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Guns

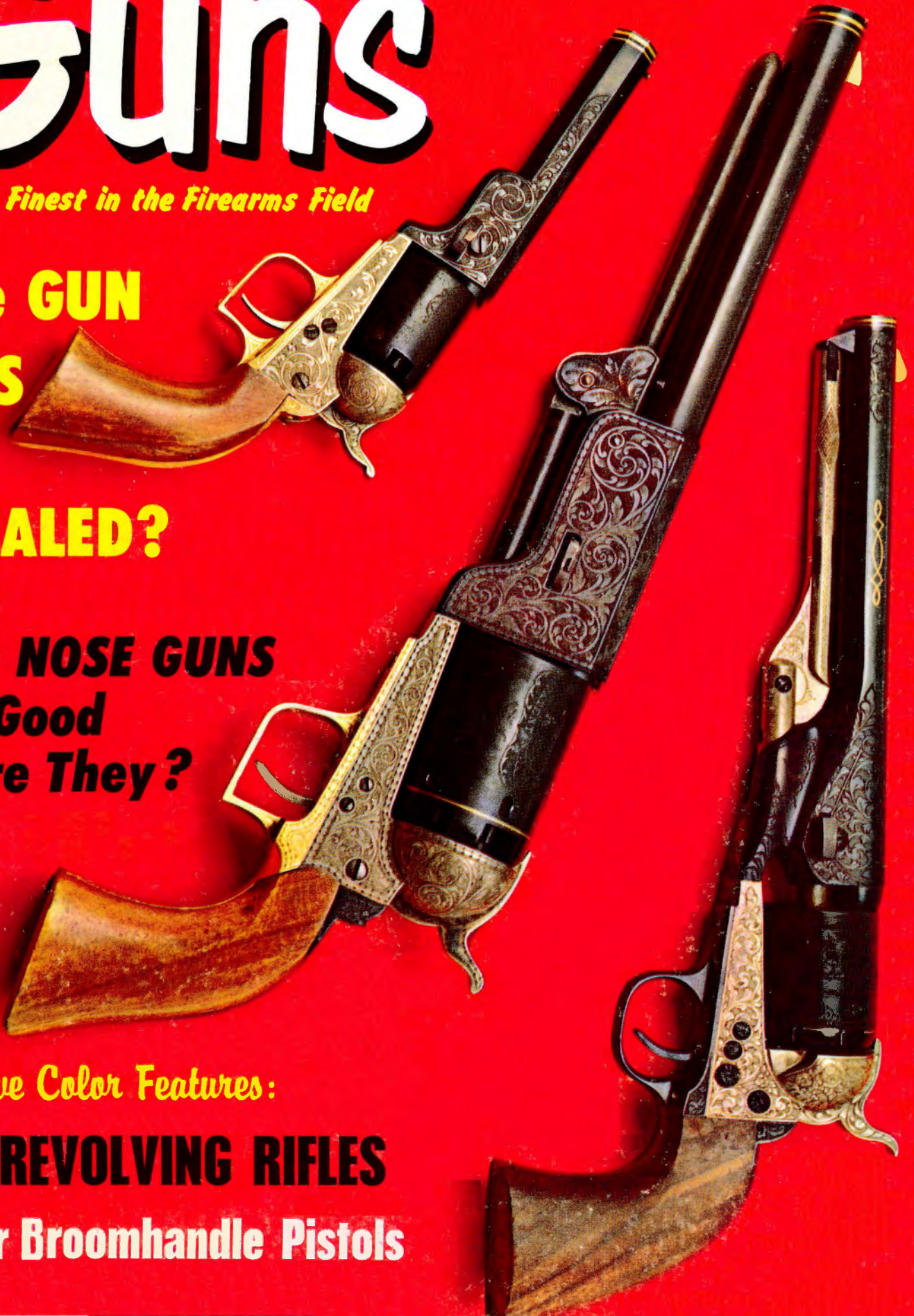
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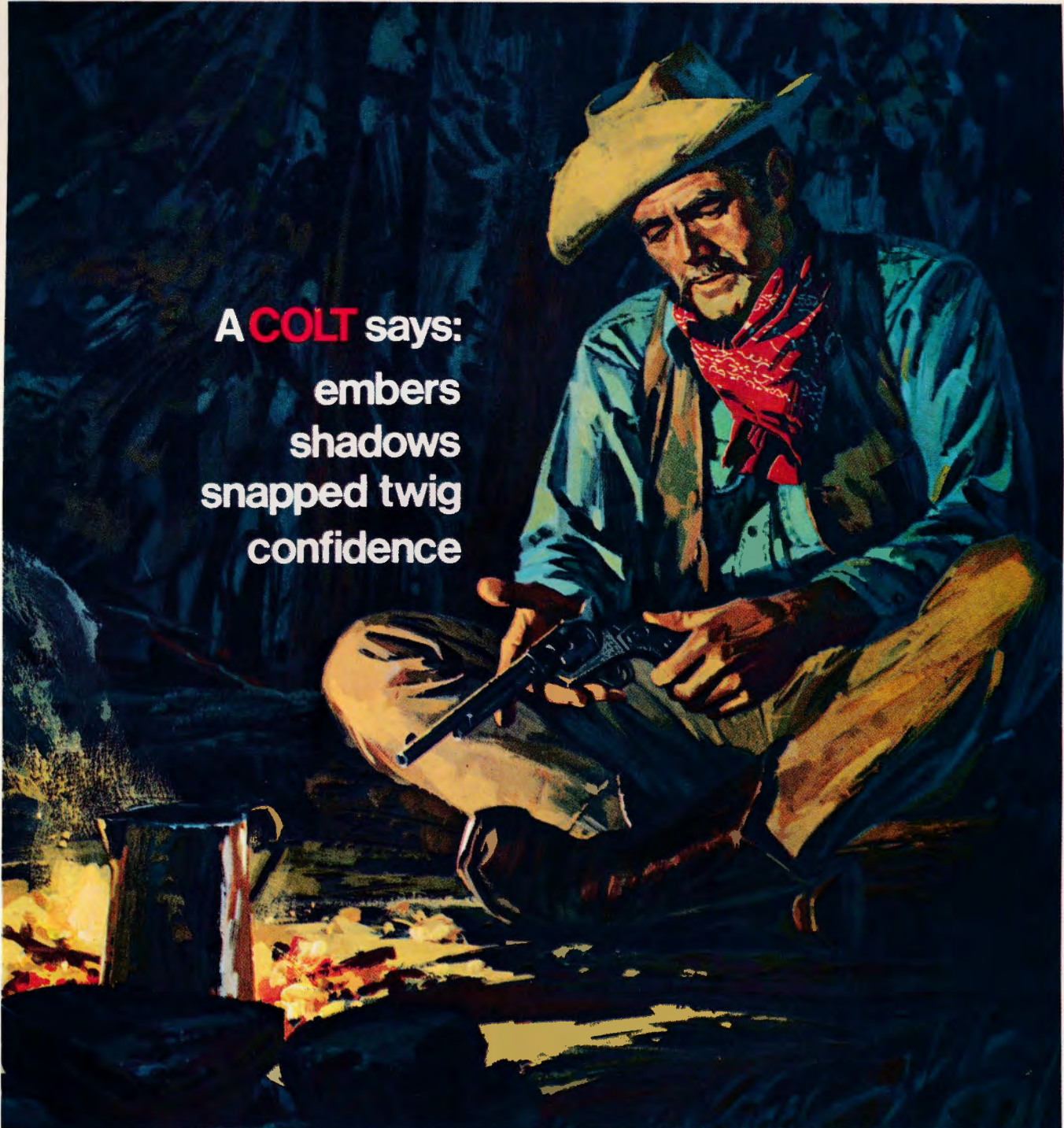
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LAWS
been
REPEALED?**

**SNUB NOSE GUNS
How Good
are They?**

Exclusive Color Features:

**COLT REVOLVING RIFLES
Mauser Broomhandle Pistols**



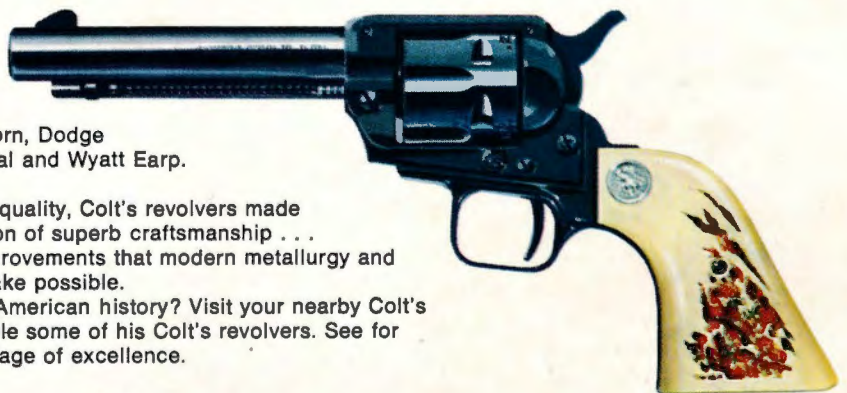


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TRIGGER TALK

ONE OF THE REASONS legislators are having such an easy time getting stupid gun laws passed is because *gun owners are careless, stupid, and reckless!* Now you and I know that though we are gun owners, we are not all those things. Jack Doe would have been the first to damn me for this statement. He owned guns for 20 years, and knew how to handle them. But Jack shot himself in the gut while cleaning his gun. Bill Doe would have written a scorching letter to my boss about this statement; but Bill is hospitalized with a nervous breakdown, brought on when he mistook another hunter for a buck.

And, please, don't write me letters saying; "There are more people killed by autos." Or, "How about bathtubs?" I've heard them all before, and read all of the statistics. But these have little bearing on some simple facts. *Firearms accidents increased 10 per cent in 1967 over the figures for 1966.*

I don't care what the number of gun accidents was, what really makes me boil is that in 1967, a year when every citizen was hammered with statistics about the "gun problem," there were still some gun owners who handled their guns as if they were playthings; and they added fuel to the fires of those who would like to see all of us turn in our guns.

Dammit! A gun is a dangerous instrument. And don't give me that baloney about baseball bats and golf clubs; I've heard those lines before, but I'm not concerned about these, I'm concerned about *guns!*

OK. You still say that you are careful, even extremely careful, so what can you do about those nuts who treat their guns carelessly. I'll tell you what you can do, you can—when you see a gun handled carelessly, call the shooter by his right name—a stupid S.O.B.—loud and clear, in front of everyone. And if people ask you why you are so shook up, tell them. Tell them that you are sick and tired of being harassed by gun laws because of jackasses; that you don't want to be within a hundred miles of a jerk who doesn't know how to handle a gun.

What else can you do? Why not enroll in a local firearms safety class; even if you have owned guns for years. If you can't locate one near you, then start one on your own. The life you save could be your own—and the guns you save from legislation could be all of ours.

THE COVER

Three engraved models of reproductions by Replica Arms Co. The story of how they look and how they shoot will be found on page 29. The magnificent color photo on the cover was taken by Gerry Swart of Chicago.

MAY, 1968

Vol. XIV, No. 8-05

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

C O N T E N T S

FEATURES

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NEW . . .

the first complete reference work on small arms

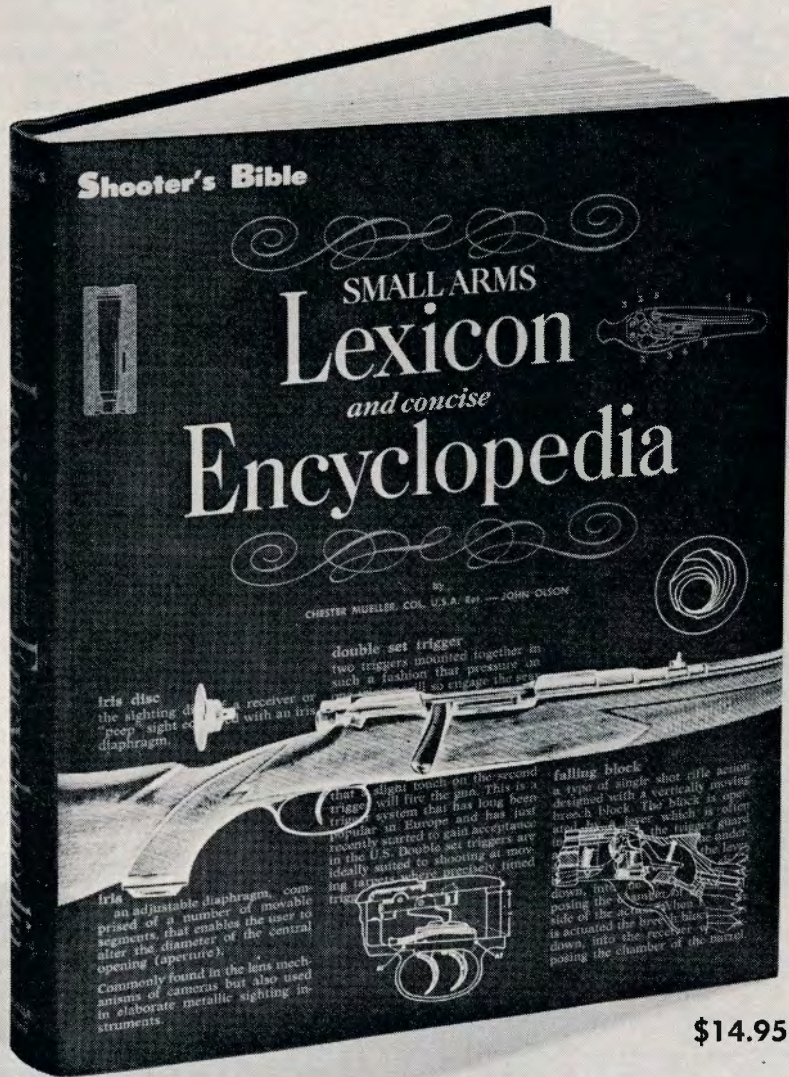
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Gunsmithing

Panel of Experts

TV's Super Gunmen

Recently the writer was watching a TV program and the following occurred: The villain had our hero pinned down behind a rock, the villain having a high powered rifle and the hero having only a handgun. They were taking potshots at each other and while the villain's gun chipped rock all around the head of the hero, the hero's bullets fell far short of reaching the villain. Realizing this, the villain stepped out in the open to get a clear shot at the hero, to thus end the fight and allow the villain to go on his merry way. The villain put

one shot, playfully, in front of the hero and advised him that the next one would be between his eyes. About that time the hero saw a flat piece of metal about 18 inches or two feet long and 6 or 8 inches wide, which he picked up, placed under the barrel extending outward from his gun hand, and then—bang, bang—dead villain.

As a gun collector and enthusiast (my collection exceeds 700 items) and shooter, both target and hunting, this thing has been puzzling me and undoubtedly has puzzled several thousand others who saw it at the same time I did. Is what I have recounted

ballistically possible? I have a good gun library, but I could find nothing that would shed any light upon it. What is your opinion? Would that piece of metal increase the deadly range of the handgun?

Ray Selden
Daytona Beach, Fla.

Affixing an extension to the outside of a firearm will not increase its range, i.e. the distance it can send a projectile. Extensions, shoulder stocks for example, can extend the effective range of handguns. The extreme range of the .30 caliber Mauser military model pistol is over a mile, but when used as a conventional pistol the usual range is about 15 yards. With the shoulder stock attached, the effective range (for shooters of equivalent skill) can be increased about 10 times to 150 yards.—S.B.

Weatherby-on-Mauser

I am planning to build a 7 mm Weatherby on a FN Mauser or Savage 110 action. I would like to know where I might obtain a barrel. If possible, I would like to have it fitted to the action by the maker. Would it be better to get a 7 mm Remington barreled action and lengthen the chamber for the Weatherby? I understand the Remington's 9½" twist is better than Weatherby's 12".

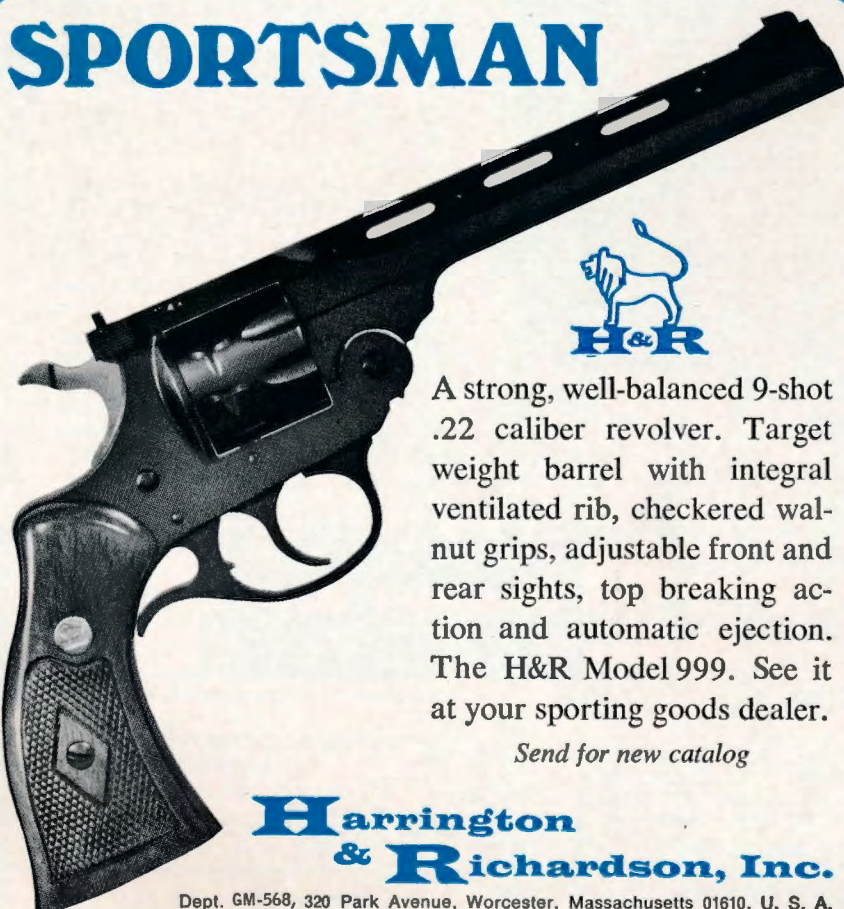
How much aluminum is used in each action? I think blued steel looks better than black aluminum. Eventually, I hope to have the action engraved. Steel would probably be better here also.

Sp/4 Bruce Bennecoff
APO, San Francisco, Calif.

There isn't a dime's worth of ballistic difference between the 7 mm Weatherby and the Remington 7 mm Magnum. Chamber lengthening often gives no advantage and merely shortens barrel life. If you are going to "build" the rifle I'd suggest the FN deluxe all-steel action. Any good gunsmith can barrel it to a 7 mm Remington Magnum and make it to your dimensions. We also do a lot of them here. The action makers can't do a better job of barrel fitting than a good custom gunsmith.

The Savage 110 action has an aluminum alloy trigger guard, floor plate section, etc. I feel you would like the FN action better for the type of custom rifle you mention. We have had excellent performance from the Remington factory M-700's in 7 mm Remington Magnum 9½" twist. The barrels run about .640" at the 24" muzzle, which is a good length and diameter.

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Lighter barrels can be expected to fall off in accuracy. I would specify either a Douglas premium or Sharon match grade barrel, via whomever you choose to do the job.—W.S.

Whitney Flintlock

I have an old flintlock musket which must be of military issue because it has a small rectangular post behind the brass front sight that must be to lock on the old spike bayonet.

Could you tell me the date of manufacture, by whom and its present value from the following description: On the right side of the breech is the name "N. Haven," on top are the letters "P" and "SNY." The stock runs almost to the end of the barrel and the overall appearance is similar to the "Brown Bess" or "Harper's Ferry" models.

Also, if you know of anyone who might be interested in this piece they may contact me at the address listed.

The musket is in excellent condition and is completely original throughout.

Jim Tyree
820 Early Dr.
Connersville, Ind.

Between the contracts of 1798 and 1812, Eli Whitney made flintlock muskets on the 1808 model and marked the lock plate only with "New Haven." Over 4000 of these muskets were purchased by New York State (reason for your SNY markings on barrel). Collectors value for one in fine condition and still in the original flint would be about \$150.—R.M.

Puzzled Beginner

I need help. I want to start handloading but I don't know the first thing about it. In fact, I've never even seen it done. What should I buy? After I buy it what do I do with it? I am interested in loading pistol and rifle bullets.

Whatever I've read leaves me as puzzled as I was when I started. Can you help me? In asking various people about equipment I get different stories. You can see where that leaves me.

Julius Glicksberg
Garden Grove, Calif.

Considering your total lack of familiarity with handloading, your first step is not buying equipment but, rather, obtaining one or more of the excellent handbooks on the subject. Only after you've studied one of these can you make an intelligent choice of equipment to suit your needs. The following handbooks are available:

Hodgden's Reloading Data Manual #20; Speer Reloading Manual #7; Lyman Reloading Manual #44; Hornady Handbook of Cartridge Reloading; and The NRA Illustrated Reloading Handbook. All but the latter should be available at most gunshops, so you can look them over before you make your choice. The NRA book is available only from the National Rifle Assoc.—G.N.

Sell It?!

I have a Winchester 1895 30-06 Saddle Carbine that is in excellent condition. I have owned this rifle for about 15 years and got it from a friend who bought it brand new.

I am a deer and small game hunting guide—but anyway, one of my hunters from St. Louis offered me \$350 for my rifle. Is it worth any more?

W. E. "Doc" Smith
Ellington, Mo.

If I owned a Winchester Model 1895 30-06 Carbine and a dealer offered me \$350, I'd sell. If he could resell it for any more, fine! He's entitled to his profit!—S.B.

Baron's Loss??

I have a side-by-side combination gun with the following on the top rib, "Imman. Meffert in Suhl" in gold. The left barrel is a fine Damascus of approximately 16 gauge. The right barrel is solid steel and approximately .41 caliber. The breech end of both barrels has some gold inlay, and the back action locks, long rear tang and all other metal parts are highly engraved. It has a three leaf rear sight and small rear sight similar to a Kentucky rifle sight. It also has sling swivels, finger grooves behind the trigger guard—2 triggers. The hammers are also carved and engraved.

This gun was liberated from the castle of a baron according to the present owner.

Arval Coffey
Berea, Ky.

Your combination rifle/shotgun (called Cape Gun) sounds like a really fine arm. If the condition is as good as it sounds, I would value it in the collectors field at around \$175 to \$225. If in just good or lesser condition, the value would drop considerably.—R.M.

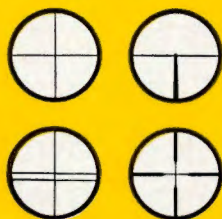


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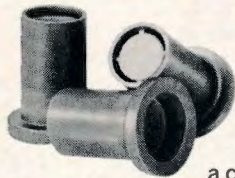
The Sport.

CO₂ Skeet, the most exciting new shooting sport ever introduced, is now available for the whole family. It's economical, too. Costs only a fraction of powder shotgun shooting. Perfect for spacious home areas, club houses, camps, even your basement can become a skeet range! CO₂ Skeet is the fantastic new development for complete family shooting fun.

The Shotgun.

The Crosman CO₂ Trapmaster shotgun is a full size shotgun. It looks like, feels like, shoots like the real thing. And it has features that other shotguns do not have—because it has adjustable CO₂ power for limited area shooting.

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The Trapmaster shoots standard No. 8 shot from Crosman CO₂ Shotshells. The load of over 55 lead-chilled shot produces a consistent pattern, assuring a clean target break every time.

The system has an effective range up to 40 feet.

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CO₂ Skeet breakaway targets are shaped like real clay pigeons.

The domed plastic targets have rings that break away when they are hit. Then they are quickly put together and used over and over again.

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The specially-designed Crosman CO₂ trap provides every thrill of powder shotgun trap shooting. Now, trap and skeet shooters can shoot far more often at far less cost. The Crosman CO₂ skeet and trap system is excellent for beginners. And great practice for you bird hunters, as well. It's the first economical shotgun system for everyone. Standard Trap equipment includes: Remote Foot Release to permit individual shooting. Auxiliary arm for conversion to MO-SKEET-O shooting.

FAMILY GUNS. Be a two gun CO₂ skeet family. Get an extra Trapmaster shotgun when you buy your CO₂ Skeet system, so your son can learn with his own gun. It's a great way to get close to your boy.

See the new Crosman CO₂ skeet shooting system at your dealer's now. Everything you need comes in one package. Trapmaster CO₂ shotgun, 100 shotgun shells, 10 CO₂ Powerlets, 25 reusable targets, and the new skeet trap. The entire CO₂ skeet system sells for under \$90.00. The Trapmaster shotgun alone sells for less than \$50.00. Pick yours up today.

CROSMAN TRAPMASTER MODEL 1100 CO₂ SHOTGUN SPECIFICATIONS

ACTION: One stroke side cocking single shot.

BORE: .380 true cylinder bore.

OVERALL LENGTH: 46½"

LENGTH OF PULL: 14¼"

DROP AT COMB: 1"

DROP AT HEEL: 2"

SIGHT: Metal bead front

POWER: Crosman Giant CO₂ Powerlets

SAFETY: Positive Cross bolt safety

STOCK AND FOREARM: Contoured hardwood—walnut finish

BARREL: Full rib 28" true cylinder

PATTERN: Approximately 14" dia. at 40 ft.

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CROSSFIRE

Can't Outlaw Invention

I am a subscriber to **GUNS** Magazine and I find it colorful and interesting. I enjoyed reading the article "Building a Modern Flintlock" in the Feb., 1968, issue. To me this proves one fact, and that is that the anti-gun clique (the Dodd's and the Celler's) can't disarm us. Because as long as there are materials, tools, and machinery to work with, some mechanical genius will make shooting weapons and will always improve on them.

Prohibition in the Roaring '20's proved to be a total farce. If the Dodd's and Celler's did slide an anti-gun bill through, we would only have bootleg traffic in guns. And it would follow the same pattern as bootlegging in the '20's.

I belong to the NRA and I've written letters of protest to Congressmen and Senators about anti-gun bills. There's no use in making a police state out of the U.S.A. And that's the only thing the Dodd's and Celler's would do. Best wishes to a good magazine.

Frank W. Witt
Elyria, Ohio

Guide Laws

The article on hunting in Alaska did not mention that you must have a guide to hunt sheep and grizzly bear. Neither did it mention that this is a new law enacted by the last legislature in spite of the fact that the old guide law was thrown out by the former attorney general who declared it unconstitutional.

I want to go back to Alaska to hunt with pleasure and have a chance of success—without a guide. So, I am looking for financial help to test this guide law in federal court. Almost all of the hunting in Alaska is on federal lands (Forest Service or Public Domain) and there is no good reason for discrimination against non-resident hunters on what is as much their land as it is Alaskan residents'. As if

this weren't enough, Alaska charges the resident only \$12.00 for a license to kill game on these federal lands, but charges the non-resident over \$500.00, the non-resident having to buy game tags starting at \$10.00 for deer or black bear and going up to \$150.00 for Polar bear.

Perhaps some of us can get together and put an end to this discrimination, and if I can succeed in killing this guide law in federal court I will be looking for hunting partners to go up there this fall.

R. B. Beckman
Great Falls, Montana

Rah, Rah, Virgines

I am a faithful reader of **GUNS** Magazine, and I'd like to say a word about one of your writers, George E. Virgines. I have read many of his stories and articles, and he is one of the best you have on such subjects as old guns, gunfighters, and stories of the Old West. His article in the February issue about Fred Lambert, the lawman, was most interesting. How about more stories and articles by him?

Also how about a reprint of the October, 1966, cover which featured the Colt Sheriff's Model surrounded by a group of badges, without the advertisement. You have one of the best gun magazines on the market.

Major L. Golden
Imperial Beach, Calif.

Colt Lightning Owners

I am conducting a survey on the variations of the carbine model of the Colt Lightning pump action rifle. I would therefore be grateful if any of your readers who own such a carbine would send me a full description, including the weight, of their particular specimen.

N. W. Baldwin
19, Melville Road
Churchdown, Gloucestershire
England

Cloak & Dagger Gun

It so happens that I have one of the pistols described in the article in the January, 1968, issue by Mr. Kinsley P. Karnopp. This gun has been in my gun collection now for the past 25 years listed as a "Hari Kari" gun. I came into possession of the gun in 1943 on Guadalcanal under some unusual circumstances.

The last paragraph of the article is most interesting. Considering that after manufacturing over one million



of these guns, only 10 have been accounted for, I would like to have Mr. Karnopp give me an approximate evaluation of this gun on today's gun collector's market. I would also like to know how to go about registering this gun, as there are no numbers, letters, or manufacturer's proof marks on it.

I always enjoy reading your most interesting magazine, and please convey my personal thanks to Mr. Karnopp for a most interesting article.

Gy. Sgt. Francis V. Fraser USMC
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Arvid (?!?) Monell

I have been a reader of GUNS Magazine for many years and enjoy most of the articles, but the ones I like best are the historical Western stories written by George Virgines. Mr. Virgines is one of my favorite authors and I would like to see more articles by him. Also I would like to see the October cover photo of the badges and Sheriffs Model published again without the advertisement. I would like also to see more about the Roving Gunslingers. Haven't seen anything about them in a long time. I have received the last issue of GUNS and it is the best one in some time. Keep up the good work.

Arvid Monell
Chicago, Ill.

Fast draw fans will recall that one of the members of the Roving Gunslingers is named Chuck Monell and that there is a federal law concerning use of the mails to defraud.—Ed.

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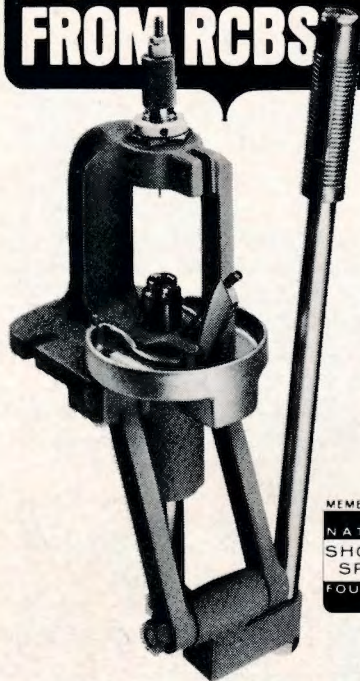
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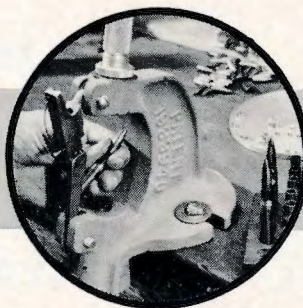
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HANDLOADING BENCH

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

FOR SOME TIME now we've been shooting several of the high-velocity light bullet handgun loads produced by Lee Jurras under the name "Super-Vel." While getting excellent results with both .357 Magnum and .38 Special Super-Vel fodder, we've been anxiously waiting for the promised 9 mm Parabellum (Luger) load—possibly because for a decade now I've carried a Smith & Wesson M-39 DA autoloader in that caliber for serious social purposes. With proper ammunition it is one vicious piece of ordnance—yet fast and easy to handle, even on running jacks at 50 yards.

The Super-Vel 9 mm loads we have just received from the Jurras team work beautifully with the racy M-39. The bullet weighs a mere 90 grains and whips out of the four-inch S&W barrel at 1430 feet per second! The bullet is of truncated-cone shape, greatly reminiscent of the original "Parabellum" bullet of over 60 years ago. The lead core is covered almost to the edge of the nose flat by the thin copper jacket. A fairly deep conical hollow-point is formed in the exposed lead core to promote rapid expansion. And it does expand rapidly, opening up to well over $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch diameter in soft clay while giving four inches penetration. It also blasts a fist-size hole through a water-soaked Sears catalog. The same bullet in soft-point form (identical, but lacking the point cavity, therefore weighing 92 grains) expands to over $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch in diameter and penetrates an inch or so more in clay. Considering that standard, domestic factory 9 mm

loads simply punch nice, clean holes and produce no bullet expansion, Jurras has better than doubled the effectiveness of the 9 mm. And, these Super-Vel loads function perfectly in every gun we've tried. Brochures and prices are available from Super-Vel Cartridge Corp., Shelbyville, Indiana. Incidentally, just bullets are available, if you'd rather assemble your own loads!

• • •

Back a few years ago, when the .284 Winchester was first announced, I managed to put together a bolt gun for it long before the Winchester lever and automatic models were actually available. Consequently, our first loading was done with bullets seated to the base of the neck, rather than way down deep like factory stuff. We utilized a Mauser action, so had plenty of magazine length, and throated the barrel to take bullets up to 175 grains weight seated to 7 mm Mauser cartridge length. A new FN 7 mm barrel measuring .2842" across the grooves was used, set back and rechambered with a reamer that Clymer Manufacturing Co. (14241 West 11 Mile Road, Oak Park, Michigan) hurriedly made for us from a single sample loaded round we'd liberated.

We developed considerable respect for the .284 when loaded so as to utilize its full powder capacity. As it must be loaded for Winchester M88, and M100 and Savage M99 rifles, the full capacity cannot be used—the bullet base encroaching into powder space because of cartridge length limitation.

(Continued on page 71)

Bullet	Charge	Velocity
130 gr. Speer Spitzer	61 gr. H4831	3100 fps.
130 gr. Speer Spitzer	56 gr. IMR4350	3150 fps.
130 gr. Speer Spitzer	49 gr. IMR4064	3075 fps.
139 gr. Hornady Spire Point	56 gr. IMR4350	2975 fps.
145 gr. Speer Spitzer	59 gr. H4831	3000 fps.
145 gr. Speer Spitzer	54 gr. IMR4350	3000 fps.
154 gr. Hornady Spire Point	56.5 gr. H4831	2725 fps.
154 gr. Hornady Spire Point	53.5 gr. IMR4350	2700 fps.



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THE FUNCTIONAL 308

by David Beattie

Want a rifle that's ideal on whitetails near and far, can be loaded down to take rabbits, and provides excellent accuracy for bench or target shooting? Beattie has it for you.

THE PROPERTIES OF BULLETS

by Charles N. Hood, II.

A graphic presentation of how to select a bullet for your particular rifle, for your special needs, for your hunting.

THE 25-06—STILL UNBEATABLE

by Bob Kindley

As wildcats go, the 25-06 is ancient. Varmint shooters were using it generations ago, but it still doesn't have to take a back seat for anything, particularly where ranges are long and targets are small.



HANDLOADING THE MILITARY CALIBERS

by Frank C. Barnes

A detailed and comprehensive rundown on the popular military cartridges, and how to load for them. Ballistics, vital dimensions and load tables, plus data on case forming or procurement.

CAST BULLETS FOR THE U. S. CAL. 30 CARBINE

by Jim Carmichael

The rising cost of jacketed ammo for the 30 carbine has made handloading a must if you're going to shoot much. Here's all the dope.

ADVANCED LOAD TECHNIQUES FOR PISTOL AND REVOLVER CARTRIDGES

by Dean Grennell

With gas check bullets, those wide shots revealed case and bullet run-out as the culprit. Maybe jacketed bullets would be better. Grennell tells you why and how.

POWDER SELECTION

by Bob Hutton

At long last, a powder ladder that indicates the burning rate of all production sporting powders, as well as their positions relative to each other.

SUPER HANDLOADS FOR THE 10-GAUGE MAGNUM

by Wallace Labisky

Factory 10-gauge magnum shotshells are hardly worth shooting. Good handloads offer a great improvement, and here's how to make 'em.



THE FUNDAMENTALS OF HANDLOADING FOR HANDGUNS

by John Lachuk

Step-by-step instructions on how to load pistol and revolver cartridges, clearly and simply explained.

THE CASE OF THE CROOKED AMMO

by E. C. Lenz

Clever deduction quickly located the troublemaker... and the cost came only to pennies.

PRACTICAL BENCH REST SHOOTING

by George Lindsay

The shooting bench offers more than the quest for that elusive one-hole group—it can be a big help in improving trigger control and sighting-in, all valuable preparations for that big hunt.

THE BABY BOUNCES BACK!

by Thomas McCleneghan

The advent of the highly efficient ball powders has given new life to small cases. Read the surprising results obtained by the author with the 221 Remington.



MAXIMUM LOAD TABLES

by the editors

A concise and reliable listing of maximum handloads for handgun, rifle and shotgun.

GROUP SQUEEZING

by Warren Page

Smart riflemen know that the careful selection, preparation and maintenance of cartridge brass are the vital steps in achieving peak accuracy.

HANDLOADING IN THE 21st CENTURY

by Larry Sherwood

With rare foresight, the author projects the state of the art some 35 years hence. Don't laugh—they ridiculed George Orwell, too, but 1984 is almost upon us, ahead of time!

HANDLOADING FOR THE 303 ENFIELD

by Robert K. Sherwood

It has its problems, but here's how to go about it with the answers to many questions.

FASTEST GUN IN THE WEST

by Ted Smith

The fastest 17 caliber, that is, if the author's chronographing of his 17/22-250 checks out. A load table is included.



TURPENTINING THE 30-30

by H. V. Stent

Handloads and the 30-30 may sound as incompatible as Kerosene and LBJ, but the author reports some surprisingly good results.

CASE CAPACITY TABLES

by Ken Waters

Required material for those using today's computers and slide rules—the modern guide to intelligent handloading.

38 SPECIAL BULLET TESTING

by Mason Williams

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LOADING FOR MAXIMUM SAFETY

by David Beattie

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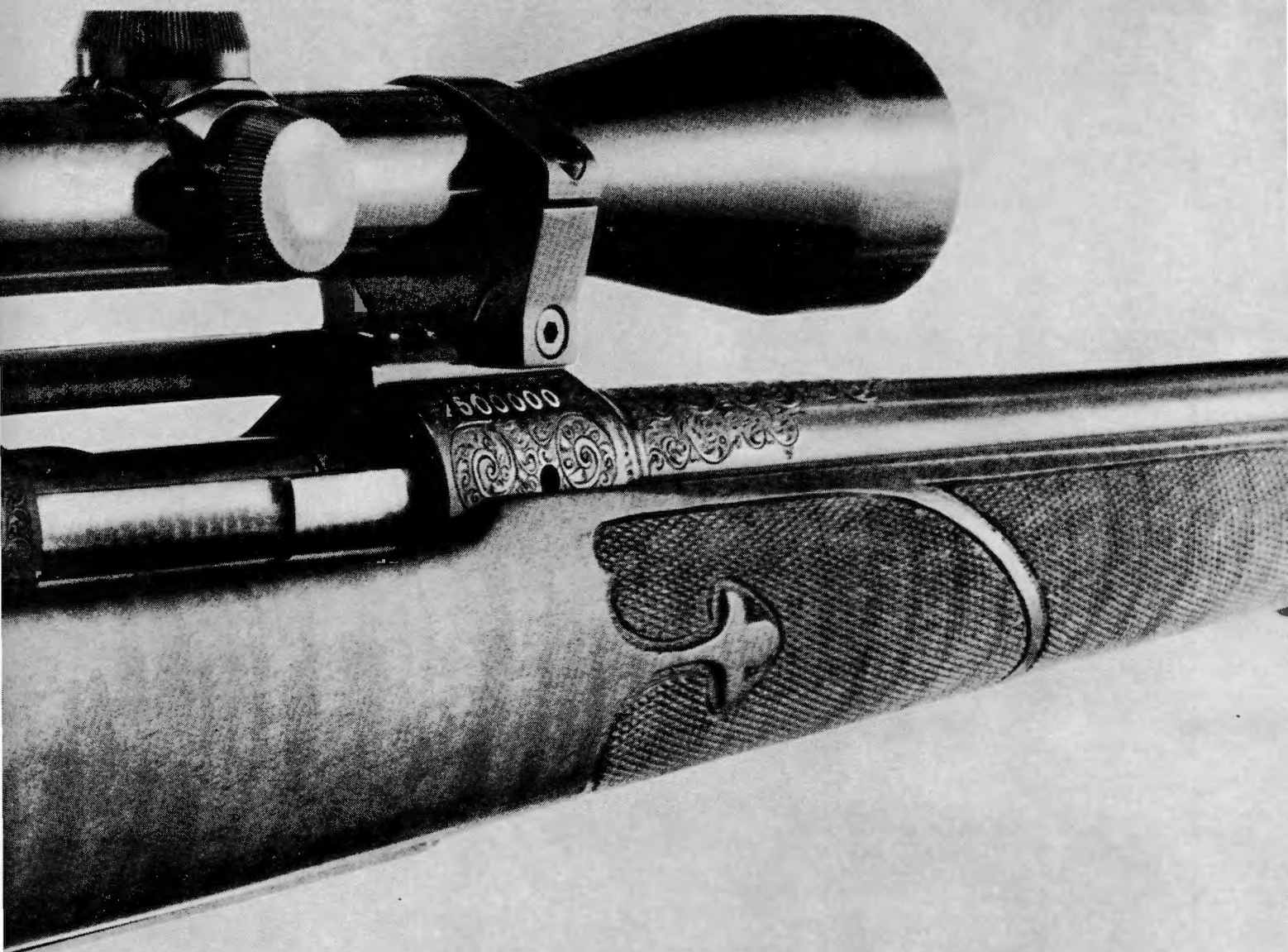
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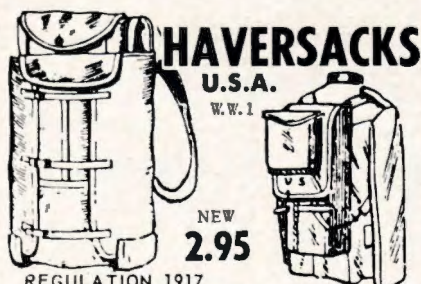


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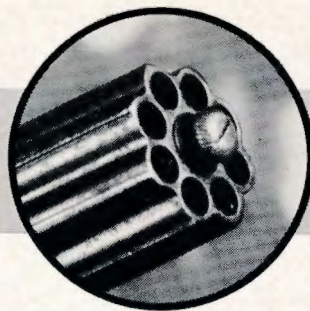
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COLLECTOR'S CORNER

By ROBERT MANDEL

For a period of about three years, one of the most sought after of all collectors arms, remained dormant in price; or if the arm itself was not of top quality, it dropped in value. The collectors arms that I speak of are . . . of course Colt revolvers. Until the last year or so, prices for the Colt percussion and cartridge arms remained very steady, while most other groups of collectors arms increased in price. I would guess that the introduction of the reproductions had much to do with the few years of lack of interest in Colt arms; for they sold for a fraction of what the original would sell for, and they were being offered in models from the Paterson to the Single Action Army. I am sure that many a Colt collector had a sleepless night thinking that this introduction of modern made arms would in some way cut into his fine collection of antique Colts. Now the Colt firearm has once again taken first place as the most sought after collectors arm—even stronger than before.

I will try, in this month's Collectors Corner, to give you a thumb-nail idea of the Colt Percussion revolvers; types, models, variations, and prices. The Colt percussion revolver falls into three groups. First, the very rare 1836 to 1842 pistol, made at the Paterson factory. Calibers of the Paterson revolvers ran from .28 to .36, and barrel lengths from 2½" to 12". Serial numbers ranged from No. 1 to 1190 (recorded), though it has been said that over two thousand revolvers were produced at the Paterson factory. Collectors value for the Paterson Revolver, from the Pocket Model to the Holster Pistol will vary with condition, but sale prices today start about \$1500 to \$3500 for a Pocket Pistol and \$2500 to \$6500 for the Belt or Texas Model. These are just average prices, and do not include the factory new or the engraved models. One of the other arms to fall into the first group of Colts is the well known Walker. Manufactured in 1847, it was the heaviest handgun known. In .44 caliber, it had a 9" barrel and weighed

4 lbs. 9 oz. Military Walkers are marked with the Company letter and Company number from 1 to little over 200. Over 1100 of the Walker revolvers were produced in the 1847 period. To place a value on a Walker Colt is a tough thing to do. One in poor condition will bring about \$800 to \$1000, and I saw a like-new military model bring well over \$10,000 at a NRA Convention a year ago. At the end of the first group of Colt arms falls the three models of the Colt Dragoon. The First Model, with square-back trigger guard and oval cylinder stops; the Second Model with square-back trigger guard and rectangular cylinder stops; the Third Model with round trigger guard and rectangular cylinder stops. Collectors value for the Colt Dragoons will vary from \$450 in just fair condition to \$2,500 and more in very fine condition or like new. Before concluding this first group of Colt firearms, mention should be made of one of the scarcest of Colt pistols known to the collector—the Whitneyville-Hartford Dragoon pistol. Only a very few of this model arm were manufactured, somewhere about three hundred. Its finish was similar to the Walker, but its most obvious differences are the reduced proportions of its barrel and cylinder and a loading lever with end-catch. Collectors value today for a Whitneyville-Hartford revolver in good condition would be any place from \$4,000 to \$10,000.

The Second group includes the Colt 1860 Army revolver, the 1851 Navy revolver, and the Round Barrel 1861 Navy revolver. The Model of 1860 Army Holster Pistol superseded the Dragoon. Colt reduced the weight from 4 lbs., 2 oz. to 2 lbs., 11 oz. The 1860 Model became a more streamlined revolver; its loading lever no longer hinged to the frame, but was encased in the frame and worked on a ratchet system. Early models had a 7½" barrel, but they were soon superseded by the standard 8" barrel. Collectors value for the 1860 Army (Continued on page 54)

OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

TROUBLE COMES IN MANY WAYS

A big hole has been shot into the National Firearms Act. In a limited yet far-reaching decision the Supreme Court of the United States has decided that the constitutional privilege against self-incrimination is violated by requiring the registration of an otherwise illegal firearm.

The National Firearms Act, a complicated and inter-related statutory system of registering certain classes of firearms by the Federal Government exists under constitutional taxing powers. Covered is the registration of shotguns with barrels less than 18 inches long; rifles with barrels less than 16 inches long; other weapons, made from a rifle or shotgun, with an overall length of less than 26 inches; machine guns and other automatic firearms; mufflers and silencers; and other firearms (except pistols and revolvers) if such weapons are capable of being concealed on the person.

The Court stated: "We hold that a proper claim of the constitutional privilege against self-incrimination provides a full defense to prosecutions either for failure to register a firearm under (section) 5841 or for possession of an unregistered firearm under section 5851"

Previously, weapons coming within the purview of the National Act could only be legally acquired and lawfully possessed subject to the regulatory requirements. And any such weapon was contraband unless properly registered, and unlawful possession thereof was subject to statutory penalties.

Constitutional difficulties found,

according to the Court, in sections 5841 and 5851 were the use by "state and federal authorities of information obtained as a consequence of the registration requirement."

These sections are the heart of the act:

"Section 5841. Registration of Persons in General. Every person possessing a firearm shall register, with the Secretary or his delegate, the number or other mark identifying such firearm, together with his name, address, place where such firearm is usually kept, and place of business or employment, and, if such person is other than a natural person, the name and home address of an executive officer thereof. No person shall be required to register under this section with respect to a firearm which such person acquired by transfer or importation or which such person made, if provisions of this chapter applied to such transfer, importation, or making, as the case may be, and if the provisions which applied thereto were complied with.

"Section 5851. Possessing Firearms Illegally. It shall be unlawful for any person to receive or possess any firearm which has at any time been transferred in violation of Sections 5811, 5812 (b), 5813, 5814, 5844, or 5846, of which has at any time been made in violation of section 5821, or to possess any firearm which has not been registered as required by section 5841. Whenever on trial for a violation of this section the defendant is shown to have or to have had possession shall be deemed sufficient evidence to authorize confiscation, unless the defendant explains such possession to (Continued on page 84)

Have Gun Laws Been Repealed



Courtesy, National Shooting Sports Foundation.

"I would swear that some of the councilmen were asleep."

By JEROME RAKUSAN



SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

No. 236.—OCTOBER TERM, 1967.

Miles Edward Haynes,
Petitioner,
v.
United States.

On Writ of Certiorari to the
United States Court of Ap-
peals for the Fifth Circuit.

[January 29, 1968.]

MR. JUSTICE HARLAN delivered the opinion of the Court.

Petitioner was charged by a three-count information filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas with violations of the National Firearms Act, 48 Stat. 1237. Two of the counts were subsequently dismissed upon motion of the United States Attorney. The remaining count averred that petitioner, in violation of 26 U. S. C. § 5851, knowingly possessed a firearm, as defined by 26 U. S. C. § 5848 (1), which had not been registered with the Secretary of the Treasury or his delegate, as required by 26 U. S. C. § 5841. Petitioner moved before trial to dismiss this count, evidently asserting that § 5851 violated his privilege against self-incrimination, as guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment.¹ The motion was denied, and petitioner thereupon entered a plea of guilty.² The judgment of conviction was affirmed by the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Cir-

¹ Petitioner's motion asserted merely that § 5851 was "unconstitutional," and the order denying the motion does not indicate precisely the substance of petitioner's contentions. His arguments, both in the courts below and here, have consistently asserted that § 5851 is unconstitutional in its application to him.

ON JANUARY 29, the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it had ruled that the mandatory registration of machine guns, sawed-off shotguns, and other firearms covered in the National Firearms Act, is unconstitutional. The report of this decision left many gun owners with a lot of unanswered questions. Does this mean that I can now go out and buy a machine gun or sawed-off shotgun? How does this decision effect all of the state and local gun registration laws now in effect or proposed?

Unfortunately, the answers to these questions will be forthcoming only after long and hard deliberation by lawyers and jurists, and by the results of the test cases which are sure to come. It may be that too many gun owners have grasped this decision as an easy way out of the problem of anti-gun legislation. Let's get several points straight.

First, this decision does not—at this moment—negate any of the state and local gun registration laws now on the books. Each law must be judged on its own, and until a test case is tried and won, the law stands.

Next, this decision does not mean that the government has lost the means to control "firearms" as defined by the National Firearms Act; they still maintain the power to tax and regulate the sales of such firearms.

I'm afraid that the Supreme Court ruling will have little, if any, effect on our chances to be overwhelmed with new anti-gun laws—on the federal, state, and local level. It may be that this decision will alter the means by which guns are controlled, but it makes little matter to the honest gun owner if his guns are subject to registration or heavy taxation—either way, it means a lot of trouble for no appreciable reason.

If we study the registration aspect of firearms control—in this case, on a local level—we have a hard time understanding what is going on in the minds of the politicians who back this sort of gun control. The recent ordinance passed in the City of Chicago is an excellent case in point.

First, you must consider that the State of Illinois, during the 1967 legislative session, passed a gun control law which, basically, requires the registration of gun owners. This law, which has only a few minor faults could, upon correction of these points, be supported by every gun owner, IF IT IS ADMINISTERED FAIRLY!

Now, with this state law going into effect this coming July, why would the City of Chicago want to pass another gun control law? I'll let you figure it out for yourself.

The state gun control law was sponsored by Republican members of the legislature; Mayor Daley of Chicago is the State Democratic leader. The State law goes into effect in July, which means that it won't be completely implemented until late in the fall of 1968; Chicago is host to the Democratic National Convention, which Mayor Daley has promised will be free of violence, and the Convention meets in August. Next, the supporters of a gun registration bill in the Illinois legislature (called the Daley Bill) were a bit perturbed when their bill failed to be passed, after they spent considerable sums of money trying to get public support. There are other factors to be considered, but this will give you enough of a background on the situation.

Now, let's take a look at some of the parts of Mayor Daley's latest gun control effort. The ordinance states; every gun owner shall "register the possession of a firearm with the city collector. . ." It then goes on to describe a "firearm" as; "any weapon, by whatever name known, which is designed to expel a projectile or projectiles by the action of an explosive, and a firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any part or parts of such

(Continued on page 68)

by MIKE RIVISE

POPULAR OPINION HAS IT that inventors are queer, distracted little men who tinker in disorderly laboratories with all kinds of crazy gadgets. But actually most amateur inventors work in the upstairs attic room or in that narrow basement space next to the furnace.

It really makes no difference where Jones Wister of Philadelphia worked. For he invented a gun to shoot around corners.

He described his own special gun so that it could be used in a trench with the aid of a periscope without exposing the soldier to the fire of the enemy. He curved the outer end of the barrel so as to deflect the projectile at an angle to the longitudinal line of the firearm.

Wister also provided a short section of curved barrel that could be screwed on to a regular rifle. As for aiming this "around-the-corner" gun, all one does is to fasten a little pocket mirror on to the barrel at a 45 degree angle.

Zany? In December, 1951, the United States Army announced the adoption of a machine gun with a curved barrel, just thirty-five years after Wister had patented his "curved-barrel" gun.

And if the U.S. Army is looking for a curved bullet to fit Wister's gun they can look at Patent No. 107, 909 issued to James G. Hope of Topeka, Kansas on October 4, 1870. The inventor constructed the bullet with a curved flat piece on its base which is intended to take a good hold on the air causing the bullet to move in a curved line.

Another citizen of Philadelphia made Patent Office history with his "Self Defence" (Continued on page 75)

MORE

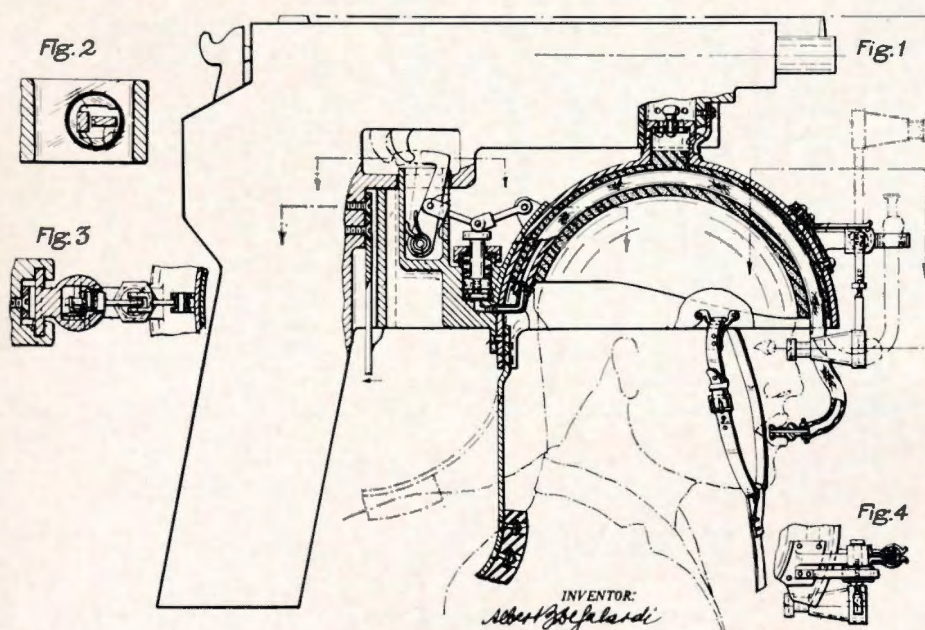
ZANY Gun Patents

Sept. 15, 1953

Filed Feb. 14, 1949

A. B. DE SALARDI
HELMET MOUNTED PISTOL

2,651,872

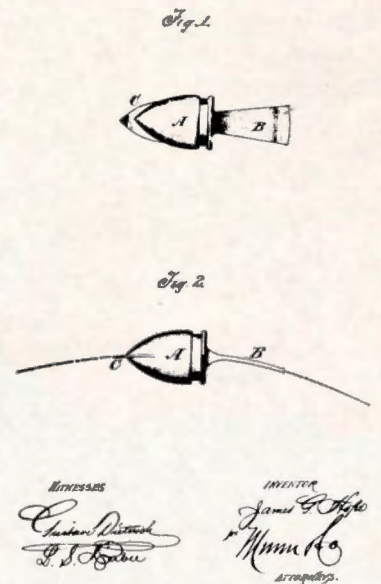


You aimed through a special sight, blew into a tube to press the trigger, and then—hold on to your hat!

J. G. HOPE.
Projectile.

No. 107,909.

Patented Oct. 4, 1870.

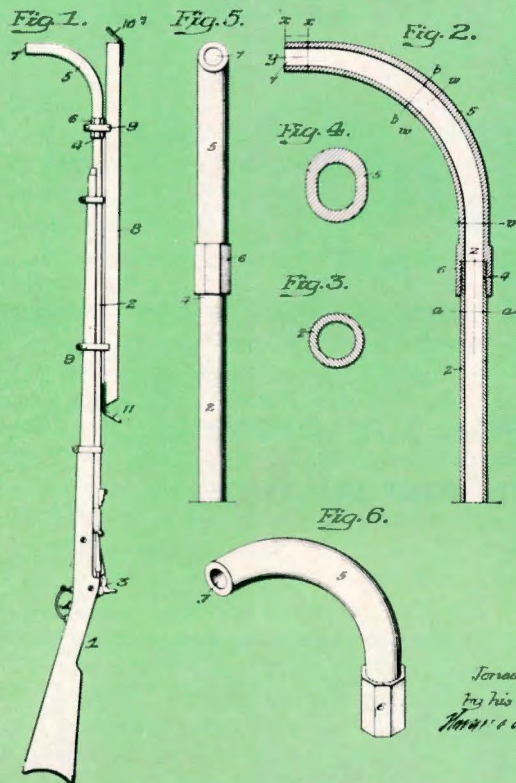


Watch out for this bullet if it decided to go full circle!

J. WISTER,
FIREARM.
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 13, 1916.

1,187,218.

Patented June 13, 1916.



Inventor:
Jesse Wister
By his Attorneys
H. W. & J. W.

What would happen if you used this rifle with curved bullets shown on facing page?

Nov. 13, 1923.

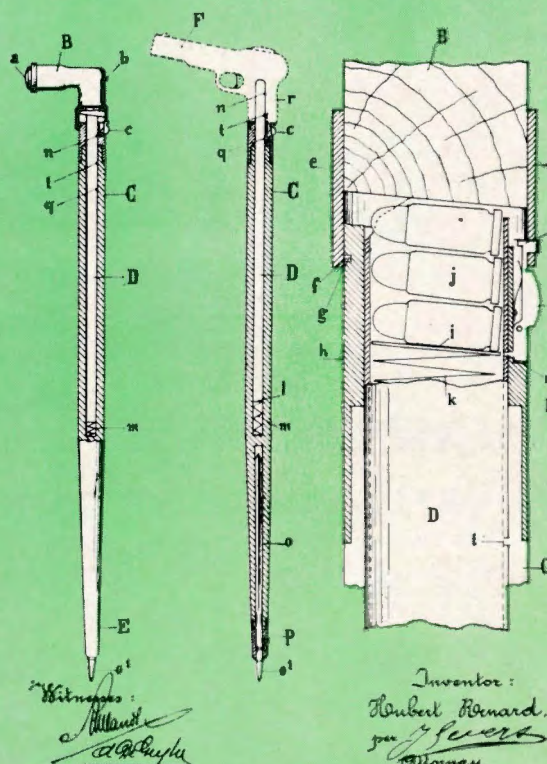
H. RENARD
WALKING STICK MACHINING GUN
Filed Aug. 17, 1921

1,474,292

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3



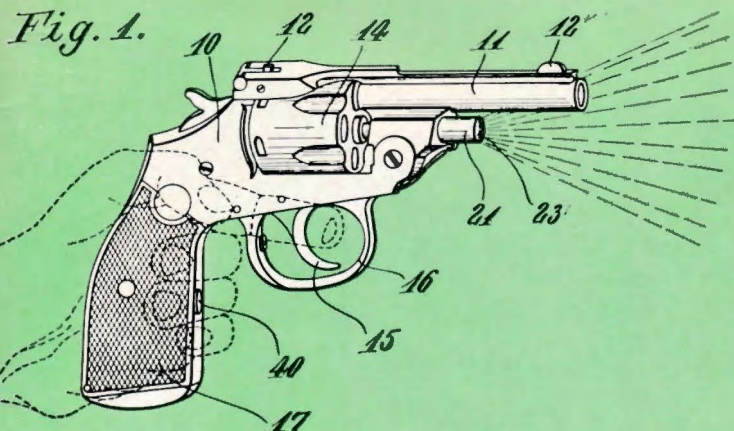
Inventor:
Robert Renard
By his Attorneys
H. W. & J. W.

Bat Masterson should have known about this weapon; then he would have had a real "bat."

J. MATYS.
SEARCHLIGHT FIREARM.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 20, 1917.

1,338,239.

Patented Apr. 27, 1920.



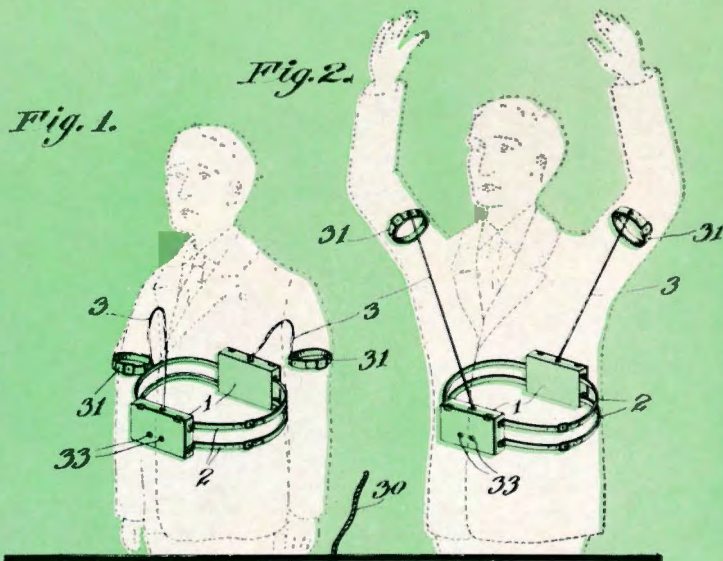
This inventor followed the premise that if you can't see them, you can't shoot them.

W. H. BALCH

April 7, 1925.

SELF DEFENSE SHOOTING DEVICE
Filed June 23, 1924

1,532,859



This would be all right—if you didn't get an itch, and the cartridge didn't recoil.

SNUB-NOSE REVOLVERS

ARE MOST EFFECTIVE BECAUSE OF SIZE, NOT POWER; BUT LOADED
WITH PROPER AMMUNITION PROVIDE BIG GUN PERFORMANCE

By MASON WILLIAMS



The three snub nose revolvers used in tests; Colt Detective Special, Charter Arms Undercover, S&W Chief's Special.

SNUB NOSE GUNS, usually .38 Special revolvers with 2" barrels, are used in ever-increasing numbers by law enforcement personnel. For some, this is the primary arm, especially among plain clothes detectives; for others, it is used as a secondary or back-up weapon. In both cases, it is chosen not for its power, but because of its size.

The short barrels on these revolvers can not make full use of the ammunition potential, and for this reason it is vitally important that the ammunition be chosen with care. In this study, we are concerned only with .38 Special ammunition from the three major manufacturers. We recognize the increased use of custom-loaded ammo, such as that offered by Super-Vel, Shooting Associates, and others, but also realize that the greatest market is still concerned with factory loaded ammo from Remington, Winchester, and Federal.

To provide a guide for ammunition selection from that available in most gun shops and sporting goods stores, a series of tests were conducted to illustrate the potentials of different types of currently available .38 Special ammunition in short barrel revolvers.

Three brand new 2" barrel revolvers were chosen for the test to eliminate any possibility of variation entering into the tests due to hand fitting, honing or other personal work. The three revolvers used are: Smith and Wesson Chief's Special; Colt Detective Special; Charter Arms Undercover.

In choosing ammunition for these revolvers, velocity is important, but bullet construction plus bullet weight also play vital roles in determining what happens when the bullet strikes the target. Bullet velocity without bullet performance is generally useless; you can not stop a target by drilling little holes in it and yet too many people depend too much on listed velocities and on the potential energy carried by a bullet when it leaves the muzzle of the handgun. Unless the bullet can convert this potential energy into physical energy the lawman can find himself in trouble.

Because of this tie-in between velocity and energy, I ran velocity test in all three handguns firing the ammunition listed on Table I. All velocity test were run using an Avtron Transitor Chronograph with the tapes spaced five feet apart. Five shots were fired from each handgun and the velocities averaged to obtain the figures given.

This sand test shows that of all the loads tested two showed greater expansion characteristics, the Winchester High Velocity load and the Remington High Velocity load. This means that these two cartridges tend to produce substantially more impact shock or stopping power than any of the other cartridges tested. (Continued on page 72)

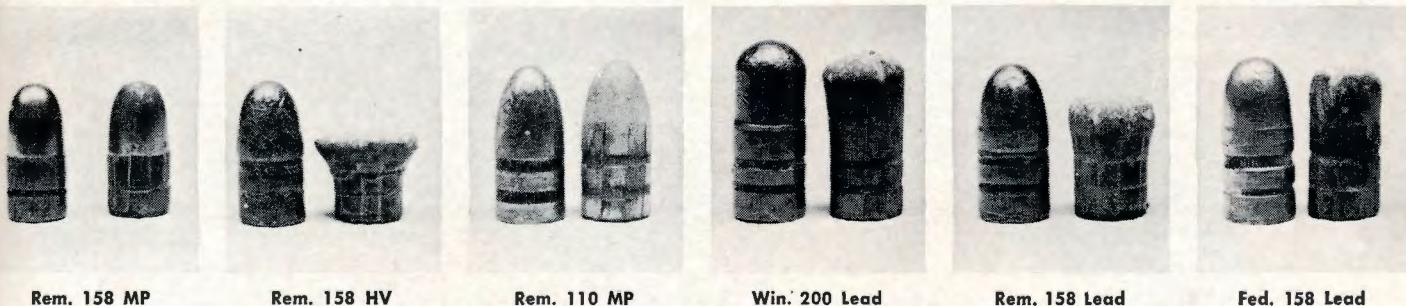
TABLE 1

Ammunition	Velocities—fps. Colt Charter S&W		
Winchester			
200 grain bullet #38S3P	651	652	629
150 grain bullet, high velocity #38S4P	869	862	701
150 grain bullet, Metal Piercing #38S5P	880	898	815
Federal Cartridge			
158 grain lead bullet #38B	683	680	651
Remington Arms			
158 grain bullet, high velocity #6538	862	823	818
158 grain bullet, Metal Point #5338	712	713	587
110 grain bullet, Metal Piercing #6838	964	952	885
158 grain bullet, Police Service #5138	707	702	624
Translating the above velocities into foot pounds of energy gives the following figures:			

Ammunition	Foot pounds of potential energy Colt Charter S&W		
Winchester			
200 grain bullet #38S3P	188	188	176
150 grain bullet #38S4P—HV	252	251	162
150 grain bullet #38S5P—MP	258	268	217
Federal Cartridge			
158 grain bullet #38B	161	161	148
Remington Arms			
158 grain bullet #6538 HV	259	246	235
158 grain bullet #5338 Met Pt	175	175	126
110 grain bullet #6838 Met Pier	224	222	189
158 grain bullet #5138	174	174	134

TABLE 2

Ammunition	Maximum recovered bullet diameter
Winchester	
200 grain bullet #38S3P	0.393
150 grain bullet #38S4P HV	0.543
150 grain bullet #38S5P Met Pier.	No Expansion
Federal Cartridge	
158 grain bullet #38B	No Expansion
Remington Arms	
158 grain bullet #6538—HV	0.541
158 grain bullet #5338 Met. Pt.	No Expansion
110 grain bullet #6838 Met. Pier.	No Expansion
158 grain bullet #5138	0.413



These photos show the test results; with unfired bullets on the left, fired bullets on the right.



Quality, design and workmanship is top drawer on the PPK rig (above) which features maximum forming. The revolver belt holster (right) has a covered trigger and thumbsnap retainer.



Shoulder rigs ride high, snug and horizontal. Auto rigs use a thumbsnap retainer; revolvers are held in by a breakaway snap behind the trigger guard.



This one fits in a topcoat pocket and is fired through the pocket while still in the holster.





SEVENTREES

— A NEW NAME IN CUSTOM CONCEALMENT

By JAN A. STEVENSON

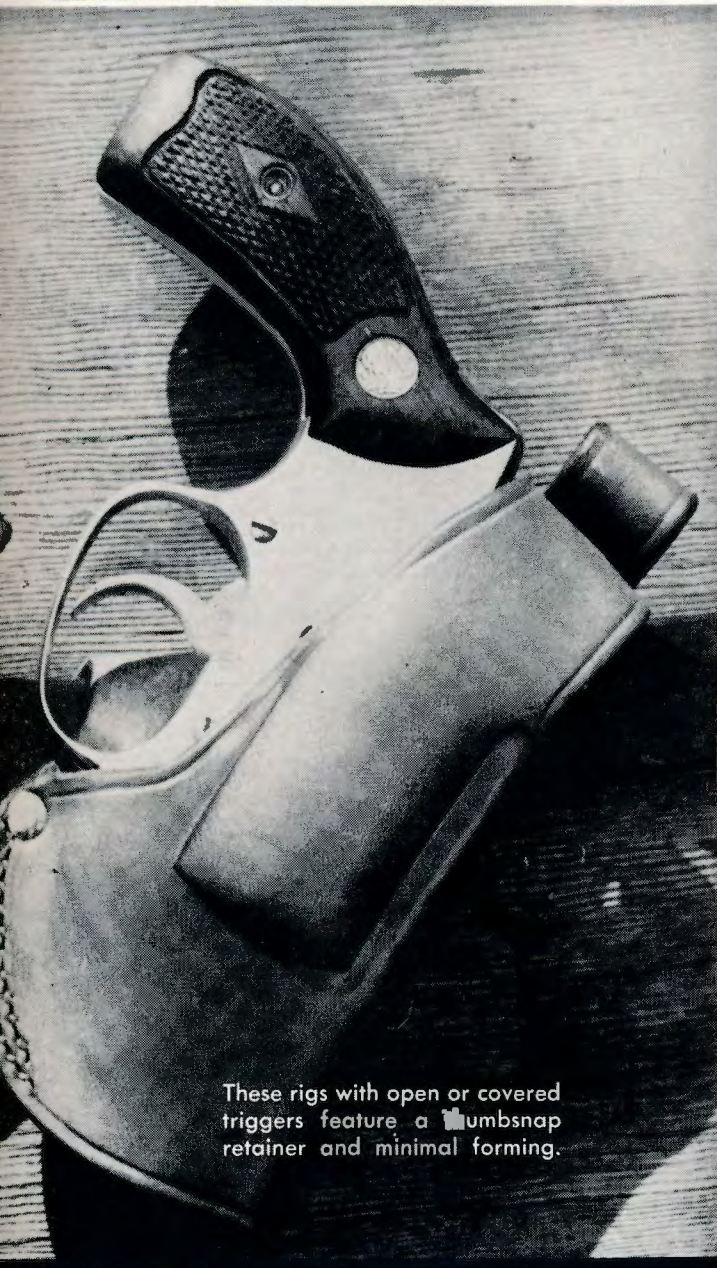
FOR SOME FOLKS whose life may depend on their sidearm the holster is just as important as the gun itself. A good defense holster embodies three elements: speed, comfort, and concealment. And it takes a brilliant designer and a master craftsman to put these elements in proper balance to suit the customer's needs.

The undercover investigator or intelligence agent, for instance, demands concealment above all else. He wants to conceal as lethal a weapon as possible, but it has to be concealed perfectly. For them comfort and speed are secondary considerations. The detective or general investigator, on the other hand, puts speed and comfort at the top of the list. He totes a respectable piece of firepower, and when he wants it, he wants it fast. But if it drags like a sea anchor towards the end of the day, it bothers him, and concealment, while desirable, is not overwhelmingly important. Security is also a factor. The undercover man who drops his hardware on the bar room floor is in an embarrassing spot, as is the detective who spills his in a foot race or wrestling match.

There are production holsters which will serve the purpose but everyone likes something made-to-order, and this keeps the custom and semi-custom holster makers in business. I've seen professionals travel halfway around the world to get a rig designed and built to their specifications, for the job they have to do. In the near future, I imagine a lot of this traffic will be heading to a building in New York City, just around the corner from the Port Authority bus terminal. This is the home of Seventrees Ltd., a fledgling custom holster firm that is turning out some fine gear. (Address; 315 W. 39th St., N. Y., N. Y.)

I first met Seventrees' honcho, Paris Theodore, several years ago when he was moving in the demi-monde of covert operations, and making something of a reputation for himself as a designer of esoteric equipment. The next I heard of him was this spring when someone asked me to take a look at an outfit called Seventrees Ltd., and Theodore's name stared up at me from the bottom left-hand corner of the business card.

Evidently there were a lot of those cards in circulation. When Theodore and his partner, Steve King, went into business the capital investment barely covered equipment, materials, and rent. Advertising (Continued on page 66)



These rigs with open or covered triggers feature a thumb snap retainer and minimal forming.

THE MAUSER IN MINIATURE

The story of scaled down Mauser rifles in .22 rim fire.

By HARRY DEAN

PERHAPS THE MOST famous and admired of all rotating-bolt breech mechanisms is the famous "Mauser Action." Invented in the 1800's by Paul Von Mauser, it has evolved through many stages, each representing an advance in strength, utility and efficiency. It is not my intent to evaluate the successive changes in design of the basic action. Our subject is to be the highly unique and interesting little *miniature* model which was specially designed to handle the popular .22 caliber rimfire cartridge.

The outstanding feature of this rifle was the unusual and novel method of adapting the center fire type of Mauser bolt to handle a rimfire cartridge! I will elaborate on this unique departure further on in this discussion.

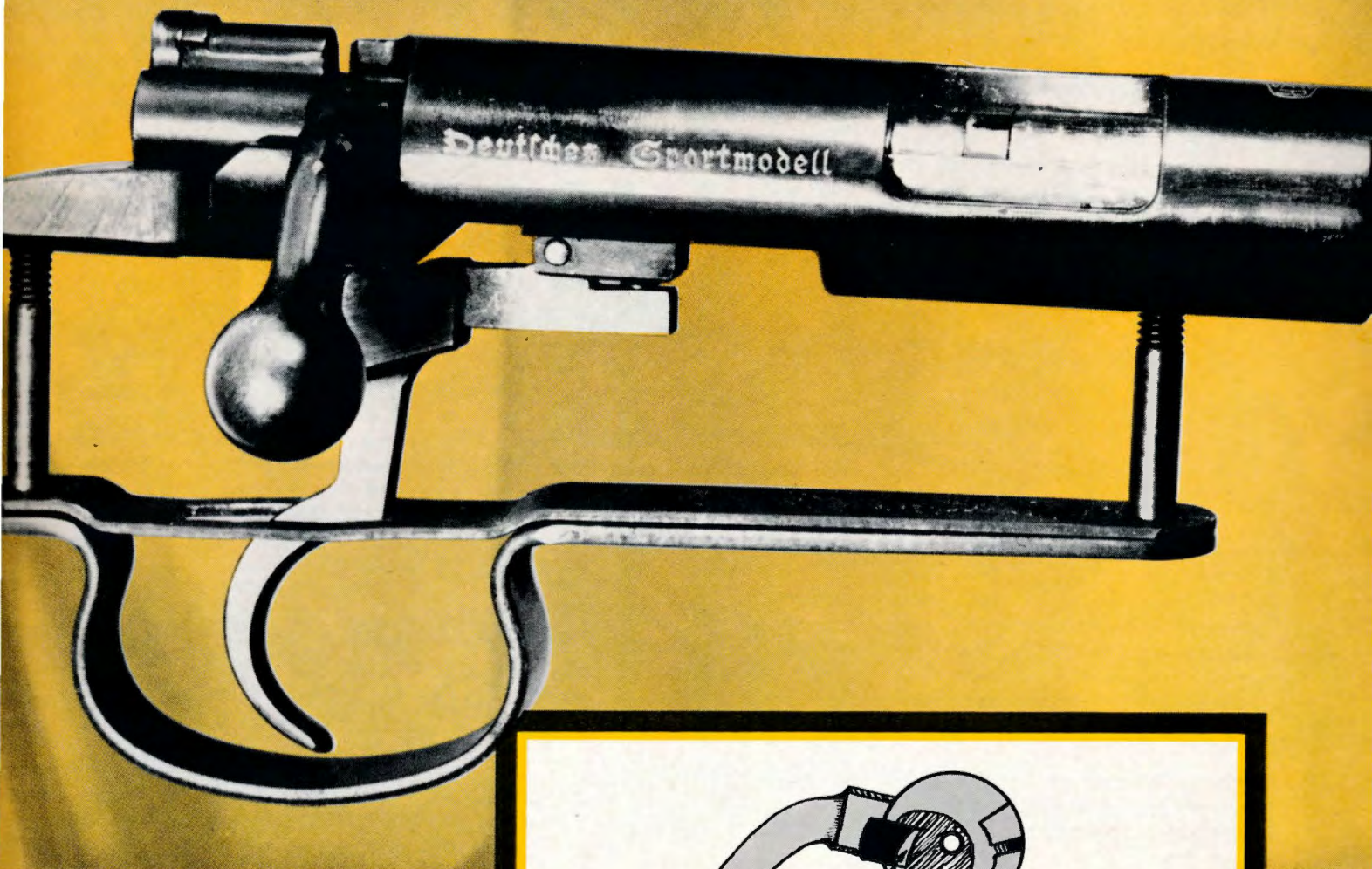
The .22 caliber Mauser rifle was produced in several styles. They ranged from single-shot arms to magazine-fed repeaters. There were sporting varieties, target models, and even a military-styled duplicate of the famous "GEW-98" rifle which won fame in World Wars I and II! This latter

specimen, termed the "Sportsmodel," was stocked to full military length! Readers who have old copies of the Stoeger Arms catalogs will find several of the models listed. No less than six separate rifles were listed in 1939, with the single shot action available separately for those who wished to construct target rifles based on the original Mauser breech system.

It is to be noted that the "Mauser Werke A.-G., Oberndorf a. N." factory also produced some .22 caliber rifles marked "Mauser" which were *not*

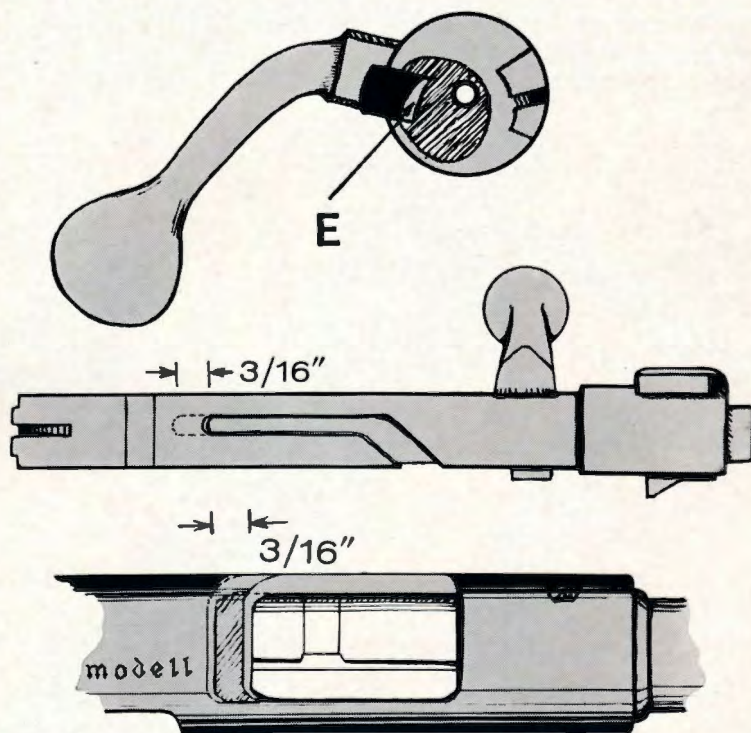


Author's "Sportsmodel" with the custom stock job. Photo on top, facing page shows action detail.



based on the genuine Mauser action. All remarks made here are descriptive of the type similar to the Model 98 center fire models. This applies especially to the description of conversion of the "Miniature Mauser" to handle the .22 Winchester Rim Fire Magnum cartridge which appears later in this article.

Returning to our subject, we find that the two "top of the line" Mauser .22 caliber rifles were the model 350-B "Championship" grades which were available in both a single shot and a box-magazine repeater. These arms were a far cry from the heavy-barrel prone rifles that we usually associate with the sport of target shooting. They were, in fact, more like a medium sporter. The full-formed stocks featured a deep, close, pistol grip which was capped with black vulcanite. It was fully checkered, as was the long forearm. The 26½" barrel was of medium weight and the accuracy was guaranteed and certified in accordance with the standards of the "Deutschen Ver-



Top: Drawing of bolt face shows extractor rim which may have to be reworked to handle RF Magnum. Center: Bolt stop channel is lengthened as indicated by the dotted line. Bottom: The loading port must also be enlarged to complete conversion of rebarreled Mauser.

THE MAUSER

suchsanstalt für Handfeuerwaffen in Berlin-Wannsee." The front sight had three interchangeable triangular, bead, and blade inserts which slid in from the front. A tangent sight of military type was mounted well in front of the receiver ring. This was due to the fact that the Germans did a great deal of military-style target shooting. This rear sight had a reversible leaf $1\frac{1}{16}$ " wide with a "V" notch for triangular (military) foresight and a "U" notch for the bead and blade front sight inserts. The rear sight was adjustable for windage. The receiver was *grooved* for telescopic sights, a feature which was not incorporated in U. S. arms until after World War II! The military tangent sight could be removed from its barrel grooves and a micrometer rear sight attached in the receiver grooves. Both the single shot, designated by the prefix "E.S.," and the repeater, designation "M.S.," had a length overall of $45\frac{1}{2}$ ". The single shot version weighed an even eight pounds, while the clip repeater tipped

the scales just six ounces heavier. It is, therefore, apparent that neither of these fine arms could be classed as a "heavy" target rifle.

Next, and not quite so ornate, was the "M S 420-B" repeater with its unchecked, grooved forend. The standard small bore rifle for rifle clubs was the model "E.S. 340-B" single shot with tangent rear sight. More like an American .22 sporter was the $6\frac{1}{4}$ lb. clip repeater model "M M 410-B." This field rifle had a shorter $23\frac{1}{2}$ " barrel with the usual tangent sights calibrated from 30 to 200 meters. Finally, we come to the unusual "Sport Model" (S.M. 34) which in general appearance and make-up closely resembled the "GEW. 98" military rifle. So like a military Mauser was this gun, that it even had a forend swivel hook for military "piling." (The method of stacking three or four rifles into a cone shaped group.) German "Schuetzen" rifle enthusiasts will be interested to note that a Schuetzen style peep sight was available as an "extra" on

all these Mauser .22 rifles. It had the typical oversize peep disk which was adjustable for windage and elevation by the usual "Skate Key" with a square hole to engage the four sided screw-adjusting heads. This sight was inletted *into the wood* at the top of the pistol grip neck, just behind the rear tang. This, of course, is a very poor method of attachment.

Owners of these and other rifles of continental manufacture often have questions regarding the metric graduations on their rear sights. These shooters will find it relatively easy to convert to yards by using a simple rule of thumb: A meter is roughly one yard plus ten per cent. You just add one yard for every ten yards marked on the sight. For example, 100 meters is equal to 110 yards, 200 meters are 220 yards, and so on. This easy approximation will be found suitable for all practical rifle ranges.

Many returning servicemen brought back Mauser .22 caliber rifles from Europe. (Continued on page 64)



Note centered firing pin holes on full size bolt at left and .22 bolt at right.

Product Report:

REPLICA ARMS HANDGUNS



Three of the Replica guns we tested; the Wells Fargo, a Walker, and the 1861 Navy, also shown above. These guns are also shown on our cover.

By JOHN BROZ

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, I have been living with a half-dozen Colt percussion revolvers that are not really Colts. These are imitations, fakes if you will, but the importer, Replica Arms, Inc., Marietta, Ohio 45750, prefers to call them replicas, naturally. During the months that we have had these guns, we have shot them, studied them, and most of all admired them.

The models we have range from the monstrous Walker, weighing in at over 4½ lbs., to the diminutive Wells Fargo with a 4" barrel. Between, we shot and fondled a replica of the 1861 Navy, a 6" barrel Baby Dragoon, and a Second Model Dragoon. In addition to these, Replica Arms also offer the perennial favorite, the 1860 Army and the Texas Paterson.

When the guns first arrived, we were surprised to find that all of the five we received were engraved. This discovery did two things; it cut down on the amount of shooting we had planned to do, and it increased the time spent just looking. The guns do shoot, and shoot well. As a matter of fact, there was not a malfunction of any of the guns during the course of using up several cans of FFg and untold pounds of lead. The actions worked clean and crisply, and there was never any indication of binding on the part of the internal works or the cylinder.

We followed the recommendations of Ken Phelps, president of Replica Arms, and used a felt wad, soaked in beeswax, tallow, and paraffin, over the powder. And, of course, we used only pure lead

(Continued on page 61)

GUNS OF Bat Masterson

PART

By E. B. MANN

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That Little Affair at Dodge City.

DODGE CITY, KAS., April 17.—The new administration, with A. B. Webster at its head, has taken charge, and law and order is the watchword. This, however, was sadly violated yesterday, when a remarkable fight and killing occurred. It seems that for some time trouble has been brewing between A. J. Peacock, Al. Updegraff and James Masterson, proprietor of the Lady Gay dance hall. This culminated several days ago in Masterson being shot at a number of times and slightly wounded. The Mastersons have a fighting reputation, the eldest, Edward, having been killed while Marshal, and all having been shot and wounded at diverse times. W. B. Masterson, who is the "boss," and has been Sheriff of this county and Marshal of this city, was telegraphed for at Tombstone, N. M., to come and settle the trouble. He came at noon yesterday, and while taking a drink with some friends seen Updegraff and Peacock crossing the railroad. He immediately followed them, and, coming within twenty feet, said: "I have come over a thousand miles to settle this. I know you are healed; now fight."

All three immediately commenced

firing, Masterson having the advantage of a slight embankment at the railroad track, while Peacock and Updegraff retreated to the corners of the city jail and fired from there. Two other parties opened fire from the saloon on the north side, while Masterson, thinking he was fired on from behind, laid down to reload, when he again commenced firing. Updegraff, who was shot through the right lung, retreated, and Mayor Webster, with Sheriff Singer, coming up with shot guns, compelled Masterson to give up his pistols. This happening in the heart of the city, with over a hundred people in sight, it is remarkable that only one was killed and two wounded. While lying down to reload, a bullet threw the dirt into Masterson's mouth, and rebounding struck James Anderson in the back. Several bullets entered the saloons and business houses, and there were many narrow escapes. The Mastersons were arrested, pleaded guilty, fined \$10 and costs, paid their fines and left on last night's train for the West. Fifteen extra police were on duty last night, but now all is quiet. It was the most determined fight made since the days of "Wild Bill" (Jim Hickok) and his celebrated fight at Springfield.

COSAND

Photo

Do all kinds of
a good assortment

Indian Pl

Office East side
April 17

Carpenter

CRIMBLE

Contractor

L

Plaster, Hair

Office a
office.

The legendary name of Bat Masterson
is now engraved on commemorative guns from Colt

IN 1881, MASTERSON was the central participant in one of the wildest gun battles that ever shook Dodge City. Bat had joined the Earp brothers in Tombstone, Arizona, by this time—was briefly deputized by Earp there; but his brother, Jim Masterson was still a law officer in Dodge, and Bat received word that Jim was in trouble. Bat arrived in Dodge by train at 11 A.M. on April 16, 1881. Walking up Front Street from the station, Bat spied Al Updegraff and A. J. Peacock, Jim's enemies. Updegraff and Peacock, warned that Bat was coming, were armed and ready. Both opened fire.

Bat jumped for cover. This was a sad breach of the Hollywood code by which our hero must walk straight at the blazing guns, sheltered only by his implacable courage—but it was as well for Bat that he ducked, because friends of Updegraff and Peacock promptly opened supporting fire from various buildings. The resulting fusillade was spectacular, even for Dodge.

But Bat had friends in Dodge, too, including such trigger-wise warriors as Neal Brown, Shotgun Collins, Charley Roman, and others, and they quickly joined the argument with rifles, shotguns, and revolvers. The battle lasted about ten minutes and then died out, possibly for lack of ammunition.

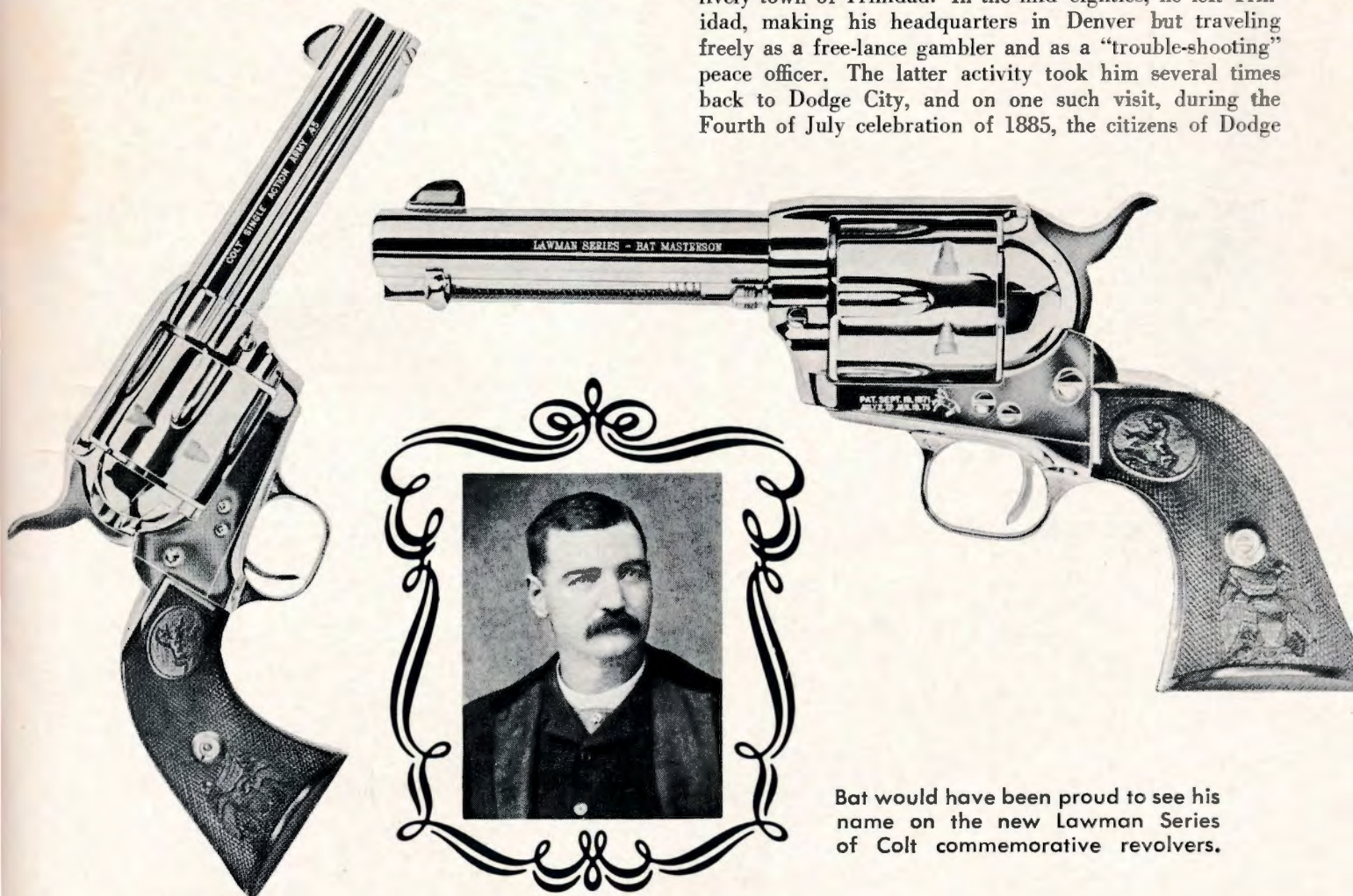
Exactly one man was wounded. Al Updegraff, who took a bullet through his chest, was in critical condition for a time, but recovered. Since Updegraff was hit in the first



exchange of fire, Masterson was credited with the score. Nobody has even ventured a guess as to how many shots were fired, but the score would have disgraced a little old lady firing her first shots from a deadly weapon. Yet these men were no strangers to guns, or to gun-play. Several of them were, or had been, peace officers in bad towns.

Incidentally, Bat was arrested after this shooting and paid a fine of eight dollars. The charge: "Unlawfully and feloniously discharging a pistol on the street." Dodge City authorities did not realize, apparently, how hilariously funny that notation would look on its bullet-riddled records.

Soon after this "Battle of the Plaza" in Dodge, Bat moved to Colorado, was for a time a deputy sheriff of Las Animas County there, and later the city marshal of the lively town of Trinidad. In the mid-eighties, he left Trinidad, making his headquarters in Denver but traveling freely as a free-lance gambler and as a "trouble-shooting" peace officer. The latter activity took him several times back to Dodge City, and on one such visit, during the Fourth of July celebration of 1885, the citizens of Dodge



Bat would have been proud to see his name on the new Lawman Series of Colt commemorative revolvers.

BAT MASTERSON

elected Bat "most popular man in Dodge" and presented him with the gold-headed cane which he carried proudly for many years.

Little known because little came of it, but potentially the greatest meeting of gunfighters in history, was the "war" between the Santa Fe and the Denver & Rio Grande railroads. Both sides in this struggle hired large posses of picked gunmen, literally combing the boom-towns for men known to be able and willing fighters. Bat Master-son was not only one of those chosen; he was named commander in chief of the Santa Fe forces. The Rio Grande shock troops also included some of the "best" in the West, whether ex-lawmen or otherwise. But the irresistible force never met the immovable body. While attentions were focused on the troops, the Santa Fe flanked the opposition to gain control of Raton Pass—its major objective—and the gunmen disbanded. If they had met, and always supposing that their bullets had flown straighter than those fired in Dodge City's "Battle of the Plaza," several subsequent gunfighting dramas might never have happened. Their principals might already have been buried, in Colorado!

Just when Bat Masterson forsook the pretty for the practical in his choice of firearms is a moot question. At least one alleged eye-witness describes Bat, during his years as sheriff in Dodge City, as wearing not one but two "silver-plated Colt Single Actions, with ivory grips." Bat was one of the carefully chosen recipients of one of Ned Buntline's famous long-barrelled "Buntline Specials," and there is testimony to the effect that Bat, for a short while during the Dodge City years, followed the Earp precedent of wearing this weapon in company with another "standard-length" Single Action, one on either hip. Stuart N. Lake quotes Earp as stating that, "Bat and Bill Tilghman cut off the ("Buntline") barrels to make them standard length," (one is entitled here to wonder what "standard length" was, in the opinion of Earp and the other reporter quoted) so it can only be supposed that, if Bat wore the Buntline full-length at all, he soon repented.

But Bat's choice in firearms can be traced, with an unimpeachable accu-



This is the Long Branch of Bat and Wyatt, not Matt and Kitty.

racy unique in the lore of western gunmen, from existing records of the Colt's Firearms Company. Bat may have owned (probably did own) other guns; but he bought no less than eight Single Actions direct from the Colt factory, and his orders provide a rather clear record of his changing tastes. Below are the descriptions of those eight guns: caliber, barrel length, finish, and date ordered.

To anyone interested in what might be called "The Development of a Gunfighter," the descriptions below are subject to interesting (if not necessarily accurate) analyses. The first gun (silver plated, pearl grips, name engraved on the backstrap) is definitely a part of Masterson's early "dude period," ordered probably after a profitable session at cards. The second gun (nickel, with ivory grips, no engraving) is still in the "dude period" but purchased at a time when Bat was not quite so flush with money. The change from 7½" to 4¾" barrel length is

interesting; perhaps Bat, convinced that he was a town man, decided that long barrels for longer ranges were less important to him than quicker release of the gun from its holster?

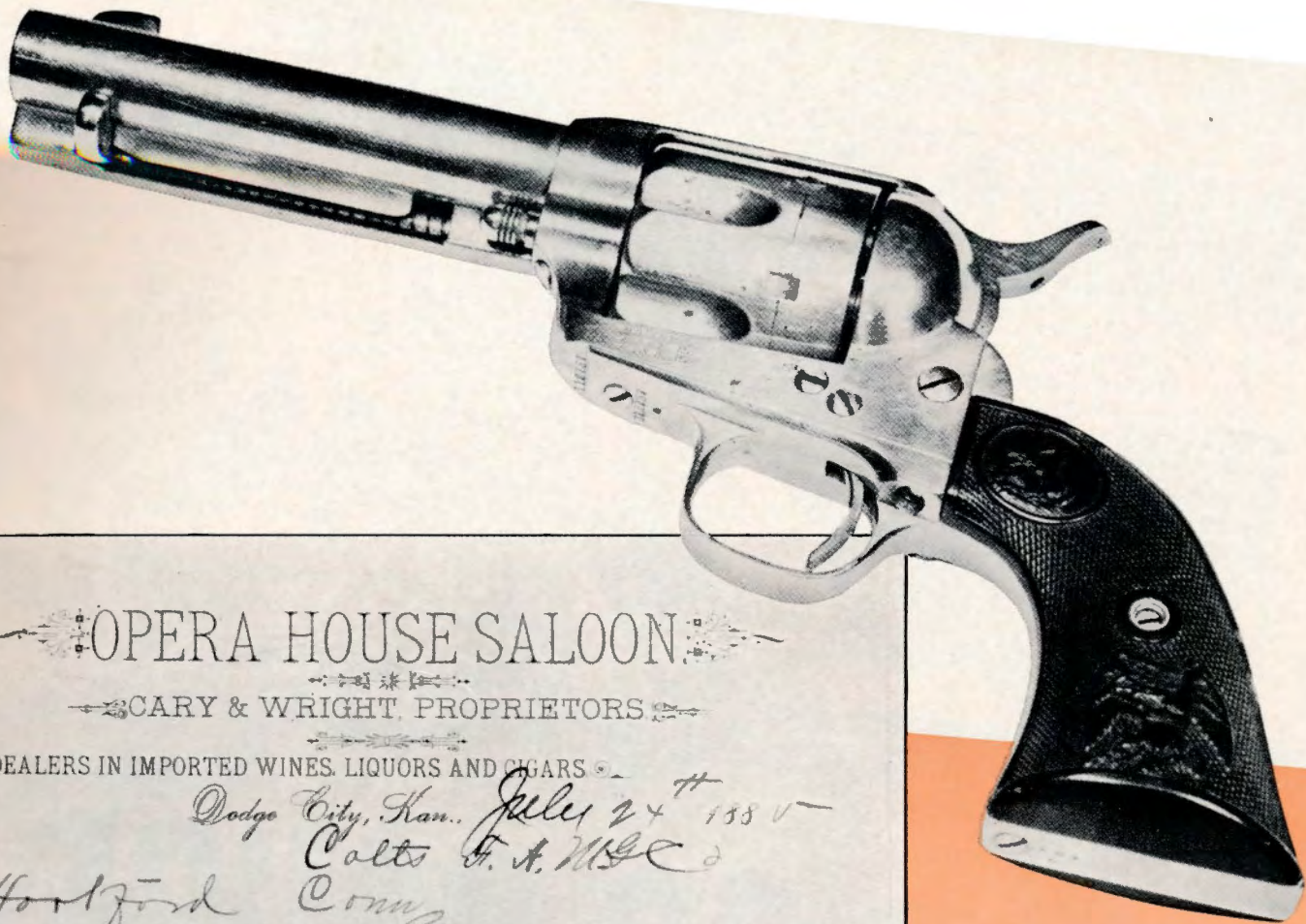
There was some uncertainty in later orders as to barrel length, as between 5½ and 4¾ inches, but the final choice seems to have gone to the shorter barrel. Certainly the decision in favor of rubber grips was firm and final.

However, Bat himself had another name for the grips he had chosen. The word "rubber" is the description that appears in Colt's records, just as the dates given are the dates on which Bat's orders were recorded. The order above—dated July 30, 1885—was contained in a letter dated July 24, 1885, written under the letterhead of the Opera House Saloon, Dodge City, Kansas, as reproduced on the facing page.

By this time Bat knew exactly what he wanted. As (Continued on page 72)

BAT MASTERSON

.45	7½"	Silver plated, pearl grips, backstrap inscribed "W. B. Masterson"	November 1879
.45	4¾"	Nickel, with ivory grips	February 14, 1882
.45	5½"	Nickel, with rubber grips	May 11, 1883
.45	4¾"	Nickel, with rubber grips	March 23, 1885
.45	5½"	Blue, with rubber grips	July 5, 1885
.45	4¾"	Nickel, with rubber grips (two guns)	July 30, 1885
.45	4¾"	Nickel, with rubber grips	November 18, 1885



OPERA HOUSE SALOON

CARY & WRIGHT, PROPRIETORS

DEALERS IN IMPORTED WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS

Dodge City, Kan. July 24th 1885

Colts F. A. M&C

Hartford Conn
Gents

Me one of your nickel plated short
45. Calibre Novalons. It is for my
own use and for that reason I
would like to have a little Extra
taken with it. I am willing to pay
Extra for Extra work. Make it very
Easy on trigger and have the front
sight a little higher and thicker
than the ordinary pistol of this kind.
Put on a gutta percha handle and
send it as soon as possible.
Have the barrel about the same length
that the Epeking rod is.

28-B Express Co. D Truly Yours
W. R. Masterson
Hartford, Thursday July 24th 1885
P.S. Duplicate the above order by sending



Masterson knew what he wanted in a Colt, and one of his guns (authenticated by Colt records) bears the "gutta percha" grips that became his favorite.

SHOULD YOU TRY

THE 28 GAUGE ?

By CLAIR F. REES

WHEN SOMEONE STARTS talking about a good gun for hunting pheasants, grouse, or maybe ducks over decoys, the conversation usually turns to lightweight 12-gauge repeaters or 20-gauge doubles. Or one wild-eyed dissenter may claim supremacy for the good old sixteen! But let someone mention the "freak" 28 gauge as a good choice for upland game, and he will be viewed with open astonishment.

The reason for this widespread reaction to the 28 is simple: most weekend hunters have never even *heard* of this little gauge. And those who *are* aware of its existence usually think of it as being fit only for popping fragile clays on the skeet field.

As a matter of fact, the "off-beat" 28 does owe its *continued* existence to skeet. According to Bill Horn, Vice-President in charge of marketing for the Federal Cartridge Corporation, small-bore skeet enthusiasts account for well over half the demand for 28-gauge shells—and even then, the 28 is well behind all other gauges in sales. (John Falk of Winchester-Western estimates that the puny .410 shotshells outsell the 28-gauge loads by approximately 20 to

1). With these figures, it is easy to see that this little gauge would have died off long ago without the skeet-shooter's support.

What most gunners don't realize is that with the long-manufactured (but not always readily available in stores) 1-ounce magnum loadings by Winchester-Western, and with the new 7/8-ounce Federal loads, the diminutive 28 is the equal of the standard 20 gauge. In fact, the 7/8-ounce 28-gauge hunting load leaves the muzzle 100 fps *faster* than the same 20-gauge load. And it is an undisputed fact that the standard 20-gauge load is easily up to dispatching the largest, toughest pheasant ever hatched.

With these potent loads, the 28-gauge gunner enjoys a 1/4 to 1/2 pound weight advantage over his 20-gauge compatriot without sacrificing any firepower. And anyone who doesn't believe that a half, or even a quarter-pound less weight is an advantage in an upland game gun has simply never toted one all day in the field.

In addition to being easy to carry, the lightweight 28 is extremely fast to handle. The simple fact that you get on target so much quicker makes the 28 as deadly as its larger

brothers in many types of upland shooting. Certainly for hunting pheasants over dogs, covey rises on quail and for shooting other types of close-flushing game, the little 28 is very nearly ideal. Even with the standard $\frac{3}{4}$ -ounce loading, it is surprisingly deadly.

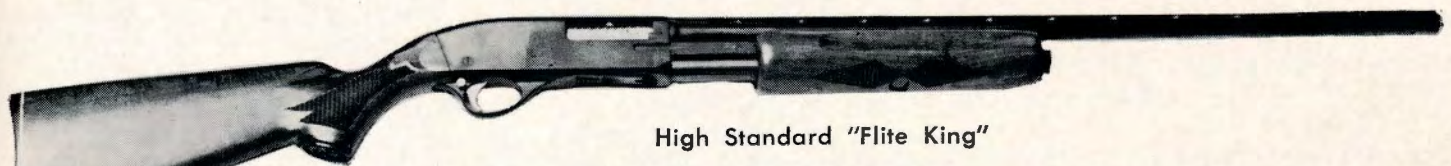
My first field experience with the tiny 28 was during a Western grouse hunt in northeastern Utah. The large sage grouse found in this area weigh from 3 to as much as 7 pounds, and require a good solid hit to down them. In previous years, I had hunted these birds almost exclusively with a modified-choked 12-gauge pump. I usually favored a full $1\frac{1}{4}$ ounces of number 6 shot for these hunts, and the thought of being over-gunned never really occurred to me.

Since I am not overly recoil sensitive I usually chose a favorite model 37 Ithaca that weighed in at a scant $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. This gun was light to carry, and threw an excellent pattern with the high-velocity 6's.

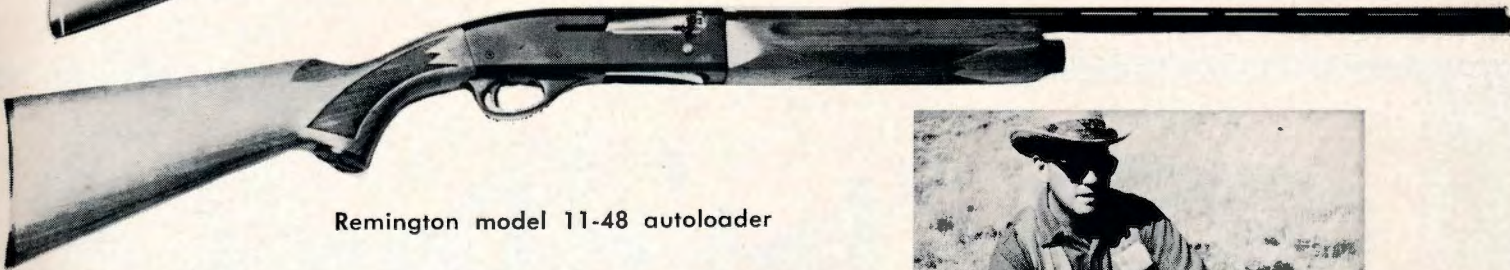
Last year, when the grouse season opened I had in my possession a lovely Remington model 11-48 autoloader in

28 GAUGE SHOTGUNS

MAKE	MODEL	ACTION	PRICE
A&F	Knockabout	Side-by-side double	\$298
A&F	Zanotti	Side-by-side double	750
Atlas	Model 65	Over-under double	185
Atlas	Model 200	Side-by-side double	170
Beretta	Companion	Folding, single shot	55
Browning	Superposed	Over-under double	432
Charles Daly		Over-under double	365
Davidson	Model 63B	Side-by-side double	92
High Standard	Flite King	Slide action	130
Noble	Model 420	Side-by-side double	110
Remington	Model 11-48	Autoloading	145
Richland	Model 200	Side-by-side double	130
Sanderson	Bird Gun	Side-by-side double	425
Stevens	Model 940	Single shot	34
Webley	Model 710	Side-by-side double	625
Winchester	Model 101	Over-under double	284
Zephyr (Stoeger)	Sterlingworth	Side-by-side double	160



High Standard "Flite King"



Remington model 11-48 autoloader

28 gauge. This little full-choked beauty had smashed a considerable number of clays during the previous summer, and I had a hankering to see just how it would perform on upland game. So when I went after grouse in September, the 28 was in the trunk alongside of my tried and true 12.

As it turned out, I never even uncased the big gun. The easy-handling Remington was so effortless to carry that I was hardly aware of its weight. In addition, this little 6-pounder was so well-balanced that I was able to carry it hour after hour by the grip with the muzzle pointing straight upward without any discomfort. And it was so fast handling that I had to consciously slow down to keep from ruining the slow-flushing grouse with the tight, full-choke pattern.

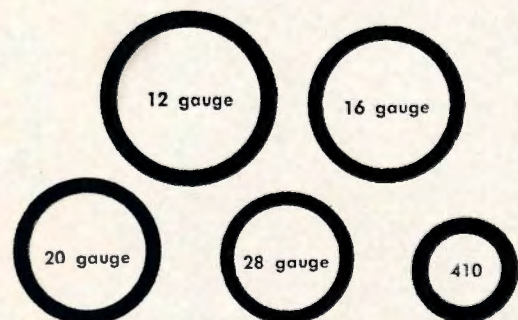
I had been a little anxious about using the light $\frac{3}{4}$ -ounce loads on such large birds (I wasn't able to locate any magnum shells in time for the hunt), but I needn't have worried on that score. The first day out I shot my two-bird sage grouse limit with two shells and had excellent luck on the large mountain hare that shared the grouse's sage-brush home.

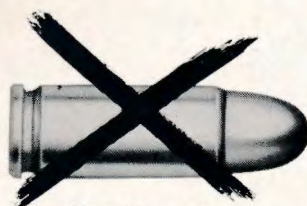
The only problem I had during the second (and last) day of the season was that the shooting was over too soon. As is often the case with

(Continued on page 54)

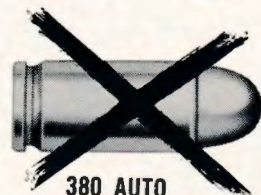


Rees bagged grouse and mountain hare with a 28 gauge, $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. loads.





38 AUTO COLT



380 AUTO

COLT HAS REALLY whittled down the calibers of guns it makes to a baker's half-dozen. The calibers include only the .22, .32 New Police, .38 Spl., .357 Magnum, the old .44 Spl. and the .45 Colt. On the automatic side they chamber for the .22, the .25 ACP, .38 Spl, .38 Super and the .45 ACP. The Smith & Wesson offering is almost as skinny. It goes like this: .22, the .22 R^F Magnum, .32 S&W Long, .38 S&W, .38 Spl, .357 Magnum, .41 Magnum, the old .44 Spl., the .44 Mag. and the .45 ACP.

But if you think the piddling handful of calibers now chambered for the handguns from our two biggest outfits bears any resemblance to the cartridges currently loaded, you'd better look again. Both Remington-Peters and Winchester-Western are busy loading up rounds in such calibers as the .32 Short Colt, .32-20, the .38 Short Colt and the .41 Long Colt. You would have to rise early and gallop a mighty long

ride to turn up a single new six-shooter to handle one of these vintage numbers. Since no one builds the shooting iron anymore why do the cartridge makers keep on pushing these old turn-of-the-century firecrackers?

That's a good question. The cartridge makers have some manner of minuscule demand for these venerable ones. A gun has not been made for decades for the .38 Long, the .38 New Police, and the .38-40, but somewhere up at the forks of the crick is an hombre who inherited a nickel-plated Saturday night Special from Uncle Priddy, and he has to have a box of shells. The companies carefully conceal how low the demand must drop before they jettison the older cartridge, but my opinion is that it must fall somewhere under 1/100th part of 1% of sales before they give it a reluctant heave-ho. We have seen some pretty good rifle loads—like the .33 Win. and the .35 Win.—dropped in recent years.



"Let's Dump the Obsolete Handgun Cartridges!"

By CHARLES ASKINS

But on the score of the 6-gun fodder not a single cartridge has been given the one way ride to these many summers.

Cartridges, like the handguns, grow old hat. What was hot stuff for grandpappy is ready to be turned out to pasture these days. A lot of fellows, filled with sticky sentimentality, would like to keep around old horses, old hound dogs, old mothers-in-law, and Civil War vintage hardware. This is nice and sweet and kindly and shows a loving nature, but in my opinion it is awful poor economy.

The companies keep right on making a whole hatful of handgun loadings that are about as useful these days as last year's hunting license. The continuation of such bewhiskered ancients as the .38 ACP, the 44-40 and the .45 Colt, accomplish nothing more than to use good brass, copper, powder, and lead, and what's more critical, take up a portion of the work effort, the labor

force, and the machines in our factories. The elimination of a dozen of these old codger loadings, all of them eligible for Social Security, would clear the decks for the design and development of some worthwhile modern handgun cartridges.

Have you ever seen a .32 Short Colt? Nope, neither have I. But it is still produced like it was a real hot-rock. The cartridge is so old it has an outside lubricated bullet. There is a .32 S&W, but the Short Colt will not interchange with it. And this latter can be shot in the .32 S&W Long but not the other way around!

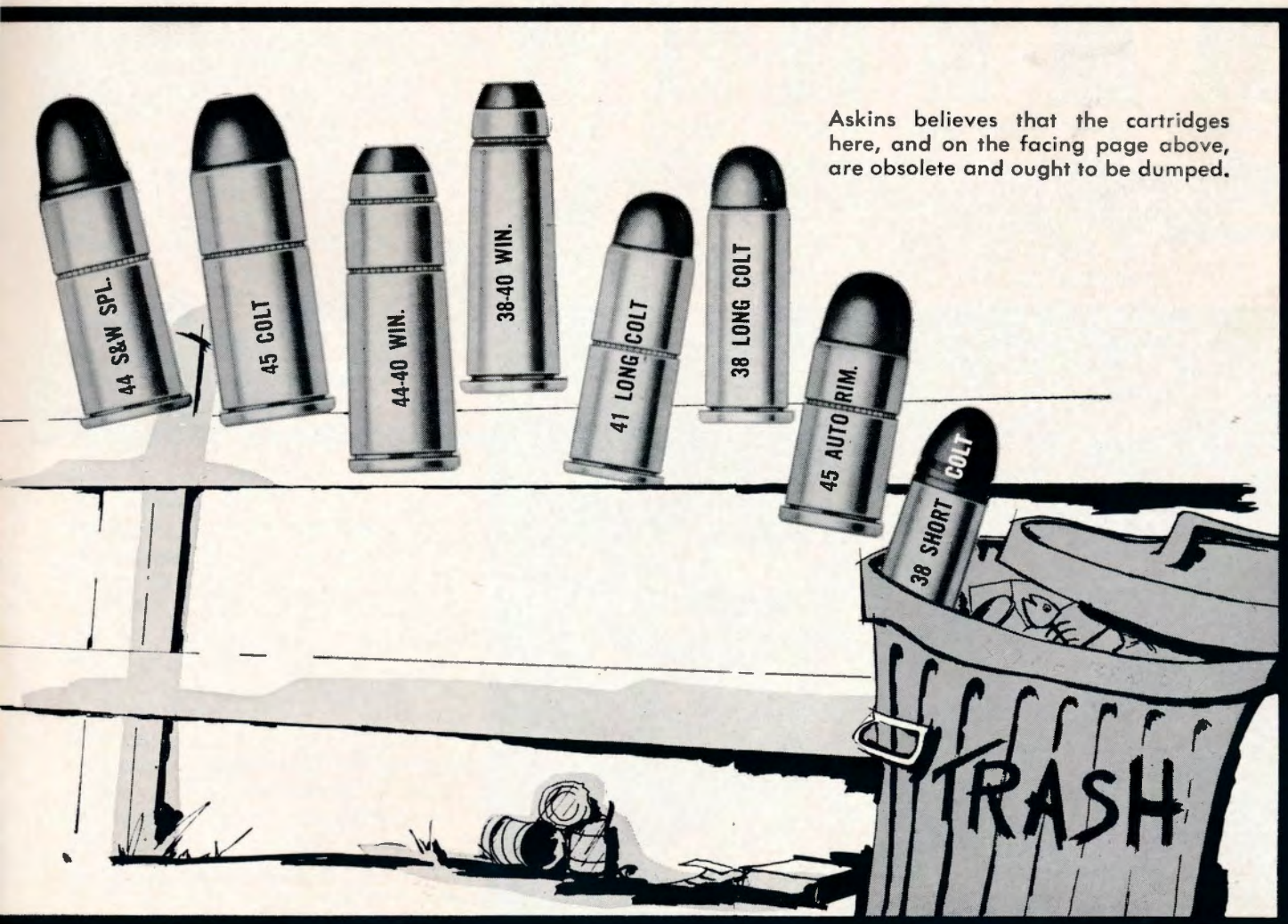
There is a .32 Long Colt but it will not interchange with the .32 S&W Long. The former has a case diameter of only .313" while the S&W measures .336". The two look alike but each takes a different cylinder gun. The .32 Colt New Police, just to add to the confusion, will, however, interchange with the .32 S&W Long, and both de-

velop 100 ft. lb. muzzle energy, about enough to surely kill squirrels.

The .32-20 is a rifle cartridge. It has been loaded down as a standard practice for decades because it was too hot for a lot of revolvers. Today it is as dead as Nasser's chances against the Israeli. There are not only no handguns made for the round but no rifles either. It is just about as useful as a saddlebag full of water moccasins.

There are a pair of .38s that are confusing. One of these is the .38 Smith & Wesson and the other is the .38 Colt New Police. From Hartford, where the New Police round was designed, to Springfield where the .38 S&W was whumped up, is less than thirty miles—but the longhairs weren't speaking the day they dreamed up this pair. Actually the only difference in them is that the Colt version has a bullet that is slightly flattened on the point.

Another pair, both by Colt, have whiskers plumb to the beltbuckle. This



is the .38 Short Colt and the .38 Long Colt. The shortie will fire in the Long Colt chamber but you'll have a hell of a time trying to do it the other way around. The .38 Short Colt has an outside lubricated bullet, the .38 Long Colt was tried 75 years ago in the Philippines and found wanting against an enemy who only weighed 110 complete with bolo. Both these 19th century gems ought to be tied up in a tow sack, and dumped in the lake.

On the auto pistol side we have such little peewees as the .25 ACP, the .32 ACP, the .380 ACP and the .38 Colt Automatic Pistol (not to be confused with the .38 Super Auto Pistol round). I suppose there is some need for these

cartridges. The .25 ACP is still in manufacture as an auto pistol; and so, too, are the .32 and .380. The .38 ACP has been completely superseded by the .38 Super and those old pistols chambered for the cartridge are few indeed. It should be junked in favor of the more powerful and newer Super round. As for that miscellany of little pipsqueaks, the .25, the .32 and the .380, the fact that pistols are still chambered for them indicates some usage. I would damn them with faint praise except that I cannot bring myself to that degree of deceit.

The .38-40 and the .44-40 were kissin' kin of the Winchester Model 1873 lever action rifle. These Pony Express types

were first fired in the famous Winchester. These days there ain't a handgun, much less a rifle, chambered for either. Another old timer that needs the last sad rites read over it is the .41 Long Colt. There must be some of these outside the museums but I haven't seen one since sidesaddles went out of style.

We get down down to the old .45 Long Colt. There isn't anything that can be done with it that can't be better buttoned up with either the .41 Magnum or the .44 Magnum. This old buster lives on sentimentality. A lot of teenie-boppers hang onto it because it is the cartridge of the West. Like the .38-40 and the .44-40 it came along almost a hundred years ago and like everything that is a century in existence it is about as useful as an old rusty barndoor hinge. Because some sixguns are still chambered for it, it will go on, at least for a while, but any time the bell is tolled and the last volley is fired it will sink without a trace.

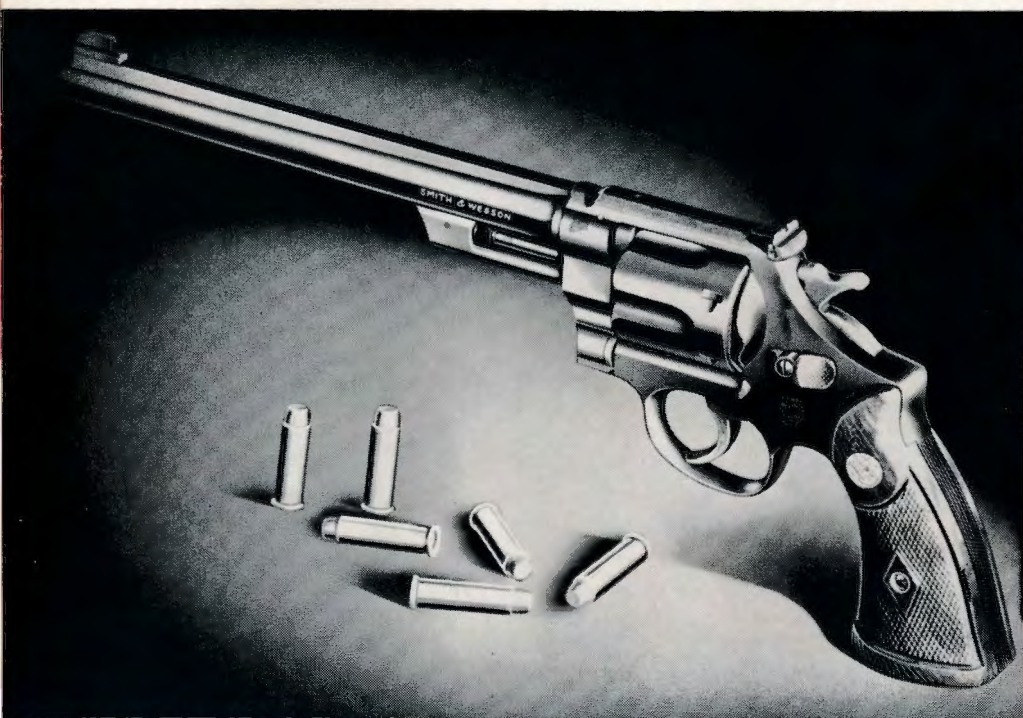
Still another .45 that has mighty little going for it is the .45 Auto Rim. This oddball was whipped up directly after World War I and was supposed to be the last answer for the gunswinger who had one of the .45 Model of 1917 revolvers. These guns were chambered for the .45 ACP and used a halfmoon clip. The introduction of the Auto Rim loading eliminated the clip and, along with other things, provided a leaden bullet. Popularity was about on a par with some current presidential polls. To axe the old round today would create not the slightest ripple.

This fetches us down to the present. We've looked over a sampling of some of the oldest and most worthless loads in the book. Now for a quick rundown on two or three modern ones that somehow haven't exactly panicked the cash customers. First of these is the .256 Magnum. It is a spittin' image reproduction of the old .25-20 rifle cartridge. It has some hot ballistics, but never got its kite airborne. The only pistol chambered for it, a single shot by Ruger, has been halted of manufacture. Another hippie type, the .22 Remington Jet, made by necking down the .357 Magnum casing to a .22 caliber, is likewise moribund. It, too, has some imposing ballistics, but failed to register. Still a third, the .22 Rimfire Magnum, has a sort of spotty reputation. It is a deceptive little round, looking like the old .22 Special, but the facts are it is in the 25,000 psi pressure range. That it will ever have any popularity in those few handguns (Continued on page 77)

GOOD CARTRIDGES



The author believes that these venerable "old standards" and the .357 Mag. below should stay.



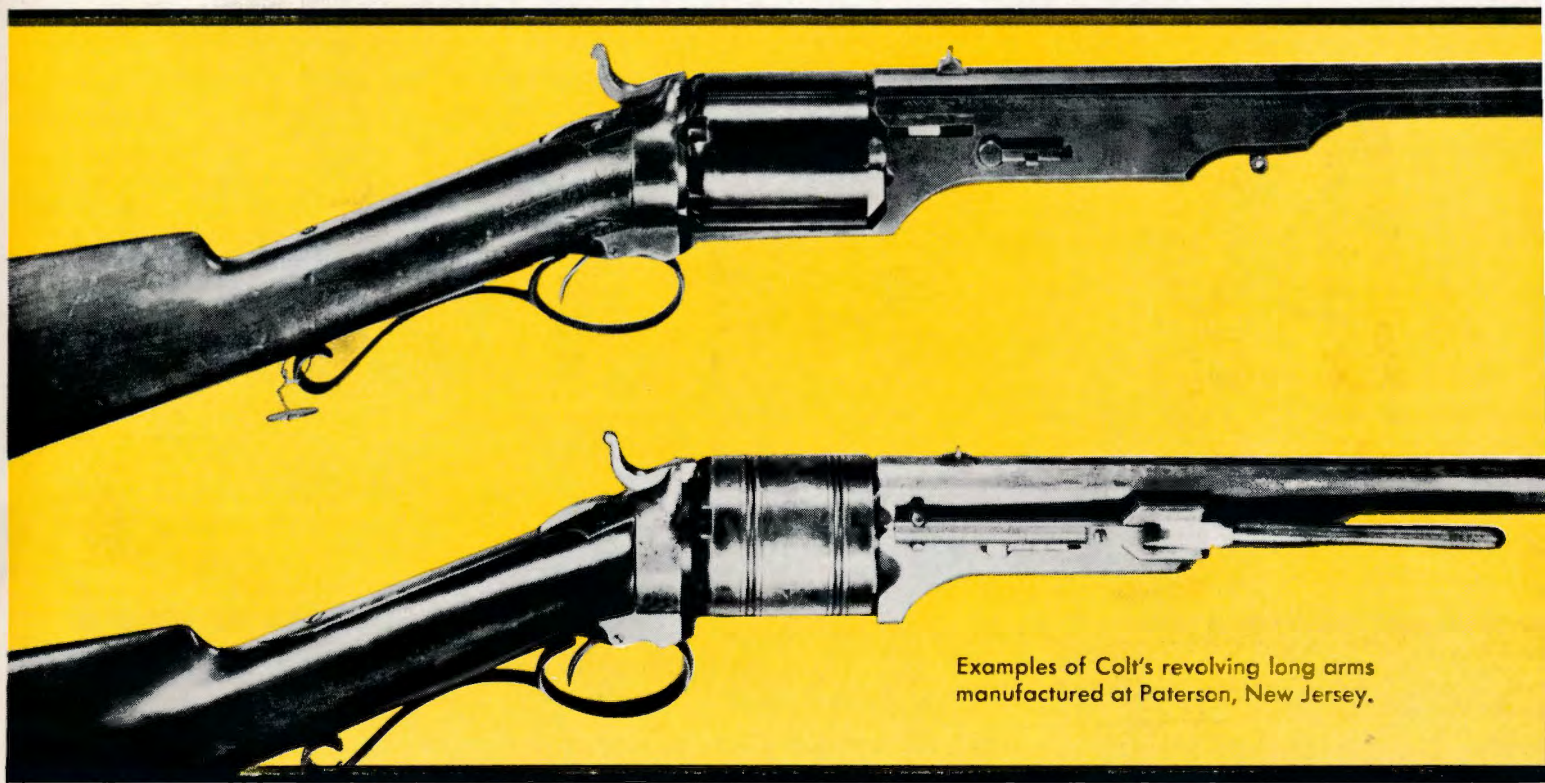
The
Evolution of
COLT
LONG ARMS

First of a three part study of Colt-made rifles and shotguns, from the first revolving cylinder models, through the early cartridge era, to the modern M-16

PART ONE

SAM COLT'S FIRST 'REVOLVING GUNS'

The multi-shot rifles, carbines and shotguns made at Paterson, New Jersey



Examples of Colt's revolving long arms manufactured at Paterson, New Jersey.

By JAMES E. SERVEN

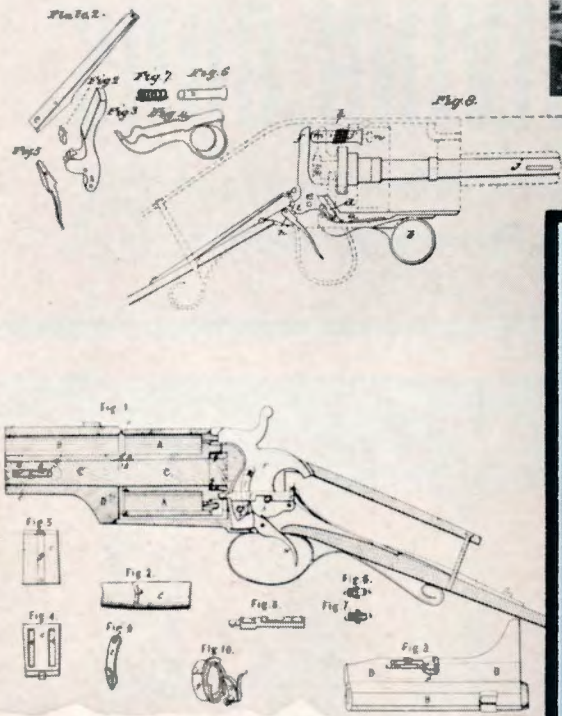
THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, in which were born our two great presidents Washington and Lincoln, also recorded the birth of a Connecticut Yankee's "brain child." On February 25, 1836 Samuel Colt was presented with a brand new patent on his "revolving gun." From this newborn patent and a subsequent patent on August 29, 1839 evolved multi-shot weapons that were to play a vital role in shaping world history.

When Samuel Colt received the 1836 patent he was in his 21st year—a young man with big ideas, great energy, but no money in his pants. He was a very persuasive fellow, however, and managed to interest investors who organized the *Patent Arms Manufacturing Company* and started the manufacture of rifles, carbines, shotguns and pistols of Colt's design in a section of a silk mill at Paterson, New Jersey. By 1837 production began to reach proportions that represented a going business.

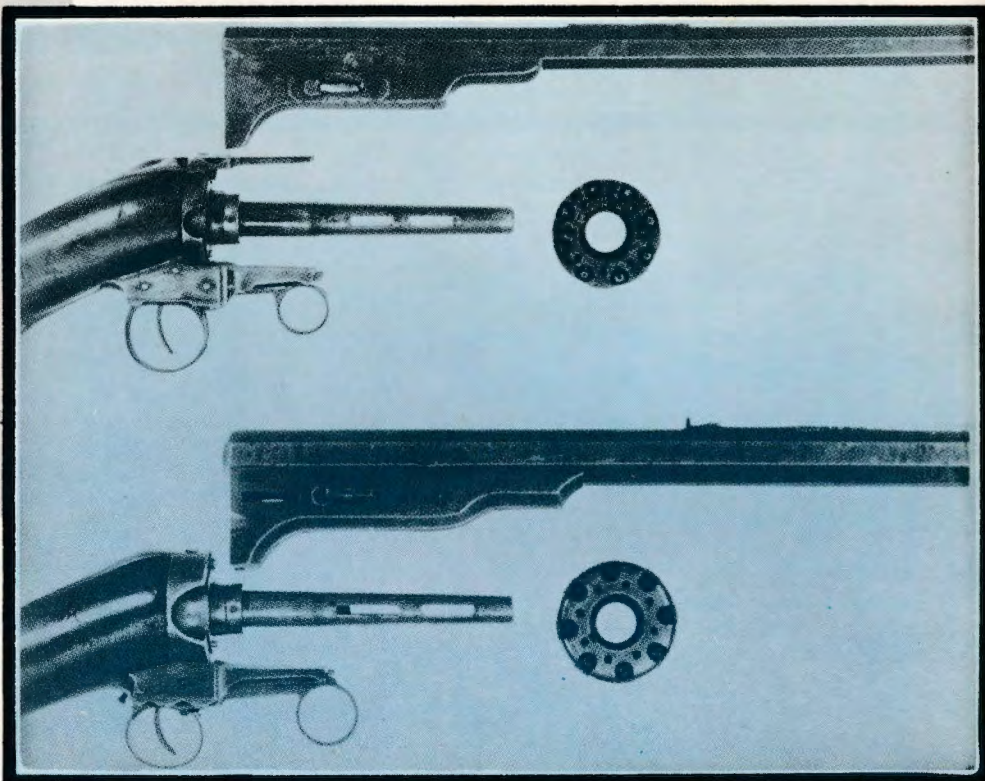
COLT LONG ARMS



Factory buildings at Paterson.



Above: Colt's patents of 1836 and 1839. Right: The first rifles had one-piece barrels, no visible slot for loading. Second model, below, had a built-up barrel with slot in the lug for inserting loading tool.



Government patronage had been a major factor in sustaining the economy of armsmakers from the first of the 1800s, so Sam Colt lost no time in heading for Washington to pull what wires he could in obtaining a government order.

As a result of his persistent presentations at the War Office and at the offices of influential persons in the government, a Senate resolution of January 27, 1837 led the way to trials of Colt's rifles against those of Hall, Cochran and Hackett.

The trials were not completed until the following June and were held primarily at West Point. Brig. Gen. John R. Fenwick was president of the board whose report must have made Colt realize he had wasted a lot of money on "old Madera" while entertaining army officers in Washington—a complaint loudly voiced by officers of the company in Paterson.

"Many-chambered arms cost too much," the board de-

cided. Further, they were unimpressed with Colt's suggestion that troops carry five extra loaded cylinders (weighing over 11 pounds). They didn't like the "appendages" necessary to load the Colt arms, claiming they could be easily lost, rendering the guns useless. Accidental discharges of more than one chamber did not endear the guns to officers, either, for if the shooter's hand was supporting the barrel in normal position ahead of the cylinder when a bullet came from a chamber mouth rather than through the barrel, the shooter could end up missing a few fingers or an entire hand. There were other objections, too, and the board decided to stay with the Hall rifle and common muskets. They washed down the bitter pill for Colt with this equally ill-flavored army bromide: "The application of the percussion primer to arms for use of troops has not yet been made with success . . . the difficulty of placing an object so small as the cap, during the excitement of action, in excessively cold weather, and in dark nights,

has prevented this improvement in firearms from being generally adopted in any service."

The report provided a little salve to Sam Colt's wounded feelings by stating: "It is the opinion of the board that the arm of Colt . . . may be very usefully applied in *special* cases; as in fixed positions in defence of a breach; to cover boarders; in tops of ships; or for personal attack or defence; in a word, under any circumstances where the operation is of a special and brief character, and it may be desirable to throw a mass of fire upon a particular point for a limited time. In such or similar conditions the entire strength of this arm might be so controlled and managed, as to render it fully available and efficient; while its cumbersome and yet necessary appendages, and the massive burden of its parts, would condemn it as wholly unsuited to the wants and exigencies of the service *in the field*."

The U. S. Ordnance Department held firm to this view of the employment of Colt's Paterson-made arms throughout, as we shall soon learn, even though objections to the percussion cap had all but disappeared a few years later.

Rebuffed by the government, Colt turned his attention to the development of civilian markets and to enlisting support among some friendly individual officers of the army and the navy.

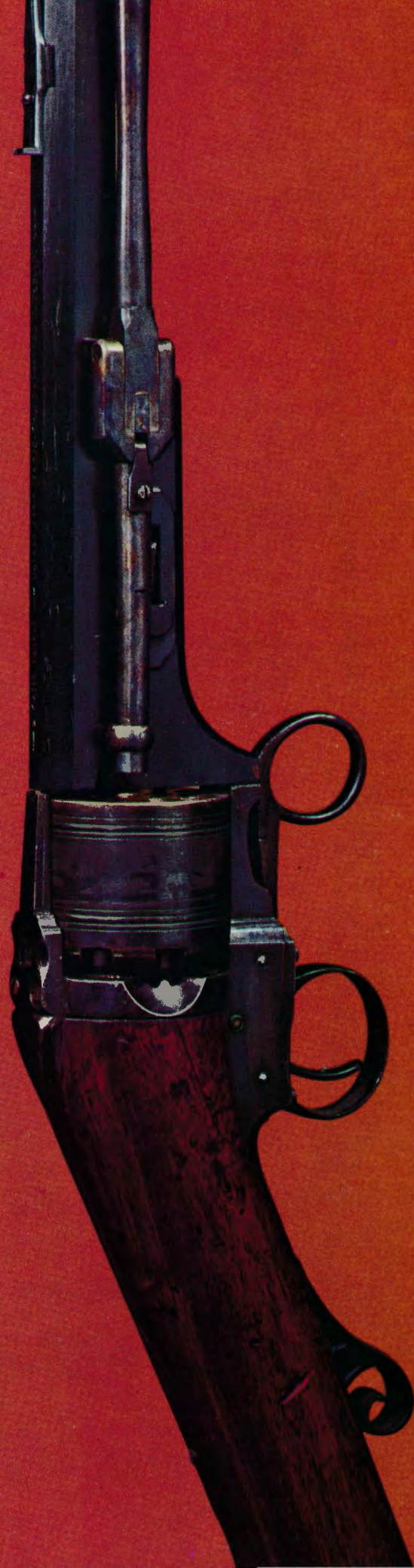
In 1837 and again in 1838 Colt's rifle won a gold medal at "The American Institute of the City of New York for the Encouragement of Science." Gold medals were nice, but they didn't help to keep the wheels turning at Paterson. In February, 1938, an exhibition of Colt's eight-shot rifles was held at the Battery in New York by Dick & Holmes. Prices were high—\$150 for a rifle at a time when a workman's hourly wage was rated in cents, not dollars.

The sun shone briefly through the dark clouds that hung over operations at Paterson when in 1838, through the intercession of Col. William S. Harney and Maj. G. J. Rains, fifty Colt eight-shot rifles were purchased for use in the Seminole War down in Florida. This jungle war, fought under conditions somewhat like those encountered in Viet Nam, called for greater fire power than the single-shot carbines or "horse pistols" of the 1830s.

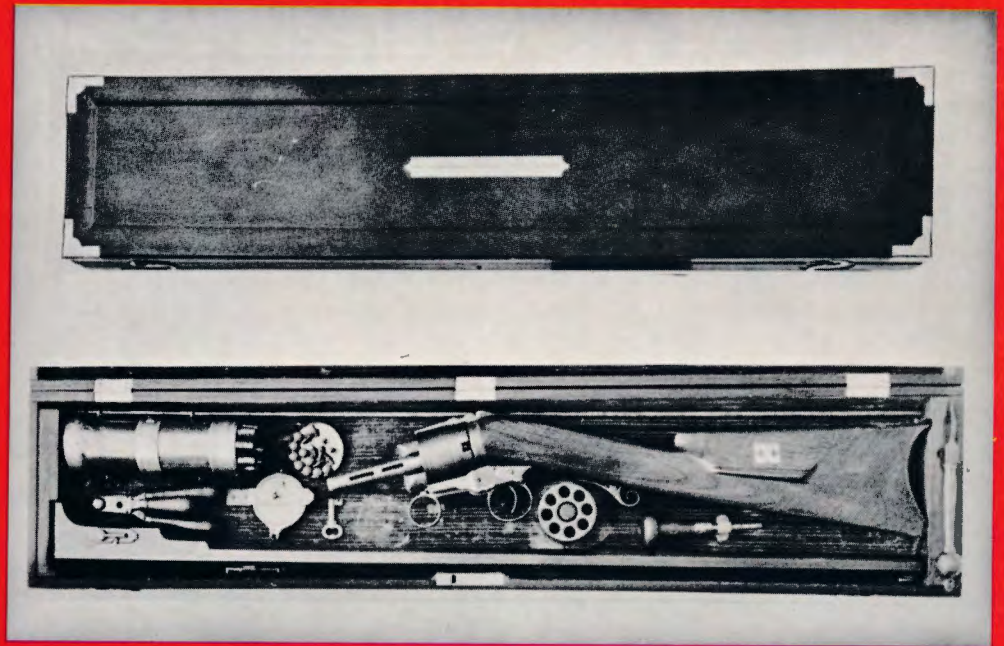
The effect of this sale of Colt rifles for use of U. S. forces in Florida had a more important influence on Colt's fortunes than the selling of a few rifles. Officers in the Seminole War (1835-1842) later were in important posts during the Mexican War which followed a few years later. They gave important support which led to Colt's 1847 U. S. pistol contract that put him on the road to being the most successful armsmaker of his time.

Colt's Army friends were not the only servicemen who looked favorably on the early models of Colt's "revolving gun." One of the most enthusiastic advocates was Edward Ward Moore. After a number of years in the naval service of the United States, Moore resigned in 1838 to accept appointment as Post Captain Commanding (with courtesy rank of Commodore) in the embryonic Navy of the Re-

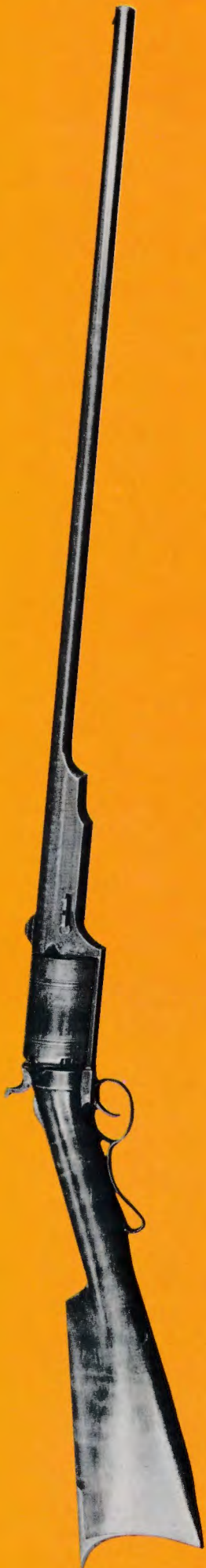
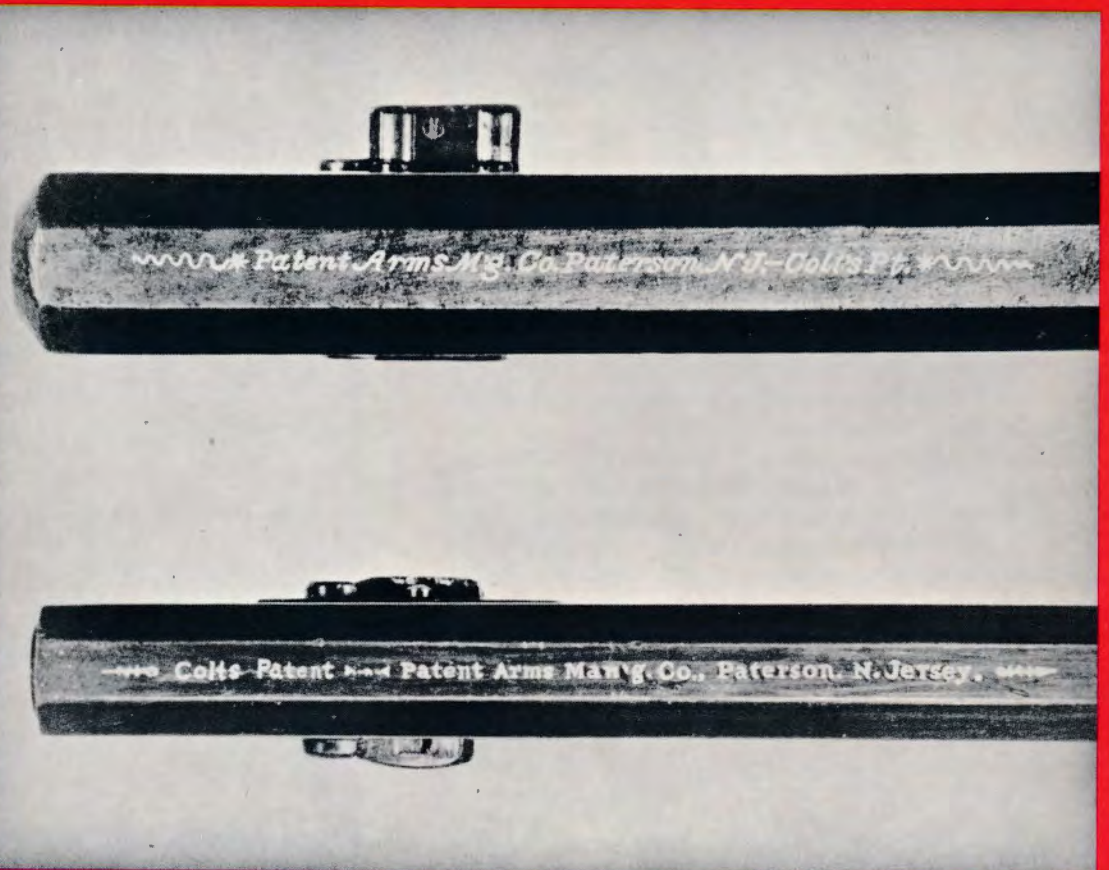
Colt Paterson revolving rifle, serial No. 173. First Model, .36 caliber, .32" barrel. Details show right side of action. Photo by Richard Millard. From the collection of Robert Q. Sutherland, Kansas City, Mo.

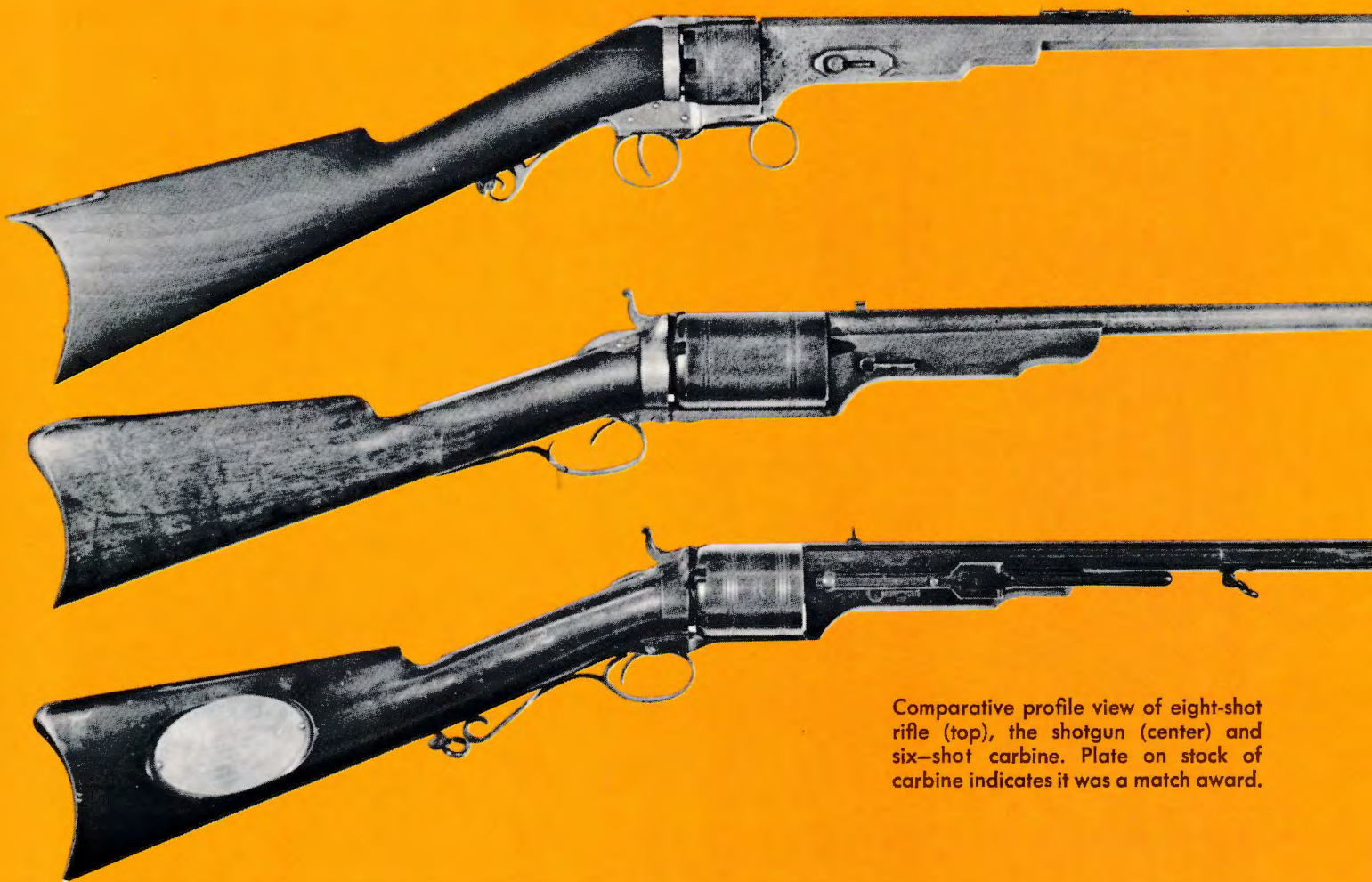


COLT LONG ARMS



Above: A first model, eight-shot rifle, put up in fine case with accessories. Left: Colt Paterson six-shot shotgun; could be used with ball as well as shot. Below: Marking on lower barrel was form used only for first model rifles; the upper style of marking was used on top or sides of barrels on all other models.





Comparative profile view of eight-shot rifle (top), the shotgun (center) and six-shot carbine. Plate on stock of carbine indicates it was a match award.

public of Texas. Through the urgent requests of Commodore Moore and the salesmanship of John Fuller, Colt's agent in Texas, 180 carbines and 180 pistols were purchased for use in the Texas navy. Subsequent to 1843, when the coastal defense of the Texas Republic was assumed by the United States and the debt-ridden Texas navy ceased to exist, these Paterson-made Colt arms were turned over to the Texas Ranger force.

Although Texans took quickly to Colt's repeating arms, and used them effectively in some hard-fought encounters with the Comanches, all news to come up from the Lone Star Republic was not cheering to Colt and his somewhat dispirited investors. In the *Telegraph and Texas Register* of Dec. 9, 1840, this dispatch appeared: "A young man named Hotchkiss was dangerously wounded at Austin on the 17th ult. by the accidental discharge of one of Colt's patent rifles; several accidents of this kind have occurred in that city since introduction of these pieces, owing chiefly to their being in unskilled hands, and the inhabitants in consequence, by way of ridicule, call the weapon 'Colt's patent wheel of misfortune'."

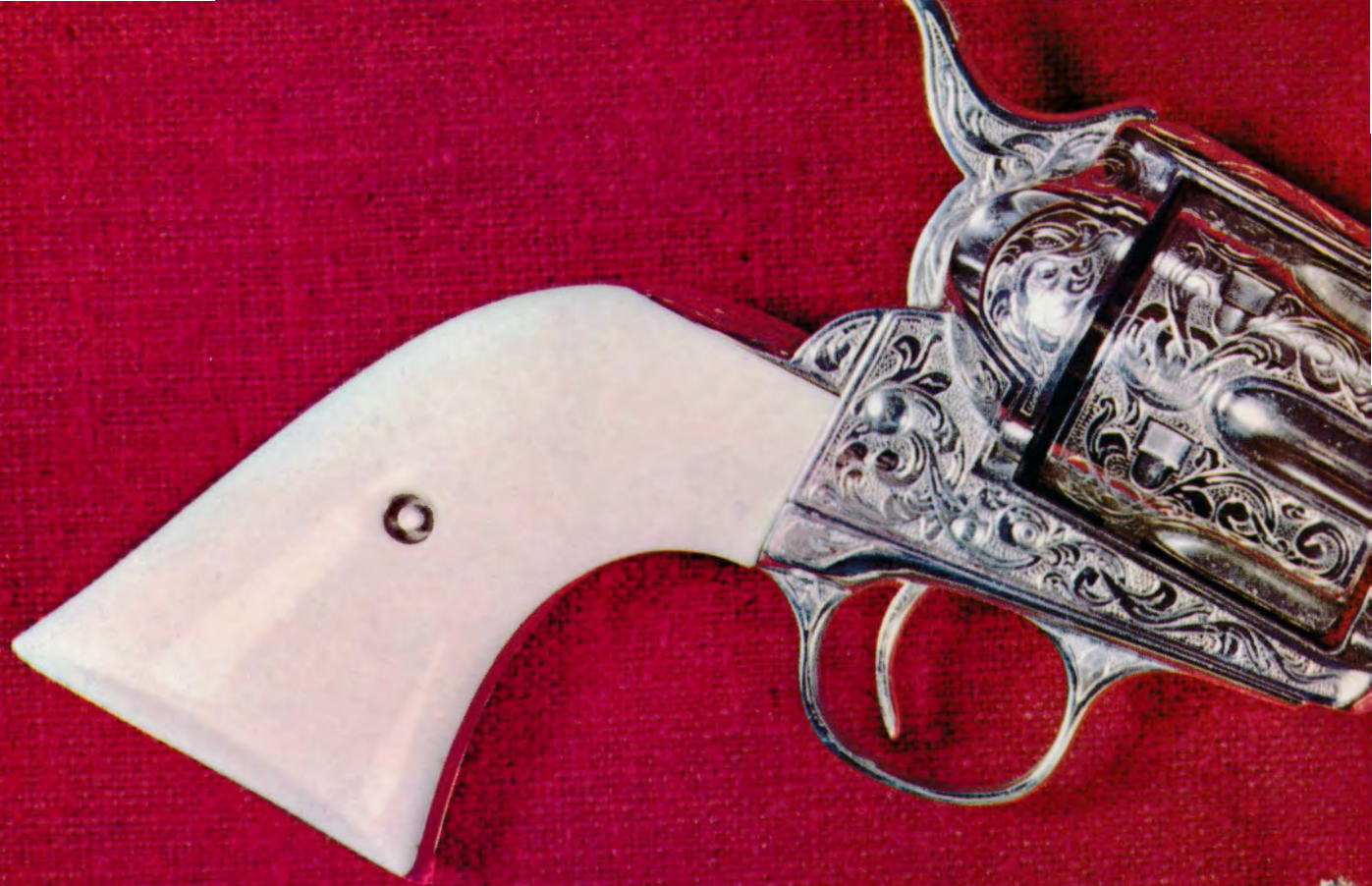
Unlike some newspapers of today, the *Telegraph and Texas Register* was not biased in its editorial reporting. A month earlier they had told how Captain Andrews of the Rangers, using one of Colt's patent rifles, had been able to discharge many effective shots during a recent Indian fight, while his companion could discharge his rifle only

once before having to reload.

The Austin-San Antonio country was in an area of great violence during the early days of Texas, and the Texas Rangers were the force that took to the field against both the Indian and Mexican marauders. Salty accounts of the early-day Ranger force are to be found in the recorded reminiscences of Col. John S. "Rip" Ford, who in his time burned plenty of gunpowder. Colonel Ford won his abbreviated "Rip" sobriquet from a custom of sending victims to the happy hunting grounds accompanied by the words "Rest in peace."

When asked what he considered the most desperate fight he could recall Colonel Ford told of a fierce battle in 1851, when his lieutenant (later colonel) Edward Burleson and his men had Colt repeating carbines. All of Burleson's men received wounds of one kind or another, but with the help of those extra shots in their revolving cylinder guns were able to kill or seriously wound all but two of the fourteen savages who had attacked them suddenly and at close range.

Colt repeating arms made in those early days at Paterson, N. J., were to see service not only in Texas but many were carried during the Mexican War when Col. Jack Hays of the Rangers organized a regiment of Texas Volunteers in 1846 and headed south of the Rio Grande. Such arms were listed in government reports and inventories. In 1847 special permission was given to (Continued on page 62)



Colt Single Actions, engraved by Leon White.




Photo by Dr. R. L. Moore, from the collection of Jack Swinney.

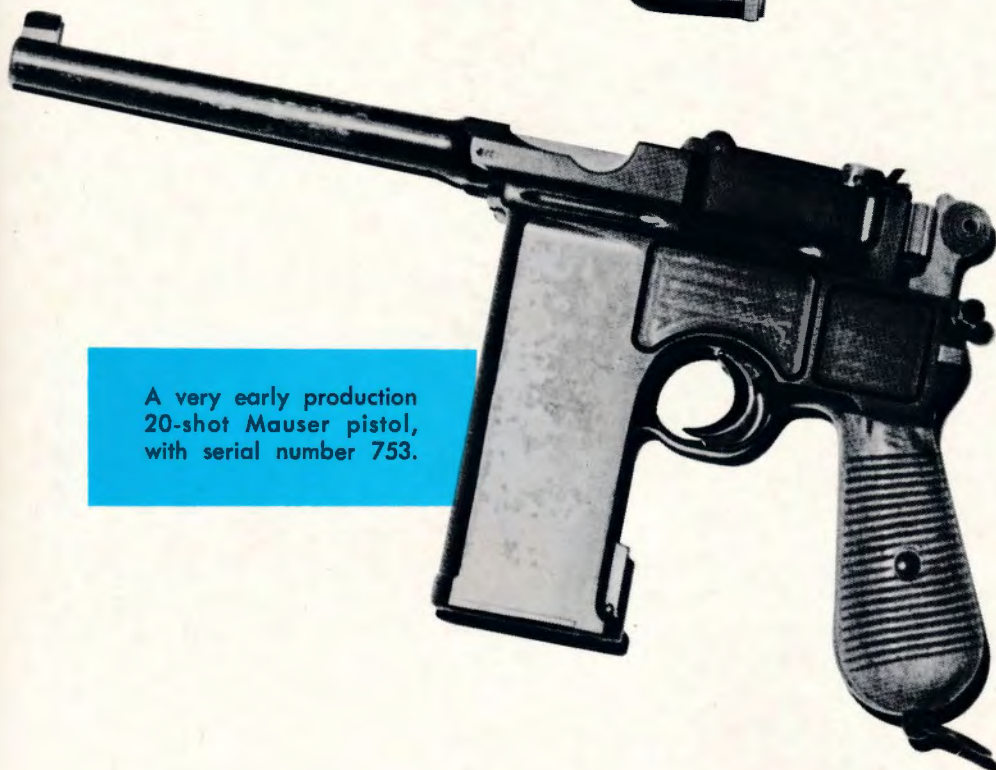
The Evolution of the **1896 MAUSER PISTOL** -or Broomhandles I Have Known

By JOSEPH J. SCHROEDER, JR.





An early production six-shot pistol with fixed rear sight, shown with a stripper clip.



A very early production 20-shot Mauser pistol, with serial number 753.

MAUSER'S Model 1896 pistol was the first really *successful* self-loader to be placed on the market. While it was true that designs by Bergmann, Borchardt, Mannlicher, and others preceeded the Mauser product's introduction, only Bergmann's pistols and the Borchardt were truly marketed—and in quantities of only a few thousand each during the few years of their respective production lives. Mauser's "Broomhandle," on the other hand, survived as a commercial proposition for about 40 years, with a total production of well over a million pistols.

In the course of establishing this remarkable record the weapon underwent a vast number of changes. None of these changes, however, can be construed as being modifications to the basic design patented by Paul Mauser in 1895. Indeed, with the exception of beefing up the locking lugs (between serial numbers 100 and 200) and a minor reinforcement of the barrel extension a short time later, all such changes appear to result primarily from the desire to lower manufacturing costs or to improve marketability. That these changes have created an interesting task for the collector cannot be disputed!



EDITOR'S NOTE

Joseph J. Schroeder is co-author, with John W. Breathed, Jr., of the new book "System Mauser," published by Handgun Press, Chicago, Illinois. The information in this article is only a sample of the excellent detailed coverage of these pistols to be found in the book. All of the photos used in this article are from that book, and are used with the kind permission of the authors and the publisher.



Military Mauser Model 1897, shown with original cartridge box and stripper clip. Photo by James B. Stewart.

When the collector sets out to classify the seemingly endless variety of different Model 1896 pistols, he encounters no clear-cut pattern for them. Instead, he is confronted with a hodge-podge of differing magazine capacities, barrel lengths, rear sight mountings and markings, frame panel milling patterns, and so on. Serial numbers appear to offer some guidance, until one that is much too low to "fit" presents itself. There must be a logical pattern—but what is it?

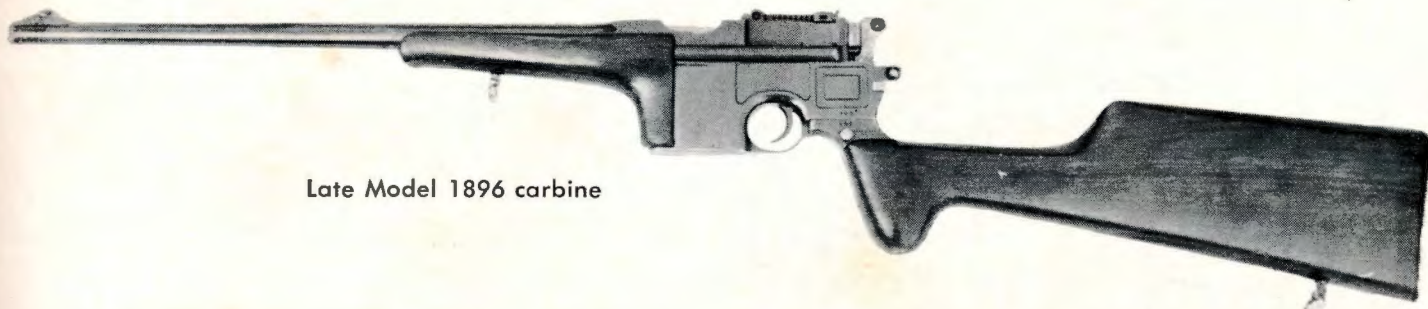
In the past it has been popular to identify certain variations of the Model 1896 as "Model 1900," "Model 1905," and "Model 1912." These designations were *not* used by the factory, and are not accurate. On the contrary, Mauser simply identified *all* variations as the Model 1896 until the introduction of the slightly updated Model 1930. When you realize that about two-thirds of the 100 or so varia-

tions of the Model 1896 recognized by collectors date from the first eight years of production, the futility of model designation by year becomes obvious.

Perhaps the best way to attack the identification problem is by classification of the many differences, major and minor, with respect to their origins. Taking this approach, changes can be categorized as being either *evolutionary*, those modifications occurring as a natural result of field or manufacturing experience, or *style*, where a basic characteristic is changed to improve the apparent suitability for a specific application. Let us first examine those differences that fall under the classification of changes in style.

A somewhat arbitrary listing of the major *styles* of the Model 1896 must include: Standard 10-shot pistol; 6-Shot pistol; 20-Shot pistol; Carbine; Bolo model; Schnellfeuer.

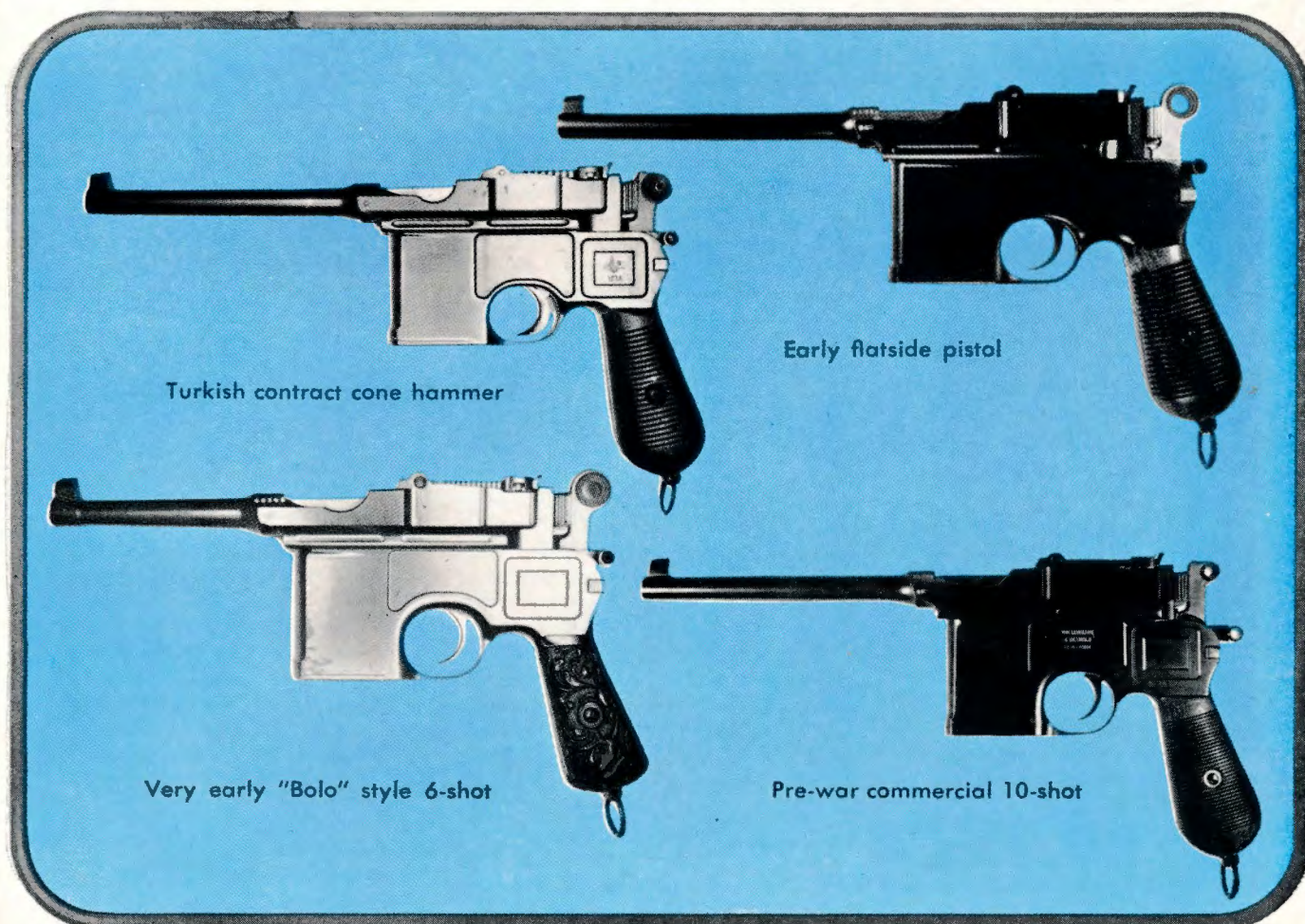
The basic Model 1896 pistol (Continued on page 58)



Late Model 1896 carbine



Schnellfeuer style pistol of either semi- or full-automatic fire



Turkish contract cone hammer

Early flatside pistol

Very early "Bolo" style 6-shot

Pre-war commercial 10-shot



PULL!

By DICK MILLER

HOW MANY TRAP or skeet clubs in the United States have been in continuous operation for 50 years or more? Lincoln Park Traps, Diversey at the Outer Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60614, will reach the half century mark on December 16 of this year, as attested by a photostat of the original incorporation certificate sent along by Secretary Seymour Silver.

Secretary Silver wonders, as do I, how many gun clubs have survived for half a century. I will be happy to



record the birthdays of any such clubs in this space if the clubs will inform me.

Lincoln Park Traps is also proud to report that their annual skeet event, The Great Western, was rated tenth in attendance during 1967 by The Skeet Shooting Review, and that the club is shooting for even higher ranking in 1968.

Lincoln Park Traps, a short hop from downtown Chicago, on the shore of Lake Michigan, has just undergone an extensive face-lifting. The lower floor now sports paneled walls and a crab orchard fireplace. The second floor clubroom has been remodeled so well that Secretary Silver reports it is difficult to get shooters out of the overstuffed sofas and comfortable chairs on to the shooting fields. You can't win 'em all.

Trap and skeet would compete with football, baseball, golf, and basketball coverage in the public information media if all shooters were as dedi-

cated in their shooting publicity efforts as Attorney John R. Sailer of Elizabeth, New Jersey. Barrister Sailer is a two-year skeet gunner, but his efforts in New Jersey to obtain more coverage for skeet should put him in the shooting Hall of Fame. He was kind enough to send me copies of all the news releases he helped spot, along with a description of some of his personal promotional efforts in 1967. All that I can say, after seeing what Mr. Sailer has done for his sport, is that if he devotes as much dedicated effort to his law clients as he does to promoting skeet, he is the fellow I would want to represent me should I need legal counsel.

Sailer used his legal background to win another battle for skeet and shooters in New Jersey. When he was charged sales tax on the targets used in a round of skeet, he took the matter to the state tax board and the courts, and won the decision that sales tax should not apply to the targets thrown in a round of trap and skeet. The tax was originally applied on the theory that the targets became personal property, rather than a part of services performed. His successful appeal was a milestone, and a sensible one, in the annals of tax application.

Shooter/publicist/attorney Sailer is keeping up with his 1967 level by sending word of the New Jersey State Skeet Association annual meeting, where Warren Horre of Fair Haven, Lou Ferrari of Lyndhurst, and Betty Roschen of Spring Lake were re-elected President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively.

Grouse Ridge Gun Club in Clinton will be the site of the 1968 New Jersey State Skeet Championship June 7, 8, and 9. Championship events in all four guns are offered, with a preliminary 12 gauge event on the first day. The New Jersey International Skeet Championship will be held June 29 and 30 at a spot to be announced later.

Remaining four-gun shoots at clubs affiliated with the State association are: Grouse Ridge, Clinton, May 18-19, July 20-21, September 14-15, No-

vember 16-17, and December 8; Etna Gun Club, Swedesboro, June 2, September 8, and October 20; Thunder Mountain, Ringwood, July 6-7, August 10-11, August 31, September 1-2 (three days) and October 28; Wayside Gun Club, Wayside (Exit 102, Parkway), May 4-5, July 5-7, September 21-22, and November 9-10; Englishtown Gun Club, Englishtown, June 1-2, August 3-4, September 28-29, and November 2-3; Clairmont Gun Club, Mt. Holly, May 25-26; Delaware Valley, Williamstown (on Atlantic City Expressway), May 10-11, July 12-13, August 16-17, and October 18-19; Fort Dix Gun Club, June 23.

Results are in from the Grouse Ridge Gun Club's (a Winchester franchise) first event in 1968. Betty Roschen was the only shooter in two days to crack 100 straight, which won her the 20 gauge trophy. She was Lady Champion with an effort of 95 in 12 gauge. Frank Di Tommaso of New York City was high overall in the four guns (410, 28, 20, and 12), after winning a shoot-off with Bill Pisciotto of North Merrick, N. Y., when both shooters deadlocked at 369x400. Di Tommaso was the champ in three events, 410, 28, and 12 gauge.

Class winners by gauge were: 410 Class A, Saul White, New York City, 80x100; Class B, Larry Taylor, New York City, 87x100; Class C, Jack Sailer, Summit, N. J., 78x100; 28 gauge Class AA, Ted Genola Sr., Elberon, N. J., 88x100; Class A, Larry Jacobs, Sicklerville, N. J., 90x100; Class B, George Lindsey, Caldwell, N. J., 86x100; Class C, Zeno Gianopoulos, New York City, 89x100; 20 gauge Class AA, Ted Genola Sr., 95x100; Class A, Fred Deval, USN Lakehurst, 92x100; Class B, Ted Vetter, New Milford, N. J., 88x100; Class C, Ted Genola, Jr., 95x100; 12 gauge Class AA, Dave Severe, Cranford, N. J., 96x100; Class A, Paul Hanby, North Brunswick, N. J., 95x100; Class B, Zeno Gianopoulos, 92x100; Class C, John Smith, Nutley, N. J., 97x100; Class D, C. White, 90x100; Class E, E. R. Zeckman, 88x100. Junior Champions were Guy Di Tommaso in 12 gauge, and Ted Genola Jr. in 20 gauge.

I am also indebted to John Sailer for a significant news release from the well-known international skeet gunner, Bob Rodale, from Emmaus, Pennsylvania, which announces that the first skeet field in the United States that will throw targets as fast and as far as those to be encountered in the 1968 Olympic Games was opened early this year at the reknowned Rural Sportsmen's Association in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania.

Skeet is a new sport in the Olympic

program (as opposed to the ISU championship), and the first United States squad of two shooters will be selected in July tryouts at San Antonio, Texas. Rodale points out that Yank skeet gunners have been firing in international skeet matches since 1952, but with the disadvantage of no previous exposure to the fast targets thrown in other countries. Our domestic rules stipulate that targets be thrown a distance of 55 yards. International and Olympic rules call for a minimum 71 yard target distance, but actual practice has been that targets move as much or more than 77 yards, which is fast, fast, fast! The Rural Sportsmen's field is equipped with Italian Rossini skeet traps with heavy duty springs. These traps are non-automatic, requiring that operators cock them and place the targets on the throwing arms. The Trexlertown club uses in this installation the special, heavier international targets, to withstand the increased throwing force, and which fly so fast that they whistle through the air. It seems to me that the whistling of these fast targets might blend with the incredulous whistles of shooters seeing those targets whizz through the air for the first time.

The new Trexlertown, Pa., installation will be open to the public for practice, and will also be the scene of several international match tryouts prior to the Mexico City Olympics. Further information may be had from Robert Rodale, 33 East Minor Street, Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049.

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hunsberger, the shooting duo from Catasauqua, Pennsylvania, whose marksmanship has made these pages before, continue their torrid shooting pace. In a recent trap event at Upper Perkiomen Sportsmen's Club in Red Hill, Bill and Jean swept the field, on the strength of a 99x100 from Bill and 98x100 from Jean.

Another Pennsylvanian, Mr. Lewis (Rhoda) Wolf shows no signs of letting up. Mrs. Wolf cracked 99 of 100 targets in both the 16 yard and handicap events at Torresdale-Frankford.

In another Torresdale-Frankford event, Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Buzby led the way. Dr. Buzby tied Lou Rauscher for high man, and Mrs. Buzby worked hard to win both the Mrs. Henry Goldsmith and H. L. Tipping trophies via the shootoff route.

Barney E. Berlinger, former Penn and Olympic decathlon champion, got back in the sports limelight by winning the Andy Webb high gun trophy at Huntingdon Valley, via a 25-23 edge over Charles J. Schenkel in a shootoff.



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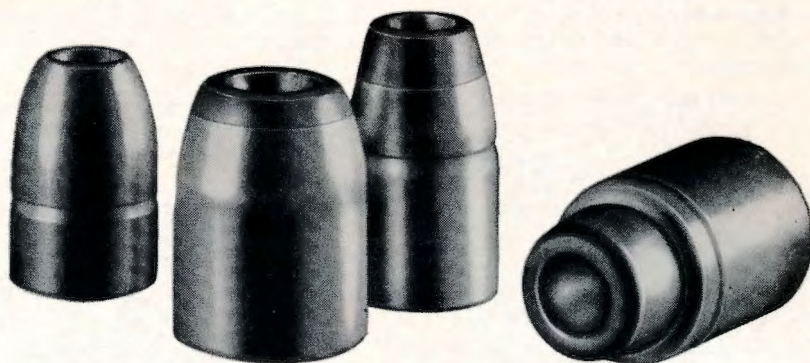
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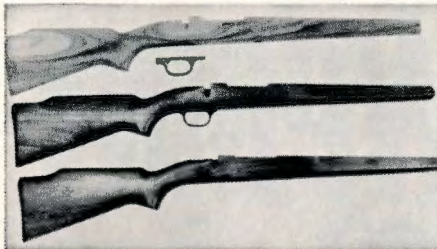
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THE HANDSOME, distinctive Eddie Bauer Harris Tweed Country Coat can't be found in stores. The styling, custom-tailoring, fabric, lining, buttons, suede leather, even the thread were selected with care to be the very finest. The Country Coat is casual enough for the country club and is handsome for wear at field trials or shooting range. The bi-swing gusset back permits unrestricted arm and



shoulder movement as you swing to shoot. Fine suede leather covers both shoulders, elbows, pocket bellows and under the collar. Even the buttons are suede covered to protect those priceless gunstocks. For more information on this fine coat contact Eddie Bauer, 417 E. Pine, Seattle, Washington Dept. G-5.

SHOPPING WITH Guns

ENGLAND'S Parker-Hale introduces the new custom styled Super Mauser Sporter to the United States, exclusively through Jana International of Denver. Standard features of the new Super Sporter include a streamlined Mauser action, drilled and tapped receiver, an 18 carat gold-plated adjustable single stage trigger, a side safety that locks the trigger, sear and bolt, and a hinged floor plate magazine that



prevents jamming. Austrian steel, a roll-over walnut stock, palm swell for a firm grip, and deluxe checkering are further examples of the fine materials and craftsmanship put into the Super Sporter. For a rundown on available calibers, etc. write Jana International, Dept. N., P.O. Box 1107, Denver, Colorado 80201.

THE LONG-AWAITED Hornady Handbook of Cartridge Reloading should now be in the hands of your local reloading equipment supplier (if it's not, ask the man what's happening). An indispensable item on the re-



loading bench, the new Handbook is a colorful and comprehensive guide to handloading 70 centerfire metallic cartridges, lists 7600 individual loads and over 23,500 long range ballistic calculations for every Hornady Bullet shot at every listed velocity. This handbook retails at \$3.50.

THE BIG GAME Bag by Aapal is big. Big enough to hold a 350-pound, 10-point deer, and made of high quality, extra heavy-duty cotton tubing, the Big Bag stretches 10 ft. long. Wash-



able and reusable it has many other uses. Ppd. \$1.00 with a money back guarantee from Aapal Co., 3240 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., Dept. G-5.

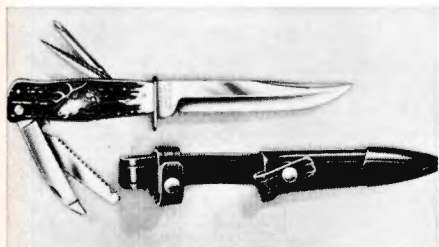
THE NEW "Vandalia Grand" Target Trap No. 2002 from Outers Laboratories, Inc. is now available. The new design is easier to use and safer to operate, with the throwing arm set in one effortless stroke by a torque tension cocking arm. Flight angles are



instantly changed and direction is simply controlled by positioning the target on the throwing arm. Clay bird flight can be altered 10 to 15 feet with over 35 different flight angle combinations. The heavy-duty tripod base can be set up as a portable or permanently mounted trap. Retail price \$89.95. Contact Outers Laboratories, Inc., Onalaska, Wis. 54650 Dept. G-5.

SHOPPING WITH Guns

FROM SOLIGEN, Germany, the cutlery capital of Europe, comes the all purpose knife for hunters, fishermen and campers. Made of Soligen Steel the knife has an assortment of collapsible tools—a cork screw, file, leather punch, hook remover, bottle opener, saw, fish scaler and can open-

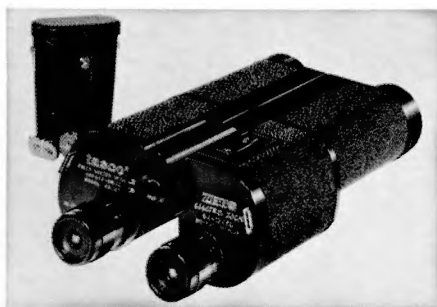


er—in the handle. The synthetic bone handle bears a carved deer design, and the blade is 5" of sturdy steel. Complete with a genuine leather sheath the knife is sent postpaid for \$4.95 with a money back guarantee from Amber Enterprises, P. O. Box 122, Mt. Holly, N.J. 08060, Dept. G-5.



THE 8-SHOT .25 caliber "Fury" semi-automatic pistol is ready for immediate shipment from LA Distributors. The LA Fury's excellent balance, lightweight construction and precision rifled steel barrel blend to bring target accuracy to a plinking pistol. The checkered walnut grips are complemented by gold plating on the trigger. Available in .25 automatic caliber only, the Fury is fine for personal protection at home or office. Perfect for plinking or as an off-duty sidearm. Price \$29.95. For more information on the Fury write LA Distributors, 1983 W. 10 Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223, Dept. G-5.

AN ELECTRICALLY powered zoom binocular, the Model #107 Zeus, was recently introduced by Tasco. The Tasco Zeus zooms from 6-12 power, has a 26-lenses optical system with coated Barium crown prisms, and maintains constant relative brightness through all powers, in contrast to the loss of illumination with manual zoom binoculars. Total weight, including penlight batteries, is only 46 oz., and



the power zooming action takes place via moving objective lenses rather than the traditional movement of the eye lens. Retail price \$149.95. If your eye is on binoculars contact Tasco, 1075 N.W. 71st Street, Miami, Florida, Dept. G-5.

A UNIQUE CO2 Pellgun with combination single cocking action and safety knob has been introduced by Crosman Arms in two popular models. The single cocking action combines with a fast loading rotary magazine for pellet protection and easier shooting. A uniform velocity of 480-550 fps is provided by one CO2 Powerlet.



Other features include hooded post front sights and fully adjustable rear sights, a visual cocking knob safety, and high efficiency in-line valve. The stock is high comb Monte Carlo of target-walnut finished hardwood, and the barrels are solid steel. The new Pellguns weigh just four pounds and are priced under \$27. See your dealer or write Crosman Arms Co., East Church St., Fairport, N.Y. Dept. G-5.

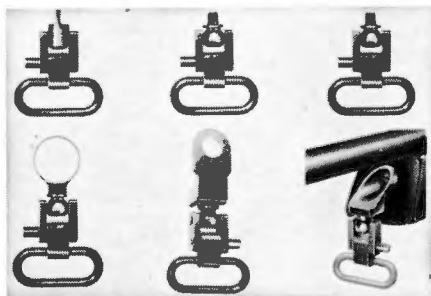
ONE OF SEVERAL new styles recently added to the 1968 free mail order catalogue of Joe Hall Boots is the "Western Polo." This fine, made-to-measure boot is available in a variety of leathers such as imported French calf, domestic latigo, or calftanned, smooth, fine-grained upper leather. Bench-made on western-style lasts, the Polo offers your preference in tops height, and toe and heel style.



The arches are beautifully beveled, steel-shanked, wood-pegged, and have four rows of rustproof brass nails for added strength. The catalogue shows all the handsome variations on this fine boot. Write Joe Hall Boots, Box 17971G, El Paso, Tex. 79917.

MERIT GUNSIGHT Co. has recently released a booklet showing several "shooting aids for hunters and target shooters." Included is an Optical Attachment helpful to shooters when the eyesight is impaired; an adaptor for the Anschütz peep sight which outlines the black on any target at any range; and an iris shutter Master Disc. For more information write Merit Gunsight Co., 6144 Monadnock Way, Oakland, Calif. 94605, Dept. G-5.

AMERICAN MADE, feather-light, Quick-Detachable Swivels have just been introduced by Williams Gun Sight Company. Made of a strong al-



loy, they are completely rustproof. The standard QD swivel with specially designed adapters will fit most guns. Loop widths are $\frac{7}{8}$ " and 1" to accommodate straps of $\frac{7}{8}$ " and 1" in width. Write Williams Gun Sight Co., 7300 Lapeer Rd., Davison, Mich. 48423, Dept. G-5.

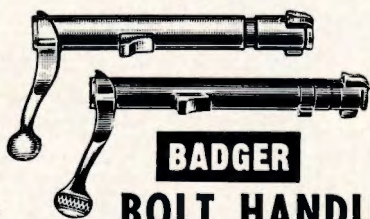
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COLLECTORS CORNER

(Continued from page 16)

Model runs between \$95 in just fair to good condition and to a high of \$1200 in excellent to like new condition. The 1851 Navy Model of .36 caliber, octagon 7½" barrel, called the Navy Belt Pistol, is one of the most popular of the collectors models. Value runs from a low of \$85 in poor condition to a high of about \$450 in fine to like new condition. Surprising is the vast difference in the collectors value of a like new condition 1851 Navy revolver and the same condition 1860 Army revolver. Over the years I have seen hundreds of fine to mint Navys, but can count on the fingers of both hands the number of the same condition 1860 Armys that I have seen over the same period of time—hence the difference in value. Last in line in the Second Group of Colt Percussion revolvers, is the Navy Belt Pistol Model of 1861, better known as the Round Barrel Navy. It is Caliber .36, with round

barrel as the 1860 Army Model, and using the same loading lever found in the 1860 Army Model. The life of Colts Round Barrel Navy Model was short; its manufacture began close to the end of the percussion era. It was a fine arm, probably one of Colts finest manufacture, and had it not run into the period of the metallic cartridge, it would have probably outsold any of Sam's earlier ventures. Collectors value for this fine collectors arm starts at \$150 in just good condition and will go as high as \$950 or more if in like new condition.

In next months Collectors Corner I will continue with the third and last of what I call the Three Groups of Colt Percussion Arms. This Group will include the Colt Pocket Model of 1849; the Side-Hammer Pocket Pistol; the Pocket Pistol of Navy Caliber, and the Police Pistol or Model of 1862.



THE 28 GAUGE

(Continued from page 36)

Western grouse, we walked into a large group of birds and they obligingly flushed one at a time. The four of us each had our second daily limit in short order and the hunt was over before noon.

I was so impressed by the effectiveness of the diminutive ¾-ounce load that I decided then and there that the 1-ounce magnum loading would be powerful enough for just about any gamebird—with the possible exception of geese.

Close-decoying honkers could be easily killed with the ⅞-ounce or 1-ounce loads, but I am not optimistic enough to believe that any goose I hunt is going to come within 40 yards of me. So I have one hard and fast rule that I observe when hunting them—ALWAYS use a 12 gauge. I realize that some will ridicule my unwillingness to try lighter guns on geese. Thousands have doubtlessly been killed with 20-gauge and lesser guns. However, I haven't bagged enough of these magnificent birds yet to feel that I can give them any more of an edge than they already have. So—as much as I respect the 28 gauge—I'll stick to my 12 for geese for the time being.

With grouse season over, I had

quick second thoughts about the future opening dates marked in red on my calendar. The tight-choked Remington would be perfect for ducks and late-season pheasants, but its pattern would be just too much for close-flushing upland game.

About this time High Standard announced the availability of their "Flite-King" slide action shotgun in 28 gauge. So I contacted their home office and they obligingly air-mailed a skeet model for me to try. The gun arrived a few weeks before pheasant season, so I took time to give it a workout on clay pigeons. Right here I found another advantage of this diminutive gauge. It is an ideal choice for the fledgling scattergunner.

My seven-year-old son, Richard, had no trouble shooting the little High Standard. Even though he wouldn't weigh 60 pounds soaking wet, he had no problem handling the mild recoil of the ¾-ounce skeet loads. The stock was too long for him, but he still enjoyed powdering clay targets placed upright on the ground 30 yards away. He gamely tried his hand at some thrown birds, but the stock was just too large to let him connect. The gun certainly didn't make him gun shy, as he didn't want

to give it up even after going through a full box of shells.

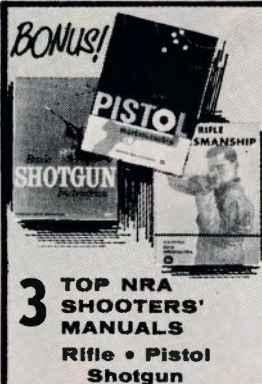
With a properly shortened stock, the 28-gauge pump would be an excellent "first" gun for a young beginner. It would be far superior to the more popular .410 in several respects: because of its larger bore it would throw better patterns with the same loads; it has about the same recoil as the .410; and loads are available to make it equal to the non-magnum 20 gauge on birds. While the .410 is a poor choice for the beginning gunner, I think that the light weight, low recoil and real game-getting versatility as provided by the variety of loads available make the 28 gauge an ideal first gun.

Prior to the introduction of High Standard's "Flite-King" in 28 gauge, there was no inexpensive U.S.-made gun available in this gauge. Remington's excellent 28-bore model 11-48 has been around for a long time, but I don't think that an autoloader is a good beginner's gun (strictly from a safety standpoint). On the other hand, the "Flite-King" pump is an attractive, well-balanced gun that also provides the safety of manual operation. I am thinking seriously of buying one for my son's use when he is a little older.

After trying the skeet-choked pump on clay targets, I was too impatient to wait for the November opening of my home state of Utah's pheasant season, so I drove into neighboring Idaho the last week in October for their opener. When I uncased the slim 28, my hunting companions looked at me a little askance. They were all using the big 12's that are practically traditional in the West, and they openly and frankly doubted that my little gun was going to do anything to fatten the day's bag.

As it happened, there was a high wind blowing that day, and the pheasants were holding tight. They all got up close to the gun, and as soon as the wind hit their cupped wings, they were gone. As a result, my friends were shooting at extremely fast-moving birds with their full-choked 12's. They were all experienced enough to try to let the birds get far enough away from the gun before firing to avoid ruining the meat with their tight, dense patterns; but the high wind made such long-range shooting extremely tricky.

As for myself, I was having a ball. Instead of being forced to hold my fire, I was able to pick the birds off practically as soon as they were airborne. The quick-handling 28 came up fast, and the skeet-choked barrel threw an ideal pattern for such close shooting. I bagged three of my 4-bird



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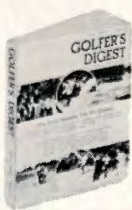
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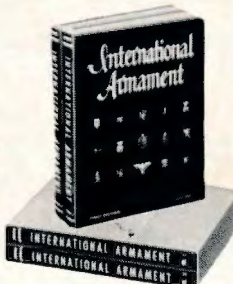
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daily limit with as many shells before my friends realized that *they* might be the ones with the wrong armament.

We hunted over a well-trained dog during the second day. Here again, the little skeet-choked 28 was ideal. The birds were holding well, and every ringneck that got up was in nearly perfect range. My friends did much better than on the previous day, but they were still forced to wait the birds out before firing. The one bird that was shot at close range with the full-choked 12's was completely ruined for the pot.

Of course, if any of these men had been using a wider choke, they would have had the same advantage that I was enjoying on these close-flushing birds. And for such short-range shooting (which is the rule rather than the exception on most upland game) light 1-ounce field loads would have been more suitable than the 1¼-ounce express loads they were using. Too much pattern density only mutilates birds shot closer than 30 to 35 yards from the gun.

The point I am trying to make is that by using lighter loads and wider chokes my friends would have had acceptable upland hunting equipment in their 12-gauge guns. In fact, they would be able to throw exactly the same amount of shot with the same pattern density that I was using with my 28. *But their guns would still be heavier and far slower to get into action.* As far as I am concerned, it makes more sense to carry a much lighter and easier-handling gun afield and use high velocity or magnum shells than to lug around a 7- or 8-pound cannon using watered-down loads.

The excellent ammunition offered by today's shotshell manufacturers has effectively upgraded shotgun gauges. The advent of the magnum load and the plastic shot collar has increased the potential of all shotguns to the point that the 20 gauge is now giving the long-favored 12 serious

competition as *the* all-around gauge.

By the same token, the 28 gauge is rising ever-so-gradually from obscurity to do the shooting chores once handled by the 20. The awakening popularity of this smallbore is reflected in the fact that both Winchester and Charles Daly are now offering their excellent over-unders in 28 gauge (Browning has sold their famous Superposed in this gauge for years—and they have a standing backlog of orders); and the introduction of High Standard's 28-bore "Flite-King" doubles the number of U.S.-made 28's available.

In summary, the 28 gauge has a lot of things going for it: light weight, versatility, and superb handling characteristics. I, for one, have never been in love with autoloaders, but the little Remington 11-48 I have been using in 28 gauge is such a sweet-handling combination that I don't think I'll be able to part with it when the time comes to return it to the factory. Unlike the smaller .410, the 28 gauge doesn't require pin-point accuracy to be effective. It is not a gun to be used strictly by experts, although you can't be too sloppy in gun pointing either. As with all shotguns, you have to have it pointed somewhere in the vicinity of the target to down any game.

On the negative side, shells aren't readily available in every country store, so you'll have to make sure you carry enough shells to last on your hunting trips. Too, although I've killed many ducks with it, it is not a gun for pass shooting at geese or other hard-too-kill species. This sport is quite properly the prerogative of the full-choked 12's and 12 magnums.

If you want an upland game gun that is light, easy to carry and a joy to handle, investigate the little 28. It is a truly modern gun that is well-suited to today's birds and hunting conditions. With the right loads and the proper choke, the 28 gauge is more than adequate for 90 percent of anyone's shooting needs.

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is the standard 10-shot pistol. It was the first type to be introduced, and was the only style to be continued (with evolutionary modification) till production ceased in the 1930's. As about a million were made in this style, more variations of it are to be found than of any other.

The 6-shot style pistol was introduced almost simultaneously with the 10 shot, as a very early example is known to bear a serial number below 50. Someone at Mauser must have felt that there was a market somewhere for a "trimmed down" Model 1896, as small groups of 6-shot pistols were made up periodically till 1905 or so. Most 6 shots have short barrels and fixed rear sights; though a few exceptions have been observed. All 6 shots, except those of the cone hammer era, have the small "Bolo" type grip. Any one of the more than 15 recorded 6-shot variations is a highly prized collectors item.

To a Mauser pistol collector the early 20-shot pistol is a find comparable to that of a Walker for the lover of old Colts. The elongated magazine provided the user with unparalleled fire power, but apparently the addi-

high in collector desirability. Production life of this weapon paralleled that of the 6-shot pistol, and most of the early evolutionary variations seen on pistols are also found among the carbines. Unfortunately, most of the thousand or so carbines that were made have barrels shorter than the magical 16 inches that differentiates a rifle from a machine gun in the eyes of the United States Treasury Department. However, many of the examples found in this country have been made legal by welding an extension to the barrel to make it the required length.

The so-called "Bolo" style pistol seems to have originated as a combination of the shorter 6-shot pistol barrel and the 10-shot frame. The post World War I Bolos, of which several hundred thousand were made, are quite well known. What is less common knowledge is that a number of Bolo variations were made before the war, though only in very small quantity. Not to be confused with the true Bolo are the 1920 reworks, standard 10-shot style pistols of various vintages that were altered after the war to conform with the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles. These have had



Many rare Mausers, victims of the Treaty of Versailles.

tional weight and increased awkwardness doomed this style to failure. Only three very limited serial ranges have been recorded, and their narrow spread indicates that perhaps as few as 20 or 25 of the 20-shot pistols were made. All were cone hammer types.

Though not nearly so rare as the 20-shot pistol, the carbine ranks very

their barrels shortened to 4 inches, and their adjustable rear sights replaced with a fixed V.

In the 1920's several Spanish manufacturers came out with copies of the Model 1896, and some of these were equipped with a selector switch to permit full-automatic fire. In response to this competitive pressure Mauser

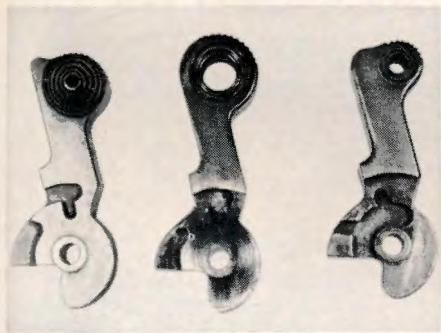
introduced the *Schnellfeuer* model in 1930. To take the pounding that occurred during fully automatic fire, the barrel extension and action were modified and beefed up. The frame and trigger were also changed to accommodate the selector switch, and the magazine well was opened up to permit insertion of a 10 or 20-shot removable magazine. The *Schnellfeuer* style pistol met with immediate success, and nearly 100,000 were marketed before production ceased just before the start of the Second World War.

As many of the above types were produced over a period of years, some, particularly the earlier styles, exhibit a variety of evolutionary changes. For the most part these changes are common to all styles of the Model 1896 produced during the period that they were in effect. By far the greater number of the evolutionary changes occurred during the production of the first 45,000 pistols, as at this point (ca. 1905) the design finally stabilized into what is recognized as the most common version of the 10-shot pistol.

Among the early pistols the areas in which the evolutionary changes are most frequently noted are outlined below.

HAMMERS

Three basic hammer types are found on the Model 1896. The earliest is the "cone," which features a thick, large boss pierced by a small hole.



Principal model 1896 hammer types; (l-r) cone, large ring, small ring.

The cone hammer was used on all pistols up to about serial 12000, and on most of the remainder to serial 15000, when it was dropped completely in favor of the large ring hammer. The large ring hammer is high enough to block the sight picture in the uncocked position and is pierced by a hole almost $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter. It was used on a number of pistols in the 12000 to 15000 serial range and exclusively on the Italian Navy contract as well as on all commercial pistols from serial 20000 through about 35000. It is

also found on a few additional pistols in the 40000 to 41000 serial range. The large ring hammer was succeeded by the small ring hammer, which was used on all subsequent production with little further change.

TRIGGERS

Two trigger types are used on the Model 1896, though as previously mentioned a special trigger was used on the *Schnellfeuer*. The early type trigger, used on all commercial pistols up to about serial 21000, is quite broad in shape and is mounted in a separate block that dovetails into the bottom of the frame. The late type, used on the Italian Navy and all commercial pistols from about 21000 on, is thinner and mounts directly in notches milled into the frame.

FRAME PANEL MILLING

Frame panel milling patterns were changed frequently during the early years of the Model 1896, and some additional changes were made in the post-war period. However, for simplification the many variants can be lumped into three broad classes, early, flatside and late. Early panel milling is characterized by large panels with thin borders, relatively shallow in depth. The early milling pattern was used on all pistols up to about serial 35000, with the exception of the flatsides and a few other variants noted below. The flatside, with no panel milling at all on the frame, was introduced with the Italian Navy contract in 1899. It was used on all commercial pistols from about serial 21000 through 29200, plus a few strays numbered just above 30000. The late type milling, with small deep panels and wide borders, first appeared on a few 6 shots in the 29500 range but was not generally used until serial 35000, when it was reintroduced for good.

EXTRACTORS

Only two types of extractors were used on the 1896. The early type, long and slender, was used on all pistols through almost 41000. A short, fat type with "ears" appears on all subsequent guns.

SAFETY LEVERS

The early safety lever pulls down through an arc of only a few degrees to place the gun on "safe." At serial number 35000 a new safety, pushing up through an arc of 60 degrees for "safe," was introduced. Pistols in the 40000 to 41000 range mostly have the earlier safety, but all later production carries the later type. Two subsequent modifications were made to the late type safety, however. The first, intro-



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duced just before World War I, was the *Neue Sicherung* or new safety, which prevented the safety from being applied accidentally while the gun was cocked. New safety equipped guns, which start at serial number 290000, can be identified by the letters NS stamped in the back of the hammer. With the introduction of the Model 1930 the safety function, though not appearance, was again changed. On this model the safety merely prevents the hammer from striking the firing pin, so the trigger can be used to safely drop the hammer on a loaded chamber.

supplied were given their own serial range from 1 to 1000, with both serial numbers and sight markings in Farsi. In addition, the seal of Sultan Abdul-Hamid II appears on the left side of the frame.

The Italian Navy purchase involved 5000 pistols, and is particularly interesting as these weapons marked the introduction of a number of evolutionary type changes. The pistol itself is a flatside with late type trigger, rear sight, and firing pin. It would be interesting to know whether any of these changes were adapted as a result of suggestions made by the custo-

During WWII Mauser made 135,000 Model 1896's

chambered for 9 mm Parabellum cartridges.

LEAF SIGHT MOUNTING

Early leaf sights were fastened to the top of the barrel extension by means of a separate pin. This was changed to integral lugs milled into the sides of the sight leaf, which were then slipped into matching undercut notches on the barrel extension, with the Italian Navy contract. However both types of rear sight mounting were used through most of the commercial flatside production. All subsequent pistols used the later type.

FIRING PINS

The earliest type of firing pin was retained in the bolt head by means of a dove-tailed block. This expensive method was dropped with the Italian Navy pistols, in favor of a pin with a lug on its side which was inserted in an oblong hole in the rear of the bolt and then rotated 90 degrees to hold it in place. Somewhat later (ca. serial 35000), a second lug was added probably for safety reasons.

Other mechanical variations, for example in the contours of the barrel extension, are numerous. Variations in markings, particularly of the rear sight leaf, are also of interest. A number of pistols with unusual markings and serials too low to fit in the classifications above have been found. These are mostly, if not all, the result of "contract" purchases.

Although quite a few such contract purchases of various Model 1896 variations were made only four of these involved a sufficient number of pistols to be considered at length. These were, chronologically, the Turkish, Italian, Persian, and 1916 German Army contracts. The Turkish purchase of 1000 standard cone hammer pistols was made in 1897, and the guns

mer. Serial numbers range from 1 to 5000, and it is apparent that these 5000 pistols account for the gap that exists in the early commercial serial numbers between 15000 and 20000. No special marking is provided, but the pistols are proofed with the letters DV on the left side of the chamber and crown over AV under it.

The Persian contract pistols were produced much later, probably in 1910 or 1911. Unlike the previous contract models the Persian pistols are numbered in the commercial series, but a special block of numbers, from 154001 through 155000, were set aside for them. The Persians are standard pre-war commercial pistols, except for the Persian crest on the left side of the frame and a Persian proof mark on the left side of the barrel extension. This model has been frequently faked in the past, but aside from the improper serial number range a phoniness is usually obvious from the crudeness of the crest.

Early in 1916, the German government realized that the output of Luger pistols from DWM and the Erfurt arsenal were inadequate to satisfy the military demand for sidearms. Rather than attempt to set up a third source to manufacture Lugers they contracted with Mauser to supply Model 1896 pistols chambered for the 9 mm Parabellum cartridge. 150,000 pistols were ordered, and by the end of the war about 135,000 had been delivered. Since a number of Model 1896's in 7.63 mm were already in use by the army, most of the 9 mm pistols supplied had a large number 9 cut into the grips and filled with red paint to indicate their caliber.

In addition to the above contracts, in which enough pistols were involved that there can be no question that

they saw official service, there were a number of other purchases of the Model 1896 for evaluation purposes. Most of the pistols involved were early variations, and can be distinguished from their commercial counterparts by their very low serial numbers and non-standard proof marks. Examples are known in both 6 and 10-shot versions.

Though most 1896's were chambered for the 7.63 mm Mauser shell, a souped-up version of the 7.65 mm Borchardt cartridge, pistols chambered for two other calibers beside the 9 mm Parabellum are sometimes found. Earliest is the 9 mm Mauser Export, a powerful round with considerably better ballistics than the Luger shell. Relatively few pistols seem to have been produced in this caliber, with one group in the 88000 serial range and the other at about 176000.

The cartridge is actually better known than the pistol, as a number of European submachine guns were chambered for it. The second unusual caliber is 8.15 mm, for which a few Model 1930 pistols have been found—but no examples of the cartridge are known! It is legitimate, however, as DWM shows the cartridge in their records as case number 580.

There can be no really "simple" system for classifying the Mauser broomhandle variations. There are simply too many possible combinations of the different styles and the various evolutionary changes. However, separating the two types of changes and putting those that are a result of evolution in their proper chronological order does provide a basis for reducing much of the traditional confusion associated with this fascinating weapon.

REPLICA GUNS

(Continued from page 29)

balls. The action of the wad and the shallow rifling of the Replica guns permitted us to shoot for a lot longer period than normally without going through the labors of cleaning the barrels. Our actual shooting time increased more than 40 per cent when compared to the old method of using grease over the ball.

As much as I enjoy shooting black powder guns, I must admit that I enjoyed more the mere pleasures of just looking at these pieces. I am not going to tell you that these new replicas have the same fine workmanship of the originals. They do not, and this is no reflection on the manufacturer in Italy. There are few, if any, guns made today that can compare in quality of workmanship or finish to any of the originals. The Replica guns—at least those that we had—do show signs of somebody at the factory caring about putting out a product which has evidence of quality control. There may be a few too many sharp edges, and the fitting of parts may not be as precise as I would like, but there is nothing about these guns that makes you think they are anything less than an excellent value.

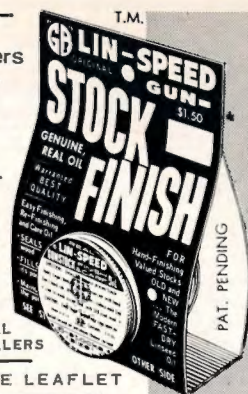
The regular Replica models sell for anywhere from \$69.60 for the Baby Dragon or the Wells Fargo to \$99.50 for the Walker. Of course, the engraved models we had cost a bit more. Perhaps we should go into these engraved models a bit, for it appears that here is a value that is hard to beat—if you want a fancy

gun. The regular 1861 Navy, for example, retails for \$79.95; the engraved model, which is really more than just engraved, sells for \$230.00. This is practically full coverage engraving with tasteful touches of gold inlay. And, this is engraving that is not typical of what you would expect foreign, production line engraving to be. Other engraved models which offer a real value include the little Wells Fargo. Going at \$69.50, plain, you can get an engraved model for only \$125. The engraving is not as elaborate as that described above on the 1861 Navy, but it is well done.

Ken Phelps tells me that a good percentage of his sales are for Replica revolvers in cased sets. This means that you get the revolver, a handsome oak case, powder flask, nipple wrench, and bullet mould.

I am sure that at this point many readers would like me to compare the black powder guns offered by Replica Arms to those offered by others. Well I won't, for one simple reason. A true comparison can only be made by the eyes of the purchaser. I know what I like, and you know what you like. It would be improper for me to foist my set of values on you. Suffice to say that my shooting and examination of the guns offered by Replica Arms has convinced me that they are well made, and offer a good gun value. Considering that we have, today, a seller's market in firearms, that's more than should be expected.

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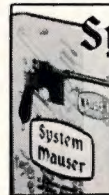


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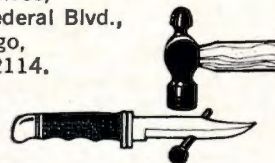


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(Continued from page 42)



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One of the best known pioneer merchants along the Santa Fe trail from 1833 to 1840 was Josiah Gregg. He wrote, "Thanks to Mr. Colt's invention I carried thirty-six charges ready-loaded, which I could easily fire at the rate of a dozen a minute. I do not believe that any band of those timorous savages of the western prairies would venture to approach even a single man under such circumstances."

It would appear that Gregg followed the suggestions made by Colt at the 1837 West Point trials and carried five extra loaded cylinders. At the same time, Colt had belatedly followed a suggestion made to him by officers at the 1837 trials and had reduced the number of charges in the cylinder of his guns to six, thus accounting for one positioned loaded cylinder and five extra loaded six-shot cylinders, a total of thirty-six shots as recorded by Gregg.

Colt's first production rifles at Paterson were designed with an eight chambered cylinder and a complicated mechanism involving an enclosed striker and a ring lever to cock the striker and revolve the cylinder. The tang extended over the cylinder to abut the rifled barrel, which was octagonal and held in place by a wedge or key that passed through the barrel lug and slots in the cylinder spindle. The barrel had to be removed to reload cylinders. Guns of this type were made in the 1837-38 period and production probably did not exceed two hundred.

The next model differed little from the first; it, too, had an eight-chambered cylinder, and the calibers were much the same, running on average from .36 to .44. The barrel lug was not integral with the barrel on this model, it having been found in manufacturing practice that it was easier and cheaper to make a straight octagon barrel and then braze a separate lug (lower portion) to it. An extra slot was cut through the barrel lug and cylinder spindle so that the loading tool might be inserted and the cham-

bers loaded without removing the barrel. This loose tool remained troublesome, however, and soon a loading lever was devised that could be permanently attached to the right side of the barrel. Henry B. Crosby, a master mechanic at the Paterson plant, is credited with having affixed the first permanently attached loading tool to a Colt gun. Accompanying these features, the recoil shield was made heavier and deeply grooved on the right side to permit capping the nipples. The cylinder was changed a bit, too; by rounding off the rear edge battered caps were more inclined to fall free and not clog the action.

Altogether it is unlikely that over five hundred of the various eight-shot rifles were made at Paterson. They were heavy—averaging 12 pounds—and their mechanical system of operation left much to be desired.

By far the most successful of the Colt Paterson-made shoulder arms was the six-shot carbine. Whereas the eight-shot rifles were made under Colt's 1836 patent, the carbines were of a simplified mechanical design described in Colt's second patent, issued August 25, 1839. By this time the faults of the eight-shot rifle had become thoroughly evident. The 1839 design required fewer working parts; it was lighter, having a six-chambered cylinder and a shorter smooth bore barrel of .525 caliber. A center-hung exposed hammer was a great improvement over the concealed striker with its awkward ring-lever. This Colt model got into production during 1840 and the Ordnance Department decided to take another look at Colt revolving guns; trials were again scheduled.

The 1840 trials were inconclusive but in February 1841, Colonel Balford advised Colt: "The Department will be prepared to give your arms a further trial by actual service in the hands of troops, and for that purpose, it is necessary to be informed of the terms on which you will fabricate and deliver a limited number, say one hundred, of your repeating carbines and implements complete. The carbine to be of rifle caliber (.525)."

One hundred six-shot carbines were delivered on April 6, 1841, and an additional sixty were turned over to the government on the following September 6. The first one hundred were sent to Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania for field testing by the Dragoon serv-

ice there and the later delivery of sixty was obtained for an expedition preparing to sail to Florida.

The full details of the army's trial reports are given in my book **COLT FIREARMS**, but it will suffice here merely to quote this summary: "Under all these circumstances it becomes the duty of this Department to recommend that no more of these arms shall, for the present at least, be issued to troops."

A civilian Committee of Judges was also appointed in 1841 by the American Institute to pass on the Colt six-chambered carbine. Their lengthy report, of which I shall quote only a part of the concluding paragraph, summed it up quite differently: "A few men armed with this arm would be almost invincible from any force that could be brought against them."

More medals for Colt but no orders. The Paterson plant closed down early in 1842, and unsold arms were transferred to a New York City gun store operated by John Ehlers, a former officer of the now defunct *Patent Arms Manufacturing Company*.

John Ehler's ledger indicates that in September, 1845, the government purchased another hundred of the six-shot carbines at \$32.50 apiece. At the same time they purchased some five-shot Colt hand guns they described as "boarding pistols."

Conclusions of officers of the 1837 trial board had proved to be correct; the most effective military employment of Colt's Paterson-made "revolving guns" was in the naval service. During the conquest of California in 1846-47, Colt revolving-cylinder carbines made their appearance in the hands of skirmishers when naval forces from the *Portsmouth* and other ships of the Pacific Squadron went ashore and moved on Los Angeles. Further, they were prominently mentioned in 1853 when the U. S. naval squadron, commanded by Commodore Matthew C. Perry, made its historic voyage to Japan.

Although the better-known efforts of Colt salesmanship had been directed toward the military, the civilian trade had not been altogether neglected. Sales promotion in New York publications like *Spirit of the Times* was ardently pursued. The six-shot 1839 patent provided the company with an action which they employed to produce shotguns for the civilian trade with bores .56 to .70. As may be imagined, the cylinders of such guns were almost twice as large as those of the carbine. It is doubtful that the shotguns were well received, for in this period excellent caplock double-barrel shotguns were avail-

able and more practical. Paterson-made shotguns are a very scarce collector's item today.

An interesting practice, starting with the Paterson-made guns and continued later at Hartford during the percussion era, was the application (by roll engraving) of a symbolic scene encircling the exposed surface of the cylinders. These designs were created by W. L. Ormsby, a prominent New York engraver of the time. On the eight-shot rifles, in addition to the COLT name there were shown three horsemen, and a centaur shooting at a deer. Although some of the carbines were given cylinders with a plain surface, many cylinders were engraved with the words **COLT'S PATENT—PATENT ARMS MAN'Y—PATERSON** (sic) **JERSEY** and three pictorial panels—one a martial scene, one a man standing near a lion with an upraised rifle, and the third a naval scene picturing two sailing ships. The big shotgun cylinder offered a very sizeable surface for pictorial decoration and bore the words **COLT'S PATENT—Patent Arms Manufactory Paterson N. Jersey**, and even the "W. L. Ormsby, sculpt" signature; there were three decorative panels, one showing a hunter and two deer, another showing two hunters shooting at birds, and the third panel pictured the American eagle and the U.S. shield.

During the Paterson venture Samuel Colt's role was merely that of the super-salesman. His tendency to spend someone else's money recklessly, as reflected by his expense accounts, did not endear him to officers of the company—especially his conservative cousin Dudley Selden. The clash of personalities no doubt hastened the demise of the company.

While approximately five years of modest production at Paterson turned out to be a failure financially, these were years in which seeds for the future were sown, slow-growing to be sure, but time would show them to be capable of producing a great harvest.

Failure of the Paterson company was a bitter disappointment for Samuel Colt. But like the phoenix bird which arose from ashes to start another long life, Colt had ambitions and faith that could not be consumed by one failure. From the economic ashes of his first manufacturing venture he salvaged his patent rights. Within five years the government signed a contract for the first thousand in a long succession of many thousands of "Colt's Patent" arms, and there would start at Hartford, Connecticut, an armsmaking enterprise destined to become famous throughout the world. Next month: Hartford-made guns.



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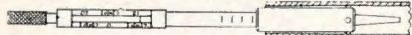
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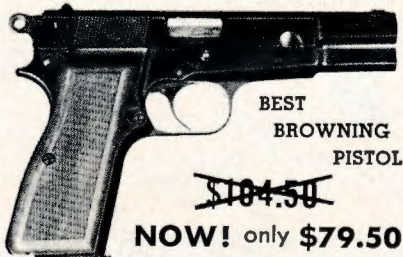
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MINIATURE MAUSER

(Continued from page 28)

They also brought many other makes of German rifles and perhaps a brief description of the German .22 caliber designation marks found on these arms may serve to clarify any questions that they may have. The .22 short is known as the "Kal .22 Kurz" in Germany. While the "Kal .22" designation is common, we must bear in mind that the metric system is prevalent in Europe and on some rifles the figure "5.6 mm" may appear to denote the caliber. The German word for "Long" is "Lang," therefore, we may find rifles marked "5.6 mm Kurz-Lang" or "Kal .22 Kurz-Lang" to indicate that the .22 caliber Short and Long cartridges are to be used. Rifles chambered for the .22 Long Rifle cartridges are marked "Kal .22 Lang für Büchsen." This covers the common markings encountered on German rifles chambered for today's standard .22 caliber cartridges. "C.B." (conical breech) and "B.B." (bullet breech) caps can be fired in any standard chamber although some foreign gallery arms may be encountered which are chambered to handle the .22 C.B. and B.B. caps *exclusively*. The .22 Short, Long and Long Rifle cartridges will *not* chamber in these guns and no attempt should be made to force them!

Mauser devotees will find much to admire in this undersize replica of the "Mauser Model 98" turnbolt action. The first impression is always a pleasant one with the viewer happily engrossed in a mental comparison of the many similarities between the small action and its larger "big brother" prototype. The first thing a Mauser fan usually does is to remove the bolt for a "look inside." This im-

mediately discloses the fact that the release is accomplished by holding the bolt release lever which is a boxed housing on the left rear of the receiver. Since so many of the more common American bolt repeaters use the trigger sear as a bolt stop, it is a welcome change not to have to pull the trigger back to release the bolt. This separate bolt stop is a hint of quality. It is exactly like the standard full-size Mauser. The bolt stop and the ejector kick-bar are housed in a boxed unit which forms the thumb lever release.

As the bolt is pulled back clear of the raceways, the viewer usually has to smile at the sight of the tiny safety-lug in its customary location on the left rear side of the bolt-body. Why a safety-lug on a .22 rifle? Why not? If you are going to build a miniature Mauser you might just as well include *all* the trimmings, including a tiny safety-lug! Further examination of the bolt discloses the typical long extractor spring which lays along the forward right side of the bolt cylinder. This is one of the secrets of the smooth motion of the little bolt. The extractor spring rides in a raceway cut into the inside wall of the receiver. This acts both as a straight-line guide, as well as a deterrent to any "binding" tendency that might be present. The net result is a slick, smooth movement of the bolt with a positive opening and closing motion. The extractor spring is held in place by the familiar bolt collar which encircles the forward section of the bolt cylinder. No frontal locking lugs are present on the "baby" action. They are not a requisite for strength and their omission cuts down the length of the bolt-throw, a desirable feature in a small-bore weapon.

At this point we come to the most unusual and truly unique feature of this undersize Mauser action. I am speaking of the novel method by which this bolt, which has a *centered* firing pin, is made to fire rimfire ammunition. The secret lies in the fact that the receiver is drilled and machined to position the bolt *off center*. The firing pin which is centered in the bolt is thus raised by a distance which is equal to one-half the diameter of the .22 rimfire cartridge base. This positions the firing pin at the top edge of the rim to fire the cartridge. Why the eccentric hole in the receiver? It was merely a matter of

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BOX 927

straight line design. The central position of the firing pin in the bolt body makes it less liable to breakage, because the striker impact is transmitted directly along the longitudinal axis. There is no offset or angular strain to induce metal fatigue or crystallization which might eventually result in breakage. The cartridge head is still very well supported. Was it necessary to build the rifle in this unorthodox manner. No, it was not. It was, in fact, a more costly way of going about it. You must admit, however, that no expense was spared to create a fine, precision mechanism and that the final product was unquestionably a firearm of the highest quality.

The breech is locked during firing by the square base or root of the bolt handle which engages a locking recess located in the right rear wall of the receiver. The safety lug also seats in a milled recess but does not make contact, since it is a secondary, or safety lug, rather than a primary locking lug. The little action is more than strong enough to accommodate the diminutive .22 rimfire cartridge. It is, in fact, sufficiently strong to accommodate the .22 Magnum cartridge with plenty of extra margin for safety. This remark will serve to lead us into the next phase of our discussion.

To properly illustrate the alterations necessary to convert the "baby" Mauser action to handle the Winchester .22 Rim-Fire Magnum cartridge, we have included a number of sketches to assist gunsmiths in the basic changes that are required. It is not my intent to imply that this is a "do it yourself" project for amateurs. Nothing causes me more anguish than the sight of a fine gun that has been mutilated unnecessarily by a well-meaning amateur. Those who read a "how to do it" article and thoughtlessly butcher a gun will have a long time to regret it. I would suggest that anything beyond a simple stock "cut-down" job on an old military piece be referred to a competent gunsmith. His know-how saves a great deal of time on the job and allows a fair price—and you get a worthwhile gun, instead of the risk of a total loss.

A .22 Mauser with a fine barrel had best be left as is. I recommend the Magnum conversion *only* on single shot Mauser .22's which have a barrel in poor condition. The normal .22 RF bore-diameter is undersize for the .22 W.M.R. cartridge. It requires a .224 groove diameter. This means fitting a new barrel. The single-shot Mauser is the one I would suggest for this alteration. It has a built-in loading platform or cartridge-tray which allows the shooter to merely drop in a

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cartridge and close the bolt to feed the round into the chamber very smoothly. This loading platform can usually be left unaltered and should handle the magnum cases with the usual smooth motion. My rifle has a flat bolt face but I have seen some with a slight recess milled into the face. This is in the shape of a modified triangle with rounded corners. It acts as a shroud for the rimmed base of the .22 cartridges. The gunsmith who encounters this type of bolt can easily determine how much metal must be removed from the recess edges to accommodate the larger head of the .22 Magnum brass. He must allow for the quarter-turn rotation of the bolt. The lip of the extractor hook may have to be backed off a bit and the front slip-over angle relieved until the bolt face and associated parts fit the new case. This is a hand fitting operation, done with empty brass casings after the new barrel is fitted and chambered.

The next step in our Magnum conversion involves the adaptation of the pertinent action parts to accommodate the longer cartridges of the .22 W.M.R. The bolt is a good place to start. It must be made to travel about $\frac{3}{16}$ " to $\frac{1}{4}$ " farther to the rear in the open position. This is accomplished by lengthening the bolt stop channel on the left side of the bolt cylinder. It can be milled out or ground away with a hand grinder, but all sidewalls must be kept square. The loading port is lengthened by a similar amount as illustrated. This will create a bit more finger room and will expedite the handling of the cartridges. While the drawing shows the squared port shape retained after enlarging, I can see no reason why the rear end of the port could not be rounded if desired. I personally would retain as much of the original appearance as possible.

Now that the action has been "lengthened" a bit, the gunsmith can

cut back the ejector blade to the point where it will kick out the cases at the preferred spot. This should be done a little bit at a time until, at the kickoff point, it will just eject a loaded cartridge. I believe that the foregoing about covers the conversion job. Was it worth it? I think so. Just think, you now own a *genuine Mauser Magnum* rifle in .22 caliber! It is just as worthwhile to rebarrel a .22 Mauser that has a poor barrel to the regular .22 long-rifle caliber and keep the rifle in its original state. Either way you will have a rifle to take pride in. If you do not wish to retain the stock, the Mauser .22's are certainly worthy of a high grade restocking job, complete with spacers, contrasting fore-end tip and fancy checkering!

The rifle illustrated in this article is the military style "Sports-model" described previously. It has not been "Magnumized" because the barrel is perfect. The long fore-end had been chopped off by someone so I decided to "Sporterize" it a bit. The stock grain was almost like Circassian walnut and might be, for all I know. The rich, contrasting veining in the buttstock so intrigued me that I decided not to restock it. I paneled the sides to retain a "Schmaltzy" look and mounted the scope high because I couldn't bear to alter the bolt handle. I preferred to keep it looking like a European sporter. If I can latch on to another, I'll make a racy American-type custom sporter with all the trimmings. I can forget sentiment on the second one!

If you should run across a "Miniature Mauser," make haste *slowly*. It will be more valuable *unaltered*. If you will remember, I recommended the Magnum conversion only if the barrel is in poor shape. It would be much cheaper to buy a good American-made .22 Magnum rifle — and keep your *genuine* "Miniature Mauser" as a prized showpiece! 

HIDEAWAY HOLSTERS

(Continued from page 25)

was obviously out of the question, and the number of walk-in customers they got on the 16th floor was piddling. In order to get his rigs onto the belts of working investigators, Theodore put his eye, well trained for tell-tale lumps under the business suit, to good use. Noticing a jacket that didn't drape properly in a subway or luncheonette, Theodore would hand the sartorial offender his business card and walk away without a word. A few

days later, without fail, a sheepish detective would turn up at the shop, uncomfortable aware that his concealment rig didn't conceal.

Seventrees invariably made a new convert, and soon this seeding of rigs, and word of mouth advertising, had built up such an enthusiastic clientele among local, state, and federal investigative agencies in the New York area that it was all they could do to keep up with the demand.

The nucleus of the Seventrees line of belt scabbards bears a striking resemblance to the rigs of the old master Chic Gaylord. Theodore candidly admits that he went into business by unabashedly borrowing Gaylord's ideas. It was a pragmatic thing to do, and others have done likewise. Theodore, though, is the first holstermaker I've met who gives Gaylord the credit he deserves for having spawned the new generation of concealment holsters. Seventrees, though, is too vigorous an outfit to sit around making carbon copies. I noted that most of Chic's rigs had been redesigned in one aspect or another. Seventrees' belt scabbard for the large semi-autos, for instance, rides noticeably higher than Gaylord's did. Hence it is more comfortable, it conceals better, and it's just as fast.

New designs are no rarity at the Seventrees' shop. Theodore's shoulder rigs, in particular, are among the best I've come across. They hang the weapon in a horizontal position, using a thumbsnap retainer for semi-autos and a breakaway snap for revolvers. Most commonly made for PPK-size autopistols and snub-nose revolvers, a big man can use them as well with 3" barreled revolvers or pistols up to the size of Colt's Commander or S&W's M39.

The novelty is the harness which incorporates spare ammo carriers—clip cases for the autos and pouches for revolvers—slung under the right arm. This balances the weapon perfectly, and the rounded leather surface of the ammo carrier eliminates harness gouging under the off arm—a common affliction. One harness hangs every rig in the line, whether for semi-auto or revolver. The holsters and ammo carriers interchange by buckles. I am of a lanky build, and horizontal rigs have always made me look like I have a vaulting pole tucked under my arm. But I can hide this halfbreed of Theodore's perfectly. It's fast, comfortable, and the \$20 bite is reasonable.

Theodore sees a large and unserved market in concealment holsters for the small .22 and .25 caliber automatics and derringers. These are popular with women, businessmen, diplomats, undercover operatives, and various law enforcement officers who like to have a second or third sidearm tucked away for the ultimate emergency. When one considers how many of these items are being carried by the law enforcing or law abiding public, it's astonishing to realize that there are only a few decent rigs now being made to holster them.

Seventrees plans to cure this situation and to sew up the market with

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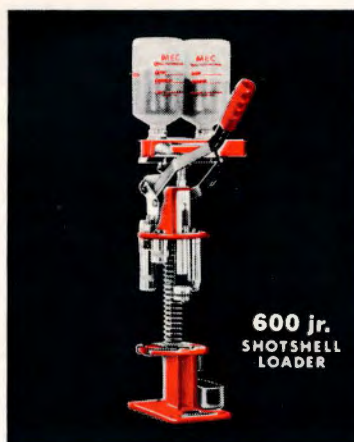
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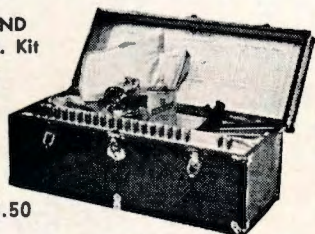
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new designs that will hide the mini-guns in all sorts of locations. One rig I saw was meant for female detectives, and planted the .25 at the nape of the neck concealing it beneath shoulder-length hair. I wouldn't be surprised to see male investigators sporting this rig, considering the display of hirsute splendor required to establish one's bona fides in certain circles today.

These are novel rigs, and needed, but they won't be ready until a lot more developmental work is done. Shoulder holsters have their admiring coterie, and some folks favor the cross draw, but the real bread and butter item for the custom holster maker is the right side belt holster, either with or without a retainer device. These pay the rent, and Seventrees offers an intriguing line. The semi-auto scabbards, which we've already mentioned, ride high and retain the weapon by a tight friction fit. They are made to handle the PPK at the bottom of the scale, on up to the 1911 .45. Each rig is exactly wet-formed and molded around every curve and contour of the weapon it is meant to carry. The revolver scabbards are similarly detail formed.

Some gunners feel insecure unless their hardware is strapped in, and for these Seventrees adds a Gaylord type thumbsnap retainer to the revolver holster. It is a fast, secure arrangement, and since the strap, rather than friction, holds the weapon in, the holster is formed only around the cylinder. This helps hold the price down and doesn't detract from effectiveness.

The last time I was up at the shop Theodore was cobbling up some prototype rigs with sportsmen in mind. These have a lot of bugs yet to be worked out, but they look promising and indicate that Seventrees hopes eventually to be as at home in the fields as they are in the city.

Uniform police holsters, though, are far in the future. Their manufacture requires metal forming machinery that Seventrees doesn't have and can hardly afford, and this will come only

when the company is well established in the sporting and defense-concealment fields, and after production catches up with orders.

Someone once suggested that a punishment to truly fit the crime would be to require a holster maker to wear his own products. Theodore does. He packs every new rig Seventrees produces for a full week, then goes back to the bench and redesigns it. This may go on for months before the final design is to his liking, and accounts for the generally faultless comfort, efficiency, and practicality of the Seventrees gear. Theodore has a pretty clear idea of what is needed in the concealment field; he listens to his customers, designs rigs from their specifications to do their job, and is a master innovator.

But there's more to a good holster than good design. During the first several months of operation, Seventrees put three or four times as many rigs in the trash bin as on the shelf. Each had a slight flaw that made it unsuitable to carry the Seventrees lable, hence it was slit from top to bottom and consigned to the garbage pail.

The prices Seventrees asks, while competitive with the best in the field, are nowhere near cheap. Theodore says the only way he can see to cornering the action, and keep it, in as crowded a business as this, is to gain a reputation as the absolute best—to start at the top of the heap in quality, if not in sales, and to hold the one and pull the other up to meet. The rigs I have seen back him up. The hide is dense, tight-grain stock; the stitching in nylon drop tested at 6 lb; and workmanship is first cabin.

I packed a sidearm professionally for several years, during which time I designed and built my own rigs and laid out several C-notes on custom harness. When it comes to holsters, I know what I like. And while it is early in the game to give an outfit like Seventrees an unqualified endorsement, they are among the best I've seen.



HAVE GUN LAWS BEEN REPEALED?

(Continued from page 19)

weapons." This is a direct quote.

Comment: Can you visualize the gun collector registering his flintlock pistol? Or, how about the gun tinkerer who has a barrel full of triggers, hammers, or firing pins; it may take all week for him to register each and every one of these "parts."

The new law also states that if registration is denied, the gun owner

shall deliver every firearm owned to the Chicago Police Department within 10 days. This implies that (a) there is no time for appeal, and (b) it might well be that any guns delivered could have been destroyed or otherwise made unavailable if an appeal were made and won. The odd part about this appeal is that it must first be made to, you guessed it, Mayor Daley!

This brings up one point that gun owners have had raised since gun legislation became a national issue. Everyone seems to say; "You don't mind registering your automobile, why should you mind registering your guns?" The answer is simple. Automobile registration is not subject to individual interpretation; and I've heard of people getting fined for not registering their car, but don't know of a case where the car was confiscated because it was not registered within an allotted time. Also, the registration of autos is handled by a separate agency of the state, not the police department, local city clerk, etc.

I don't know what this sort of nonsense means to you, but it tells me that the men who wrote this don't know a damned thing about guns; they don't really give a damn about the honest gun owner; and they are politicians first, and public servants second. This latter feeling was well illustrated during the "open hearings" which were held on Mayor Daley's gun registration ordinance.

The first several hours before the hearings opened, several of the Mayor's cohorts did their "duty" as public servants, and posed for the newspaper and TV cameras in front of a huge pile of petitions. These were reportedly gathered, signed, and delivered within the past week, and were supposed to show that a million Chicagoans supported the proposed ordinance. (It was later reported by a Chicago newsman that some elementary school students had been used to forge voter's names on these petitions.) Also, some of the petitions were just a bit too dog-eared to be only a week old, and they looked surprisingly the same as those used by the Daley forces during the state gun law fight. Let's give the good Mayor the benefit of the doubt, however, and say that they were legitimate petitions. They sure did a good job of holding up a good number of Democratic politicians who leaned on them much the same way a successful hunter poses on the carcass of a dead lion.

Once the hearings started, there followed a long procession of Daley followers from all walks of life; priests, rabbis, police officials, spokesmen for various voters groups, and even a doctor who described the horrors of gunshot wounds! They spoke eloquently of the terrible crime problem in Chicago, and all ended with words of strong support for the gun registration bill—yet I doubt if more than a few understood exactly what the bill was all about, and what good it would do to solve the crime problem!

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registration ordinance were speaking —and after a while it seemed that they all said exactly the same words —everyone on the Mayor's committee was very attentive, and very cordial.

Ah! But when those who opposed the law came to speak, the air bristled with antagonistic electricity. (I'd swear that several of the committee members were asleep when one pro-gun spokesman pointed out that no one has ever shown that gun registration has any effect on crime.) Even one of the members of the city council, when he attempted to ask about administration and enforcement of gun control laws now on the books, was curtly told that he was out of order.

Mayor Daley's gun registration ordinance passed; as everyone expected it would. But those few days spent watching government at work makes you wonder if it is all real.

Local organizations are now hard at work trying to obtain an injunction to stop the enforcement of this law. In the meantime, though, gun-owning residents of Chicago are faced with the problem of registering themselves as gun owners with the state, and then registering each firearm they own—antiques, target rifles, shotguns, etc.—with the city government.

If we are to be realistic about gun control legislation, we must realize that unless there is a drastic reduction in the crime rate, we will continue to be faced with attempts to pass and enforce strict anti-gun laws. Aside from the fact that most gun owners don't want any more laws passed, and no more laws are actually needed to control firearms, the best that we can hope for are laws which are not overly restrictive; which are administered fairly; and which provide a recourse to appeal if the administrators do pull some hanky-panky. The Illinois approach—that is the registration of gun owners—seems to be acceptable to a good many gun owners. Yet even here we must be careful to be sure that the wording of such is not open to wild interpretation, and that administrators are made fully aware of their responsibility to the honest gun owners of the state. Assuming that we could get a state law which is both firm and fair, there is always the agitation by well-meaning but uninformed lawmakers who will attempt to add restrictions to the law because neighboring states have less —or different—controls. This brings up the need for a set of uniform standards for all of the states. If such standards were available, and if they would be accepted by every state, then there would be little need for the strict federal controls being proposed.

We are entering into a summer

which many predict will be both long and hot. If violence does again flare up in our country, you can just bet that some of the blame will be placed upon what legislators like to call "the easy accessibility of firearms." And, when the sounds of riots are still ringing in the ears, you can just bet that no matter what laws are already on the books, there will be cries of, "We need tougher gun laws."

We are also entering upon a summer and fall which will see the individual citizen as a force which will determine the future political positions of a great many candidates. Do you know how your candidates feel about gun legislation? What are you going to do about it?

There are two things you can do.

First, you must realize that it will take a maximum effort on the part of each and every gun owner to halt the stampede of anti-gun legislation. How about the "Hour for an hour" approach, where each shooter spends one hour in the fight against bad gun legislation for each hour he spends shooting? More is at stake than our own opportunity to continue to enjoy the shooting sports, for we must assure future generations that they, too, will be able to hunt, participate in target shooting, and have a means to defend their life and property.

How should you spend that hour? First, by joining with others in your local gun club, collector's club, or conservation group. The best fight against bad laws can best be fought by a group or groups who are united. Next, gather together all of the logical facts which show that strict gun laws do not reduce the crime rate. Talk to as many of your friends who do not own guns, and explain the reasons you are against passage of anti-gun laws. Our strength is in our numbers, and the more people we can get on our side, the better our chances.

There is still one other thing you can do to add to the effectiveness of the struggle against bad gun laws, and that is to be sure that you, and others in your group, behave in a manner which will reflect integrity, high moral character, and a concern for the rights and privileges of others. This is no time to be belligerent; to resort to name-calling; or to unjustly discredit others in your attempts to sway public opinion. Just as one criminal act with a firearms can undo all of the work of pro-gun supporters, so can the vulgar or coarse acts of one individual reflect on all who fight for the same cause. History remembers patriots who spoke such words as "Taxation without representation is tyranny," not those who cried out "King George is a S.O.B."



HANDLOADING

(Continued from page 12)

Loaded for bolt guns, though, it will match the performance of the .270 Winchester and .280 Remington.

All bullets except the 154 gr. Hornady were seated precisely flush with the base of the case neck—and that one went only about 1/32" below. None showed any signs of excessive pressures in our one gun. Of course, this doesn't mean they wouldn't in *your* gun, so if you're inclined to use them, back off at least 5 per cent, then work up half a grain at a time. Remember, our rifle had a .2842" groove diameter and a long throat—both of which tend to lower pressures somewhat. If your rifle is tighter in either or both spots, pressures could jump considerably.

Last month we made brief reference to proper storage of the handloader's powder—specifically to storage facilities that would provide adequate protection in the event of a fire. The National Fire Prevention Association (60 Batterymarch Street, Boston, Mass. 02110) has, over the years, concerned itself with fire resistant storage facilities for all manner of flammable materials, including smokeless powders. This organization publishes N.F.P.A. Booklet No. 495, available for \$1.00 from the above address, which contains its recommendations for powder storage. In brief, here is what is recommended.

Not more than 50 pounds should be stored in the home. Most states have placed a limit in the amount that may be kept in the home; my home state of Illinois happens to go along with the N.F.P.A. recommendation of 50 pounds. Powder should not be kept exposed on shelves, in closets, on benches.

Powder should be kept in a locked chest or cabinet. This container should be constructed of plywood no less than one inch in thickness, preferably lined or covered with "Transite," a form of asbestos board. Powder should be removed from this container only for actual use and should be returned immediately.

The best form of container we've found is of footlocker form and size, screwed together from 3/4" and 1/4" plywood (this being cheaper than special-ordering the scarce one-inch thickness) and lined with cheap asbestos board from the local furnace shop. A lip of 1/2" square molding around the inside allows a sheet of

1/4" plywood or asbestos to be used as a divider and floor for a second layer of cans if the bottom overflows—which it will if you have near the 50 pound maximum. Metal trunk corners on the bottom will make the box easier to move around, and rope handles on the ends are handy, too. Use heavy butt hinges (we used three, 3" brass ones) and a heavy-duty hasp to secure the lid. An inventory sheet stapled inside the lid, listing dates of purchase, is also a big help.

The purpose of a container of this sort is not to be *completely* fire-proof, in the event of an out-of-control blaze. It is, instead, intended to resist flame and keep the contents cool enough to prevent ignition for a *reasonable* length of time. And that means until the average fire department could be expected to arrive and get the conflagration under control.

A powder chest of this sort can be built for no more than ten to fifteen dollars, even if all new material is used—and that's certainly a bargain, all things considered. If you've an average amount of scrap material around it will cost only a fraction of that.

The N.F.P.A. further recommends that every powder can be opened for inspection at least once each year. If the contents give off an acrid odor (other than the ether like smell common to most fresh smokeless powders) or show fine reddish or rusty dust, destroy the powder by flushing it down the toilet. *Don't* try to get rid of it by burning unless your hospitalization and life insurance policies are in good order.

H. A. Zimmerman, 127 Highland Trail, Danville, New Jersey, 07834, just sent us an interesting alteration of a standard Pacific-type decapping stem. It consists of a small, highly polished tungsten carbide ring slipped on the stem above the original expander button and held in place by a threaded brass collar. The carbide ring is larger in diameter than the original button and can be had in a number of sizes. It converts the decapping stem to any caliber *larger* than that of the original button. For example, our sample is a .270 Win. stem with a .307" ring fitted to adapt it to .30 caliber. Theoretically, a fellow needs only one stem and a handful of these buttons to take care of most calibers. The ring's greatest advantage is the reduction in neck-expanding effort it produces. Its very narrow contact area, plus a very smooth finish and its extreme hardness combine to make this possible.



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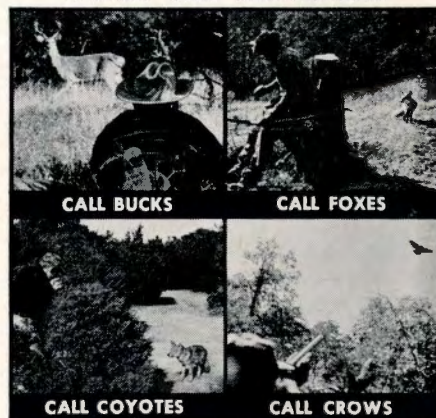
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SNUB NOSE GUNS

(Continued from page 23)

Let's recap all of the preceeding tests as they apply to these two loads:

These energy figures represent—on paper—the potential mechanical energy carried by the bullet when it leaves the handgun muzzle. How much of this mechanical energy can be converted into physical energy depends upon bullet construction, and the resulting bullet performance upon impact with the target. A bullet that carried a high potential mechanical energy will inflict little damage on the target unless the bullet has been designed and constructed to expand and retain the major portion of its initial weight, stay inside the target and thus deliver—under controlled expansion—all of its potential energy into the target.

One of the simplest methods of comparing relative bullet performance under strictly controlled conditions is to fire bullets into clean, dry, play-ground sand. The results are comparative only and can not necessarily represent bullet performance on actual targets. But, a bullet that gives good performance in the sand test will tend to deliver a lot more impact shock or stopping power into a target than a bullet that does not give good performance in this sand test. I would like to repeat, *a bullet's ability to transfer all of its mechanical energy into physical energy determines the extent of its stopping power.* Without this capability the potential energy of the bullet means nothing and that is why bullet construction is so vitally important.

In the test, the bullets were fired

into a sand box from a distance of approximately five feet. The Charter Arms Undercover revolver was used for the sand tests with two bullets fired from each type. Table II lists the maximum diameter of the bullet showing the greatest expansion.

Ammunition M.V. M.E. Expansion

150 grain
Winchester bullet
High Velocity
#38S4P 869 fps 252 0.543

158 grain
Remington bullet
High Velocity
#6538 862 fps 259 0.541

Law enforcement officers may question the ability of these to handle specific situations such as firing at vehicles or through doors, door frames, walls, floors and other similar obstructions. Can these cartridges perform satisfactorily? In my opinion the answer is an emphatic, "Yes." Both loads penetrated seven to eight, one-inch thick, five ply, plywood panels locked into place within a frame. They both penetrated car doors, embedding themselves in the far door and when recovered, showed good bullet expansion.

These cartridges combined with the small 2" handguns give a cartridge/gun combination that wrings out as much of the cartridge potential as possible. While such a combination can not be completely satisfactory in all situations, I believe it provides the officer with the best in factory ammunition.



BAT MASTERSON

(Continued from page 33)

to why he needed four new guns within a period of less than a year (1885), one guess is as good as another. Apparently, Bat himself was not entirely sure how many guns he need—witness the P. S. attached to the above letter.

A complete story of the Masterson adventures would fill a book—they have, in fact, filled several. Fifteen years after his 1885 purchases of Colt's Single Actions, Masterson made a move that completely amazed the West—a land in which he was considered a colorful landmark and an authentic celebrity. He moved to New York City.

Perhaps it was the Big City's gam-

bling that drew him; this was the era of Diamond Jim Brady and Bet-a-Million Gates. Or perhaps it was the bright lights, or the big names. New York, in its own typical outgoing welcome-all-strangers fashion, promptly arrested Bat for carrying a concealed weapon. (It was also charged that a deck of cards was found on Bat's person!) However, this was before the Sullivan Law, and Bat, escaping lengthy incarceration, was released on bail. Not long after, he was arrested again on the charge of concealed weapons. Again he was released, irked and totally unrepentant, but convinced that carrying a gun in New York was more trouble than it was

worth; after all, his cane and his fists would be weapons enough in a city soft enough to forbid the wearing of such essential items of masculine attire. Next, perhaps, they would be calling his cane a weapon!

But the Masterson guns were not yet due for retirement, thanks to the intervention of President Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt had a soft spot in his heart for the West, and for the men who had shot it into some semblance of law and order. When friends told the President about Bat's New York problems, Roosevelt appointed Masterson Federal Marshal for the southern district of the state of New York. Bat accepted. The appointment gave him the right to dress properly—and to thumb his nose at any New York City policeman who objected. Both privileges pleased him.

But Masterson was to have still another revenge on the city which had originally ignored him. At Theodore Roosevelt's special invitation Bat journeyed to Washington and had lunch with the President. They talked enthusiastically about the West and the names and places with which both men were familiar. The New York newspapers reported the visit with amazement and with a new-born respect for the man with the gold-headed cane, and the six-gun ever present beneath the tail of his well-tailored coat.

There was, in fact, a sudden interest in the Masterson history. "How many men have you killed, Mr. Masterson?" was the inevitable question of every reporter. Bat was never accused of lying about his "tally," but he must have gotten a wry inner amusement as the printed figure doubled and redoubled. Being a life-long practical joker, it is reported that Masterson could be persuaded, infrequently, to reach into his desk and modestly show a pawn-shop-relic Colt on which he had laboriously filed an impressive number of notches. (He may even have presented one or more such relics to souvenir hunters.) He never claimed that this was an accurate accounting and always remarked, in fact, that, "Of course, we never counted Indians."

Considering his earlier poor opinion of newspapers and newspaper people, it is perhaps as surprising as any other event in his flamboyant career that Bat himself became a newspaper man—first as sports reporter, then as Sports Editor of the "New York Morning Telegraph." Boxing was his special interest, and he was soon an acknowledged authority on ring combat, not only as a newsman but as a referee, second, bet maker, and friend of the great fighters, from John L.

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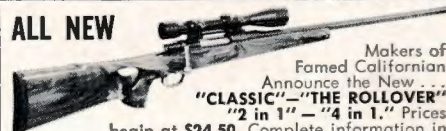


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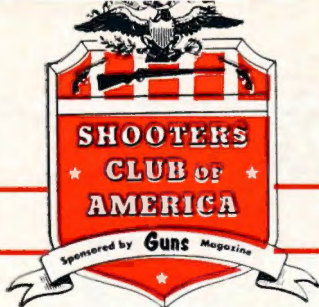
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"I'd rather be tried for killing a criminal than have him tried for killing me." That's the down-to-earth slogan being used by Kansas City, Missouri, police as they instruct Kansas City housewives and business men in handgun marksmanship for self defense.

In Tennessee, the Davidson County Grand Jury "recommended that citizens arm themselves against an avalanche of crime" too great for police to handle. "To protect themselves," the Grand Jury said, "citizens should have at least one gun in every home"—and added that citizens are not safe, at present, "in or out of their homes."

In Florida, Miami Police Chief Walter Headley "declared war with shotguns and dogs on hoodlums." Headley, a lifetime "career" enforcement officer, reached this decision after a Christmas weekend record of 58 crimes of violence in Miami, including three murders.

In New York, where some two million sportsmen and (on the word of the New York State Police) some five million gun owners have just been victimized by new anti-gun legislation that multiplies the stupidities of the ancient Sullivan Law, more people than ever before are daring police disapproval by applying for handgun licenses—because they are afraid, even behind the locked doors of their own homes, of the criminal "terror that walks by night."

In Philadelphia, a city victimized in 1965 by one of the most restrictive firearms laws in the nation, Chief Police Inspector Harry Fox, admitted that, after only 10 months of operation under the new laws, . . . "we have already had more homicides than in all of 1964, and I'd guess that about 40 per cent involved guns." As Sports Illustrated commented, "it would not take a Philadelphia lawyer to prove that this law has been about as effective as the 18th Amendment."

In New York, cooler heads are taking some startled second looks at the new legislation which, among other harassments, requires registration of all firearms (rifles and shot-

guns as well as handguns), and police investigation of every person who applies for a permit to purchase a firearm. Not only will the new law cost millions in lost sporting-goods business—the required investigation of purchase-permit applicants will cost, conservatively, \$20 million to carry out registration and legalization of guns now owned!

In Los Angeles, an extensive study proved that most of the guns used by criminals in the commission of crimes are stolen or otherwise obtained through channels that would render useless any legislation relating to registration or permission to purchase.

Yet in Chicago, Mayor Daley sponsored a massive, professionally guided publicity campaign, conducted from a suite of offices leased by a city agency, to override stout but weakly financed sportsmen opposition to new laws requiring firearms registration and permission to purchase.

And in Washington, D.C., not only does the President's Crime Commission urge nationwide licensing, registration, and police permission to purchase guns—the President himself threatens to make antigun measures a campaign issue!

These are shocking indictments of a social structure weakened and shaken by jungle savagery into a general admission of jungle fears. There was a time when we could laugh at childish fears of "things that go bump in the night"—but such fears are no longer childish. An acorn falling on a roof tonight can bring men and women alike out of sound sleep to long moments of rigid apprehension.

The one bright spot in the dark picture is that law enforcement officers are, one by one but in growing numbers, speaking out against court leniency, adopting stronger procedures, even inviting civilian assistance. The wonder is that die-hards still cling to the belief that disarming the citizenry will somehow deter armed predators who prey on weakness. The evidence clearly, consistently disproves such dream-thinking.

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Sullivan to Jack Dempsey. He was also the friend of famous men of other ilk: such journalistic figures as Irvin S. Cobb, Frank Ward O'Malley, Tad Dorgan, Richard Harding Davis, Hype Igoe—as well as the leading lights of entertainment, not to mention the card-handlers who worked the great liners, together with such local sportsmen as Maxey Blumenthal, Arnold Rothstein, and the redoubtable Herman Rosenthal. He also came to know, by sight or better, Harry K. Thaw, Sanford White, George M. Cohan, John J. McGraw, Jimmy Walker, Buffalo Bill Cody and any number of Senators and other visiting celebrities. This was the baroque era for Gotham on the Hudson, and Bat loved the excitement.

Bat died at his desk in the Morning Telegraph office on October 25, 1921. His column for that day was spread before him. It dealt with a fight between Lew Tendler and Rocky Kansas, and Bat compared the \$22,000 purse with what a hard-working farmer might earn in "forty of the best years of his life." The last words Bat Masterson wrote were these:

"I suppose these ginks who argue

that 'everything breaks even in this old world' believe that because the rich man gets ice in summer and the poor man gets it in winter, things are breaking even for both of them. Maybe so, but I can't see it that way."

In 1967, Colt's Firearms Division produced, as the first of their new Lawman Series of commemorative Colt Single Action revolvers, limited editions of .22 and .45 caliber "replicas" with the words "Lawman Series—Bat Masterson" neatly engraved on the barrels. The .22 caliber commemoratives are offered in deference to price factors (\$90.00) and to the collector's love for "pairs." But the .45 caliber lovelies would have fitted familiarly into the hands of their "designer."

Caliber—.45 Long Colt; 4¾" barrel—Nickel; grips—checked, with eagles. The guns come in presentation cases covered with black leatherette, lined with red velvet and red satin, with Masterson's order letter of July 24, 1885, reproduced on the cover.

Masterson was one of a kind; one of a brave breed, and one of the few of that breed who lived to read and hear and laugh at his own legend.



ZANY PATENTS

(Continued from page 21)

Shooting Device." This contribution to the art of gunnery shoots from the waist at unsuspecting thieves or enemy saboteurs. And it can be fired from the rear as well as from the front of the wearer. Agent 007 missed this one! The ingenious device fits around the waist under clothing and out of sight. The controlling mechanism of the front firing gun is attached to the right arm and the rear firing gun to the left arm.

This shooting apparatus consists of a firearm, a spark coil electrically connected to the firearm, a battery electrically connected to the spark coil and a breaking member mounted in the housing.

If approached by a bandit from the front the right arm is raised and the firearm goes into action; if from the rear the left arm is raised. Bing!—dead bandit! But what happens if you get a sudden itch behind your ears?

This question apparently did not bother the patent examiners too much for they granted the inventor, William H. Balch, Patent No. 1,532,859 on April 7, 1925.

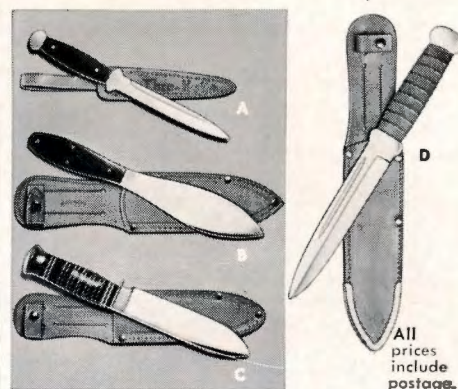
In 1921, Hubert Renard of Belgium brought his brain-child to the United States Patent Office and it took our geniuses here over two years to de-

cide whether or not to accept it. They did, and "a walking-stick machine gun with a bayonet and a lamp" officially became Patent No. 1,474,292.

The hollow walking-stick had a Browning machine gun mounted in the handle. It also has a lamp mounted therein which was intended to be used for signalling, and a bayonet was mounted in the end of the stick. The tip of the bayonet, of course, acted as a point for the stick, and it was released by actuating a spring which thrust it out, ready for combat. When one finds it necessary to fire the stick is raised, aimed at the target and blam . . . that's the end.

A more modern version of the "gun-in-your-hat" was issued on September 15, 1953, to Albert B. De Salardi of Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania. It was a pistol mounted on a helmet, intended to be aimed and fired without the use of the hands. The wearer moves his head until he brings crossed hairs in his field glasses over the target, and then fires the mounted pistol by either blowing through a tube or biting a flexible controller. The gun may be automatic or semi-automatic.

The inventor noted that his invention would leave a soldier's hands free



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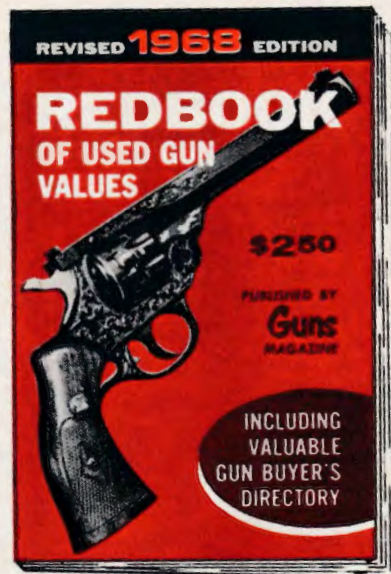
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for cutting barbed wire or handling equipment. The pistol was attached to the helmet much as a bayonet fits on a rifle. To absorb recoil the helmet is lined and a resilient brace rested against the wearer's back. There was also a chin strap.

Wonder how long it will be before the Army adopts this one?

To throw more light on the field of fire arms, Joseph Matys of East Brimfield, Massachusetts, came up with a "Searchlight-Firearm." Confucius, or somebody in China, was reputed to have said that a picture was worth a thousand words. Perhaps inventor Matys thought of that saying as his patent drawing submitted with his application, tells the story. The story is simple, a searchlight combined with a pistol. The light automatically illuminates the target, thereby materially assisting in the aim of the pistol. This is done with a lamp and a lens enclosed in a small casing under the

barrel which is connected by wires to a spring in the trigger, and, of course, a battery is provided in the hollow part of the handle. A push button arrangement actuates the light which can be prolonged independently of the firing of the pistol. It's intended to be used in the dark by officers of the law or by householders when they are awakened by prowlers.

This "searchlight-pistol" was officially patented on April 27, 1920 after almost three years of cogitation by the patent officers. At last they "saw the light" when the inventor had almost given up hope of ever having his invention recognized.

The archives of the United States Patent Office at Washington, D.C. is filled with many such ideas—some fantastic and others fascinating, some possibly ridiculous and others sublime. And after all, there is only a thin line between genius and idiocy.



OBSOLETE HANDGUN CALIBERS

(Continued from page 38)

still chambered for it is mighty doubtful. Still a fourth cartridge, the .221 Fireball, is skidding, and I would expect it will follow the others into oblivion. A lone pistol, a single shot, weighing 3½ pounds and with a rifle action, is the only number that will handle this baby. Popularity is about on a par with pork at a Moslem picnic.

This brings us down, finally, to those calibers which are still worth retention because of proven ability. These, in my opinion, are good not only on the score of performance but filled with a lot of potential insofar as future developmental effort is concerned. Our handgun cartridges, in many calibers, are in need of revitalization, modernization, and betterment through attention from our designers. I have in mind most especially such fine cartridges as the 9 mm Luger, the .38 Super, and the .45 Auto.

There is virtually no improvement of our pistol and revolver loadings. We occasionally see a cartridge, like the .44 Magnum and the .41 Magnum, but these have been the only new rounds (other than the miscellany of hotrock .22's) that have come along in many years. If we could skim off a lot of the dross, drop the older cartridges, and thus clear the decks, we could not only see the modernization of the remaining loads but create an atmosphere conducive to the introduction of completely new cartridges.

Those cartridges which are sufficiently worthwhile to be kept in the

line are the .30 Mauser, the .30 Luger, the .38 Spl, the .357 Magnum, the 9 mm Luger, the .38 Super, the .41 Magnum, the .44 Magnum and the .45 ACP.

While it is true that the .30 Mauser is a cartridge without a single firearm made for it, the fact remains that this is a bangup good round. The 85-gr bullet has a 1410 fps muzzle velocity and with the proper attention from our ballisticians it could be whooped up to speeds beyond this. Likewise, the .30 Luger is sort of an orphan. But it, like the .30 Mauser, has a lot of potential. The 93-gr bullet travels at 1220 fps muzzle velocity. These are excellent ballistics and with the new accent on the future development of auto-loading pistols and the decline in the old cylinder handgun, such splendid cartridges as these two .30's should be retained.

The .38 Special is a standard item and has not only the older revolvers but some of our very best auto pistols chambered for it. It is likely to be around for quite a while although it is not an efficient loading. The .357 Magnum represents the logical development from the .38 Spl and in the hands of the police is a strongly rising favorite. The .38 has a considerable following among the target shooters but it has been found that it performs more consistently if fired in one of the new auto pistols.

The best of all our auto pistol calibers is the .38 Super round. It turns

(Continued on page 80)

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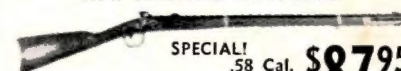
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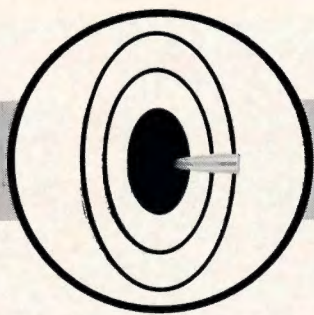
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POINT BLANK

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

IT USED TO BE that all gunstocks were made of walnut; though, sometimes, maybe a little maple was thrown in—not being a popular wood but unusual enough to appeal to the occasional gunsman who wanted a light colored butt. Here of late, we are going exotic and wood is imported from far away places—like Gaboon ebony, New Zealand walnut and cocobolo from South America.

There is talk that really good walnut is growing scarce. This may be and undoubtedly the cost of this fine stuff, plus a burgeoning taste for something different, plus the importation of foreign guns from places like Japan, Spain, Italy and Germany serves to educate the American user to strange buttstocks.

Walnut has always been the choice of most shooters and undoubtedly it will always remain pre-eminent. It is tough, strong, hard, stable, of handsome appearance and long life. It takes checkering well and is heavy, dense and fine grained. But despite all these desirable characteristics there are other woods that are virtually as good.

For instance, California mesquite has a lot going for it. Roy Weatherby probably uses more mesquite than any of our major gunmakers. This native wood is heavy, tough, strong and has an appealing grain appearance. It takes checkering well. Some of the more attractive blanks are almost olive in color with a mottled or striped variation of gray. The greatest fault of this excellent stock material is probably its scarcity. It is hard to find sufficient trees of large enough size to provide the blanks needed.

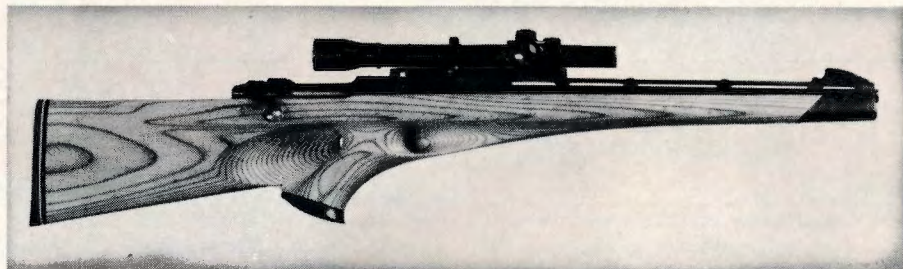
Generally speaking, black walnut will show a Janka hardness of 1000. This is about the minimum for an acceptable gunstock. Myrtle, an Oregon growth, is even better. It will show a hardness of 1270. This contributes to good checkering and, if you are one of those shooting men who like a straw colored stock, then you will see a lot of beauty in this showy piece. Pete Gould, the Oregon myrtle man, has virtually a corner on the stock blank market. Each blank from him will

show considerable variations in color and grain pattern but usually there is quite a bit of light wood in evidence. In all honesty, myrtle takes a lot of work to fashion into a stock and I have observed that it best be done by an expert stocker. Oregon myrtle runs 39 pounds per cu. ft., while black walnut is 38.

A much older wood from the stand-

Like myrtle, it ought to be worked by a veteran stocker who has a lot of patience! It will some times cause the tool to catch the grain and raise a god-awful chip. The most serious objections to the wood is its light color. The clever boys now get around this with stains or a blow torch.

Some of our stock makers are importing an excellent wood from New Zealand. This is blackwood, a sort of innocuous name, and certainly inadequate to describe this handsome import. Blackwood is more properly reddish brown with black streaks or bands running through it. It is a finely grained stock wood and takes checkering very well indeed. It is a bit harder than black walnut, showing a Janka of 1150. Every stocker I have ever seen working in this New Zealand exotic is enthusiastic about it. Happy because the wood is exceptionally stable and is a joy to work.



The XP-100 Remington pistol stocked as a bullpup rifle. Stock is laminated Birch, layers 1/16 inch in thickness.

point of long usage is maple. (The stuff we call hard maple.) It shows a Janka test of 1450 and a weight of 44 pounds per cu. ft. The thing about maple is that it comes in a lot of far out patterns like bird's-eye, mottled, shell, fiddleback, striped and plain. This wood is a lot harder than walnut and it takes checkering beautifully and finishes out most attractively.

There is also a New Zealand walnut. It is variable in hardness, ranging from 1000 Janka to as high as 1500, and is slightly heavier than our native wood. It will go, on the average, 42 pounds per cu. ft. Like our own black walnut it is splendid stock wood. The only regret is that so little is imported. The time may come when we will see a great deal more of this New

GUN STOCK WOOD

Name	*Janka Hardness	Wt. Per Cu. Ft.
American walnut	1000	38
Oregon myrtle	1270	39
Plain maple	1450 average	44
Mesquite	1250	52
New Zealand walnut	1500	42
Amaranth	2500	50
Wild cherry	950	35
Blackwood	1150	40
Gaboon ebony	2850	65
Zebrawood	2000	45
Osage organge	1970	50
Redwood burl	500	24
African mahogany	750	31
Yama	1500	30

*Janka hardness is measured by the pounds load required to drive a steel ball .444" in diameter to one-half its depth in the wood under test.

Zealand material on our shores.

A very old stock wood which you can have, as far as I am concerned, is American cherry. It has a lot going for it on the score of hardness (altho not as hard as walnut), works up very well, takes a good finish and is satisfactorily stable. However, a red gun stock is as ugly as a cross-eyed Piute as far as I am concerned. Along with the color the wood has utterly no figure in it. Cherry shows a hardness of 950 and a weight of 35 lbs. per cu. ft.

Some of the latest wood is really heady stuff. A South American import is purple! It doesn't have any more figure than cherry but that color will rear right up and smack you in the eye! It is called Amaranth. It weighs 50 pounds per cu. ft. and is one of the very hardest of all stock woods. It goes 2500 on the scale. Despite its hardness it is not too difficult to work and accepts checkering or carving very well. It is a wood of good strength if you can live with that color. Several of these Amaranth stocks seen recently had been given some kind of a hippie finish so they looked more like copper than any wood ever attached to a gun frame. What next, eh?

Some folks are intrigued by redwood burl, which looks pretty, but is no good for a gun stock. It is too soft, and I think too light. It has a rating of only 500 and runs but 24 pounds per cu. ft. Mahogany likewise is out of the question. It may be okay for paneling or furniture but it not only is completely without grain but is too soft. Its Janka is 760.

While redwood burl, when you can find a piece, is hardly to be considered for a rifle stock it is excellent as grips for a handgun. Likewise I go for such exotics as rosewood, zebrawood and snakewood. African ebony is another dandy. From New Zealand comes a strange wood, little seen but marvelous for pistol grips. This is manoka. It is hard stuff to work and for that reason will never be very popular. Once a finish is achieved it looks more like some metal rather than a wood.

Manoka, rosewood, zebrawood, snakewood and Osage orange are all excellent for forend tips on the rifle.

A few years ago we had a west coast importer who offered the stock-makers a stock wood called Yama. It came from Japan and it looked good. It was light, strong, hard and had a fine grain. I was not too enamored of the color, which was far too light for my conservative taste, but with a little judicious stain and the application of the torch you could tone down the grayish natural color. Grain patterns

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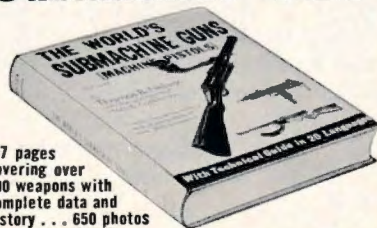
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ran pretty plain in the cheaper blanks but if you wanted to pay the price you could get some truly fancy stuff! Yama is a light wood, it runs 30 pounds per cu. ft. but is quite hard. It shows a Janka of 1500 as an average. Here lately I have not seen nor heard much of this Nipponese offering and I am uncertain whether it is still available. But certainly it has an awful lot going for it.

Currently my favorite gunstock wood is probably the most homely of all. This is the laminated job. It is made by gluing layers of wood together, being careful that the grain in each laminate is at right angles to the other. Sheets run, usually, only $\frac{1}{16}$ " or $\frac{1}{32}$ " but may be as thick as $\frac{5}{16}$ ". Reinhart Fajen, the biggest gunstock maker in the country, makes up stocks of maple on maple, also walnut on walnut but can also offer walnut and maple together in $\frac{1}{16}$ " maple together with $\frac{1}{32}$ " walnut. He also sometimes puts together maple and cherry. If you

like you can specify French, American or Claro walnut, or myrtle, maple, mesquite or madrone for your laminated butt.

There's them as claims the many-layered stock is right purty. I ain't one of 'em. I think these pressed-together numbers are ugly as a flopped jackass. But I like them. I swear by them. I have all my shooting irons, currently, stocked with this kind of wood. The reasons are few—but almighty convincing. The laminated wood simply will not bulge, swell, shift, change or alter. You can hunt in the rain from September until the chinook blows in April, keep the gun outside 10 hours daily, from sun up to sun down, carry it in a scabbard, haul it around on sled and plane, dunk it in the horse tank and set it by the fire to dry and you will find your laminated stock is always exactly the same. That is more than can be said for any other gunstock made of wood.



OBSOLETE HANDGUN CALIBERS

(Continued from page 77)

up the most impressive ballistics and most certainly is destined for a greater popularity. It is better than the 9 mm Luger cartridge which, too, needs to be retained. Both of these splendid loadings will continue for many years, improved not only as to ballistics but even more markedly by the constant development of better bullets. The

useable bullets in current factory ammo are sorry indeed; full metal patch, with a rounded point, the slug has been designed to facilitate sure feeding with utterly no regard for velocity, range, shock effect or accuracy.

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because of poor velocities, poor bullet configuration, solid metal jackets, and a reluctance on the part of the ammunition designers to do anything about it. The only real developmental work on the .45 has been in the direction of better target loadings. In this effort, the success has been little short of fantastic. The accuracy of the best of our .45 ACP target ammunitions exceeds that of many rifles. But on the score of loads for war, for law enforcement usage, and game shooting by sportsmen, the .45 has been shamefully neglected; it needs a most thorough overhaul. The ballistics with which we must live with in this fine caliber are precisely the same as the cartridge delivered a half-century ago. We need improved and stepped up velocities with attendant higher energies and flatter trajectories. And, we need better bullets; those with a soft leaden point exposed, and behind the point a much thinner jacketing material. We need, too, a hollow point with a much lighter bullet than the standard 230 grain and, as with the soft point, the jacket must be infinitely lighter so that it will rupture and thus provide a better killing effect. There is no brighter cartridge in the entire pistol firmament than this one.

The .41 Magnum and the .44 Magnum are as alike as the Gold Dust twins. The .41 has the advantage in that there is a lighter standard loading. The .44 can be loaded down but it is a handloader's chore. The .44 is the more popular of the two and will continue to outshine its counterpart. Both cartridges are too heavy for handguns but enjoy a measure of popularity—at least among a very noisy minority. Actually, each is a rifle loading and as such is fit for game as large as deer, if the range is something under 80 yards. Both will undoubtedly be kept in the active category, and keeping them on the active list should replace those hoary old antiques, the .44 Special and the .45 Colt.

There isn't anything either the .44 Spl. or the old .45 Colt will do that cannot better be accomplished by either the .41 or .44 Magnum. There is, I suppose, a lot of sickly sentimentality about the old .45 Colt. It has been in existence since 1873—almost a full century of kicking around—and like mother love commands a certain amount of reverence, especially among the romantic. If it were left to me, I'd cut off further manufacture of the venerable cartridge and let the drugstore cowpokes who hold the old shell, and its equally outmoded gun, in such esteem convert to a modern loading.

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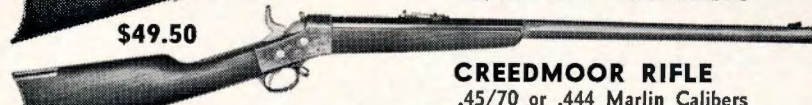
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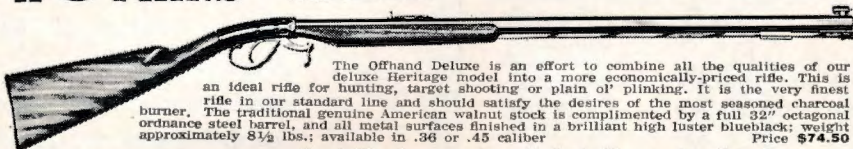
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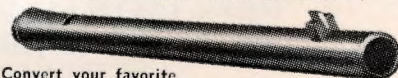
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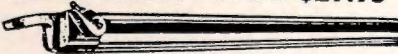


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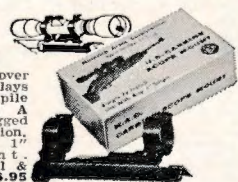


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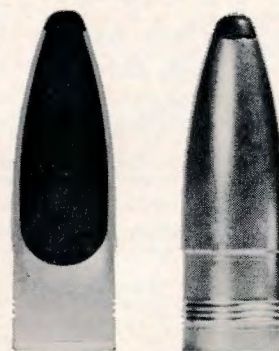
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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON

(Continued from page 17)

the satisfaction of the jury."

The decision handed down on January 28, 1968, casts grave doubts on any attempt to have a compulsory national registration of firearms and questions portions of pending legislation. It has left both pro-and anti-gunners twisting their hands.

No sportsman wants machine guns, full automatic rifles and sawed-off shotguns moving freely about the country. Yet, Federal registration of these weapons can no longer be made compulsory. The point of law, simply put, was this: Can a man be prosecuted for failure to inform the Federal Government that he is a prime suspect for, or is violating, state and federal law?

Miles Edwar Haynes was charged by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas with a three-count violation of the National Firearms Act. Two of the counts were subsequently dismissed upon motion of the United States Attorney.

The remaining count charged that he knowingly possessed a sawed-off shotgun, which had not been registered with the Treasury Department as required by the Act. Haynes moved before trial to dismiss this count, asserting that the requirement violated his privilege against self-incrimination as guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment.

His motion was denied and he was convicted. The Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld the conviction. Haynes went before the Supreme Court and was granted a review of his case. There, the judgment of the Court of Appeals was reversed.

Disagreeing with the other members of the Court was Chief Justice Warren. He wrote, "The impact of that decision on the efforts of Congress to enact much-needed federal gun control laws is not consistent with national safety. In my view, the Court has failed to take account of these relevant implications in the very broad holdings of today's decisions."

To fully understand how far this decision reaches, it is also necessary to review other related cases. On the same day the Court also struck down as unconstitutional a "statutory scheme" (also enacted under taxing authority) to require the registration of gamblers. Previously, the Court

had ruled a man may not be required to register as a Communist.

Under these rulings, the most devastating thing that could happen is to have Congress enact the Administration's anti-gun bill. Because of the bill's "findings and declaration" that "there is a casual relationship between the easy availability of firearms and juvenile and youthful criminal behavior," it makes gun owners suspect of violating the law. Thus, there is every chance the Court would find any such law unconstitutional because of self-incrimination.

If it is thought there is no registration involved, try this language from the same bill: "Each licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, and licensed dealer shall maintain such records of . . . sale or other disposition, of firearms and ammunition at such place for such periods and in such form as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe. Such importers, manufacturers, and dealers shall make such records available for inspection at all reasonable times, and shall submit to the Secretary such reports and information with respect to such records and the contents thereof as he shall by regulations prescribe."

"Upon the request of any State, or possession, or any political subdivision thereof, the Secretary of the Treasury may make available to such State, or possession, or any political subdivision thereof, any information which he may obtain by reason of the provisions of this chapter with respect to the identification of persons within such State, or possession, or political subdivision thereof, who have purchased or received firearms or ammunition, together with a description of such firearms or ammunition."

The prospects are that there would never have been a meaningful federal firearms law, even if the Administration had already had its way. Not even the Hruska compromise has escaped the shadow of the Court's decision. The compromise would require notification of local police in the case of mail order handgun purchase. This would, of course, be federally required registration of such firearms, and self-incriminating, if the purchase was unlawful.



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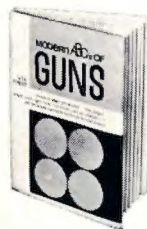
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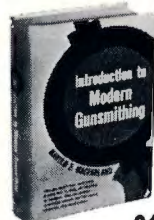
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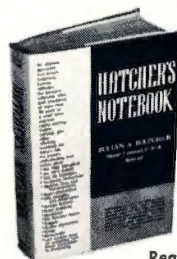
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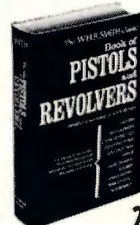


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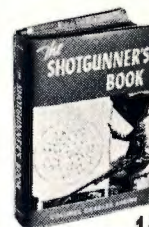
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