's as simple as that. Why won't they listen? The answer to this is simple. They have no inten-tion of listening to reason. Their objective is simply to obtain a legislative victory they can point to with "pride". They do not care about the effectiveness of the legislation they goin bout only effectiveness of the legislation they gain, but only the propaganda which can be generated on behalf of the "good guys" who are struggling against the evil "gun gangs.

We are struggling to widen the much publicized "credibility gap" to include administration antigun efforts. You can help us now by joining The Shooters Club of America today. If you are already a member, let your friends and shooting companions in on the facts of life. We all must stand together! We all must stand together!

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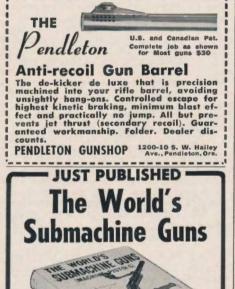
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#### MILITARY SELF-LOADERS

(Continued from page 32)

general conditions. Only the use of proper gauges will tell whether it meets original serviceability standards. Welded receivers, though, can more often than not be spotted by careful examination. Examine the walls of the receiver inside and out, midway in the bolt recess. Tool marks in this area, particularly in the bolt ways, that don't blend in with those on either side make the piece suspect. Some jobs are so sloppily machined after welding that the entire weld is clearly visible. If you're in the market for a surplus M-1, it will pay you to look the receiver over carefully unless you are buying from one of the larger dealers who will guarantee the gun to be completely original.

Generally speaking, though, the M-l is one of the best of the military arms insofar as functioning, reliability, and accuracy are concerned-and there are still plenty of parts around for it.

Of the foreign guns. I'm most fond of the FN M-1949. Actually developed around 1940 by Dieudonne Saive, it didn't appear in any quantity until after WW II when it was adopted by the Belgian Army in 1949 in .30-06 caliber. This model saw service with Belgian troops in the Korean War. The '49 version was also sold to Venezuela and Egypt, as well as to Argentina, Luxembourg, Colombia, and others.

The FN M-1949 is extremely well-made, being a tipping-block, gas-operated gun with gas cylinder above the barrel. It uses a semi-fixed, sheet-metal, 10-round box magazine. Cartridges are stripped into the magazine through the open action from standard Mauser-type, 5-round clips (chargers). Though somewhat marred by the protruding magazine, this gun's lines more closely approach those of a sporting rifle than any other of its type.

Because of its wide use, the '49 is often encountered on the surplus market in fair quantity. The first were 7.92 mm (8 mm Mauser) caliber, and came from Egypt. I've owned several of that version and all performed quite well, though somewhat shopworn in the Suez campaign. More recently Century Arms has offered a large lot in 7 mm Mauser (7x57 mm) caliber, procured from Venezuela. The several I've seen were in uniformly good condition, and some that are virtually unfired can be obtained by paying a modest premium. The latest '49's offered are in .30-06 caliber, imported by IN-TERARMCO and sold through Hunter's Lodge. Those we've seen so far are in good, serviceable condition.

The FN M-1949 is a good, thoroughly reliable arm with excellent looks thrown in for good measure. For use, rather than collecting, I consider it by far the best of the foreign self-loaders. A number of people prefer it to the M-1 for its easier handling. Parts are a wee bit hard to come by, but can be had on special order from FN in Liege.

Probably the next most plentiful arm of the type is the German G-43, developed by Walther during WW II. Though not to my knowledge ever brought into this country in large lots, there are still quite a few of this model floating around. Insofar as appearance and workmanship is concerned, this gun may be considered just the opposite of the FN-'49. It makes extensive use of castings and stampings, with virtually no effort expended on exterior finish. It looks real rough.

It is gas-operated by a piston and cylinder lying close atop the barrel, and the large, heavy bolt carrier flies back and forth in front of one's face as the gun is fired. It is fitted with a detachable, 10-round, sheetmetal magazine that may be loaded separately, or through the open action by means of standard Mauser-type chargers. All known production guns were chambered for the 7.92 mm (8x57 mm Mauser) cartridge which is readily available. Stocks are usually a sort of thin-ply plywood.

In spite of its rough appearance and the virtual impossibility of making it look like a sporting rifle, this arm is efficient and reliable. It's a lot better gun than it looks. The only parts available for it are those to be had from dealers who buy up the guns and break them down. Essential parts can usually be obtained from such sources, but they are by no means plentiful, and are normally in used -but serviceable-condition.

Fairly large numbers of the Russian Tokarev M-1940 rifles have made their way into this country via Finland and other sources. It is a well-made gun, in spite of having been produced mostly during the war years. Most parts are well machined and finished. Here, again, a top-mounted gas cylinder and piston actuate a tipping-bolt. The detachable magazine is of ten-round capacity and the gun is chambered for the 7.62 mm Russian rimmed cartridge with ballistics comparable to the .30-06. The Tokarev possesses one feature that often surprises new owners-a fluted chamber. Longitudinal grooves are cut into the chamber walls to allow the case to "float" on a layer of powder gas, thus easing extraction. Usually not at all required on gas-operated guns, these flutes were added to improve the cold-weather operating characteristics after extraction troubles developed in the field. I've seen and handled at least a dozen Tokarevs, and shot nearly as many. All performed well, though the ones generally available usually don't have particularly good bores. One objection often raised is to the fierce muzzle blast produced by the multiple-slot compensator with which all guns were originally fitted. This device is easily removed, though. Worst in this respect are the short-barrel carbines. If you have a Tokarev with a good bore, don't sell it short. The design and execution are sound. Parts can be a headache. If anything is needed, it will have to come from the parts specialists, and will be used when you get it.

One other U.S.-made self-loader has come back into this country in considerable quantity. The Johnson rifle was the subject of much controversy in the late 30's when a number of journalists and self-appointed experts decided it was superior to the justadopted M-1 Garand. No headway was made there, but the Netherlands purchased some 50,000 or more of the 1941 Johnson in .30-06

caliber for use in the Pacific against the Japanese. Quite a number of those guns survived the war to show up as surplus.

The Johnson is a good, reliable design. It is operated by barrel recoil which serves to rotate the bolt sufficiently to unlock it from the barrel extension. A very long receiver houses not only the action parts, but extends forward to form a support for the barrel as it slides fore and aft. The Johnson magazine is also unusual in that it is a 10-round, fixed, rotary design into which cartridges may be stripped from 5-round clips at the right side while the chamber is loaded and the gun ready to fire. The unusual magazine and receiver construction made a two-piece stock necessary, the buttstock also serving to house the long recoil spring.

All the Johnsons I've seen have been well made, and even those in poor condition functioned quite well. They aren't too plentiful on today's market, but many thousands are still in circulation. Some parts suppliers still have a good stock of the more essential items, so they aren't too difficult to keep in service. If the opportunity arises to pick up a Johnson with a good barrel at a reasonable price, don't hesitate.

Sweden adopted the AG42B (Ljungman) self-loading rifle in 1942, and eventually produced it in some quantity for the Egyptian government. The Swedes, of course, used it in 6.5x55 mm caliber, but the Egyptian contract guns were chambered for 7.92 mm ammunition. While the design may be efficient from an engineering standpoint, it is clumsier than most to operate, requiring that the boltcover be pushed forward, then drawn back to retract the bolt. It also uses an unusual system of gas operation whereby gas feeds through a long tube directly into the interior of the bolt carrier, which then moves back and actuates the tipping bolt.

Not plentiful in this country, all the Ljungman specimens I've seen bore Egyptian markings and showed up not too long after the Suez campaign-in which Egyptian forces lost a good bit of materiel to Israeli troops. Incidentally, the design is still produced in Egypt, though in considerably refined form and in 7.62x39 mm caliber. The Ljungman is a finely finished arm, mostly containing machined parts.

As far as any sporting use is concerned, the gun is hopelessly clumsy and bulky. It would probably rate last among all of the foreign self-loaders for that use. Parts would be a problem. In fact, I have yet to see any listed by the parts specialists.

As a result of France's colonial wars since WW II, occasional small lots of the MAS 49, 7.5 mm self-loader have shown up here. Never declared surplus by France and still in extensive use there, these guns came by devious means from forces that had captured them in operations against French troops.

The design is a good one and about as simple as a self-loader can be made. Gas feeds through a tube directly against the heavy bolt carrier, which then unlocks the tipping bolt and pulls it back. The receiver is massive and results in a two-piece stock-not aesthetically appealing, perhaps, but certainly rugged and durable. This gun

doesn't have much to offer as a dolled-up sporter, and parts and ammunition are hard to come by. All the same, it is a good design that will probably remain in French service for many years to come. As a matter of interest, I once inquired of the French military attache as to whether a new MAS 49 could be purchased. After some research, he indicated the French government would be willing to sell both gun and ammunition in new condition.



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#### BUILDING A DOUBLE RIFLE

#### (Continued from page 46)



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which I held disappeared. I half turned. Nick's gun was sailing through the air. So was Nick. Both barrels had somehow gone off at once. Nick shot out of the tree like a rocket."

Double discharge is possible but rare. For example, on the Holland & Holland double it is not the sears which are locked, but the triggers. The safety actually pushes the triggers away from the sears. The H & H side lock has two sears, the main and the interceptor safety sear. If the tumbler is accidentally jolted out of engagement with the main sear, the interceptor safety sear catches the tumbler and locks it. However, as with shotguns, basic commonsense rules should be followed. It pays to "break" the rifle when crossing fences and similar obstructions.

It is interesting, let alone mouth watering, to read what the going price was for used doubles before creeping inflation drove up the price of everything. For example, the 1928 catalog of W. J. Jeffery & Co. lists the following:

- A. A & N double. .450 cordite hardly used. £25.
- B. Rigby .303 hammerless cordite nonejector highly engraved in splendid condition. £15.
- C. Purdey best quality .450/400 black powder. Under lever highly engraved and condition equal to new. £12.10.0.

At today's equivalent sterling/dollar exchange rate the above guns would have cost from \$35.00 to \$70.00.

Nitro express cartridges and double rifles go together. The gunmakers of the late 19th century to the early 1920's were largely responsible for the majority of English cartridges developed during the period. In those days the gunmaker knew what he wanted and would go in most all cases to Kynoch for the metallic cartridge desired. While all gunmakers had their own ideas about cartridges, it really came down to the .465, .470. .475, .500, .577, and .600. Later on the .375's etc. appeared on the scene. Some of the earlier rimmed cartridges developed chamber pressures of fourteen tons to the square inch (British base copper crusher method of measuring). Pressures are now up to nineteen tons in many cases and the Holland .458 double actually gives a chamber pressure of 22 tons per square inch.

The meticulous records which have been kept at Holland & Holland of each double rifle sold reveal some unusual sales. One American client has purchased an example of every single caliber double ever made. This includes a one of its kind .244.

An Arabian Gulf ruler gave Holland's a blank check and asked for a double with solid gold barrels. Not unsurprisingly, they refused. The request was then made for the barrels to be gold plated, but even this was too "ghastly" a thought for Holland's management, and a compromise was finally agreed for the rifle to be heavily inlaid with gold (see photograph). The same ruler also wanted a pair of guns stocked in solid ivory instead of wood. In order to catalog his collection, he ordered two hundred silver ovals numbered consecutively in Arabic.

In another case, a French colonial official ordered a new .600 H & H Nitro Express double every three years to use in Africa for controlling elephant herds. As he grew older be specified that each new double should be heavier. Since servants always carried the weapon up to the moment of shooting, the weight factor in transport did not enter into it. His final order was for twin doubles in .600 caliber, each to weigh seventeen pounds. The added weight could not be arbitrarily placed anywhere, and Holland's set about the painstaking job of building each separate component larger than normal but in exact proportion. Unfortunately, the Frenchman died before the rifles were finished.

The smallest double ever built by Holland's was a .22 High Power. Currently the greatest demand in a smaller caliber is for the .240 (7 mm) H & H rimmed. In larger calibers the .375 leads the pack.

Since little has been written about the double rifle, and in particular, the exact process of building one, I called on Malcolm Lyell, Managing Director of Holland & Holland who are the world's foremost builders. In discussing the subject, he suggested that I visit the factory where Geoffrey Brooks. Factory Manager, gave me the benefit of his 27 years experience in making these unique rifles. The factory is the same one which Holland's occupied before the turn of the century. Although they use the latest equipment and techniques where applicable, it was fascinating to find two treadle lathes from the "old days" still in use (see photographs). Mr. Brooks explained that for certain drilling operations they have an advantage over power machinery.

Building a double is a craft which a new initiate must learn under direct supervision. There are no blueprints and the builder must work to a pattern. Including engraving, it takes approximately 750 hours to complete a double over a period of just under two years. In this time the rifle will receive the attention of two men in the machine shop, five in the action shop, two on the stock, one on the barrels, one finisher, one engraver, and one regulator at the range. Holland & Holland make everything except the forgings for the "chopper lump" barrel and forgings for the action body.

When the prospective double owner has decided on the caliber after discussion of the intended use, he is measured for a stock and personal trigger adjustment. For this he may be taken to the Holland Shooting School. Here he will come into contact with the School's Manager, Clifford G. Potter, who has been with Holland's since 1922 and is one of the world's authorities on double rifles.

The following sequence in building a double illustrates the reason why the cost must be considerable, no compromise being possible with this handmade weapon.

1. Making of the action body. Components are machined to a degree. At the same time the machining, drilling, and rifling of tubes for barrels is done from a chopper lump forging. Before the barrels are actually fitted together they are called tubes. "Hykro" steel is used. This is an alloy of molybdenum, chromium and nickel. In addition to the barrels, it is used for almost all of the internal mechanisms. The action body is made from pure case hardened steel.

2. The barrels are made.

3. The action body, component machinings, and barrels come together in the action shop.

4. The actioner drills barrels for extractors.

5. Barrels are rough chambered.

6. Barrels are "jointed" to the action body machining and the forend (metal only) is fitted.

7. Locks are fitted along with the "furniture" (this consists of the trigger plate, triggers, and trigger guard which form a complete subassembly). It is worth noting that the side lock, as fitted to Holland & Holland double rifles, is more complicated than the Anson & Deeley box lock system, and must be handmade in the traditional manner if the weapon is to remain a "best English side lock gun." When the locks and furniture are fitted, it is to the exact "bend" and "cast off" required by the customer. This refers to the deviation from a theoretical straight line which would run along an exact center between the barrels to the butt. The "bend" starts at the root of the strap which is an integral part of the action forging, and to which the lock plate and triggers must conform. At the butt the "cast off" may be  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or whatever measurement is specified by the customer.

8. The action is "filed up," i.e., the outside shapes and contours are made.

9. Strikers and discs are fitted.

10. Final bolt and level mechanisms are fitted. The latter consists of the top lever, spindle, and bolt which bolts the barrels to the action.

11. Cocking limbs are fitted and rifle cocked. This insures that the mainspring will cock the rifle at precisely the right moment.

12. The ejector mechanism is made, fitted, and regulated. Holland's use Southgate ejectors for their simplicity and reliability.

13. The final safety mechanism is made and fitted.

14. The rifle is submitted for a definitive proof.

15. The rifle goes to the shop foreman's senior technician who smooths, regulates and finally finishes the action.

16. The rifle is rough stocked. Here the cheek piece will be made higher if a scope is to be mounted.

17. Rear V sight and slave foresights are fitted and chambers taken out a little closer to final dimensions.

18. Rifle goes to the shooting range for regulatiton of muzzle ends. This is perhaps the most interesting phase of building a double rifle. All rifles are regulated twice. In the first case the width and lateral adjustment of the barrels are of prime importance in order to get both barrels to shoot on the same horizontal line. For this purpose the right barrel is considered to be fixed and the adjustment is made to the left barrel

The regulator works to .001" relative to the joint center of the two bores which taper in. All sighting in and regulating is done from a front bench-rest. Normally, a total of thirty shots are fired, fifteen from each barrel. If a rifle is regulated with a scope, the two groups will usually be closer together than if regulated with open sights. Also, if the rifle is regulated with open sights it will not be as accurate as when a scope is mounted.

Each rifle is zeroed in with the exact ammunition intended for use. If for some reason the hunter wishes to change later on the rifle should be rezeroed. He should do this despite the fact that to maintain as uniform a performance as possible with ammunition, makers seek to establish an ammo batch control by holding back a few cartridges from one batch to use as a guide for the next. It is recommended to rezero the rifle if either bullet or powder is changed. One advantage of the .375 is that the three different bullet weights can be used with the same sighting as any variation in results would be minimal.

No matter how much care is taken the barrels will not shoot exactly where the builder intends. In the lighter calibers the bullets will sometimes cross, but this cannot be permitted. The barrels are then opened up slightly with a wedge in the regulating process to open the spread. In the factory barrels are brazed together at the breech, but the muzzle end is held with solder. During the shooting in the solder will be heated, and by using a wedge between the barrels the minute adjustments necessary can be

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made. The sighting radius on a double is always exactly hetween the two bores.

19. The stock is finished, the grain cleansed and the first coat of oil applied. Note that the stock on a double is always a full pistol grip.

20. Metal work is highly polished and smoothed for engraving. Barrels are smoothed. The muzzle end wedge is trimmed and finished and the final foresight is fitted to the height left on the slave sight by the range regulator.

21. Metal work is put back on the stock to be certain everything is in perfect relation to the wood, i.e., all metal work just below the wood line.

22. Metal work and barrels go to the engraver.

23. Stock and forend go to the checkerer. 24. Action body and all case hardened components are color hardened.

25. Entire weapon goes to the finishers who lay all metal work back on the stock to remove any distortion resulting from the hardening process.

26. The action is rejointed to the barrels with a final hinge pin.

27. All internal mechanisms are fitted to the action and finally regulated. All this time the stock is being oiled with pure oil. No varnishes are used.

28. The rifle goes to the range for the final shoot. Now the sights are regulated for direction and elevation. The shooting in is invariably done at 100 yards. Each barrel is allowed a variation of one to two inches

in its own group with a maximum overall group of three inches.

29. The rifle is completely stripped.

30. Up to this stage the barrels are white.

Now they are highly polished for blacking. 31. All interior parts are highly hand polished.

32. Barrels return from the blacking department after a ten-day process. About this time the stock is finished.

33. The entire weapon is assembled for final regulation.

34. Mr. Brooks personally makes the final inspection and fires check shots.

35. The rifle is delivered to the customer. Surprisingly, many doubles are sold to eastern European countries, primarily the Soviet Union and Rumania. They are always ordered through the Embassies although the rifles may be intended for private as well as government use. The caliber is always in .375 Magnum Rimmed and scopes are mounted.

Today the Holland & Holland "Royal" double barrel rifle comes in calibers .470, .500/465, .458, .375, and .300 (rimless) Magnum. Other calibers can be obtained on special order. With H & H deep scroll engraving the cost is \$2,870.00. For those who want the very finest there is the deluxe "Royal" grade which features special engraving and game scenes. The cost is from \$3,080.00. At this price it is not a rifle for everyone, and it was never intended to be, for it is the zenith of the

gunmaker's art, and worth it.



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#### GUN CONTROL

(Continued from page 9)

that everyone—not merely 56 per cent would favor "reasonable" controls. But let's not take time here to argue what is and what is not reasonable.

I only wish that the Commission's statement that we have provided an effective legislative lobby were true. But evidently our lobby is not yet effective, for federal antigun legislation is still proposed; and the various states are still mistaking New York's Sullivan Law for effective crime legislation.

That licensing and registration provisions would disarm the public seems to be inconceivable to the Commission. Yet, it is not inconceivable to the residents of certain parts of New Jersey who are required to provide evidence of a psychiatric examination along with their permit application; it is not inconceivable to the New York resident who waited 14 months for his permit application to be considered; nor is it inconceivable to the Chicago resident who applied for a permit to purchase a .22 Olympic type pistol and was told that his application was denied because "a beat study of your area shows adequate police protection."

The Commission's Report goes on to list the various federal laws which now are on the books and then states: Since laws, as they now stand, do not accomplish the purpose of firearms control, the Commission believes that all States and the Federal Government should act to strengthen them.

That present laws do not work is not questionable. But, let us ask ourselves why they don't work. The Commission concludes that it is because there are not enough laws, yet they do not consider that the reason could be that present laws are not enforced. When they are enforced, the defendants are not prosecuted; when they are prosecuted, they are not punished. In a recent case in the Midwest, a person found guilty of selling submachine guns was given a probationary sentence; and the reason given was that he had no connection with organized crime! When defendants are charged with armed robbery, it is sometimes the practice of the prosecutor to "swallow the gun." This means that in order to obtain a fast conviction, the prosecutor will reduce the charge to simple robbery. Thus, though there was a gun control law on the books, it fell by the wayside so that things could be speeded up.

The Commission recommends: States should enact laws prohibiting certain categories of persons, such as habitual drunkards (perhaps with certification by local Alcoholics Anonymous?) drug addicts (I had thought that this in itself is a crime?), mental incompetents (based on IQ tests?), persons with a history of mental disturbance (this would probably include 99 per cent of today's citizens), and persons convicted of certain offenses (I thought that this law is already on the books?) from buying, owning, or possessing firearms.

The Report further states: Prevention of crime and apprehension of criminals would be enhanced if each firearm were registered with a governmental jurisdiction. A record of ownership would aid the police in tracing

one of the most difficult for us to understand. Let us assume that Federal registration is enacted. When registration of every firearm

enacted. When registration of every firearm is completed, what exactly does the law enforcement body have? Nothing more than a list of those individuals who have no intention of disobeying any laws; a list of who owns a certain firearm—not who used it in

and locating those who have committed or

who threaten to commit violent crime. Law

enforcement officers should know where each

should require the registration of all hand-

guns, rifles, and shotguns. If, after 5 years,

some States still have not enacted such laws,

Congress should pass a Federal firearms reg-

This question of registration is probably

istration act applicable to those States.

The Commission Recommends: Each State

gun is and who owns it.

the commission of a crime! It is strange that with all of the efforts by anti-gun proponents to include registration in gun laws, there is a overwhelming lack of evidence that this is, indeed, an aid to law enforcement. If you will read the volumes of testimony given before the Senate and House on the various gun bills, you will find not one documented instance of criminals brought to justice because of a registered gun—not even in those states which have had registration for many years.

The final Commission recommendation is: Each State should require a person to obtain a permit before he can either possess or carry a handgun. Through licensing provisions, Federal law should prohibit mail-order and other interstate sales of handguns and should regulate such sales of rifles and shotguns.

The intent of this recommendation is understandable. However, there is a vast difference between what a law intends to do, and what it actually accomplishes.

We do not need more gun laws to reduce the rising crime rate. What we do need are these: enforcement of present laws; a "get tough" attitude on the part of the police and courts when confronted with a crime of violence; and a citizenry which is not disarmed—either by force or by insinuation.

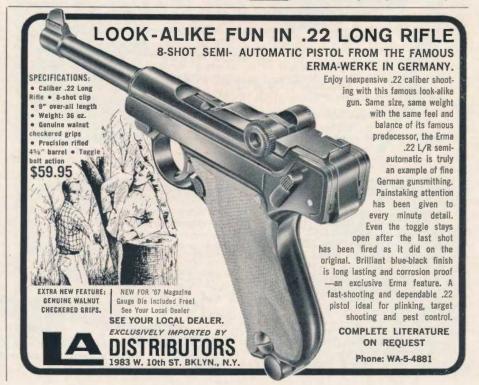
In the coming months we will see the recommendations of this Commission become the byword of anti-gun legislators, and we can only hope that our "effective lobby" becomes more effective, and that there are enough legislators in Congress with the insight to see that gun legislation is not the answer to crime so that we will see a strong effort made to punish the criminal, rather than ban the gun.



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(Continued from page 21)

floor of the School Book Depository, and a live round was found in the chamber. The Carcano requires a clip, and is packetloaded, like the Garand. The clip holds six cartridges, yet only four are in evidence. If Oswald could buy four cartridges, why not six; indeed, why not a full box? It is curious that little or no effort has been recorded by the Commission to trace Oswald's purchase of the ammunition. No other rounds were found in a search of his person or residences.

After hearing testimony concerning the examination of the bullets and cases, the Commission assumed that they were original military cartridges, loaded with full-patch bullets. They also assumed that the cartridges were not reloaded, because they were not resized. It is commonplace for shooters to pull military full-jacketed bullets and replace them with soft point bullets, without resizing.

Some 25 years ago, in Italian East Africa, I encountered the 6.5 Carcano cartridge in a wide variety of loadings. The illustrated Mitrgliadas are those which I brought back. Let's look at some of the mysteries of the assassination, and see how such a load fits in.

Senator Ralph Yarborough said that the smell of gunpowder "clung to the car nearly all the way to the hospital." The Mitrgliada, if it had been fired in test reenactments, would have shown how this was possible. The 263-grain bullet used in this load requires the use of a tuft of Kapok or cotton, fragments of which usually travel several yards, carrying burning powder grains.

Oswald's rifle was said to be shooting high and right when tested. These tests were made with the 160-grain Western military bullets; but would not the rifle have been perfectly zeroed in when shooting different bullet weights, the 263 grain Mitrgliada, for example?

If the Commission had tested the Mitrgliada or similar bullets for penetration and fragmentation, the results might have shown how a single assassin could have shot the President and the Governor with fragments of a single Mitrgliada, then each of them separately with a full-patch military bullet.

Another mystery the Mitrgliada might have solved is that of the ricochet which injured a bystander during the assassination. The FBI Laboratory ran a spectrograph test on the smears on the curbstone and came up with a "positive" for lead and antimony-but there was no trace of copper, and the Commission was stymied. When the Mitrgliada breaks up, its slugs are freed from the brass jacket, and they could fly off in any direction; is this the answer to the curbstone smear?

One other aspect of the small cylindrical sections of the Mitrgliada is that each section is composed of two halves. They are compressed together, and some separate and some do not. When they do, each fragment weighs about 20-22 grains. Two of the fragments recovered from the President's head wound weighed 44 grains and 21 grains respectively. This, in itself, is startling-but when considered in the light of the other Mitrgliada characteristics, it is almost beyond reasonable concidence!

There are many questions concerning all aspects of the assassination yet to be answered. But since our interest lies in the ballistics and firearm factors, let us study some of the inconsistencies of the investigation in this area.

#### **Testing of the Rifle**

In an effort to test the accuracy and speed of firing, the FBI and the Infantry Weapons Evaluation Branch of the United States Army fired Oswald's Carcano more than 100 times. It is difficult to explain why the evidence rifle itself had to be used in these tests. Certainly a duplicate of the Carcano was available, and many of the tests could have been performed with this duplicate. Firing an evidence gun more than the two or three times necessary to obtain specimens for microscopic comparison is not only improper, it is incomprehensible-the bullet-ballistic evidence of the gun after repeated firing has been destroyed forever.

During the test firing of the Carcano to see if an assassin could fire the three shots within a certain time span, it is evident that the riflemen were not stationed in position identical to that of the alleged assassin. They did not fire from the kneeling position; fire at a moving target; use a rifle loaded with only four cartridges; or fire through an opening approximating the size of the partially opened window. The function of a test is to test identical situations and circumstances.

#### The Paper Bag

The Warren Report contends that Oswald disassembled the Carcano rifle and carried it into the School Book Depository in a homemade paper bag which measured 38" in length. The Carcano rifle measures 40" overall when completely assembled; the longest of its two parts, the stock, is 35". The report does not explain why Oswald made the bag 38" instead of 40" long; why the five inch difference was important enough to require disassembly and reassembly of the rifle; and



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most important, how the various parts of the gun with sharp steel corners were transported from the Paine house in Irving, Texas, to the School Book Depository without leaving any tears or marks in the bag. Yet the FBI supplemental report of January 13, 1964 states: "... the bag was examined for any evidence of the outline of a rifle, but no significant indentations were found." There is a 91/38 Carcano that would fit into the paper bag without being disassembled; the Moschetto version is four inches shorter than the evidence gun. Did Oswald have more than one Carcano?

#### **Other Controversial Points**

One of the Commission witnesses, in speaking of the telescopic sight, said it was "a real aid, an extreme aid" in rapid fire shooting. The evidence rifle was fitted with a cheap 4x18 scope of low light-gathering power with a restricted field of view (about the length of the Presidential car at 60 yards). Such a scope would be about the slowest setup for rapid fire shooting generally encountered. It is also claimed that the assasin was sitting or kneeling—the two positions least suitable for rapid fire.

Also, in regard to the shooting capabilities of the rifle and Oswald, the Commission would have us believe that he missed a stationary target (General Walker) at short range, but twice hit a moving target about the size of a grapefruit—at more than 60 yards!

Mention should be made of the careless handling of evidence in this, one of the most important cases of our history. Why was the Presidential car apparently cleaned before any expert examination was made; and why did it take two separate searches to uncover bullet fragments? Why were Governor Connally's clothes cleaned and pressed before any microscopic examination was made? Why did investigators fail to make any effort to trace the sources of ammunition fired in the Oswald Carcano-especially when, in the words of the Commission expert, "The cartridge is readily available for purchase from mailorder houses, as well as a few gunshops ... Harold Weisberg, in his book "Whitewash," asks: "Did it have anything to do with the discovery of similar cartridges loaded with bullets other than the ones the Commission presumed were used?" To this we can only add; "Perhaps a Mitrgliata bullet; or the "pallottola frangibile" (a frangible bullet), or the "ridotta," a reduced load cartridge loaded with a short range but multiple-composition bullet?

The assassination of President Kennedy triggered one other ridiculous program beside the Warren Commission; the program which has as its premise that anti-gun legislation could abolish crimes. Too many people forget that a gun dealer who complied with current firearms regulations helped the authorities trace the guns involved within a matter of hours. One wonders what would have been the case if Oswald had, because of severely restrictive legislation, purchased his gun from the black market?

The Oswalds and Whitmans are products of our sociological environment, not of our gun industry or surplus arms dealers. One may ask how much the almost useless and sometimes disturbing publication called the "Warren Report" has helped im-

prove this sociological environment.

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#### POINT BLANK

#### (Continued from page 6)

After World War I the problem of what to do with the low-numbered receivers, both Rock Island and Springfield, was considered. It was thought that giving them a re-heat treatment might suffice. This was tried on a trial run of 48, and when fired under 75,000 psi, a third of them blew. It was then decided that all low-numbered receivers would be scrapped.

In the spring of 1928, Springfield switched over to the manufacture of receivers of nickel steel. This steel contained 3.25%-3.75% nickel and was known as WD 2340. There was no manufacture of the 1903 through most of the 1930s except for the annual production of National Match types. These continued to be made of WD 2340. When WW II came along and the Model 1903A3 and A4 guns were made the receivers and bolts contained a nickel-chromium-molybdenum steel—precisely the same as the M-1 rifle—and known as WD 8620.

It is interesting to note that Springfield came around pretty grudgingly to the Rock Island practice of using nickel steel in bolt and receiver. It was not until Rock Island went out of the rifle business, about 1926, and sent some 25,600 partly finished receivers to Springfield that the changeover commenced. These receivers were made of nickel steel SA 35-NS. The first of these receivers as turned out by Springfield was No. 1,275,767.

The fact that the Springfield is designed so that the head of the cartridge case is not supported by a shrouded bolt-face is often criticized. Too, it is oftimes pointed out that the barrel-breech has no shrouded portion so that it could support the casing. This is all true and it does render the old rifle suspect. The cartridge head actually protrudes about ½-inch and this places a great deal of stress on the weakest link in the chain, the brass cartridge case.

The main lugs on a double heat treated receiver were deliberately milled away so that the usual thickness of approximately fourtenths inch was reduced by half. Fired with service loads which then developed 50,000 psi breech pressure, there was no noticeable weakness. A blue pill of 75,000 psi was then fired and the weakened lugs were sheared. However the safety lug held and the bolt did not move.

In its somewhat meticulous recording of failures by the old '03 from its adoption until it was cashiered, a period of forty-odd years, there was never an authenticated case of the bolt being blown out of gun!

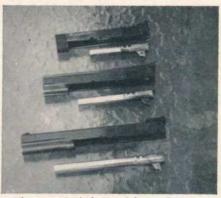
The diameter of the Springfield barrel directly over the chamber is 1.114". During an experiment the barrel at this thickest part, as well as clear out to the muzzle where normally there is a diameter of .619", was turned down to ½ inch. This waspy tube was then fired not only with regular service loads which ran 50,000 psi but also with proofloads which ran 75,000 psi! It did not blow. The barrel was then removed from the receiver and was turned down to a barrel thickness over the chamber only of 1/16 inch. It was, thereafter, shot 3 times with regular service cartridges. It held. When tried with one of the blue pill rounds generating, as I have said, 75,000 psi, it went to pieces.

A series of 24 rifles, all of them with receivers that had the double heat treatment but with numbers below 1,000,000 were fired with proof loads of first 70,000 psi and later with blue pills of 80,000 psi. A careful check was kept on headspace during this series of tests. Not only were there no blowups but the increase in headspace as a result of these proof charges was minimal.

In conclusion if you are the owner of a Springfield '03, whether it is one of the originals or an A3 or an A4, you've got a whale of a good gun! This talk about buying "high numbered '03s" is mostly just talk. These rifles are all good guns. The government long ago destroyed the doubtful ones and those remaining have certainly demonstrated a wide margin of safety for our whole family of highpowered loads.

#### .45 AUTO IN 3 SIZES

It seems to follow if the .45 auto could be made with 6" barrel and a lengthened slide, it would provide a longer sight radius, kick less, and balance better. I made up such a pistol and in the photo you will see the elongated slide and barrel. The barrel is a Doug-



Three .45 slide and barrel sizes.

las. A thousand shots with this big huster—it weighed 43 oz.—did not produce any better match scores.

As a matter of curiosity I then cut approximately one inch out of a slide and welded the two pieces back together after this amputation. A match barrel was likewise shortened and the other modifications to make the pistol workable were done. This is the slide and barrel at the top of the photo. This is a good defensive proposition but has absolutely no advantage over the Colt Commander which has been foreshortened in much the same manner.

The center slide and barrel are standard, match grade and precision refitted by George Elliason.

#### BOLT ACTION CONVERSIONS

The southpaw has trouble with the standard bolt action which is made for the great majority. I am a portsider and am an expert in this matter. I have converted more perfectly satisfactory bolt action rifles to the far side than any shooter.

My advice to the laddy-o who is one of the 1-in-16 minority is go buy a Savage with regular lefty bolt, or a Weatherby, or one of the new Parker-Mauser actions which are manufactured for the southpaw. Don't convert your right-hand action!

These conversions, even by the best of our gunsmiths, are far from satisfactory. They are just what the name implies—conversions, and most of the time pretty sorry!

I have a Model 70 that has been swapped over. Sometimes the firing pin falls cleanly and other times it drags enough to cause hangfires. I discovered this while hunting Polar bear, a game where it is better the ordnance works in apple pie order! I have a Sako .264 converted which functions fine until you get in a hurry and start to slam the bolt back and forth as in rapid fire. Then the firing pin will follow the bolt down. I have a .458 elephant gun in which the bolt is so



Author's left-handers include: Remington 7mm; Mauser in .350 Magnum; Winchesters in .338 and .458; and Weatherby in .460 Magnum.

sloppy it hits the edge of the receiver ring each time it is forced home. I have a Model 70 in .338 with the bolt handle busted off—a poor weld job. I have a Remington Model 725 in .257 Magnum caliber which won't eject.

The only bucko who really does a bangup good job on conversion work to my knowledge is an hombre named Barber in Portland. He specializes on Remingtons and on these he is a whiz. I have no complaints on any of the conversions he has done for me. ENGRAVING

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But again let me reiterate: Just buy the factory job. For the lefty it works infinitely better, believe me.

#### CHOKE YOUR OWN SCATTERGUN

In my battery was a 12 gauge pump repeater which I shot a lot in the game fields. I liked the gun and decided to convert it to a skeet job. The gun's choke was modified which was too tight and the barrel was 28 inches which was too long.

I whacked off two inches of the muzzle, and a mike showed it had run .015" which gave me 60 per cent patterns. What I wanted was improved cylinder with only .003" of constriction, just enough to round out the pattern and break up any tendency to patchiness by the shotload.

I wrapped a few thicknesses of No. 2/o emery cloth around a dowel rod that was mighty close to bore diameter. I put a stop on the dowel so that it would be held one inch from the muzzle and then started it to spinning in the whacked-off barrel. I used a portable electric drill for the power source. The guntube was held in a special fixture. Each time I withdrew the dowel rod and replenished the emery, I took careful inside measurements of my tube with the mike. What I was doing was cutting what we call a "jug" choke. When the jug, which was 1" in length, reached a depth of .003", I carefully polished the tool marks and patterned the shotgun.

Patterns with skeet loads of 3 drams 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> oz. No. 9 ran from 40 per cent to 43 per cent. This was what I was seeking.

The barrel was now 26 inches, ideal for the game. I was curious to find what would happen if I attempted to shorten it to 25 inches and again ream a jug in the barrel. It would find the shotload more concentrated, with less elongation, slightly higher velocities and for all this, less amenable to the control of the jug. This time I set up the reamer a full 1.5" below the muzzle and the jug was a full 1.25" in length. The final enlargement went .004" in depth. Again 40 per cent patterns were realized.

The principle of the jug choke is a very old one. What the experimenter does is to succeed in inducing the shot column to expand a very little bit while passing through the enlarged or "jug" portion of the barrel; then when the load again hits the remainder of the guntube ahead of the jug, it is squeezed down an infinitesimal bit and thus the shooter realizes a small choking effect, enough to get a weak improved cylinder pattern.





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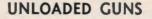
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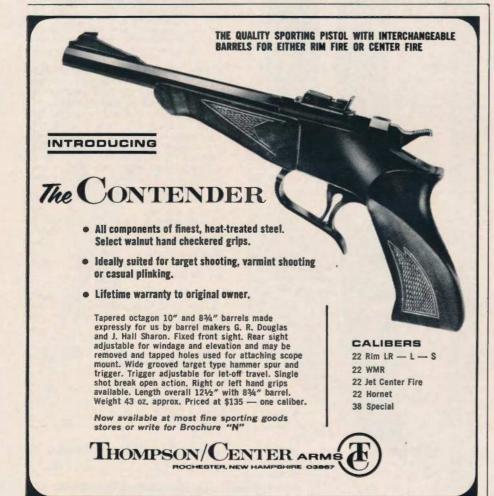
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City\_\_\_\_\_State\_



(Continued from page 33)

person to die quickly and not have the time to make amends for the mistakes of the past. He further allowed that "judgment day" sometimes occurred suddenly. While he was saying this, he pulled out a cardboard box from under the front seat of the car, and took a gun out of a paper hag. He then aimed the gun at his wife's side with the words "This is to show you that I am not kidding." Ethel tried to quiet him down but her husband insisted he was not fooling. He further told her that it was just a matter of her saving to her mother that everything was all right, and they could go back and he would tell her mother that. They finally did return to her mother's house and Ethel went into the house, while her husband remained in the car. In a few minutes the husband went into the house and asked his motherin-law to leave with him. The mother-in-law asked them both to leave quietly, and the couple reentered the car and drove out on the highway. The husband then said that he was taking her "up north" for a few days with the evident intent of effecting a reconciliation. As they approached a roadside restaurant, the husband drove off the highway and parked the car with the front facing the restaurant wall. He then asked his wife: "How much money do you have with you?" And she made the usual reply-"A couple of



dollars." When he asked to see her checkbook, she refused this indignity and they began quarreling. The wife opened the car door and started to run around the restaurant, screaming "Help." Her husband pursued her with the pistol in his hand. The wife's screams attracted the attention of the people in the restaurant, including two state patrol officers who were eating their lunch. One officer rushed out the front and the other out the rear door. In the meantime the wife had run around the side of the building. In seeking to avoid colliding with a child who was in her path, she turned, slipped and fell. The husband crouched down, beld the pistol at her head and pulled the trigger, but nothing happened. He then shouted "It won't fire. It won't fire." The two patrol officers later testified that the husband pointed the pistol directly at his wife's head when he pulled the trigger. The officers placed the husband under arrest. They fortunately found that the gun was unloaded. The clip holding the cartridges was found in the cardboard box in the husband's car, together with a box of cartridges. At the trial, the defendant's husband testified that at the time an attempt was made to fire the pistol, it was unloaded and he knew it was unloaded. There was also testimony to the contrary. The husband was charged with an attempt to commit murder and was sentenced to prison for 10 years. His final appeal was denied. The case raised the question of whether you can commit murder with an unloaded gun. The Supreme Court of Wisconsin held that although it was impossible for the accused to have committed the act of murder because the gun was unloaded, that did not absolve the defendant from the crime of attempted murder, if be actually thought at the time that it was loaded. There was a strong dissenting opinion, calling attention to the fact that the defendant had the pistol in his hand several times before chasing his wife at the restaurant and it was his pistol. He no doubt had examined this pistol at various times during the period of ownership and unless he was devoid of all sense of touch in his hands and fingers, it would be impossible for him not to be aware or know that the pistol was unloaded. He could feel the hole in the bottom of the butt, on at least two separate occasions, for he handled the pistol by taking it out of the box and showing it to bis wife before he took her back to her mother's home the second time, and prior to chasing her at the restaurant. You may well agree with this. The dissenting Judge pointed out that the defendant certainly knew the gun would not fire. He said, while he was pulling the trigger, "It won't fire." He had been driving around the country with his wife for two hours. He could have loaded the pistol while he was sitting outside his mother-in-law's house on the second trip, if he intended to use the pistol, but he did not do this. The dissenting Judge concluded that if juries are allowed to convict persons on the basis of what might have been done, the basic right of our citizens to be tried only on the ground of proven facts, may be severely jeopardized.

> GUNS . MAY, 1967



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But in spite of this, dissenting opinions do not wrest the bars from the jail cell window, and the husband went to the Big House for ten years.

In New York, in 1957, Tom Jones had been separated from his wife for about a year and a half, and two daughters of the marriage were living with him. On Christmas eve, some friends of Tom's estranged wife drove her to Tom's home to deliver various Christmas presents for her daughters. When they arrived at the house, the wife went in and the friends remained in the car parked on the highway. While the well-meaning friends were seated in the car, Tom Jones appeared, addressing them with no cordial Christmas greetings. In fact it was very foul language. They drove on down the highway but Tom followed in his car. They then turned into a driveway of a nearby house, hoping to elude their pursuer. But no such luck. Tom drove in behind them, got out of his car, picked up a shotgun and continued his unique form of Christmas cheer. With this display of hospitality, the friends drove on to the end of the driveway and Tom followed them on foot until he reached their car. Their testimony at the trial was that Tom then placed the shotgun to his shoulder, pointed it at them and said "You see this, I will get you yet." He then lowered his gun, returned to his car and drove away. Tom Jones later testified that the gun was not loaded, as he had used all his shells during the hunting season. On these facts, the jury returned a verdict of assault in the second degree, which is criminal assault in New York. But on appeal, the court said that the most Jones could be guilty of was simple assault since the gun, not being loaded, was not in a condition to produce grievous bodily harm.

As you can see, this result was a far cry from the ten years in jail dished out to Sam Walters in Wisconsin, who obviously could not murder his wife with an unloaded pistol, no matter how many times he pulled the trigger. Why should these differences exist?

Some years ago in Shanghai, China, an American citizen was tried before the United States Court for China for the crime of assault with a dangerous weapon. He was convicted and sentenced for that crime. He was given a term of six months in the jail of the American Consul at Shanghai. His appeal was heard in the Circuit Court in the United States. It appeared that the prisoner, while engaged in an angry altercation with the complaining witness, without justification and within shooting distance, drew a revolver and pointed it at the witness in a threatening manner, putting him in such fear that he ducked under a table. The Court found that unquestionably the pistol was unloaded, but this essential fact was not known to the terrified witness. The Appellate Court held this was not an assault with a dangerous weapon; that to constitute this offense, a dangerous weapon must be used in making the assault. The use of a dangerous weapon is what distinguishes the crime of assault with a dangerous weapon from simple assault, and it is perfectly clear that an unloaded pistol is not, in fact, a dangerous weapon. If the prisoner had struck or attempted to strike his victim with it, the question of whether it was or was not a dangerous weapon would be one of fact. But the courts quite uniformly hold that if there is no attempt to use an unloaded pis-





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tol or gun in any manner except to point it in a threatening manner at someone, it is not a dangerous weapon. In spite of all this, you will recall that Sam Walters went to jail in Wisconsin for ten years.

In Alabama, the Supreme Court has said flatly that aiming an unloaded gun at a person within shooting distance in such a manner as to terrify him-he not knowing the gun to be unloaded-will not support a conviction for criminal assault. They say such conduct might be grounds for a civil suit for damages, but it is not a criminal offense. The court calls it a mere menace-some menace.

The Supreme Court of South Dakota has gone along with this very liberal view. There, the accused rented a farm from a man named Howard, without a written lease. When the accused started combining the grain, he called Howard and asked him to come over to the farm and haul away his share of the grain. Howard and his son went over to the farm and during a dispute a fist fight developed. The Howards left and reported the incident to the States Attorney, who contacted the Sheriff and requested him to investigate. The Sheriff, together with the Howards, went to the farm in the Sheriff's car. As the Sheriff's car approached, the accused stopped the combine. The Sheriff drove to within 8 or 10 feet of the tractor and, as he opened the car door and started to get out, the accused grabbed a gun, pointed it at him, and told him to get going. The Sheriff wisely did. The Sheriff and the Howards later testified that no word was spoken by either of them and that neither of the Howards got out of the car. The Sheriff said the face of the accused was bloody when he pointed the unloaded gun at him. But the accused was set free, the Court saying that the presence of a third man with the Howards indicated to the accused that he thought the fight was to be continued and that he should defend himself. The accused went scot-free.

Where there is no proof that the gun was loaded, and the charge is that an assault was committed by the use of a gun in the manner of its usual purpose and design, not as a club, but by pointing it at another person, the holdings in the adjudicated cases are, as you have seen, hopelessly divided.

The states which hold that it does not constitute an assault base their decisions on the non-existence of the present ability of an unloaded gun to cause harm, or that the intent to inflict a physical injury is completely absent. Other states are of the view that pointing an unloaded gun at a person who does not know it is unloaded-and thus putting him in great fear of bodily harm because of the threatening manner in which it is used-constitutes an assault on the "trembling" person. It may well be that this serious conflict and confusion results from the lack of unanimity of opinion by the courts and text writers as to the definition of criminal assault. It is clear that in cases of civil assault (which we are not here considering) apparent ability to cause injury is sufficient because the reasonable apprehension created in the mind of the assaulted person may constitute the wrong. But it bas been held in several states that present ability to do harm is an essential element of criminal assault. Some states have statutes requiring actual present ability, and rule out assaults with an unloaded gun used in its usual manner, and not as a bludgeon. These states are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Utah and Wyoming. Other states, such as Oregon and Alabama, although they do not have a controlling statute, have found no assault where there is no present ability. We have seen in the assault case in Shanghai, China, that the unloaded gun only called for the offense of simple assault. In Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Tennessee and Massachusetts, pointing an unloaded gun is simple assault.

The citizens of New Hampshire are Godfearing and sensible, and this is reflected in their Supreme Court. On the subject of pointing unloaded guns, that court has said "We have a right to live in a society without being put in fear of personal barm. But it must be a reasonable fear of which we complain, and it surely is not unreasonable for a person to entertain a fear of personal injury when a pistol is pointed at him in a threatening manner, when for aught he knows, it may be loaded, and may occasion his immediate death. The business of the world could not be carried on with comfort if such things could be done with impunity."

#### **GUNS OF ANNIE OAKLEY**

#### (Continued from page 35)

Butler and Annie reached the scene of the match, into it rolled four coaches filled with royalty and near-royalty-not the least of whom, from the standpoint of Grand Duke Michael, was the Princess Victoria. The match was set for "best out of 50 targets," and Annie missed three. The Grand Duke missed . . . fourteen. Reporters and others who could not have hit as many of those targets as Annie missed, stirred up a storm of ridicule against the Grand Duke, and there have been those who believed that this had something to do with Michael's failure to marry Princess Victoria.

But the incident which Annie herself thought might have had historical significance occurred when she shot with Prince Wilhelm of Hohenzollern, in Germany, Wilhelm asked her to shoot a cigarette out of his mouth, which Annie did. Later, when Wilhelm, as Kaiser, dragged the world into war, she wondered if that shot might not have been better aimed! Annie, back in America by that time, "did her bit" during that war by touring the country, doing shooting matches and exhibitions at army camps and in the cities for the benefit of the Red Cross.

As her fame grew, so, naturally, did the quality of the guns she shot. The plain Stevens tip-up pistol acquired fancier trimmings; and, for rapid-fire work, Annie obtained a Smith & Wesson American Model No. 3 with pearl grips and silver plating to match the Stevens.

A shotgun with which she was often pictured was built specially for her by the L. C. Smith company, trap grade, with engraved

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portraits of Annie on the lock plates (as a girl on one side; as a mature woman on the other), and with her name in gold script on the bottom of the trigger guard. This gun is, or was, in the collection of William Locke, of Cincinnati.

One of her favorite guns for some years was a Spencer repeating shotgun, product of the maker of the famous Spencer seven-shot rifle. With it, Annie no longer needed a lineup of doubles for her multiple-target stunts; now she could pump six shots at six targets with near-machinegun rapidity.

Another deluxe arm which became a fixture in Annie Oakley exhibitions was a .32-20 Winchester lever-action Model 92, the receiver gold plated with handsome engraving.

But Annie was never a "professional" in the sense of shooting as the representative of any gun-making company. Parker, Smith, Spencer, Winchester, Remington, Stevens, Smith & Wesson, Colt—she shot them all. Newspapers headlined her feat of breaking 100 trap-thrown targets in less than seven minutes, loading her guns herself. In April, 1884, she broke 943 out of 1000 thrown glass balls, using a .22 rifle—probably one of her Stevens tip-ups. Annie was irked with herself about this, because it failed to equal the record of 979 then held by Dr. Ruth.

She tried again in February, 1885, to break the 5000-target record, shooting three 16 gauge double shotguns and loading them herself. Five thousand shots from 16 gauge guns in one day must have been something of an ordeal for a small woman, but Annie broke 4,772 (glass balls thrown from three traps); and in her second thousand she missed only 16, setting a high 1000-ball record of 984.

The saga of Oakley triumphs would fill a book; have, in fact, filled several. She shot before the Shah of Persia, the Sultan of Turkey, the King of Senegal. There is a story that the Senegalese potentate wanted to buy her—not for his harem but to kill man-eating tigers that beset his villages. She was a world celebrity now, the idol of millions.

But she and Frank were aging, and they were no longer poor. They would retire, they said, at the end of the Big Show's 1901 season.

Late in that season, in a head-on collision between the Show train and another, Annie was terribly injured. Doctors said first that she could not live; later, that she would never walk or shoot again. Two years and five operations later, she was back on the show circuit, helping Frank replace the retirement money eaten up by her hospital expenses. Aged 58 and a white-haired lady now, she broke the club record in a trap shoot at the Wentworth Gun Club in New Hampshire.

In November, 1922, she was almost fatally injured in an automobile accident near Daytona, Florida. Again, doctors said at first that she would die, then that she would never walk again, or shoot again. She smiled, and set her stubborn will against that verdict. She had heard it before.

Months later, Frank Butler lifted his fragile wife out of a car in empty and closely fenced Cooke Field baseball park in Leesburg, Florida. He carried her to a table where her guns awaited her. She could stand





erect now and even walk a few steps, with the help of crutches. But she rejected the crutches as she stood beside the table and lifted a .22 rifle to her shoulder.

"Throw!" she said; and Frank tossed a penny into the air.

The rifle cracked. The penny spun into a new trajectory. "Throw!" Another penny; another shot; another hit—25 without a miss before Annie put the rifle down and turned, smiling, to her husband. "You see?" she said. "I can still shoot. I knew I would—if I had to shoot from my bed!"

A few months later, she broke yet another club record when, at the Mayview Manor Gun Club at Blowing Rock, she powdered 98 out of 100 clays from the 27-yard line at trap.

It would be less than fair to Annie if we failed to mention, and dispel, the one cloud that ever threatened her reputation. In 1903, a Chicago newspaper published a story stating that Annie had been arrested as a thief and a drug addict. A woman claiming to be "Elizabeth Cody, Buffalo Bill's daughter-inlaw," had been arrested, was a drug addict, had stolen to buy drugs. According to the stories, that woman claimed to be "the woman who did the shooting with the Wild West Show." Fifty-three newspapers copied the story.

But the woman was not Annie Oakley. She was 15 years younger than Annie, totally different in appearance, had never been with the Cody show. She was not Buffalo Bill's daughter-in-law, either. How could she be, when Buffalo Bill's only son, Kit Carson Cody, had died as a mere baby?

Annie sued the fifty-three newspapers for libel; and, although they were represented by the great Clarence Darrow, she won and collected extensive damages. Annie proved her innocence beyond any shadow of doubt, and many have credited "the Annie Oakley cases" with the subsequent "improved ethical standards in the American press" which require reporters and editors to "check the facts before printing the story."

Annie Oakley died November 3, 1926. Frank Butler died just 20 days later. They were buried together, in Darke County, Ohio, where it all began.

How good was she? As an exhibition shooter, no one in her time excelled her. As a match shooter, the records speak for themselves: a few men beat her, but not many.

Perhaps there is no better way to end the story than with the testimony of Johnny Baker, himself ranked as one of the great exhibition shooters of all time, who shot with and against Annie through countless performances in the Wild West Shows. A reporter asked Johnny, long later, "Was she really a better shot than you, or did you let her win?"

Johnny's answer was quick and convincing. "There never was a time when I didn't try to beat her. It would have made a better show if I had beaten her some times. Cody told her that and tried to get her to let up sometimes. But there was no let-up in her. She just didn't know how to shoot less than her best—and her best was unbeatable!"

Today, in sports, they call it "Desire: the ingredient that transforms ability into greatness." Desire was the key to the whole saga of Annie Oakley. She had it. And she was one of the great ones.

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#### **GUNS AND THE LAW**

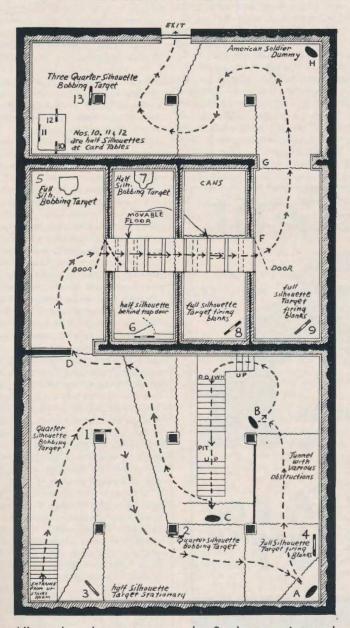
(Continued from page 29)

THE HOUSE OF HORRORS

one else the details of what you have been through.

While he is reading the instructions, he is subjected to several record sequences (broken English) of typical enemy propaganda newscasts. Interspersed with the records are other sound effects, such as organ music; or morbid symphonic airs may be used. (In this range the extracts from the Firebird Suite by Stravinsky were used.) After not less than five minutes of this indoctrination, the student is called into a little annex at the head of the stairs and given his pistol and three magazines of ammunition, eight rounds to a magazine. The instructor tells him to insert one magazine and place the other two where he can get them in a hurry. He is then asked if he has any questions; if so, additional last minute instructions are given. When he is ready, he is told to pull back the slide, loading his weapon, then proceed cautiously down the steps. The instructor follows immediately behind him with one hand in contact with the shooter.

The instructor, aside from acting as a guide and making on-the-spot corrections, trips all targets at the appropriate times. For obvious safety reasons, the instructor at all times maintains contact with the shooter (usually with one hand hooked into the back of



All numbered targets are to be fired upon. Lettered targets (except H) are dummies for knife targets; H is an American – don't shoot. Targets No. 4, 5, 8, and 9 are all fitted with blank firing attachments. his belt) while he is carrying his pistol. The instructor stays out of reach when the knife is used and when the student is in complete darkness.

As the shooter descends the steps, a record sequence (Stravinsky) is started and is interspersed by shots and screams.

When he reaches the bottom of the stairs, the coach pulls target No. 1, which is a bobbing target concealed behind a pillar. It is dimly illuminated by a red light. After firing, shooter and instructor continue around target No. 1 to target No. 2, which is also a dimly illuminated quarter-size silhouette target popping out at eye level from behind another pillar. Target No. 3 is a half-size stationary silhouette, which is exposed to the shooter's view by pulling aside a curtain. This target is illuminated by a dim green light. Target No. 4 is next, concealed behind a curtain. This dimly-lit full silhouette is exposed when the curtain is pulled. A blankfiring revolver placed in the center of the target fires in conjunction with the opening of the curtain.

At this point, the shooter's gun should be empty, if he has fired the required bursts of two at each target. In any event the gun is taken from him by the instructor and he is told he will proceed alone through the tunnel using his knife at appropriate times. Just as he is about to go down to his knees to enter the tunnel, the instructor exposes Dummy A, which is constructed of old fatigue clothes and excelsior; and the shooter uses his knife on it. While he has been proceeding from Target 1 to Target 4, a locallymade Gestapo-type torture scene record sequence, interspersed with cursing and other sound effects, has been played. While the shooter is going through the pitch dark tunnel on his hands and knees, with his knife in his hand, he is subjected to the Stravinsky music sequence and to ad libs given him over the sound system by the instructor or a belper.

Progressing through the tunnel, he encounters strings hanging from the ceiling to simulate cobwebs, and crawls over partially inflated inner tubes (enclosed in fatigue suits) which simulate dead bodies. While he has been progressing through the tunnel, the instructor has moved to a position where he can see him emerge from the tunnel. Upon emerging, and after stabbing a stationary Dummy B, he proceeds up the stairs to the platform and then down the stairs-into a pit, then up out of the pit by means of another set of steps. The latter procedure imparts an illusion of height and depth, which is emphasized by a lack of light and the artificially developed combat tension.

As the student proceeds, a sentry-killing sequence is started over the record player and a curtain is pulled, exposing a moving dummy which, for a short distance, falls toward him. This dummy is dressed in "aggressor" uniform and is illuminated by a dim blue light. After using his knife on Dummy C, the instructor, remaining out of contact with the shooter, tells him to place his knife on the ground. Then he is given back his pistol, which he loads, proceeding under the guidance of the instructor to Target No. 5. A sound sequence of a dog barking and growling is sent out over the record player at this time.

As the shooter goes through the open door

at point D, a half silhouette which rises from the floor is pulled and he fires the first two shots of his second magazine. He then approaches a door which swings in either direction. If he kicks the door open and enters the next room, he fires at Target No. 6, which is a quarter silhouette concealed in a window frame. It is exposed when a shutter swings out, as the cord controlling the spring latch is pulled by the instructor. On the other hand, if the shooter pulls open the door, he fires at Target No. 7, a half silhouette which rises from the floor and is illuminated by a red light. A discussion of the best ways to enter doors of rooms occupied by an enemy is held at this point.

During the firing at Target Nos. 5, 6, and 7, sound effects over the amplifier have consisted of a whispered conversation interspersed with faint groans and pleas, such as would be made by a wounded man asking for water. Proceeding on toward Target No. 8, over a flooring, sections of which have been placed on pivots so they will tilt slightly to simulate unsteady footing, he enters the area of Target No. 8, which is in total darkness. There he returns the fire when Target No. 8, which is a life-size silhouette of an "aggressor" soldier, illuminated by the muzzle blast of a blank-firing pistol installed in the dummy. At this point, after a short pause, the instructor tells him to proceed and, at the same time, pulls a string rattling some cans to his immediate left. These cans are in complete darkness. If the shooter fires at them, a discussion is carried on by the instructor as to the advisability of shooting at something which he cannot see. He then

approaches a door at point (F). He pauses there and a record sequence of a rape scene involving a young woman is played. He is told to kick open the door and get the rapist. As he goes through, a life size silhouette fires at him; and he returns the fire. These are the last rounds in his magazine (provided he has not fired at the cans); so he is told to reload before proceeding on to a curtain at point (G).

A short music sequence commences over the amplifier at this point, and a conversation is heard involving a number of persons. He is told to listen, and hears the sound of bottles, laughter, and cards being shuffled. The instructor tells him there are enemies in there playing cards and he is to go in and get them. The instructor tells him to jerk the curtain aside at (G) and enter the room. In the corner, under a bright light is standing a dummy of an American soldier in full equipment-a sergeant with his stripes exposed, to facilitate recognition. If he fires at it, he is reprimanded for shooting one of his own men, when recognition was easily possible (this happens to about 10% of the shooters). He is told that the American (dummy) is there for the same purpose and has been awaiting an opportune time to do the same thing he is about to do.

Proceeding around the pillar, he approaches a curtain and listens to continued sound effects of the card game in progress beyond it. If he has not fired at the American dummy, he has eight rounds left in his gun. As he pulls aside the curtain, he fires at Target Nos. 10, 11 and 12. These targets are life-size silhouettes of 3 men sitting at a



table playing cards by candlelight. After firing at the three seated targets (three bursts of two shots-seldom done-usually one of the card players is missed), he should have two rounds remaining in his pistol. Seeing no other targets, he is allowed to relax. As he does so, thinking he has completed the course, the instructor pulls Target No. 13, which is a three-quarter size silhouette bobbing out from behind a pillar, firing a blank shot as it comes into view. The shooter fires his last two rounds. At this point, his gun is taken from him and he exits out.

A brief, general critique of the shooter's firing technique and his reactions to the targets during his 15-minute ordeal is given.

It is difficult to describe by written words and diagrams the effects of this range on the shooter. All the elements involving the use of the handgun, mentioned earlier, have taken place while the shooter was making his way through the course. He was subjected to physical and mental tension, to the element of surprise, and to the unknown. Realistic and difficult shooting and reloading conditions were caused by poor lighting, unsteady footing, and sound effects; and the loss of sense of direction, because of his irregular progress, was emphasized.

In this sequence, the shooter learned by his own mistakes. He also had the opportunity, which seldom occurs in combat, of being corrected on the spot by the instructor, at the time and under conditions in which the mistake occurred. There is no better way to teach and to learn the use of weapons and their employment than by practicing under conditions as close to the real thing as possible.

In the House of Horrors there were twelve silhouette targets at which the shooter fired in bursts of two shots. None of these silhouettes had been any further than ten feet.

After the period of trial, error and experiment was completed, a careful observation and study was made of the records of 500 men, who had just previously qualified in the prescribed course on standard target ranges, either as marksmen or experts. These 500 men, when projected into The House of Horrors averaged four hits out of a possible 12 silhouette targets. After these same 500 men had received instruction in instinctive pointing, they were again sent through this range. (Necessary changes in lighting and target location were made, to provide a fair test by eliminating to a great extent, any benefits derived by previous familiarity.) The average number of hits on the silhouettes increased from four to ten for this group. On this range, or any similar one, it is not difficult to establish a system of scoring after a number of shooters have gone through and an average number of hits is determined.

After this test, many more hundreds of men were put through the range, with the same general improvement noted. It was particularly noticeable that men who had received training in instinctive pointing only, and who had never fired the handgun previously, did as well as those who had had previous bull'seye instruction.

Once realistic conditions and situations are created, under which men will actually be firing, and after training and improve the ability of the shooter to fire under these conditions, confidence in himself, his ability and his weapon will be achieved.

#### HUNTING RIFLES

(Continued from page 27)

tridge forms, has established a very special place for itself among sporting rifles.

Even though the old reliable .30-30-that can kill deer size game animals at reasonably close (under 150 yards) distances-is still around, we now have far more efficient. flatter, and faster shooting cartridges and guns to handle them, in comparatively small sizes. The various 6 mm's, the .270 and .280, and the good 7 mm's are examples. One of the very finest of these small calibers has been temporarily shelved. (I hope it is only temporary). This is the .25 caliber as exemplified by the .257 Roberts. Weatherby is now the only gun manufacturer making a game rifle for .25 caliber. Because of the poor construction of bullets, for the speed of that cartridge, these usually blow up on game and are used mostly for predator and long range varmint shooting. The .25 caliber Nosler bullet is an exception to this blow up angle.

For some years, notably 1920 to 1950, the bigger gun companies did very little experimental and improvement work on new cartridges. However, the private experimenter, the gun nut wildcatter, was making fast progress, and against long odds. The large gun and ammunition companies would extend little help. Components were not released for sale by these companies; primers were hard to get, and it was almost impossible to obtain bullets. Such bullets as were available proved to be very poor and lacking in accuracy. The gun companies were interested in finished loads only, and in most cases these would not give the accuracy these experimental gun nuts wanted.

This situation finally forced a few of the more dedicated of these experimenters into making their own components. One thing they could get in quantity was loaded or empty military rounds of .30-06 caliber. These cases became the basis for most wildcatting.

Joyce Hornady and his shooting companions, who wanted bullets and couldn't get them, started to make their own, in dies also made by them. The size and volume of merchandise produced by the Hornady Bullet Company, at their Grand Island, Nebraska plant attest to just how successful they have been. Fred Huntington of RCBS fame, was a laundry operator who liked to hunt rock chucks and could get no bullets-so he decided to make some. Thus, the Rock Chuck Bullet Swage Company was started. Since Fred couldn't get dies he also started to make his own. The loading die business grew fast, and Fred dropped the bullet swage part of his business to concentrate on making loading dies, presses, etc. He retained the original name and RCBS of Oroville, California, is a big name in the business today.

Primers were also hard to get, and the big companies didn't seem interested in making more than they could use, so Federal offered them to reloaders. CCI also got in the primer business and these companies made primers equal to, or perhaps even better than, some of the big factories. At any rate, big factories did begin doing a bit more experimenting that resulted in better primers from them.

All of this was progress but it took the advent of a National Bench Rest Shooters Assn. to get a real push behind the desire for improvements in accuracy, in both rifles and ammunition. This was especially true in the bullet line.

Men like Mike Walker of Remington, Clyde Hart, maker of the worlds finest precision barrels, and Biehler & Astles, makers of fine bullet dies, all had a hand in the rapid development of accuracy. Today, factories are using advanced methods of bullet making, designed and engineered by the serious experimenters, to bring out products that are far better than anything known a few years ago.

Recently, factory loadings of various calibers made years ago, were broken down and components compared to new production ammunition made by these same companies. Weight tolerances of cases (volume) has been tightened up. Bullet weight tolerances have shrunk from three grains plus or minus on some calibers to less than one half grain. Powder charge variance has moved down from two grain plus or minus to less than one half grain. Factory bullets can be purchased today that are equal in accuracy to the best hand swaged bullet made by any of the well-known makers of custom bullets.

The growth and expansion of the manufacturers of custom-made bullets created a great deal more interest in shooting, and much more important, it aroused the major gun companies to the importance of all this interest to the average shooter, and now we find the large companies anxious to take advice from the field.

A few years ago, I visited the Speer Products Co. of Lewiston, Idaho, and at the same time I visited the Cascade Cartridge Inc., also at Lewiston, and was really surprised at the quantity of primers being made daily, nearly a million. On inquiry, I found that Speer, Sierra and Hornady also had a combined production of about a million bullets a day. I am sure production has since increased and there are many smaller specialty bullet companies producing a large number of bullets. Competition is good for any business and the gun trade has profited by it. Every year we see new improvements on all type products of this business, in new rifles, new calibers, and other related items.

From the days when a hunter owned a .22, a .30-30, and a shotgun—and considered himself well armed—to the hunter of today, who has a gun for each type of game he hunts and each kind of sport shooting he may wish to engage in, is really not such a long time in years. Today, even the once a year hunter wishes to own more than one caliber of rifle or shotgun and if possible, at least one custom-made gun.

New metals, new designs and techniques have created greatly improved rifles. New powders, bullets, primers and cases have given better performance to old guns. One of these old guns that has remained practically the same as when designed, just improved by the use of newer and better metals, is the Wincbester Model 1894 carbine. This gun still uses the same caliber case (with improved components), and is still useful for certain specific purposes. Most rifles used today, by the serious hunter, are modern rifles, in lever, slide, autoloader, or bolt action. The type is a matter of individual preference. The hunter of today has a wide choice in guns for his shooting pleasure. He merely chooses the gun best suited to handle the caliber cartridge that will do the best job on the game animal he is after.

There is one particular lesson I learned quite early in my hunting experiences. Caliber alone, is not the deciding factor in good, clean, quick game kills. Proper bullet placement and correct bullet function are both necessary and should be used together. Adequate energy level and bullet size should be used for the job at hand, but a big gun and bullet, at any speed, will not take the place of proper bullet placement.

I am, and always have been, an advocate of the smaller, faster calibers, but I do not approve of using a rabbit gun for deer. I think a hunter should use the gun best suited for the type game he is hunting, the best performing bullet he can get, and he should definitely learn how to place his shots. After 17 years of outfitting and guiding this is just about the most important advice I could give to any beginner.





Because of the heavy influx of questions, it has become necessary to limit the number of questions submitted in one letter to two. Your questions must be submitted on separate sheets of paper, must carry full name and address, and your Shooters Club of America membership number. If you are not a member of the Shooters Club of America, send a dollar bill with each question. Questions lacking either number or money cannot be answered. If you want a personal answer, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for each question.

#### Shooting Sheriff's Model

I hope you can help me. I want to build a "shooter" Colt S.A. .45 caliber "Deputy Model" pistol. I have not been able to find an old one in order to get the frame, nor have I heen able to obtain any info on the Great Western kit I remember seeing advertised a few years ago. Help!

> James W. Moody Gainsville, Florida

Your best bet is to have a regular single action Colt either cut to 4 inch length if in good condition or rebarreled. This is the barrel length for the "Deputy" model formerly listed by Great Western Arms & Sales Co., 11728 Vose Street, North Hollywood, Calif.

If it is the Colt to which you are referring, you must be thinking of their 3 inch barrel "Sheriff's Model," made in limited numbers and probably now mostly in collector's hands. In 1962 Centennial Arms Co., 3318 West Devon, Chicago, Illinois, had Colt Firearms Co. produce a special run of 500 only of this model. They were serial numbered to be identified from their original production.. These too are probably mostly owned by collectors.

Conversion to either the Colt "Sheriff's Model" or the Great Western "Deputy" specifications is not a home gunsmithing project, and if it is to be presentable, and surely you would want it to be, then I would suggest it be done by a competent firm such as Christy Gun Works, 875 57th Street, Sacremento, California. They rebuilt many SA's before rebirth of the new ones.

Original Colt SA frames, cylinders, and

parts of good quality are difficult to find, due to collector values, and you might also run into fitting and dubious quality problems.

Great Western would be a logical source of what you want, but they have been off the pages of current journals for several years, and I doubt that they are still in business. Early & Modern Firearms, Studio City, California, was one of the main outlets for Great Western and was about the last to list the kits. You could try writing them....W.S.

#### Ideal Grade L. C. Smith

Could you give me the estimated price of an L. C. Smith double barrel 12 gauge Shotgun? It is in excellent condition. It has the following on it: L. C. Smith Ideal Grade, Hunter Arms Co. Inc., M'F'R'S Fulton, N. Y. U. S. A., F.W.E. 42219 (on trigger guard), (on barrel) 42219 I, London Steel, Pat'd May 28, 1901.

> John Homnick Brooklyn, N. Y.

An Ideal grade L. C. Smith 12 gauge in fine condition and with steel barrels should bring \$200 from the shooter and also the shotgun collector. If it has auto ejectors and/or a single trigger, it will bring another \$50.—R.M.

#### Springfield Musket

My father had an old muzzleloader about which I'd appreciate some information as to its value, caliber, name, etc. It is approximately 48½ inches long; the barrel is 32-¾ inches long; bore is approximately 11/16 inch diameter. Towards the aft end of the barrel "V" over "P" over some sort of code is stamped. On the right side, on the plate to which the hammer is attached, is the inscription "1845 Springfield." Forward of this, on the same plate, is an eagle with arrows and olive branch over the initials "U.S." It has loops for a sling, is rusty, and has a broken stock which is wired together. The ramrod is in a slot immediately below the barrel. Is the gun worth more in its present condition or should it be restored?

> Kenneth A. Schmidt Wichita, Kansas

Your father's muzzleloader sounds like a Springfield Musket of .69 caliber. With its short barrel, it may be the Cadet Model, if it is the original length and not cut down. There were a few Cadet Models made in the  $32\frac{1}{2}$  inch barrel length. Collectors value of your musket would be around \$75 in the condition stated.—R.M.

#### Calibers

I would appreciate the opinion of your fine technical staff on the following questions: 1) Do you consider the .243 Winchester as effective 300 yard plus cartridge for deer and antelope? 2) How many rounds of maximum handloads can one expect as normal barrel life for the .257 Weatherby Magnum? 3) Is John Nosler still making .338 bullets? If not, is this an indication of a fading popularity of the .338 Winchester Magnum?

Capt. J. T. Loftus

APO New York, New York

I would consider the .243 adequate for deer out to 300 yards, especially if the Nosler bullet is used. I've made kills with it at that range and found it reliable enough. Barrel life depends on a great many factors other than number of rounds fired. If no rapid fire is contemplated, I'd say you should get 2,000 rounds out of one, in .257 Weatherby caliber with full change loads. Nosler still makes .338 bullets, but at the moment is completely out of them. This indicated to me that more then ever were sold over the last year-meaning that the .338 has increased in popularity.-D.W.

#### **Apprentice** Gunsmith

Right now I am serving my time in the Navy. I'm in Gunner's Mate School learning all about guns in general. After my hitch is up, I'd like to devote my time to gunsmithing. I'd like to have some information on how to learn this art. Could you tell me how your gunsmithing editor received his training? Are there any training schools open for persons interested in seeking this type of training? What about firearms companies?

I know this is my vocation, but I just don't know how to reach my goal of becoming a gunsmith. Also, can you give me some information as to the security involved with an ocupation such as yours? I'm sure you had your doubts as to whether it was going to pay off in the long run.

SA Thomas Paul Stiller Great Lakes, Illinois

Accredited gunsmith schools are: Colorado School of Trades, 1545 Hoyt, Denver, Colorado 80215; Lassen Junior College, 11100 Main, Susenville, California 96130; Oregon Technical Institute, Klamath Falls, Oregon; Pennsylvania Gunsmith School, 812 Ohio River Blvd., Pittsburgh, Penna.; Trinidad State Junior College, Trinidad, Colorado; and Modern Gun Repair School, Inc., 225 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202. The last is a home study school.

"What security is involved for gunsmiths?" Frankly, none. You make your own! If you learn fast, are willing to work long hours, and be a thrifty manager, you can make a living at it. Suggest you read the American Rifleman column "American Leading Gunsmiths," wherein opinions of gunsmiths are brought out. Machinist or tool and die maker trade schools will give training for jobs that pay better than what the average gunsmith makes. Experience gained here is also valuable in gunsmithing. Gunsmithing school would, of course, be a good basic gun education, but is by no means complete. Gunsmithing is not a trade that allows you to rest on your laurels after finishing school. It involves constant reading, study, and learning by doing. You should never cease to learn, and you'll never know it all.

The ideal setup is serving as an apprentice under men with much experience. Ordinarily only the larger shops can handle this as the one-man concerns can't take time to be teachers. I doubt that any of the factories have apprenticeship setups. You would probably find yourself doing only one small phase of production line work. You can write them, however.

Individual ability is a big factor. General gunsmithing is still a craft of the mind, eye, and hands. If you can't apply yourself to slow tedious exacting work, then you should think twice before attempting it. No, I wasn't one bit apprehensive about gunsmithing "paying off." I knew I was going to make an easy million. (I was then still somewhat young.) It's after you get into it that the doubt arises. Twenty years later you'll know you were dreaming, but in the meantime you've been making a living. If you really like guns, it's worth it. The best of luck to you, both in the Navy and after you're out.—W.S.

#### **Tommy Gun Collector**

What would be the value today to a collector for a Model 1921 Thompson submachine gun in very good condition. What would today be considered as a low serial number for the Model 1921 Thompson?

Bernard Anthony FPO New York, New York

The "legal" market for submachine guns is very limited; few collectors have the necessary special licenses and those that have gone to this expense probably have the Thompsons they desire. You can then see that as far as Thompsons go, you are in a buyers market that would value your gun at about \$125 if in good condition. As far as I know, serial numbers have not yet become a factor with Thompsons. Unless of one or two digits, the number would have little effect on price, as with most guns.—S.B.

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#### TREATISE ON TARGETS

(Continued from page 23)

are shooting on are holdovers from the Spanish-American War but the guns, the loads, and most of all the men, are something brand-new and fantastically good. This brand of shooting man is capable of a degree of precision which surpasses anything we have ever seen on the firing ranges of this country. Nor has this marksman yet crested; his ability will continue to grow. provided the incentive to improve is held before him. When 119 of these topflighters all hit perfect scores, a danger light flashes. Where do these phenoms go from here? Unless another and more difficult target is found, their interest is dangerously apt to falter.

Currently we enjoy the slightly stupid position of being the only country which drags its feet on the prompt modification of our targets, our vardages, and our courses of fire. We do not accept the ISU target nor its distances nor its courses. As a result when we set foot outside our borders to contest with the marksmen of other countries, do you think they will consider our game? You dam tootin' they won't! They snicker at our target, our distances, and our courses, and compel us to play on their grounds, follow their rules, and shoot after their style.

We ready a mere handful of our top shooters for these international bangfests by tolling off the professionals who are located at the Army Marksmanship Training Unit, the Air Force School of Marksmanship, and the Marine counterpart, and these marksmen attempt to hold their own. This, quite obviously, is not the answer. Where we now train a platoon or two, we ought to tap that immense reservoir of talent as represented by Private First Class McGinnis and those other 118 of his fellows. It can be done by doing a thorough overhaul on our targets and all that goes with them.

The International Shooting Union has a good target. It is used exclusively in the hiannual World Matches and at the Olympics. It is accepted around the world. It has a 10 ring which measures slightly less than 4 inches in diameter. The outer rings are all evenly spaced, each almost 2 inches from the other. This bull'seye is fired on at 300 meters (327 yds.) and has a great deal to recommend it. For lesser distances, 200 meters, 100 meters and down to 50 meters, the bull'seye has been reduced and again this makes for quite a practical target. This is a tough target-make no mistake about that! When you commence to fire at 300 meters on a center ring which goes less than 4 inches in diameter, you have really shouldered a man's job!

The ISU course calls for firing prone, kneeling, and offhand. As everyone knows the prone position is a good one, steady and secure. But kneeling is hard work and shooting off your hindlegs is strictly for the giants! To make the game somewhat easier a highly specialized rifle has been developed over the years. This gun weighs from 15-18 pounds, with a 28" heavy bullgun barrel, an extremely light trigger, the

finest micrometered sights, an adjustable buttplate, palm rest, and other fixtures.

While the target has a lot to commend it. the ISU rifle is for the birds! This shooting iron will never catch on in this country. Your American shooting man likes to stick reasonably close to the practical. His rifle must bear some resemblance to the military firearm, or if not that, it has got to look like his sporting arm. The ISU does neither. So while our target shooting game may eventually accept the International target as a happy sort of replacement for the obsolete old rag we have lived with for lo these many decades, it is going to take a heap of brainwashing to ever sell that Continental rifle!

While the International slowfire target may take some time to be fully accepted on this side of the Atlantic, not because there is anything wrong with the mark but because the rifle is somewhat of a freak, there is another shooting game, born and bred on the Continent, which really cries for better understanding here. This is the running deer and the running boar matches.

The running deer is fired at 100 meters, the running boar at only 50 meters. Here is a kind of contest which may be played with any rifle and any caliber. It is practicable, worthwhile, the finest kind of gamelands training, and it has spectator appeal aplenty. The fact that the longest distance is only 100 meters makes it all the easier to find the space. More's the pity that this shooting has not been more publicized.

Right now there aren't a dozen ranges in all the U.S. where the match may be fired, There is a running deer range at the Army Marksmanship Training Base at Ft. Benning and another at the Air Force School of Marksmanship, Lackland AFB, Texas. These are used exclusively for the preparation of our top professionals for the joustings against the Ruskies and the other top dogs in the world-wide competitions. Here is a game with a potential so big, so broad, so dynamic I'd not venture to predict how far it might go with the proper push!

Targets are changing in the pistol-shoot game in this country; not rapidly, not even too obviously, certainly not with the acquiescence of the handgunners, but shifting for all that. It is about time!

We use what is called the Standard American target. This mark is threequarters of a century in being and is a scaled down version of a rifle target. Around the turn of the century it was thought that the pistol shot at 50 yards could hold his own with the rifleman at 200. The Standard American target was the result. Whether any contests were ever actually staged between the handgunner and the rifle wielder deponents sayeth not; suffice to note, however, we have been stuck with the old target ever since.

It may have been a good one in 1912 but guns and loads and shooters have come a long way since then. Now the mark, like the rifle target, must have an X-ring in the 10 to settle ties. This works pretty well but a look at the winning scores in any of our



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ranking tournaments will at once convince the observer that there are too many scores, even over the 3-gun, 2700-possible course, that are far too close together.

This is, in part, due to the target but it is also a fault of the course of fire. We have huilt up a pretty ridiculous sort of shooting course. The slow fire stage, fired at 50 yards is okay; so too, is the rapid fire, shot off at 25 yards. But someone back in the dim past inserted what is called "timed" fire. This isn't exactly slow fire and it isn't precisely rapid. It is a stage where the real expert coasts, confident he will clean the thing. He always does. This timed fire nonsense should be wiped off the books.

There is a new course of fire now and it has a great deal to commend it. Like our ISU target and the courses of fire which follow, the new pistol course has developed as a result of our more active participation in the World Matches, the Olympics, and many international competitions abroad.

The new course of fire is a simple one. It consists of only slow and rapid fire. The match is a 60-shot affair, 30 shots slow and 30 rapid. The slow is shot at 25 meters on the ISU 50-meter slow fire target. The rapid is banged out on the Olympic rapid fire silhouette target. This is a full length manshaped target some 18%4" in width by 631/4" in length. Within the vital center portion of the target are a series of goose egg rings. The target is set up in banks of five and turns electrically. It faces the gunner for a period of 3 seconds and is then edged. The range is 25 meters.

The marksman fires on only the one silhouette. He takes his place on the firing line, his pistol pointed at the ground directly in front of his forward foot. On the command the target is turned whereupon the gunner has 3 seconds to lift his pistol, find his aim, and squeeze the trigger. At the expiration of the 3-second interval the silhouette is whisked away. It remains edged for 7 seconds and then reappears. Again a single shot is squeezed off. This firing is done in series of 5 rounds. At the end of the 5-shot series the targets are scored. A total of 30 shots constitutes this portion of the match. The 30-shot slow is added to the rapid total to come up with the aggregate score for the match.

Here is a worthwhile kind of pistol match! It combines the precision of slow fire with the complete practicality of rapid fire, and not on a round black bull'seye but on a silhouette. If and when we cashier the old Standard American target and adopt this newcomer, we'll at once put new pep and life into the handgunning sport!

The silhouette target and rapid fire shooting with both pistol and rifle is in its ascendancy in this country. This is due to the changes in firearms training by the military. The army, the USAF, and the Marines have a great deal of effect on our target shooting. Since the inception of the program known in its heginning as "Trainfire," the services have largely abandoned the old conventional bull'seye. Under "Trainfire" the recruit shooter does his first firing on a half-bull. Later he goes entirely to man-shaped marks.

These are of two types; the first includes only the simulated head and shoulders of the enemy and the second includes the whole torso. A recent board of review consisting of combat experienced infantry officers at Ft. Benning had this to say in summary of targets: "The bull'seve target is unrealistic in size and shape when considered from a combat target point of view." Not only has the mark been pretty generally given the heave ho but now the older firing ranges, known in army parlance as "Known Distance" ranges, are also being shuffled out of the picture. The trooper on his way to Vietnam is put to shooting at man-shaped targets at unknown ranges. He must be able to estimate the yardage and hold for it. It is all infinitely more practical.

This swing away from the old conventional target and the known-vardage target range will inevitably have its effect at our National Matches, not this year, certainly, but over a period of a comparatively little while.

For along with the policy of the military to junk the older targets and the antiquated courses of fire is the effect which the adoption of the 300-yard M-16 rifle will have on target shooting. This rifle is fast becoming the standard for all the armed forces. It is an unusually accurate little weapon at its range, that range not beyond 300 yards (or meters). This inevitably will shorten the range distances as fired by the services both for qualification and training and among the competition marksmen as well. This, just as inevitably, will have its effect on the civilian target man.





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#### **RAPID FIRE PISTOL**

#### (Continued from page 37)

attached to the muzzle. It utilizes a relatively wide (1/8") slot angled forward approximately 45 degrees from the horizontal to deflect gases upward at the instant the bullet exits, thus keeping vertical muzzle displacement at a minimum. Quite a large area (%" x 1") is exposed to the escaping gas to achieve maximum effect from the single slot. The compensator is rectangular in cross section, clamped to the muzzle with two socket head screws and fitted with a large clean-out plug which can be removed by means of a two-pin spanner wrench supplied with the gun. While torque (produced by the bullet being rotated by the rifling) is not generally considered significant in a .22 Rimfire handgun, Hammerli has taken steps to eliminate it in the 210. Ahead of the rifled portion of the bore, located at 9 and 10:30 o'clock, are two longitudinal gas ports. These ports are so shaped and angled as to oppose the counter-clockwise, twisting motion of the gun produced by torque developed by the bullet being spun while passing down the barrel. Consequently, there is no angular displacement of the gun to require correction between shots. Partly to eliminate disturbance caused by the recoiling parts slamming back into battery, and partly to insure reliable functioning with the diminutive .22 Short cartridge, the slide (breech block) is fabricated of a light alloy.

In the sight department, the 210 appears to be well equipped. The front sight is a broad, heavy blade mounted in a longitudinal cut in a boss, machined as an integral part of the compensator. The rear sight is finely adjustable, presenting a broad, flat, anti-glare surface to the eye. It is installed on a tunnellike boss which attaches to the rear of the receiver by a single large screw and two tenons. With front sight attached rigidly to barrel, barrel fixed rigidly to receiver, and rear sight attached solidly to receiver, the relationship of sights and barrel remains constant-a most desirable condition. The only sight feature which one might criticize is that the rear sight boss must be removed when it is desired to dismount the slide from the receiver for cleaning. Further, it is necessary to remove the compensator and front sight assembly if one desires to completely remove the slide from the gun. However, normal cleaning of the action to remove accumulated lubricant and fouling can be accomplished without removing the slide.

Lockwork in the sample guns is meticulously finished. There is ample evidence of careful hand fitting. The trigger is fully adjustable from about <sup>9</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lb., up to a pound pull. It may also be adjusted for what Hammerli calls a "soft roll-over" pull. While this gun is fitted with an external hammer, it is not visible except by looking through the back of the rear sight boss tunnel, which surrounds it and the rear of the slide.

Aside from the features already mentioned, the barrel is generally rectangular in crosssection, with the upper corners radiused and the top surface serrated longitudinally to eliminate glare. While the barrel proper measures approximately 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" in length, the



rifling terminates approximately 45%" forward of the breech. The balance is bored out somewhat larger than groove diameter and contains the gas ports and supports the compensator.

Adjustable target-type stocks are furnished as standard equipment. While no one has ever made a single stock that will fit everyone, this one does a pretty good job when properly adjusted. Interestingly, the butt (grip frame) portion of the receiver is quite short, extending only 2" below the trigger guard. The stocks, of course, extend well below this. Magazines are five-shot capacity and the magazine release is behind and slightly above the trigger on the left side. Just below the magazine release is a conventional thumb safety, "on" in its lower position.

External finish of the 210 is excellent, typical of what we have come to expect from Hammerli. Only the sides of the barrel and frame are polished bright and blued. All other surfaces have a soft, matte black finish with excellent non-glare characteristics. Both trigger and front strap are serrated vertically, as are the forward legs of the slide.

All of this is very nice, you say, but will it shoot? Having possession of the gun only for an extremely short time, we were not able to run it through any extended firing program. We were, however, able to check it for functioning and accuracy with three name brands of standard velocity .22 Short ammunition. From a functional standpoint the gun performed perfectly. Feeding, firing, extraction, and ejection were faultless, even when fired as rapidly as the trigger could be pulled. This is most important in International Rapid-Fire. As matter of interest, the gun functioned perfectly for 20 rounds of CB caps! Shooting indoors at 50 feet, the gun produced one-hole, five-shot groups consistently when fired with fore-arm rest. To be sure, not all groups were in that category, but I know who to blame for that-and it isn't the gun. Without a proper International Range it is difficult to say just how the gun would swing from target to target. However, at 50 feet, with five stationery targets properly spaced, it felt just right. Incidentally, with all barrel ports open, flame is visible during firing, but it does not seem to interfere with sighting.

But did I find anything I didn't like about the gun—well, yes. After expending great amounts of loving care on the metal parts of the 210, our Swiss compatriots put on poorly sanded and finished, sloppily checkered stocks made of wood more appropriate to a \$20 plinker than a superb match pistol. The stocks fit the hand well, are comfortable, and do their job very nicely—but they are not at all in keeping with the quality of the rest of the gun. For shame!

In the final analysis I must say that we like this gun very much, both in regard to its performance and to the pride one can take in a finely finished, efficient mechanism. Where can you get one? Try Heinrich Greider, Box 487, Knoxville, III. or Gil Hebard Guns, Knoxville, III., and while you're at it, you might ask for a copy of Gil's very nicely done catalog which contains a lot of good dope from experts in the pistol shooting game. As for the price of the Hammerli 210, at the moment it appears to be somewhat in excess of \$200—and that's not bad at all.

72

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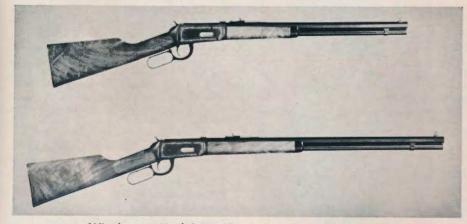


#### WINCHESTER WAGES WAR

(Continued from page 25)

BOAC jet-plus the expenses-paid trip to River Ranch Acres. Here, each member of the winning team received a \$2,500 Winchester Model 21 shotgun, presented by Bill Wallace, Vice President and General Manager of Winchester-Western. Over \$121,000 worth of awards were made, nation-wide, from the beginning of the overall tournament to its end.

Among the guests at River Ranch Acres were more than a dozen gun writers and deluxe trigger mechanism, etc.) These M-121s have safety features that should delight parents, instructors, and everyone interested in shooting safety—as who isn't? In addition to the safety inherent in the single shot (no "forgotten" cartridge in a magazine), these have a safety catch "that never forgets." The safety goes "on" automatically each time the bolt handle is raised. In other words, the gun is locked "safe" when loaded, has to be released via the safety lever before



Winchester Model 94 Classic in rifle and carbine.

editors invited, not as participants in the tourney but as interested spectators thereof and, primarily, as avid previewers of Winchester's new products for 1967. These are many and varied—and some are drool-worthy enough to make even hardened old "got more guns than I need" adicts like me think seriously about shelling out some hoarded dollars!

First in Winchester's own listing of the 1967 new ones—and why not, since .22s are the best sellers of all rifles—is a complete new line of .22 rimfire bolt action rifles. These are neat, trim pieces, designed to combine the sturdy appearance, beauty, and solid "feel" of a big-bore rifle. There are seven models (or model variations) in the new line: three single shots, two clip-fed repeaters, and two tubular (through the buttstock) magazine repeaters.

The Model 121 single shot comes in three types: Youth (with shorter stock, for junior shooters), Standard, and Deluxe (with Monte Carlo fluted comb, sling swivels, a special



it can be fired. Suggested retail prices for the M-121 single shots are: \$23.95 for the Youth and Standard, \$27.95 for the Deluxe.

Next in the new line of Winchester .22 bolt actions is the Model 131, a clip-fed bolt action repeater holding 7 Short, Long, or Long Rifle cartridges. The clip snaps into position on the under side of the stock. A finger-tip latch ejects the clip when empty,

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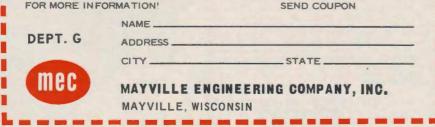
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Companion to the M-131 is another clipfed repeater, the Model 135, mechanically identical to the 131, but chambered for the .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire cartridge. Suggested prices for the clip-fed repeaters are: \$38.54 for the M-131, \$41.35 for the M-135 Magnum. Spare clips available at \$1.95 each.

A second pair of repeaters in the new Winchester line matches the Model 141 .22 rim fire with the Model 145 .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire. Both load from tubular magazines inserted through the butt stock. This "hidden" magazine gives these rifle the lean, clean look of a single shot, coupled with repeater convenience: 19 Short, 15 Long, or 13 Long Rifle cartridges in the M-141; 9 .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire cartridge in the M-145. Prices: \$41.95 for the M-141; \$45.95 for the M-145 Magnum.

That's the end of the new bolt action line, but not the end of the Winchester .22 rifle story for '67. Winchester presents also two new .22 carbines—a "western-styled" lever action Model 150; and, also with "a touch of the west" in its styling, a new carbine version of the Model 190 autoloader. Both are tubular-magazine jobs, with 201½" barrels. Suggested retail price for the lever action M-150 is \$53.95; for the autoloading M-190 Carhine, \$47.95.

Winchester's big-bore rifle list is broadened this year also with a carbine version of the Winchester Model 100 autoloader, offerred in three highly popular calibers—.243 Winchester, .284 Winchester, and .308 Winchester—at the suggested list price of \$147.95.

But for the man who really goes for beauty as well as tradition in rifles, and for the vast legion of Model 94 adicts, the glamour girl of the new-for-'67 Winchesters is the Model 94 Classic, rifle or carbine. The amazing sales success of last year's Centennial 1966 "Yellow Boy" would seem to prove that there is a market for tradition, call it nostalgia, in firearms; and since Winchester research indicated that a major factor in the Centennial's popularity was its octagon barrel, the 1967 Model 94 Classic carries the octagon barrel. The gold-plated receiver on the Centennial made it an eyecatcher, but the 94 Classic is even prettier, in my opinion, with just a spot of gold gleaming from the plated loading gate and the blued receiver bordered on both sides with scroll engraving. Stocks are beautifully grained American walnut, and the restdesign, action, sights, and .30-30 caliber-are "Model 94 Traditional." Over 3,000,000 Model 94s have been sold in its 72 years of popularity, and this one, I predict, will open a lot of checkbooks-even those of present Model 94 owners. The price: \$119.95.

Speaking of Centennials, Winchester offers this year also a special limited edition of the Model 67 lever action, in commemoration of Canada's 1867-1967 Centennial rifie or carbine, with octagon barrels, in .30-30 caliber only. Maple leaf engraving symbolizes the 10 Canadian provinces and two northern territories. Collectors will note that this one is offered singly or in rifle-andcarbine pairs with consecutive serial numbers. Available after March 1st, the Win-

(Continued on page 78)



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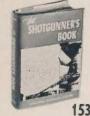


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chester Canadian Centennial Model 67s will retail for \$125 each, rifle or carbine; \$275 for matched pairs.

In shotguns also, Winchester has soon attractive new items. For the first time since 1963, Winchester will again offer 28 gauge and .410 guns, this time in the handsome and popular Model 101 over-under. The real innovation here is that you can buy the 28 or .410 singly, or you can buy a 20 gauge with interchangeable sets of barrels in 28 or .410 gauges, or both. The sets (one frame, with two or three sets of barrels) come in handsome, trunk-type cases that will win envious glances at any gun club.

These new offerings provide a remarkably wide range of options in look-alike, shootalike shotguns—a uniformity much desired by many shooters. It is now possible to own a matching set of individual Model 101 overunders in 12, 20, 28, and .410 gauges—or a 12 gauge plus a set combining the 20 gauge with one or both of the smaller gauges. Purchased singly, the guns are ticketed at \$283.95 in most of the standard models. (The M-101 Field Grade 12 gauge Magnum sells for \$293.95. The M-101 12 gauge Trap Grade is priced at \$298.95, or \$308.95 with Monte Carlo stock.) The combination skeet set (one frame, three sets of barrels in 20, 28, and .410 gauges, plus fitted trunk-type case) will sell for \$599.95, well under the cost of three guns purchased separately.

These, then, are the major new items in Winchester's production "war" for leadership in 1967 firearms sales. GUNS will carry, in later issues, detailed field and range reports on these new items as needed. Your dealer, or Winchester's handsome new 1967 catalog, will fill you in details omitted here for reasons of space. The catalog itself, incidentally, is a "picture book" worth adding to your library.

But Winchester is waging war, too, to convince more people that "Shooting Is Fun For Everyone," and to provide more and better shooting facilities for new and old shooters alike. They are not alone in this; the fact is that a major segment of the firearms industry is plowing money into shooting promotion—through the National Shooting Sports Foundation, or through individual efforts, or both. This is not philanthropy: it is based on the simple fact that more shooting equipment. But it's good for the shooting sports—and what's good for the shooting sports is good for the shoot-



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