

JUNE 1966 50c

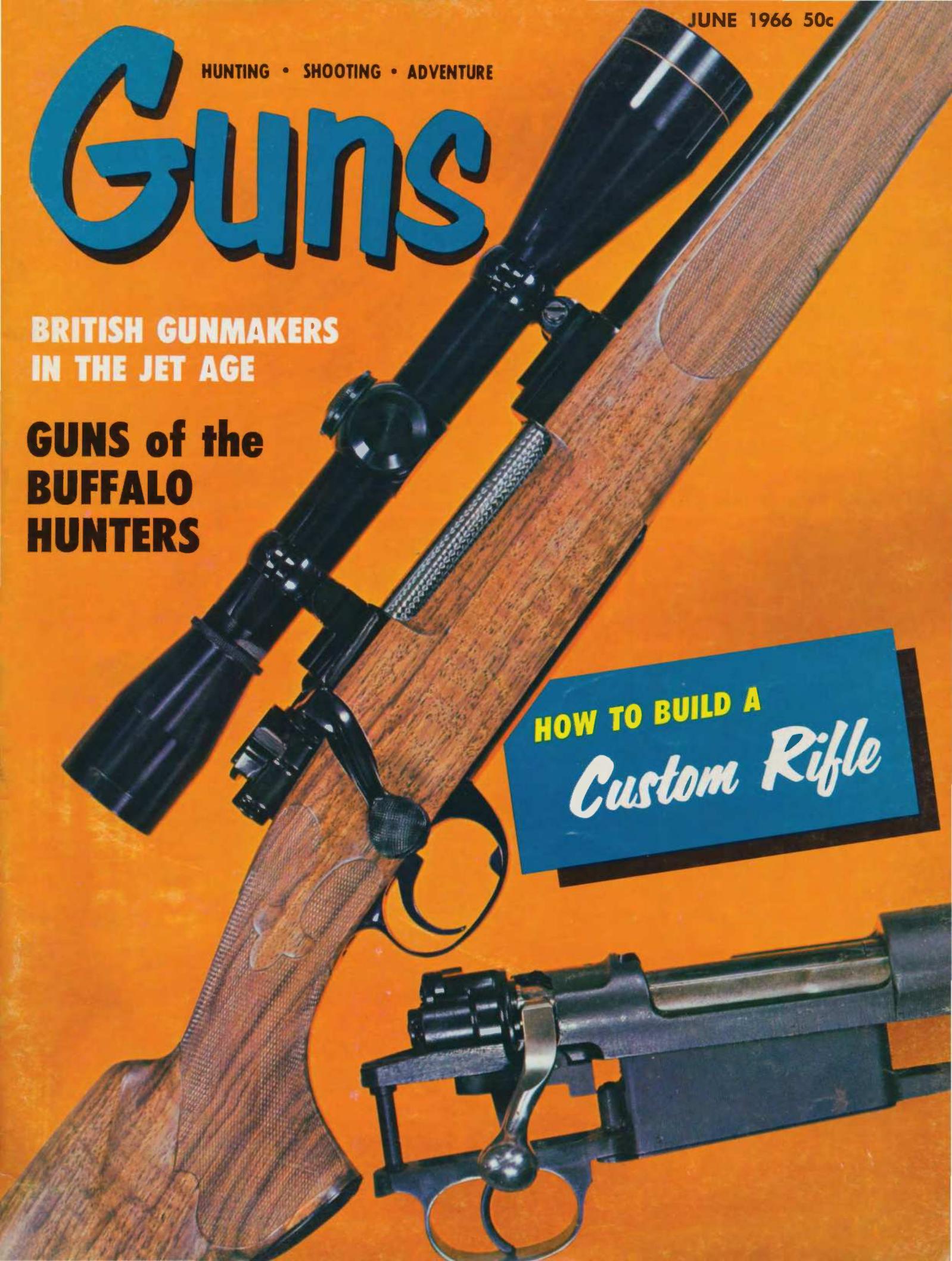
HUNTING • SHOOTING • ADVENTURE

Guns

**BRITISH GUNMAKERS
IN THE JET AGE**

**GUNS of the
BUFFALO
HUNTERS**

HOW TO BUILD A
Custom Rifle



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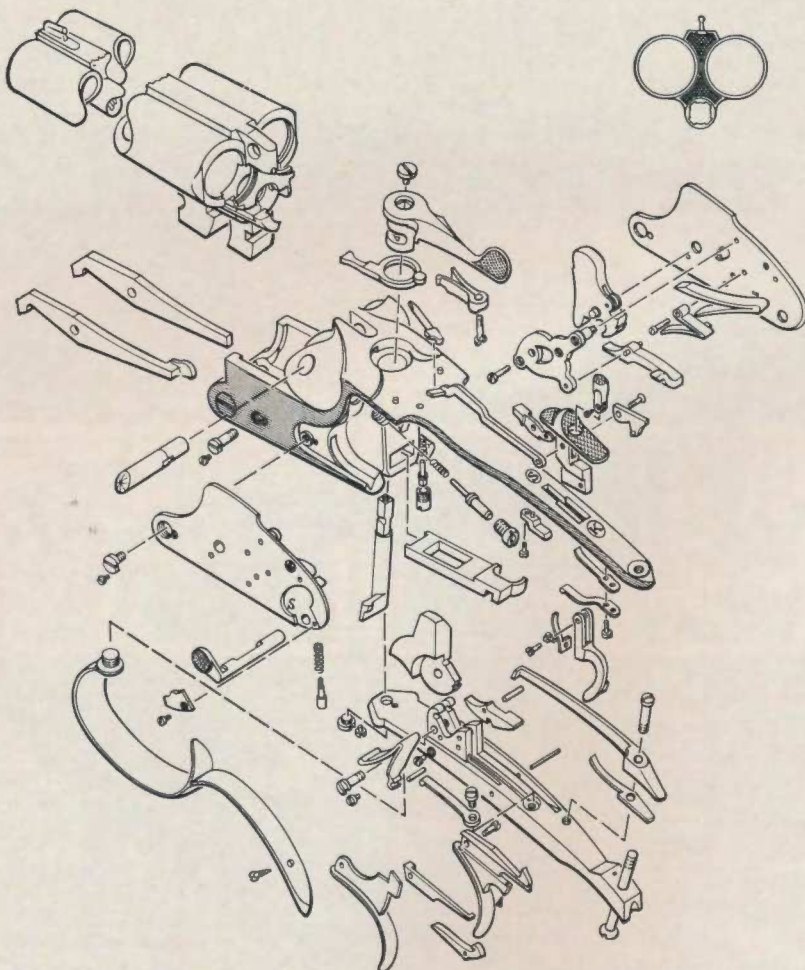
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AN INSIDE LOOK

AT THE COMBINATION GUN

By SHELLEY BRAVERMAN



WHILE THE COMBINATION GUN ("Drilling" in German) is usually encountered as a double shotgun over a single rifle barrel, many other combinations have been made: Side-by-side and over/under rifle and shotgun combinations (when side-by-side they are known as "Cape Guns"); double rifle barrels over a single shotgun barrel; and four barrel guns in various combinations and others.

The combination gun usually represents the pinnacle of the art and science of ultra-fine gun craftsmanship; not only must the barrels be "regulated" (involving assembly and reassembly to control point-of-impact), but makers vie to achieve minimum weight and add refinements which included: disappearing rear sights, the control button for same also activating the rifle trigger mechanism; cocking indicators that indicate which hammers are cocked; side and tang

safetys; push-forward set triggers; built-in telescope mounts; ultra fine engraving; bullet traps in stocks; elevator check-pieces; and hand-fitted actions.

Although most were made (or made and assembled) in Germany, combination guns were also made in England, Belgium, Spain, and the United States. Buxton's Guide lists six firms currently manufacturing various grades of combination guns.

WARNING: Many of the combination guns in this country came in as WW II souvenirs when ammunition was not available for many of their rifle-barrels; the re-chambering required to permit acceptance of make-shift ammunition sometimes resulted in dangerous guns, as they were originally designed with minimum safety factors to achieve maximum weight reduction. It is strongly advised that such guns be proof tested by competent gunsmiths.

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

JUNE, 1966
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THE COVER

Dave Wolfe, new Handloading Editor of GUNS Magazine, not only starts his regular column in this issue, he also shows us his custom rifle, created by Al Biesen of Spokane, Washington. Made up in Dave's favorite caliber, .25-06, it sports the newest Leupold scope, their M-8, 7.5X. Dave's article starts on page 18. Photo by Walter K. Schwartz, Peoria, Illinois.

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For the first time a bit of traditional Early Americana is being recreated by custom American gunsmithing. H & A has reproduced the Kentucky rifle in all its original splendor with greater accuracy than even its historically famous predecessor. This is the same rifle that first gained fame as it outdistanced and outshot British muskets. Working its way through the Smokies this great muzzle loader provided many a Colonial family with squirrel pie and many a hostile Indian with an untimely end. Recapture this great moment of American history with your own H & A Minuteman muzzle loading rifle.

• CHOICE OF WALNUT, CHERRY OR MAPLE STOCK

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A big 55" over-all length. Weight 9½ lbs. Rifled steel octagonal barrel a full 39" long finished in high luster blue with a choice of uniform or gain twist rifling.

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By R. A. STEINDLER

6.5 Remington Magnum

In the December issue of GUNS, I predicted that Remington would introduce the necked-down .350 case in the 6.5 version. This was a correct guess, and Remington is chambering the Model 600 for this new cartridge. The ballistics will be somewhat better than those of the .270 Winchester, and for the time being Remington will only load the 120 gr. bullet. As of this moment, no factory ballistics have been announced and I had Paul Haberly, our staff gunsmith, trim and cut the bull barrel of the test gun that I had made up to the same proportions as the barrel of the Model 600.

The 120 gr. Speer bullet with 56.0 gr. of 4350 and CCI 200 primer gave an average MV of 3050 fps. Since there was no case head expansion and there were no signs of extraction difficulties and the primers were not flattened, it is probably true that the load could be stepped up a grain or so, but our editorial deadline precluded further testing of this load. With the same bullet and primer, but using 59.5 gr. of 4831, the average muzzle velocity was 3096 fps. This chronographing was done indoors with the Avtron hooked into 110 v current. Screen spacing was ten feet and the start screen was located 10 feet from the muzzle. This may not sound very impressive since the 130 gr. factory load for the .270 cartridge develops a MV of 3140 fps, but keep in mind that the factory data are those derived from a 26 inch barrel, while the actual chronograph readings and those advertised by the factories hardly ever agree. The 18½ inch barrel of the test gun gives the 120 gr. bullet an MV which is slightly over 3000 fps, and once final loads have been determined, I would not be surprised to find that the 120 gr. bullet gets an MV of 3100 fps or better.

Shotshell Warning

It came to my attention toward the tail-end of the last bird season that some shooters, to get more oomph out of their 2¾" shotguns, were using 3" shells in them. This, according to those fellows, does no harm to the gun or the shooter, but that ain't so. The 3 inch shells develop more pressure and being longer, there's a jam of shot and wads trying to get out the chamber and into and through the barrel. Since the three inch shell does not open fully because of the

cone, pressures rise sharply. I queried Ted McCawley of Remington about this and although he did not supply me with pressure data, he reported, "We definitely do not recommend this. It's a dangerous practice and could result in damage to the gun and possible injury to the shooter." And the few extra pellets are not worth taking those chances—you are better off to get in some more practice on the trap or skeet field.

Norma .223 Ammo

Norma recently shipped me some .223 ammo that did real well on the range. Loaded with the 55 gr. bullet, the 100 yard 5 shot groups averaged around 1.25 inch, and bullet expansion was perfect. Norma reports an MV of 3300 fps with a 1330 ft/lbs. energy. At 100 yards, the velocity is 2900 fps, with an energy of 1027 ft/lbs. My own velocity tests, using an Avtron chronograph with 10 foot screen spacings and the start



screen located 5 feet from the muzzle, gave me a consistent reading of 3265 fps which is extremely close to that figure published by Norma. This difference is of course explained by barrel length, chamber differences, and also by the fact that Norma uses an indoor range while I am using an outdoor range and temperature, humidity, and screen conditions do make a difference.

Pacific's Can-Go

This is a simple, smooth—working can thrower which is operated by spring power rather than by the usual .22 blanks. Although it is designed for steel beverage cans, the cans which consist partly of metal and partly of cardboard will do the job, though they have to be weighted. I found that a hunk

of scrap wood and a piece of masking tape over the open end of the can does the trick very neatly, and using the Can-Go does not require any manual dexterity or skill. The \$5.95 price tag on the compact can-go will make it possible for a lot of people to get in some fast shotgun practice sessions in the nearest field—but don't forget to pick up the debris! Although not new, the Pacific Reloaders Pouch has been streamlined and revamped so that it might be called "new." This pouch is of course the item that trap and skeet shooters use to save their empty hulls and your Pacific dealer has them.

Remington's Post-Wad

This new Post-Wad was designed for the 16 yard trap shooter especially, and for the full choke trap shooter in particular. A modified choke gun on the 16 yard stripe, the Post-Wad does equally as well as the full choke tube. Essentially, here is what happens as the shot with the Post-Wad goes down the barrel. When the wad-shot combination passes the constriction of the full choke, the shot exerts pressure against the post in the center of the plastic wad. As the whole package leaves the muzzle, the pressure on the wad is released suddenly and the wad snaps back to its former shape, form, and size. This releases the shot and you get a perfectly sized and distributed pattern at 16 yards. With a Model 1100 full choke gun and with a couple of boxes of Remington trap loads with the Post-Wad, I went out and broke a few clays for possible pictures. Despite several attempts to capture the release of the shot column from the wad on film, we got nothing but some nice gun barrel pictures. I then settled down to the business at hand and broke 22 and 23 in two rounds of trap—the highest scores I had fired this year.

Bushnell's Banner Scope

I have recently concluded tests on two Bushnell scopes, and now I have a new Bushnell scope to report on. This one is actually an old friend, but it might as well be called a new scope . . . there are so many improvements in it that it proved to be easier to start the tests anew rather than to dig out the old results from the files. The 4X Banner scope has an eye relief of 3.5 to 5 inches which makes it suitable for use on the magnum rifles, especially the light ones, where recoil is often somewhat more severe than on the heavier guns of the same caliber.

The Banner scope passed the immersion and freezer tests very well, the drop tests were negative, and the finish of the aluminum alloy tube proved to be very good and almost scratch resistant. Windage and elevation adjustments are positive, although the clicks of the adjustment screws are not as audible as one could wish for. However, even with heavy gloves, I was able to feel the adjustment and the markings are readily legible, so that a return to a previous zero setting is not difficult—providing you remember how many clicks and in which direction the adjustment should be made. Perhaps the best thing about this 4X Banner scope is that the new quality still comes at the old price—only \$37.50.

More Conetrol Mounts

In an effort to produce a Conetrol mount for the M1 carbine, the Conetrol company and S & K have joined forces and developed one of the finest mounts for the M1 carbine that I have seen ever since the trend to scope the carbine took hold. The S & K Insta-Mount bottom is projectionless, and since the Conetrol mount has no projections either, the combined unit is not only highly functional, but also darned good-looking. You can get the Conetrol mounts either from your dealer, or directly from Conetrol Scope Mounts, Dept. G, Highway 123 South, Seguin, Texas, 78155.

Homer Powley

Homer Powley, the originator of the Powley computer, the Pmax, and the psi calculator, has recently moved. Since the beginning of the year, Homer has worked for Colt's, and his home address is 103 Farmstead Lane, Glastonbury, Conn., 06033. Phone: 203-633-5871. Homer is one of the charter members of Experimental Ballistics Associates and has done extensive research and load development for Joyce Hornady.

DuPont Discontinues Powders

DuPont recently announced that the manufacture of the single-base Hi-Skor shotshell powder and 5066 is being discontinued. Once present stocks are exhausted, that will be the end for both powders. As far as I have been able to learn, no replacement powders are being considered. Hi-Skor 700-X will continue in production and DuPont plans to issue, in the very near future, completely revised loading data.

MEC News

Ted Bachhuber, the trapshooting ace and chieftain of the Mayville Engineering Co., offers some new developments. All MEC shotshell loaders now come with what he calls the Spindex crimp starter. This is a conventional crimp starter mounted on a rotating pin that allows the handloader to index the shell that requires the use of the crimp starter. It makes a perfect crimp on plastic hulls, and indexing is simple.

The MEC 600, which I saw in its prototype form over a year ago, is now being offered with a special programmer unit. It is possible for the handloader to miss a station or fail to notice that the shot or powder hopper has run dry. In such a case, the non-programmed machine simply keeps going and an imperfect round is the result at the end of the loading cycle. The new programmer stops the loading cycle if either shot or powder delivery fail, and neither powder nor shot will be delivered to a station that does not contain a hull. This makes the MEC 600 almost completely foolproof and faulty shells due to human failure are an impossibility. As of this writing, Ted has not yet decided what the cost will be for installing the programmer on 600's—but whatever the cost might be, I had one installed on my 600 and it works just the way Ted said it would work. I have tried to bolx it up, and the programmer has not failed once.

AS MANY AS

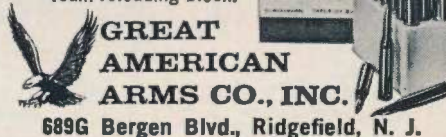
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RELOADINGS FROM EVERY CASE!



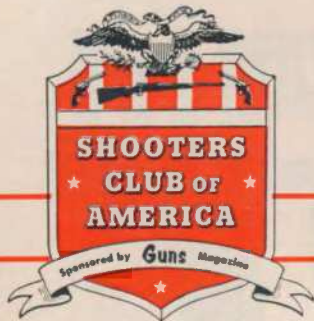
DWM brass cases have also been designed with the reloader in mind. Extremely close tolerances, visual inspection at every production step and induction annealing blend to provide the shooter-reloader with a case exhibiting a phenomenal long life. Induction annealing, an exclusive DWM feature, retempers the brass eliminating the brittleness around the neck and front shoulder allowing many more reloadings than ordinary brass.

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News from the...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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

During the long course of the firearms debate, it has been difficult to determine President Johnson's response to restrictive, anti-gun proposals.

Some "experts" claimed the President had no intention of angering millions of sportsmen/voters with a demand for legislation which might curtail the shooting sports. Other "observers" maintained the Justice and Treasury Departments, in harness with Senator Dodd, would not be adopting anti-gun postures without support from the White House.

After more than a year of avoiding a final pronouncement, the President has finally made his opinion and ultimate aim clear. In his message on crime to Congress, Pres. Johnson had this to say:

"If crime is to be controlled, we must control the weapons with which so many crimes are committed. We must end the easy availability of deadly weapons to professional criminals, to delinquent youth, and to the disturbed and deranged. We must stop the flow of firearms into dangerous hands."

We would not, of course, raise an objection to legislation which would actually keep firearms from "professional criminals," from "delinquent youth," or from the "disturbed and deranged." We too believe that weapons should be kept from "dangerous hands," but we have yet to read any legislative proposals which would accomplish this aim. How would our President solve a problem which has been hotly debated for many years by experts?

"Our Federal responsibility is clear. It is promptly to enact legislation, such as S.1592, to regulate and control interstate traffic in dangerous firearms."

Since he is well aware that S.1592 has long provoked the wrath of sportsmen, who view it as an anti-gun bill rather than an anti-crime bill, the President took the precaution of anointing his remarks with soothing balm:

"There is no need to curtail the right of citizens to keep arms for such traditional pastimes as hunting and marksmanship. But there is a pressing need to halt blind, unquestioning mail-order sales of guns, and over-the-counter sales to buyers from out

of state whose credentials cannot be known."

Who does our President suggest should be first in line to enforce the legislation he has in mind?

"Only the Federal Government can give the several states and cities their first real chance to enforce their own gun laws. We must do so without further delay."

In our opinion, these statements leave no room for doubt as to which side of the fence the President has chosen. Though the S.C.A. was outspoken enough to forecast President Johnson's ultimate sponsorship of anti-gun legislation, we can draw no comfort from having been correct. The simple truth is that his pronouncement will lend new strength to anti-gun agitators, and perhaps even make restrictive legislation unavoidable. We must face the fact that the President is accustomed to getting his way, that Congress usually bows to his will, and that we now face terrible odds in our struggle.

Add to this new blow the unpublicized fact that Sen. Dodd's Subcommittee received Senate approval to continue its activities for another year, and you will realize that a powerful, all-out campaign is to be launched against firearms ownership.

In his report to the Judiciary Committee, Senator Dodd noted that his subcommittee held eleven days of hearings on S.1592 last year, with testimony from 48 witnesses. During this report he forecast, "I am confident that we will report out an amended bill that will be acceptable to all parties involved, including the Nation's sportsmen and hunters. Law enforcement officials from all over the nation are eager to see this bill (S.1592) passed into law as they feel it will be a major weapon in our war on crime and delinquency."

We have noted that the Senator often mentions amendments which will make his bill acceptable to all, but at this writing, no amendments have actually been entered. S.1592 remains the same as the day it was introduced, and this is the regulatory bill President Johnson has chosen to support.

Your help is needed in the months ahead. If you are not already a member, join the S.C.A. today!

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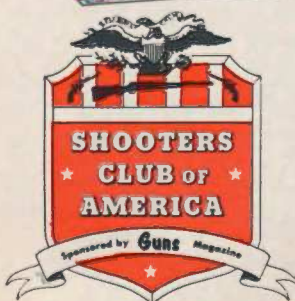
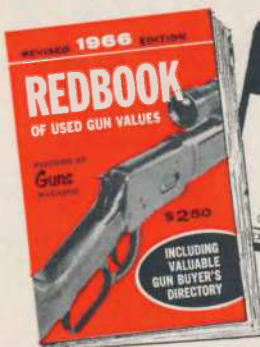
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That's a whopping 21 bucks off the regular price of a 1200 barrel; \$22 off on a 1400 barrel.

You have 26", 28" and 30" barrels to choose from, running from 26" improved cylinder to 30" full choke in 12 gauge. And to 28" full in 16 and 20 gauge.

So with two barrels of your choice you'll be in good shape for practically any kind of shooting.

Use one barrel for, say, upland game and the other for ducks. And, in effect, you've got your-

self a second shotgun. For peanuts.

What's the catch? There is none. Honest.

Forgetting the deal, these guns are still great buys. The 1400'll give you less recoil than any other shotgun (no flinching in the clutches). And the 1200's twin action slide bars make it one of the smoothest shucking pumps around.

(Not to mention the fact that both boast the world's strongest locking system.)

No. We just wanted to cut you in on our 100th anniversary celebration. And this seemed as good a way as any to do it.

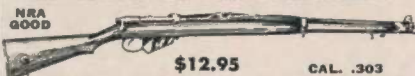
If you've been thinking of buying a shotgun, obviously now's the time.

You might not run into a shotgun deal like this in another 100 years.

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WINCHESTER®

NEW LOT OF NO. 1 MK 111 ENFIELDS



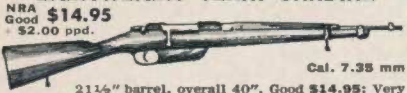
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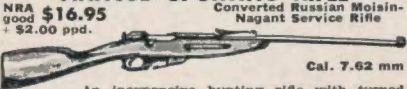
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CROSSFIRE

Philadelphia Gun Law

I didn't read anything about Philadelphia's gun law, that was supposed to reduce crimes committed with guns. So I wrote several letters to the police and mayor's office to see if it was successful. But I didn't get an answer so I figured it must be a flop. I wrote to a Philadelphia newspaper and got a reply. I was told that crime has been going up in Philadelphia and no one has been arrested with a registered gun. The F.B.I. also claim crime has gone up in Philadelphia.

Wesley Rusin
Huntington, Long Island

Senator Dodd

I am a 16-year-old student at Lakewood Senior High School in California. We have organized a rifle club at school and all of the members feel that Senator Dodd's idiotic S.1592 is an attempt to disarm our citizens by discouraging the shooting sports altogether through unreasonable burdens for sportsmen. I can truthfully say that the pro-gun effort has done the most to combat the anti-gun forces through the tireless efforts of the Shooters Club of America, the NRA, and the friendly letters written by private citizens to their Congressmen.

During the past year I have read many articles written by Senator Dodd in various magazines such as McCall's, Ladies' Home Journal, and the Readers' Digest. He talks about the strict rules of gun ownership in European countries as compared with our completely unregulated trade and disposal of arms in this country. He never mentions that even though the ownership of sporting weapons in Europe is more regulated than in America, the rate of armed crimes is about the same and in some cases worse, than in this country. In the Readers' Digest of June, 1965, Senator Dodd gave the impression that his bills were officially supported by the NRA and all the principals in the gun industry, which has proved to be false. He even came to the conclusion that all people involved with the pro-gun campaign were crackpots and extremists of all kinds. He never said anything about the members of law enforcement agencies who were also pro-gun.

There was a paragraph in his article which classed military rifles bought through the mail as junk. This might be true in some cases, but not with me. I received four rifles through the mail last year with the

consent of my parents. My first rifle was a British .303 Enfield, then came a 1903 Springfield .30-06 and a German Model Kar. '98 K Mauser in 8 mm, and a German G.24 Model '98 in 8 mm. All these rifles were in at least excellent condition.

At the rifle range I fire 10 rounds in a one inch group at 100 yards using the Springfield. At 200 yards I kept five rounds of .303 British in a 3 1/2 inch group. Last fall I killed a buck mule deer weighing at least 150 pounds with one shot in the neck at 75 yards using 8 mm soft point ammo. I know from personal experience that at least none of these mail order rifles are junk.

Let's pray that 1966 will be a better year for shooters and sportsmen by getting a pro-gun law passed through Congress.

Wayne N. Blewett
Lakewood, Calif.

WRA 9MM

In the February issue of your magazine you advised a Mr. Jerome J. Vavra that it was best to use his surplus WRA 9 MM ammunition in submachine guns only because it was so marked.

We advise that this ammunition is quite safe for use in all pistols chambered for the 9MM cartridge. It was originally loaded with a 115 grain bullet to a velocity of approximately 1,200 FPS in a 4 inch pistol barrel. Most of this ammunition has not aged well however, and will be found to give somewhat uneven performance. In most cases this ammunition will be slightly underpowered and may cause some malfunctions for that reason. Winchester loaded millions of rounds of this type during WW II probably for the British. Tons and tons of it have been sold surplus in this country without mishap during the past ten years. Primer composition is essentially non-corrosive.

Western Military Arms Corp.
Sacramento, Calif.

Wants Forsyth Data

I am putting together a record of firearms made by A. J. Forsyth (1768-1843). May I please request that anyone having firearms made by Forsyth please get in touch with me. My address is 13 Wheelers Way, Manorbier, Tenby, Pembrokeshire, Wales, England.

David Back
Tenby, Wales

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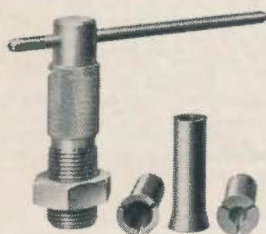
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HANDLOADING BENCH

By **DAVE WOLFE**

Editor and Publisher of
The HANDLOADER Magazine



HOW DOES A WRITER of rather limited experience fill the shoes of a man like Kent Bellah? I've given this question considerable thought. There's only one answer—he can't. But he can give the task every ounce of effort and hope for the patience and cooperation of you, the readers of The Handloading Bench.

I have had a high regard for Kent Bellah's knowledge of all phases of reloading for a good many years, and I consider it a sincere privilege that he was one of my close friends for more than six years. As many of you know, Kent once wrote for me when I was editor of another gun publication.

That he will be missed is a gross understatement. He had many thousands of fans and the total respect of industry. Certainly his contributions both in writing and inventions were significant to the rapid growth of our hobby. Kent was the originator of The Handloading Bench nearly a decade ago. Here are two paragraphs from his first column in GUNS Magazine dated December 1956:

"This loading game is pure, fascinating fun. Never since the invention of the metallic cartridge has such superior equipment been available at prices the average guy can afford. Tools, dies, guns, and components are so standardized that assembly of precision ammo is a simplified, safe and sane hobby."

"... Reloaders are the factory's best customers and have fewer accidents than occur in bathtubs. Fact is, the hobby has spread like wildfire, safely enjoyed by rich and poor. Every shooter worth the powder he burns is rolling his own and enjoying it. With handloads you can make exactly the ammunition you need."

When you stop to consider how far we have journeyed down the path of progress since Bellah penned those words, you realize how "big-time" the reloading hobby is today. Members of the National Reloading Manufacturers Association (N.R.M.A.) in a recent survey, came up with a round figure of one million active handloaders in the United States in 1965. Holy velocity!—Even the largest gun companies are today catering to our desires, something that in the early 50's they never thought would happen.

My faith and interest in handloading goes back to the late 30's, when I helped my father load .30-06, .270, and .38 Special cartridges on a home-made press. Times were indeed tough then—all bullets were cast,

with scrap lead we scrounged from the local dump and junk yards.

During the war, like most gun nuts, we hoarded a piddling amount of components; a few hours of shooting were eagerly anticipated and long remembered. And a box of primers or a pound of powder were worth a heck of a lot more than a peck of red meat tokens. How many of you "old-timers" recall those wonderful years?

Our shotgun ammo, for central Illinois rabbit and pheasant hunting, was loaded on an original Thelson tool—slow as great-grandma, but it made a respectable shell. I still have that old press in my shop, gathering dust on a shelf somewhere.

It's a safe bet that 99 per cent of all serious shooters (both centerfire metallic and shot-shell) manufacture their own ammunition. These million or so gun buffs have one thing in common: a constant thirst for information on new loads, new products, ballistics dope, new techniques, etc. Most gun magazines offer a column similar to this one. And I have a strong belief that many thousands of dedicated shooters buy all of the monthly publications just to get the reloading information.

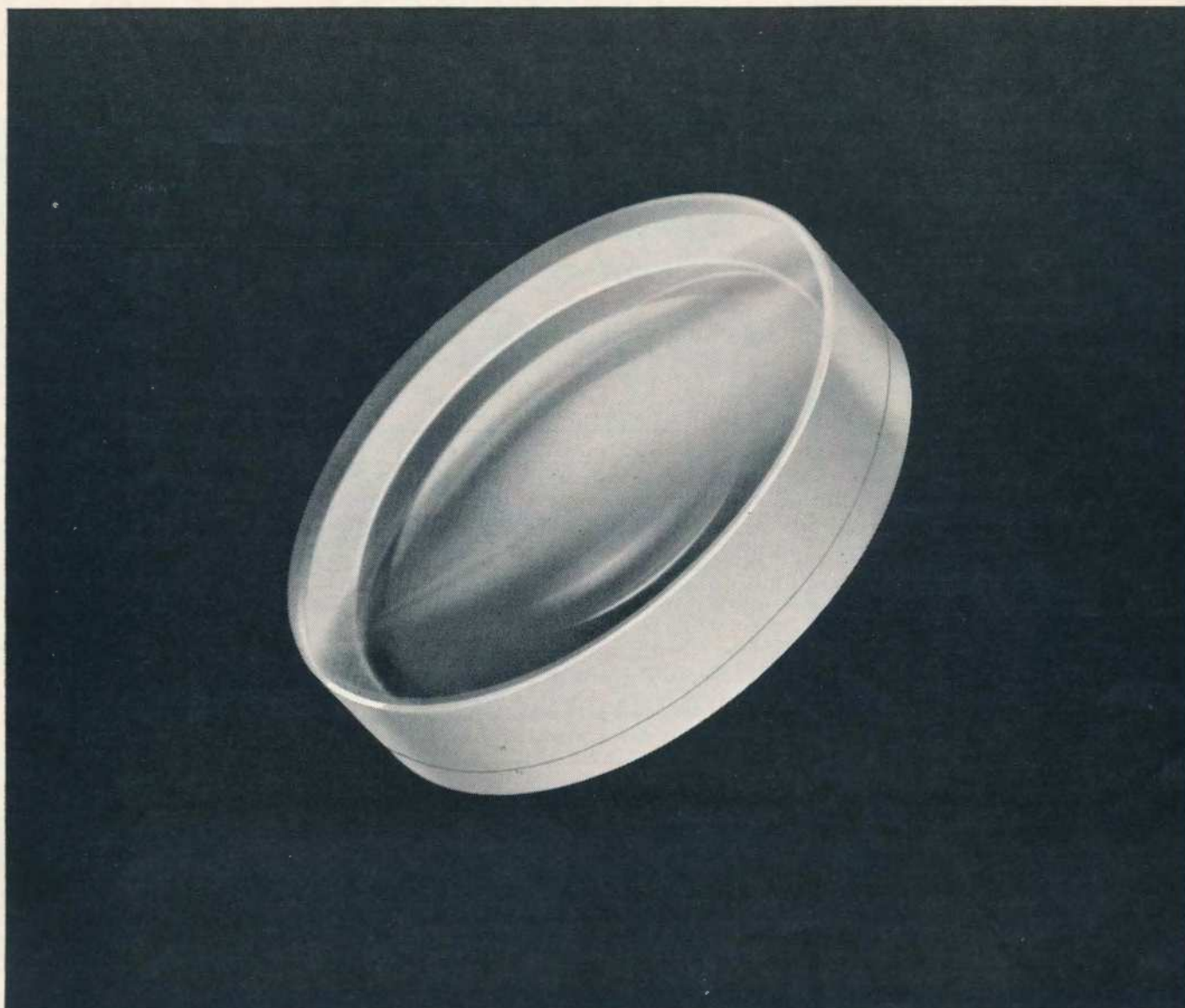
In 1962 John Amber brought out the first "Handloaders' Digest." An immediate success, he quickly made plans for a regular series of annuals. The excellent third edition appeared early in 1965, and the fourth edition is now on the drawing board. In view of Amber's success and the heavy sale of industry manuals, isn't it logical to assume that a regular handloading magazine would also succeed?

I thought so. Last month the first issue of "The HANDLOADING Magazine" rolled off the presses, a culmination of two years of research and hard work. This is a bi-monthly and available only by subscription or in gun shops. Single copies are 75¢, and all back issues will sell for a buck. In case you are wondering, this is a plug for my new "baby," but it's of interest to all gunners. Subscription price is \$4.00 a year; write to "The HANDLOADER," 700 Park Avenue, Peoria, Illinois 61603.

• • •

You all know that Congressman John Dingell has introduced a bill (HR 11,483) proposing an 11% excise tax on all reloading components. A. Robert (Bob) Matt, executive director of the N. R. M. A., urges that we all be rational in our thoughts and

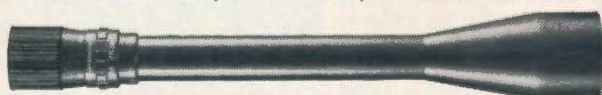
(Continued on page 49)



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The Guns Magazine



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Panel of Experts

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

results I would advise inserting a block at the rear of the magazine to shorten it until the .225 will fit in freely and then I would fit a bullet point protector made by I. J. Sullivan, 718 Fifteenth Street, Lewiston, Idaho. This should take care of your trouble.
—P.T.H.

Mausers Anti-tank Rifle

I would appreciate any information you can give me regarding a rifle (?) that I have recently acquired. It looks like any Mauser rifle except for its size. It is about 35 pounds, 5 feet 7½ inches in length, with a bore of about ½ inch. Bolt action, single shot, half stock. The bolt is 14 inches long,



Llama Auto

I wish to order a Llama automatic pistol. These guns are offered in various magazines stating that they are chambered for 9 mm Bergmann-Baynard Magnum, 38 Super Auto, or 9 mm Luger. Which of these cartridges are interchangeable, if any?

John A. Baker
Auburn, Alabama

Several Spanish automatic pistols are so chambered and designed so that they will "function" with a variety of 9 mm or .380 ammo. However, it is not recommended that ammunition of different specifications be used in a single chamber.

Whatever decision you come to, I suggest that you use in the gun the original cartridge for which it was chambered. You will thus get more reliability, accuracy, and efficiency with a minimum of chamber abrasion. You might bear in mind, however, that the Super .38 and the 9 mm Luger (Parabellum) are factory available in this country, while the 9mm Bergmann-Bayard might pose difficulties.—S.B.

Feeding Problems

I am having problems with a Springfield that I had rebarreled to .225 Winchester. The shells will not feed from the magazine correctly. The rims of the lower cartridges jump ahead of the next shell to feed. Is there any way to correct this?

John T. Asbury
Monahans, Texas

This is something that always happens when trying to use a rimmed cartridge a rifle designed for a rimless one. For the best

the receiver opening is 7½ inches long. It is marked on the receiver "MAUSER/1918." All parts marked 3494. The steel has been painted black (original). The condition is overall good. Could you suggest a market value?

William J. March
Lindsay, Ontario

The German Anti-tank rifle, Model 1918, was made at Oberndorf, in caliber 13 mm. Weight about 30 pounds, and five and ½ feet long, fired from a bipod; a deadly and efficient weapon for long range shooting. The 13 mm cartridge was much like the U.S. .50 caliber Browning cartridge used in W W II. I have seen some with a box magazine and some without.

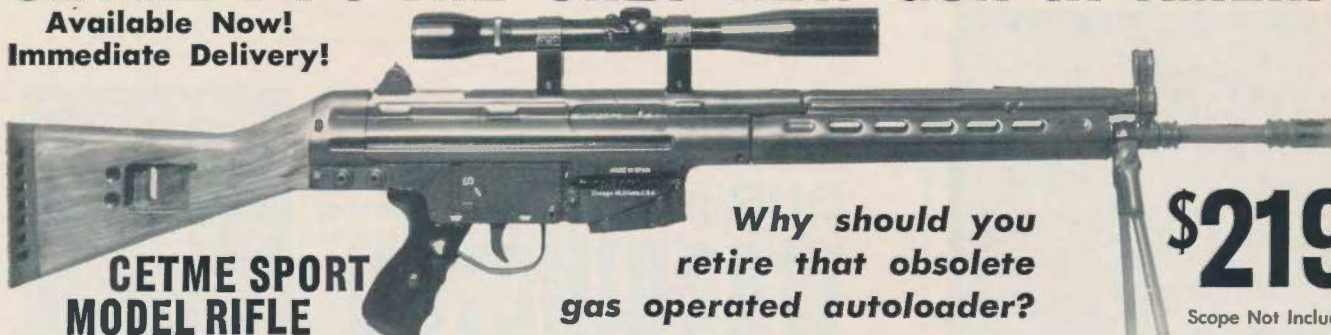
Collector's value I cannot give you, since I have not seen any of this type sold in the last few years. Suggest that you try to find a Mauser collector, as I am sure any collector of Mausers would jump for joy with an odd item like yours.—R.M.

Handloads

I would like to have handloads made up for my .30-06 and .35 Remington by a gunstore near here, however, I don't know specifically what load. I feel that I could give him a starting load by using the Powley
(Continued on page 63)

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175 Gr. soft point: MV—3070 fps. Max. height of Trajectory at 200 yds.—1.4"

6.5 Carcano



156 Gr. Soft point: MV—2000 fps. Max. height of Trajectory at 200 yds.—4.6"

6mm Rem.



100 Gr. soft point: MV—3190 fps. Max. height of Trajectory at 200 yds.—1.5"

.22-250



50 Gr. soft point: MV—3800 fps. Max. height of Trajectory at 200 yds.—1.3"

55 Gr. soft point: MV—3650 fps. Max. height of Trajectory at 200 yds.—1.4"

.223



55 Gr. soft point: MV—3300 fps. Max. height of Trajectory at 200 yds.—1.7"

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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



CARL WOLFF

DODD BILL PASSES SUBCOMMITTEE

As of this writing the infamous "Dodd Bill" (S. 1592) has just cleared Dodd's Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency. Members voting for the bill were: Thomas Dodd (D.—Conn.), Birch Bahy (D.—Ind.), Joseph Tydings (D.—Md.), Edward Kennedy (D.—Mass.), Hiram L. Fong (R.—Hawaii), and Jacob Javits (R.—N.Y.). Members voting against the bill were: Philip Hart (D.—Mich.), Quentin Burdick (D.—N.D.), Roman Hruska (R.—Neb.).

That was the official vote. Unofficially, don't count on Senators Burdick and Hart if in the future voting gets close. Only one real friend of the sportsman attended the meeting. He was Roman Hruska. If he had had any real help, one of the far less restrictive bills would have been substituted.

As the bill stands now, there will be no interstate shipments of handguns or any military surplus rifles. All long guns purchased in interstate commerce will have to be accompanied with a sworn statement approved by the police attesting to character of the purchaser, his age, and just about any other information the Secretary of the Treasury chooses to require. Federal Firearms licenses will cost \$35 for the first year and \$25 for each year it is renewed.

Even more important, nearly all of the other "gun czar" authority handed to the Treasury remains in the bill. The exact details of the amended bill will probably not be disclosed to the public until the full Judiciary Committee reviews and releases it.

Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach started the big push. On March 8, 1966, his Department of Justice released the "1965 Crime Index Trends." The data compared rates of murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny \$50 and over, and auto thefts in 1965 to those of 1964. No information at all was given on the kind of weapon (if any) used! However, the one sheet of data was accompanied by a 'news release' stating J. Edgar Hoover had said:

"Violent crimes of aggravated assault where firearms were used as the weapon and armed robberies showed significant national increases of 12 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively. The FBI director again cautioned concerning the easy accessibility of firearms and noted that the use of a firearm in the commission of a crime was more frequent in the Southern and Western States but the sharpest increases in 1965 was in the Northeastern States."

At best, this is the cheap kind of anti-gun propaganda the shooters and lawmakers have been facing for



the past couple of years. This reporter inquired of the FBI where the information on the misuse of firearms could be obtained and was told it had not been compiled yet. The firearms misuse information is annually made available in July. When released it will probably be used to push the anti-gun legislation over yet another Congressional stopping point.

Just who makes the Hoover statements is also open to discussion. This reporter recalls last July when the firearms misuse data was released. Accompanying the "Uniform Crime Report-1964" was an 11-page press release stating Mr. Hoover had reiterated his stand in support of local firearms control laws. The actual report-consisting of 86 pages with comments from the FBI directors-made no statement.

Every chance he has, Katzenbach plugs the Dodd Bill. This last effort had significant meaning. The data released showed crime rates up and there was the need to point a finger at a "cause." It touched off a White House meeting on crime and the President's crime message to Congress.

IN CONGRESS

In Congress Dodd took to the floor of the Senate calling for quick passage of his bill and he scheduled an executive session of his subcommittee to report out his gun bill. First, full Presidential endorsement of S. 1592 was claimed. Then, this flat statement was omitted. The sequence of events was so timed that there had to be some collaboration. In the first closed door meeting of the Juvenile Subcommittee no action was taken on the pending gun bills. Dodd then set another session, some minor amendments were made, and the bill was sent on its way toward enactment.

THE ARTHUR D. LITTLE REPORT

A powerful weapon, the Arthur D. Little, Inc., report to the Army on civilian marksmanship, has been handed the pro-gun forces if they will but use it. Regular readers will recall the Army being under pressure to investigate its supplying of ammunition and lending and selling weapons to civilians. Under pressure the Army called in the Little Company to do an objective study. Their report has been made.

Any fair interpretation of this document will point out the government should do more to encourage and not discourage civilian marksmanship. For instance, the document criticizes the military for its lack of shooting standards for combat units. It states marksmanship practice prior to military service improves the proficiency not only of the one individual but also of the people with whom he associates.

More importantly, interviews with 34 distinguished combat commanders showed a "strong belief" that good shooters stood a better chance of coming out of a shooting war alive:

"Thus, a chain of relationships was established which indicates that, in general, the more marksmanship instruction, practice, competition, and shooting experience individuals get before entering service, and the greater the density of such prior experience in the population of young men entering service, the more effective rifle units will be in combat and the fewer casualties they will suffer."



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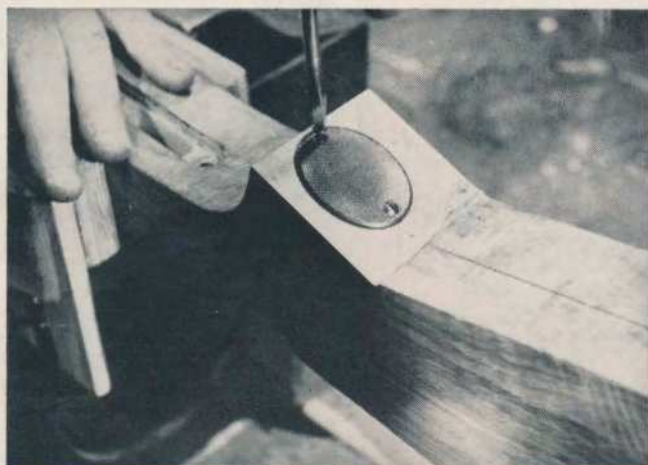
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The "classic" lines of author's .25-06 are typical of the Biesen-built rifle.



After marking a center line on the stock blank, the grip cap is positioned and screw holes are drilled. The trap door butt plate is fitted on the butt stock which has been hollowed out using drills and routers.



Using a band saw speeds the rough shaping operation. Note the pencil marks showing the position of the cheek piece and the layout of the action's depth in the stock.



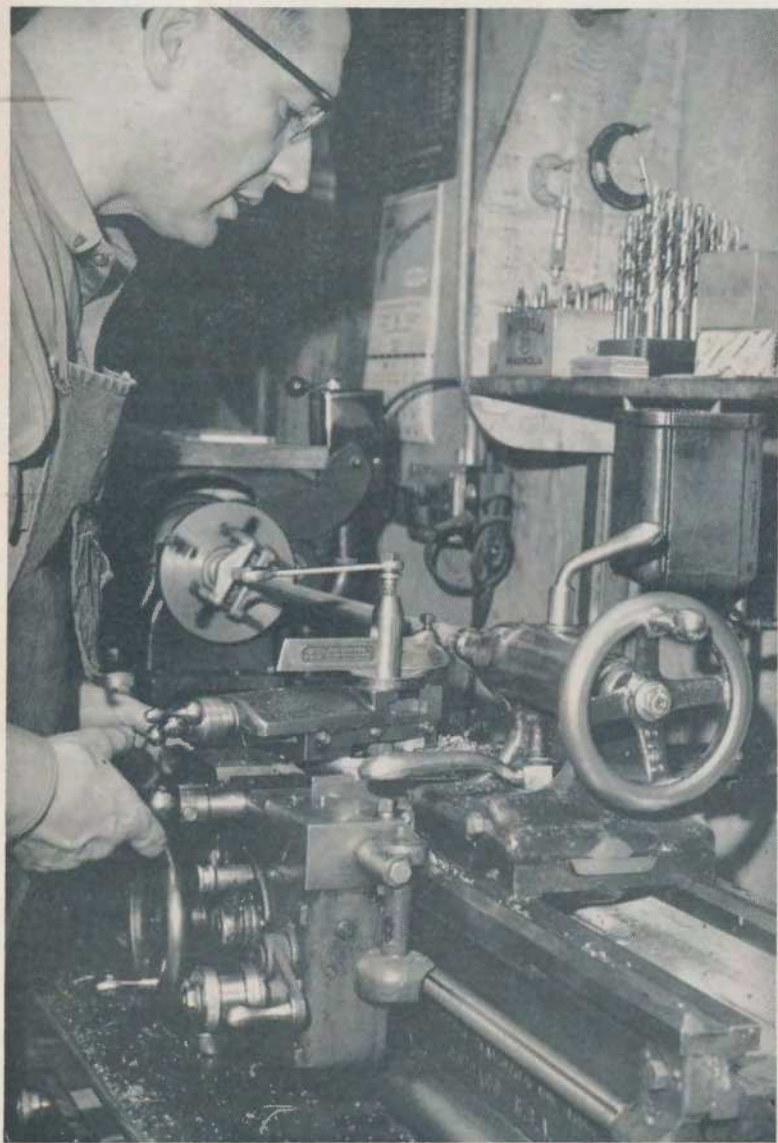
Biesen accurately inscribes a fleur-de-lis checkering pattern on the stock, then undercuts it carefully by hand. Biesen says that the result is checkering that doesn't look as if it had just been pasted on the gun.



Beginning the 24 line per inch checkering, Biesen has already applied the epoxy finish. "Wet or dry" #400 and #600 grit are used to buff the finish between coats of the resin.



AL BIESEN — *Builds a Custom Sporter*



After contouring the barrel, Biesen threads the chamber end for precise fitting on the action. Polishing of the barrel and action with a buffing wheel follows next. Final polish is done by hand using a shaped wooden form and emery cloth.

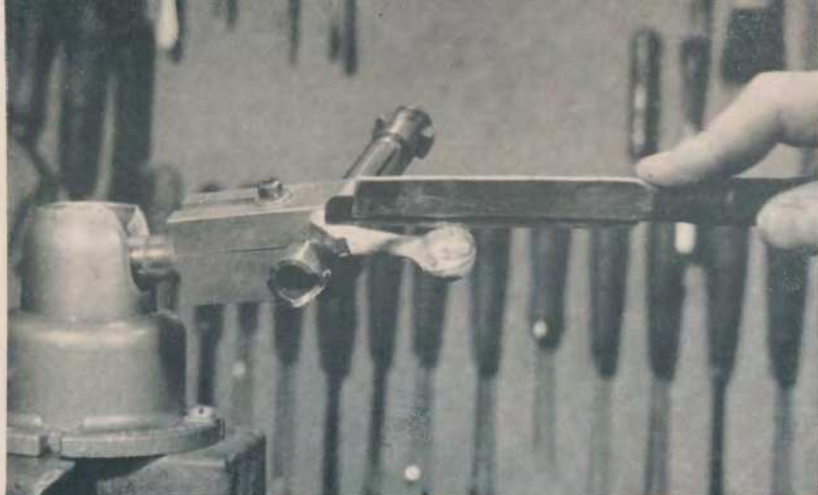
**LOOKING OVER THE SHOULDER
OF A MASTER CRAFTSMAN
AS A CUSTOM RIFLE IS CREATED**

By DAVE WOLFE

GOOD CUSTOM RIFLE MAKERS, true artists who have conquered the techniques of transforming wood and metal into first-class guns, are a rather rare breed today. Sure, many gunsmiths turn out creditable and functional pieces, but you can count on the fingers of both hands the number of men in this country who can rightfully be called "masters." Such a gunmaker is Al Biesen of Spokane, Washington.

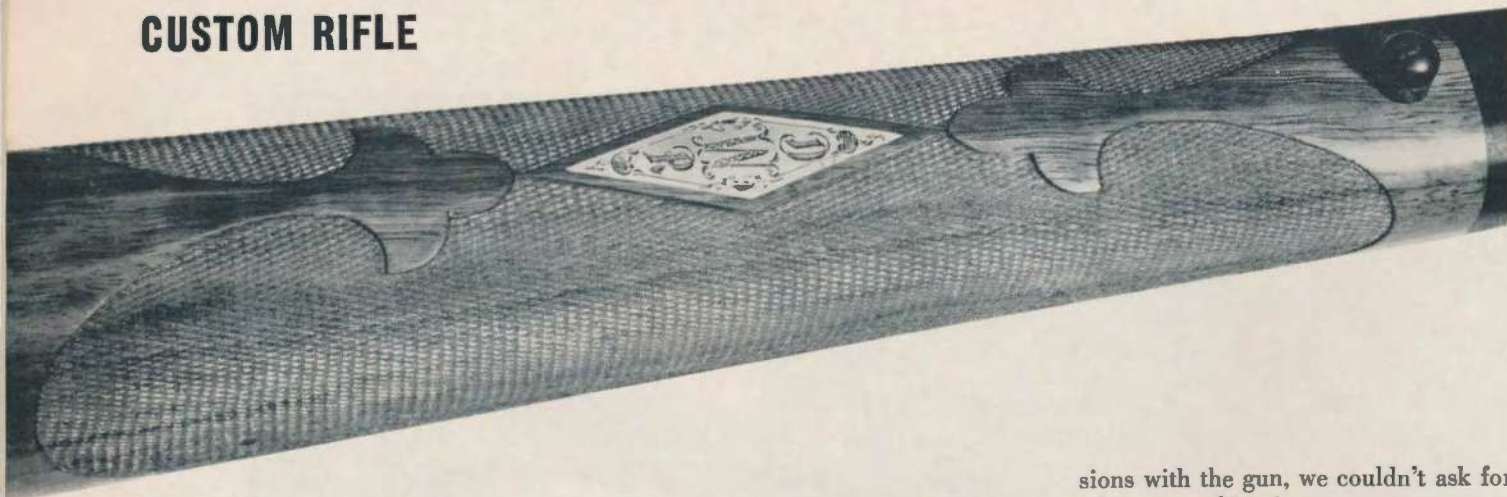
I first heard of Biesen ten or fifteen years ago in an article by Jack O'Connor in "Outdoor Life." Since then much has been written about him; he was recently featured on the inside back cover of the 1966 "Gun Digest," and Al himself has written about his methods of gunsmithing. His completed guns, many built for "notables" all over the world, have been pictured in a variety of magazines, but seldom do you see "up close" the details of the rifle, or Al's techniques.

To fill this void, we asked Biesen to build a .25-06 rifle and to take photographs at each step in the operation. The result appears on the following pages. The total of his efforts on this gun could easily fill a book—both in num-



The bolt is held in a jig fixture for checkering of the new handle. Biesen's tool is made from a piece of hard hacksaw blade, with 32 or more teeth per inch, ground to a cutting edge .005" to .008" thick.

CUSTOM RIFLE



The finished forend shows the dramatic effect of the use of undercut fleur-de-lis checkering panels. The silver inlay engraved with the owner's initials was also made and installed by gunsmith Al Biesen.



The crucial moment: range testing. Biesen always test fires any gun ordered from him for chamber tool marks and also runs a series of proof loads through the gun. However beautiful, it must shoot.

ber of pictures and the written description of his methods. You can be assured that it became a real chore to select a representative sample of his work for use here.

Biesen himself chose the various components that went into the completed rifle. His first requests were for a G33/40 Mauser action, which we secured from Interarmco, a barrel blank from J. H. Sharon of Kalispell, Montana, and a fine-grained piece of French walnut. For a trigger, he requested the new adjustable Canjar M3. Scope and mount were to be Leupold—the latest M-8 7.5X and Model 3 bases and rings. After two range ses-

sions with the gun, we couldn't ask for a better combination.

Several months of tedious work went into this classic masterpiece. The twenty-four line fleur-de-lis checkering is flawless, with delicate wrap-around pattern over the top of the pistol grip. Fit of wood to metal, from trap-door butt plate to ebony-tipped fore-end, is superb. Pressure on barrel at fore-end is about fifteen pounds—more than normally encountered.

From the first loads fired at one hundred yards off a Beecher rest, five-shot groups averaged one and one quarter inches. Loads were reasonably mild—42 grains or 4895 with 100 grain Speer SP's and CCI 200 primers. We foresee at least three-quarter-inch accuracy after a few hundred rounds have wedded the wood to metal, and after the best combination of components is determined.

In the accompanying photos, you'll see why Al Biesen is a gunmaker for kings and generals, and the most discriminating rifle buffs. We hope these will be an inspiration to many young craftsmen—our top gunsmiths of tomorrow.



To Shoot or Not to Shoot!

... in defense of life and property

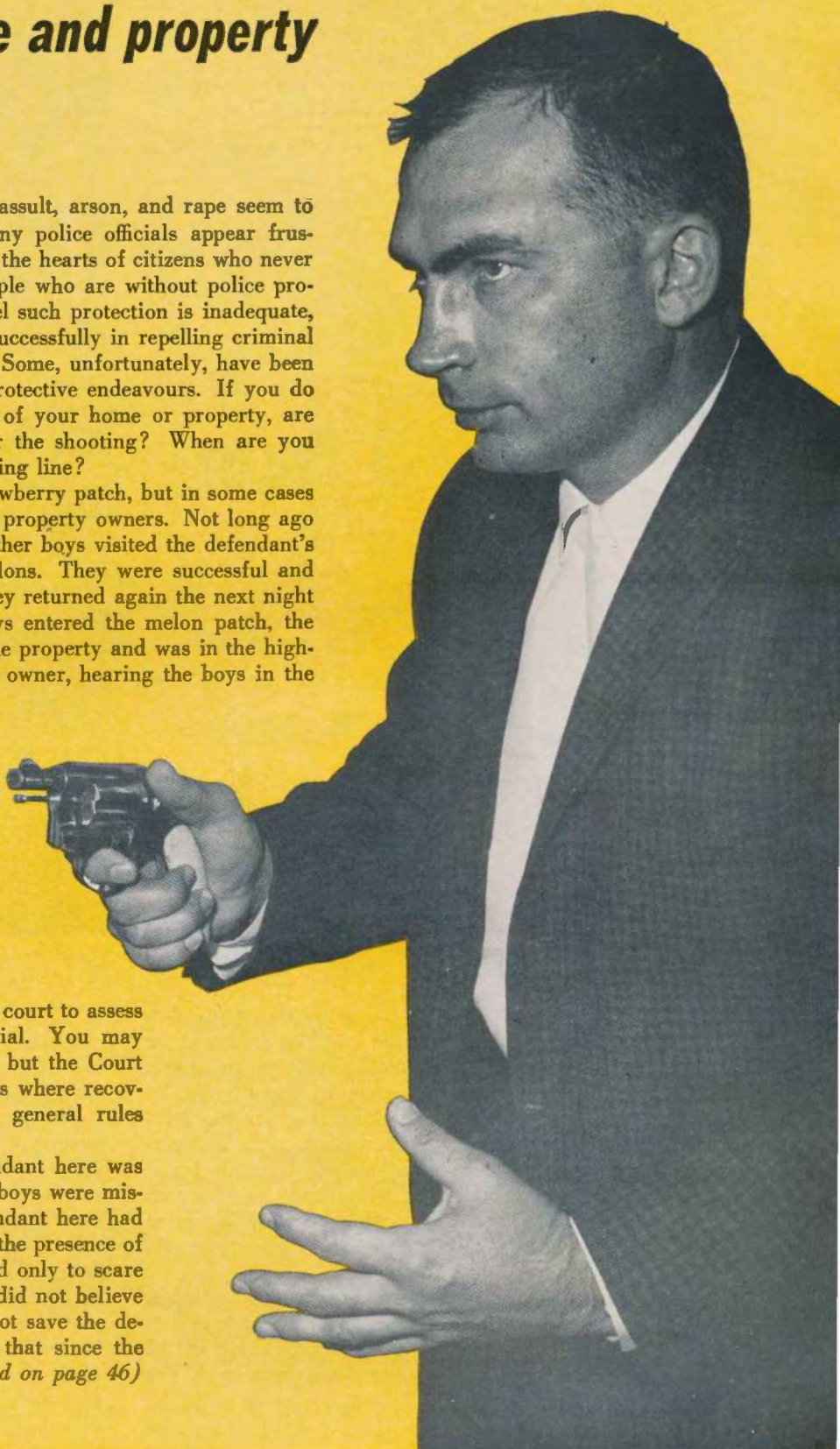
By JOHN WARREN GILES

ARMED ROBBERY, kidnapping, murder, assault, arson, and rape seem to be unfortunately popular pastimes. Many police officials appear frustrated before crimes which have put fear into the hearts of citizens who never before gave the matter a thought. Many people who are without police protection for one reason or another, or who feel such protection is inadequate, have acquired firearms and have used them successfully in repelling criminal attacks on their household or their property. Some, unfortunately, have been unsuccessful and have been slain for their protective endeavours. If you do shoot and injure or kill someone in defense of your home or property, are you likely to be subject to civil liability for the shooting? When are you justified in using a gun? Where is the dividing line?

Small boys will often rob a melon or a strawberry patch, but in some cases the results have been tragic and costly to the property owners. Not long ago in New Mexico, a 15-year-old boy and two other boys visited the defendant's garden patch for the purpose of stealing melons. They were successful and departed unscathed. Flushed with success, they returned again the next night for the same purpose. While two of the boys entered the melon patch, the 15 year old went to the southeast corner of the property and was in the highway right-of-way close to the fence when the owner, hearing the boys in the patch, came out of his house with a rifle in his hand. He called to the boys to get out and seeing the two boys running toward the southwest corner of the property, fired the gun to the southeast to scare them. The bullet struck the 15-year-old boy in the back of the left leg, halfway between the ankle and the knee, broke the bones and came out of the front of his leg. He and his parents sued the owner who fired the unfortunate shot. The case went all the way to the Supreme Court of New Mexico which directed the lower court to assess the plaintiff's damages, which were substantial. You may feel that the boy should have gotten nothing, but the Court thought differently. It cited other melon cases where recovery had been allowed and laid down some general rules about the defense of property.

In substance, the Court said that the defendant here was liable as a matter of law, since the acts of the boys were misdemeanors rather than felonies, and the defendant here had not considered his safety to be threatened by the presence of the boys. The fact that the defendant intended only to scare the boys by shooting in a direction where he did not believe anyone present, was immaterial, and would not save the defendant from liability. The Court explained that since the law has always placed a higher

(Continued on page 46)



CAN THE CARBINE ACTION BE USED
AS THE BASIS FOR AN AUTOLOADING
VARMINT RIFLE? HERE'S THE LATE
MEL JOHNSON'S ANSWER, THE. . . .

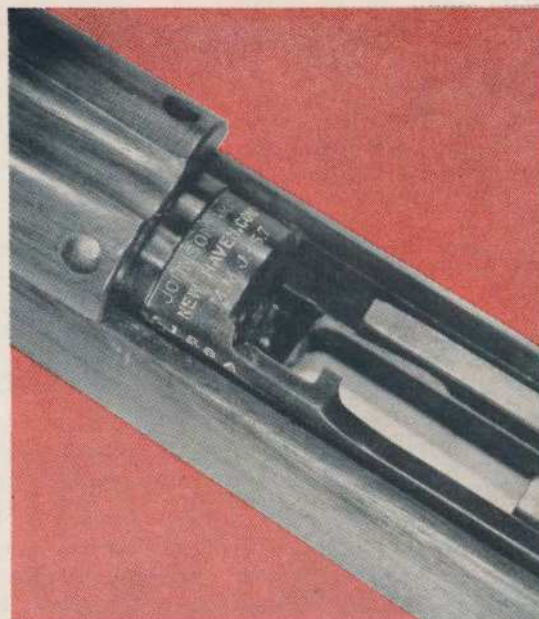
JOHNSON 5.7mm

Spitfire

By R. A. STEINDLER

IN THE LATE FALL of 1962, I test-fired the 5.7 mm (.223) Spitfire, designed by the late Mel Johnson. In conjunction with the H. P. White Laboratory and Lysle Kilbourn, Mel had designed a new varmint cartridge by necking down the .30 caliber carbine case for use in a modified M1 carbine action and suitable barrel. The cartridge, although not of the long-range, 90 grain bullet persuasion, was to account—and very neatly so—for varmints at ranges of 100 to 200 yards. This miracle was to have been accomplished in, of all things, a semi-automatic action which has a military background.

At the time Mel began to design the Spitfire cartridge, the demand for the U. S. carbine ran very high and it later became so heavy that commercial production of .30 caliber carbines was begun by several manufacturers. The original carbine cartridge is ballistically nothing to be proud of, but the action is a good one and the attempt by Mel to wildcat the action and case was—or so it appeared

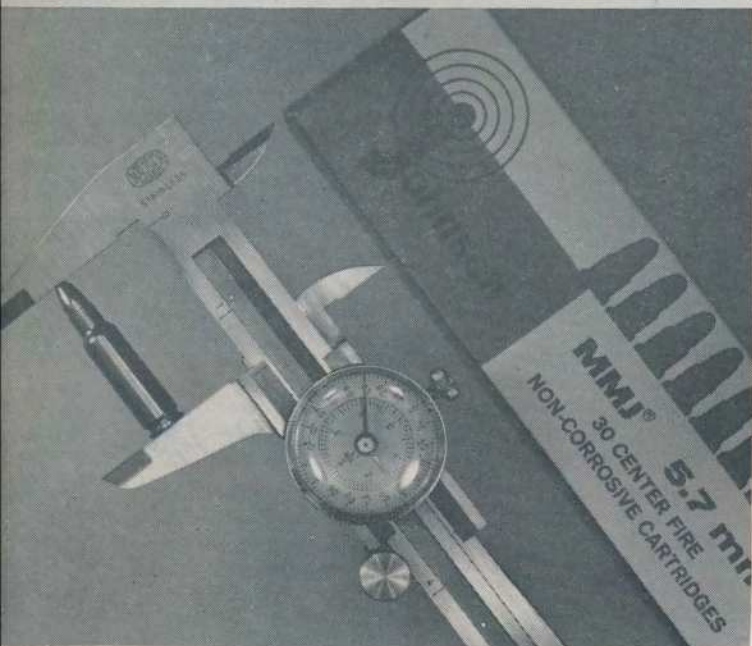


in 1962—due to be crowned with success.

At the time I had one of the converted carbines for testing, Mel was trying to complete some experimental work on a Sako bolt actioned rifle and a heavy benchrest rifle. A few sporter rifles were completed, but the benchrest gun never got to the bench. First, suppliers would guarantee delivery of parts and then make no attempt to deliver the goods. Second, there was a totally unexpected and unprecedented demand for the Spitfire. At that time, Johnson offered buyers three choices: Send your carbine and he'd rework the action, put on a new barrel, and generally fix up the gun so that it would be suitable for the 5.7 mm cartridge. This would, for instance, include adding a higher front ramp sight because of the flatter trajectory of the cartridge. Another alternative, if you still wanted a semi-auto varmint rifle based on the carbine action, was to build a completely new gun with that action. For this, there were a variety of stocks available, including some



The Custom Sporter model by Johnson Arms is handsome, handles well, and provides excellent varmint accuracy.



Opposite page: Closeups of the action and sight show the high quality of Johnson Arms Co. craftsmanship.

Left: Handloads for the Spitfire must measure no more than 1.68 inches overall or malfunctions will occur.

of which had a brief flurry of police acceptance. The third alternative offered by Johnson Arms, Inc. was the Sako action with a custom barrel and stock.

The Spitfire got, and deservedly so, a good press. Here was a cartridge that had a low noise level, had light recoil, and shot flat enough for most every situation in which a varmint hunter might find himself. Added pluses were plentiful and relatively inexpensive carbine actions and brass and the easy handling of the carbine version of the Spitfire. The outcome was a varmint package that not only solved a lot of problems but also answered a lot of prayers.

Then the production problems began to trouble Mel. Guys with clunker carbines wanted them converted to the new Spitfire, conversion parts became harder to get, and finished guns were coming in from subcontractors slower than tax returns. Things were not going well when Mel passed away in the early part of January, 1965. Since then, his son Edward R. Johnson, who had been Mel's

right-hand man, has taken over the reins and things are humming again at Johnson Arms, Inc. Because Sako actions are in short supply and the demand for the sporter rifle never became very great, Ed has concentrated on producing a semi-automatic carbine which, however, has all the earmarks of a sporter and custom gun at that. In other words, the M1 carbine of yesteryear has been revamped completely, and the new gun, which retains many of the features of the GI weapon is now rightly named the Custom Deluxe Sporter Model.

Converting a .30 caliber carbine to the Spitfire is more than just changing the barrel. A new feed ramp must be installed, this by the way is one Mel patented before he released the gun to the public in 1962, the gas take-off system is modified to some extent, a somewhat different semi-automatic unlocking system is installed, and a higher front sight must be installed.

Ballistically, the Spitfire

(Continued on page 44)



David Lloyd showing his Double L scope mount on his .275 Rigby.

British Gunmakers

By JACQUES P. LOTT

On my visits to England I make it a regular ritual to visit all of the prominent gunmakers in London to seek out the developments that have taken place there in recent years and to learn the answers to questions yet unavailable to the public.

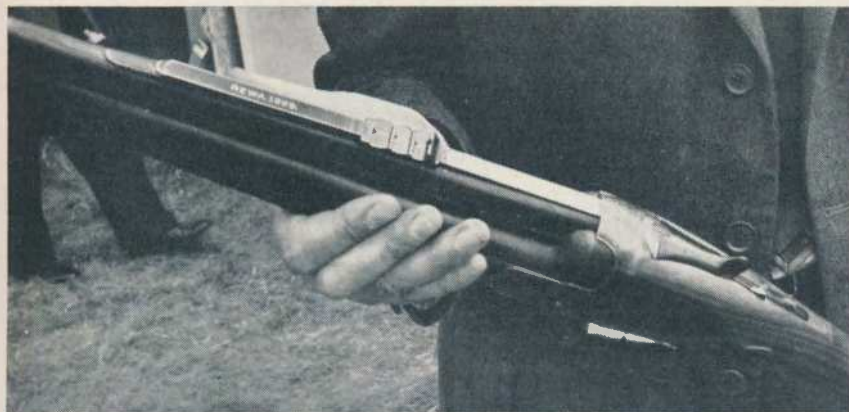
As a friendly pest, I learned quite a lot about their operations and particularly the kind of men and thinking that dominates the old firms remaining of those which in the past elevated British gunmakers to the pinnacle of prestige. I wanted to know if these firms had been able to preserve a good measure of their priceless heritage of craftsmanship and were as dedicated to useful innovation as they were in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

England has always been recognized for gunmaking quality but not everyone realizes that many developments of worldwide acceptance were of English origin. Among

them are the percussion cap, the Farquharson action, the Anson & Deeley box lock system used the World over on most double shotguns and rifles, the back action and bar action sidelock systems, Purdey underbolting, third fasteners, sometimes called "doll's head extensions," Southgate ejectors, the use of belted cases, and the development of "nitro-express" cartridges which revolutionized the hunting of heavy game. Controlled expansion bullets were first developed in England with the Westley Richards capped bullets utilizing a nose of soft copper to retard expansion. There is also the "Stigand bullet" allegedly designed by Major C. H. Stigand, a hunter, naturalist, and administrator who speared to death by a number of Aliab Dinka near Mongalla, Southern Sudan in 1919, but not before he had shot over a dozen of his attackers. The "Stigand bullet" has a small tip of lead exposed instead of the usual "bluenose" type with lead extending almost to the full diameter. And one must not forget the development and ultimate perfection of the double shotgun and rifle in their side by side and over and under forms.



By tradition, British Gun Fairs are held out of doors in tents.



Made for the Maharajah of Rewa by Westley Richards, this fine over and under double barrel rifle is in .35 Winchester caliber.



in the Jet Age...

It is not true that Britain is only eminent in the production and use of shotguns, for much of the development of long range rifle shooting as practised at Bisley and elsewhere is due to men like the late Lord Cottesloe (T. H. Fremantle), W. W. Greener, George C. Gibbs, and H. Ommundsen. The feat of George C. Gibbs with a .461 Gibbs Farquharson rifle on October 11, 1886, when he put 48 out of 50 shots into a 36 inch bull at 1,000 yards without cleaning is virtually an unbroken record. This with an old rifle that had seen some twenty thousand shots through it previously.

I was aware that the English gunmakers had suffered losses of personnel during the war, including a number of vital apprentices that must be available to replace retiring and deceased craftsmen. Many English guns made soon after the first and second World Wars display a lower standard of finish to the practiced eye. In some cases, firms have ceased operation due to the death of owners or a lack of qualified or interested successors. There is precious little in the way of physical assets to sell in the case of any fine English gunmaker, for his few conventional machine tools and well used hand tools would go for small change second hand. The sole tangible assets are in fact almost intangible, and consist of good reputations often extending back for over one hundred years, plus the skill of master gunsmiths, which is passed on solely through the apprentices, just as the great Joseph Manton passed his on to equally great James Purdey, his former apprentice. Some of the old names are often seen on early nitro shotguns or rifles and on many a black powder arm. The collections of this country abound with pieces bearing the proud but defunct



British Gunmakers

A = Shotguns B = Magazine Rifles C = Double Rifles

Atkin, Grant & Lang Ltd. (A, B, C)
7 Bury St., St. James, London

Thomas Bland & Sons Ltd. (A, B)
4-5 William IV St., Strand, London

Churchill Ltd. (A, B)
32 Orange St., Leicester Sq., London

Cogswell & Harrison Ltd. (A, B, C)
168 Piccadilly, London

William Evans Ltd. (A, B)
13 Bruton St., London

James Purdey & Sons Ltd. (A, B, C)
57-58 S. Audley St., London

John Rigby & Sons Ltd. (A, B, C)
28 Sackville St., London

Boss & Co. (A)
13-14 Cork St., London

B.S.A. Guns Ltd. (A, B)
85 Factory, Marshal Lake Rd., Birmingham

G. E. Lewis & Sons (A)
Lower Loveday St., Birmingham

Midland Gun Co. (A)
Whittall St., Birmingham

Parker Hale Ltd. (B)
Whittall St., Birmingham

Phillipson & Nephew Ltd. (A)
41 Richard St., Birmingham

William Powell & Son Ltd. (A)
35 Carrs Lane, Birmingham

Webley & Scott Ltd. (A)
Park Lane, Handsworth, Birmingham

Westley Richards & Co. Ltd. (A, B)
Bournbrook, 29, Birmingham

John Dickson & Sons Ltd. (A)
21 Fredrick St., Edinburgh 2, Scotland

Thos. Turner & Sons Ltd. (A)
8 Butter Market, Reading, Berkshire, England

George Gibbs Ltd. (A, B)
3-4 Perry Rd., Park Row, Bristol, England

mous London names, are really made in Birmingham and finished in London. There are two kinds of gun bluing or blacking as it is often called in Britain. One is the Birmingham blue which is a somewhat dull rust process of deep subdued matte black whereas the London finish is a remarkable type of rusting process which has been applied to most London makers guns for several generations. It is very lustrous and hard wearing and is quite glossy compared to the Birmingham finish and is seen on fine London made arms.

Some firms have amalgamated under a single heading, either to purchase their skilled labor or to continue to market the specialties of a firm. The firm of Atkin, Grant & Lang incorporates Stephen Grant & Sons, Joseph Lang & Sons, Harrison & Hussey, Charles Lancaster & Sons, Watson Bros. and F. Beesly. Each of these firms had specialties which are still offered, such as Lancaster's rifles and also his famous "Twelve Twenty" gun, a very strong but light 12 bore weighing no more than a 20. James Purdey & Sons obtained the design of the Woodward over and under shotgun and thus paid its designer the ultimate compliment, for Purdey's bows to no gunmaker.

The fraternity of English gunmakers is a gentlemen's guild joined together as the Worshipful Society of Gunmakers. There is a Grand Master elected each year and certain codes of honor are maintained which prevent cutthroat competition and to see that standards are upheld in close cooperation with the London and Birmingham proof houses. There is nothing to prevent another English firm from producing a .416 Rigby rifle (although it could not be called a Rigby), since patents have run out, but it would be unthinkable according to the code of the gentleman gunmaker. Accordingly, one firm will not try to raid another firm's talent to obtain a skilled action, barrel, or stock maker. In this day and age of automated ruthlessness such traditional ethics are humanizing influences which are increasingly rare and therefore increasingly valued, especially in such businesses as firearms.

Most of the English gun works are small, somewhat dingy places, littered with hand tools and wood chips. Conventional machine tools such as mills, lathes, shapers and drill presses are in evidence, but it is still the chisel and the file that does the main work of forming the contours and configurations. (Continued on page 54)

names of Tolley, Turner, Cashmore, Bonehill, MacNaughton, Henry, Daniel Fraser and many others. No finer weapons were ever made for painstaking attention to detail, form and mechanical excellence than the weapons of Fraser of Edinburgh, and the man who obtains one of his later nitro-firing double rifles in a current caliber is a very lucky man indeed.

Army & Navy double rifles and shotguns were once sold in fairly large quantities by the Army & Navy Co-operative Societies Stores Ltd. on Victoria Street. They furnished double rifles and shotguns to many officers going to Africa and India for tours of duty in the heyday of the Empire.

Many of these guns were plain but always well fitted and sturdy dependable arms; others were highly engraved de luxe models. I own a .470 A&N double, box lock, non ejector that shoots like a house afire, and Bert Milne of Andrew Holmberg Safaris, Bulawayo, shoots another A&N .470. Most of these guns were made by Webley & Scott, but other firms also made them. There is an immense amount of co-operation among some of the gun firms and some are specialists in barrels, actions, or locks. Most box lock double rifles have actions made by Webley & Scott and a majority of box lock doubles sold as genuine London made guns, carrying well known or even fa-



A Holland and Holland gunmaker demonstrates and discusses the problems of sidelock inletting.

The First Anti-Tank Rifle

By COL. ROBERT H. RANKIN



IN VIEW OF THE highly developed state of anti-tank weapons at the present time, it is interesting to note that the first rifle designed to knock out armored vehicles was introduced by the famous gun designer Paul Mauser during the last year of World War I.

The employment of machine guns on a large scale for the first time, in World War I, brought a new dimension to warfare. Along with the de-

velopment of long range heavy artillery, it brought about the stalemate of trench fighting. The Germans used both machine guns and artillery in tremendous quantities, causing serious Allied reverses.

Simply told, the strength of the German lines was such that the Allies could not break through. Since the enemy was holding a long front in a manner that there were no flanks to be turned, the French and the British armies were at a standstill. No success could be expected from frontal attacks on the strongly fortified enemy positions. *(Continued on page 60)*



This close up view shows the massive construction necessary in Mauser's Model 1918 anti-tank rifle.

George C. Shearer (1841-1928), an old time buffalo hunter, with his heavy barreled Sharps rifle, used on the plains of West Texas.



Early woodcut depicts buffalo shooting from the tracks of the Kansas-Pacific.



Guns OF THE Buffalo Hunters

By CHARLES E. HANSON, JR.

BY THE YEAR 1840 the frantic demand on the world markets for beaver skins had ceased in time to save that rodent from extinction in America. The business of the western hunter and trapper languished. Some Mountain Men became Indian traders; others eked out a living guiding emigrants over the old hunting grounds; still others went "back East" to the farms and shops they had spurned years before. In the 25 years before Appomatox the big lure of the West was profit in gold, and animal skins were all but forgotten by the non-Indian population.

The end of the Civil War brought some irresistible and far-reaching new trends. An influx of immigrants from Europe took over the staffing of the industries which had been born during the war years. Traders and mercantile men found increasing demands for heavy fur coats and robes. Most of the orders came from farmers who



Two of the most popular early buffalo rifles were the .50 caliber Sharps (top) and the .44 caliber Remington with a single set trigger.



Piled in the freight yards at Dodge City, Kansas, in 1877 are 40,000 buffalo hides. Such scenes were made possible by guns like "Lucretia Borgia," Buffalo Bill Cody's first buffalo gun.

were filling up the Plains states where winters were long and cold and family transportation depended upon wagons and sleighs. Coupled with the need for robes was a heavy industrial demand for strong leather belting in the new steam and water-powered factories. The Western merchants saw a chance to sell more buffalo robes and pushed their products with vigor. In a few years the tanneries were working overtime to fill the orders for army and civilian greatcoats, carriage robes, and bull-hide leather belting.

The Western Frontier which had produced a lusty generation of relentless beaver trappers proved it could do it again. While the beaver was still going through the slow process of repopulating the Western mountains, the buffalo began his last stand as a symbol of Western fauna. From the Staked Plains of Texas to the Montana border, a new breed of fearless "exterminators" appeared—men who braved blizzards and hostile Indians to bring in wealth in the shape of hair and hide. For a few glorious years the buffalo hunter was a Bunyan-sized part of frontier life. He lived by his wits and his rifle and he burned black powder by the keg-full. His life and his livelihood depended upon his unerring skill as a marksman.

The first professional buffalo hunters of the late 1860's used a mongrel variety of weapons. Some used St. Louis muzzleloaders. Others tried their luck with army muskets, Henrys, Ballards, Spencers, and other late models whose ammunition was readily available. Within a very few years the business was in the hands of a very few highly skilled men who had eliminated most of the competition through ability and superior equipment. The early choice by many of these professionals was the .50-70 Springfield Army Musket. Using one of these, Buffalo Bill Cody killed 4280 buffalo for Kansas Pacific Railroad construction crews in 17 months. Using this same Springfield "needle gun" on horseback, Bill hung up a spectacular record of 69 buffalo in one day during a contest with Bill Comstock near Fort Sheridan, Kansas. Comstock, using a Henry repeater, downed 46 animals.

These .50 caliber Army rifles were Civil War muskets converted to breech loaders by the Allin system and relined to .50 caliber for centerfire cartridges. One photo shows a close view of the lock on Buffalo Bill's rifle with its 1864 date. The cartridge used 70 gr. of powder and a conical 450 gr. bullet. The muzzle velocity of 1240 fps seems awfully slow today but (Continued on page 41)

Bullet Bustup In the Brush—

Would your favorite load hit the target through this brush?



All the bullets fired through this brush were deflected and some blew up entirely.

By DAVID BEATIE

IF YOU'VE EVER shot at a whitetail buck in the brush, and watched him take off like the devil were prodding his after end, chances are that your bullet broke up, with only jacket fragments stinging his hide. This could happen if a high velocity spitzer bullet penetrated a sapling 1 to 2 inches in diameter. It's also probable that the bullet fragment(s) did not hit where you were aiming—even if the buck were near the obstructing brush.

Recently I lost a buck because of bullet deflection—or breakup—and decided to check out various bullets by actual shooting through typical brush. I had thirteen different weights and types of bullets, in calibers .243, .270, and .30, normally used in deer hunting. This is far from a complete list of bullets available but the variety, I figured, was sufficient to indicate a trend.

The results were not surprising but they did indicate that some bullets at some velocities, will hold together better than others, after hitting brush.

Because a clump of brush, just greening up, looked to be ideal for the testing, my range was restricted—by necessity—to 43 yards from muzzle to target. The target itself, a lifesize deer, was placed 16 feet beyond the brush. A benchrest was used to insure hitting, in turn, each of the various saplings in the clump. The saplings, ranging from 1" to 3" in diameter, were not too dense for good holding

on the target; yet they were dense enough to provide the kind of cover a buck likes to utilize when surveying a clearing.

I tried to duplicate actual conditions under which an average hunter would shoot at a brushed-in buck; visibility, range, etc., being considered. Absolute results would be difficult to obtain because every bullet would have to penetrate a sapling of the same size, same resistance, and at the same angle. Only controlled uniformity throughout would provide absolute answers. However, my own testing did indicate positive trends to me.

Rifles used in the test were: .243 featherweight; .270 standard Model 70; .308 with 22" barrel; .30-06 with 22" barrel; and a .30-338 with 23" barrel. After each shot I marked the caliber and bullet used at the striking point of the target. Biggest job was recovery of bullets or fragments from the bank of dirt used as a backstop. When enough of the bullet was recovered, I weighed it for purposes of comparison with original weight.

Bullet weights included 100, 130, 150, 165, 180 and 200 grains. Bullet shapes were spitzer, semi-pointed and round

nose. Velocities ranged from an estimated 2400 fps to something over 3100 fps. All loads—except one—were under handbook-listed maximums. However, three different factory loads were included in the test.

The usual admonition, to use heavy, round nose bullets at lower velocities for brush hunting, generally, stood up in my own tests. Most of the spitzers—particularly those shot at higher velocities—went to pieces after penetrating a sapling, and usually I found only jacket fragments of these bullets. Some of these jacket fragments probably would have penetrated the hide of a buck but the wound would not have been immediately fatal—if fatal at all.

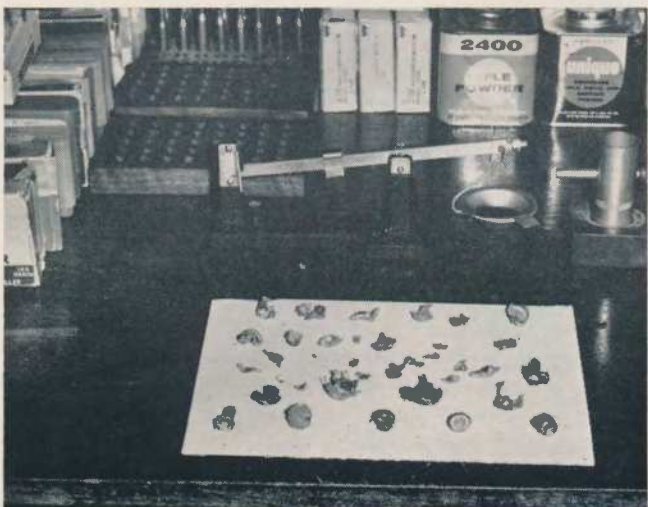
Some of the spitzers, driven at a velocity near 3000 fps, broke up so thoroughly that only a few slivers of jacket were recovered. However, a recovered 100 grain spitzer from the .243 weighed 50.9 grains. This bullet went through center of a sapling but still had some of the core intact. Undoubtedly this bullet deflected off the sapling would have wounded a deer however slightly but recovery would have been difficult if not impossible.

A 130 grain spitzer,

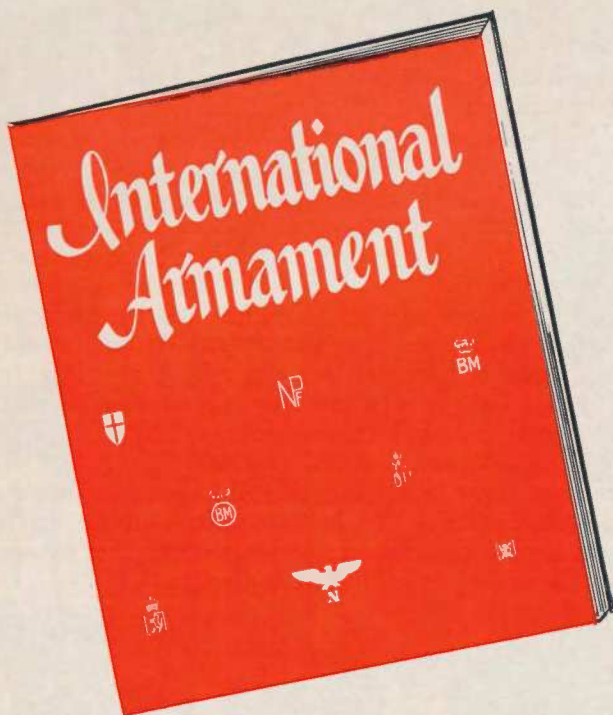
(Continued on page 52)



Above: Dead limbs will cause the greatest deflection. Below: Bullet pieces recovered show the destruction occurring when a branch is hit. Many were not found.



Though aimed at the chest, many fragments missed the target entirely. Each shot was individually marked.



This excerpt, from the new two-volume book "International Armament" by George B. Johnson and Hans Bert Lockoven, shows the treatment of only one variation of the more than 400 models of military weapons covered in this work. Along with technical data and a wealth of illustrative drawings are more than 100 rare combat photographs of the weapons in use. "International Armament" priced at \$35.00 per set is distributed by the Gun Digest Association, 4540 W. Madison St., Chicago, Illinois 60624.



MAUSER 71/84 Magazine Rifle

THIS model was adopted by Germany in 1884 to replace the single-shot Model 1871. The tubular magazine is copied from the Winchester-Henry except that, instead of loading through the gate, the bolt is opened to load cartridges into a tube. A magazine cut-off on the left side of the receiver allows the magazine to be held in reserve while the rifle is loaded as a single shot weapon. The magazine, plus an ejector which was added to this model, greatly increased the rate of fire.

The official designation is Mauser Model 1871/84 Magazine rifle and its characteristics are similar to the Model 1871, except: weight, 11 pounds; over-all length, 50.9 inches; barrel length, 31.5 inches; feed system, eight shot tubular magazine under the barrel.

Method of operation: Rotate the bolt through 90 degrees to the locked position; this disengages the base of the bolt lever from the front of the receiver bridge. During unlocking, the inclined front end of the bolt guide bears against a cam on the receiver, to give primary extraction of the cartridge case. Lifting the bolt handle also causes a camming action on the striker assembly, to partially retract the firing pin.—When the bolt is pulled to the rear, the extractor pulls the fired cartridge case from the chamber.—On the Model 71,

remove the fired case with the fingers or by tilting the rifle to let the empty case drop out. (The 71/84 is self ejecting.)—Insert a fresh cartridge and close the action. Just before the bolt reaches its forward position, the sear catches the cocking piece and holds the striker assembly to the rear. As the bolt is rotated to the locked position, the rounded corner on the rear of the bolt lever engages the locking cam on the forward part of the receiver bridge, thereby forcing the bolt slightly forward, adding leverage to complete the cocking of the striker, and completely chambering the cartridge.

Field stripping: Take out the bolt stop screw, and remove the bolt stop.—Squeeze the trigger, and remove the bolt by pulling it out of the rear of the receiver.—Turn the firing mechanism 90 degrees counterclockwise, so that the cam nose of the cocking piece enters the cam cut in the bolt.—Remove the bolt head, and remove the extractor from the bolt head.—Rest the firing pin point on a wooden surface, press downward on the bolt and safety thumbpiece until the cocking piece clears the firing pin nut.—Unscrew the firing pin nut.—Remove the cocking piece and safety assembly from the firing pin, and remove the firing pin and mainspring from the front of the bolt.

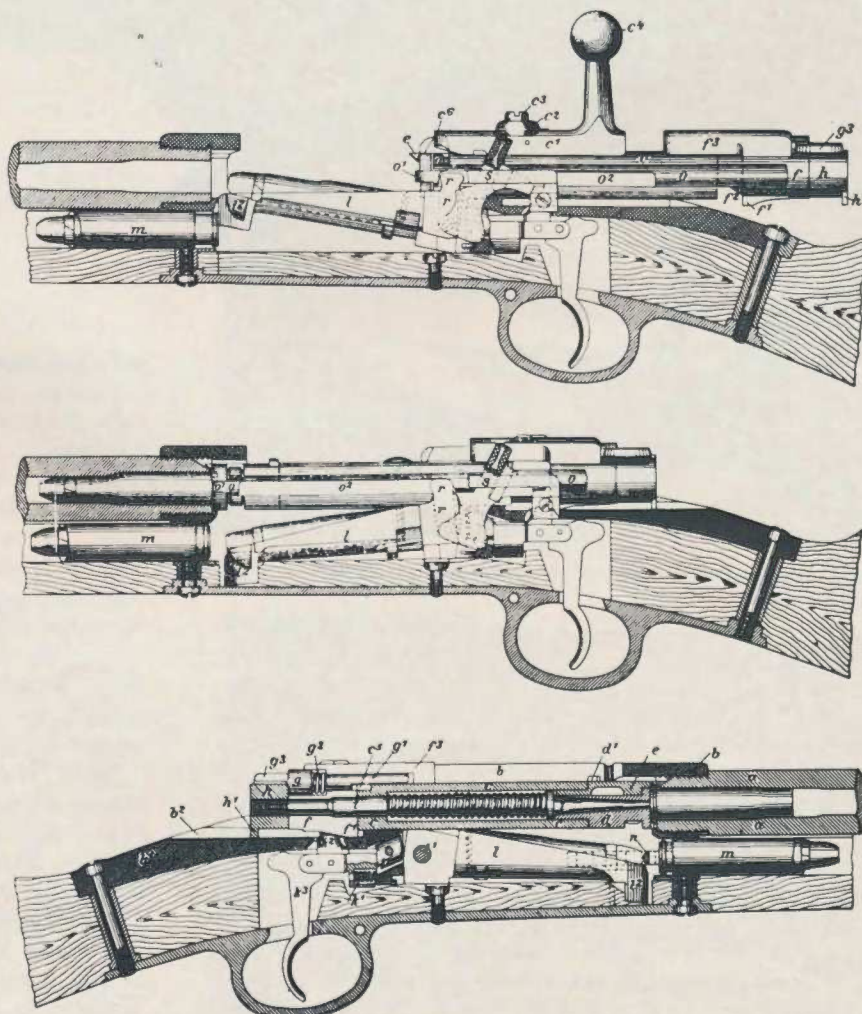
Reassemble in reverse order.





Photo from "International Armament" shows WWI German soldiers with 71/84 rifles and a few 88 Commission rifles.

MANUALLY OPERATED RIFLES 263



The above drawings show the phases of function of the Mauser 1871/84.



WINCHESTERS at the SAHARA



By ROBERT N. MANDEL

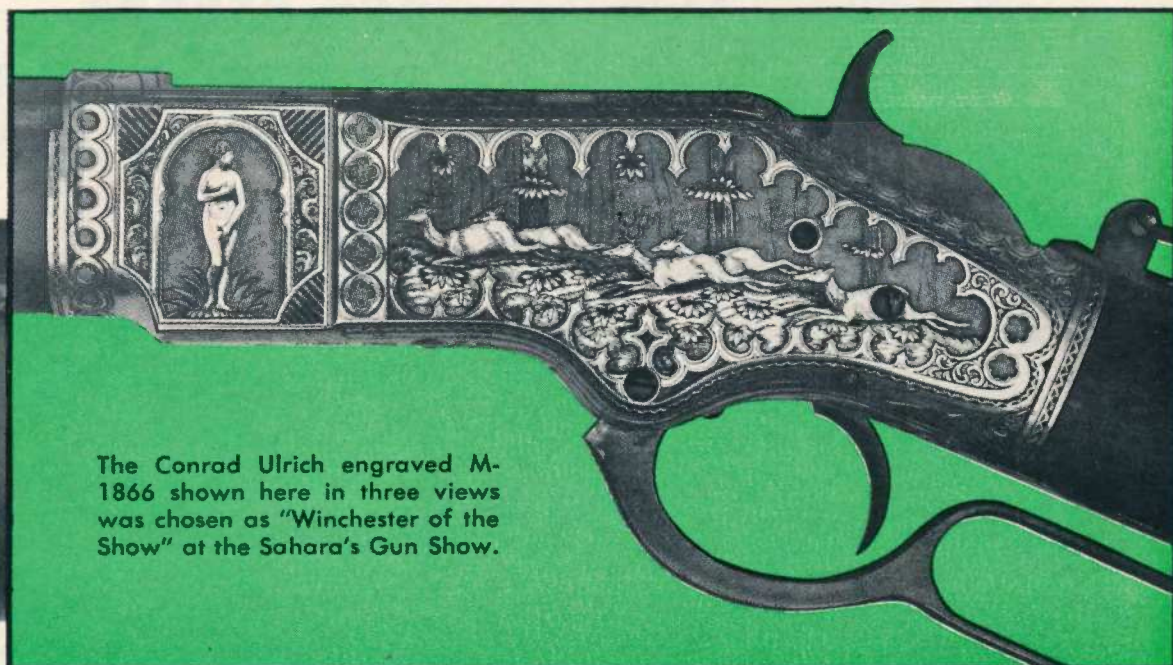
ONCE again the lure of Las Vegas—the whirl of the roulette tables and one-arm bandits—was soon lost in the excitement of the most magnificent display of Winchester rifles this nation's collectors have ever assembled under one roof. The splendor of the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas was all but overshadowed by this assembly of the finest hand crafted displays and individual pieces.

The Winchester theme of the Sahara's Mid-Winter Gun Show will keep the society of gun collectors talking for many months and maybe years to come. Never before have so many magnificent individual one-of-a-kind Winchesters and Winchester group displays met at one time. As you

walked through the exhibition hall, you saw on display an ivory stocked and engraved 1866 carbine; a factory boxed Volcanic carbine in new condition; a like new Jennings rifle; gold inlaid and factory engraved models from the Henry to the 1894 Model, and presentation models of all types. An even dozen "One Of One Thousand" were to be seen; two fine "One of One Hundred" rifles, and engraved Winchesters by such greats as Nimschke and the Ulrichs.

The Winchester Of The Show (pictured here) was a magnificent 1866 rifle, engraved and carved in high relief by Conrad Ulrich in his finest manner—truly a show stopper in itself.

Other Winchester Award Winners were: Best Winchester Representative Display, won by James Fowler Sr., Nashville, Tenn.; Best Winchester Evolution Display, Paul M. Fulks, Sr., Wolfe City, Texas; Best Individual Volcanic, won by Bill Hart of Oakland, Calif. for his rare .41 factory engraved 24" barrel Volcanic rifle; Best Individual Henry, a factory engraved Henry, won by Eric Vaule of Bridgewater, Conn. In addition, Johnny Bassett of Fayetteville Arkansas won First Place for the Best American Arms Display for his outstanding group of engraved and gold inlaid Winchesters.



The Conrad Ulrich engraved M-1866 shown here in three views was chosen as "Winchester of the Show" at the Sahara's Gun Show.

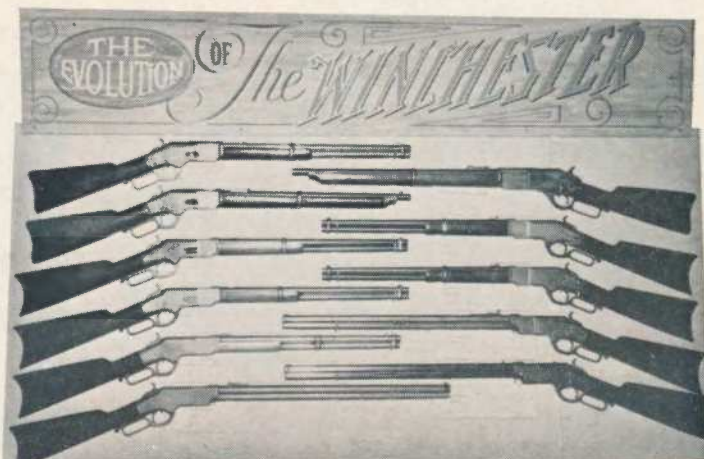
It was almost impossible for the judges to decide who would win the awards. As one of the show judges, I suggested that awards should be given to everyone, for I saw no display at the show that did not deserve some type of award. Truly the finest collection of Winchesters and Winchester Displays ever assembled.

In the 1870's, Oliver Winchester wrote of the Winchester Rifle, "It has become a household word, and a household necessity on our western plains and mountains. The pioneer, the hunter and trapper, believe in the Winchester." What would Mr. Winchester say today if he could have seen this wondrous display of his much loved rifle and know that his creation has become the most sought after firearm in the collectors field today! I think it is a much deserving tribute to a man with such great foresight, perseverance and faith in the repeating rifle.

The Sahara Gun Show, featuring Winchesters, was once again a credit to the "society of lovers of firearms," and to the gun collectors themselves. Gun Show Director Harry Mann, and the Sahara's Director of Publicity, John Romero, are to be congratulated. We of the gun collecting fraternity thank you.



Excellent display of deluxe Winchesters.



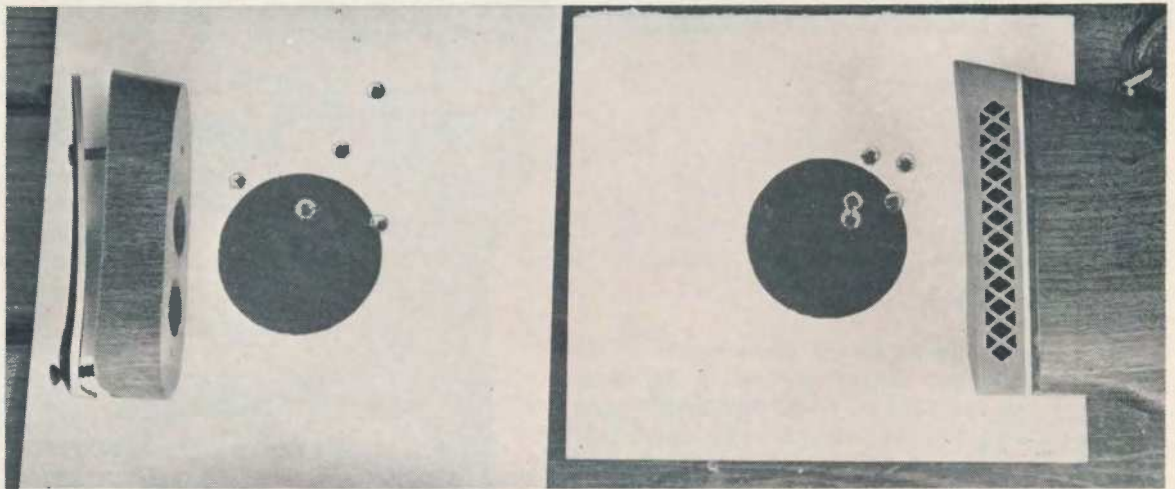
Display of Stan Andrus of California.



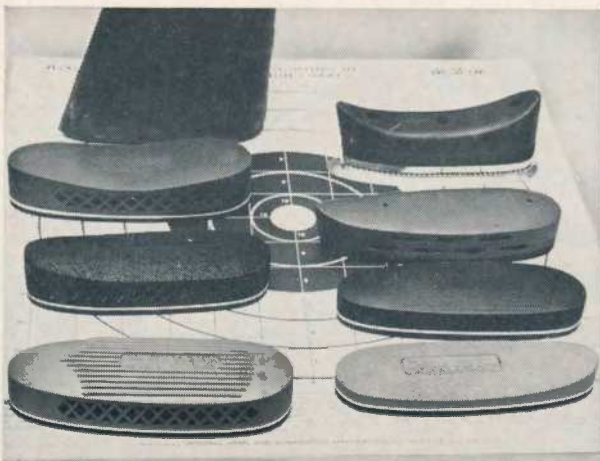
RECOIL PAD YOUR RIFLE

**Padding the big gun could answer
a lot of your shooting problems**

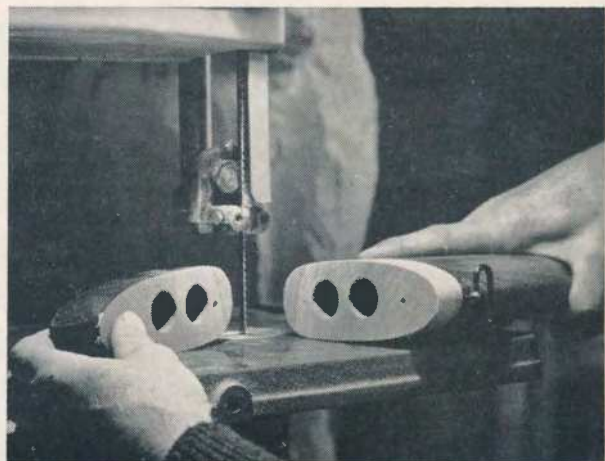
By **GEORGE SURA**



These targets show the dramatic increase in accuracy obtained through the use of a recoil pad.



There is a wide variety of pads available on today's market. These cost between \$2 and \$9.



Stock length can be personalized to individual requirements while the pad is being installed.

NO DOUBT many factors influence the quality of rifle shooting. A good trigger, proper stock fit, adjustable sights, position, and experience all add points to the shooter's score and game to his table. With the larger cartridges, rifle recoil and muzzle blast probably do more to destroy accuracy of bullet placement than any of the other elements involved. Recoil is a germ infecting the shooter with a big bore disease known as flinchitis. As long as a man continues to shoot large cartridges from a rifle, he will develop in one of two manners. He will either steadily improve or he will become a "kicker." The man shooting only once a year will be the individual most susceptible to trembling recoil reaction. Mediocre riflemen also tend to overlook the degree of individual flinching and unfortunately also lack the interest or answers needed to eliminate this most undesirable shooting reaction.

An experienced rifleman learns to "give a little" by rolling with his shot, and rides out the rearward thrust of the recoil energy. While practice will alleviate flinching to some degree, practice does not eliminate recoil itself. At times, further shooting only tends to cause the shooter more rigidity in his effort and can be a detriment when nothing is done correct the problem. This build up of shoulder ramming multiplies tenseness, and before long the shooter may begin searching for excuses rather than flinchitis medicine.

Flinching is actually a mental problem. The nervous system has set up an advance guard, bracing itself against the expected kick. There are few men alive who have not been struck in the face by a fist, limb, or other article. After we once fire a big caliber gun, the experience is embedded in our minds as a normal, healthy fear of possible injury or discomfort.

If we are going to convince ourselves a firearm will not injure us, we must first inspect, improve, or modify that arm for maximum shooting comfort and safety. Contrary to many, many old authorities, one of the first considerations should be the use of a recoil pad. There is a lot of talk about a pad destroying a rifle's appearance, a shooter's groups, and a fancier's pride. This thinking is slowly being overpowered by practical wisdom. Certainly, I am not saying a recoil pad alone is the answer for making a lousy shooter into a good one. But a well designed and properly installed pad will eliminate much of this unnecessary

form of self-torture. Even on the range, unless you're engaged in match shooting, a pad will prove more practical than cumbersome and expensive shooting jackets, sandbags, etc. When recoil elimination is the object of the hunter-rifleman, the pad is way ahead. While we strive to improve gun and equipment design, we must keep a practical outlook on these arrangements if they are also to be used in hunting or common range situations.

For these reasons, a recoil pad is a must on my own high velocity arms. When autumn rolls around, I want to sport a wool coat, rifle, and only the accessories that assist me, not those which belong at special exhibitions. Trail comfort means preserved trail energy and faster, more accurate reflexes. The light weight rifles and the magnum rifles are both designed with this purpose in mind. But with either, recoil is a problem from .30 caliber on up. Most of the magnums I am aware of leave the factory with a pad installed. I can think of no reason why anyone would care to own a magnum rifle without one. During my years of summer varmint hunting in lightweight, no-pad clothing, I painfully learned the way a big bore gun can rob you of hits. Yet I could never let myself lay down a fine all-around gun for a baby .22 or .24 caliber firearm just because the rifle was too much for me in lightweight clothing. The man who has only one rifle for hunting both deer and varmints, as well as for range practice, deserves year round shooting comfort. There is no substitute for off-season practice and the man who defeats subconscious flinching through the use of a recoil pad during practice will be further ahead in the field.

Granted, under the pressure and excitement of hunting, recoil is not as fearsome as on the range or while varmint hunting. However, when we deal with experienced hunters, we deal with men who shoot a lot of the summertime away. When these individuals consistently build up a mental history of unpleasant recoil, they carry into the timber a subconscious recollection of a "kicking rifle." So regardless of the particular degree of recoil fear, the less we have the better.

Certainly, we all recognize that the problem is not one of actually surviving a magnum's recoil. Small framed women can pick up magnums, fire them, and divorce their husbands for suggesting such an experiment... but they generally survive with nothing

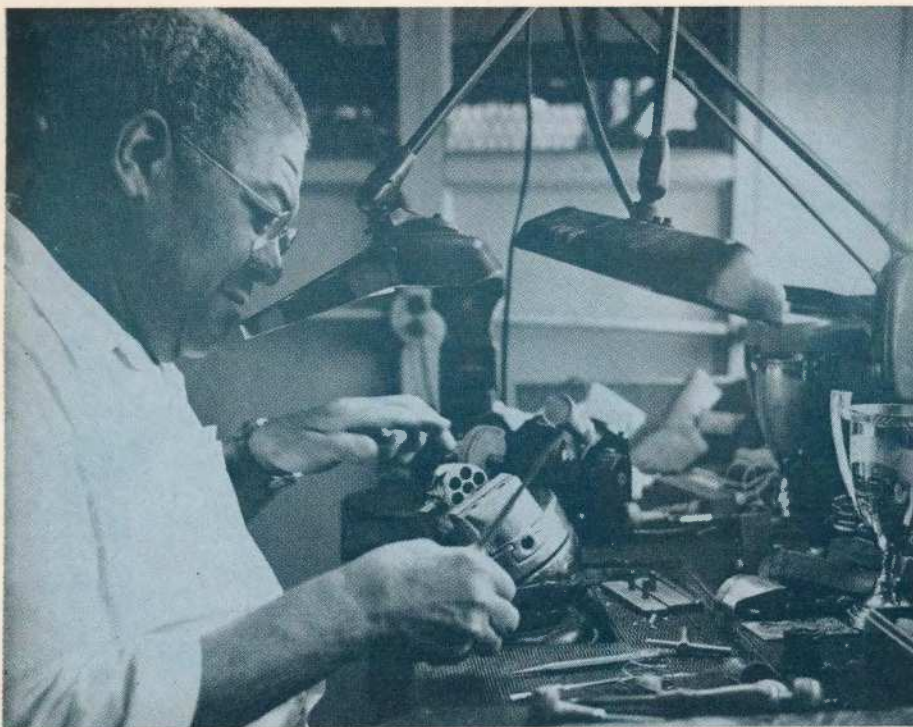
more than bruises on soft shoulders. The arrogant he-man who enjoys wrestling with big stuff is the man who has somewhere along the line missed the whole point of shooting—hitting the target. Since perfection is the goal, elimination of excessive recoil simply makes for better accuracy.

With excessive recoil removed, the rifleman is better prepared to settle down to concentrating on let-off. The long lull of hesitant type of let-off encountered in varmint hunting and range work often counts against a man trying to deal with a bouncy muley. And again, the whitetail hunter will not have the same sort of let-off as does the sheep hunter. The point is that part of the problems of switching from one to the other can be eliminated through the use of a recoil pad.

A couple of years ago, a lad of 16 followed me around the range wanting to try out my 7 mm. Since he was a well built young man, I decided to give him the opportunity. I still had some reluctance, since a 7 mm, even with a recoil pad, is a handful for any 16 year old. I offered the usual instruction concerning scope relief, trigger touch, coolness, etc. I realized that the boy's only previous experience was with .22's and I could see he was trying hard to make a good showing. He let-off and the bullet struck precisely as desired, two inches high, dead 12 o'clock. "Go ahead, try two more for a group," I urged him. Suddenly the enthusiasm gave way to an unexplained need for cartridge conservation and a reluctance to spend my money. *(Continued on page 57)*

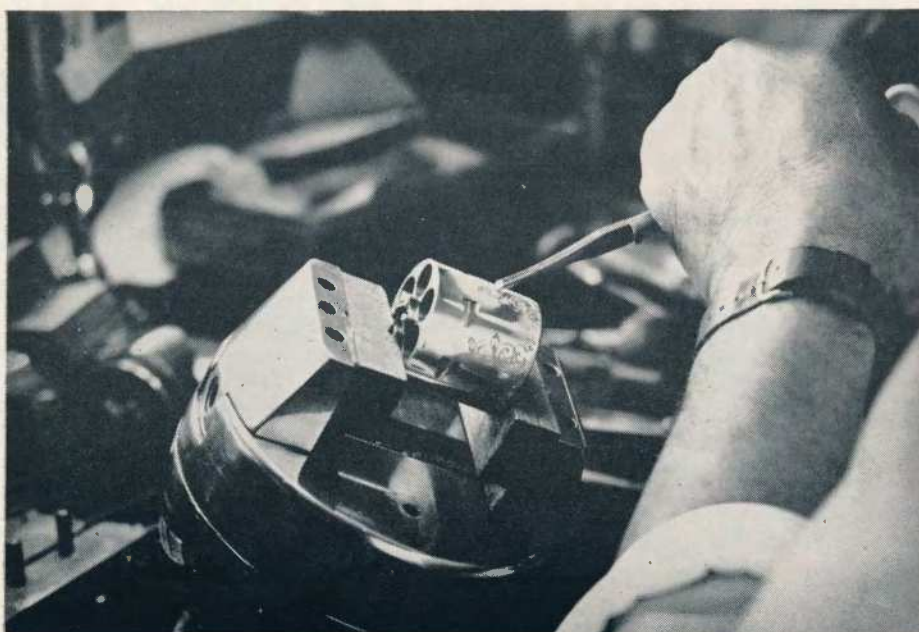


Solving flinching problems is often both a physical and mental process.



Except for the engraving vise, Herbert makes all of his own tools. Many Herbert engraved guns are loaned to Colt's traveling exhibit by owners.

Al Herbert... **Colt's Master Engraver**



Left: Working on the cylinder of a Colt SA .45, Al Herbert is doing "plain engraving," which varies only slightly from gun to gun. Right: Deep lines require a hammer; shallow lines are cut manually.

By BOB TREMAINE



Finishing up a super-deluxe engraving job, Herbert's work covers the entire gun, from backstrap to barrel.



GUN ENGRAVING is either excellent or horrible. As in checkering, there is no middle way; there is no fair or good engraving. What makes gun engraving and judging an engraver's work still more difficult is the fact that themes, types of engraving, and the use of precious metals in inlays is mainly a matter of personal taste and preference.

A few of today's engravers are truly proficient masters of their craft. Al F. Herbert is one of them, although his name may not be too widely known at the present. But tell a gun bug that you have recently purchased a highly engraved Colt from the factory, and it is an even money bet that your listener has seen and knows of Herbert's work.

Unlike other master engravers who are not publicity shy, Al Herbert, though perfectly willing to talk about his work, is happiest when he is left alone at his work bench. Herbert's work is highly individualistic, and is beginning to find the wide recognition that it so richly deserves.

Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Herbert began to engrave when he was a 17 year old student. As youngster he always enjoyed drawing and he received his engraving training at the Franklin Union. Shortly after his graduation from the Union he found work for his skilled hands, but when he was in his early twenties, his job folded. After a 20 year span away from engraving, the urge to handle engraver's tools came upon him once again, and he began to engrave jewelry, working as chief engraver of Vogue Engraving for two years. However, gun engraving had always fascinated him, and about 12 years ago he was hired by Smith & Wesson.

Al Herbert always admired the work of Alvin White, who did, and still does, a considerable amount of engraving for Colt's. Perhaps it was the lure of White's skill, or perhaps it was the fact that he enjoyed working on Colt guns, but Herbert's move to Colt's about 10 years ago was not too surprising.

Watching Herbert work is just about the easiest way to lose yourself completely. No two engravings on a gun are ever alike, and the hardest job, as far as he is concerned, is the requests of Colt customers who order a pair of identically engraved guns. Herbert does not use pre-planned drawings, and all work is, of course, done free-hand. A standard engraving job takes 25-30 hours, and the sky is the limit when it comes to custom work. Many Colt customers request 24 karat gold inlays. These inlays are made of precious metals drawn into wire 0.015" thick; the undercut that holds the wire is also 0.015" deep. Gold leaf inlays are 20 thousandths thick, and to watch Al Herbert undercut a gold leaf inlay with a few swift and certain strokes of his chisel is a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

Like every master craftsman, Herbert has his own ideas as to how deeply engraving should be cut, and he feels that *(Continued on page 43)*



Pull!

BY DICK MILLER

THE TEMPERATURE WAS not quite up to Arizona standards for the kick-off event of the new year at Phoenix Gun Club, but the shooters warmed things up anyway. Rain, which Phoenix surprisingly enough didn't need at the time, greeted shooters on the first preliminary day, which was not registered. Ed Ohlinger of Phoenix got things under way with a victory in a 100-target handicap event. Ohlinger broke 98 of the 100 targets, with the runner-up trophy going to Leonard Jensons of Minot, North Dakota, for 94x100. The second preliminary day, also not registered, picked up the pace, and featured some Lackland AFB gunners.

Jack Morris of Lackland turned back Dick Loffelmacher also of Lackland in a shoot-off, 24/22, after both had broken 98 handicap targets in regulation distance. Major Hank Copsey copped Class A of the doubles race, with 49 of 50 pairs. Class B went to Bill Woodward of Phoenix for 47x50, and Class C went to Louis Toy of Phoenix with an identical score.

The Lackland boys were still around when things got serious on Thursday, and four days of registered gunning began. The first registered day was 16-yard Class Championship Day, and finished like this: Winner AA—Ken Jones, Lackland AFB—110x100; Winner A—Dick Loffelmacher, Lackland—100x100, 24/23 in shoot-off with Jerry Mills; Winner B—Harry Wall, Denver, Colorado—100x100; Winner C—Wallace Meyer, Jr., Phoenix, Arizona—98x100; Winner D—Audrey Pabst, Prescott, Arizona—93x100; High Lady—Helen Urban, Mentor, Ohio—95x100—shoot-off Helen Urban—69x75; Elinor Gregory—68x75.

Valley of the Sun Handicap—100 targets—111 shooters; Winner—Harry Wall, Denver, Colorado—97x100; Runner-up Dale Grantham, Phoenix, Arizona—96x100; shoot-off Grantham, 22; Tom Orlick, 21; Jerry Mills, 20. High Lady—Audrey Pabst, Prescott, Arizona—91x100.

The second big registered day featured the preliminary handicap, and Phoenix Doubles Championships; Preliminary Handicap—100 targets, 148 shooters; Winner—M. D. Peters, Oskalus, Iowa—96x100; shoot-off: 23/22, Dale Grantham; Runner-Up—Dale Grantham—Phoenix; 96x100—22 in shoot-off; High Lady—Helen Urban, Mentor, Ohio—81x100; 22½ yards; Phoenix Doubles Championships 50 pairs, 99 shooters: Champion—Dan Orlich, Reno, Nevada—93x100, shoot-off 19/18 Carl Thacker; Class A—Hugh Driggs—Palmyra, Michigan—92x100; Shoot-off 19/18,

Dick Loffelmacher; Class B—Carl Thacker, San Diego, California—93x100; Class C—Louis Toy, Phoenix—85x100; Shoot-off 15/11 Hale; High Lady—Helen Urban, Mentor, Ohio—89x100.

The third big day featured the Phoenix Singles Championships, with 200 targets and 182 shooters. The squad that attracted the big gallery was squad 20, with a total score of 991x1000. Squad 20: Orlich, 200; Doughman, 197; Copsey, 199; Thacker, 197; Crossen, 198. Champion—Dan Orlich—200; Class AA—Sgt. Jack Morris, Lackland AFB—199x200. Shoot-off: Morris, 25; Hank Copsey, 23. Class A—Carl Thacker, San Diego, California—197x200; Class B—Henry Ohlinger, Phoenix—196x200; Class C—Ed Smith, Tucson—192x200; Shoot-off: Smith, 21; Ed Ohlinger, 20; Class D, Robert Hardisty, Palm Desert, California—190x200; High Lady—Elinore Gregory, Tucson—186x200; High Junior—Jim Poindexter, Bradbury, California—98x100. Sunday, the fourth and final registered day featured the Arizona Handicap, with 218 shooters. Champion—Charles Lundgren, Phoenix—96x100; Runner-Up—Carl Young, Tucson—95x100; High Lady—Helen Urban—88x100; Runner-up, high lady—Maggie Moore, Tucson—85x100; High-Over-All winners were (events 1-6): Class AA—Ken Jones, Lackland AFB—661x700; Class A—R. D. Loffelmacher, Lackland AFB—661x700; Class B—Harry Wall, Denver, Colorado—652x700; Class C—Ed Ohlinger, Phoenix—649x700; Class D—Dewey Brown, San Jose, California—623-700.

The 1966 Charles Becker Memorial Trophy, for high-over-all Arizona shooter, went to William Woodward, of Phoenix, for his 651x700. The Arizona Republic Trophy, for high Arizona lady on events 4, 5, 6 and all-around, went to Elinore Gregory of Tucson, for her 330.

Otis Erisman won the Dr. Karl C. Jonas Trophy handicap trapshooting match in snow at the Philadelphia Country Club traps, Gladwyne. Dr. Charles C. Wolferth Jr took the 16-yard race, and Mrs. R. D. Mulberger topped the ladies.

Fred Gross, of Worcester, Bucks County, Pa., surprised 50 entries at Roxborough Gun Club by dropping in and shooting the only perfect score of the day. Mrs. Mary Christopher edged Mrs. Florence Kleckner by two targets in the ladies division. Francis McCullough was the double victor.

Larry Hedrick, Sr. was a high gun winner at Aronimink, Newtown Square, Pa. Vern Zeller was runner-up. In a special International match, Dr. J. W. Mahoney

nipped Charles Todd 24 to 23. The handicap team match was won by the team of F. Abbott, Vern Zeller, C. Keefer, Charley Todd, and J. Kofron.

Snow at Philadelphia CC Spring Mill grounds didn't hurt scores, as Fred Lyons dropped only one target in the 16 yard race, and Lew Pettinos broke them all in the handicap. Mrs. C. C. Wolforth was high lady, three targets off the pace.

Ray Scott fired a perfect 25 in a shoot-off to turn back six other perfect scores and win the Hershberger Handicap Bowl at Aronimink GC, Newtown Square, Pa. Larry Hedrick was again high in the 16-yard arena, and Mrs. C. G. Olio topped the ladies.

The Torresdale-Frankford team increased it's hold on first place in the Women's Interclub Trapshooting League by winning the seventh match, at Huntingdon Valley. The winning Torresdale squad and scores: Mrs. E. P. Comly—48, Mrs. Rhoda Wolf 47, Mrs. Otto Neiderer and Mrs. W. W. Remmey 46, and Mrs. W. E. Frost—44.

Barney Berlinger, former Penn track star, won high gun trophy at Huntington Valley Country Club's 50 target event at Abington, Pennsylvania. He won a shoot-off, 24/23, over R. E. Kuhn, after both had deadlocked at 48. Mrs. Andrew Webb topped the ladies in the same program, with a fine 47. Mr. & Mrs. Webb took the couples trophy. Mrs. Donald Wintz won the Stewart Graham memorial trophy handicap shoot. Mrs. George Seifert topped a doubles handicap test event.

And, speaking of girls, one of the nicest, Mrs. Evelyn Eperjessy, was honored by her city of Johnstown, Pa., with an All-Sports Hall of Fame Trophy. The trophy was presented to Mrs. Eperjessy by Dan Fales of National Shooting Sports Foundation. One of the most pleasant recollections I have of the Grand is a day of shooting with Mrs. Eperjessy's doctor husband. The good doctor and I didn't win any trophies that day, but we had a good time.

Another skeet gunner has entered the hallowed circle of those shooters who have broken one hundred straight with the .410 gun and 2½ inch shell in registered competition. Forty-one year old Dr. Eugene Donnelly, a dentist from Binghamton, New York, is the newest member of that select club, which now has ten other members, including my co-worker Joe Sullivan. Not only did Dr. Donnelly join the club which is about as select as the baseball manager's club, he set a new world record for long run with the .410, 193 targets.

Dr. Donnelly also joined with the California ace, William Hay Rogers of Atherton in wiping from the books of skeet an 11-year old record for high year's average on 1000 or more targets. Their 998 of 1000 birds gave them .998 for the year to best the mark of .9975 set by Ed Scherer of Waukesha, Wisconsin, on 1200 targets.

PULL! congratulations go to Texan Martin F. Wood of Dallas for his high aggregate skeet average for 1965. His National Skeet Shooting Association rating was a whopping .9831, which means that he averaged .9904 on 1675 12-gauge targets, .9897 on 975 20-gauge targets, .9820 on 725 28-gauge targets, and .9568 on 625 .410-targets. Gentlemen and ladies, that's shooting, even for a Texan!



GUNS OF THE BUFFALO HUNTERS

(Continued from page 29)

the guns were accurate and had good knock-down power.

W.E. Webb who hunted on the Kansas buffalo range in 1868 made this respectful comment in his book "Buffalo Land":

Another method of wanton slaughter is the stalking of the herds by men carrying needle guns. These throw a ball double the weight of the ordinary carbine and the shot is effective at six hundred yards.

No doubt the rifles would kill a buffalo at six hundred yards but even the best hunter would have needed telescopic eyes to place his bullets in vital spots at that range with open sights.

Following the American trend to get bigger and better, the professional outfits became regular mass-production crews with teamsters, cooks, and skinners, leaving the "runner" free to devote his time to killing buffalo and managing the operation. Bigger kills were required to offset such increases in overhead and most runners abandoned the old spectacular sport of running buffalo on



The Remington Rolling Block Was Buffalo Bill's favorite.

horseback. A man banging away at running buffaloes from the top of a galloping horse wasted lots of ammunition and could only rarely kill as many as 60 buffalo in a day. The same man with an accurate long range rifle with a telescopic sight firing from a rest could kill several hundred a day.

The prominent manufacturers responded with two excellent models of heavy single shot "buffalo guns." Most popular and successful of the two was the Sharps side-hammer rifle adapted from the Civil War and pre-war percussion Sharps rifles and carbines. A .50 caliber model appeared about 1866 but a variety of loads and calibers was soon developed. The two most famous Sharps cartridges were probably the .40-90-420 (.40 caliber bullet weighing 420 grains propelled by 90 grains of black powder) and the .45-120-550. This last had nearly 2400 foot-pounds of muzzle-energy and a buffalo hit in

a vital spot by one of those bullets would drop in his tracks. Many experienced 20th century hunters have pronounced the .45 caliber Sharps a more deadly big game killer than any other hunting rifle ever made in America.

The other "real" buffalo gun was the Remington rolling-block rifle using Joseph Rider's breech mechanism developed during the Civil War. Actually there was little to choose between the Sharps and the Remington. Billy Dixon and Frank Mayer were "Sharps men"; Bob McRae always used a Remington; all three were top-notch "runners." The famous frontier Marshall Bill Tilghman spent some years as a buffalo hunter and legend credits him with killing 11,000 buffalo with a Sharps rifle.

The cost of ammunition was a great incentive for better shooting. Factory loads were twenty-five cents each; hand loads cost half that much. An ordinary buffalo hide brought two dollars at the railroad and out of that two dollars had to come wages, equipment, overhead losses, cost of ammunition, and, if possible, profit. The runners melted their lead in skillets and patched the bullets with bank note paper or antelope skin dressed very thin. Powder was usually Curtis & Harvey as first choice, Dupont, or Hazard second. The loading had to be carefully done to insure the highest accuracy. The objective was "a robe for a cartridge." They didn't always do it but many of them came consistently close. Bob McRae was said to have taken 54 hides with 54 cartridges from a single "stand" or shooting position. Frank Mayer claimed a record of 59 hides with 62 cartridges from a single stand. The basic idea was to keep a small herd milling while the hunter, shooting from a rest at three or four hundred yards, carefully picked the buffalo off one by one. If he established his "stand" too close to the herd, the buffalo were apt to become frightened by the report of the rifle or the movements of the hunter himself.

Popular Remington cartridges were the .44-77 and .44-90 bottlenecked calibers. The latter was advertised in the early 1870's as Remington's .44 "Special" cartridge and high claims were made for its efficiency against big game. Other available calibers in buffalo hunting days included .40-70, .45-70, .50-70 and .58 Govt.

All these Sharps and Remington rifles were powerful, accurate and sturdy. Most of them were fitted with single or double set triggers. A few men used them with open sights but most of the professional hunters fitted their guns with long telescopic sights of 10, 20, or even 30 power. With such equipment the plainsmen did shooting that was, and still is, legendary for its accuracy and range.

By modern standards the popular buffalo cartridges were slow, being in the 1400 to 1500 fps class, but the soft bullets were heavy and the resulting striking energy was surprisingly high. The low velocities naturally gave high trajectory but the runners quickly learned, like other plainsmen, to esti-

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mate distances accurately. Those with scopes on their guns often had stadia hairs or other auxiliary graduations installed to help estimate distances.

A rest was desirable for such steady shooting and was absolutely essential when high-powered scopes were used. The runners made them of two hardwood or iron strips bolted together near one end to form an "X" when unfolded. The lower points of the "X" were thrust into the ground and the rifle rested in the crotch or upper angle, the cross sticks and rifle being steadied together by the left hand.

Life for the professional runner wasn't all shooting by any means. As soon as he had killed what his skinners could take care of that day he had to ride off to locate the next herd, pick a suitable camp site for the next day's operations, clean his guns, and load up a new supply of ammunition. It might be added that this was his routine if everything went well. Sometimes, as the herds began to diminish, it would take days to find enough buffalo for a day's good shooting. Other times, there were Indian skirmishes, for the buffalo runners were destroying the Plains Indians' livelihood and the Indians knew it. They hated the white hunters fiercely even though they feared the deadly long range rifles. Many luckless runners died from poisoned arrows or trade rifle balls shot from ambush. Others still less fortunate were only disabled and captured. Then death often came slowly under agonizing tortures.

If the hunter was on the open prairie and had a warning of enemy approach, it was a different matter. No ordinary Indian carried a weapon that could kill at 600 yards. One cool and experienced hunter could stand off a war party and two or three such men "forted up" in a buffalo wallow or a rocky outcrop could stand off a whole village. Many western artists found such situations ideal subjects for heroic canvases, one of the best known being "The Water Hole" by Frederic Remington. Mayer claimed a score of one Indian and two horses with three shots at 759 yards in a brush with Comanches on the Staked Plains. He was using a Sharps in .40-90 caliber.

"Buffalo Jones," who was a buffalo hunter before dedicating the rest of his life to the

preservation of the bison and the musk-ox, left us an exciting account of a brush with the Arapahoes. His hunting party had camped at a waterhole near the headwaters of the Saline River in western Kansas and Jones had scouted a ridge ahead for buffalo sign beyond. Finding Indians approaching, he beat a hasty retreat to camp, which was included in "Buffalo Jones' Forty years of Adventure," by Col. Inman.

By this time the redskins were all in line, coming directly toward us as fast as their ponies could carry them. I was now within about twenty feet of the wagons. Here I stood until the savages were within four hundred yards of us, then dropped on one knee, leveled my rifle and drew a bead. But at that instant they all scattered in every direction, the majority turning to the left; then uttering their diabolical, blood-curdling war-whoop, they commenced to ride around us in their usual strategic style. I called out to my companions to lie down and not shoot until I had opened the fire; to keep cool, and aim ahead of the ponies one rod for each hundred yards distance.

The Indians now sent several balls whistling over our heads, and were constantly pressing closer and closer in upon us; yet we never moved from our position, or made any demonstration whatever. These tactics, doubtless, put them in a quandary: they evidently could not determine whether we were old hunters, saving our ammunition, were veritable 'tenderfeet,' or were so badly scared that we dared not fire. A few moments later their doubts were speedily dissolved, for when they had crowded in until I could plainly see the ears of their horses, having by this time calculated the distance pretty well, I cried out, 'All ready boys!' raised myself on one knee, aimed two rods ahead of the front horse, and fired; and by the puff of dust raised by the ball knew it had struck about a foot behind the animals hind feet, directly in the rear. Then I knew well what to do next time: I aimed a little farther in front, and four feet higher, touched the hair trigger at the instant, and watched the result of my shot with

as much confidence as though I had the pony so near I could have touched him with my rifle. Spat! went the ball, and the bald-faced animal rolled over and over. Its rider was on his feet before the animal was off his, running away like a wild turkey. Having thus disposed of one of the red devils, I turned my battery on the last of the savages, and sent a ball which crippled his horse very badly; yet the scared Indian applied his whip so vigorously that he soon reached the same little 'cut-bank' that had served me so kindly a short time before. My men sent many shots into them and claimed several horses were badly wounded.

Buffalo runners were generally "loners" who stuck to their business, but occasionally they congregated for a bit of frivolity or trading. The tiny sod-house settlement of Adobe Walls on the South Fork of the Canadian became the headquarters for many hunters in the Texas-Oklahoma area. In addition to the famous Hanrahan's Saloon there was a store and restaurant, hide yard, blacksmith shop, and several cabins. There in June 1874, twenty-eight men and one woman stood off hundreds of Cheyennes and Comanches led by a fanatic Comanche prophet named Ishatai. The buffalo guns struck terror to the Indian's hearts and they gave up the attack after having nine men killed and many wounded. The prophet watched the battle from a hill top supposedly out of range but one man in his personal party was felled by a hunter's bullet before the Indians withdrew.

There are many spine-tingling tales of the doughty settlers and the dashing U.S. Cavalry clearing out the redskins in the West. In spite of all this, it is the writer's guess that no frontier figure had more to do with the crushing of the Plains Indians' power and the ultimate "taming of the West" than the buffalo runner.

The buffalo was the Indian's commissary, clothing shop, and variety store. While the herds lasted, the Indian was master of the Plains and terror to any invader. Without that vital part of his economy he became just a hungry, homeless savage on a pony, ready to sell his fading birth rights for once despised salt pork and flour.

What made the difference in less than ten years? The lone men with Sharps and Remingtons made the difference. At least five million buffalo were killed in the period from 1871 to 1875. Nothing could stand up to the men who shot the big guns. Some Indians tried and maybe they were the lucky ones. Knowing the powerful magic of the Sharps, many of those Indians who tried invoked all the power of tribal magic to give them some kind of protection from the far reaching slugs. Such a man was Falling Star of the Brule Sioux. Time and again angry scouts had tried to kill him and dispel the myth that he could catch their bullets without harm. Frank Mayer finally did it. Falling Star fell before a big Sharps rested on crossed sticks, just like hundreds of other Indians and millions of buffalo. When he fell he was down for keeps. Every inch the professional hunter, Frank observed that the 550-grain bullet took away three vertebrae on its way out of Falling Star's back.



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COLT'S ENGRAVER

(Continued from page 39)

Alvin White now cuts the metal just slightly too shallow. Very much like most of us who have had a chance to examine and study the work of Arnold Griebel, Al admires the consummate skill that is reflected in Griebel's work. His only regret is that he has never met the Chicagoan and that he has never had the opportunity to closely study a Griebel engraved gun. But hand Al Herbert one or two photographs of Griebel's work—his copy of Prudhomme's "Gun Engraving Review" is probably the only loose-leaf copy of the book in existence—and the Colt engraver will show you details that only an engraver's skilled eye will notice.

What is the hardest job that has ever been handed to Herbert? "Cylinders are the hardest to engrave since they cannot be annealed and the work is on the round. By working only small areas, then linking these areas by turning the work in the engraver's vise, it becomes relatively simple when you have the experience." A bit of quick mental calculation showed that Al Herbert had been at the engraver's bench for some 25 years, and that by this time a man with his skill would find few jobs very difficult.

Herbert engraved Colt guns are in great demand. Not only does he design and execute all of the special Colt guns and the presentation models that come along, but a lot of steady Colt customers who appear to know what they want, and who are willing to pay as well as wait for the job, are now asking Herbert to adorn their guns artistically. When I visited Herbert's shop on the second floor of Colt's Hartford plant, he had orders for silver, gold, and even platinum inlays.

As Herbert's fame grew, so grew the Herbert cult—and cult, I believe, is the correct word here. The work of a highly skilled engraver enhances the value of a gun considerably—even if the gun is a currently produced model. More and more Colt aficionados buy Herbert engraved guns, then send earlier models to Colt's for some of Herbert's work. Judging from the job tickets that were on his bench, there must be a goodly number of

people around who can boast that each of their Colt's was engraved by Al Herbert.

With a little bit of training, nearly anyone can pick up an engraver's chisel and scratch a couple of lines into a hunk of metal. With some artistic training, those lines may or may not resemble a mountain goat or an elk, or show some semblance of an acceptable scroll design. But it takes a high degree of skill, artistic training, and a great deal of talent, plus many years of apprenticeship before a creditable piece of engraving is accomplished. And gun engraving is probably the most difficult method of expressing artistic talent, for a mistake in the medium of steel cannot be erased, cannot be painted over, and engraving flaws—although they can be hidden and covered over—become apparent when work is closely scrutinized by experts. Master engravers such as Al Herbert, Arnold Griebel, Ed Prudhomme, and many others are today's true artisans with a deep love for their work and a skill that many times far surpasses those of other artisans working with different media.

When you see your next factory-engraved Colt, chances are that Al Herbert's skilled hands manipulated the tiny, razor-sharp engraver's chisel. When you see artistry in metal such as that created by Herbert, who cares what the price tag might be?



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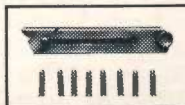
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JOHNSON 5.7MM SPITFIRE

(Continued from page 23)

cartridge had, and still has, a lot going for it. Designed for a chamber pressure of 36,000 psi—a pressure which permits functioning of the gun and is, at the same time, easy on the brass—and a light bullet, the Spitfire offered some advantages that other varmint calibers and guns did not offer. Because of the retention of the carbine design, the gun handled well and was short enough to be packed easily into a hunting camp or carried in the pickup truck of a rancher. The 40 grain bullet has an MV of 3,050 fps from a 24 inch barrel, a retained 100 yard velocity of 2,450 fps, and a 200 yard velocity of 1,850 fps. According to the H. P. White Laboratory, the 18 inch barrel of the semi-automatic carbine shoves the 40 grain bullet along at 2,825 fps at the muzzle, and at 100 yards, the velocity is still 2,175 fps. The over-all length of the Spitfire cartridge is 1.68 inch, and earlier loaded cartridges weighed 120 grains, while the current production runs average 126 grains per loaded cartridge. Bullets miking .2235 are the only ones suitable for loading the 5.7 mm cases, and the larger .22 bullets are not recommended for use. Lysle Kilhourn, father of the K-Hornet, described the 5.7 mm to me when I visited him at the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation, as "a super K-Hornet with a case that holds more powder and is rimless to assure positive feed in the MI carbine action." The Spitfire is just a bit below the performance level of the time-honored .222 Remington and a little above the performance of the now defunct .218 Bee.

Make no mistake about the accuracy of the Spitfire. Neither the gun nor the cartridge was designed for a hot-shot benchrest combination, although the one benchrest gun that I saw had a lot of potential. But for rough and ready varmint hunting or knocking off a ptarmigan or spruce grouse, the Spitfire would certainly do the trick. Accuracy at 100 yards with a semi-auto averaged around 2.5 inches for 10 shots, using standard carbine sights. If the shooter wants to get fancy and install a scope, groups will tighten up accordingly. One bolt action rifle that I fired at the Blue Trail Range on a windy day at 100 yards gave groups that measured 1.25 inches for five shots. I saw a number of witnessed targets at the range that day—I was being hosted by Ed Johnson—that measured as little as 0.625" for 100 yard five shot groups. Shooting jack rabbits, coyotes, bob cats, and other varmints such as crows, the gun will put those little 40 grain bullets where they'll do the most good, providing you do your share.

The Johnson MMJ 5.7 mm Spitfire is now available as either a standard MI carbine conversion or the Custom Sporter Model. The conversion offers these features: A new Johnson 18 inch 5.7 mm (.223) barrel, an un-hooded Williams ramp sight with ivory bead, the feed will have been altered and the Johnson feed ramp will have been installed, the compression ratio will have been increased to assure functioning of the rounds from the box magazine. Magazines, incident-

ally, are available for 5, 15, and 30 rounds. Once these changes have been made, the gun is then proof tested and is marked with the "JP" mark. The bolt is damascened and metal parts are given an excellent bluing job. The basic price for this job will set you back \$59.95. You can have the gun Parkerized while the gun is being worked on and that will cost you another 10 bucks.

As far as I am concerned, an even better bet is the Custom Sporter Model. The stock is a custom job, is made from a good piece of selected American walnut. The pistol grip and the gentle Monte Carlo comb are pleasant to the eye and feel comfortable while handling the gun and while firing it. Add to this stock feature a new, low-profile hand guard and a streamlined barrel band—that band is also a Johnson design—and you have a stock that lifts the gun out of the average production run. My test gun has well executed hand-checkering on the fore-end and on the pistol grip, and the checkering is sharp, clean and without over-runs or badly made corrections. The checkering appears to be of the 16 lines per inch variety, and although it is not highly artistic, it is a lot better than a lot of stockers produce these days at some very fancy prices. My only complaint about the sporter model is the lack of sling swivels. I manage to get a couple of fox hunts under my belt each year and find that a sling on a gun is a necessity.

The custom job has, of course, the same barrel as the conversion and also the same front sight. The Williams WGRS receiver sight gives the shooter the option of large or small aperture, and the sight is fully adjustable. The receiver and trigger group is of a new design and new manufacture and is made of high tensile steel; the barrel is A.I.S.I. 4140 steel, and the action is tuned and honed to perfection. The bolt is damascened, and weight of the empty gun is 5 pounds on the button. You have the choice of a 5, 15, or 30 shot detachable magazine, the safety is the standard carbine safety, and over-all length of the gun is 37 inches. Trigger pull is clean and crisp, and the trigger of my test gun broke at 4.5 lbs. In the course of testing the Spitfire carbine, I fired over 300 rounds, without any malfunction whatever. The Custom Sporter Model, JSCD, comes complete with a Bucheimer gun case and is drilled and tapped for the HCO scope mount. This package retails for \$149.95. By the time you buy a military carbine and have Johnson Arms alter it for the Spitfire cartridge, you pay nearly as much as you do for the Custom Sporter and still have a gun that looks like a GI weapon. It is for this reason and for the extra features that come with the custom job that this choice gets my vote. All in all, this is a far cry from the GI carbine and the gun is a pleasure to handle and shoot.

Recoil and noise level of the Johnson MMJ 5.7 mm Spitfire is minimal and accuracy tests of the custom gun were most gratifying. At 100 yards and firing as fast as possible, average groups measured around 2.75-3.25

inches. These were five shot groups using the large aperture of the Williams sight. With the smaller aperture and shooting slower to retain the sight picture, groups measured, on the average, 2.25-2.5 inches;

The gun was first fired with factory loads which came to me with the 40 gr. Sisk flat-nose, full-jacketed bullets. My Avtron chronograph indicated an MV of 2,734 fps, with the start screen located five feet from the muzzle, and 10 feet screen spacings. Interpolating this figure gives a 100 yard velocity of 2,348 fps, and a 200 yard velocity of 1,794 fps. Muzzle energy would then be 681 ft/lbs, 490 ft/lbs, and 297 ft/lbs. The loading dies supplied by Johnson Arms, Inc. (P.O. Box 17726, New Haven, Conn., 06507) are made for the company by RCBS, Inc., and each set of dies comes with complete loading data. Ed Johnson suggests that brass be used only three times and never more than four times. Although pressures are sane and are kept at the 36,000 psi level, he feels that brass fatigue is a consideration to be kept in mind. The company furnishes loaded rounds or you can neck down .30 caliber carbine cases without trouble. Suitable dies are available from Johnson Arms or from RCBS. Ed strongly urges the use of 6½ Small Rifle primers, although I found little difference when I tried several other brands of primers (one brand did give me somewhat higher pressures, and I discontinued using them in this gun). As the best load, Johnson suggests 12.5 grains of 4227 and bullets must be .223 (.2235 exactly is best). Johnson suggests that only the available 40 gr. bullets be used, but several ex-

perimenters have used 45 gr. and even 50 gr. bullets. I understand that the 50 gr. loads are really on the hot side, and that chronographed loads are approaching the 3,000 fps MV level. I have loaded several dozen rounds with 4227 and 4198 (about 14.0 gr. of 4198 appear best with an MV of 2761 fps, although none of the loads gave me consistent readings), and H 240 should also work in this case. I believe that the 45 gr. bullets with either 12.0 or 12.5 gr. of 4227 or 13 gr. of 4198 should be alright, although I have only fired a few of these rounds for accuracy and pressure checks. Accuracy is good and there are no signs of pressure. Results with the new ReloderR powders have, up to now, not produced a load I consider satisfactory.

Case capacity to the level of the base of the bullet is 16 gr. of Ball C, Lot #2, and in extensive firing tests with factory ammo, there was no perceptible barrel heating or group wandering, even when I emptied the 15 shot magazine as rapidly as possible. Cartridge length should not exceed 1.68" since the magazine and the cartridge feed mechanism are adjusted for that cartridge length. Soft point ammo is becoming available as this is written, and Ed assures me that ballistics will not be different. For those of you who are not handloaders, the box of ammo containing 30 rounds retails for \$4.30, and 900 rounds, one case, will set you back \$129.00. And believe me, that little custom sporter is strictly a fun gun and the only thing that will stop you from shooting all afternoon is that fact that you'll run out of ammo long before you figure you ought to—I know I did!

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TO SHOOT OR NOT TO SHOOT

(Continued from page 21)

value upon human safety than upon mere property rights, the accepted rule is that there is no privilege to use any force sufficient to cause death or serious bodily injury where only the property of a person is threatened, he may then defend himself and even kill, if necessary.

It can generally be said that if you are a property owner, you will incur civil liability for the use of a firearm in attempting to prevent a petty theft of personal property by a minor. Of course, the defense is always that the shooting was justified, but that plea did not save the defendant in a Missouri case (242 S.W. 155). There the boy walked up to the defendant's storage warehouse in the night with the avowed purpose of stealing property in the warehouse. The defendant had suffered from previous burglaries and stationed a Deputy Sheriff as guard "to stay there and try to catch the parties." On the night of the shooting, the guard saw the boy walking up to the warehouse with his companions. The guard commanded them to halt and surrender, and fired twice in the general direction in which they ran. The guard later testified that he had no intention of injuring anyone, but shot merely to give them "a good scare." Now the defendant argued that the boys were engaged in a felony when one of them was shot, hence the shooting was justified. But the Court said no . . . that no act

toward the actual commission of burglary had been committed at the time the shot was fired. The boy who was hit was, at most, only a trespasser at the time of the shooting, and the use of a deadly weapon is not justified in repelling a mere trespass.

This same theory of liability where only a trespass was involved, has been followed in a Missouri case (24 S.W. 2nd 1072) where a telephone company was held liable for the acts of its foreman in shooting a boy who was caught in the act of stealing segments of junk telephone cable. In Pennsylvania (30 Pa. Super 237), where a boy stealing apples, was shot by the landowner, the Court said that though the boy was defiantly violating the law, the landowner could not himself determine the manner, character, or degree of the penalty to be imposed. It is apparent that you must be very sure when shooting at boys that they are more than just trespassers.

Since the defense of your home and family against intruders is of paramount importance to you, what are your rights to defend it with a gun? There are a good many situations where no liability was incurred when the homeowner had reason to believe that there was a threat of *imminent invasion* by an intruder. The cases applying this rule involved situations where the householder might reasonably have feared for the personal safety of himself or his family as well as for the

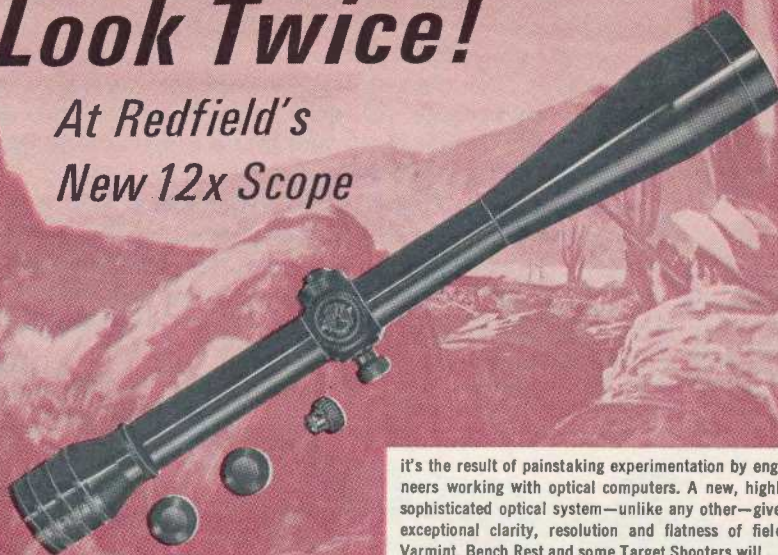
sanctity of his dwelling. In a recent case in California the plaintiff sought damages after he had been shot by the defendant as he approached his home in the nighttime. As the result of a broken engagement between the defendant's stepdaughter and the plaintiff, the plaintiff had carried on a systematic campaign of harassment, culminating a few days before in damage to the defendant's property, for which the defendant had instigated criminal charges against the plaintiff. Being fearful of his safety and that of his family, the defendant borrowed a .22 caliber rifle, which he kept at hand. At around midnight on the night of the shooting, he noticed plaintiff sneaking across the property adjoining his house and observed that he was carrying an object in his hand which the defendant believed was dynamite. When he saw the plaintiff approaching the window of the room in which his stepdaughter was sleeping, he called out to him, fired three warning shots in the ground and then emptied the remaining 15 shots in the rifle in the plaintiff's direction. Later it was discovered that the plaintiff had been hit in three places and that the object in his hands was an electric flashlight. Here it was obvious that the defendant had reasonable grounds to believe that the plaintiff intended to set off dynamite or start a fire at the front of his home. The Court refused plaintiff any recovery, saying that the defendant was acting as a reasonable man in the circumstances and did not here use excessive force in the protection of his family and property.

In North Carolina the right to protect one's home against an apparent invasion by an intruder was also upheld. Here the defendant was the employer of a watchman who was living in a trailer near his employer's construction project. On the night of the shooting, the plaintiff was returning to his mother's home along trails in the vicinity of North Carolina College. Shortly after 10:30 p.m. the plaintiff in the dark apparently bumped against the trailer, and frightened the watchman's wife who was sleeping in a bed immediately under the window. She and her daughter screamed and her husband, the watchman, came into the trailer and asked what was the matter. His wife told him that someone was trying to break into the window. The watchman yelled at the plaintiff to ask who he was and what he was there for and to get away from there. There was no light in the trailer but the moon was shining on the outside, being close to full moon. The man did not get away from the window and the watchman got his shotgun, loaded it, and ordered the man to get away. He saw the man stoop over, straighten up, and then take hold of the window. Whereupon he shot at the window and cut a hole about six inches in diameter in the window and the load of shot hit the plaintiff in the face. It is a tragic case, but the right of a person to shoot in defense of his home in North Carolina is well established. The Court observed that there was no passageway at or near the trailer at the place where the plaintiff was shot and, in addition, the watchman had no reason to suspect that the window area would be used by anyone innocently. In view of this, the Court held that the watchman had reasonable ground to believe that the plaintiff was attempting to break into the trailer at the time the watchman fired. It also ap-

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peared that the plaintiff had failed to respond to the watchman's warning preceding the shooting. The Court also pointed out that a trailer occupant has the same rights to defend his home as would a person in a conventional residence.

In Texas it was held that shooting a trespasser under the reasonable apprehension that a felony was about to be committed was held justified. In that case the plaintiff, a minor, was crouched beneath one of the windows of the defendant's residence at about 11 o'clock at night. The plaintiff admitted that he was trespassing at the time and further admitted that his purpose in crouching there was to look under the window shades at one of the defendant's daughters in her nightgown. Upon being informed that someone was sneaking about his property, the defendant came out of the house, observed the plaintiff in a crouched position below his window, called out for an explanation and fired when the plaintiff, giving no explanation, arose from his crouched position. The night was very dark, and the plaintiff, although only 14 years old, was as tall as a man. The jury found here that the defendant had reasonable cause to fear that both a felony was about to be committed against his residence and that he was then in personal danger. On appeal, the Texas Court said the defendant had no duty here to inquire if the plaintiff's real purpose was to break into the house or just have a peep at a girl in a nightgown. The plaintiff's conduct at the time was such as would have justified charging him with an attempt to commit a felony.

In these days of impromptu assembling of crowds for one reason or another, a person's home sometimes appears to be in danger from such a mob. It is generally held that a householder's duty to act reasonably when he uses a firearm in defense of his home is not as stringent where the threat of invasion is by a mob rather than by an individual. One Wisconsin case goes so far as to say a householder need not warn a crowd to disperse before firing into it. In that case the defendant householder was getting married, an event usually not marked by gunplay except at the occasional shotgun wedding. Numerous persons in the neighborhood embarked upon an old-fashioned shivaree which had been in progress for some three days before the shooting. The participants were firing guns, blowing horns, drumming on pans, and making other weird noises. The poor householder/bridegroom could not tell when they would attack his house or shoot him personally, or even kidnap his bride. When the smoke cleared away later in the courtroom, the defendant householder was relieved to hear the Court say that in the case of a mob, the danger to life and property is immeasurably greater than in the case of a threatened assault by a single person. If a householder fires into a crowd as the result of the excitement and confusion attending the situation, the law would justify or excuse him in the use of the firearm, even though the same action might not be excused in the case of an assault by a single individual.

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of actual invasion of your premises, the law will not protect you from civil liability. In Illinois an ardent and persistent suitor had been forbidden to see the defendant householder's daughter. Unfortunately, the suitor did walk up to the defendant's outer doorway. The defendant, wishing to make short work of the romance, came out with a revolver and shot him. In addition to the outer door, there was an inner door, which was also locked, through which the plaintiff-suitor would have had to pass to gain entrance to the house and catch probably only a fleeting glimpse of his love. The defendant claimed later that he had seen a gun in the plaintiff's hand but it was shown in court the plaintiff was unarmed at the time. In any event, the general rule is that while you have a right to defend your home against invasion, you have no right to go out in the street and attempt to kill even a person foolish enough to want to marry your daughter. If you do, you will be civilly and criminally liable for it.

This view of the law has been reinforced in a Kentucky case where the defendant saw the plaintiff, who had been paying considerable unwelcome attention to his wife, leave his house by the back door at a time when his wife had been home alone. Whereupon, without further warning, he followed the plaintiff and overtook him in the yard of a neighbor. The plaintiff was sitting there quietly, talking to the neighbor at the time the defendant burst on the scene. The defendant then announced that since his prior orders to desist from his attentions to his wife had not been effective, he had "another plan." Whereupon, without warning and presumably to stop the plaintiff's wanderings, he shot the plaintiff in both knees. The Court later did admit that although the defendant's situation was a trying one, he could not take the law in his own hands and punish the plaintiff for what he had done, especially since the plaintiff was well off the premises at the time. To make it simple, you are not considered to be defending your home when you are off the premises.

When can you resort to firearms to prevent theft of personal property? There is considerable conflict in the courts on this question. A number of courts have held that an owner or his agent may with complete immunity shoot an adult to prevent a threatened robbery or burglary. Such has been the holding in Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, New York, and Texas. On the other hand, some states, such as Illinois, Missouri, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania, take the position that an own-

er of property has no right to shoot someone to prevent the theft of property and will incur civil liability if he does. In an Illinois case the plaintiff had been stealing wood from the defendant. On the day in question, the defendant first fired a warning shot into the ground and told the plaintiff to desist. When the plaintiff continued to talk toward the woods with the stolen lumber, the defendant warned, "Drop it or I will let you have it." And then he leveled his shotgun and fired. The Court ruled that the shooting was deliberate assault. The defendant could not properly resist this wrongdoing by an assault with a deadly weapon.

There is always the possibility that when a gun is in your hand, it may be accidentally discharged in the excitement of the moment. Where the firing of the gun is proven to be accidental but results in injury, it has been generally held that no liability ensues. In Michigan, the plaintiff, a town street commissioner, disputed the defendant's right to maintain street railway tracks at a particular location. Taking matters in his own hands, he began the process of physically removing the tracks. The defendant, hearing about it, came on the scene armed with a shotgun, and ordered the work stopped. During the argument, the gun was accidentally discharged and the plaintiff superficially injured. But the Court found that this accidental firing was not sufficient to impose any liability.

It is difficult to give an adequate summary for future protection from civil liability. It is clear that under the law one may use such force as is reasonably necessary in defense of home or property. But is the use of a firearm a reasonable or an unreasonable force? The foregoing cases have illustrated various situations where the use of firearms is or is not justified. One thing appears certain. A property owner may shoot with impunity where the invasion on his property is also accompanied by a threat of personal harm to himself, his family or other persons he is entitled to defend. In deciding to shoot, you are justified in depending on appearances and you will not be liable merely because it later develops that the shooting was unnecessary or the intruder innocent. Firing merely to frighten the invader may not always be a successful defense, if injury results. Shooting at minors to prevent a mere petty theft or a trespass is dangerous. Those melons are definitely not worth it. Be guided by the principle that most courts do emphasize the value of human life and well-being as against the value of real or personal property.



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HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 12)

actions on this bill. It's evident Dingell is a true friend of the sportsman; he is an avid big game and upland bird hunter, varmint shooter, trap and skeet enthusiast, as well as a reloader.

Dingell proposes that revenue from excise tax on components and handguns be apportioned among the states and on a matching fund basis, to be used in the purchase and construction of ranges and for programs in firearms safety training. Naturally, there are disadvantages to the bill. Some members of industry feel that an excise tax on reloading components will hurt the hobby and perhaps stifle its growth. It's extremely important that both Dingell and industry become quickly aware of your thoughts on this matter. The congressman wants to co-operate with the reloaders and the manufacturers. If you care to express your thoughts on this measure, send a letter to A. Robert Matt at 30 High Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103.

Lloyd and Dorothy Ponsness, of Ponsness Manufacturing Co., are out with a new shotshell loader—this one called the Model 375 Duomatic. Lloyd's first model, the 800-B Size-O-Matic, is a high-quality tool with a price-tag of \$395. He prides himself on the fact that all parts are machined and hard-chrome plated.

We just received a 12 gauge Model 375 Duomatic for testing. There is no doubt about it, it loads a fine shell. And the machine has several distinct advantages, perhaps the most important being the full-length sizing die that holds the shell through all phases of the reloading cycle. A revolving plate carries the case to each station, conveniently done by use of an extended knob on the front of the plate.

The basic price of \$139 (for one gauge) is not out of line when you consider that the tool contains no stamped parts and, even more important, it can be converted quite simply to all six popular gauges. The head plates hold the dies for two gauges, so a skeet shooter could load 12 and 20 gauge shells with one head, and 28 and .410 with another. Price for setting up each additional gauge is \$37.50.

We also like these features on the Ponsness Duomatic: wad guide tips to the front at about a 30-degree angle for easy insertion of wads. The charging ring has lock pins to eliminate accidental spilling of shot and powder. Primers fall (95 per cent of the time) into a removable primer box. And

shot and powder can be drained quickly through the drop tube.

By the way, this powder and shot tube also acts as the wad pressure plunger. The tube is contained in a spring housing, with pressure read from a scale at the top of the die.

For a handsome brochure on both Ponsness tools, write to Mr. Lloyd Ponsness, Ponsness Mfg. Co., Rathdrum, Idaho.

The new Hercules RelodeR Powders have been getting a workout on my test range. Very few rifle loads have been mentioned by the experts, simply because it will take time to thoroughly test the propellants in all of the various calibers. In two recent sessions with our Remington Model 700 in .22-250 caliber, we found the most accurate load with Reloder No. 11 was 32.5 grains at a five-shot average of 3588 fps (feet per second) 10 feet from the muzzle. Primer was CCI 200, and bullet the 53-grain Hornady match. This combination proved best after a trial of only 16 combinations.

It should be pointed out that another rifle in this caliber (also a Remington) would not produce minute of angle groups with this load. Every rifle is different! We are going to experiment with these Hercules powders in the months to come, and results will be published in The Handloading Bench. But we urge you to remember that any "pet load" may or may not be accurate for your particular gun. This is a point often overlooked by writers when they make specific load recommendations.

But the fun in handloading is experimenting—the constant shooting and varying of loads for your specific shootin' iron. The total number of variables that affect accuracy and performance of any one gun and caliber will stagger the imagination. These are just a few: bullet weight, jacket thickness, bullet profile, powder type and charge, case capacity, primer flash hole, case length, primer, outside temperature, humidity, chamber dimensions, bore and groove dimensions, headspace, firing pin variations and many more. The trick is to eliminate as many variables as possible when working up loads for a specific gun.

In future columns we'll go into this in greater detail, for actually this is the "nuts and bolts" of the hobby. Any guy can put together a few handloads each year and put his venison in the freezer. But he'll sure get a lot more enjoyment, even on that once-a-year hunt, if he shoots and experiments the year round. Agreed?

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SUN RAY CHEMICAL'S X2-T permanent bluing for touch-up or complete bluing jobs on steel, brass, or copper works instantly and with no inconvenience. Application is made with a cotton swab or cloth and after allowing to dry, polishing is done with a cloth or steel wool. Articles may be reblued with no injury to the article being treated. Further information is available from Sun Ray Chemicals, Dept. G-6, 1508 N. Geraldine Way, Fresno, California 93728.

SHOPPING

THE NATIONAL SPORTS COMPANY'S No. 230 pistol case is made of long wearing brown plastic with a heavy gun cloth padding. With extra pockets for cleaning equipment and cartridges, a full three-side zipper allows the case to lay flat serving as a clean,



padded mat for the pistol on the shooting range. Zipped size is 7½ by 15 inches. Additional information on this case, as well as on their full line, is available from National Sports Company, Dept. G-6, 371 Marquette, St., Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935.

THE TREND AMONG many hunters to smaller, high-velocity calibers for deer and other medium game has brought such calibers as the 6 mm Rem. into increasing prominence. Norma Precision's contribution to this caliber doubles as a long-range varmint as well. A 100 gr. semi-pointed soft point has a respectable 2260 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle, emerging at 3190 fps. The new Norma 6 mm Rem. is available at leading sporting goods dealers. Norma Precision, Dept. G-6, South Lansing, N.Y.



DOUBLE SOLE CANADIAN PAC MOC is made of heavy-duty, oil-grain, chrome-tanned leather. Bench made by skillful Canadian craftsmen, the Pac Moc has true moccasin construction, plus the protection and support of a lace-up boot. Men's sizes 6-12, in medium or wide. Six-inch top (shown) at \$17.95 and with nine-inch top at \$19.95. Free catalog on request from Western Brands, Dept. G-6, Estes Park, Colorado 80517.

THE CROSMAN POWERMASTER 760 is a new high compression air rifle which has variable power control. The user can vary the number of pumps, each increasing the



muzzle velocity. Choice of power can be varied from relatively low power for indoor shooting to over 500 fps for field and woods shooting. BBs are gravity fed from a magazine with a capacity of 180 BBs. The gun weighs about four lbs. and has an overall length of 35 inches. The PowerMaster 760 has a suggested list price of \$19.95. Complete details on the complete line of Crosman guns may be obtained from Crosman Arms Company, Dept. G-6, Fairport, N. Y.

THE 1966 GOLDEN SOVEREIGN archery equipment catalog by Ben Pearson, Inc., introduces four totally new laminated bows. The 24-page catalog also features an expanded line of bows, arrows, leather goods, and accessories pictured in full color. Bow



prices range from \$19.95 for the "Duke" to \$150 for the "Lord Mercury." For this catalog showing the largest array of archery tackle ever offered by Golden Sovereign, write to Director of Sales, Archery Tackle Division, Dept. G-6, Ben Pearson, Inc., Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

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NEWEST WINCHESTER RIFLE is the Model 190, introduced as part of the Winchester Centennial in 1966. Featuring a magazine capacity of either 21 Shorts, 17 Longs, 15 Long Rifles, or a graduated mixture of all three cartridges, the Model 190 handles all sizes interchangeably without adjustment. The new rifle is specifically designed for low-cost plinking, target shooting, and small game hunting. Suggested retail price is \$43.95 at Winchester dealers everywhere.

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MOSSBERG & SONS, Inc. has a new 16-gauge, bolt-action shotgun chambered for factory-loaded 2¾" shells, regular or magnum. The 390K features a grooved rear sight which, with the conventional bead front, helps improve sighting and accuracy, especially with rifled slugs. Positive safety is



located on top, "right under the thumb," and a detachable magazine holds two shells, plus one in the chamber. Factory-fitted C-Lect-Choke settings are visually marked for Full Choke, Modified Choke and Improved Cylinder (but can be adjusted to any points between).

Stock is of genuine American walnut with cushion rubber recoil pad with white liner. Priced at \$47.95, slightly higher in Canada.

A POCKET-SIZED BROCHURE, which describes, pictures, and prices the complete line of Buck Knives and accessories, may be obtained from Buck Knives, Inc., Dept. G-6, 6588 Federal Blvd., San Diego, Calif. 92114. Nine quality knives, all guaranteed for the life of the owner and each designed for a specific use, are offered. Prices range from \$13 to \$22. Buck knives will sever a ¼-steel bolt by hammering, without damaging the blade.



TESTWORTH Laboratories, manufacturers of **SAF-T-Patch** canvas repair kits, have announced a new 4 oz. squeeze bottle size of their waterproof adhesive. **SAF-T-Patch** kits are a handy item to have along on trips for repairing rips and worn spots in canvas items. Any canvas article can be waterproof repaired without waiting or bothersome hand sewing. If not available at your local dealer, send \$1.29 to **SAF-T-Patch Div.**, Dept. G-6, 14 North Center Street, Bensenville 67, Ill.

COLT'S FIREARMS has revived a dramatic chapter of the winning of the West with the introduction of its new .22 caliber Stagecoach autoloader. The Stagecoach model combines the smooth and fast operation of the modern, semi-automatic repeater with the colorful tradition of old-time saddle guns. The rifle weighs less than 4¾ lbs., and is 33¾ inches overall with a 16¼ inch



barrel. The Stagecoach's tubular magazine holds 13 rounds and will fire standard or high velocity L.R. ammunition. Rolled engravings decorate both sides of the frame. Retailing for \$59.95, further information about the Stagecoach can be obtained from Colt's Firearms Division, Dept. G-6, Colt's Industries, Hartford, Conn.



A NEW SILHOUETTE crow decoy is being made by P. S. Olt Company and measures 16¾ by 4½ inches. In "Crow like" black, these decoys have well proportioned bodies and wing contours. They are made of varnished, weather-resistant fiber board. Package in dozens, the Olt crow decoy lists at 85¢ each or \$9.48 per dozen.



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BULLET BUST UP IN BRUSH

(Continued from page 31)

driven at something over 3100 fps by the .270, weighed 31 grains after recovery. Core, or remnants, could not be found. Although this bullet, after penetrating the sapling, hit close to point of aim, it is doubtful if more than a superficial wound would have been inflicted.

A .270, fired factory loaded with a 150 grain Western Soft Point, which I assume would be called a round nose, weighed 71.2 grains after recovery, with some of the core still retained by the jacket. Velocity of

this factory load is listed at 2800 fps. This bullet, as fired, could have inflicted severe damage in a deer but, again, recovery of the animal would have been problematical—depending on location of the hit.

With one exception, spitzers fired in the .30-06 broke up so badly after penetrating a sapling that identification and weighing was impractical. Weights included 150, 165 and 180 grains, and velocities ranged from about 2600 to something over 2900 fps. Most of these spitzers keyholed after going

through a sapling with some holes looking as if they had been slashed with a knife.

The 150 grain Nosler, fired in the .30-06 at a velocity around 2900 fps, weighed 82.1 grains after recovery. In this particular firing, the bullet separated after penetrating a sapling and it was the jacket that was recovered.

Two different spitzers, 165 and 200 grains, fired from the .30-338, broke up after cutting through a sapling. Estimated velocity was 3100 and 2850 fps. The jacket from the 200 grain bullet was recovered and weighed 39.7 grains. I assume, because of bullet breakup, that recovery of a deer struck by these fragments would have been doubtful.

Two factory-loaded 180 grain bullets in .30 caliber held together well enough for indicative weighing. Jacket remnant from a Western Soft Point, fired in the .30-06, weighed 51.7 grains. A recovered 180 grain Silvertip, fired from the .308, weighed 84.6 grains. Velocities are listed at 2700 fps and 2610 fps respectively.

I don't know whether brush penetration figured in design of the 180 grain Remington SPCL or not, but this handloaded bullet, fired in both the .308 and .30-06, held together better than all the others. Velocity in the .308 was estimated at around 2400 fps; in the .30-06, velocity was around 2700 fps. Three bullets which penetrated a sapling were recovered but in these firings I didn't know which were fired from the .308 and which from the .30-06. Weights were 135.1, 114, and 112.2 grains. Possibly the heavier weight came from the lower velocity of the .308 firing.

The scalloped jacket edges of this bullet were folded back neatly with the core expanded over much of the forward end. Remaining weight of the bullet after sapling penetration, together with proximity to point of aim, indicates that recovery of a deer hit in a vital area would be certain. This particular weight bullet frequently has been recommended for brush or woods hunting. In my own tests the bullet's reputation was enhanced.

There may be other bullets which, in brush penetration, may hold together as well, but I tried only those which I had on hand. All loads were tentative or tested deer loads; and the 180 grain Rem. SPCL loadings in the .308 and .30-06—along with most of the others—have been used for actual hunting. This 180 grain round nose bullet load is a good one to have on hand when the possibility of brush hunting may develop.

Saplings used in these tests were just greening up; hence there might be a difference in bullet reaction if the saplings were winter dormant. However, I'd think that these saplings would be similar to evergreens or other trees in early fall condition when sap still is prevalent in the trunk.

There seems to be a difference in bullet reaction to green wood as compared with dead branches. In the green sapling test, bullets went on through, either intact or in fragments, and in all but a couple of instances hit somewhere on the 36" x 42" target background. In a previous test, at 50 yards, I had tried the 180 grain Rem. SPCL at an estimated velocity of 2500 fps in shooting through dead branches—none of the bullets hit the 14" x 16" target.

Because dead branches shatter—unlike the reaction of green wood—I assume that



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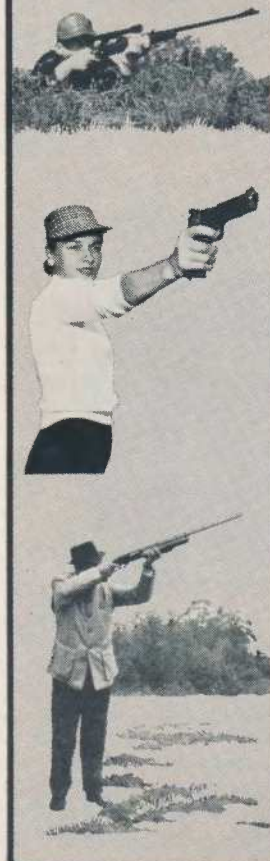
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this somewhat explosive effect deflects a bullet away from the target. In actual shooting at whitetail bucks, I've seen the results of deflected—or blown up—bullets both from green and dead branches. These bucks, as far as I could determine, were not injured by any fragments. In each instance the offending branch was retrieved—two green and two dead branches. All the bullets, however, were spitzers loaded to a muzzle velocity of 2800 to 3000 fps.

A heavy round nose bullet in the 2500 to 2700 fps velocity bracket apparently isn't much disturbed by shooting through leaves and small twigs of moderate density. At much higher velocity, with light and medium weight spitzer bullets, however, it might be different.

My own conclusions, based on the tests, would prohibit my shooting through brush, whether green or dead, if my rifle were loaded with a 3000 fps spitzer load.

Other factors, of course, are involved in brush shooting. Even if the vital area of a deer seems clearly defined, there's always the difference between line of sight and trajectory curve. Technically, imposition of the scope crosshairs on a target will correspond with bullet's flight at only two points in the trajectory; where the bullet first crosses the line of sight and at zero point.

Also, any bullet, even if it holds together, will be deflected to some degree if it penetrates a tree limb or a sapling. Deflection, of course, will depend on type of bullet, angle at which it hits obstruction, velocity, spin, and the resistance of the wood. The shooter may hold well on the vital chest area of a buck but the bullet—or fragment—may strike a non-vital spot.

Deflection of bullet also depends on distance of obstruction from rifle muzzle. The closer the obstruction to muzzle, the greater the deflection from target. And when the obstruction is close to the muzzle, difference of line of sight and bullet's flight becomes a major factor.

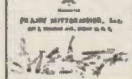
Finally, there's always the possibility of wounding a deer, and the subsequent, difficult job of recovery. Trailing a wounded deer under favorable conditions is hard enough; but trying to find one superficially wounded in the brush is a job for the trained woodsman.

Spitzer bullets—particularly lighter types—driven at high velocities are ideal for open country shooting, but they just weren't made for brush shooting—at least that's what my testing indicated. However, the hunter can be prepared for most any type of hunting if he carries ammunition loaded with two or three different bullet weights and selects the one best adapted to as important as the right rifle. And that's the distinctive advantage of handloading.



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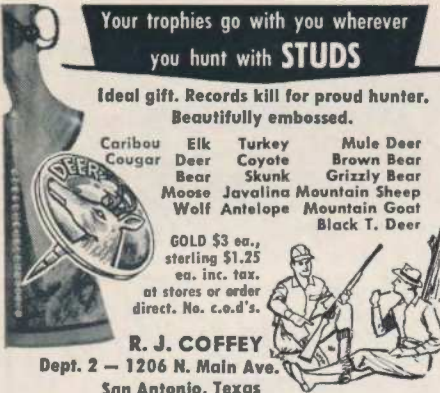
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BRITISH GUNMAKERS

(Continued from page 26)

Holland & Holland's able factory manager, Mr. Brooks, very kindly showed me around their Harrow Road gun works and cheerfully answered my many questions promptly and concisely. I asked about the slight drop in quality after the last war, and he admitted that this was to some extent due to a limited number of skilled men and apprentices attempting to maintain a rate of production in excess of their capacity. This is now eliminated and there are some 35 men producing fine rifles and shotguns in their shop.

It has often been noted that many of the English "best" guns carry rather plain but strong wood, and I was interested to learn that Mr. Brooks had made a departure from this, and that Holland's was amassing a treasure trove of fine French walnut blanks as well as some from Corsica. He told me of a rare find of French walnut blanks that had lain unnoticed in the old Vickers gun works. They were of uncommon figuring and full length, plus being aged for at least 45 years.

I learned that the .375 Magnum is, as it has been for many years, a big seller and that the .300 Super, or .300 H&H Magnum, is quite constant, as are most popular U.S. calibers such as the .30—06 and the .270. The ammunition is made in England by Kynoch, who also make some American calibers no longer made in the U.S., such as the .35 Winchester and the .405.

A great cartridge, no longer made but still discussed admiringly, is the .500 rimless Jeffery. It used a 535 grain bullet at an original velocity of 2460 f.s. giving 7200 ft. lbs of muzzle energy. This velocity was later wisely reduced to 2400 f.s. The cartridge was designed by Schuler of Germany

and manufactured there, but it is no longer made. I gathered from conversations with Mr. Brooks and Mr. Malcolm Lyell, general manager of Holland's, that if enough interest was generated, a .500 elephant cartridge for magazine rifles might be produced in the future. Those desiring such a cartridge should address themselves to Mr. Malcolm Lyell, Holland & Holland, 13 Bruton Street, London W.I., England.

I asked about improvements, and Mr. Brooks pointed out that improved design and construction was an endless quest, but that nothing was changed in an effort to create "gimmicks." The folding sight protector on magazine rifles had been improved by using thicker metal, and the 300 FN scope safety was altered from two positions to three so as to satisfy the many users in the tropics who do not use scopes. The FN 400 side safety had been improved, and stock checkering was now being made diamond shape but with slightly blunted points to create good grip and preclude easy damage to points. Improved extractors had been made so that double rifles could reliably extract rimless belted cartridges and many were now made, though this is not as ideal as the more positive use of rimmed versions of the same cartridges. High pressure dural castings are used for their hinged floorplate, magnum magazines. A new box lock shotgun had been developed to take H&H out of the "sidelock only" category. Hykro steel, a Holland feature developed to offset the erosive effects of cordite, but presently also to reduce barrel wear in high velocity ammo, is now a standard feature on all rifles. This is an alloy of manganese, chrome, and molybdenum, which is so difficult to machine that only Purdey and Holland use it. It takes at

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least a week to blue Hykro, which gives an idea of its resistance to wear.

Mr. Brooks supervised the recent control/developmental work for Kynoch on nitro-cellulose loadings for large bore nitro-express cartridges normally loaded with cordite. Kynoch sent batches of varying loads which were fired on Holland's range until grouping of left and right barrels was correct at the proper velocity.

A departure from tradition is the use of investment castings in non-stress parts of fine guns such as the top lever of doubles. Mr. Brooks showed me the old massive drop forgings which required a disproportionate amount of work to bring to a finished state.

I was interested in the mounting of scopes and the stocking of rifles for use with scopes. It was apparent that Hollands, along with all British gunsmiths, were accustomed to making stocks of scope height combs when requested but that since much of their orders are from persons hunting predominately in forest, bush and jungle, most .375 stocks would be made for iron sights, often with detachable scopes.

Mr. Brooks told me that he favors Redfield scopes, with Hensoldt as second choice, and that he did not like the integral cast rails on some German scopes. I asked about accuracy standards for rifles, and was told that a .375 magazine rifle must shoot 5 shots inside 1 1/4 inches at 100 yds. and a double .375 about 2"x2", left and right.

All double barrels are joined together with pure Cornish tin and the wedge between double rifle barrels, setting the right amount of convergence, has but three to five thousandths taper. Barrels and actions are made from high quality drop forgings to insure strength and lessen warpage during heat treatment. When fitting barrels and actions together, a preliminary hinge pin is used which is replaced after heat treatment. This final fitting is slight but essential, and would be impossible if bar stock was used instead of forgings, due to the grain following the forged contours of the action shape, and thus lessening distortion.

The .244 Holland & Holland Magnum is the "Big Bertha" of 6 mm Cartridges, and is the brain child of Mr. David Lloyd of Pipewell Hall, Kettering, England. Mr. Lloyd, a steel manufacturer, is England's

"mystery man" of firearms design. Abhorring publicity, he is one of the world's most astute firearms authorities. He has his own shop where he develops his ideas, sometimes in cooperation with famous gun making firms. He worked closely with Mr. Brooks in developing the .244 H&H Magnum, using new powders to keep that tremendous case from developing excessive pressures. Mr. Brooks fired over 50 proof loads through the pilot model, loaded far beyond proof requirements, without experiencing any effects of excessive pressure such as blown or extremely flattened primers, swollen heads, head separations, or any difficulty in extraction.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Lloyd later at the Game Fair held at the Marquis of Exeter's estate at Stamford. This is an exposition of a high order conducted by the Country Landowners Association with the cooperation of the shooting fraternity and the gun trades. It is held at a different estate each year and displays the current wares of manufacturers. Contests and demonstrations of clay bird shooting, archery, falconry, small bore rifle matches, and dog trials make up the program.

Mr. Lloyd had with him a rifle in .275 Rigby (7x57) on an FN 400 action, wearing his new scope mount, acclaimed the world's strongest. It is a contoured casing of steel which supports and protects the scope and its adjustments so completely that it is virtually impossible to damage it, even by dropping it down a mountain side. It is most incredibly strong but at the same time exotic looking. I learned that both Rigby and Hol-

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land have built rifles to order with these fine mounts. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd hunt for considerable periods in the Scottish Highlands for red deer where falls can and have damaged scopes or thrown them out of adjustment. In addition to the mount Mr. Lloyd has devised a unique lens visor which extends considerably beyond the objective lens and prevents dew or rain from splashing on the lens. I do not know the cost of these mounts, but there is an immense amount of work in making them as you can see from the photographs.

Mr. Clode, managing director of Westley Richards, was there with a rare Westley Richards over and under rifle in .35 Win-

chester caliber, made for the Maharajah of Rewa. He told me that they were preparing a new model Anson & Deeley box lock double rifle for the .458 Winchester Magnum. They are also marketing a new best quality side lock shotgun with an unique single trigger and selector. A new design shotshell pressure gun is being produced that will sell for about \$150, with a crusher pellet system using lead pellets.

One sign of change I noted is the use of stock duplicating pantographs by some of the top firms in rifle work. This would have been unheard of a few years back, but has come to Britain to stay. The pantograph is only used for rough inletting and shaping with the final fitting being done in the old manner, by hand.

Some firms have dropped the manufacture of double rifles entirely, due to the limited demand, but these rifles still remain the ultimate examples of the gunmaker's art and the most dependable weapons for heavy game in close cover. Good used double rifles in popular calibers move quickly from the display racks at high prices and it is indeed difficult to find one at bargain prices. I warn prospective buyers however, that

Britain is no place to go looking for fine guns at give away prices; the knowledgeable English gun dealer knows exactly what his merchandise is worth.

Many English shotguns have hundreds of thousands of rounds fired through them without breaking a spring or becoming loose. Though parts are not interchangeable in these guns, they rarely break parts owing to the meticulous care with which they are made and fitted. Springs are hand forged and carefully polished. Any criticisms you may hear about leaf or "V" springs being vulnerable to breakage, as compared to coil springs, refers to mass produced versions since spring breakage is one of the most uncommon problems with fine guns. In reality, the coil spring can lose its spring from long compression or extension or even break where it is flawed, but a good flat or "V" spring can remain cocked for years without suffering any ill effect.

In reducing lock time the "V" spring has it all over the coil, but it must be made by expert hands and is more costly than a coil spring.

This is all in contrast to our own system whereby the customer of a custom gunsmith tells the gunmaker what he wants. Sometimes this achieves a good result, but usually the customer has such a limited knowledge of guns that an otherwise good gunsmith has to use his hard won skill to incorporate into the gun a veritable nightmare of specifications that leave the gun unsaleable at a reasonable percentage of purchase price. In Britain, the gunmaker is much like a doctor, in that he prescribes and diagnoses. He will fit to individual measurement and make allowance for individual desires to a certain extent, but he will not go beyond what he regards as good gunsmithing practice generally.

It is difficult to sum up the impressions one receives of English gunsmiths in a brief article, but I can say that they are very much alive and at home with their past and on good terms with the future. They are compact, and ready to change when a change is deemed prudent and advantageous, but ever sensitive to what their rich background has taught them is true improvement as opposed to a motley assortment of mere gimmickry that passes for progress.

Today, as in the past, those who seek the unusual and the superlative will have to pay the price. Those who cannot afford the price of fine new guns can sometimes find a used one at a reasonable price. I am living proof of this and I admit it takes a lot of searching, but then this is a labor of love with exciting rewards awaiting the lucky few.

There is a leisurely pace in the English gunshop, reminiscent of bygone days where one can have a chat with the manager and leave without a purchase but knowing that these firms are sustained by their reputations and that a sale is merely the by-product of a personal acquaintance with the maker or his products. These people are not in a hurry to make a lot of guns nor to squeeze the last pound out of a customer. They are all behind on orders and can sell more than they can make.

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RECOIL PAD YOUR RIFLE

(Continued from page 37)

The lad had been shaken by the recoil of the Big Seven, but he finally decided he would try two more. When we examined the target, one perfect hole at 12 o'clock was all we found. In his quickly learned respect for recoil and muzzle blast, he had missed the entire 16 inch square target board by fighting recoil and trying to outsmart the trigger let-off point.

Where a rifle is concerned, I shall never really want to be surprised about its operation and performance. I have come to believe that proper trigger let-off is what some people refer to as surprise fire. I really feel that I know when my Seven is going to cut loose and I want to know. Surprise fire, as it is used conversationally, suggests that good let-off comes only occasionally, rather than regularly. Ninety-nine per cent of the time I prefer to experience the same sensations in firing my rifle. Even on a quick snap shot at a deer where one cannot expect the composure time he would with a woodchuck, I strive to synchronize my blip-blip heart beat, breathing, pistol-grip feel, scope viewpoint, and trigger kiss into a total feeling to which I am accustomed. And I'll further this preference by passing up a shot if need be. Snap shooting with a rifle is possible, but the organization time must be cut down upon, without skimping the processes necessary for an accurate shot. While all this is going on, who in the world has time for unnecessary things like recoil in excessive amounts?

While riflemen dedicate themselves to long range, one projectile shooting, most of them are less respectful of recoil than the majority of shotgunners. Perhaps it has to do with the style of hunting, since a day's duck hunting or trap shooting punishes the shoulder more than a one shot kill on a white tail. But isn't the problem really flinchitis, and not how to absorb one day's total amount of recoil? It seems to me that if more riflemen faced up to this, even hypothetically, there would be fewer lost deer. And the number of permanent recoil pads on shotguns would not be twice the number on rifles. An all day session at a skeet or trap range makes a recoil pad the shotgunner's silent partner. It's sensible and keeps one fresh for continued shooting. Similarly, an afternoon session at a rifle range with a .30-06 or larger gun makes the recoil pad some-

thing more than merely an accessory.

There are, of course, several styles of pads from which to choose. I have found the installation of the pad to be just as important as the type. Careful measurement for stock length, pitch, and stock contour continuation must all be taken into careful consideration. I have a smithy friend who installs my pads when needed, but there is no real need for excitement or specialists. Care, planning, and measurement must be observed but the recoil pad is an accessory which a good shop worker can install himself by following the pad installation instructions usually included. Many times a man will tolerate a slight misfit in stock length when purchasing a rifle. The installation of a pad can correct this by shimming out stock length or shortening it. In my area, a pad installation costs \$9. For rifle use, I prefer a general pad with vertical traction ridges to minimize drag. I also round the inside of the pad with a sander and add bow string wax to provide a sparkling fast butt to shoulder placement of the rifle.

When I enter a man's gun room and examine his arsenal, I easily find those who are really out there hunting and shooting because they own the padded firearms.

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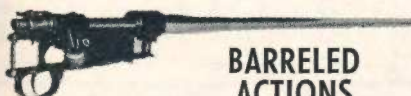
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THE HANDLOADER'S DIGEST

Edited by John T. Amber
(The Gun Digest Association,
Chicago, Ill., 1966 \$3.95)

This third edition of the Handloader's Digest is tops and is highly recommended for the handloader—beginner and expert alike. There are many new and very important articles, loads for new calibers, and the section on handloading tools and accessories alone is worth the money you pay for the Digest. While some of the charge tables are those issued by the various companies, many of the loading data in the articles and the max load table are original and new, and offer the buyer of this book much information that he would normally only be able to get by doing all of the testing and load developing himself. A "must" book for the handloader, it's worth twice the price easily and everyone can find something of special interest within the pages of the new Handloader's Digest.—R.A.S.

THE BREECH-LOADER IN THE SERVICE 1816-1917

By Claud E. Fuller

(N. Flayderman & Co., RFD #2, Squash Hollow, New Milford, Conn., 1965. \$14.50)

This is the sixth book published in the series of volumes that have been produced by collector-dealer Norm Flayderman. The original and limited edition of this work has been scarce for some years, and in producing this reprint, Norm Flayderman has done the collectors a great service. If you have never had the chance to examine the original volume, let me just say here that this is the basic text on breech-loaders and that it has rightly become the primary reference on the subject. The reproduction of the original is excellent and neither the photographs nor the drawings have lost anything in the process. A book that offers this much information is easily worth twice the price, and this reprint has long been on the "needed" list.—R.A.S.

Editor's note: This is just one of many fine books on military history, weapons, nautical and related subjects available from Norm Flayderman. A catalog covering many, many worthwhile and important books is available free of charge from the above address.

THE BULLET'S FLIGHT FROM POWDER TO TARGET

By F. W. Mann

(Ray Riling Arms Books Co.,
Philadelphia, Pa., 1965. \$9.95)

This volume, long out of print, is commonly known as "The Bullet's Flight" and to anyone who has ever delved into the technical aspects of rifle shooting or basic ballistics, the name of the author should be well known. The book—a reprint of the original and limited to 1,000 copies—is a classic to be read and studied time and again. With each re-reading, Dr. Mann's work gains in stature, and the reader gains invaluable knowledge. A "must" book for the serious shooter.—R.A.S.

FIREARMS & AMMUNITION FACT BOOK

(National Rifle Association, Washington,
D.C. 1965. \$2.00)

This pocket sized compendium contains a great deal of valuable material for the gun owner, be he a neophyte or an expert marksman. Included are ballistics tables, pictures of historical firearms, and just a huge variety of valuable information.—E.P.

THE ANATOMY OF FIREARMS

By L. R. Wallack

(Simon and Schuster, New York N.Y.
1965. \$6.95)

Bob Wallack some years ago swapped his gunsmith's bench for a typewriter, but he never gave up his shooting and hunting. From the author's combined experience comes this book which is designed to give the average shooter and hunter a better understanding of the mechanics of guns. This is a well written and well developed book with few technical faults, and thus stands well above the average of the how-to book that currently enjoy a great vogue. I believe that even a few gunsmiths can learn something from Bob's book. For the average shooter who is curious about the innards of his gun, this book will give him the answers to his questions. The only drawback of the book is that the photographs were not reproduced as well as they could have been, and I am certain that the fault is not that of the author—he is as good with a camera as with a gun.—R.A.S.

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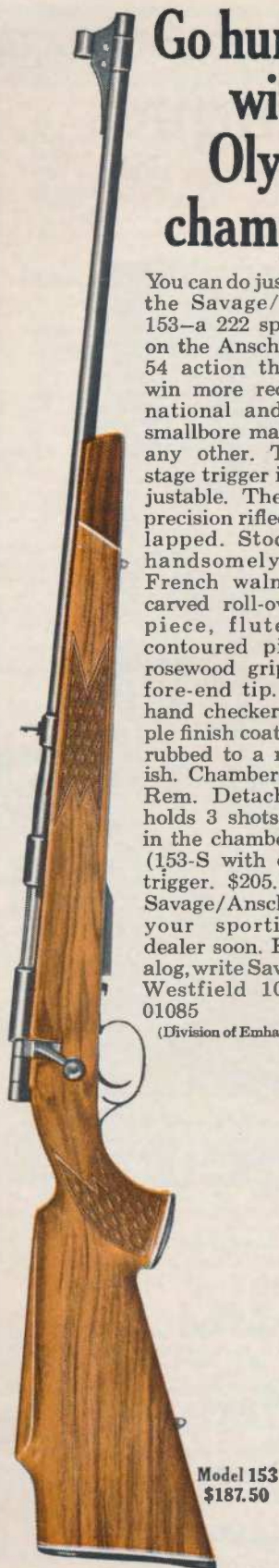
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FIRST ANTI-TANK RIFLE

(Continued from page 27)

Allied military experts finally agreed that something was needed that could lead and give protection to an infantry assault after artillery had blasted a way through the enemy barbed wire. Inasmuch as the German Maxims were exacting such a terrible toll, this something had to be in the nature of a machine gun destroyer and it had to be able to cross trench systems easily.

In the meantime, Colonel E. O. Swinton, of the British army, conceived the idea of the tank, an idea which consisted basically of putting guns on a caterpillar tractor and covering them with armor. The first of these new weapons appeared in 1916. Known variously by the British as landships and as caterpillar machine gun destroyers; by the French as *chars d'assaut*, and by the Germans as *panzerkraftwagen*, the big lumbering metal monsters were dubbed "tanks" by the British infantrymen, a name which has stuck on down through the years.

The use of the early tanks was completely misunderstood by the old front line commanders. They were often frittered away in piecemeal operations. If they had been employed in carefully planned mass operations they would have been far more effective. Most often, little attention was given by senior planning officers to the nature of the terrain over which the tanks had to operate and impossible demands were made of them. Nonetheless, they did achieve a respectable record. No less an authority than General von Ludendorff considered the tanks among the Allies' most dangerous weapons.

German industrial potential never was sufficient to produce any number of tanks to combat the Allies, even though their worth was recognized. Only twenty or so German tanks were ever built. These, plus a few captured British and French tanks made up the entire German armored force. It was a lesson which German staff officers never forgot; witness the fast, hard-hitting German *panzers* of World War II.

Despairing of ever securing enough tanks to combat the Allies, German officers quickly devised other methods to combat the rumbling armored monsters. Armor piercing small arms ammunition, light mortars, mines, field artillery and tank barriers, among other things, were used. Perhaps the most effective single weapon, however, was the anti-tank rifle.

Developed at Paul Mauser's famous Obendorf plant, this is the largest, yet perhaps the least known, of all the rifles produced by that German small arms genius.

This single shot, bolt action rifle was five and a half feet long, and weighed around 35

pounds. A pistol grip was fitted immediately to the rear of the trigger guard to assist in holding and aiming the weapon. The gun was fitted with a bipod mount twelve inches high. It was sighted up to 500 meters. This big Mauser fired a 13 mm (.52 caliber) bullet capable of penetrating an inch of armor plate at considerable distances. The cartridge case was semi-rimmed, straight-tapered and bottlenecked. The bullet itself weighed approximately 800 grains. Total weight of the round was 1811 grains. The muzzle velocity of this cartridge was 2500 feet per second, with a striking energy of some 12,000 foot pounds. Interestingly enough, this Mauser cartridge served as the basis for the design of the .50 caliber round used in this country and which was first developed for the Browning .50 caliber water-cooled machine gun.

This rifle, as might be expected, had quite a kick. There was no provision for taking up the recoil and it took a rugged individual indeed to stay with it. In fact, very few German soldiers would volunteer for the job and had to be ordered to the duty.

Effective against all the British and French tanks of the period, the rifle was manned by two men, a rifleman and a reserve rifleman. The senior man lugged the gun and 20 rounds of ammunition. His number two man carried 112 rounds of ammunition. Originally, these rifles were issued to the troops in the front lines at the rate of two to each infantry regiment. Later they were issued in much larger quantities. The weapons were usually sited in the front lines in groups of six or eight. Each such group was under the command of an especially selected non-commissioned officer. Experience demonstrated that the best targets for these weapons were the front area of the tank before the driver's seat; on the sides of the driver's and gunner's positions, and the general area of the gas tank. Hits in the ammunition racks could blow the tank apart, while hits in the fuel tank could turn the mobile forts into infernos which cooked the crews alive.

It is indeed a far cry from the clumsy tanks of 1916-18 to the fast, hard-hitting tanks of the present day. However, it is well to remember that military history reveals that there has never been an offensive weapon developed which has not, in time, been effectively countered by a powerful defensive weapon. Paul Mauser's old single-shot, 13 mm rifle of 1918 was to mark the beginning of a whole catalog of powerful anti-tank weapons which are effectively dictating the development of present day tank design and tactics.



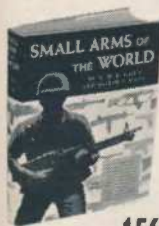
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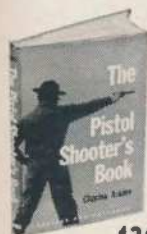
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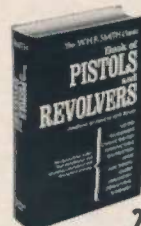
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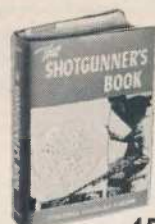
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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Continued from page 14)

Computer, which I have. However, one bit of information I lack is the case capacity. Would you furnish me with the case capacities of Remington, Winchester, and Federal cases in .30-06 and .35 Remington?

J. J. Randolph
San Diego, Calif.

Cases and loads are well standardized for your rifles. Using the standard loads is probably better than attempting to compute different ones, and any of the three makes of cases you mention are satisfactory. On that basis, I suggest any of the loads printed in black in Speer's No. 6 Manual. I also suggest that you read their comments on the .35 Remington.

Loads we have found to be extremely good in all rifles tested are: .30-06, 165 gr. bullet, 57.0 gr. 4350 powder, for 2822 fps. and .35 Rem., 180 gr. bullet, 40.0 gr. 3031 for 2236 fps.—D.W.

.56 Spencer

I would appreciate any information that you can give me regarding my .56 Spencer. It differs from other Spencers in that it has a full front stock with three bands. Is this three band model unusual and about how many were made? The serial number is 61,642; the overall length is about 47 inches.

The barrel and action are in good operating condition and the stock is in very good condition with no cracks or serious scars. The smooth brown-blue finish covers 75 per cent or more of the barrel, while the receiver and lever show greater signs of wear. Can you give an approximate evaluation of the gun's worth?

William J. March
Lindsay, Ontario

The Spencer rifle, caliber .52, using the No. 56 Spencer RF cartridge is the model of 1860. It has a round barrel, rifled with three grooves, two piece stock held to the barrel with three bands. Later Spencers were equipped with a cut-off that permitted the rifle to be used as a single loader, as well as stock feed; this model was the Model of 1865. Some of these had 32 inch barrels, held by two bands, and had a cleaning rod under the barrel.

From the Civil War to December, 1865, over 12,000 Spencer rifles were ordered by the Ordnance Department, as were many thousands of carbines. Many State militia bought Spencers with private funds. Collectors value of your Spencer in good to fine condition is about \$75 to \$125.—R.M.

Francis Marquis Shotgun

I have an old double barrel shotgun, twist barrel, engraved with "Francis Marquis/Paris" on the side plate beneath the hammers. It is a take down and all parts are numbered with 480. On the bottom of the barrels is the name "Leopold Bernard Canonier A Paris," along with the date 1876 and another number 9651. I would appreciate any information you can give me.

R. Drinkwater
Medford, Oregon

The firm of Francis Marquis was located on the Boulevard of Italians 4, Paris. One of the finest cased sets of pistols (pair of percussion duelling pistols, pair of target pistols, pepper-box pocket pistol, and dagger . . . all finely engraved) were made by Marquis and part of my collection. They are now the proud possession of a well known gun dealer on the west coast. I have also seen one other sporting shotgun made by F. Marquis—that could be used as a percussion or as a pin-fire cartridge, also very fine workmanship. Leopold Bernard, I'm sure, was a barrel maker that worked for Marquis, or from whom Marquis bought his barrels.—R.M.

Winchester Model 53

I have a Model 53 Winchester takedown rifle, serial number 2053, with a 22 inch round barrel, half magazine. Action and takedown devices are what I would call extremely tight and show no signs of wear or alteration. Wood is sound with moderate scratches. I have been told that it was varnished but definitely not sanded.

Action and forend cap retain very little original blue. They do however have a brownish color. I am told they were cold blued, and not polished or buffed in any way.

I have found no listing in the various books dealing with antique rifles for the Winchester Model 53. When was the gun made? What would be a fair price for the gun? And where could I sell it?

John Vest
Chiloquin, Oregon

The Winchester Model 53 was introduced in 1924 and dropped in 1933. Value would

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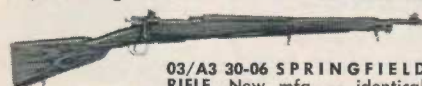
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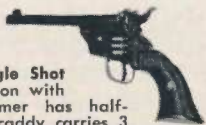
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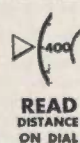
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depend on condition: while not rare, guns in very fine condition are desirable for display in collections. I cannot assess the condition of your gun from your description and can only tell you that it should bring from \$35 to \$165 depending on how close it is to factory new.

Any Winchester collector should be glad to make you an offer. If you cannot get satisfaction you might ship it to me; if in nice condition, I'll put it in my own collection, provided my offer would be acceptable to you.—S.B.

Mossberg Shotgun

Montgomery Ward sells a three shot bolt action shotgun which resembles Mossberg's Model 395k. Does Mossberg make this gun for Wards? If so, is the quality and workmanship the same on both guns? Is the choke used on both a good one?

Eric McMeekin
Chicago, Illinois

They are the same gun and the workmanship is the same in both. The C-Lect-Choke is an excellent choke and very efficient where you want to fire several different degrees of choke.—P.T.H.

Headspace

Enclosed you will find a fired .300 Winchester Magnum case. Will you please check it out for excessive headspace.

Philip Tanaka
Seaside, Calif.

Your .300 Win. Magnum case has normal headspace. However, your chamber is a bit large just forward of the case belt. This is not excessive for firing factory ammo, and is rather common. It reduces case life greatly for reloading if cases are full length resized, so the first indication of case failure will be a head separation.

As for all belted cases, I recommend sizing only enough to hold bullets tightly. It isn't wise to attempt to reload hot-shot belted cases too many times. With full length sizing belted cases fired in sloppy chambers may fail after only three or four reloadings. With partial sizing they last much longer, and accuracy is apt to be better.—D.W.

.22 Hornet Reloading

I recently came across a copy of GUNS which contained an excellent article on the .22 Hornet. This aroused my interest in the caliber and I hope to buy a rifle chambered for .22 Hornet.

I want to do my own reloading, but the budget won't stretch to an elaborate setup. So, I am thinking about the Lyman 310 tool. Would you please tell me what sort of accuracy I might expect with careful checks on sizing, charges, etc?

John B. Norman
Downend, Bristol,
England

Glad to have our British friends get started in reloading. Lyman's 310 tong tool will load excellent .22 Hornet ammo, better than factory loads. That is, the end result equals loads assembled on a bench press, but production is slow.—D.W.

"Czar" Revolver

Could you tell me the manufacturer, place and approximate year of manufacture, and the value of a single action revolver in .22 caliber marked as follows: On top of the octagon barrel is "Pat. Mch 26. 71 May 27. 79" and over the cylinder is the word "CZAR" and on both handles are the initials "T & R" while on the barrel it has the number 8104. Any information will be sincerely appreciated.

Russell Burpee
Costigan, Maine

Your pistol was made for Turner and Ross of Boston, Mass., by Hood Firearms Co. or by Whitney almost a century ago. Value would depend on condition, and would range between \$8 and \$15.—S.B.

.257 Weatherby

I am planning on building a .257 Weatherby using one of the Mauser actions and perhaps a Douglas barrel. There are the M93, M94, M95, and the M98 Mauser actions available on the surplus market. I also want to use a Fajen stock and a 3X9 Leopold scope. Would this make a good deer rifle?

Jim Huiett
Salina, Kansas

For what you want, I can only recommend the Mauser 98 action. Built up the way you suggest, it should be not only an excellent deer rifle, but a very good all-around rifle.—P.T.H.

Webley Conversion

I am interested with the thought of converting a .455 Webley to .45 ACP. Is the cylinder bushed or is it replaced? Does the barrel remain or is it also replaced? I have sporterized several rifles that turned out well, but this would be my first pistol.

K. Radziewicz
Newark, N.J.

The only thing that has to be done to convert the Webley to .45 ACP is to turn the face of the cylinder off until you get the correct headspace. Of course, you have to use half-moon clips with .45 ACP ammo.—P.T.H.

Beaumont Adams

I have a cap and ball revolver similar in appearance to the Beaumont Adams shown on page 23 of the October, 1965, issue of GUNS, except for the cylinder. It bears the following inscription: MADE FOR ADAMS REVOLVING ARMS CO. N. Y. By Mass. Arms Co. Chicopee Falls Patent May 3, 1853; June 3, 1856; April 7, 1857.

The number 3566 is stamped on the frame and also on the cylinder. Can you let me know if this is a collector's item, and if so, the approximate value?

J. K. Corbett
Laramie, Wyo.

The mechanism for the Adams revolver was patented in England in 1853. During the (Continued on page 66)



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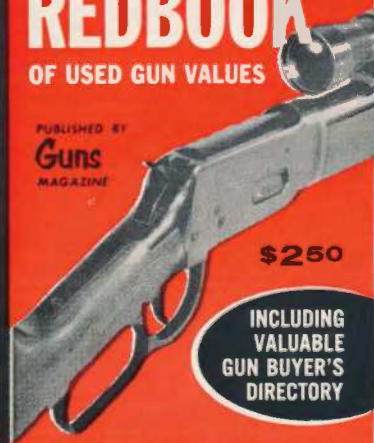
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(Continued from page 64)

Civil War they were manufactured by the
Massachusetts Arms Company in Chicopee
Falls; made in two models—the Army Model
.44 caliber and the Navy Model .36 caliber,
both double action and five shot. The Eng-
lish-made Adams revolvers were also pur-
chased by the United States and the Con-
federate States during the Civil War. This
is a fine collectors item and the value in
good to better condition is \$75 to \$90.—R.M.

Extended Primers

I have a Model 70, .300 Win. Mag. for
which I handload. I use 180 grain round
nose Speer bullets with 67½ grains of Du
Pont 4350. In the Speer Reloading Manual
they list the maximum at 75 grains. In the
rounds I fire the primers are all extended.
Can you tell me what the problem may be,
since I am below the maximum. Primers
used were CCI No. 200. I am sending along
two of the fired primers for you to look at.

Philip Tanaka
Seaside, Calif.

I believe your .300 Win. Magnum load with
180 gr. would be improved by increasing the
charge of 4350 to 70.0 grains.

The decapped fired primers do not indi-
cate any trouble whatever. They show im-
prints of the bolt face, which is normal (and
desirable) with CCI primers. However, if
fired cases have primers that protrude much
above the case head face, that is an indication
of excessive headspace in your rifle. This
should not be confused with a slight primer
extrusion in the firing pin hole, which is
normal for many rifles with
large charges.—D.W.

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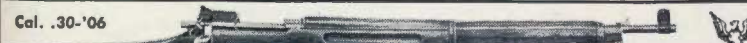


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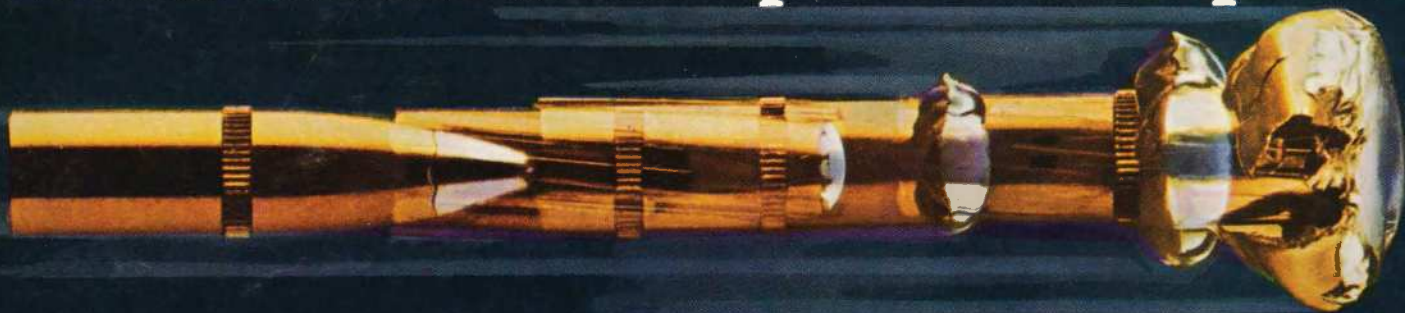
It expands fast.

Both act like any other bullet.

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