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JUNE 1957 \$60



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By **SAMMY DAVIS, Jr.**

Versatile Entertainment Star

I have always liked the old frontier-style of revolver, and have about thirty or forty Colt single action guns. Have a couple of cap-and-ball revolvers, too, Colt and Remington. But my favorite, or I should say, "favorites," are a pair of new Colt Frontiers given to me by the New Frontier resort hotel in Las Vegas when I played there last. First time I tried "quick draw," I was beaten by my friend Mel Torme, who also collects Colts. Since then I've tried to speed it up a little, using one of Arvo Ojala's holsters. Arvo helped me in studying quick-draw and gun handling, too.

MY FAVORITE GUN

By **DON MUELLER**

New York Giants' Outfielder



Naming my favorite gun is pretty difficult; I've got a little of everything, so to speak. Shotguns are my preference. At home I have two Brownings, the five-shot model, in 16 and 12 gauges. I also have two Winchesters. Both are Model 12 pump guns. My 20 gauge skeet-bore gun I use on quail; the 12 gauge 3" magnum does pretty well for ducks. I have a Continental 10 gauge magnum that reaches out pretty well for waterfowl, too. I go quail and duck hunting, mostly, but use my Model 740 Remington .30-06 with a Lyman Challenger scope on deer. Last spring I went on a wild pig hunt at Patagonia, Arizona, while training at the Giants' camp near Phoenix. For wild pigs I borrowed a custom-stocked Mauser in .270 caliber, with a Weaver K4 glass on it, and did pretty well as you can see.

TRIGGER TALK

EXPERT PHOTOGRAPHY, good research, and some of London's top psychiatrists teamed up with Jack Ramsay to make "The Secret Art of Heat Blueing" for this month's GUNS. In black-and-white photography, Ramsay has come as close as anyone could to the impossibility of picturing heat coloring. Ramsay's story is the simplest, easiest-to-follow explanation of the technique of heat blueing so far published in any magazine.

Bob Hagel's "Which Bullet and Why" discusses bullets for big game, and their performance on targets under constant conditions. The only variables are the bullet construction and jacket design. He shows some valuable results, useful to the hunter in selecting a bullet for big game, or any game. Hagel lives in one of those areas in Idaho where the gophers are thick and moose and elk graze in every front lawn. He gets in plenty of hunting to confirm facts learned from testing bullets.

In the middle of summer, a story showing a little snow on the ground should be refreshing, so here is Charles Keim's essay on the University of Alaska and its shooting team. But there is nothing cool about Alaskan students' guns, which are kept hot year 'round on targets, and big and small game. Shooting and just plain gun totin' is highly encouraged by University authorities, with one restriction: students are forbidden to shoot elk or moose closer than a half mile from the campus.

Shotgun fans will find some ancient legends woven into the fact and fancy of Doc Wade's scattergun story, "Shotgun Myths Make Misses." Some of his "myths" are so old they have beards, but furry though they be, Doc Wade says plenty of shooters persist in believing them, and blame their misses on a myth. The *real* facts about those lost birds, when known, can lead to speedy correcting, and greater success afield, as Wade shows.

Not everybody who wants to go to Africa has to buy \$5,000 worth of big game rifles, says Alastair Mathieson, recently associated with the Kenya game conservation authorities. Mathieson weaves his story around a friend who would be a typical "American deer hunter," except for the fact he lives in Nairobi and shoots impalla and eland. Conservationist Mathieson shows how various ordinary rifles are used for African game.

In preparation are a number of stories that are different, off-beat, but of much interest to many shooters. For instance, "Is the M1 Carbine a Hunting Rifle" paces our shooting for fun emphasis. Texas gun-crank and rancher Richard "Pete" Maxey has done exhaustive testing of handloads with many bullets to combine proper functioning with maximum power, expansion, and accuracy in practical Carbine loads.

Also in the works is one story with great timeliness, about a sportsman who is a major figure in the International political scene. We won't name him right now—just say that he is "The Shooting King of . . . the Garden of Eden."

THE COVER

College students who take guns to school for target practice are not unknown even in the States; but the University of Alaska is the only college we know which has a rule prohibiting students from shooting moose on campus.

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

JUNE, 1957

VOL. III, NO. 6-30

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GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

□ The Iowa Conservation Commission says on the back of the new State hunting licenses: "Dear of any age or sex may be taken. . . ."

□ Life begins at 80 for Mansfield Brown of Madison, Va. The octogenarian bagged the first deer of his life, a 171-pound buck, the other day.

□ This probably proves something or other. Or maybe it's all in a name. Anyway Mrs. A. C. Fast of St. John's, Mich., bagged a buck at 7:30 a. m. on opening day of the hunting season last year. This season she also got herself a buck at 7:30 a. m. on opening day.

□ Fishing near Imboden, Ark., Wright Lawson snagged a .22 rifle with his line—a gun that he had lost in the river 10 years before.

□ PFC Charles F. Franke, stationed with the U. S. Army in Germany, fired a perfect score of 200 on his carbine qualification test. The Army says this may be the first time anything like this has happened in all the years of its scoring tests. Expert firing is nothing new to PFC Franke. His basic training records show he was third highest in his company on his M-1 rifle qualification test.

□ Kirby Allen, of Salt Lake City, was out hunting deer when he came upon a big cougar at Big Cottonwood Canyon and he shot him. The wounded animal refused to go down, though, and Mr. Allen stalked him from a few feet behind. The cougar then turned on the hunter and tore into him, scratching his neck, tearing his coat and damaging his gun stock before fleeing. How did Mr. Allen react to all this? "It was all over before I had a chance to get scared," he explains.

□ John A. Riley of Brockton, Mass., is mighty proud of the raccoon he brought down with his 12 gauge shotgun. Mr. Riley is 94.

□ William "Pete" Blumshed was approaching a buck that he shot near Cavendish, Vt., when he spotted a big black bear eyeing him. He grabbed his rifle and blazed away. The bear went plunking to the ground, very dead. "There was no time to miss," states Mr. Blumshed. "I guess they'll call me Dead-eye Pete."

□ By frightening spiders and causing them to run back and forth across frames, a Sydney, Australia, instrument-maker provides the spider web lines used in gun sights.

SHOOTING NEWS

Tampa, Florida. Joe Benner added new laurels to old in Tampa, where the burly Army sergeant outshot 563 of America's top pistoleers at the Mid-Winter matches. Benner, firing an old model Colt Woodsman with some weights and sights hung on it, boosted his mark to set a new world's record in the .22 slow-fire match, a 200-18x score that decidedly bettered the old mark of 200-13x . . . There's a story about this Woodsman. A couple of years ago, Benner shipped it back to the factory because he had shot it so much he figured it "just must be worn out." The factory experts miked the gun, found no appreciable bore wear they could measure, and returned it untouched . . . Seems like Benner is unbeatable, and particularly so when he's on the familiar Tampa range . . . It was no walk-away, however, and hurricane-like winds and heavy rain the final day helped to make it anybody's match right up to the final relay. Observers remarked that the tall skinny guys had no chance in that wind, that it took a husky chunk of man (than which there could be no better description of Benner) to keep his feet on the ground and his sights on-target. This is Benner's seventh overall championship, aggregate score of 2610-106x, successfully defending his 1956 title . . . The husky West Point instructor sparked the Army Blue Team to a win, but inside the ranks of the army there was a little warfare . . . Teammate David C. Miller bucked the master in the .22 rapid event, winning over Benner, 200-13x against 200-11x . . . The opening event of the Tampa shoot, the Micro Sight trophy match, went to Army ace Captain Joseph Gregory who topped Benner by one more "x", 16 smack dab in the middle, with a 200, over Benner's 200-15x. Seems like no matter what Joe Benner does, the guys who win over him are always compared with him . . . Lucile Chambliss, one of the nation's top pistol-women, won the woman's title for the sixth time with a score of 2479-52x. Bill Joyner, El Paso border patrolman, took top honors over Jimmy Clarke in the Lykes Brothers trophy match, 300-18x. Clark muffed one shot, let Joyner champion with 300-18x, over Clark's 299-22x . . . The Mid-Winter Nationals was attended to capacity, and 200 entries had to be returned because of lack of accommodations . . . 85 four-man teams showed up, the largest number of teams ever placed on a firing line in the USA . . . The Army won .22 and .38 caliber aggregate team matches, with the Marines taking home .45 honors . . . Border patrol team won hands down in police division.

St. Petersburg, Florida. Ransford Triggs at the National Mid-winter smallbore rifle matches took some of the thunder from Tampa by winning the championship with 3183 and 230x's . . . Second was Joe Steffey shooting 3183-230x's to edge out Miles Brown in third place with just 3181 . . . High lady scorer was Adelaide Ford with 3145 . . . The Saint Pete shoot had a rough schedule with cold wind and rain handicapping the riflers.

Fresno, California. Firing against top scattergun talent of the golden west, Jack Horner of San Francisco shot his way out of a corner to bust 100 x 100 straight for the top all-bore crown in the Fresno Skeet & Trap Club's latest shoot . . . Close behind with not too much to choose between them for merit came Angelean Ben Di Iorio, Bill Stewart, and T. H. Mettler, both of Bakersfield, all 100 to go 1, 2, 3 in Class AA . . . Jay Fischer of San Francisco took home Class A win with 99; Bill Hoefer of Pasadena shot straight for "B" first honors . . . Nineteen-year old Judy Allen, the Oakland lass who shot her way to the top in the Reno '56 nationals by besting Carola Mandel in the 28-gauge shoot-off, fired with Horner to win the team honors in all-bore with 199 x 200 . . . In the special events, Judy Allen became lady champion firing 99 x 100; Jo Ann Wallis of Piedmont fired 97 x 100 for lady runner-up honors . . . Di

Iorio Horner and Mettler battled it out for all-around champion; Mettler taking the crown compiling 295 x 300; Di Iorio slipped one bird behind, 294 x 300 for "AA" first place . . . Mettler topped in .410 and 28 gauge shoot, 48 and 50 x 50 respectively, with Di Iorio placing first AA in both.

Wheaton, Illinois. Those ol' "Bulldogs" of the Wheaton Club chawed the dickens out of St. Charles small-bore riflers in the last shoot of the Western Rifle League . . . R. Wempe topped the Bulldogs' list with 195; then W. Knight with a 194, and Heideman, Berkes, Plachy with 193 all, racking up 968 to win . . . St. Charles did well, good but not good enough, headed by F. Smithberg's top individual score 196, then L. Brown, 193; F. Braddy, 192; and Matteson and Johansen, both 190 . . . This makes Wheaton really the "top dogs" with 13 wins, no losses this season, duplicating two incredible past years of leading the League . . . On the minus end, Joliet club is no more. After two scheduled shoots including one in Joliet where not a local member showed up, the Joliet club was dropped from the league. The death of a club is never a pretty thing . . . huccome? They were prosperous with money in the bank, owned land and range facilities . . . Why did Joliet die? . . . WRL's famous "190 and Over Club" is topped now by Al Overtoom with 197. What, no 200 "possibles" in indoor shoots? . . . Wheaton's 8th Annual Gallery Rifle tourney was attended by an outstanding crowd of 113 entrants. August Westergaard, Sloan, Iowa, travelled pretty far but he went home rewarded, winning the Elgin Deluxe wrist watch by firing 981 . . . DeKalb lost at Aurora, edged out by Aurora's "home team" of Marshall, Grobl, Timmerman, Ahng, and Abell who shot 968 to win . . . Des Plaines with 937 lost to their visitors, the Elgin team shooting 951 . . . Austin triumphed at Oak Park with a team high of 955 against Oak Park's 946 . . . Are there any other rifle leagues around that have as much activity as this one? Seems like a lot of guys get together for a lot of fun each month at their indoor shoots.

Auburntown, Tennessee. There's more smoke than mountains in the Smoky Mountains these days, and May 4 & 5 promises to have some fire with it, too, when the Tennessee Muzzleloading Championship shoot comes up . . . Twenty-six matches in all will be fired, with M/1 rifles and pistols, flint and caplock . . . Six re-entry matches and plenty of awards makes this event promise to be one of the best attended shoots in the area . . . Site of the shoot will be 12 miles south of Franklin, Tennessee, one mile west of 431, road to range at Spring Hill, Tennessee . . . For that early spring vacation, toss the charcoal burner into the car and drop buy, or go anyway to see the fun. Match programs from Wendell Kennedy, Auburntown.

Middlefield, Conn. The noise you hear in the Nutmeg state isn't shooting this season. News of matches has been practically suspended while the club officers are alerting their membership to the dangerous anti-gun bills proposed during this season's legislature in Connecticut. Wonder how firearms bills were in Austria before the Anschluss, and in Czechoslovakia in 1948, or Germany in 1933? . . . But in spite of those crazy bills, the state rifle & revolver association has a full schedule laid out . . . May 5 is the spring smallbore tournament at Lyman's beautiful Blue Trail range, Middlefield . . . May 12 is the big bore Stewart Match, same time and station . . . May 19 is a date for Jerseyites, outdoor championships at the Roseland Rifle Club, Roseland, N.J., with programs from Mrs. Mildred Prentice, 94 Sycamore Ave., Mt. Vernon, N.Y. . . . May 19 also a date for shooters around Cos Cob's Orchard St. Range for the Lucky Target Shoot. Facts and figures on this from Cos Cob R & R Club, Box 44, Cos Cob, Conn.

Oakland, California. Seems like somebody in the Golden State invented precious metals as the Oakland Pistol Club had laid in a supply of gold and silver medals for their nine approved NRA open handgun tourneys held the first Sunday of every month, PM . . . Details on how to pick up some chest hardware from Max McGinnes, 2701 99th Ave., Oakland, Calif. . . . Man who enjoys shooting ought to plan his vacation to take in a few matches. . . . Win prizes and friends that way.

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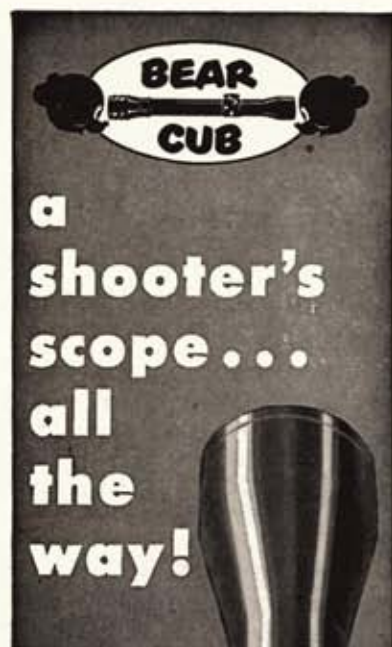
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CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Antique Guns

I am renewing my subscription to your magazine. It is one of the finest of its kind around. Every issue I read from cover to cover. As long as you keep putting out a magazine as good or better than the ones that I have read, you'll have no trouble getting me to subscribe.

Your articles on antique guns are some of the best I have run into and I do a lot of reading on that subject (it's my hobby!) Keep up the good work.

John C. Julian
Delano, California

Askins—Pro and Con

I have enjoyed Col. Askins' articles in GUNS. They are just the kind of stories a gun nut loves to read, factual yet not too technical for the average person to understand. I also like the humorous touch these stories have.

The story I liked the best was one about the .22 centerfire target pistol. It was interesting the way you explained the conversion.

I have read all of Askins' stories I could find, and agree with him 100 per cent. If you keep printing 'em, I'll keep reading 'em.

Don Hall
Crown Point, Indiana

We have just finished reading the article by Colonel Askins, "The Rawest Racket in Hunting." We share the opinion of all Wyomingites, I'm sure, when we say that Colonel Askins has developed an imaginary guiding racket and has preyed viciously upon the hunting guides of Wyoming. Any hunter who wishes to get his antelope in this state can easily locate a licensed and bonded guide who will gladly help him get his antelope for around \$20.00.

If Colonel Askins has knowledge of anyone running such a racket he should report them to the Game and Fish Commission instead of writing such obnoxious tripe to ruin the reputation and the heretofore enjoyable reading of your magazine. Of course there would be no cash compensation for turning such a racket in to the authorities, whereas he has probably earned a handsome sum for his composition. Mr. Askins has yet to write an article that makes sense.

Gale R. Fulton
Darrell C. Collins
Laramie, Wyoming

Thanks again for reminding me of the pending demise of my subscription, but it had not been neglected. I was so het up about the senile article by Col. Charles Askins in the November issue. I felt it was

bad for one's nerves to read such hogwash.

However, there have been some real gun articles in every issue, so book me up again. How about some good Canadian articles? We have quite a bit to offer and Yankee dollars spent on hunting and fishing here create quite a sizable industry.

D. N. Row
Aurora, Ontario

Too Much Killing

My husband has had a subscription to GUNS since its beginning, and both of us have been very pleased with the magazines. Both of us enjoy hunting and do all the hunting we can, both rifle and shotgun shooting, and also target pistol shooting. We look forward to all issues of GUNS—or did until we read the current (February) one.

After reading the article, "America's Youngest African Hunter," all we can say is, if GUNS is planning to print articles like the above, you can have your magazine and our subscription. To both of us, it was nothing but conceit; and above all, wholesale butchery.

Preservation of game seems a thing of the past to some people. Even the world-famous author and hunter, Robert Ruark, does not seem to butcher like young Schur.

Mrs. A. F. Chase
Alamo, California

Long Range Pistol Hits

I've been reading your magazine for more than a year now, and although our opinions differ on a few points, I'd say that its the most interesting and informative of its kind on the market.

In the February issue, the article "Pistol Shooting at Rifle Ranges," the author mentions having shot a goat at about 300 meters. Now that's pretty fancy shooting, I must admit, but my father, using a German Luger with an 8 1/2" barrel and no special target sights, killed a woodchuck at better than 200 meters. Considering the difference in size, that's at least as difficult a shot.

Daniel K. Kearney
Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey

Bet Called

I am betting that you won't print this letter, because it is about a touchy subject; namely, the price of ammunition. It has risen steadily until some cartridges are nearly 50 per cent higher than they were four years ago. The quality doesn't seem to be increasing, and if it was it wouldn't warrant such a raise. It is too bad that this is happening; since this simply means less shooting.

You have a great magazine that is tops in my estimation.

Michael Milligan
Ft. Worth, Texas



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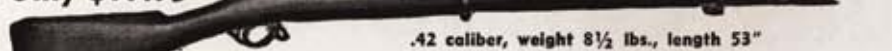
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AN ENFIELD "1 OF 1000":



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As the result of popular demand, we now again offer Cal. .50 Conversion kits, through which you can convert your favorite gunsmith to convert the R. B. MARK I rifle to fire U. S. .50 caliber ammunition. These kits consist of set of sights, breach cover, .50 caliber barrel, muzzle brake and cheekpiece.

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Note: This rifle is officially known as the Mannlicher-Carcano Carbine, M39 Cal. 7.35mm (300"). exclusively for these carbines and available through Ye Old Hunter.

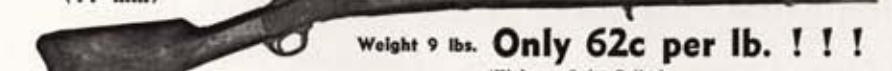
The rifle giveaway of the century which has overnight swept the first choice of the sportsmen, hunters, collectors, plinkers and all who love large bore precision rifles but, until now, have never been able to afford one. Yes, unbelievable, but absolutely true! For only \$12.95 you receive an original Mannlicher system carbine, weighing only 7½ lbs. in practically unfired condition ready plinker, target or practice rifle. No costly conversion kit, and ready to go now!! All mailed paid.

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Be certain to use only original ammo manufactured

PANCHO VILLA SPECIAL! FAMED ORIGINAL REMINGTON ROLLING BLOCKS!

CAL. .43
(11 mm)

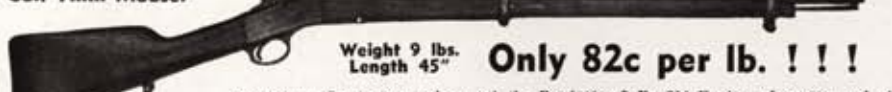


Weight 9 lbs. Only 62c per lb. ! ! !

(Minimum Order 9 lbs.)

UNBELIEVABLE??? YES, except from Ye Old Hunter it WOULD be unbelievable, for who else would DARE to make such an offer, COMPLETE ORIGINAL, REMINGTON rolling block rifles for only 62c per lb!! The most unbelievable gun giveaway in the U.S.A.!! PANCHO VILLA? NO, not from Ye Old Hunter, America's greatest gun bargain house! You can't buy prime hamburger at this price, so load up on this precedent shattering bargain NOW! Condition of all rifles is "gun crank special" which means that the outline of the rifle is clearly visible through the rust and you can see light through the bore. You will need a little of that old elbow grease to restore to "NRA FAIR condition", but, at this price, who cares? "As is" rifles. Ye Old Hunter has no ammo or accessories for these indestructible old rifles, but we understand Windfield Arms Corp., Los Angeles 15, Calif., is loaded with them. Only rusty Remingtons in this caliber available anywhere: these cracked with conquest in the hands of fanatical Latin bandits who had smuggled them out of the U.S. to gain power and glory for their lost causes. Finest rifle bargain in America for the historical crank, decorative crank, crank shooting crank, hunting crank, salvaging crank. Action alone worth twice our give-away price! Rust and all! Total price only \$5.58. Shipped pre-packed.

Col. 7mm Mauser



Weight 9 lbs. Length 45" Only 82c per lb. ! ! !

Remingtons, Remingtons, whose got the Remingtons? Ye Old Hunter, of course, and at bargain giveaway prices within the reach of everyone. Look at this steel—original 7mm Remingtons in "gun crank condition" (see above) the perfect companion piece to the noble 43's listed above at world's lowest price. You can almost see the finger prints which the former fanatical owners pressed into the wood as they realized the jig was up! Don't confuse our original indestructible Remingtons with the incredible specimens being offered elsewhere. Nobody but Nobody has Remingtons like these! Ask the man who bought one. TOTAL PRICE ONLY: \$7.38. Shipped pre-packed. We've cleaned up several and results are unbelievable! ALL RIFLES GUARANTEED COMPLETELY COMPLETE AND IN "GUN CRANK CONDITION". (Minimum order 9 lbs.)

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(Cal. 8mm Mannlicher)

HERE IT IS! The dream of all Mannlicher and Mausermen! The world famous original first model Mannlicher military rifle, the Mamm Model 88/90, in original condition and 8mm caliber. Truly, only Ye Old Hunter could bring you this stupendous bargain for all collectors and shooters. Action alone worth many times this absolutely giveaway price. Condition of all rifles is tight and sound with bore which will clean up fine to reach a good condition. Ye Old Hunter's loss is your gain; buy now while supply lasts. No ammo or accessories presently available for these rare weapons from Ye Old Hunter, but we head Bedding in Culver City, and Golden State in Pasadena, Calif., is loaded with 'em, so write tub term—Ye Old Hunter is all heart!

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NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS
JUST UNBEATABLE BARGAINS

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AMERICA'S BEST 30-06 BARREL BUY!

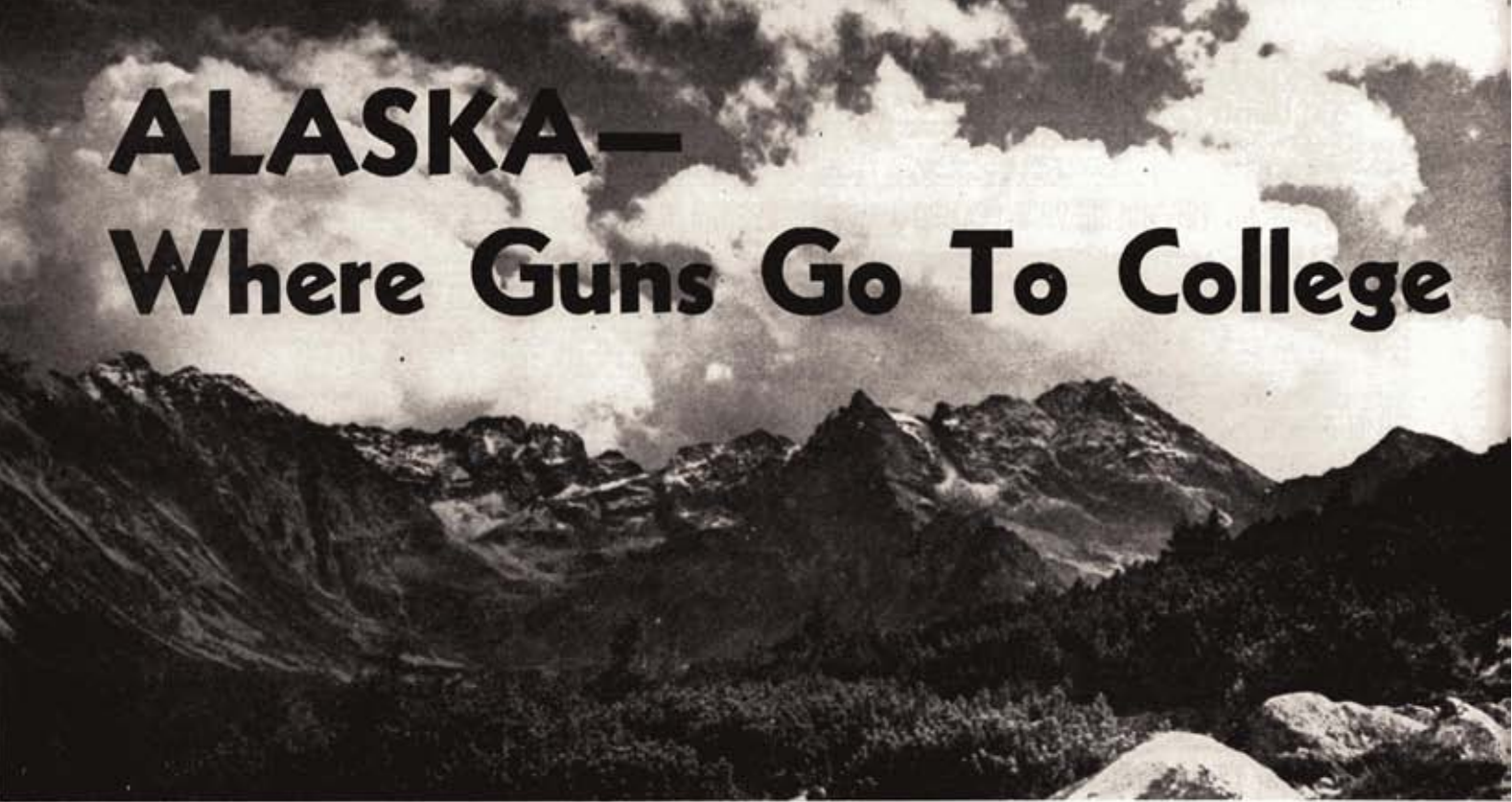
U.S. GOVT. CAL. .30-06 BARRELS.....Only \$3.95

You may have seen these advertised at tremendous prices elsewhere, but now buy them at prices that says you're getting a bargain—NOW!—NO MORE! GROOVE, U.S. Govt. manufactured to highest Govt. specs. Will fit receivers with under 1-1/16" thread. Add 75c packing and handling charges per barrel.

Washington area gun bugs! Visit Ye Old Hunter at 200 S. Union St., Alexandria, just 15 minutes from downtown Wash., and carry home your share of these incredible bargains.

DEALERS: Write on your
official letterhead for
huge discount lists.

ALASKA— Where Guns Go To College



Rugged hills carpeted with snow and lichen in winter afford cover for elk, moose which Alaska university students hunt near campus.

STUDENTS AND FACULTY OF AMERICA'S FARTHEST NORTH

UNIVERSITY KNOW GUNS, USE THEM NOT ONLY FOR SPORT BUT IN MANY

CASES ALSO TO PROVIDE MEAT THROUGH THE LONG WINTER

By **CHARLES J. KEIM**

SINCE THE PILGRIMS landed in America, our country has always deemed firearms as much a part of the home as cooking pots and furniture. Our Constitution very wisely allows citizens to own and bear arms. I feel that citizens who know and understand the use of firearms are valuable assets to their country. And because I feel as I do," says Dr. Ernest N. Patty, president of the University of Alaska, "we encourage all students, from arts-and-letters majors to zoology majors, to gain training in the use of and proper respect for their firearms. I feel that a student who gains a love for the outdoors cannot help but be a good citizen."

With this attitude on the part of its president, and with the whole-hearted support of the student body, the faculty, and the surrounding community, it is no wonder that the University of Alaska is America's shootin'est college. And

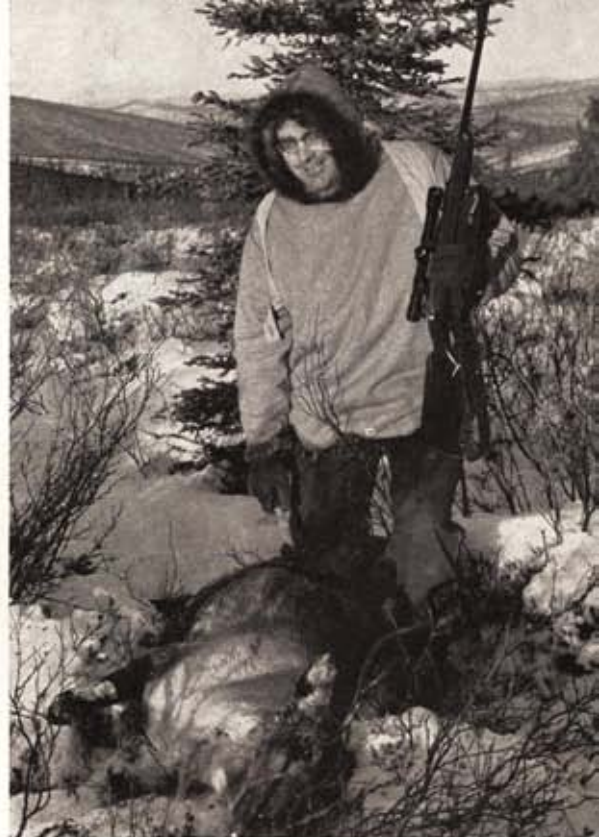
it is just that—because here the students and faculty members shoot not only in target competition and for hunting sport, but also for the meat they eat.

Dr. Neil W. Hosley, dean, ardent outdoorsman, and former leader of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Alaska, puts it this way: "Students here take a much greater interest in firearms than is the case in most universities and colleges. In the first place, many of the men (and some of the women) come here from the States with a strong desire to hunt such game as moose, Dall sheep, and caribou. Also, many of the married students, and some living off campus, plan on killing their winter's supply of meat. A caribou dressing perhaps 150 pounds, or a moose providing 400 to 1,000 pounds of meat, is mighty important to these people. A student acquiring or intensifying a love of hunting has an

avocation which he can use the rest of his active life, so we look upon hunting as very worthwhile training."

University of Alaska students and faculty were highly elated but not greatly surprised recently when they learned that their varsity rifle team was first place winner in the 1956 National Smallbore Rifle Team Championship's sharpshooter class. The team scored 1,527 out of a possible 1,600 points to win against nation-wide competition. But Alaskans were not surprised, because Alaskans just naturally expect Alaskans, college students or otherwise, to be a little better than good with any piece of shooting machinery.

The same friendliness toward guns is reflected in the laws, or lack of same, regulating firearms possession and use in Alaska, and in the attitude of Alaskan police. You can carry any weapon—rifle, shotgun, or pistol—in Alaska so long as it is not concealed. Carrying concealed weapons is a Territorial violation, and some cities have ordinances prohibiting "the carrying of weapons for the express purpose of intimidation." But, generally speaking, any peaceful and law-abiding citizen can "wear" whatever gun or



Author Chuck Heim shifted his sights from caribou with big rack to tender young cow for winter supply of meat.



Three of varsity team which won first place in 1956 smallbore championships are (l. to r.) Aaron Downing, Lou Bandirola, and Harold Livingston.



Constant position practice built Alaskan shooters skill.



Frosh Mel Morris gets his Flite-King .22 and targets from gun room for practice.

Mannlicher-Schönauer is checked out of gun room by student James Alguire. University law forbids shooting big game within a half mile of campus.



guns may suit his fancy.

Contrary to what some State-side anti-gun advocates would suggest, this freedom to bear arms has caused no crime wave in the Territory.

As a matter of fact, Alaska's incidence of armed crimes of violence is gratifyingly low. Nor is there any prevalence of firearms accidents. Lieutenant Bill Trafton of the Alaska Territorial Police speaks the simple truth as all true shooters know it when he says, "There are few firearms accidents in the Territory because most of the people here are familiar with weapons and know how to handle them properly."

Situated, as the University of Alaska is, in the midst of this sane atmosphere regarding guns, in a territory twice the size of Texas and abounding in game, it is only natural that firearms should play an important part in student activities. The approximately 40 per cent of students who come from outside Alaska are well aware of Alaska's shooting potential before they enroll. Many of these "cheechakos" usually unpack their weapons before all other baggage, following their arrival by automobile over the Alaska Highway or by airplane.

To accommodate the students' weapons in the dormitories and to assure



Mrs. John Hoskins (left), wife of geology professor, spends many hours of her time coaching coeds. Student and faculty wives take active part in shooting.



Author's wife, Betty, made near "possible" with 37 Remington at range.

proper safeguards, the university constructs rifle racks and pistol cabinets in special gun rooms. The students keep their weapons in these gun rooms, but they are permitted to take them out whenever they please, which is often.

If the students have only a little time to hunt, they can walk or snowshoe off campus after the snow comes and bag snowshoe hares, spruce hens and, sometimes, ptarmigan. One wildlife student, Peter Shepherd, runs a remunerative trapline.

Probably few married couples at stateside universities get to eat steak seven times a week while going to school. The Alaska students can eat as much steak as they please, but they have to earn it. They do just that. For many, getting the winter's meat supply in the fall is just as important as earning funds for school during the summer. It takes a lot of eating to dispose of a moose or caribou while varying the diet with a profusion of smaller game. Black bear and moose sometimes boldly walk right on campus, but the university prohibits hunting within one-half mile of the school.

Some students with more time range wider to obtain other game such as seals, polar bear and other bear, Dall sheep. and (Continued on page 52)

Varsity rifleman Aaron Downing kneels in rock-solid position during practice session, while coaches call shots. University students win many postal matches.





A GUN COULD

DEFENSE HANDGUN IS NOT FOR QUICK-DRAW
DRAMATICS. IT IS THE "ACE IN THE HOLE"
THAT TIPS THE SCALE IN AN EMERGENCY



Pocket automatic behind sun shade is not planned for by stick-up
artist (posed by Askins) who makes "haul" with .44 Merwin &
Hulbert, is caught by lady driver as he turns for get-away.

SAVE YOUR LIFE



By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS

WHERE IS THE BEST place to carry a gun if war is imminent? Obviously—in your hand! But this is a bit conspicuous and apt to tip the opposition that you are either scared or mad.

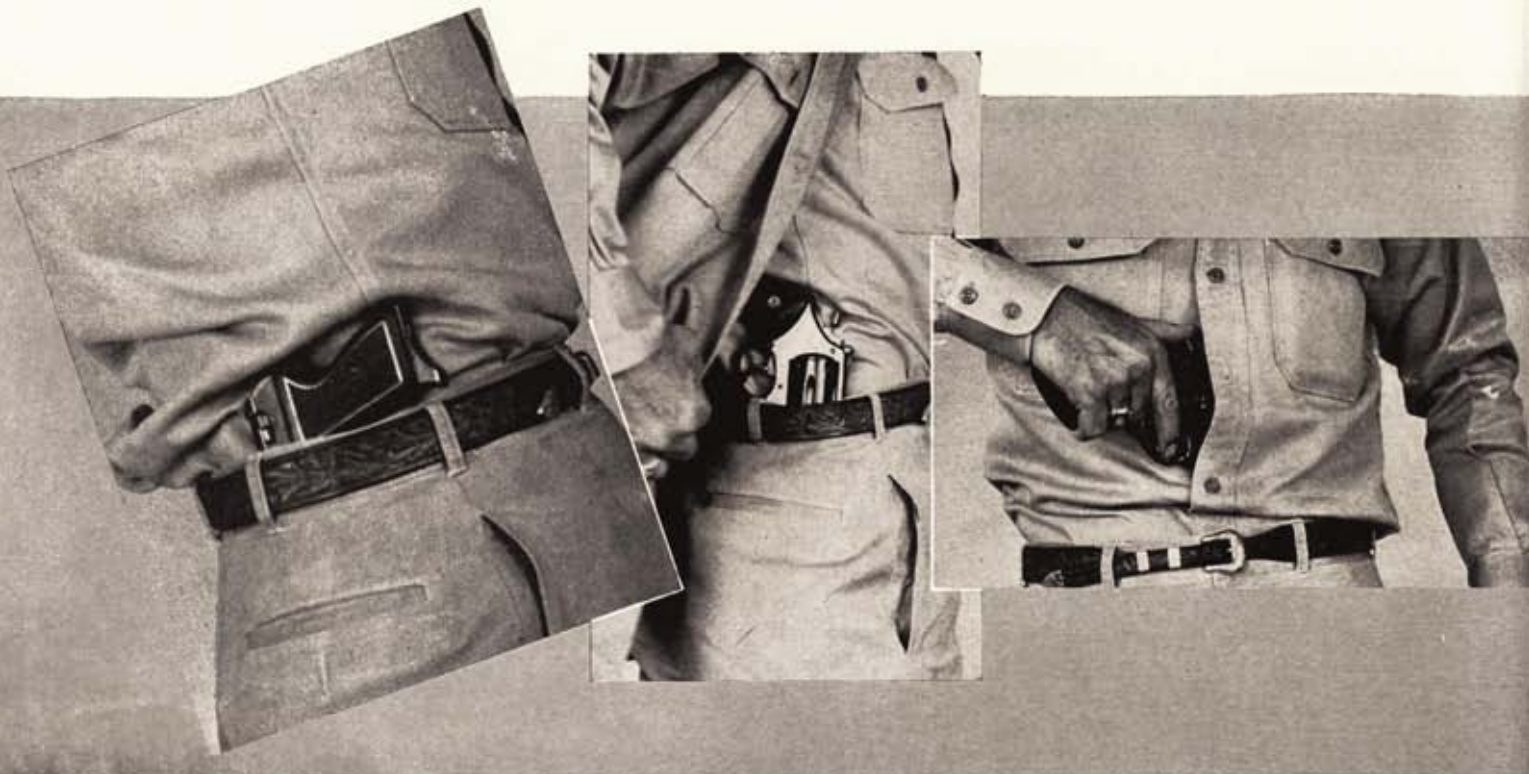
The next best place is in a holster. But that isn't always good, either. A holster usually means you need to wear a coat, since in most places folks don't wear their hardware in view anymore; and a coat, in many places, and times, can make you not only uncomfortable but almost as conspicuous as though you carried the gun in the open. But there are lots of good places to tuck away an equalizer without resorting to cowhide.

There is a mistaken notion that when a feller has to pack a gun for self-protection he must have it where he can make a quick draw. I believe this is mostly poppycock. Texas Rangers and deputy sheriffs do sometimes make quick draws, but this brand of gun juggling is pretty generally confined to moving pictures. When the boys who wear the stars lope out to corral a tough hombre, they wade in with guns in hand. If they do not, they're loco! And Mr. Juan Q. Citizen is likewise loco if he doesn't take similar precautions when he sticks his neck into potentially dangerous situations. Changing a tire on a deserted stretch of road, or tooling the old bus into the family driveway at night, or getting out of bed to see whether it's a man or a mouse, can all qualify as potentially dangerous situations. In all such cases, the gun should be in hand or handy—not in the rear trunk of the car along with the jack, nor yet in the glove compartment, not in the bureau drawer, but where you can reach it.

To my notion one of the best places to stow the self-defense howitzer is in the front pants pocket. You cannot make one of Ed McGivern's split-second draws from this location, by you needn't be too slow either. The best gun for this carry is an automatic. It should be one that is a double action, so that all you have to do is to pull the trigger to fire; one of the new family of auto-loaders with



Cuff holster such as made by Myres for derringer or Colt .25 auto pistol supports gun on leg concealed by loose trousers.



an outside hammer, that is low and unobtrusive and will not snag in the lining of the pocket. The double action automatic can be carried in the pocket with the safety off, and when the draw is made it can be fired with a quick pressure on the trigger. There is no need, as in the past, to draw a hammer to cock, nor to fight a safety that is invariably too small, too hard working, and inaccessible. The inertia-type firing pin in these new self-actors requires that the hammer be drawn to full cock before the gun will fire. It is perfectly safe to carry them with the hammer down and the safety in the ready position. This puts them on a par, mechanically, with a revolver, so far as first-shot convenience is concerned.

The automatic is thin and flat and lies in the front pocket against the thigh without unseemly bulging. The weight, now that we can build shooting irons of aluminum, is trifling—something less than the poundage of a half-brickbat. If even this fairy weight gives your pants a list to starboard, you can add what the English refer to as “a set of braces” and thus bring ‘em back to plumb.

Certainly the auto pistol is better shaped for pocket carry than the revolver. The lumpy waistline and long grip of the cylinder weapon are not conducive to good pocket fit. Unless corners are rounded, ejector hobbled off, latch reshaped, hammer dehorned, and many other alterations, the gun will hang up when you reach for it. The sixgun is good defensive artillery but there are better places to stow it than the pocket.

Despite the fact it is a poor location for speed, there are gun wielders who practice until finally they can juggle a gun—even a sixgun—from the pants pocket right rapidly. Henry Fitzgerald was one. Old “Fitz” was for many years the top exhibition shooter for Colt. He packed a brace of .45 New Service sixshooters in his front pants

pockets. The .45’s were dehorned; that is, the hammer spur on each had been ground off, the front of each trigger guard was whittled away, all corners on frame and grips were rounded, and the barrels had been chopped back to two inches. Fitz lined his pockets with calfskin, affected a pair of choke-bored riding breeches, and when he drifted up and down the firing line at Camp Perry there were no bulges. The old gun-bender could twinkle those hide-outs into action *my pronto*. And unlike some of the quick draw artists, he could hit with ‘em.

Just as good as the front pocket for totin’ is the waistband. Without a coat, the weapon is rammed into the belt beneath the shirt. The second button above the belt buckle is left unbuttoned so that the fist can be slammed through the opening to catch the gun-stock. When a jacket or coat is worn this location, besides being handy, is lightning fast. It has always been debatable with me if probably the cross draw may not be a few hundredths of a second more flashy than the hip draw. Gents who practice reaching across the belly get to be poison fast.

The gun rides in the waistband of the man accustomed to this carry, with all the surety of the weapon in a holster. It will not fall down the pants leg, does not spill over the waistband, and is not conspicuous or lumpy. A cowpoke come to town will drop his scabbard and cartridge belt with his saddle and, opening up his shirt which he pulls loose a bit to give a blousing effect, will stow the old equalizer in the band of his Levi’s. Despite the size and outline of the plow-handle stock it rides tight and close.

Of course, any gun toter who shoves his hardware into the front of his pants runs some small risk—as does any shooter who practices quick draw with loaded guns. Take the case of a border patrolman I once had in class



down at Miami. I was chief instructor of firearms for the service and had evolved a course of fire which among other shenanigans called for a quick draw and fire of five shots in $3\frac{1}{2}$ seconds. The target was the Colt silhouette and the distance a bare 15 feet. On the whistle, the shooters drew and milked out the five-shot burst double action. It was probably the most practical part of the entire course. This day one of the patrolmen reported to the range sans holster. He elected to shove the .38 New Service in his waistband, a waistband that ran about a size 44, times being pretty easy then around Miami.

We worked up to the quick-draw-and-fast-trigger stage and Our Hero went for his government issue .38 and neatly triggered off a shot before he got the barrel clear of his pants. A big layer of blubber around his middle took the bullet, which passed through and plowed viciously into the ground at his feet. The next time I visited the Miami district, this trooper was wearing not one but two holsters. He did not intend to take any more chances on what might have been a thoroughly deactivating accident!

Lack of gun-handling skill accounted for this blooper. But sometimes even skilled gun men have narrow ones. My pardner, Parker, a Mexican border rancher, ex-border patrolman, gun fighter, big game guide, veteran of more than 300 continuous days of combat during the fracas of 1939-45, had a near-accident from carelessness.

He habitually drops a sixgun, a double action .38, in his chaps pocket when working the range. Riding in to the ranch headquarters at dusk one day, he slipped out of his chaps, rammed the revolver in his waistband. He was soon busy hashing up some chow when his Mexican foreman came in, looked down at the sixgun and remarked in Spanish in a casual way, "Your *pistola* is cocked." And sure enough it was. All the (Continued on page 54)

Places to conceal pistols include (l. to r.) Mauser in belt, K-38 under coat or inside shirt, PPK Walther upside down on string under arm, Mauser in coat pocket, and Colt Detective Special in Berns-Martin rig. Big New Service with cutaway guard nestles in car door handle.



WHICH BULLET — AND WHY

**BALLISTICS TESTS OF .30 CALIBER HUNTING BULLETS REVEAL
IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES IN EXPANSION AND PENETRATION**

By BOB HAGEL

HUNTERS who wait until just before a hunting trip to dash into a sporting goods store for a supply of ammunition are missing an opportunity to improve their results by finding out beforehand which bullet will work best on the game they plan to hunt. A little thought and preparation along that line now can spell the difference between success and failure on next fall's hunt.

Choosing the right load for a specific kind of game and a specific kind of shooting can be a problem. Dealers' shelves are piled high with different brands of ammunition in a given caliber, loaded with bullets of different weights, shapes, and jacket designs. To make the correct selection from these offerings, the hunter needs to know what bullets are best for what kind of game.

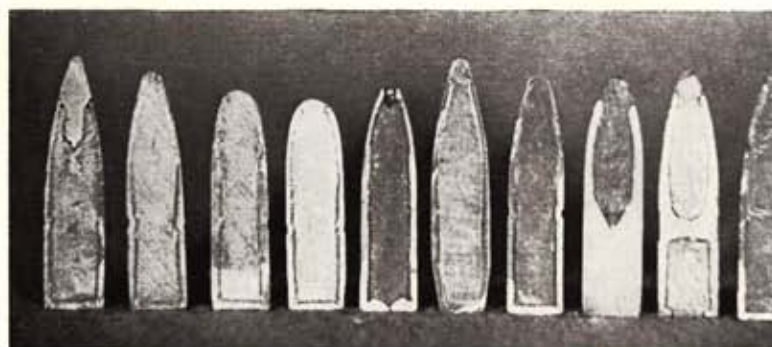
To the average hunter, a cartridge is a cartridge and, if it is the same caliber as his gun, that is it. If someone tells him that this cartridge will shoot a certain bullet at 3,000 feet per second muzzle velocity and that it will shoot another bullet at only 2,700 feet per second, he's pretty likely to pick the faster load. It sounds "bigger," especially when he's telling the boys what he's using. Few seem to realize that it is the bullet which kills the game and that it is the action of the bullet after it hits—not at the muzzle of the gun but out where the game is—that means either a trophy and meat for the hunter or a carcass unfound and left for the scavengers.

Some bullets are designed to be fired at ultra-high velocity and to open at extreme ranges on game like sheep and antelope. There are also bullets designed to open on

Caliber .30-06 cartridges loaded to average 2700 feet per second velocity were selected by author as standard against which to test hunting bullet efficiency.



Bullets tested are .30-06 (left to right) Remington Bronze-Point, pointed and round Core-Lokt, Hornady soft round point, Western Tool open point, Sierra boat-tail, Winchester Silvertip, Ackley solid base, and Thurman "frictionless" test slug.



Sectioned bullets, arranged in same order as those in top picture, show the structural differences in their jacket design which suit them for different conditions of big game hunting.



Three Remington bullets and the Hornady and Western Tool & Copper Works slug are shown in same order after recovery. Heaviest Remington Core-Lokt slug (3rd) weighs 135 grains.

Remaining bullets in same order, after recovery, show Sierra slug (left) weighing 93 grains, Nosley (fourth from left) weighing 145 grains. Bullet at far right is unfired .30 caliber.



heavy game enough to give some shock and displacement of tissue, while not expanding too much and tearing apart. These bullets are designed to retain a great deal of their original weight so that they will drive through to the vital areas of large game such as elk, moose, and the larger bears, even when the shot must be made from an angle that requires very deep penetration. However, to the great displeasure of many hunters who have used them, some of the latter class of bullets have not lived up to the claims of the manufacturers.

Many hunters have found to their sorrow when using light, quick-expanding bullets at ultra-high velocity on heavy game, that they do not work very well unless the bullet can be put into the rib cage where little penetration is needed. With the bullets designed for controlled expansion, the results are usually good on any class of game. True, the slower bullet which does not rupture and raise an awful ruckus in the boiler room of a small animal like an antelope, will not kill as quickly as the fast, quick-expanding type that literally tears the little fellows apart. But you may rest assured that with a 2" exit hole, or even a 1" hole on the off side, no animal is going to make many more tracks.

There are many good big-game bullets available today. Behind their variety lies a reason. Nearly every ballistics expert who has worked on bullet design for big game cartridges has attempted to perfect a bullet that would work equally well under nearly all hunting conditions and on all sizes and species of game within reasonable limits.

Box filled with fine pine sawdust and silt served as trap to give uniform target effect for hunting bullets used in test. Nosler 180-grain slug penetrated 31 inches, expanded well.

Very large trophy mountain goat was taken by Author Hagel several years ago with bullet chosen for right combination of velocity, penetration, and expansion to make sure kill.



There are many experienced hunters who are quite sincere in the belief that such a perfect, all-purpose bullet does not exist nor will ever be designed. In short, they claim, there is no such thing as the "all around" bullet. I agree only partially with this line of thought. I have found a very few bullets that have proved quite satisfactory under about every condition from shooting antelope and mule deer at extreme ranges, to the heaviest bull elk in thick cover at close range. Of course, to answer this demand, the bullet must be of a suitable weight and caliber. Unfortunately for the fellow who doesn't "roll his own," the bullets I have in mind are custom jobs.

To the seasoned hunter with years of experience, the wide choice of bullets is a great boon. He picks out what his experience tells him is the best bullet for the game and terrain he will hunt, and is happy that he has a variety to choose from. But for the enthusiast who gets into the field but once a year, the choice is tougher. The closest thing to hunting experience is range experience, and to try and find a common denominator in selecting bullets for definite kinds of hunting, we have to go to the range. Over a measured 100 yards, ten fundamentally different bullet designs were checked out on a uniform target at uniform velocity. In making these tests to compare the efficiency of bullets, it was decided to fire all from a .30-06 Springfield rifle. This cartridge is perhaps the most popular big-game caliber in America for everything from 'chucks to Kodiak bears. The cartridges were handloaded. Many of the bullets were of custom manufacture.

The major part of my hunting in the past few years has been done with wildcat cartridges and even off-caliber bullets. Some of these have con- (Continued on page 48)

THE TRUTH ABOUT AFRICAN RIFLES

**AFRICAN HUNTERS ARE NOT ALL
RICH MEN ON SAFARI. RESIDENT
SPORTSMEN HUNT TOO, WITH
THE GUNS THEY CAN AFFORD**

By ALASTAIR MATHESON

WHEN VISITING sportsmen hunt in Africa they usually bring with them batteries of guns worth a small fortune, many of them the last word in custom built models. What with this impressive hardware, plus the firepower provided by the White Hunter, African game animals face formidable odds.

But most of us who are lucky enough to live in East Africa at the very threshold of this fabulous big game country, do not possess such expensive weapons. We're like desk-bound sportsmen everywhere who take week-end hunting trips, using the guns we have or can afford.

Ted Mullis is a good example of a gun enthusiast who began his hobby in Africa with little money to spend. He has been in Kenya three years now, coupling the skill he acquired in the British Army as an instructor at their crack small-arms school with the keenness for the shooting game that bites nearly every man who tries it.

But like many men who love guns, Ted had to start with weapons a typical safari hunter would sneer at. His first acquisition cost a mere 150 East African shillings—\$20. It was a Winchester .44-40, the 24-inch



Ted Mullis, typical resident African sportsman, rose "through the ranks" from an old Winchester .44-40 to present .375 Holland,



First rifle used by African week-end sportsman was a vintage Model 92 lever action. Low velocity and energy of its .44-40 slug forced him to crawl for short-range shot at big eland on Kenya plains.

barrel job of 1892 vintage, the only rifle larger than a .22 that 150 shillings would buy. Ted had read how these old-timers had accounted for much of the meat shot in the American West in the old days, and he was proud to own such a tried and trusted Frontier firearm. He reckoned that what had proved itself 60 years ago would still be a good weapon; and anyway it was a case of strictly limited finance and a burning desire to hunt something in a country teeming with game. What matter if gun and game were slightly mismatched?

Armed with this old Winchester, Ted grabbed the first chance that came along to get out of Nairobi on a week-end safari to see what the gun would do in his hands. Not many miles out of the Kenya capital, he took a look around the open country. It was the height of the dry season when the Afri-

can veld is tinder dry and the whole landscape a tawny brown.

It was not long before he found what he was after. A spotted hyena, the largest he had seen and standing almost three feet high at the shoulder, was trotting diagonally to where Ted was crouching. He intercepted its line of movement and dropped it with a neat heart shot.

A close inspection of the damage showed that the bullet stayed in the animal, mushrooming perfectly. But oh, the low velocity!

"I could have gone for a coke and returned before the bullet reached that hyena," he wisecracked to me afterwards. But he couldn't expect much better with a muzzle velocity of 1,300 feet per second and 750 foot pounds which his 200-grain I.C.I. ammunition produced.

But it gave Ted no end of sport,

that old musket, even though its limited range meant a lot of hard work. Getting an impala, for instance, on the Masai Plains near Konza was back-breaking work. It was getting near sundown when he first spotted the herd and located the animal he wanted. He calculated his maximum effective range was only about 50 yards so there was nothing for it but to start crawling. The country hereabouts is thick with thorn bush. Ted wriggled over the uncomfortable stony ground trying to avoid the more spiky undergrowth and keeping an eye open for the snakes. He encountered no snakes, but he had his attention fully occupied on a couple of occasions by scorpions.

Fortunately the buck were patient beasts and Ted soon became too engrossed in his quarry to give much heed to what the black sting-in-the-tails might do to him. Once within the 50 yards range, he squeezed the trigger. Down went the impala with a clean shot, and Ted's Number Two kill was chalked up.

Number Three proved more ambitious—an eland. Here again the short range meant a repetition of that tedious crawl to get close. This time there was no thorn bush, but the bare ground meant a wider detour. Progress consisted of a series of zig-zags from acacia to acacia.

The eland went down with an ear shot, and a companion covering Ted with a Holland and Holland .375 finished off the still-kicking buck with a heart shot.

Still, mused Ted on his way back to the lights of Nairobi that night, if he was going to go for the kind of game he really wanted, he'd have to invest in a rifle a bit more practical for the purpose. He had had enough of long crawls through the thorn bushes, and he needed something that would kill from far enough off not to leave powder-burns on the animal's skin.

Rifles tried by Mullis for African big game included (top to bottom) Winchester .44-40 and the .30-30 with which he killed a lioness; a Mannlicher 9 mm; a .300 Weatherby Magnum; and a .375 Holland & Holland magazine rifle. Mannlicher 9 mm was used to kill the topi shown below, but lacked power for elephant and other thick-skinned game.



The second rifle came from the same stable—this time a Winchester .30-30—but right from the start Ted did not seem to take to it. Compared with the earlier Winchester, the second packed a much more powerful punch—rated, in fact, at a muzzle velocity of 2,300 feet per second on a 170 grain bullet, with a muzzle energy of 1,860 foot pounds.

But its limitations were strictly buck, and Ted kept that firmly in his mind, curbing his tendencies to look for some of the bigger stuff. That would have to wait until there was enough cash for a heavier rifle.

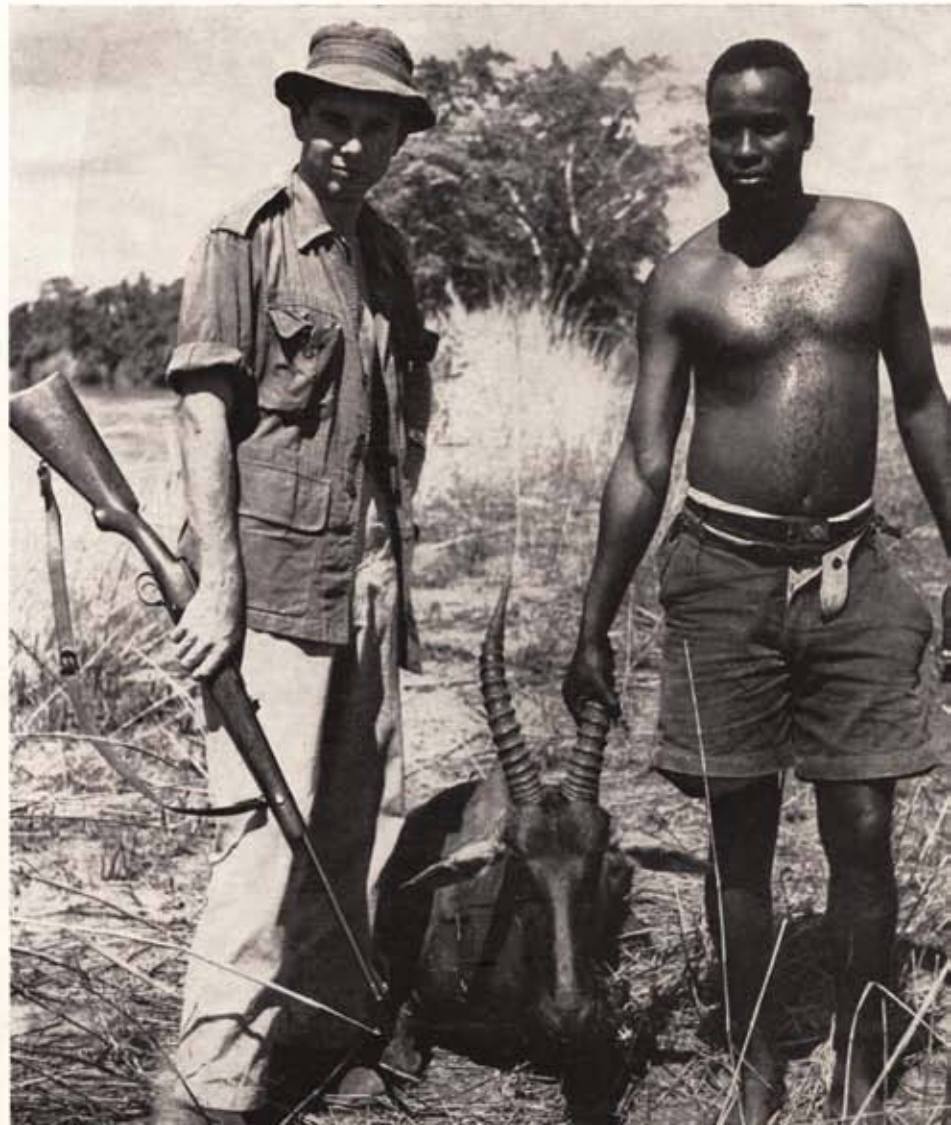
It was down in the Tana River country, that elephant-teeming country of tall acacia, favourite haunt of Hemingway's, where Ted got the fright of his life—and suddenly found that the old .30-30 was all that stood between him and a particularly hostile lion.

A buck gun, indeed! True, it was a buck he was after in the "barra" or dry thorn country away from the lush greenery of the Tana River bank. A herd of Grants gazelle had attracted his attention and, to get a better vantage point, Ted began to clamber up a rocky outcrop, that was the only high point for miles.

Near the top, he turned his head around to look for a handhold. The lioness was standing 15 yards away. She gave him a fierce glare which was far from friendly. After a spine-chilling snarl, the big beast took a step or two forward. That was enough for Ted. His only course was to shoot. And all he had was the .30-30.

It was three shots per heartbeat in that little encounter, and each 170-grain "Core-Lokt" went straight for the head. Mrs. Leo was stone cold by the time Ted's fluttering heart regained its normal rhythm.

The skin of that lioness was pretty patchy and did not fetch any real profit, but boy, did Ted's estimation of that Win- (Continued on page 43)





Skeet gunners study their game and probably cherish less misinformation about shotguns than casual hunters.

SHOTGUN MYTHS MAKE MISSES

By STAN B. WADE

A SHOTGUN is a simple tool. It doesn't have complicated rifling; it uses a handful of lead pellets instead of a delicately designed, precision-made bullet, and instead of gas-checks or bullet jackets tooled to a thousandth of an inch, a couple of felt wads are good enough to seal the gas in the bore. But in spite of the utter simplicity of the shotgun, more people know less about shotguns than any other weapon. There is a whole popular "mythology" about what shotguns can and can't do.

"She's a hard shooting gun" is one such myth. How often have we heard this statement made, and how often does the speaker sincerely believe it? Yet the reason he believes it is that he can *hit* with his gun, whereas he misses with others. This must mean that his gun "hits harder," has more inherent killing power than other guns.

A well known "hard shooting gun" is the old favorite Model '97 Winchester pump. For many years this was just about the standard weapon of the farmers and hunters



Model 97 Winchester years ago achieved reputation for being "hard shooting gun" but Wade found gun's success was due to good patterning, not to power.

**MUCH OF WHAT MOST PEOPLE "KNOW" ABOUT SHOTGUNS IS FALSE.
KNOWING THE TRUTH CAN MAKE YOU A MORE SUCCESSFUL HUNTER.**

"An automatic doesn't hit as hard as a solid-breech gun" is old legend, but tests checked by shooters like this father-son skeet team proved both equally good.





Popularity of Browning, Remington, and other modern over-unders causes many to think the idea of superposed barrels, centuries old, is "new."

of the central and western states. It accounted for most of the prairie chickens, sharptail grouse, sandhill cranes, geese, ducks, and other game during the 1890's and early 1900's. Let's analyze this gun to see if we can discover why its users believed it to be superior to any other shotgun available.

I have patterned many of these old guns, all branded "full choke." Except for an odd gun, none of those tested actually would shoot a full choke pattern of 70% in a 30" circle at 40 yards. With the medium loads of that era when these guns were doing such deadly work, they shot patterns of just about 60%—some a little closer, and a few more open—just a good *modified* pattern. Their more charitable patterns enabled their users to



Long barreled single trap guns (at right) were seen on fields in 20's as many believed they would "shoot farther, hit harder at long range."

Shorter field-length guns with adjustable chokes are more common sights on ranges today, for trap and skeet as well as hunting.

hit instead of miss. They brought home the game, therefore must have "hit harder."

In those days a common load was $3\frac{1}{4}$ drams of powder, $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of number 5, number 6, or number 7 shot. The low initial velocity of this load was good insurance against "blown patterns" and, at bird-killing ranges, there was no lack of penetration. The generous dose of shot filled the modified pattern evenly and birds caught inside that pattern were killed. Although not obtainable now except by handloading, it was and still is one of the finest loads ever made for waterfowl. The combination of reasonably wide pattern and good density brought home the bacon and gave the Model '97 its reputation as "a hard-shooting

gun." The reputation was well-earned, but the reasoning was wrong.

I have seen other guns with similar local reputations. Many were English-made doubles, often 10 bores, and many of them, though called full-choke, fired 50-65% patterns. Again, their efficiency was due to patterns which enabled the user to hit his birds, not to any superior power.

Actually, guns of comparable bore using comparable ammunition, will shoot alike as far as penetration is concerned. Tight full chokes may show a minor advantage now and then, but the difference is so slight that it amounts to less than the actual variation from shell to shell. Testing these guns on patterning boards will prove this fact beyond any question.

The old timers who swore by the Winchester Model '97 were right, even though they attributed the results to the wrong causes. To kill game, one must hit it. The Model '97 made it easier to hit; naturally, it brought down more game.

Another shotgun myth which will not die is, "Long barrels shoot harder than short barrels." This was true in the days of black powder. Black powder burned all the way out to the muzzle and well beyond, as anyone knows who has fired it at night. In order to burn the powder and thus get the maximum power from it, British gunmakers long ago set the length of shotgun barrels at 40 diameters, 40 times the diameter of the bore. This means a barrel (Continued on page 38)



Hunters may think success is due to mystic quality of their shotgun or load, says shooting writer "Doc" Wade; fail to recognize that pattern and load is just right for their gun.

"Open-eyed aiming for shotgunners is a new idea," say many shotgunners, but author points out reference of 1860's to importance of using both eyes in shotgunning clay or real birds.

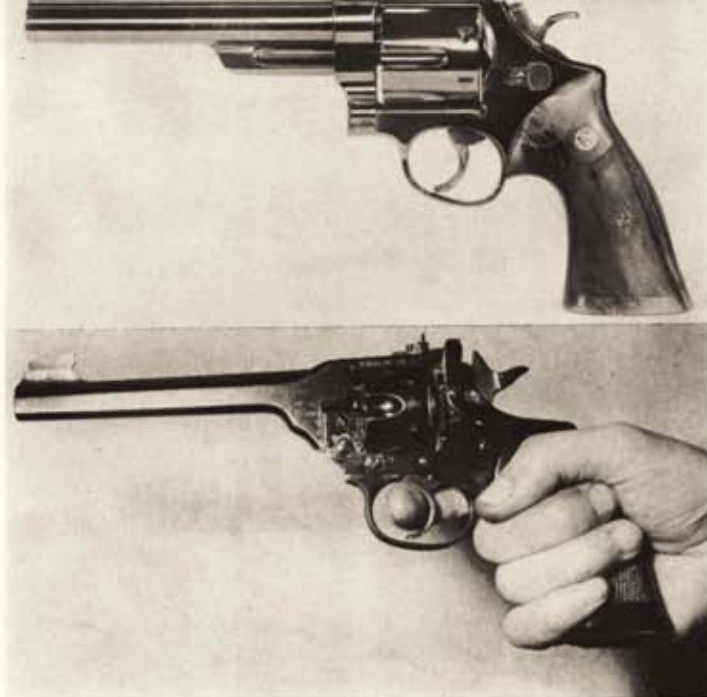




THE SECRET ART OF

HEAT BLUEING





Heat blued revolvers are few and far between today. Smith & Wesson (as on the .44 Magnum, top) uses heat blueing to achieve deep, uniform color. Webley & Scott revolver (bottom, left) was given charcoal heat-blue for Guns article.

By JACK RAMSAY

LONG CHERISHED AS "TOP SECRET" BY MASTER GUNMAKERS, THE METHODS OF HEAT BLUEING ARE LITTLE KNOWN BUT ANYONE CAN DO IT—WITH PRACTICE

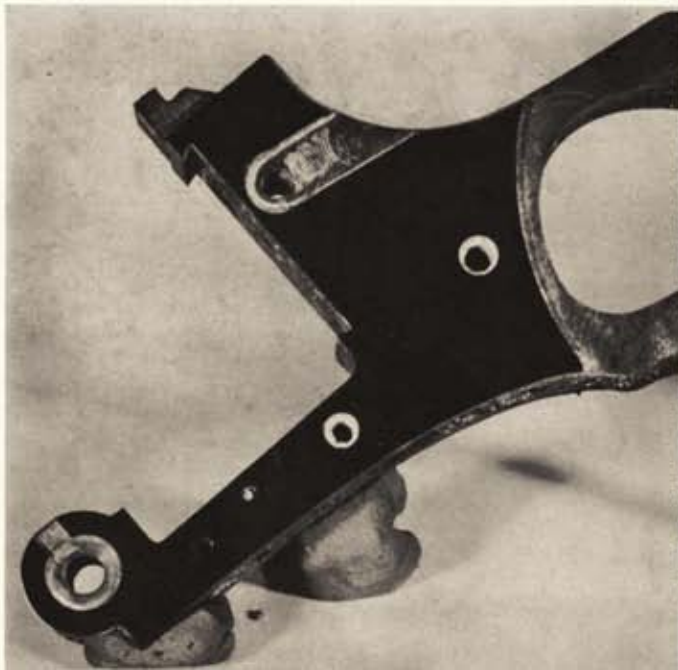
H EAT BLUEING? There's nothing to it! You just heat up the metal until it turns blue, then quit."

That's the story I got from Vic Johnson when I went to see him at work in the Birmingham factory of Webley & Scott, just about the only English arms firm which still uses this fast-disappearing technique to enhance the beauty of their top quality guns. And theoretically that's the whole story; so much so that I haven't been able to find a single book on either guns or metallurgy which devotes more than a short paragraph to the subject.

The art of heat-blueing is considered to be a lost skill. Those fine old guns so treasured by collectors which bear the brilliant deep blue color of heat finishing are much

in demand. Time and skill were required for successful heat blueing. The high cost of hand work caused gun factories to abandon it for major gun parts such as frames and barrels. Today few gun frames are normally heat blued, while barrels are finished by a rust process, or by boiling in a nitrate salt bath to oxidize the metal to a black color. Small parts for some guns, such as Webley & Scott shotguns, are finished by heat blueing. There are two notable exceptions to the present trend away from heat blueing among American factories. Both Smith & Wesson and Iver Johnson still do one form of heat blueing. These factories use rotary ovens, heated by gas, to warm the metal until oxygen turns the steel blue-black. The

Blue-black color of heat blued revolver frame is achieved by heating the part in a pile of glowing charcoal.





Perfect polish is essential on pistol frame to obtain perfect heat blue color. Work is often wiped with whiting on a rag.



Incorrect polish of steel will result in graduated color on gun from blue-black (right) through straws to mud gray (left).

differences in color of these two makes of revolvers are mostly due to the different methods of surface polishing used before blueing. But both factories have time and again turned down requests from gun cranks who want their pet old Colt or Remington cap-and-ball revolver refinished in the old method. Thus the only thing left for the man who really wants a heat-blued finish, like the original, is to "do it yourself in the old-time way."

In theory, all you have to do is heat the gun until it turns blue. But when you move over from theory to practice you run up against an altogether different story. The gun crank's first attempts to get results comparable with the magnificent blues to be found on classic firearms, are likely to result in the air turning blue rather than the steel. But fortunately for the collector who is dissatisfied with the quite different results obtained with chemical

methods of blueing, heat blueing is an art which almost anyone can learn if he has lots of patience, enthusiasm, and a love of beauty. Beauty, not utility, has to be the real reason for preferring heat blueing to any other method, for heat blue is a delicate and fragile thing which gives a gun very little real protection and must get regular care and feeding.

The collector who wants to re-blue one of his guns himself starts off with



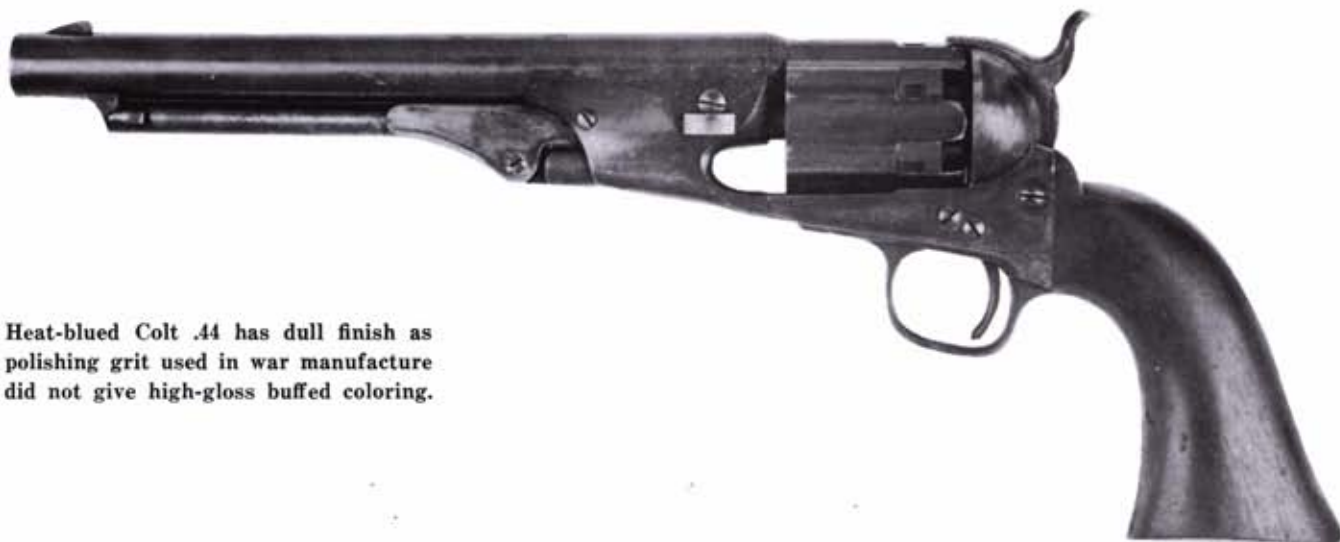
Brilliant buffed polish on old Colt Navy is foundation for original heat-blue color so deep it seems almost black.

one advantage and one disadvantage in comparison with the gunsmith who has to start from scratch. The advantage is that, in general, the gun will have a pretty good polish under the old blue. The disadvantage is that all traces of the original blue have to be removed before the gun can be successfully re-blued. Of course, the collector should not refinish an old Colt or Remington which still has any original blue left. But a firearm which may require extensive restoration may validly be re-blued. Pistols of the 16th and 17th centuries with plain iron barrels were often heat blued, and could be so restored.

Heat blue has terrific resistance to abrasion, and the eager beaver who tries to remove it by polishing is just asking for a long, tedious, and infuriatingly difficult job. There are still a few diehards who insist that grinding and polishing is the only safe and effective way to remove old or damaged blue. Fortunately for the gun crank, science does not agree. At London's Victoria and Albert Museum, which has a fine collection of firearms and edged weapons selected mainly for their artistic merit, the chief metal-working craftsman, Bob Heatherwood, scoffs at the idea of trying to remove old blue by grinding or polishing, and he's not a man who can afford to cut corners just to save a little time. He uses hydrochloric acid, diluted fifty-fifty with water, (*Continued on page 35*)



Half-dozen polishing wheels of many shapes and degrees of grit were used by Johnson preparing Webley to heat blue.



Heat-blued Colt .44 has dull finish as polishing grit used in war manufacture did not give high-gloss buffed coloring.



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THE SECRET ART OF HEAT BLUEING

(Continued from Page 33)

and has never yet damaged the steel he has used it on. Heat blue is extremely sensitive to acid and comes off almost immediately on being dipped in the solution. Obviously, the piece being treated should be neutralized thoroughly in several rinses of clean water after the blue has been removed, in order to prevent corrosion of the metal.

Just about the only thing on which all the heat-blueing experts agree, is that the perfection of the final finish depends to a very large extent on the perfection of the polishing job done before the actual blueing process is begun. This is the most time-consuming part of the whole technique and must not be skimped if the best results are to be achieved. Oddly enough, the fact that unpolished surfaces simply will not blue works out to the advantage of the craftsman, because it means that any engraving on the surface of the steel stands out bright and clear against the blue background.

A mechanical polisher of some sort is essential for major refinishing jobs. An electric hand-drill polisher is perfectly adequate if fixed in a solid bench stand. In some cases hand polishing may be sufficient. The polished surface should be mirror-perfect. A brilliant light reflected off the surface at various angles will show up any imperfections immediately.

A list of the things on which the experts do not agree would fill a sizeable book. How to get the old blue off is one of them, but even more heated arguments are caused by the question of how to get the new blue on. When the smoke of the battle has cleared away there are two main handicraft methods left holding the field: direct heating in air, and heating in a bed of hot charcoal. The first is strictly for the advanced expert who has had years of blueing experience. Its only advantage is speed, as against the big disadvantage that it is extremely difficult to control and can easily get out of hand, "running away" from the operator so that the steel takes on a dull muddy grey color. Direct heating is used in some factories to touch up small parts like screw heads.

The charcoal method is ideal for the tyro, because in reasonably careful hands it involves virtually no risk of damage to the steel. Basic equipment needed is a flat iron sheet and some method of heating it. Gas is better than electricity because it can be checked more rapidly. Even a blowtorch

will do the job satisfactorily as long as the piece being blued is not more than about six inches long. A few pounds of charcoal are required, a pair of long-handled tongs for handling the hot steel, a small shovel or paddle for manipulating the charcoal, a quantity of whiting, and several soft rags.

First step is to prepare the charcoal and heat it to the correct temperature. It should be in lumps about the size of coarse gravel, say roughly a quarter of an inch across. But do not under any circumstances buy it in this size if it can possibly be avoided. You will probably be given sweepings containing a substantial proportion of fine powder and gritty dirt, and at all costs you must avoid contamination which might scratch the highly polished surface of the metal. Getting a perfect polish on the steel can involve hours of painstaking hard work, and if you ruin it in dirty charcoal you'll need every ounce of self-control you can muster not to chuck the whole lot through the nearest window.

The best bet is to buy the charcoal in the biggest chunks available, then crumble it to the right size. If you're the cautious type you can then sift it to remove any fine dust or dirt that may have accumulated during the process. You need enough prepared charcoal to sandwich the piece being blued between layers at least an inch thick.

The sheet of iron can be propped up on a few bricks over the heat source. Spread the charcoal in a pile two or three inches high in the middle of the sheet and begin heating it. This is where the question of experience first enters into the calculations. A rough idea of whether the charcoal has reached the correct temperature can be obtained by turning out all the lights. When the pile is stirred in a darkened room you should be able to see a thin scattering of glowing specks of charcoal. An old Colt workman says, "Heat until you can just see little lights flickering in the charcoal." Any more than that and it is too hot. Don't worry that it might not be quite hot enough, for even at lower temperatures you can get the desired result. It just takes a little longer. Another check: charcoal at the correct temperature for blueing will char a sliver of well-seasoned pine.

The steel being blued is never in any danger of being damaged by the heat if the method outlined here is followed carefully. The maximum temperature reached by the

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metal will not be much more than about
580 degrees Fahrenheit. This is well below
the level at which structural changes will
take place in the steel.

Next step is to make sure that the polished
surface is perfectly clean by wiping it re-
peatedly with a soft cloth dipped in whiting.
The slightest trace of grease or a finger mark
will spoil the finish by inhibiting the forma-
tion of the oxide film which is responsible
for the color.

In the middle of the pile of hot charcoal
hollow out a "grave" for the piece, leaving
about three-quarters of an inch to an inch
of charcoal in the centre. Under no circum-
stances should the work be allowed to come
into direct contact with the hot sheet. Place
the piece in the "grave" and bury it to a
depth of at least an inch.

How long to wait before taking a first
look at the work depends on a combination
of two factors: the heat of the charcoal and
the size of the piece being blued. Small
pieces of shotgun furniture and the like will
begin to show blueing within seven or eight
minutes, but it may be twenty minutes or
more before a heavy revolver frame gets to
that stage. When you remove the piece from
its charcoal bed in order to check the build-
up of color, wipe it over frequently with a
soft rag dipped in whiting. Failure to do
this will result in a much too rapid advance
of the process and the final color will be a
dirty, muddy grey, rather than the beautiful
blue you are after.

One of the snags likely to be encountered
in heat-blueing an automatic or a revolver
frame is the difference in time necessary for
separate areas of the work to come up to
the desired blue. The trigger guard, for in-
stance, will blue much more rapidly than
the more massive parts, for the obvious reason
that its temperature will rise much more
rapidly. The answer to this is to examine
the work carefully every two or three minutes
after the first signs of blue have appeared.
Any part on which the blueing is advancing
too rapidly can be held back by wiping it
vigorously with whiting, while the parts that
are slower should not be touched.

When the work has reached the required
degree of blue, which is largely a matter of
personal preference, it should be removed
from the charcoal and wiped continuously
for several minutes. This inhibits further
blueing until the temperature of the piece
has dropped to the point at which, for all
practical purposes, the process stops. Three
or four minutes steady rubbing should be
sufficient for small pieces, but ten minutes
or more may be necessary on a big piece.

When the piece is thoroughly cooled you
can proceed to the final stage, which con-
sists of rubbing in a coat of oil. Best for
the purpose is raw sperm oil, but raw lin-
seed oil will do a satisfactory job. The un-
protected blue is delicate and offers virtually
no protection against corrosion. One of the
worst enemies of a heat blued surface is
human perspiration. If your hands tend to
perspire freely you should take the trouble
to oil the blued surfaces frequently.

Still better protection is provided by a
layer of top-quality clear lacquer. But few
enthusiasts are likely to be satisfied with the
inferior appearance of a lacquered blue,
which does not have the deep velvety sheen
of the oiled job. However, lacquer is good
for protecting case hardening color. For
those who want to try it, here are a couple



of tips. Use a pad of soft muslin or cheese cloth for applying the lacquer, not a brush. A piece of cloth about nine inches square will fold into a neat pad with an edge about half an inch across. This edge should be passed quickly through a gas or match flame to singe off any fine hairs which might become detached and embedded in the lacquer. Pour a quantity of lacquer into a shallow dish and soak up some of it in the edge of the pad. Starting at one edge of the blued surface, draw the pad evenly and continuously over it, squeezing it very gently between the fingers. This forces the lacquer out of the pad so that it will flow evenly over the whole surface. Remember, just one continuous stroke to each surface. And don't try to touch it up if the result isn't perfect, you'll just make a bad job worse. Take it all off, thoroughly clean the surface, and start again.

Whether you oil it or whether you lacquer it, you'll end up with a blued steel that just can't be matched for beauty.

Few, if any, of the craftsmen who practise the heat-bluing art understand the basic scientific facts behind it. The guy who blues in charcoal will warn you that you musn't leave the hot piece exposed to the air for too long "because it will oxidize and be ruined." Up to a point he'd be right about the result, but the reason needs some explanation. The whole purpose of heating is to form a thin film of oxide on the metal. The formation of the oxide proceeds rapidly when the piece is heated in air because it is exposed to pure oxygen. The principal reason for using charcoal is to slow the reaction to a more easily controllable speed. Instead of reacting with the oxygen in the air the steel is forced to react more slowly with the carbon monoxide generated by the heating of the charcoal.

It was not until comparatively recent years that scientists came to any agreement on the cause of the color which results when steel is heated. It was obviously not the color of the oxide itself, the so-called "tempering color," for two reasons. First, when the steel is heated gradually through temperatures ranging from about 420 degrees to 680 degrees Fahrenheit the color changes

from pale yellow at the lower end of the scale through brown, purple, and blue to a brownish grey at the top end of the scale. Second, the oxide film is so thin as to be almost completely transparent.

After many years of research it was established that the color was the result of interference of light waves, some of which are reflected from the top surface of the oxide film and others from the under surface. This discovery made it possible to determine the exact thickness of the film, because when it is roughly equal to a wave-length of light of any given color the rays reflected from the two surfaces will be out of phase, thus cancelling each other out and leaving a balance of colored light.

As a result of this research it became clear that the temperature to which the steel is heated is not the only determining factor in the production of the color. If it is heated rapidly to about 420 degrees, the polished surface will take on a yellowish color. But it will eventually turn blue even at that comparatively low temperature as the oxide film builds up to sufficient thickness.

In spite of this, many reference books contain tables which are supposed to show the temperatures at which the different colors first appear. Such tables can sometimes be useful as a rough guide in practical work in which steel is being heated through a wide range of temperatures. The gas-oven method, where heat is controlled by electrical pyrometers, involves static temperature for a constant and uniform color of blue. But even highly-polished gas-oven blue jobs seem to lack the intense depth of color found in mint specimens of antique revolvers finished in the high-gloss polish and blued on a charcoal plate.

The theory of genuine charcoal bluing is not lost. But the skill to do a perfect job is just about lost among gunsmiths today. Will it return? Or will the attempts to do heat bluing by the old time charcoal plate method merely give rise to a new crop of butchers who fail to discriminate between a rare and valuable old gun in original condition which should not be tampered with, and a junker which could be successfully restored by heat bluing?

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(Continued from Page 29)



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length of 29 to 30 inches for a 12 bore gun, and British makers standardized on 30 inches.

But this old rule of thumb lost its validity when smokeless powder came into use. Smokeless will burn in much less distance, not much over 24 inches in any case. With some loads, long barrels can even reduce shot velocity, due to friction.

Long barrels simply do not make a gun shoot harder. They do permit closer aiming, and closer aiming means better hitting and more game, which is why some hunters like them. But even this is not universally true. Many shooters find that shorter, lighter guns "swing better" for them, are less muzzle heavy, require less apparent lead ahead of the target, hit better for them than they are able to hit with long barrels. It isn't which gun hits hardest; it's which gun helps you to hit more birds.

Some gunners say, "Binocular aiming, shooting with both eyes open, is a modern gimmick." "Not so," says John Bumstead in his priceless little book, "On the Wing." This volume, printed in 1869, devotes an entire chapter to the question, "Two Eyes Versus One Eye." Bumstead says, "It has generally been thought quite impossible to shoot well 'on the wing' without closing one eye at the time of making the shot. How often have I observed the tyro, even when shooting at a target, trying hard to keep one eye shut, as if this were one of the chief desiderata in shooting . . . Many persons cannot understand how an accurate aim can be taken with both eyes open. But, it may be asked, if you were driving a nail into a valuable piece of furniture, would you shut one eye or not? Does the woodchopper, as he swings his axe to strike every time into the same place, shut his left eye for a true aim? Does the barber who shaves you, or the Indian who shoots with bow and arrow? Instead you may search through all the mechanical arts in which it is necessary to make a correct line of work with the eye as a guide and you will find it is successfully done with both eyes open . . . The visual line which is made when both eyes are open is natural and correct enough

for any shooting on the wing. I say, therefore, in shooting on the wing keep both eyes open."

Among the first double guns ever made, back in the days of muzzle-loaders, were examples of the over-under or super-posed barrels. So, "over and under double guns and single triggers are a modern innovation," is another false idea. Single triggers were first made about the same time but were discarded in favor of two triggers which gave selectivity—selectivity, not of choke, since choke-boring was then unknown, but of shot size. One barrel was loaded with larger shot or a heavier load than the other. Early breech-loading guns had to be side-by-side doubles because the frame, to accommodate the over-under barrel style would have been clumsy and too deep. Consequently, over-under guns until quite recent times (the super-posed Brownings were the first) all had to be hand-built at great expense. Further, they were then mechanically inferior to the conventional side-by-side doubles. Better metals and good design by John Browning made possible over-under guns stronger and longer lasting and more care free than any of the older hand-made—and ultra-expensive—earlier examples of this type of gun. I know of one 6½ pound Browning over-under which has fired more than 50,000 shots without ever giving the slightest trouble.

"Smart" shooters used to say emphatically that "Automatic shotguns won't kill as far as pumps or doubles. They lose too much power operating the action." Despite all the facts published by all the gun editors over all the years, and the best efforts of automatic shotgun manufacturers, this old myth refuses to die—or even get sick! The first guns of this type, built under Browning patents, were marketed by Remington in 1905. Well do I recall the long and careful tests that I shot with my first Remington autoloader before I was convinced that my new gun showed as good, or better, penetration than I could get from any other gun I owned or could borrow for comparison. In those days I shot many sea-ducks—scoters, eiders and Old Squaws—for the market. At 40¢ a pair I had to think twice before investing the large sum of \$30 in a new-fangled weapon, untried and the storm center of criticism by my elders. So—let it be said again, the shot charge is out of the bore before the barrel, locked to the breech-block, recoils to the rear. This applies to the older Browning-type autoloaders. In the case of the latest self-loading shotguns which function by bleeding off some of the hot gases behind the shot charge, the same thing is true. There is no loss of power which can be measured. I think that one reason this myth survives is that, in the hands of most shooters, autoloading guns seem to "kick" less, therefore feel less powerful.

I've found that many a shotgunner be-

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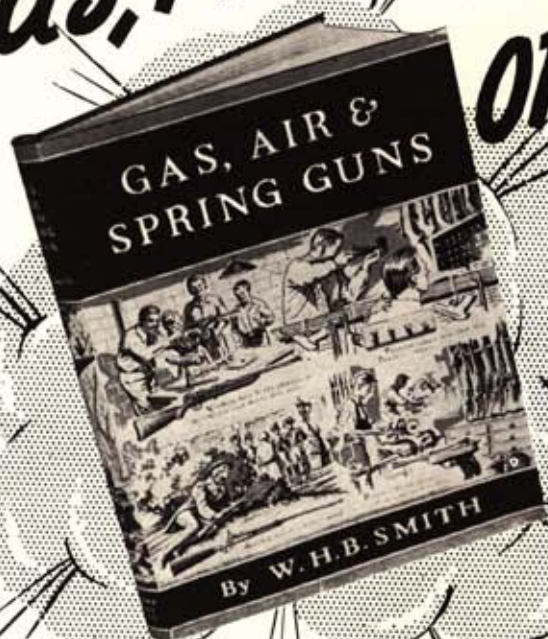
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believes "My 20 will kill farther than a 12." He is sincere despite the usually recognized axiom that "a good big man will always beat a good little man." Many gunners do kill more game with a 20 gauge gun, including ducks, than they can kill with a 12. The explanation is simple. They can shoot 20 gauge guns better than they can shoot 12 gauge guns. It may be just a matter of weight, or fear of recoil or in the shooter's head. But no matter what it is, if he thinks he can shoot better and kill game deader with a 20 he will probably do just that, regardless of the cold ballistic fact that it is impossible.

Some men cannot handle the heavier 12s to good advantage—they don't swing fast enough for adequate lead. With a 20, weighing perhaps a couple of pounds less, their swing is enough faster to provide correct lead so that they can and do connect consistently and kill cleanly.

"I want a full choke gun," say the sportsmen in the stores. This is the greatest boon to conservation the country has ever seen. Wiser hunters, less interested in ballistics than in bringing birds to the table, use open-bored guns. The latter get most of the game, while the former support the ammunition manufacturers. The average gunner with a long barreled, full-choke pump or automatic is hopelessly over-gunned. He has a weapon for an expert to use on long-range game. Only post-graduates in the art of wing-shooting are qualified to use such a gun with any hope of success.

What game does our "average" gunner expect to kill with his full-choke Long Tom? More often than not his forays afield will be in pursuit of rabbits, quail, grouse, woodcock, pheasants, and the odd duck. But "Mr. Average" saddles himself with a slow-handling gun, too long and too heavy for the kind of 20 to 35 yard hunting he will do. Even the chap in a prairie or desert locale where shots are likely to be at 40 yards or farther, will kill more game with a modified choke than with a full choke gun. The fetish for "long-range" guns is the worst error the inexperienced shooter can make. Such guns are for experts; experienced gunners who really can hit at long ranges. If you qualify under this heading, more power to you. But you will get to be an expert quicker with a gun that will give you more hits—and more confidence.

Says Joe Nimrod to his dealer, "Gimme the heaviest loads you've got." Far too many otherwise reasonable fellows want a shell that will kill, or at least cripple, at both ends of the gun. They want the gun to "set back." They remind me of the Vermonter who accidentally took a big swig out of a flask of grain alcohol I had in my gear for preserving specimens. After choking and gagging a couple of minutes, he said, "Gad, that's good! Takes right aholt!" Some shot-gunners are like that. Coupled with the heaviest loads they can find these fellows usually want the biggest shot in the store. Many a box of #2's and BB's is wasted in futile shots at pheasants or ducks. These fellows want to "reach out" and knock down the "wide ones." Do they do it? Not on your life! They aren't that skillful. All they do is to educate game to get farther away and fly higher.

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in the hands of experts who can use their long-range killing patterns to hit. But many of these heavy loads are wasted when used in the average guns, by average gunners, at average game. What need is there for the excessive powder load? The old handicap and live-pigeon load of 3¼ drams, 1¼ ounces of number 7½ shot will kill just as far and sometimes farther, because the average gun will pattern the lighter load better. All the average shooter gains from the big loads is a sorer face and shoulder, a slimmer purse, and less birds.

The average distances at which almost all game is killed is shorter than 40 yards, including ducks and geese. Where possible I have checked the distances at which I pick up game. I have been shotgun hunting for more than 50 years. More than 90% of my upland game, comprising grouse, woodcock, pheasants, quail, doves, and rabbits, is picked up less than 30 yards from the gun, and I am not a super-fast shot, either. First barrel kills are (usually) from 15 to 25 yards. Rarely do I kill with the second barrel at over 35 yards. My ducks over decoys are killed at 40 yards or less: sometimes, when the going is good, much less. It is a rare occasion indeed when I kill a duck at 50 yards and few indeed are the men who can do it consistently, even though their guns and ammunition are quite capable of the feat. I'm not that good although my lifetime kill of ducks—including those I shot for market in the distant past—probably runs into more than 4000.

After having hunted all kinds of game in this country, Canada, and a couple of other countries, I am convinced that if I could never again use a shot load in excess of 1½ ounces, nor any shot larger than number 6s, my annual take of game would not be reduced even 1%! I think this applies to almost every gunner. Up to 40 yards, any good modified barrel will kill with certainty with only an ounce of shot, any winged game available to the American gunner.

Loads of 1½ ounces or heavier are entirely unnecessary, unless 50 yard kills can and must be made to piece out a bag. I have yet to meet the man who can consistently score on single ducks or pheasants at an actual 50 yards or farther. A few real experts are undoubtedly capable of bringing out the killing power of our heaviest loads, including bona-fide magnums, but it is definitely a waste of time and money for the average shooter to attempt to emulate this select fraternity.

With shotguns for deer the myth is, "You have to use size 00 buckshot to kill a deer." In certain states where the use of buckshot is mandatory, almost every deer hunter insists on using double-ought buck. From my own observation, not one deer out of five hit with buckshot is recovered, although a high percentage of them drag away into the depths of some wet swamp to die in misery and feed the foxes. The bald facts of the matter are that the larger the buckshot one uses, the less likelihood there is that the deer will be killed and recovered. The average gun has a lot of choke in its barrel and buckshot pattern poorly in full-choked barrels. I did once see a fine 32" barrel full-choke Parker double that would consistently put all nine of its load of 00 buckshot in a 12" circle at 50 yards. Such a gun is a freak—and a pearl beyond price—to one who would hunt deer with buckshot.

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Guns especially made for use with buckshot are straight cylinder bored, the idea being to avoid squeezing the big shot through a choke, thereby flattening some pellets which bear on the barrel and indenting others in the center of the shell with the rounded sides of the outer shot. All buckshot suffer some mutilation in the "forcing cone" just ahead of the chamber. This is, to date at least, unavoidable. The fact that buckshot are squeezed "out of round" accounts for their erratic patterning characteristics.

If buckshot users would just pattern their guns—and the side of a good sized barn is recommended, so they can find where the shot hit—they would soon learn why buckshot is so unreliable on deer even at such short ranges as 30 yards. They scatter all over the place! The vital parts of a deer are not so large as some gunners think. Whitetail deer stand about three feet high at the shoulder—about the height of the average gunner's pants pockets—and almost 75% of this height is legs. The vital parts of a deer's chest will measure only 12" to 14" from back to belly and are only about 16" from front to rear. Any hits behind the rib cage will be gut-shots and the deer die but are lost to all but meat-eating vermin. Pattern your gun with 00 buck on a target of these dimensions and you'll see why that shot that looked like a dead sure thing produced a total miss.

Are size 00 buck necessary to kill deer? By no means. The *smallest* buckshot your gun will shoot reasonably well is your best bet. Pattern your gun with at least five shells loaded with every size of buckshot your gun will handle and don't worry about size. The inescapable fact is this: to kill

a deer you must first hit him—and in a vital spot. Is it easier to do this with nine big buckshot or 27 smaller ones? Simple, eh? But, you say, "those little buckshot will not kill a big animal like a deer."

Deer hunters years ago used a wide variety of shot sizes. Above size BB were BBB, then T, TT, and TTT (turkey shot). Very few buckshot were used. Hunters found they could kill deer with turkey- or swan-shot more certainly than they could with larger shot. Two or three swan-shot behind the shoulder meant meat in the pot just as surely as one 00 in the heart, lungs, or brain. The same principle still applies; one's chances of hitting a deer in a vital spot is progressively better as the size of the buckshot is reduced and the number of shot increased.

Try your gun with size 0, number 1 buck, and number 4 buck. They run in size respectively as follows: 00=.33", 0=.32", 1=.30", 3 (loaded in 20 gauge only)=.25", 4=.24". There is not such a great difference in weight and killing power per pellet as might appear at first glance.

Here in Florida where I live, most deer are killed with buckshot ahead of hounds. The 12 gauge owners almost all shoot 00 buck, while the 20 gauge owners must use number 3 buck. It is a fact that the 20 with number 3 buck is a better killer than the 12 with 00 buck, merely because the 20 gauge shell contains 20 shot of .25 caliber while the 12's with 00 buck, contain only 9 shot of .33 caliber. Which is likeliest to hit—and also, kill? With the 00 buck, as with other shotgun fallacies, a myth may be as good as a mile.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT AFRICAN RIFLES

(Continued from page 25)

chester rocket after the engagement!

But a marksman is always after perfection and what seemed to be a little nearer the ideal was enticingly displayed in the window of Shaw and Hunter, the Nairobi gunsmith just across Hardinge Street from the New Stanley Hotel. It was a 9 mm Mannlicher Schoenauer.

A lot of game went down before these sights—topi on the Tana River, baboon, crocs in the soda-charged waters of Lake Rudolf, bordering on Ethiopia. On crocs, it is most important to shoot before the reptiles begin to slither towards the water. If you don't get 'em in the eye before they move, the chances are the valuable skin will be lost under the water. And to Ted, each skin meant that a bigger and better gun was getting nearer.

I well remember chatting with Ted one night in a windswept camp site a few miles from the Lake Rudolf shores after a hot, tiring day. He told me he reckoned that even the Mannlicher was not the answer in Kenya. Its 245-grain bullet at 2,100 feet per second gave a muzzle energy very similar to that of the .30-06, and the big stuff still had to be avoided.

Not long thereafter, an American friend set Ted off on a new tack by lending him a .300 Weatherby Magnum. "It'll stop a tank, son!" was the visitor's remark as he handed over the beautiful high velocity job. But Ted was thinking more about charging rhinos than tanks.

We were on a trip down to Loitokitok at

the foot of Kilimanjaro's northern face when, not far off the track, we came on a herd of Thomson's gazelle. Ted and the Weatherby were out of the car in a flash and he traversed a hundred yards of thorn country to get behind a convenient acacia cover. The range was around 150 yards and soon a 220 grain soft-point was speeding towards the plumpest "Tommy." The rest of the herd quickly retreated, and I ran up with Ted to inspect the results.

The bullet had taken the little buck in the shoulder, and a hand-grenade couldn't have been more effective. Ted retrieved a leg, but we were sure his wife wouldn't be able to make it go very far.

The chance soon came to try out the Weatherby again, when Ted was invited out to a buffalo hunt. The prospects were even more interesting when he learned he would be pitting it against a Holland and Holland .375 Magnum.

Scene of the hunt was the Mwera Plains stretching south and east of Mount Kenya, to the borders of the wild Mbera country.

They spotted the big herd of buff early in the morning, only an hour after breakfast. One of the largest bulls left the others and stood out in front, snorting, pawing the ground and generally working up for a real performance.

Suddenly he charged. Was this the dummy run he had heard about, thought Ted, with the real thing to come later? But this was not quite the time for natural history research, so he aimed carefully at the oncom-

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ing beast and let him have the bullet at 50 yards. The shot struck as placed, just below the big boss between the horns. The powerful attacker went down in a slither of dust.

The two hunters restrained their impulses to dash forward and they sat down to wait the 10 minutes prescribed in the textbooks. Sure enough, the beast was on its feet again inside two minutes and coming like a bat out of hell towards the hunters.

Still sitting, Ted emptied the rest of his magazine into the buff's chest area. He was wondering what the next move should be when he heard a thump behind his left ear from the Holland and Holland. For a second time the buffalo went down—this time for keeps.

The first shot between the eyes had cracked the skull and taken out one eye, but had not penetrated and had apparently broken up. The three in the chest had made a mess, but it was only surface damage. Small pieces of bullet were found in the wounds, none of them very large. The killing shot from the .375 H & H had gone through the beast's muzzle and was later found well mushroomed and still intact in the rear flank.

That settled Ted's doubts. He handed back the Weatherby with polite thanks. Discussing its performance afterwards, a colleague suggested the trouble might be in the bullets and that perhaps they were too fragile for heavy, thick-skinned African game.

Ted's days of swapping rifles are over now. He is perfectly satisfied with his one gun, for he had a fairly shrewd idea all along what he wanted.

It nearly turned out to be a second-hand .350 Rigby Magnum which he was considering buying after selling the Mannlicher Schoenauer. I was certain he was going to settle for that Rigby, but when I met him again, he was more excited than I've ever seen him before.

Soon I saw the cause of his excitement: a rifle with the words, "Holland and Holland, 98 New Bond Street, London," inscribed on the barrel. It was a Holland and Holland .375 Magnum.

For over a year now he has used that rifle and is convinced that it is the all-rounder for East Africa. And he is in distinguished company, for there are few professional White Hunters who do not own one of these "bunduks."

Why is this? First, it is superbly accurate.

Using the 270-grain bullet, Ted has accounted for many, many "Tommies," impala, Grants gazelle, etc., at distances between 100 and 200 yards, always using a head or a neck shot with no damage to meat and never a wounded animal.

Border line between the two choices of bullets—the 270 and the 300 grain—is the eland, lion, and leopard class of animals. Although all have been taken quite nicely with the 270 grain, the 300 is to be recommended. There is no great difference of opinion about this, but when it comes to using a 300 grain soft point or a 300 grain solid against buffalo, opinion in East Africa is pretty evenly divided.

For the larger game like elephant and the rhino, there is no choice—the 300 solid is essential. Many White Hunters would like to use a 350 grain solid, but there is no such commercial ammunition. There is no such thing as custom loading in Kenya, for here, as in most British possessions, it is illegal.

The British steel-jacketed solid is by far the best ammo for the elephant. The "Winchester" 300 grain flat point is not very successful against pachyderms on account of its softness, and a bad angle shot tends to deflect much too easily.

The "Western" Silvertip 300 grain does not perform too well against a buffalo, breaking up on the rough hide, but it does everything against smaller game which the makers say it will do.

The very best soft-point in both 270 and 300 grain weights is the pin-point lead which Ted has always found to expand beautifully without breakage.

The ballistics department tells us that the 270 grain bullet at 2,740 feet per second produces 4500 foot pounds of energy at the spout, while the 300 grain at 2550 feet per second develops only 4,330 foot pounds. But whatever the theory is, the 300 grain has much more physical punch than the 270 grain, and Ted has proved the point against various animals in the East African bush.

Well, that's the story. Ted has his .375 Holland and Holland Magnum, and he is confident that it will stop "anything from a bustard to a bull elephant."

There's a tailpiece to the story too. Every time Ted goes into a shop to buy ammunition for his Holland and Holland they call him "sir." That never happened when he was buying the .44-40s!



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GUN RACK

By H. Jay Erfurth

Stoeger Offers Spanish Llama Pistols

"Modelled on the world's most famous guns," is the comment in the catalog of Gabilondo, Spanish gunmaker, and his "Llama" auto pistols prove the case. They are imported by Stoeger Arms Corp., 507 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. In .45 caliber, it is easy to mistake the big Llama pistol (\$69.95) for a Colt .45, at first glance. Most notable superficial difference is the wide sighting rib on the Llama slide top, in all models down to the neat .22 (\$54.00). In firing, both .22 and .45 behaved satisfactorily. The .22 of course did not have the dropping link barrel of larger calibers, but a plain blowback slide. The grip, a shade bigger than it should be if .45 proportions were carried through exactly to scale, makes it comfortable to shoot. Most appealing of the line, which includes .38 Super pistols and a match-grade .45 with Micro sights, seems to be the .22 combining price and "eye appeal" since it is a miniature .45.

With muzzle bushing takedown, and separate arched mainspring housings, the Llama line is part-for-part like the Colt. However, the slide lock and safety plunger tube, a separate piece held onto the Colt frame by internal staking, on the Llama is a separate piece with two little screw plates formed integral, and two screws to attach. The screws are covered up by the left grip. It is an odd way of making the part, since the Colt is actually the cheaper method of fabrication. No Colt parts will interchange with the Llama, except the Llama .45 barrels will function in the Colt, although

loosely. In superficial appearance only are they alike, not in interchangeability.

Inside, the Llama shows considerable handwork. This is not saying the Llama is a "hand made" or even handfinished gun. But apparently the file and handcraft methods are still used in Spanish manufacture where American factories would utilize machines to do the job. It is recommended that a Llama pistol purchaser disassemble it and wash out all grease, etc., thoroughly, since they are coated with a heavy preservative before shipping from Spain. Summing up, Llama pistols are solidly constructed guns of standard patterns. The .22 especially is appealing because it is a miniature of a "most famous gun," and because of its moderate price and good finish.

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"The finest machine gun in the world," according to Dr. Fred Carten, head of Ordnance's small arms research and development office, has been adopted by the U.S. Army. Under development since 1947, the M60 "General Purpose Machine Gun" (as the receiver is stamped) is replacing our Brownings. Weighing only 23 pounds, plus 7.62 NATO ammo supply in forward-stripping metal links, the M60 built by Inland Division of General Motors Corp. at Dayton, Ohio, was adopted only after tests confirmed its superiority to present equipment. It fires more shots, with equal accuracy, than could be fired in a water-cooled M1917 Browning with an ample supply of water. As many as 20,000 shots in 100-shot bursts went through one barrel, an extreme test for

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Army's new M60 machine gun is beefed-up combination of German FG-42 breech action plus belt feed like MG 42. Pivot lock at root of "U" handle frees barrel.

a water-cooled gun and a fantastic test for an air-cooled job such as the M60. A stellite-lined barrel is the secret of the M60's remarkable endurance, although the official release refers mostly to "the fact that the barrel and gas system can be replaced in a matter of seconds."

Quick barrel removal was intended to prevent overheating. A hot barrel will simply "wash out" and erode to the degree that gas-cutting affects accuracy and, ultimately, functioning. Some experts scoffed at the bulky design of the M60 barrel group, since the gas cylinder plus bipod had to be de-

mounted with the barrel as a unit. This is not a good design from one point of view, but has some merit in that each barrel change includes a new gas cylinder in correct adjustment. At the start of the program, quick barrel change was supposed to aid barrel life, but with the introduction of the stellite liner, redesign of the barrel takedown to improve it became of less consequence. Using stellite, and ball-powder loaded 7.62 NATO, a barrel need not be changed.

"Stellite" is an alloy made by the Haynes-Stellite Co. of Kokomo, Indiana, to combat erosion in gun tubes. Stellite resists erosion in guns by its ability to take extreme heat without changing its physical properties. It is not as machineable as steel.

Stellite lines the M60 barrel for about a dozen inches ahead of the chamber. Liners are formed by the invested casting method, cored under .300" bore. They are then bored and turned, and shaped in the outer steel barrel. A cobalt-base alloy of chrome, tungsten, and carbon, stellite is expensive but pays for itself with results. One observer, in confirming the gruelling 20,000 shot test, said "I didn't count the individual shells—all I know is that there was a machine gun feed belt running from the gun to one hell of a big pile of ammunition."

Basic measurements of this latest Army weapon are: weight, 23 pounds, including cushioned rubber-like shoulder stock, and bipod; overall length, 43 inches; caliber, 7.62 NATO; cyclic rate, 600 rounds per minute; action, rotary bolt, gas operated.

The M60 is heralded as new, but there is some old closet-skeleton rattling heard when the action is clicked. I punched one gun apart in the office of Dr. Carten, chief of ordnance research and development. The barrel group, if the bipod is excluded, looked like an old friend—my faithful M1909 Benet Mercie light machine rifle dating from the days of Pancho Villa.

The receiver group houses a bolt-piston

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assembly patterned after the battle-tested German Fallschermjagewehr '42, introduced in warfare by German paratroopers jumping into Crete. The multiple strand wire springs are like the German original, but heavier, more durable. The feed mechanism is copied from the feed of the German MG 42 which is acknowledged to be one of the most perfected machine gun designs in use today.

This feed system, and our Ordnance Department's infatuation with it dates back to the good old days of WWII when automobile factories were making production miracles in turning out firearms and artillery. One automobile firm, Saginaw Steering Gear Division of General Motors Corp., contracted to copy the MG 42 German machine gun. If successful, there was a strong feeling in Washington that such a gun should be adopted. Tactically and in terms of cost it had much in its favor over the massively-made Brownings.

Saginaw Gear took the job, designated "T-24", and goofed miserably. After 1,483 shots had been fired, the third unsuccessful

a great deal of work in the small arms field these days. The Bridge Tool & Die Works of Philadelphia is also supplying the M60's. Accessory to the gun itself is a tripod with a spring-cushioned gun cradle which slams to the rear slightly on first recoil. The spring cradle then runs forward and, as firing continues, settles "on target" with great steadiness, but without transmitting the sharp shock of recoil stiffly to the mount. Gun "creep" in position is reduced thereby. The first shot is thrown high from any burst, but successive shots are steady. The idea is also used in the Swiss MG 51, a recoil-operated modified MG 42, produced by Neuhausen (SIG).

Full production is under way on the M60, and present machine guns are being replaced by the new model as rapidly as they can be turned out. With America also the supplier of small arms to NATO nations to some extent, it might be expected that the M60 would be exported, too. If so, foreign users will find in the M60 design a composite of old friends, a little heavier made.



Original German MG 42 in 7.9 caliber was built for cheap production, weighed 25 pounds with steel construction, shot 1200 a minute, had one-second barrel change.



Unsuccessful U.S. copy of MG 42 did not allow for difference in case length to .30-06. Same feed was later used in light-alloy and plastic M60 gun which weighs 23 pounds.

test in 1944 was stopped, there having been over 50 serious stoppages.

General Motors' engineers had neglected to adequately compensate for the 1/4" difference in length between the original German 8mm cartridge and our .30 US round. Ordnance concluded that extensive redesign would be necessary. So to save money the guns were bundled up and shipped to Springfield Armory for amusement purposes—"Sam, you made the receiver too long."

Since that time General Motors has redeemed itself in the unscientific but highly practical field of small arms design. With the adoption of the short 7.62 NATO cartridge, feed difficulties inherent in the T-24 seem to have been overcome. A similar feed, copied from the German original, is combined with a bolt and spring system from the FG 42, and an antique French design of 1909, into America's most modern machine gun. Modern materials appear to have been the real reason this weapon is up to date—aluminum in some parts, including the accessory tripod, synthetic rubber hand-contact areas to avoid damage to the skin in extreme cold, plus a stellite barrel liner giving a previously unheard-of barrel life to an air-cooled machine gun.

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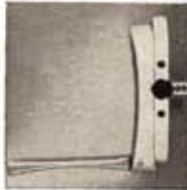
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WHICH BULLET—AND WHY

(Continued from page 22)

siderably higher velocities, flatter trajectories, and greater sectional density in the bullets used, than do their caliber counterparts in standard commercial cartridges. These are factors to be considered where penetration is the objective.

I used the .30-06 because I have had plenty of experience with it, as well as with most of the bullets tested. I believe that the tests used gave a pretty close idea of what might be expected of a given bullet on a game animal. It would be next to impossible to test the ten bullet designs on game animals. Such tests would require years, and literally hundreds of animals, to fire all bullets at exactly the same range at animals of the same weight and standing in exactly the same position.

It was decided to stay as close to factory specifications as possible to keep things on a par with standard factory loadings. The 180 grain bullet was chosen as being the most versatile bullet for the .30-06 cartridge. Government cases were used, 1942 issue from the Denver Arsenal, primed with

Remington bronze point .30 180-grain bullet was tested by Hagel; recovered part was 79 grains.



Western No. 8½ primers, and loaded with 50 grains of DuPont No. 4320. This would give something near 2700 feet per second muzzle velocity with the heavy cases used, and would approximate factory velocities.

For bullet testing, the large ammunition companies have for years used gelatin block targets to study bullets for penetration and expansion. Recently, so I am informed, some of the manufacturers have been using water for these tests, due to the fact that water is always of uniform density and would give uniform results. But these methods are not readily available or practical for the man who does his work in the back yard. Further, it was important that expansion of the bullets be checked at various points along the route of travel.

After much experimenting, we found that large packing boxes made of ordinary corrugated cardboard, filled with a mixture of fine silt and fine pine sawdust, gave quite uniform results in expanding bullets. This mass of sawdust and silt was well wetted down with water to simulate the fluid content of flesh. The result was a mass very similar to the contents of the paunch of a large herbivorous animal. Cardboard spacers were placed at intervals every six inches so that expansion of the bullets could be checked. All firing was done with a standard Springfield barrel and action, from a range of 100 yards. This distance is considered the average game range for most of North America.

After each bullet was fired it was removed from the box and the exact penetration measured and expansion checked on the spacers. The bullets were all wrapped and labeled for weighing and photographing. Photographs were also made of the original unfired bullets, of the sectioned bullets showing jacket construction and design, and of the expanded bullets. The bullets were photographed in the sequence in which they were tested.

Remington's Bronze Point 180-grain slug expanded well, although somewhat late, and penetrated 19 inches. The last few inches of penetration showed a very small hole and very little of the bullet remained. The recovered bullet weighed only 79 grains.

Good expansion on impact was also characteristic of Remington's Core-Lokt pointed soft-point bullet. This penetrated 18 inches, leaving a good-sized channel for the entire distance, with the recovered portion weighing 113 grains. The similar Core-Lokt in the soft-point, round-nose style gave results almost identical to the pointed Core-Lokt in both expansion and penetration, except that the recovered portion weighed 135 grains,

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nearly double the weight remaining in the Bronze Point bullet.

Hornady's round-nose 180 grain hunting bullet, a custom bullet available to hand-loaders, gave rapid expansion and penetration of 14 inches. It sloughed off weight, the recovered fragment scaling 84 grains.

Western Tool & Copper Works makes a 172-grain open-point, pointed bullet. This is their number which weighs closest to 180 grains. Expansion of this bullet was very fast, and the bullet came apart in the first few inches of penetration, leaving only the base which continued to drive in 15 inches. The recovered weight was just 49 grains.

Sierra's soft-point boat-tail 180 grain bullet with a pointed tip expanded well on impact, and penetrated 20 inches. It was noted that there was considerable variation in penetration between individual bullets tested. Some seemed to expand more rapidly than others, thereby losing much penetration. No good reason could be found why these identical custom bullets from the same box should act in this manner. Recovered portions of these bullets ran about 93 grains in weight.

Winchester Silvertip semi-pointed 180 grain bullets tested gave very rapid expansion which caused quick loss of weight and, also, loss of penetration. Depth of penetration was 14 inches and recovered weight was 65 grains. We were not certain that these were Winchester's latest Silvertip bullets. More recently made bullets may show different characteristics.

Ackley's solid-base, semi-pointed soft-point bullet, 180 grains weight, expanded very rapidly. It was found that apparently little of the front part of the jacket or the lead core remained after the first six inches of penetration, the hole being very small in the spacers from that point on. Total penetration was 28 inches and the remaining part of the bullet weighed 104 grains.

The Nosler Partition-Jacket soft-point, a pointed 180-grain type, gave very good expansion from impact to the full length of penetration, with minimum loss in weight. The Nosler bullet drove in 31 inches and the remaining weight was 145 grains.

Thurman Frictionless Double-Jacket soft-point bullets were the last custom type tested. These weigh 180 grains, a pointed type bullet. Expansion was very good at point of impact and spacers indicated a large channel for the entire length of penetration. Depth of penetration was 19 inches, and remaining weight was 116 grains.

For the sake of comparison we fired some 173 grain nine degree boat-tail solid .30 caliber government bullets with the same loading. As is often the case with solid jacket bullets of spitzer form, this bullet turned over after 12 inches penetration and went cart-wheeling for the rest of its penetration. It gradually worked its way to the top of the sawdust and was found on top. The total penetration was 48 inches.

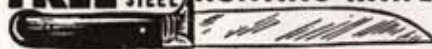
The design of some of the custom bullets, including three of those tested, departs greatly from conventional lines. The three unusual custom bullets are the Ackley, Nosler, and Thurman. The prime objective of these bullets is to give quick and adequate expansion at long range, even on lighter game such as antelope, but with a jacket so designed that expansion will be controlled and sufficient weight remain to insure the

deep penetration so important for heavier game.

The Ackley bullet has a jacket made apparently from copper rod. The rod is drilled with a tapered hole to a little less than half of the jacket length. This forms the front portion of the bullet and is swaged over a lead core to form a semi-pointed, soft-point bullet. The rear part of the rod is left solid and stays intact after expansion for deep penetration. In the tests of this bullet it was found that the front part, including the lead core, seemed to disintegrate very rapidly, which would tend to destroy a great deal of tissue immediately on entering the animal, while the solid base continued on for very deep penetration, but did not disrupt much material after the first few inches.

The Nosler Partition-Jacket bullet is made from gilding metal rod that is drilled out from both ends, which leaves a solid partition about two thirds of the way to the base. The front part of the rod is drilled to form a jacket with a thin point, gradually increasing in thickness toward the partition. Both ends of the jackets are filled with lead cores and swaged to shape. The section of the jacket directly over the partition is cut down to approximately bore diameter to reduce friction at this point.

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thereby giving reduced pressures. This bullet has been made in both soft-point and open-point design.

Nosler's bullet expands very well on impact, disrupting a large amount of tissue, and the action seems to continue almost as far as penetration extends. The tapered jacket seems to bloom out very well and the bullet expands to quite large size, with some of the lead core almost always remaining intact.

The Thurman Frictionless Double-Jacket bullet is an experimental type, not yet on the market. While patents are pending, they are not yet being made in quantity. This bullet has a front jacket which fits inside a rear jacket and is seated to about 3/16" depth. Before seating takes place, a lead core is inserted in the rear jacket. Then the smaller front jacket is also filled with a lead core and seated inside the rear jacket. Both jackets are swaged together to form a soft-point, pointed bullet. The base of the front jacket forms a partition between the front and rear cores. The rather thin front jacket expands quite rapidly on impact and rolls back over the heavier rear jacket which seems to stop expansion at that point very well. A wide cannellure 3/32" long and of bore diameter is rolled into the rear jacket about 1/8" ahead of the base. This two-diameter jacket is designed to reduce friction and pressures and seems to accomplish that end. This very interesting bullet should have great possibilities for hunting.

To date I have never had the opportunity to try either the Ackley or Thurman bullets on game, but feel that they would do very

well. I have, however, killed many head of game from coyotes to elk, with Nosler bullets, and I have found that in every instance they performed perfectly. I have expanded them on coyotes at more than 300 yards and I have driven them entirely through elk at ranges from 40 to 400 yards. In fact, no matter what I shot them into, they always penetrated entirely through the animal and left a 2" exit hole. It would be hard for me to imagine a better bullet for all kinds of game and under all kinds of hunting conditions.

There are many manufacturers of bullets that were not mentioned in the tests. Their product was not bypassed because they lacked merit or for any other reason. It was impossible to use all bullets, so we used what we felt were representative samples of the many similar designs. Experience has proved that bullets of similar design will perform very nearly alike under identical condition.

Experience in the hunting field indicated that, for me at least, the Remington Core-Lokt bullet was the most reliable from both the standpoint of expansion and penetration, especially on the heavier animals. This is particularly true since the advent of the pointed version. The pointed bullet is much better adapted to long range shooting than was the round-nose bullet.

Sum this up in any way you wish—but before you buy or load up ammunition for the fall hunt, give a little thought to the bullet you stick in the case. Remember, it's the bullet, how it expands and penetrates, that either gives a clean kill or leaves a suffering cripple.

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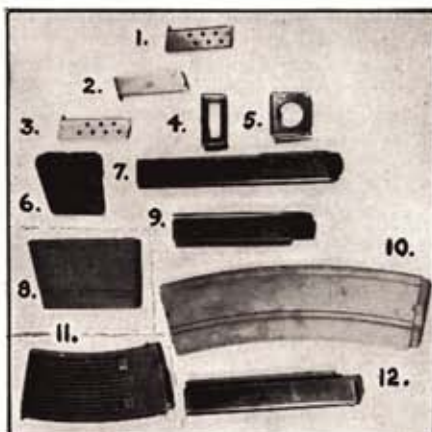
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(Continued from page 15)

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Alaska U students keep guns in dormitory rooms, ready to go after big game.

mountain goat. The greatest display of the students' hunting and fishing prowess occurs when the University of Alaska Wildlife Club holds its annual banquet. The members dig into their own larders to fill the menu, which includes just about everything except broiled hummingbird tongues.

Usually the guests can eat caribou, deer, moose, bison, Dall sheep, mountain goat, hare, squirrel, spruce hens, ptarmigan, a variety of bear, seal, muktuk (whale blubber and skin), whitefish, trout, salmon, pike, herring, cod, and walrus. Then there are also those northern "exotic" dishes, including wolf, fox, coyote, lynx, and raven.

Bison usually wins when the diners vote for their favorite dish.

Two of the 100-man dormitories on campus have special kitchens where students may fry a steak when they wish. First, though, they must go to their deep freezers to get the meat. These usually are their automobile trunks, where the zero-and-below weather excels a deep-freeze for winter storage.

The male students aren't the only persons who participate in these hunts. Many of the coeds pile their parkas, snowshoes and weapons into their cars when hunting season rolls around. Often as not, they bring home the bacon, or moose. So do many of the faculty members and administrative staff.

This interest in weapons isn't limited to the hunting season. The campus has Reserve Officers Training Corps smallbore

teams, the varsity team, a girl's rifle team and, since the fall of 1956, a newly organized faculty wives' team. They compete among themselves, with the riflemen of the various organized sportsmen's clubs in the territory, those on the military bases, and in postal matches.

Much of this activity is possible because it has the approval and support of Col. Kenneth C. Haycraft, professor of military science and tactics and commanding officer of the ROTC detachment. This veteran of World War II staunchly believes that Americans should know how to shoot.

So do Major William F. Hartman, assistant professor of military science and tactics, and a veteran of both World War II and the Korean conflict, and Master Sergeant Martin D. Finden, instructor of military science and tactics and also a World War II veteran—artillery, by the way.

These latter two soldiers spend many off-duty hours helping coach the teams to the peak of proficiency. The rapidly increasing enrollment at the university sometimes crowds the range a bit, but all participants

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are anxiously awaiting construction of the proposed new gymnasium which will boast the most modern of ranges.

Mrs. John Hoskins, wife of a geology professor, has volunteered much of her spare time to help instruct the women. Her assistant is my wife Betty, who actually finds shooting a more interesting activity than was her professional modeling career "outside."

The present crowded range facilities haven't prevented the ROTC from making them available to smallbore shooters of the Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association. And last winter the two organizations pooled their resources to bring even more shooters to the campus. These are Fairbanks area youngsters.

Sgt. Finden started this new program, assisted by Louis Bandirola, junior wildlife management student from New York and one of the men who brought the 1956 smallbore honors to the campus. The sergeant said that he wants to get well-trained marksmen for the university rifle team as soon as they enroll on campus. He also likes to work with youngsters and feels that every American youth should have an adequate knowledge of weapons.

"The University of Alaska ROTC team competes in postal matches with 'outside' universities which have riflemen of several years' experience," the sergeant explained. "We have been winning quite a few matches, but we think that as our Junior Shooters' Program gains steam and the boys come to the university we'll be able to do even better."

The sergeant instructs them with the marksmanship phase of the program, and the TVSA actually conducts the firing. The university furnishes the rifles and other

equipment, and the TVSA the ammunition. TVSA officials say that their organization is participating because it wants to assure the growth of outdoorsmen who are well versed both in marksmanship and the proper handling of firearms.

The young shooters are given junior hunters' safety instruction, in addition to the smallbore competitive program. They start observing the safety rules as soon as they set foot on the rifle range.

There are no fees attached to the program. The only requirement is a letter from the parents granting permission for their sons to participate. Boys and girls from 12 years through high school are eligible.

"Our long term plan is to form a Junior Shooters' League which will compete with other such organizations, both locally and in postal matches," the sergeant said. "From what we have seen thus far, I think that it is safe to say that these Alaskan boys are going to offer some pretty stiff competition in future matches. Most important, though, we know that they'll savvy how to handle firearms when they go into Alaska's well-stocked game areas."

One might think that the ROTC would consider the addition of this program about the limit of what can be done for shooters on and around campus.

But it's a big campus in a big country and maybe that's why the sergeant, who turned down an assignment in a university stateside recently to enable him to carry through the Alaska program, says a bit wistfully "we really ought to start working up some pistol teams; they'd probably do all right, too."

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A GUN COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

(Continued from page 19)

three-pound trigger needed was to brush roughly against a fold of clothing.

Another place to carry the defensive arm is inside the waistband behind the point of the hip. Under nothing more than a shirt it is not noticeable at all in this position although very slow to get into action. Outside the shirt under a jacket it is much faster but again not nearly so available as the shooting iron snuggled up against the navel. The automatics fit best in the belt over the hip. The flat, clean shape of the self-loader makes it a natural for this carry. I prefer to turn the butt to the front. It cuddles against the body better that way and is less apt to drop down your pants leg. It is slow, but as stated in the first stanzas of this opus, a feller isn't apt to have to make a quick draw no-how. If he has got a pint of brains and can see trouble shaping up, he'll have his gun in hand.

I have had some amusing experiences with a shooting iron carried thusly. I habitually packed an automatic in Spain. One day I met a group of business acquaintances and, after the Castizo custom, we gave each other hearty embraces. One old grandee embraced me and patted me in fatherly manner. The first whack, his hand whanged down on the hard butt of the automatic. I could see the wheels going around as clearly as though his brains were encased in glass. He thought his hand had struck a gun butt but he wasn't sure. He patted again. This time there was no doubt. He backed off and I knew that he was thinking—"Those damned Tejanos never leave their shooting irons at home." I just grinned at him.

Another time the shoe was on the other foot. I wasn't in Spain, but was attending a very ritzy diplomatic cocktail party. As the country was dangerous and as I had to walk about six blocks to this elbow-bending, I shoved my gun in my belt beneath my coat. While standing talking to mine host that evening, this shooting iron slipped down my leg and plopped on the tile floor. I swooped down and gathered it up, dropped it in my coat pocket and never missed a turn in the conversation.

Almost as "diplomatic" was a fellow officer who was with me in Merrie auld England during the war. The two of us were invited to a castle warming one eve and he elected to shove his .45 auto into his waistband. The lieutenant was an Okie, had carried a six-shooter all his life, and had no intention of changing his habits. We went to this very charming housewarming, given by a Sir John Something-or-other, and during the course of the festivities, the lieutenant's old thumb-buster came trundling down his pants leg and went skidding across the dance floor. I wasn't around at the time but it must have been the highlight of the evening.

There are other fair to middlin' spots to tote a shooting iron and I have no quarrel with them. The outside pocket of the ordinary dress coat is okay if it is roomy enough. The gun will sag the pocket and is rather

Big frame S & W rides high inside belt. Carry is well hidden by coat.



conspicuous, but if someone notices they will probably conclude you are packing a double ration of limburger on rye, or maybe a new set of lifter gears for the hayrake, and let it go at that.

An especially good place to stow the cutter is an overcoat pocket. The topcoat is ordinarily of sufficiently heavy material so that it does not reveal the outline of the weapon and it will not sag. It is the usual habit to drop the hands in the overcoat pockets and when this is done the gun can be gathered up and made ready. A really fast draw can then be made. If the *pistola* has been properly fashioned for its job, it will whip out of the overcoat like an unleashed Nike missile.

A poor location for the handgun is the hip pocket. Even when this spot is utilized with a holster which fits inside the pocket it is still poor. We Americans, poor moderns that we are, sit all day, and a hunk of steel in a back pocket isn't conducive to comfort. Nor for speed of draw, although that is secondary. Even a gun that has been overhauled for the business is slow and awkward to draw from the hip pocket carry.

There are other locations about the body where a pistol can be tucked away. Most of them are slow but the important thing is that the gun is present. I one time caught a Yaqui coming out of Mexico who had a .32 Mauser strung between his shoulder blades on a buckskin thong; and later on I caught another *cholo* with an old Hopkins and Allen .41 slung below his crotch, again by a length of rawhide.

Gamblers used to swing the .41 derringer on an elastic band which jerked the over-under pistol up the voluminous sleeve. When trouble brewed, they simply shook the gun down into the palm.

During that big sporting event which took so many of our best performers to Europe and other way stations from '41 to '45, I became acquainted with an OSS major who had para-jumped into the Balkans. His only gun was a Colt .32 auto which he taped to his thigh. He said he had tried strapping the weapon to his thigh and to his calf just below the knee. He liked the thigh carry best. There was little danger, he claimed, of the tape giving way and permitting the gun to be lost. The adhesive bound itself to the hair on the leg and would never loosen.

A pistol swung between the shoulder blades, in the crotch, beneath the arm, or taped to the leg isn't for the gent who maybe will need a gun in a hurry. These are locations for the crafty ones who, playing a dead, desperate game, and biding their time, intend to fish out that shooting iron when the opposition has its guard down.

The selection of really top-drawer hardware for self-defense carrying finds the field far from crowded. Best and sweetest of the current crop, in my opinion, is the new Smith & Wesson 9 mm automatic.

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is a bare 7 1/4 inches in length, weighs but 28 ounces, and has a stock that is deep enough to afford a good handhold but isn't unduly long. Unquestionably the best part of the story is the fact that the Smith is a 9 mm. This puts it out of the class of "pocket" automatics. The 9 mm Parabellum, sometimes called the 9 mm Luger, is one of the best loads in the book. It is the choice of more military forces around the world than any other caliber. The case is loaded with a variety of charges. Some of them are on the peewee side, others are moderately loaded, and still others souped up like a racing Jaguar. Even the light loads, like the American 9 mm foddors, far outshine the .32 and .380 ACP.

The S & W has an inertia type firing pin which requires the full fall of the hammer to set off the primer. I'd not hesitate to pack the auto with full combat load and safety in ready position.

The Walther auto pistols as imported by Thelson or by Interarmco, as well as the Mauser HSC, not currently in manufacture but still around in numbers, are good self-defense guns from the standpoint of double action, compactness, and featherweight. All of them are on the bantam side so far as caliber is concerned, ranging from .22 through .32 to the .380. The latter should be the long-odds choice and even then, if you've got to shoot somebody, pick out an hombre who isn't very mad.

Among the six shooters, the choice of caliber provides more power. The best of the current makes include the .38 Special caliber, which is an excellent defense cartridge.

A very worthwhile hideout gun is the Colt Detective Special with 2" barrel. It weighs 21 ounces and runs to an overall length of 6 3/4 inches. With the hammer spur removed, this is a very good defense gun. The S & W Chief's Special, as well as that old standby the Military and Police Model .38 with rounded butt, both with two-inch barrels, are also fine for the purpose. The S & W sixguns have smooth double action operation which is appreciated when you want to trigger off quick shots without pausing to ear back the hammer.

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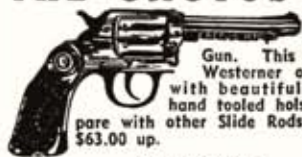
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Another Smith that is a darby for pocket carry is the Centennial. This little bruiser is a hammerless, works in and out of a pocket as smoothly as the hand itself. It is available in .38 Special caliber.

There are people who preach that guns should never be fired by one human being at another, and this is a fine doctrine so long as it works. But it has to work both ways, and the criminal elements in this and other countries don't play by those rules. The defense gun is a weapon to help a man defend himself, his wife and family, or his property, against those non-rule-abiding gentry. A grizzled old Texas ranger was once asked what he would do now, today, to stop a crime wave that was sweeping a big city. He said, "I'd arm the citizens and teach 'em to shoot!" The old man had something.

Pick the defense gun that best suits your fancy and the conditions under which you will probably use it. Keep it handy. Carry it wherever suits you best, but don't choose your method of carrying just because you think that's the best method from which to make a lightin' draw. Depend on your good sense to tell when trouble is heading in your direction and have the gun ready to meet it. The fact that you have it, and have it ready, will discourage an awful lot of would-be trouble. And if trouble does sneak up on you when you're not looking, wait till it turns its back or looks in the other direction, then tell it, "Trouble, I've got you covered. Stand real steady while I think what to do about it." It's surprising how meek trouble can be when a gun tips the scales in the other direction.

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This second edition of the book by GUNS Technical Editor William B. Edwards will be welcome news to many gun bibliophiles who failed to get in on the first printing. In the brief span of four years since its first appearance, "The Story of the Colt Revolver" has become a standard text of the Colt chapter in American firearms history. Its publishers said of it, "This is the story of an invention, the story of an amazing family, and the story of a new procedure—mass production." The book fulfills all three promises with a thoroughly documented though still thoroughly readable coverage. The truly fantastic yet fantastically true story of John Colt's trial for and conviction of murder, recently refurbished in magazine print, appears here with considerably greater fidelity than is offered in most other versions, yet with a wry twist of humor that holds reader-interest. The first printing of this book was 5,000 copies, and they're gone. Unless you already know all there is to know about Colt and the Colt weapons, you'd better ask your dealer to save a copy of this edition for you.—EBM

ARMENS ELDHANDVAPEN

By Josef Alm
(Royal Armory Museum, Stockholm, Sweden, \$10.00)

Written in Swedish, this "Royal Armory Museum Handbook No. 206" covering old and new hand firearms in the Swedish service is one of the most comprehensive volumes of its kind to be published anywhere. The illustrations will benefit the American collector and gun dealer. Carefully detailed drawings of musket furniture, for example, offer a sure guide to dating and assigning a model designation to a piece that would

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otherwise be dismissed as "odd foreign gun." Accessories including bayonets are shown in detail. Many are in side and top view line drawings with dimensions. The development of firearms and ignition systems is treated in a thorough manner. Modern collectors will find details on the Lahti pistol, the Swedish Walther "P-39," the various models of Browning and Swedish-service Thompson sub-machine guns, of much interest. The old arms are given a thorough coverage, while intermediate systems such as pin fire and early metallic cartridge arms are pictured with the model designation and dates of their issue in the Swedish armed forces. The book is especially rich in facts, figures and pictures of the many models of Scandinavian Remington and Remington-system rifles. The book may be ordered directly from the Royal Armory in Stockholm. As stated, its 386 pages are all in Swedish, but the wealth of factual information plus hundreds of illustrations of arms give it a value greater than the objection of needing a Swedish dictionary to read it.—WBE

YOUR SHOTGUN vs. YOU!

By Russ Elliott

(Brown-White-Lowell, Kansas City, Mo. \$2.75)

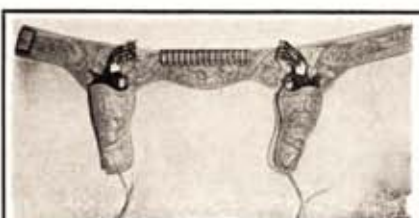
Ever wish you had an older pal to talk over shooting problems with? This book is it, and the "older pal" with more years of shotgunning experience under his hat than a couple of months of Sundays is Russ Elliott, son of a shotgunner, and for more than fifty years operator of his own scattergun layout. The ten chapters are written in rambling style, friendly, always informative, often humorous. The total result is that in its 116 pages this book touches on just about every problem of shooting a shotgun, with often terse but clear comments on the good, bad or indifferent nature of popular belief on the subject. The beginning shotgunner will get a lot of sophistication and good sense from Russ Elliott's book, and the oldsters with a barn full of silver trophies will get many a chuckle, and learn a thing or two. This book is fun, and you can't help learning something from it.—WBE

OUTDOOR HORIZONS

Edited by Lawrence Brings

(T. S. Denison & Co., Minneapolis, \$7.50)

This is one of those volumes which prove that books can be fun. The word "magnificent" is not correct to apply to the illustrations, for that word seems to imply a certain heaviness, a ponderous touch in color and line. Instead, the dozen paintings and 24 drawings by Roger Preuss, internationally



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in coloring, a transparency like the thin
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which is this handsome book's frontispiece.
The illustrations of ducks, geese, fish and
wild animals, are significant contributions
to the total pleasure of this book. In addi-
tion, the real "meat" of the volume consists
of 30 articles by writers who may be
"nationally known in the field of outdoor
writing and conservation" but who are, more
importantly, good writers. Jimmy Robinson,
Jack Connor, Joe Small, Louis Lucas, are a
few of the important writers who have con-
tributed to make "Outdoor Horizons" a
volume calculated to stretch your stuffy living
room horizon to the limit of all outdoors. It
is an adventure by printed page into the
open.—WBE

DUCK SHOOTING

Along the Atlantic Tidewater
Edited by Eugene V. Connett
(William Morrow & Co., \$15.00)

The primary aim of this book, first pub-
lished in 1947 and now reissued, was to set
down before it was too late the first-hand
stories of men who actually witnessed the
passage of the old days of commercial wild-
fowl shooting. Stories are included also of
the great shooting that came just after
market gunning was outlawed—shooting the
like of which we will not see again in this
country because wildfowl will not fly again
here in such numbers. But the book as pub-
lished contains even more than that. Chapters
were added on present-day gunning on the
famous stands from Maine to the Gulf-coast
marshes. There is a chapter on the making
and painting of decoys; and there is expert
advice on practically all phases of duck gun-
ning—the use of boats, blinds, rigs, and de-
coys, on the selection, training, and use of re-
trievers, and on the guns used "then and
now," from the horrendous punt-guns of the
old market hunters to today's sleekest custom-
tooled repeaters. Sixty-four full pages of
photographic illustration lend authenticity
and interest; but the crowning glory of the
edition is the set of full-color plates from the
paintings of Lynn Bogue Hunt and Dr.
Edgar Burke. These are real gems, worthy
of framing. It's a big book, guaranteed to
provide many hours of real enjoyment.—EBM

SOUND OF THE GUNS

By Fairfax Downey
(David McKay \$5.50)

It's no pun to say that the old cannoneer's
story of American artillery is a bang-up job.
Downey, who served in World War I with the
Artillery in France, has achieved a just repu-
tation for interesting military writing, to
which this book adds another "oak leaf

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cluster." This is not a technical book, but a readable, fascinating account of battles and men, through which is threaded a subdued note of the development of the U. S. Artillery from the French and Indian wars to the atomic artillery of World War III.

Throughout the book, Downey makes liberal use of vibrant quotes, anecdotes, or glowing re-writes of official report of battles which make the smoke and flame and drumming barrage roll forth from every page. A fine piece of work and not heavy reading, the book serves sometimes to place overlooked heroes of the Artillery into the pages of history. Drawings by contemporary artists, photos taken at the front showing artillery in action, and old and modern prints of the guns and the men who fired them supplement this handsome book.—WBE

MEN IN ARMS

By R. Preston, S. F. Wise, H. O. Werner (Frederick Praeger, New York \$6.50)

This is not a book for the GUNS Magazine reader who worries about whether the screw-heads on a gun run in all the same direction; therefore it is a different model from another where they run at right angles; nor for the gun collector who is enthusiastic over the fact that the chief inspector of his "martial arm" accidentally had his die stamp reversed when he passed the piece. It is a book for the gun designer, to show him how wars, weapons, and the development of modern military civilization to today's "cold war" are interwoven. It is for the gun collector who wants to know why and how the guns he owns affected the people living in the days when those guns were the latest arms in use. It is for the man who has an interest in the world in which he lives, and how it got that way. Subtitled "A History of Warfare and its Interrelationships with Western Society," this new book by a triumvirate of professors of military history will help clarify much thinking on "what gun for NATO?" and similar problems. It sets forth plainly some of the combat situations which have existed recently, and how they affected the design of, or were themselves modified by, the many kinds of weapons and tactics employed. And by telling the story over 3000 years of history, the book gives a new slant on the silent terror of the Bomb today.—WBE



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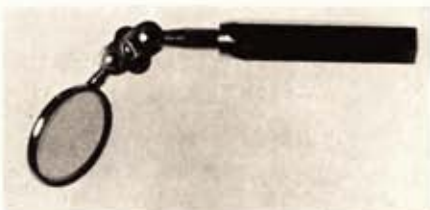
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POWDER SCALE made by Webster Scale Mfg. Co., Dept. G5, Box 718, Sebring, Florida, their new model RW-1, is guaranteed accurate to .1 grain. Features non-swing rider weights for .1, 1 and 10 grains in large, easy-to-set notches, self-aligning bearings, and pouring lip on the deep pan. Original hydraulic damper has oil in a convenient separate container with a screw cap, cuts weighing time in half. Pointer scale has wide, clear, .1 grain divisions, weighs up to 360 grains. Well finished and precision made for those who want a better scale. \$16.50 at dealers or direct. Handy accessory funnel and holder, pictured, \$2.50. Holder alone that takes Guns Funnel, \$1.50.



SPORTER TARGET RIFLE in the new model 140B is Mossberg's latest .22 caliber rifle for a day of fun afield, fitted with their hinged peep sight to be suitable for junior shooters or the man who likes an inexpensive rifle with an aperture sight. Has ½ minute click sight adjustments, ramp front with four interchangeable inserts. Bolt action, 7-shot clip magazine, 24½" barrel handling .22 LR cartridges, standard or high speed. Receiver grooved for Mossberg 4M4 scope. Weight 5¾ pounds, takedown; priced at only \$33.95 (\$1.00 more west of Rockies) at your dealer, or write O. F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., Dept. G5, New Haven 5, Conn.



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WATER PROOF BOOTS made of "bavonized" leather are said to be much more resistant to soaking than untreated leather. New process leather is now available in all styles of Royal Worcester sport boots, made by Worcester Shoe Co., Dept. G-5, Worcester, Mass. These patented, insulated boots come in moccasin and plain toe styles, 6, 8, and 10-inch uppers. Bavonized leather "breathes" and allows feet to perspire naturally, tending to keep feet dry inside by evaporating natural moisture, as well as protect from wet weather outside. New tanning material is Bavon 66, produced for leather industry by Koppers Company.

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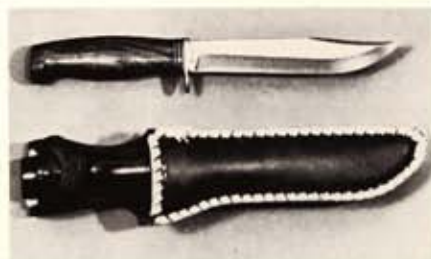


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