

JULY 1956 50c

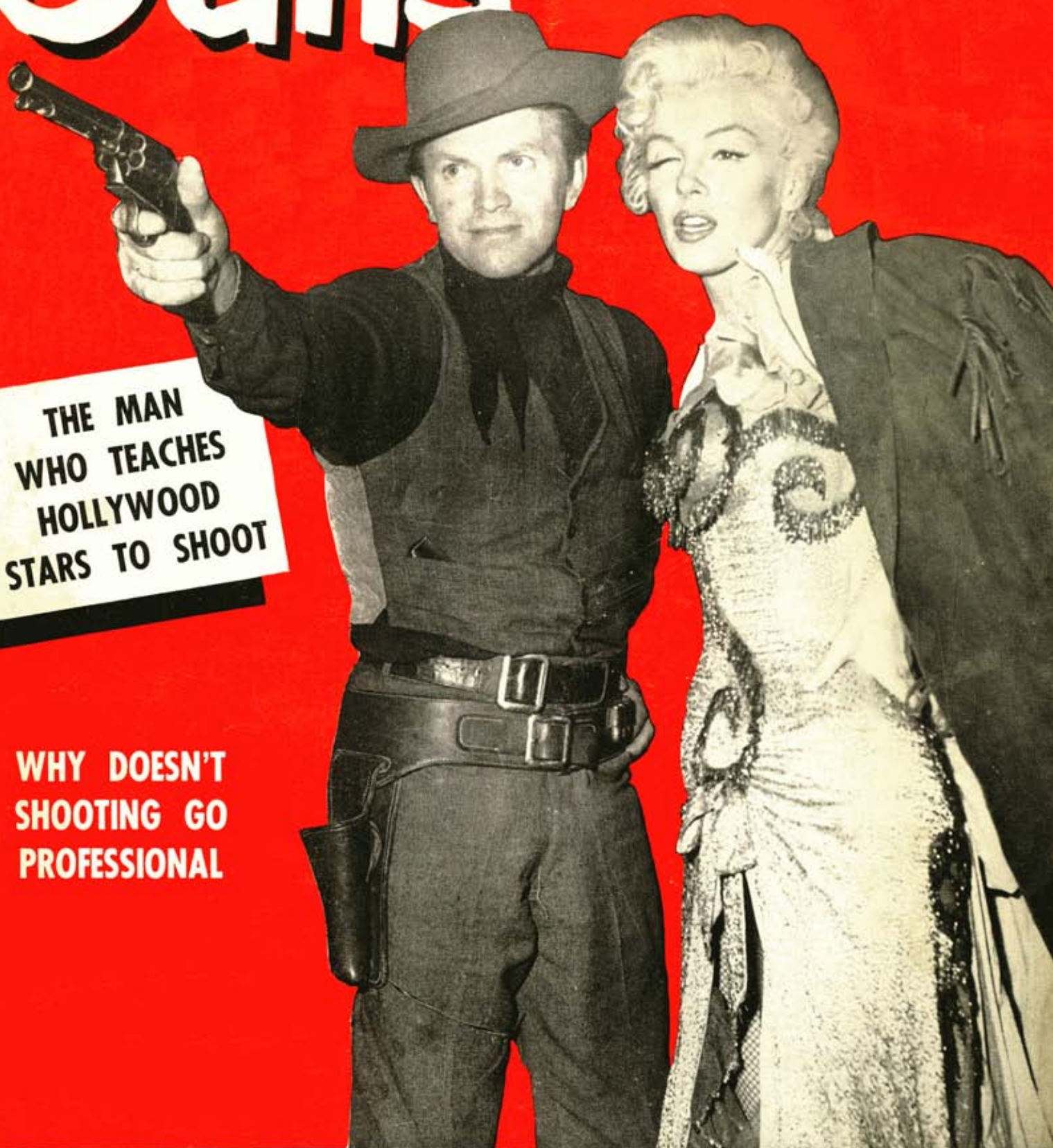
Guns

WHY MARINES
OUTSHOOT OUR SOLDIERS

THE MAN
WHO TEACHES
HOLLYWOOD
STARS TO SHOOT

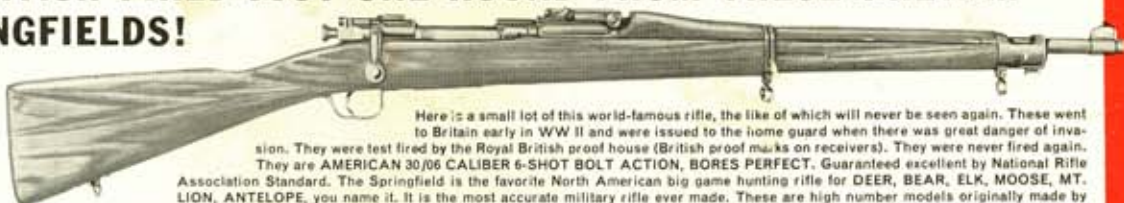
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* All models, except lightweight, available in nickel plated finish at \$10.00 more. Target grip available for all PP models. Engraved pistol prices on request. Full line of extra magazines, holsters and belts available.

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PPK .22 LR **

1 \$63.50



.22 LR

PPK SUPERLIGHT

2 \$69.50



PP .22 LR **

3 \$62.50



PP SPORT-COMPETITION MODEL

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.22 LR — .22 Short
6 \$69.50 \$72.50



PP "SPORTER 6" .22 LR

5 \$69.50



.22 LR

PP WITH EXT. MAG.

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TRIGGER TALK

THE HISTORY of gun magazines has been somewhat rugged despite the fact that the sport has flourished over the years. The turnover in titles has been alarming and some gun enthusiasts have become justifiably cynical over the years about a new magazine. When GUNS Magazine appeared on the scene just a year and a half ago, there were those folks who were dubious that there would ever be a Volume II. But the skeptics have changed their tune after watching the phenomenal growth of GUNS. Even the most doubtful, who insisted that only support of an association could keep a magazine going, have admitted that GUNS has become the class of the gun field and is here to stay.

More than 20,000 readers have indicated complete confidence in our permanence and become paid-in-full subscribers. Some, mindful of the past of other gun magazines, have openly queried us about our status and told us that they wouldn't know what to do for reading without GUNS. Our subscribers are listed in every state in the union as well as 50 foreign countries. Many of them are so confident in our future that they have subscribed for two and three years. Today our total circulation is 70,000.

We, too, are confident in the future of GUNS as a magazine and guns as a hobby and next month we are launching a new publication. It is called Guns Merchandiser and is a trade magazine designed to serve the needs of dealers. It will reach a total of 10,000 who make guns their business—manufacturers, jobbers, dealers and gunsmiths. We'll bring them the latest information on products in the field as well as sales techniques designed to promote expansion of the entire field. For the fellow who sells guns, it will be a must just as GUNS is a must for the man who shoots.

Next month we will feature in GUNS several stories of a must nature for gun fans. Colonel Charles Askins, who analyzes the new Remington gas shotgun in the current issue, discusses how to use shotguns for big game in our August number. More states are limiting rifles so that hunters have to turn to other weapons for a big game and Colonel Askins tells how slugs in shotguns can be effective in terms of accuracy.



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SHOOTING NEWS

Washington, D.C. The cheeriest news from the Director of Civilian Marksmanship since they peddled Kraggs at a buck-fifty has been released. This time it's ammo, rations of it for affiliated clubs and for all senior members who shoot the qualifying match with the M1. . . Worth joining up for, all that "guvamint brass" and you get to use an M1 without all that red tape at the recruiting sergeant's office.

Miami, Fla. At the Trail Glade Ranges you all, the 1956 Flamingo pistol tourney in the land of flamingoes was a howling success. Officials thought national champ Joe Benner had hung up a new record with a good chance to beat his all-time high of 2644. Not quite up to it, the burly West Point sergeant scored 2637, which is just about the 2nd highest ever fired...Col. Bill Hancock took second in the all-round championship with a score of 2601. Sign him up for the "2600 Club," since Colonel Bill makes the 15th man to break 2600 . . . Second was Lt. W. Cross with 2589: don't officers lower than colonels ever beat colonels in shooting matches?...High master was Lt. Dave Miller with 2582. Watch that man rise in shooting...Champ Harry Reeves took time off from his police inspector's desk in Detroit to get some sunshine for his bursitis. While his ailment was a real handicap and painful, he still shot well to score 4th Master and was 8th in the overall championship with 2569. Some pretty hot competition but it takes real nerve and determination to make such a good showing despite a bad arm. Hat's off to Harry...Individual match tallies drone on: caliber .22 champ, Benner, 890; center fire champ, Benner, 882; combination won by Benner, 1772; caliber .45 champ, Benner, 865...In high civilian class the Palmetto Pistol Club No. 1 team scored regularly at the top . . . Diana "Casey" Capone took a bow with an aggregate 2269 to win the prized Flamingo Open Pistol Women's Championship...It was a really fine shoot attended by 247 competitors, about 100 more than expected.

Wheaton, Ill. Gets a little monotonous but Wheaton takes the league championship award with 11 wins and one loss...Joliet earns some distinction with 12 straight losses...Oak Park for the second year won the second division trophy. The second division consists of Elgin, Joliet and Oak Park clubs with the season high for Oak Park a good 961. It was a tie between Austin and Oak Park but OP made a boner and Austin came up with one point more which landed them in the 1st Division, 2680 or over...Oak Park won the President's Trophy, awarded to the club making greatest improvement over last year's average. Bouquets to team members A. Overton, N. Hanson, R. Havell, J. Mullen and L. Spranger of Oak Park...Noticed mention of father and son team O. Zapel and Junior shooting last month at Wheaton. Both new shooters, senior fired 192, junior 126...Hope they don't get discouraged.

Oakland, Cal. They started shooting at sunup and didn't quit till sundown, the 300 shooters who showed up for the Oakland Pistol Club cap-snapping bee. There was a lot of lead let off rangewise. Coast gunsmith Bob Chow dropped a few points for an agg. 877. Ernie Lum shot his first possible 100x100 in the timed fire string centerfire National Match course and from then he wasn't worth a damn. Tough luck but success shouldn't fluster a shooter anymore than failure. There were 22 other possibles in the hotly contested match; with most of the possibles racked up in .22 course . . . Cap-and-ball shoot was tail end feature and poorly attended, 13 front loading gunners shooting. S. Reinhard won first with a 96, gold medal. Why so little interest?

Fort Wayne, Ind. Hoosier hotshot Dave Puller a 17-year old student at Howe, Ind. Military school, scored 198x200 to set a new national record in a sectional smallbore classic at Fort Wayne. Nice going, Dave. Keep that old Winchester 52 hot with some other good scores.

San Diego, Cal. Marine Fred Filkins from Camp Matthews won the 2700 grand aggregate title from a field of 160 of Southern Cal's finest pistol shots during the Southland tourney. Filkins posted 2609x2700. Won firsts with 876 in .22 aggy and 861 for .45 caliber and a second with 872 in centerfire. The sharpshooting Marine picked up a title on opening day by firing 578 rapid fire on the 25 yard International course, topping 80 shooters...Police officer Bill Guiette pulled one shot just nipping the nine ring at 2 o'clock to set four new national records on the International slow fire 50-yard course. The husky six-foot San Diego patrolman turned in a surprising performance after just two years of shooting experience. Firing a 557 on the full course and 281 for the half course, he won police and open national titles in each from Detroit policeman Harry Reeves. Harry's marks stood at 550 and 276...Bill Salle, San Diego teammate of Guiette, holds national police records for International and half-course rapid fire at 584 and 294. Champ Guiette shot a gunsmithed Colt Woodsman with a heavy round barrel and added weight balanced midway below the barrel...Winners received their choice of medals or merchandise awards. Next November the San Diego merchandise awards will be right welcome; oven-ready turkeys are promised to winners!

North Attleboro, Mass. New England Championship outdoor pistol matches scheduled for June 23 will be hosted by Angle Tree Stone R & G Club, Highway 152 out of N. Attleboro. This club has some fine range accommodations, probably the best in New England. Sixty targets simultaneously operated with covered firing line; International pistol range; bench rest range; skeet field...Twelve thousand bucks has been put up for a new indoor range, 15 rifle and 20 pistol points with Mike Ghormley, locally noted shooter, on hand as instructor.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Beaucoup prizes promised by the W-B Rifle & Pistol Club at two important matches this summer. Middle Atlantic States Regionals with the smallbore rifle championship is chalked up for June 30 offering a chance to really warm up for Perry in August. Smallbore fans write to Bill Deets, Box 671, Wilkes-Barre, for all the dope... Bench resters inhale, exhale, hold and touch off that winning shot at the match for precision riflers which comes off August 11, 12.

St. Louis, Mo. Thomas Martin turned in high smallbore season's score at St. Louis University High School with a 193. Eleven high school teams compete in the area and for the third straight year St. Lou High has won. Average team score for the season is 738...They have a good course of fire for junior shooters. Five shots four position, possible 200. Teams of six, four highest to count for a possible 800.

Libertyville, Ill. It's just a spot on the map and not much of a crossroads but the Chicagoland hamlet was the scene of the hottest competition of the season. Total of 107 registered smallbore shooters came from hundreds of miles around for the Libertyville Gun Club 7th spring gallery rifle tournament...Bob Johnson, Grand Haven, Mich., took first with 192 in the prone-standing iron sight match. Evanston's Mike Lefever, junior sparkplug of the Evanston Police Boy's Rifle Club, didn't do so well with only 180. Bill Gorman made 960x1000 in the grand aggy, the winnah!...No. 5 match was 20 shots offhand won by Harry Grimsey from Janesville, Wis., who carried on Wisconsin schuetzenfest traditions to hold that bobbing bullseye onto his front sight for 189x200 for a first...Mrs. Lillian Devine represented the fair sex with a very fair performance and the high lady award.



CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ted Williams And Winchester

Have just received your May issue and read your Crossfire column. Mr. Judson S. Darrow states that Ted Williams said his first shotgun was a Winchester 410 gauge double barrel, and that Winchester never made a double barrel in 410 gauge. I would like to set him straight on a thing or two because Winchester does make a Winchester in 410 gauge in Model 21 Custom Built with ventilated rib. I work in my father's sport shop and am 16 and have enjoyed your magazine very much.

Fred Heard, Jr.
Muscatine, Iowa

My Favorite Gun

You have the only gun lover's magazine on the market and I wouldn't give up my subscription if you offended me personally. However, I noticed in your latest issue that other readers are letting you know about it so I thought I would get on the band wagon too. To put it plainly I think your article "My Favorite Gun" stinks.

I base my statement on examples given by other readers plus your February issue showing Allan Shivers pretending to fan a double-action H & R .22 with a sight and hammer arrangement that would rip his hand to pieces. Like I say, I wouldn't give it up, but I don't believe it all either.

Harold H. Scarbrough
Warrington, Florida

Since about the beginning of GUNS Magazine, you have carried the feature "My Favorite Gun." I have just finished reading in your May issue, the letters from Bryce Poe II of Oslo and Judson S. Darrow of Connecticut.

Naturally enough, I should feel that the people featured in this column know little about firearms if they say they want anything other than a Weatherby rifle as their favorite. But we all can't like the same things. And I personally think the feature is an interesting one, and I think many people turn to that to see whom you have listed.

It seems as though people often get the wrong impression of movie stars, just because they are theatrical people. Among my customers and personal friends are a number of movie stars whom I consider gun experts—Gary Cooper, John Wayne, Clark Gable, Robert Taylor, and many, many others that cannot be called novices and who have just as great a knowledge of firearms as any average individual and I am sure these men have far more than the average. Even Eddie "Rochester" Anderson has several of our rifles, and spends a great deal of his time big game hunting. Strange as it may seem, even Jane Powell is a huntress and owns Weatherby Magnums.

It seems as though people get the impression that just because someone is in the lime-light of the world that their name and picture

is just being used as a publicity stunt, when actually the individual is probably a novice on the subject. But I can assure you this is not true.

Personally, I like your feature "My Favorite Gun," and hope you continue it.

Roy E. Weatherby
South Gate, California

I just received my February issue of GUNS. You sure have done it again: spoiled a damn good issue by blowing smoke up the movie actors. If you intend your magazine as a gun book, then keep it for guns; if for movie actors, then make a movie magazine out of it.

There are plenty of oldtime stories and men you can write about. Yes, and plenty of gun battles which would make interesting reading. We see plenty of the movie fakes over TV and in the papers.

Charles J. Bonas
Casa Grande, Arizona

Prettiest Shotgunner

Your magazine comes as an innovation in its field, with its deliberate flamboyance and publication of provocative articles which have always been eschewed by the staid and conservative gun writers. The current issue is especially noteworthy for the complete bravery of two authors.

James Cranbrook picks without qualification Carola Mandel as "America's prettiest shotgunner." That she is lovely to look at is undeniable, but Mr. Cranbrook lays himself wide open by presuming to act as the Flo Ziegfeld of the trap and skeet ranges. America's top women clay bird busters number some very comely folks, including one who is a former model. To Mr. Cranbrook, an accolade for choosing as the prettiest in the nation Carola Mandel who is, of all things, the scattergun editor of GUNS, I trust she was able to exercise her editorial duties objectively and without embarrassment.

William B. Edwards has stuck his neck out as has no other authority in the gun world by flatly naming Holland & Holland as the "finest gunmakers on earth" who, to quote directly from the item, today make the "finest guns produced anywhere in the world." It has always been agreed, and still is, by gun experts that once you get into a select echelon of British gun makers the particular make is entirely a matter of personal choice. His assertions, without adding they are his own opinions, come as a severe injustice to such makers as Purdey, Westly Richards and Boss.

Incidentally, Mr. Edwards need not speculate any further over whether the Holland firm was "rocked to its foundations" over the use of one of their shotguns in the recent

(Continued on page 44)

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?

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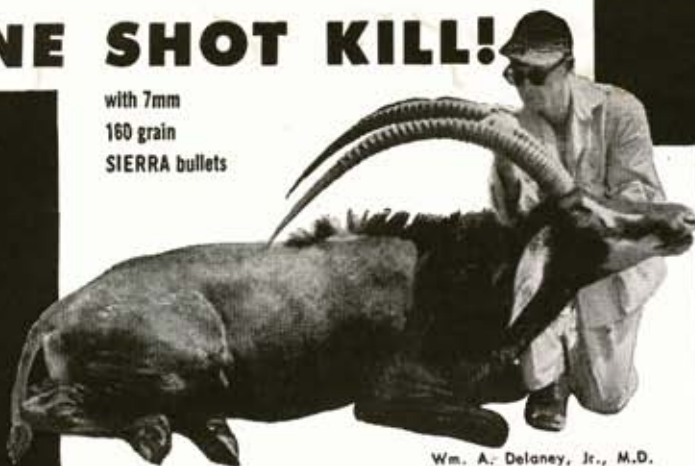
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GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

□ Notice in the Frederick, Md., paper: "Will the person or persons who stole my fishing equipment please return and get the minnow bucket which was overlooked. At that time I will give them some lead which, when picked out of the body, can be used for sinkers. A. D. Flory."

□ Former heavyweight champ Jack Sharkey has an 11-year winning streak on his New Hampshire deer hunts and hopes to make it 12 in a row this year.

□ Charles Searle, veteran Detroit detective, was cleaning a pistol when his cocker spaniel playfully grabbed his leg. The jar caused the gun to go off and the bullet struck the detective in the foot. "The first guy I shoot in 30 years," moaned Searle, "and it would be me."

□ Wallace I. Fulkerson of Defiance, Mo., got himself a deer very inexpensively—he didn't fire a shot. While he was out in the woods, a buck rushed in front of him, took one look at the hunter and collapsed. Apparently he'd died of fright.

□ A man went hunting a mouse in Wichita, Kansas. Investigator Les Wheeler reported to police headquarters that the man who did the shooting had become annoyed at the mouse "stomping around the house at night." When he cornered the mouse in the kitchen, he fired at the animal with a .22 rifle. The bullet bounced back, cut the shooter's cheek, but Wheeler reported: "He got it all right; there's a mouse out here with a bullet hole in it."

□ Hunting geese by airplane is not quite the sporting thing to do, an Elmira, N.Y., court ruled. Two men in a plane who'd been buzzing south-bound geese flocks were fined \$62.50 each.

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87-Grain Spitzer	4.15
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140-Grain Spitzer	5.00
160-Grain Spitzer BT	5.25
30 Caliber—.308 Diameter	
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150-Grain Spitzer	5.00
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How To Select BINOCULARS

MY FAVORITE GUN

By RANDOLPH SCOTT
Hollywood Movie Star

My favorite gun, chiefly for sentimental reasons, is the six-shooter I have worn in most of my films, including the latest, "The Seventh Cavalry." This gun is one of the famed Peacemaker 45's with the long, 7½-inch barrel which first made its appearance in the West around 1872.

I like the feel of the heavy, well-balanced Peacemaker. I find it easier to handle and draw than some of the shorter-barreled models. I also like it because it is a real working gun with no fancy pearl handle or other doodads. My Peacemaker has a plain walnut grip, black with age. It looks like the kind of gun a real Westerner used back in the so-called bad old days. In fact, I'm pretty sure it was used to some advantage back then, for the grip has 12 notches etched into it.



By HARRY REEVES

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Naming a favorite among my 90 or so guns is a real problem since I just don't keep guns that I have no use or liking for. However, if there is a favorite, it is the first .45 Government Model Pistol I owned. I bought it for \$5 in 1937 from a fine "old-timer" gunsmith at San Diego named Brotzman. I then took it to J. D. "Buck" Buchanan in Los Angeles for an accuracy job. Shortly afterwards I managed to win the Western Division and the Marine Corps Championship with it. I still have it, as accurate as ever, and although it's no beauty, it has scored a lot of 9's and 10's.

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JULY
1956
Vol. 2
No. 7-19

Guns



MAGAZINE

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Finnish farmer Arvo Ojala who left his Washington apple farm to teach fancy gun slinging in Hollywood enjoys his work, which includes pleasant tasks such as showing Marilyn Monroe how to handle Colt single action .45 for her role in "River of No Return."

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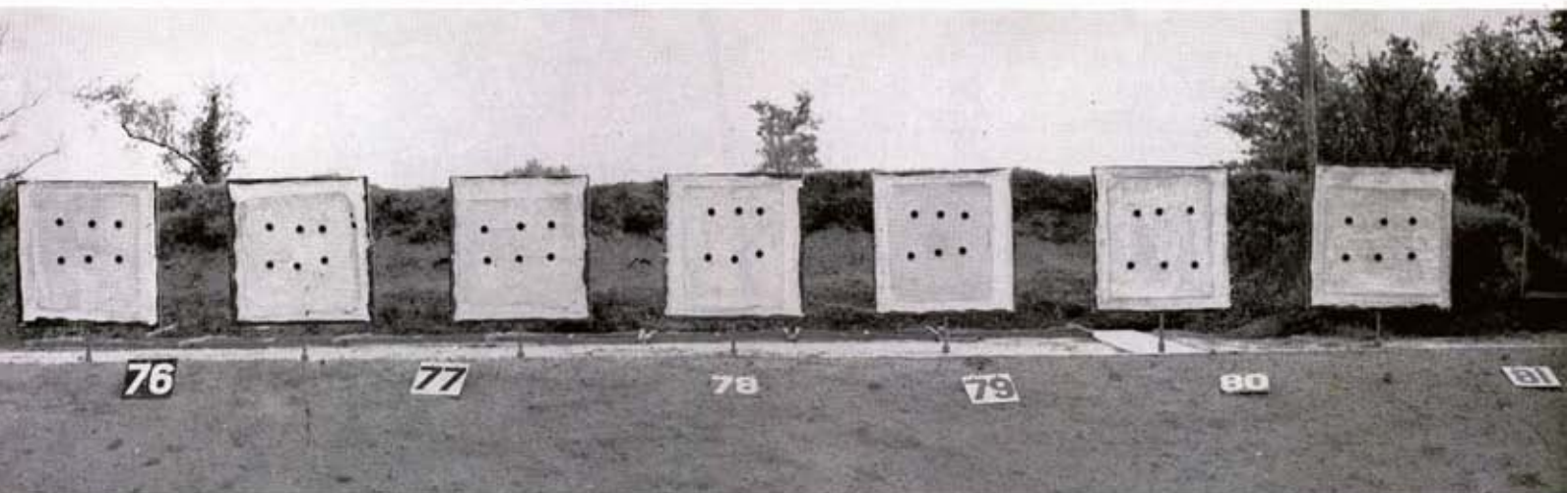
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BOOK OF SENSATIONAL GUN BUYS!

WHY DOESN'T SHOOTING GO PROFESSIONAL?



Spectator appeal necessary to any sport that people would pay money to watch on professional basis might be furnished by bustible targets such as "breako" disks in use for novelty rapid-fire pistol shooting at Fort Benning.

**SPORT NEEDS SPECTATOR APPEAL AS WELL AS CASH INCENTIVE TO MARKSMEN
IF IT IS TO MAKE COMEBACK TO ONCE-POPULAR STATUS . . . OR EVEN SURVIVE**

By PETER JOSSERAND

SHOOTING is like the weather. Everybody talks about the fact that shooting is on the downgrade, but nobody does anything about it. Annual club reports show competitive shooting declining at a time when the nation is more sports conscious than ever. The average age of club members continues to go up and membership goes down.

What's the answer to the slump in shooting as an American sport?

Some gun bugs—and I'm one of them—think the answer is for shooting to go professional, to become a competitive game that pays off in dollars and cents. But even more important than the payoff to revive shooting as a great American pastime, the big need is to make marksmanship a spectator sport—to interest millions of people in watching the top marksmen in the nation compete.

What is there about shooting that would make people want to watch it like baseball and boxing? What is there about shooting which could attract top natural athletes to the game as a way to make a living?

In other words how could shooting turn professional and become a bigtime sport?

The answers are not easy to determine but the beginnings of an answer are found in today's very few professional shooters—either exhibition marksmen (there are no more than 25 in the nation) and shotgun instructors (perhaps less than ten in all). They are a rare breed indeed and one of the big reasons is that the shooting pro does not get the ballyhoo, the promotion and publicity that have

helped make other sports a big money proposition. There is no aggressive selling of exhibition shooters to the public and the few like Winchester's Herb Parsons who shoot for pay are not exactly the best-paid pros in the land. Their work is primarily to promote sales of arms and ammo and they wind up showing their talents at shooting matches or before Boy Scout get-togethers.

And yet at one time in this nation the professional marksman rated as a national hero not far behind baseball's Ted Williams of today's headlines. Shooting competition amounted to the World Series of sports back after the Civil War. When a rifle team came from Ireland in 1874 and fired at the New York National Guard range at Creedmoor, Long Island, thousands came by steam car and buggy or hiked it on foot from Brooklyn to cheer the shooting teams. "Rooters" egged on the competitors just like football cheer leaders in the current era.

When the return match was made on the Dollymount range near Dublin, Ireland, in 1875, 60,000 non-shooters swarmed over the range behind the firing line to see the festivities. Excitement was intense as the two teams on the 1000 yard range firing heavy black powder rifles battled for the championship of the world. A bridge collapsed under the weight of hundreds of spectators. Even a wetting did not dampen the spirits of the sports fans to whom shooting was something worth watching. But those days were long ago.

Yet professional shooting was a long time dying. Doc



Fine modern ranges draw oldtime shooters but spectator chairs are empty because of slight visual interest to game.

Exhibition shooting years ago was spectator sport. Large gallery watched Mrs. Plinky Topperwein shoot in exhibitions.





Other governments like Venezuela, which runs Caracas spread, build ranges but U.S. shooters find critical lack of facilities.

Carver and A. H. Bogardus, champion wingshots—each one claimed “of the world”—laid side bets of a thousand dollars in gold apiece in the 1870’s and fired on Chicago’s lake front to settle who was best. A money purse, money that was enough to mean something, was often a feature of any shooting contest. Constant practice necessary to achieve top form was costly, but a champion shooter could hope to make money.

Turning to a form of shooting which would bring them before a larger audience, and therefore make them more money, most of the early trick shooters went professional by going into show business. In arenas all over the world, shows such as Bill Cody’s Wild West featured champion shooters. They were nothing more nor less than athletes who excelled at the sport of shooting. And sports fans flocked from miles around to see the shows.

Today 100 spectators would be considered a big crowd at a shooting competition.

What has happened over the years? Much has changed, of course, but one big change has been the formality that has come over shooting competition. What’s there to watch at a big match? Nothing! Spectators cannot see how accurate a marksman is because the target is just too far off. As far as the observer at a match is concerned, all he has to determine how a shooter fares is just the referee’s word. And even then scores are not posted until long after the match is over. No wonder shooting competition is virtually moribund as a spectator sport. And no wonder that trap and skeet are growing as shooting sports because the man who shoots can actually see something happen to the target.

And how about the competitor? As far as rewards, he

Many women who like shooting like wife of author find sport very expensive and shooting facilities very difficult to find. Josserrands found they had to spend \$500 on .22 ammunition alone for just a single summer’s competitive shooting.





Match shooting is too expensive a hobby for most Americans. Custom-stocked M52 .22 rifles each are worth \$300 up.

may get a silver spoon or fork—and if he is good enough to win 30 matches, he has a place setting for six! Or perhaps he may wind up with a big trophy for his mantelpiece.

But to get to be top dog in shooting takes lots and lots of moola, because shooting is not exactly the cheapest sport to indulge in. I found that out about a year ago when my wife and I decided to get back into the smallbore rifle game, having been out for a number of years. I quickly discovered that the cash needed to put us on the firing line with winning equipment would have been prohibitive to a young man of average means. After rounding up rifles, gun cases, shooting box, telescopic sights, spotting scopes, iron sights, shooting coats and gloves, mats, slings, arm cuffs, shooting glasses, and a flock of small but costly items which every shooting box contains, we were out about \$1500 before a shot was fired. We had to round up something to shoot,

which meant buying a couple of cartons of each brand of ammunition for testing. After which, we had to buy the two cases of ammunition we shot during the summer—nearly half a thousand dollars just for .22's. Considering range fees, match entry fees, targets, gunsmithing to tune up the rifles and alter the stocks to our personal dimensions, we wound up about \$2500 in the red. And we only shot in two registered shoots during the season.

But all this expense would be justified if there was some incentive, some bait, some reward for achieving good marksmanship. In other words—cash!

Other sports that have become bigtime enterprises all have the end pursuit of play for pay. Always at the end of the road there is some way that the best athlete can cash in on his ability in some way or other, but not in shooting. Take golf, which certainly from (Continued on page 52)

Author and sometime club secretary Peter Josserand expects to have to give up shooting because no range is handy.



High cost of shooting weeds out youngsters. Average age of west coast smallbore champ team is 50 years.



HOW TO JAZZ UP THE 30-30

HANDLOADING CAN TAKE LEVER ACTION OUT OF DEER
RIFLE CLASS AND ADAPT GUN FOR ANY KIND OF HUNT
FROM VARMINT TO REAL BIG GAME



Careful handloads in his lever .30-30 have enabled author Valentine to shoot $\frac{5}{8}$ " groups at 100 yards from rest. Fine accuracy with iron sights and very precise loads is possible from such rifles despite two-piece stock design.

By G. E. VALENTINE

DID YOU ever wish some witchcraft would glamorize your old .30-30, even for just one or two sunny spring Sundays, into a flat-shooting, highly accurate varmint rifle? Or up its oomph enough for an occasional autumn safari after game bigger than deer? Or cut four-fifths off ammunition costs so you could afford to shoot it more?

The magic word that makes these minor miracles possible is: handloading. Thumb your nose at any guy who gives you that old guff about lever-actions being unsafe or unsuitable for handloading. They do let cartridge cases stretch more when fired in them than a bolt does, so that you pretty well have to use your own fired cases to make sure they'll fit. And it's wise not to reload them more than twice with fullpower loads, lest repeated stretching weaken the cases.

But let's not scorn the old thutty-thutty as a sinful woman because of this little weakness; actually, the stretch is a valuable built-in safety feature of the old Model 94—and 64—Winchesters. Their springy actions will set back enough extra with a hot maximum load so that the extra stretching of the cartridge makes the extraction stiff; and

that is your warning to reduce the load a bit.

Not that the gun will blow up if you don't; the safety limit of these rifles is away beyond their easy-extraction limit, though it's the latter that's usually quoted. But there isn't much sense to slowing down the slick smoothness of the lever action with sticky loads, nor in pounding excess head-space into it sooner than you need to.

With guns as with girl friends, each is a little different, so make your own rifle's extraction your guide. As long as your reloaded cartridges chamber readily in it and extract easily after firing, they're safe enough in my opinion. And I've just finished running several hundred handloads through my .30-30 with the cases often so full of powder that it was compressed in seating the bullet.

If you're afraid to tackle handloading because you don't know anything about it, there are various custom loading firms that will do it for you. But if you're even slightly interested, you need only observe the handloader's ABCED—Always Be Careful, Exact, and Double-Check—to find handloading safe, comparatively easy, and a whale of a lot of fun.



Rough and ready decapping punch from old nail is first step in cooking up precision fodder to accurize .30-30.

If you're afraid the equipment is too costly, why waste your native American ingenuity? You can make a perfectly good decapping punch by merely filing the tang of a small three-cornered file, or the end of a large nail, small enough to slip into the flash hole inside the cartridge, and use it with a hammer. You can install new primers with a vise, and a 1/4-inch bolt 3 or 4 inches long. Fit the primer against its pocket, slip the bolt inside the case, put them in the vise with a flat metal surface against the primer, and just squeeze it home.

Tight necks can be loosened by working the bullet of a loaded cartridge—a pointed .30-06 military round is good—inside them. Loose necks can be tightened by pressing one side slightly flat against the edge of a table or bench. (There's lots of necking in handloading!) Seat bullets with your fingers and the vise, measuring seating depth as close as you can with any good ruler. You can't run such uncrimped loads through a tubular magazine, but they'll work fine single-loaded directly into the chamber.

For the powder load, a friendly druggist will weigh out an exact sample of the load you want. Take this home, and



Case swollen to fit rifle chamber exactly by first firing is capped using steel rod and vise for pressure.



Charge should be weighed for accuracy but old case sawed off to hold right amount of powder is good measure.



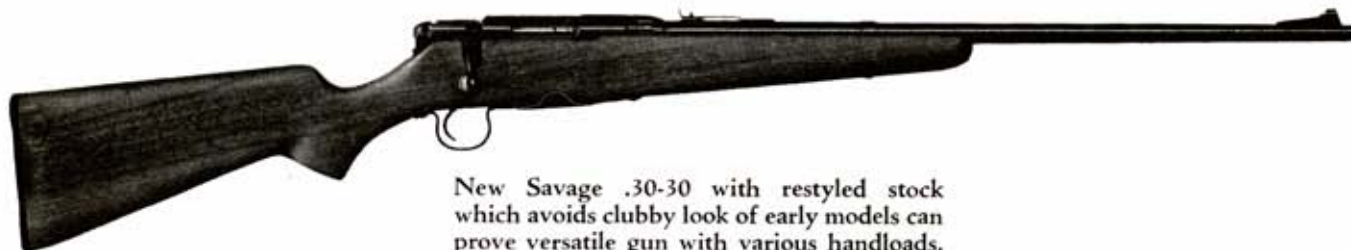
Common vise doubles in brass as bullet seater using soft wood to cushion lead bullet tips from denting.

cut and file down an empty cartridge case until it holds exactly this amount when level full. Tape, wire, or solder a wire handle to it, and you have a charge cup which will be fine for dipping all the loads you want, as long as they aren't maximum ones. They'll be accurate, too, if you dip and level off carefully.

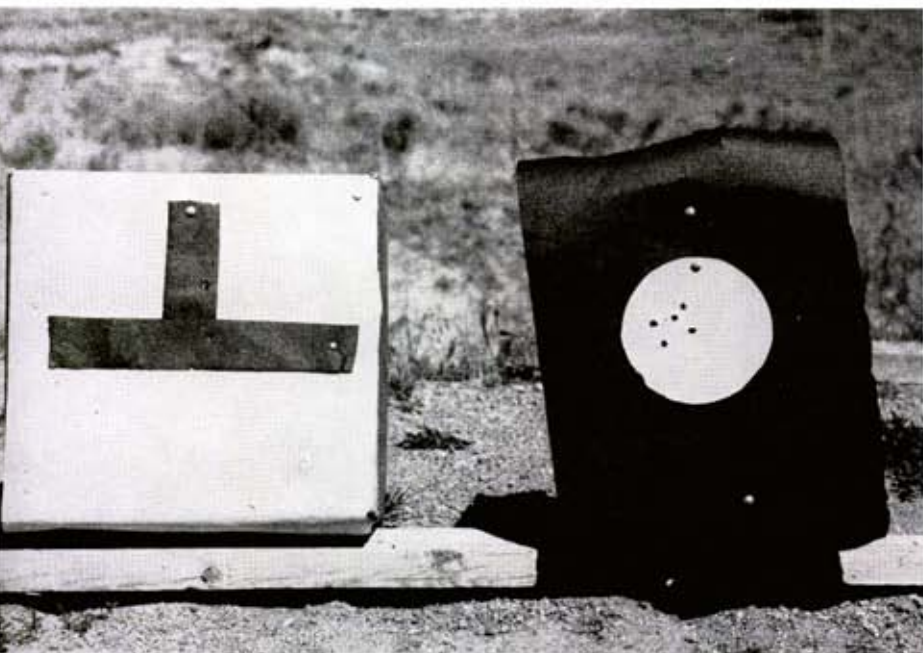
A piece of paper twisted into a cone makes an adequate funnel for putting the loads into the case. The only piece of equipment you need to spend money on is the Lyman Ideal Handbook, which at one buck is a mighty good investment for any gun-user.

So what are we waiting for? Run, drive, or write to your nearest shooting supplies dealer, and buy 100 large rifle primers, 100 .32-20 soft-point bullets, 115 gr., and a can of Dupont powder. What kind? For a .30-30, surely the powder should be 3031.

How many grains of it per load? Why, 30, natch! No fooling, 30 grains of Dupont 3031 behind that little .32-20 pill, giving a velocity of around 2000 f.s., is a darned nice little load. Shooting single shots—no magazine, sight your rifle in for it, shoot up some targets, tin cans, groundhogs,



New Savage .30-30 with restyled stock which avoids clubby look of early models can prove versatile gun with various handloads.



T-target and reversed bullseye improvised from paper scraps revealed close groups with ammo handloaded for best accuracy.



By using light bullets at reduced velocities, .30-30 can be used for shooting birds like grouse.

crows, or what have you, and see if you don't agree. Remember that your hundred shots cost only about \$7, and you have $\frac{2}{3}$ of your powder left over. Have we another handloading convert in the house?

If so, maybe you'd like to advance to that accurate, flat-shooting varmint load we spoke of. For it you can use the same kind of powder and primers, but a different bullet: the pointed, beautifully streamlined 125 gr. Sierra. And you'll need to buy your first piece of reloading machinery, a pair of powder scales, for we're going to maximum loads now, and it's safest to weigh every one to a fraction of a grain. The Pacific scales at \$10.95 will do this nicely; you can get costlier ones if you wish.

Start off with 32 grains of 3031, and the 125 grain bullet seated .29 inch—just over $\frac{1}{4}$ "—deep. Load these too, singly into the chamber. If they extract easily after firing, keep working up until you reach (if extraction remains easy) the load which I use in my nearly-new Model 64—35 grains.

And what a load! It fairly transforms the old smoke-pole. Talk about flat shooting—with rifle sighted to hit center at 100 yards, this streamlined Sierra slug drops only 3 to 4 inches at 200 yards, and 19 to 20 at 300 yards. That leaves ordinary .30-30 fodder, and also Hornets and Bees, far behind. In fact, it's as flat-shooting as the .219 Zipper, or the 100 grain load in the .250 Savage, or some

.270 loads. It's within 3 inches at 300 yards of being as flat as the stylish new .222 Remington. That doesn't mean that it's as fast, because the bullet is heavier and longer, but to shoot that flat it sure ain't loafing.

Accurate? Just try it. Even with factory loads, the old thutty-thutty is far from the sloppy shooter some have tried to represent it. Me, I'm too nerve-tense and erratic to be a good shot, but my 5-shot factory-load groups at 100 yards ran from 2 inches down to $1\frac{5}{8}$ whenever I was in shape to shoot that well. Most handloads shot about the same for me, although once with 30 gr. of 3031 behind the 180 gr. Speer bullet, I put 3 shots at 100 yards into just $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

But with this 125 gr. load, the first five shots after sighting-in went into $1\frac{7}{16}$ inches at 100 yards. When I shot it for drop at 200 yards, there were three shots in $2\frac{3}{16}$ inches when the fourth blew the head off a too-often-used case, and ended that session, the bullet going several inches wide. At 300 yards it put four shots into $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and I'm satisfied the fifth was pulled off by my nervousness.

Performance in penetration tests on magazines, both wet and dry, indicate that it should be a killer on varmints, and the one groundhog shot with it was very thoroughly blown apart at around 75 yards. But using it on deer was a mistake. The forkhorn mule deer (*Continued on page 59*)



Sleek lines of new Model 58 Remington gas shotgun are emphasized by raised ventilated rib on 26" barreled skeet model in 12 gauge. Deluxe-appearing engraving on receiver is actually factory standard pattern but is artistically done.

THE NEW REMINGTON COOKS WITH GAS



New shotgun looks almost identical to its "brother," the Sportsman 48 with recoiling barrel, except for gas cap on foreend. Adjustable cap can be turned for "L," light loads, or "H," heavy loads such as would be fired in 28" duck gun.

**SECOND GAS-OPERATED SHOTGUN ON MARKET IS LIGHTER, CLEANER-LOOKING
THAN EARLIEST MODEL AND USES DIAL TO ADJUST FOR LIGHT OR HEAVY LOADS**

By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS

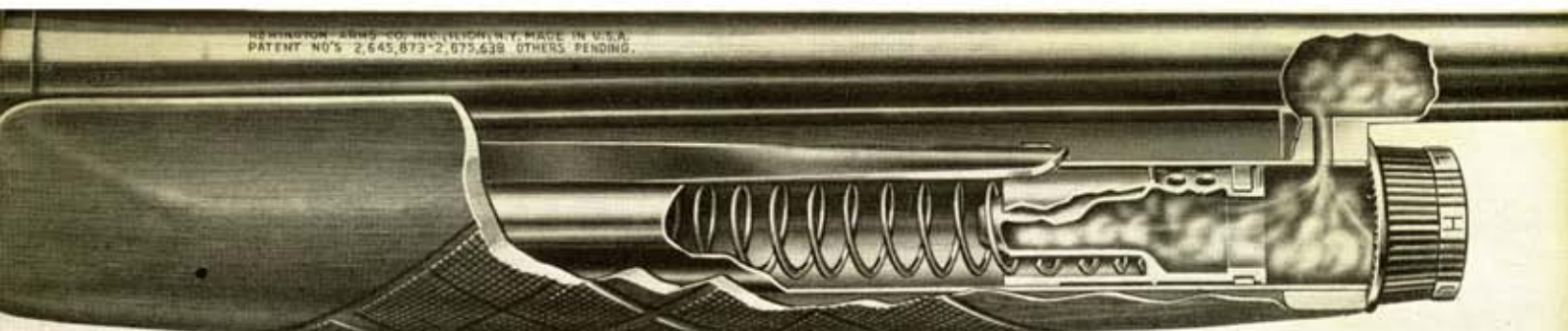
AFICIONADOS of the blast-furnace kind of shooting iron, the auto-loader, will give up with some lusty *olés* when they see the latest Remington offspring. This is a self-winding piece of ordnance, offered only in 12 gauge, to be known as the Model 58. It's a gas cooker. Remington's engineering brains poked a couple of wee small holes through the barrel-tube about midway of the schnozzle end and through the ports thus machined, catch and leak off enough of the whitehot powder gases to set the action aclatter. It is the second gas-operated scattergun to arrive on the American scene.

The 58 joins a new and growing family. Directly after World War II, the Remington Arms Company jolted the U.S. gun-making fraternity by a radical departure from custom. They commenced to build hunting arms that were

not intended to last like the wonderful one-hoss shay but were supposed to take care of the average guy who by an industry-sparked Gallup poll was found to shoot up only two measly boxes of shells per rabbit season.

The resulting firearm is hung together here and there with mousetrap springs and pieces of sardine tin, most of these, mercifully tucked out of sight. While it may not sound like much of a feat to bend and temper a handful of paper clips and die-cast some scrap sheetiron into gun parts, the job Remington's design team has done earns for them kudos and many of 'em!

The new trend all started in 1948 when the outfit cashiered the old Model 11 automatic shotgun. The 11 had been around for nigh onto 50 years, and, while it was good, it was nonetheless outmoded. The old coffee-mill



Gas which pushes wads and shot from barrel flows through ports into cup-shaped gas piston, pushing it back to operate action bars which unlock bolt, open breech, and compress action return spring of Remington Model 58.



Pistol has two sets of ports to allow sustained pressure during first stages of automatic opening cycle. Three ports of cap when set for "H" release high pressure gas into air. Tiny hole is opened for light loads.

was retired in favor of what was first called the Model 48 automatic and since has come to be dubbed the 11-48. This was a slicked up, all-the-corners-knocked-off, hunting shotgun that got away from many of the things shooting men objected to in the original Remington. Weight was pared by a full pound. The cordially-hated shoulder at the buttocks end of the action, the single most-objectionable feature of the older gun, was rounded and streamlined. The balance was improved and the gun was given an aliveness never before approached in a self-operator. The American shooting clan was given its introduction to the Remington New Deal.

The new 11-48 was peculiar for two things: stampings and a basic receiver which since 1948 has not varied through: (1) a pump-action repeating shotgun, the Model

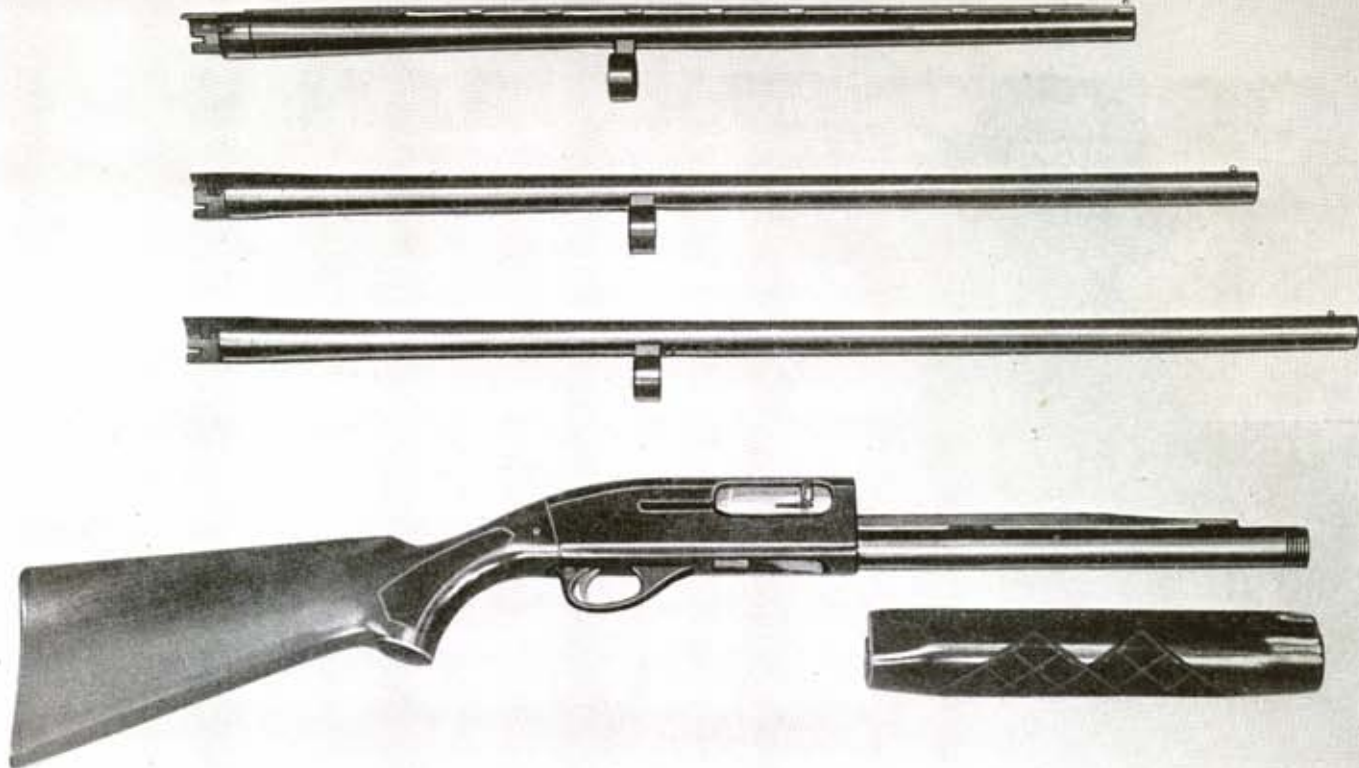
370; (2) a pump-action highpowered rifle, Model 760; (3) a gas-operated highpowered rifle, Model 740; (4) and now the gas-powered auto-loading shotgun, Model 58.

The trigger assembly groups, the breech bolts, pins, springs, stops and many lesser bits and pieces are essentially alike, and this is true of the entire new family of Remington weapons. It is a most commendable design and engineering accomplishment and what's probably the best part of the story is that it has lowered the prices of Remington hardware below that of everyone save Sears.

The 11-48 was good but it was a long recoil proposition. The barrel and the breechblock were locked together at the time the round fired and remained tied tightly until the full recoil occurred. This included slamming 3 inches rearward and then a like distance back to battery. The gunner,

Before firing, shooter's hand is clean. After firing, hand which holds forearm gripped forward is smoked up from powder blown out of gas cap through three ports which should be open when shooting heavy loads.





New 12 gauge Model 58 is available in three barrel lengths including ribbed skeet style. Barrels may be instantly interchanged by unscrewing gas cap and slipping foreend and barrel off, which fit together again to reassemble gun.

as can be imagined, was pretty well shook up over all these gymnastics.

The Model 58 gets away from all this. It is designed with a barrel that does not move a peg. Nothing recoils save the gas piston, an operating rod which transmits the blow of the gas and the breechblock. The recoil is remarkably soft.

About eleven inches forward of the breech on the 58 is the barrel ring. This ring passes around the magazine tube and within the ring, which is brazed to the barrel, are two gas vents. These ports jet the powder gases back at an angle into the gas cylinder. This cylinder is located in the front end of the magazine tube. As a matter of fact the forward end of the tube instead of holding cartridges as it used to do, now serves as the gas chamber. Within the chamber is a gas piston and hitched to the piston is a double-bar operating rod. This rod is hinged to the breechblock. When the gun fires, the propellant gases push the shotload and wadding up the barrel and passing the two gas vents in the lower surface of the tube an inconsequential quantity of the hot stuff pours into the ports.

Here it immediately strikes the piston and sets it in motion. The piston moves rearward approximately .5-inch, taking the double-fork operating rod with it, before the breech commences to unlock. This time interval permits the shotload to reach and pass the muzzle before the weapon unbreeches. Thus pressures subside to safe limits before the gun opens.

The empty is ejected and a live round is chambered. A little understood angle of the operation is that more-than-needed quantity of the hot stuff always gets into the gas cylinder. If something wasn't done (Continued on page 64)



Unlike some recoil-operated guns, gas operated M58 will shoot okay even if not solidly held against shoulder.

THE MAN WHO



Gunslinger Arvo Ojala slaps leather in one sweeping motion which brings gun from holster as he drops into a crouch, thumbing hammer to fire when level.

By BEN IRWIN

THE FASTEST MAN with a gun, 45 Colt or any other variety, to be found in that never-never land they call Hollywood is not John Wayne, Gary Cooper, Burt Lancaster or even Roy Rogers. He is a mild-mannered gent named Arvo Ojala and everyone of the movie colony's western stars is properly envious of the man who bears the title of Hollywood's fastest gun slinger.

In fact those who should know say Arvo Ojala may well be one of the fastest men on the draw in this country or perhaps anywhere. Which is a large statement, admittedly. The facts, however, would seem to support that contention.

Arvo Ojala is a husky quiet man in his mid 30's, of Finnish extraction and originally a farmer by profession. From Washington State's Yakima Valley where he ran an apple ranch, Arvo came to Hollywood only five years ago. In that time he has come to be regarded as the top expert in the movie community on practically any kind of gun handling.

Ojala was attracted to Hollywood by the fact that he was critical of the techniques employed by Messrs. Cooper, Wayne and their fraternity in drawing a gun. Ojala himself learned to draw fast and shoot accurately because near his apple ranch was a "rattlesnake den." He practiced shooting rattler's heads off at 20 feet or more and the neighbors used to come from many a mile around the Ojala ranch to see Arvo's murderous draw and equally killing aim. He never failed to satisfy his audience.

Gunplay by Frank Sinatra to be seen in "Johnny Concho" was taught him by Ojala whose skill is legendary.

TEACHES HOLLYWOOD STARS TO SHOOT

AS FASTEST DRAW IN MOVIE COLONY, HUSKY EX-FARMER ARVO OJALA IS TOP ADVISER
TO WESTERN ACTORS IN SHOWING FASTEST WAY TO GET A 45 COLT THROWING LEAD





Ojala enjoys holster making in his spare time, has designed special drop-loop quick draw holster used in his work.

Marie Blanchard, who starred in "Destry," had to learn gun handling and gunman Ojala was glad to show her how.



Washington's cold weather plus a curiosity about the movie business brought Arvo down to Hollywood for a visit. He made friends with a few actors who worked in westerns, meanwhile improving his draw so that if the opportunity came to demonstrate it, he could. It did in the movie "Return of Jack Slade" in which Arvo had an opportunity to impart to star John Erickson some of his gun-slinging knowhow. The word soon got around.

Arvo became known specifically for one unique talent, among many others with a gun. He would challenge any man to take a single action Colt, hold it on him cocked and ready to fire. Arvo's gun would be in his holster, uncocked. The challenger would nod simultaneously with the action of pulling the trigger of his Colt. Arvo would have his gun out, cocked and fired before his opponent could get off a shot. No one in Hollywood has defeated him at this contest. Small wonder the name of Ojala has become a kind of legend among those who use guns professionally in films or just for sport.

Ojala has had occasion over these five years to give some lessons in gun handling to stars like Dale Robertson, Hugh O'Brian (Wyatt Earp of the television series), Sammy Davis, Jr., Jeff Hunter, Rory Calhoun and screen lovelies Marie Blanchard and Peggy Castle.

Speaking of lovely ladies, one of Arvo's happiest assignments for the film "River of No Return" was showing Marilyn Monroe some of the intricacies of the .45. "Somehow," grins Arvo recalling the incident, "I found it was taking me an awfully long time. But she didn't seem to mind. And I certainly enjoyed it".

Arvo not only instructs the stars in the handling of guns but also demonstrates and teaches such refinements as the "road agent spin," the "reverse draw" and variations thereon.

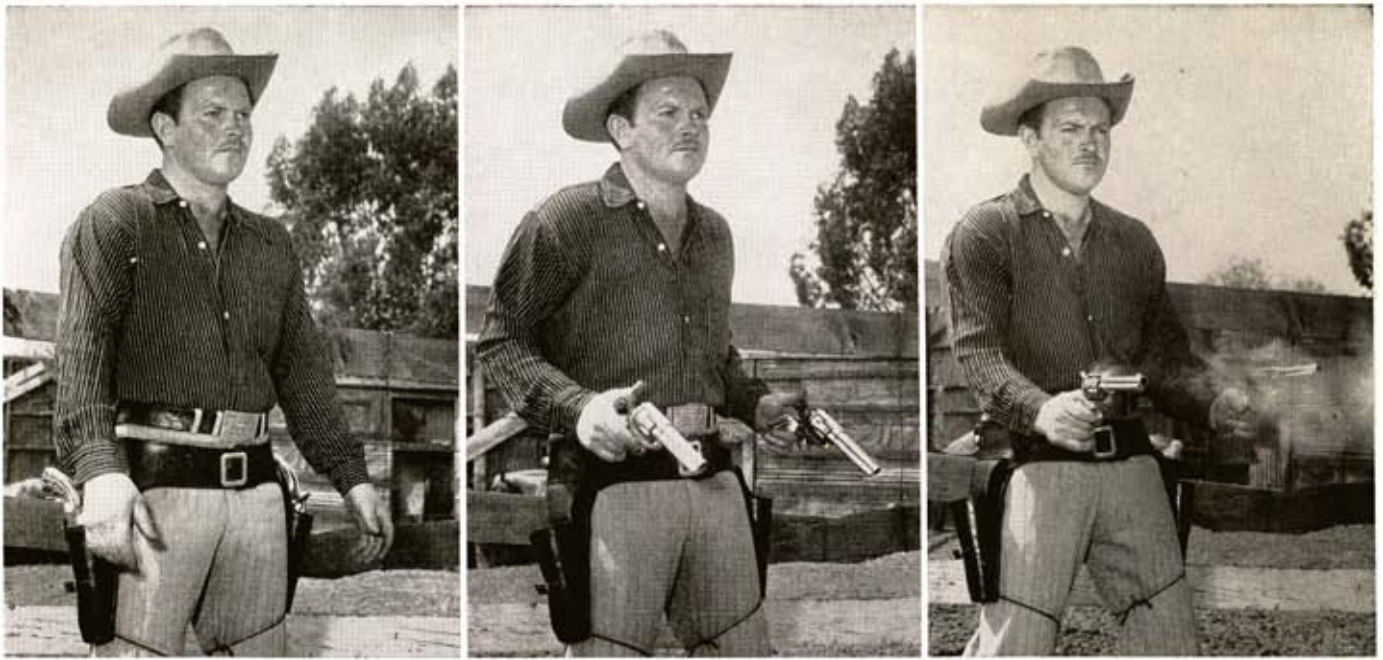
"Oldtime gunmen Johnny Ringo and John Wesley Hardin loved the road agent spin and one of them may have invented it," says Arvo, "most likely Hardin. He was known as the fastest draw of his time and was supposed to have killed 40 men before he was 26 years old."

The road agent spin, as Arvo describes it, was popular not only for its showiness of execution but its usefulness to men like Hardin. A lawman would get the drop on Hardin, ask him for his gun. Hardin would hand it to him butt first on his flat palm, as if he were going to surrender the gun quietly. Just before the lawman would touch the gun, Hardin would roll the gun around on his palm, cock and fire it all in a split second. According to Arvo it rarely failed.

Another rather spectacular piece of gunplay Arvo shows his pupils is the "border switch." He explains many old timers carried two guns but only drew one at a time. As soon as one was empty the gunman made a simultaneous toss of one gun in the air, drawing the other and keeping on firing without losing a fraction of a second.

When Arvo was instructing Frank Sinatra in the techniques of the fast draw for his gunman role in the film "Johnny Concho," (Ojala incidentally appears prominently in the trailer for that movie billed as the fastest draw in America), Frank wanted urgently to be shown the trick of the border switch, using live ammunition yet.

"I told Frank, who incidentally learned how to handle a gun about as fast as anyone I've ever seen, that unless he had a couple of spare thumbs to lose he better not even try that border switch with live ammo. It's just not healthy."



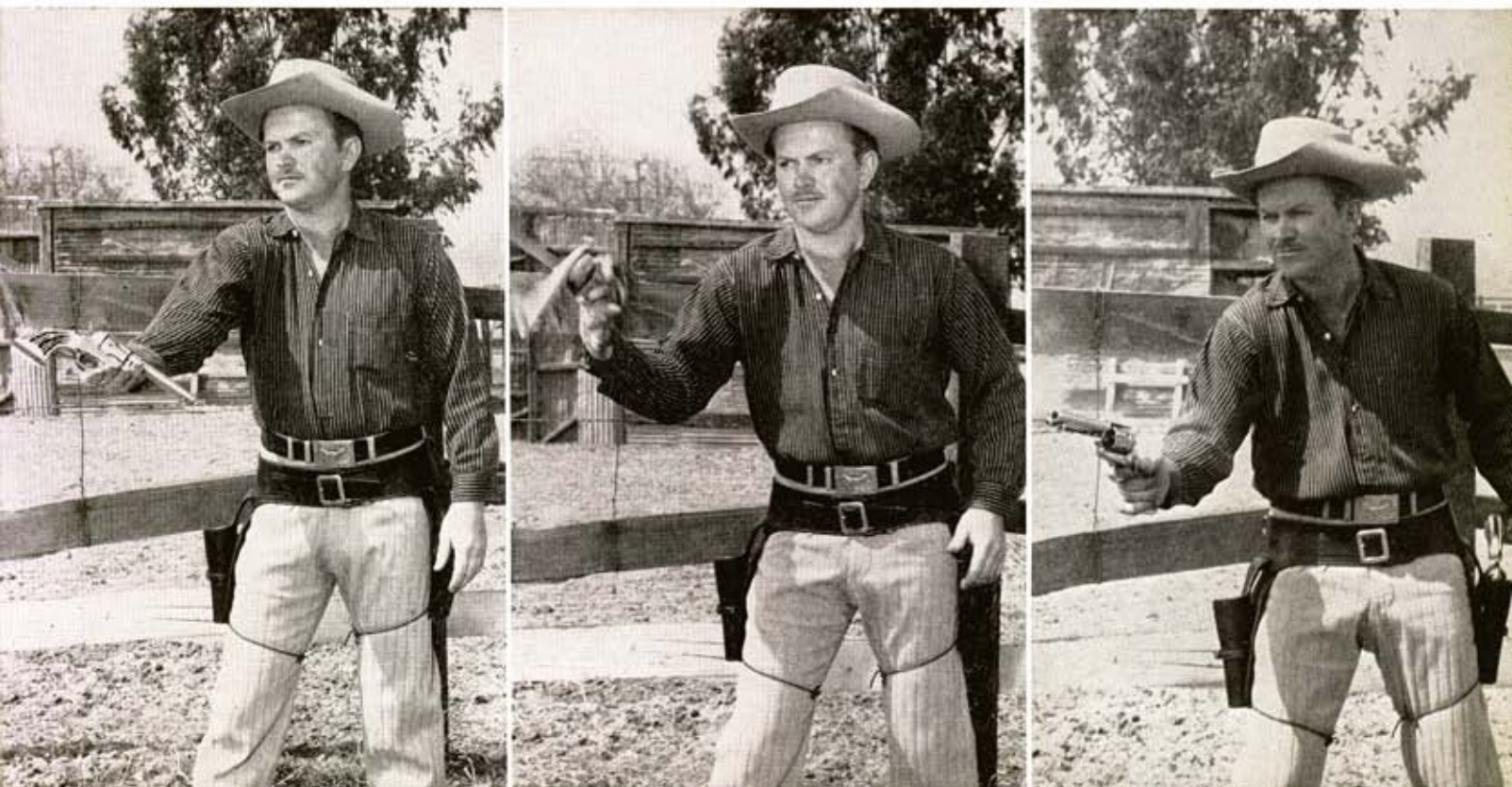
Standard two-gun draw is done by Ojala who carries pistols in solidly-built holsters tied down to prevent their riding up. Draw is genuine, finishes off with two shots as thumbed-back hammers fall when Colts are brought to waist level.

Some of Arvo's accomplishments as "standin" for the stars in certain gun feats, they could not be expected to perform for themselves have become a legend in movie-town. For the movie "Two Gun Lady," Arvo had the pleasure of stepping in for pulchritudinous Peggy Castle in a scene in which she is called upon to shoot 18 pieces of three-inch chalk off a rack 15 yards away with a 22 automatic rifle. Arvo performed the stunt gracefully in one take for the camera, knocking off all 18 chalks in a matter

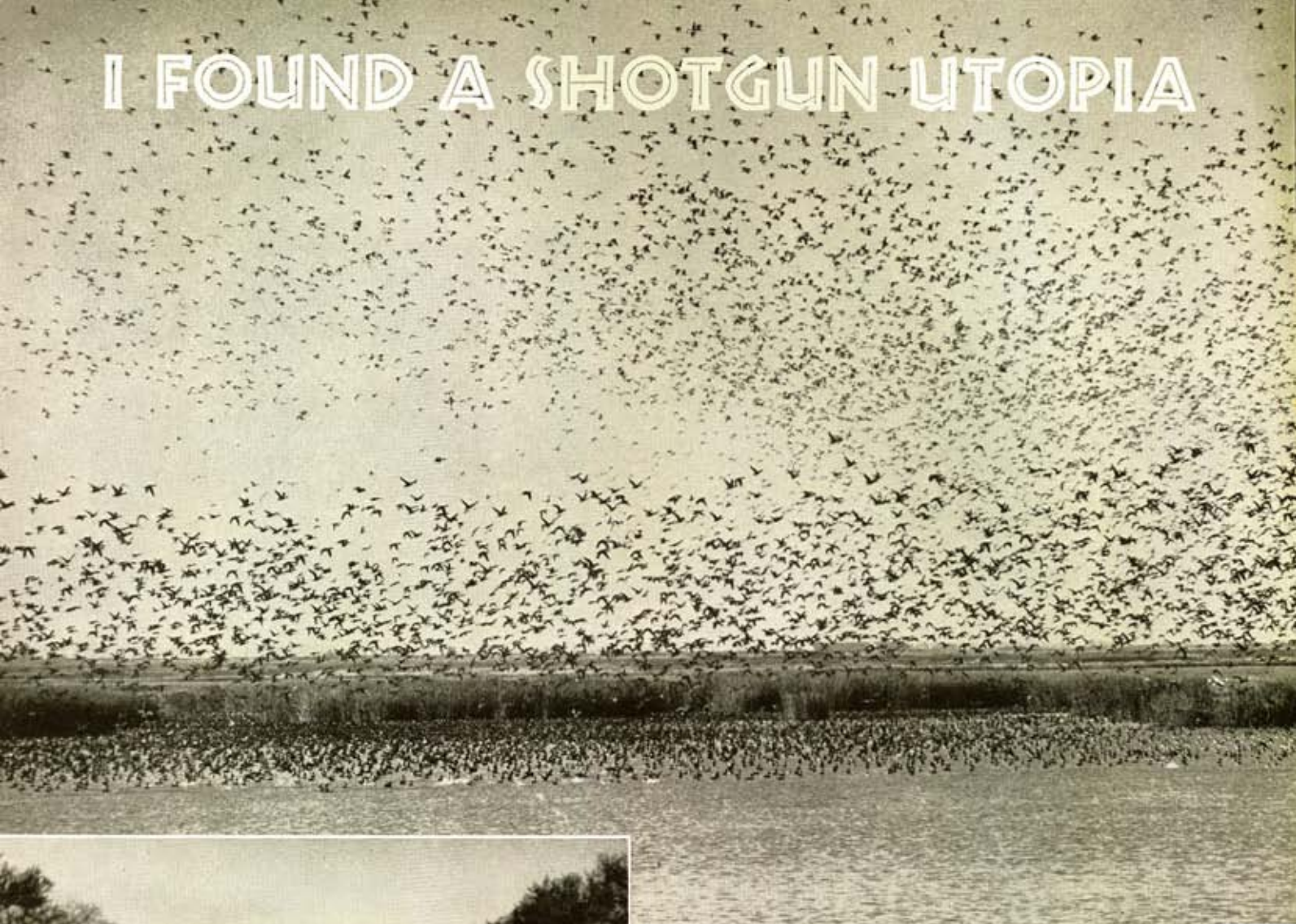
of less than 20 seconds to the applause of the entire company.

For the movie "The Return of Jack Slade," Arvo was called upon to make a single action Colt revolver lying on the ground dance to the tune of live ammo he fired at it from a 44-40 lever action Winchester carbine, without harming the Colt. Arvo, from 30 feet away, fired nine rifle shots in rapid succession right under the Colt. Since the director had planned an expensive (*Continued on page 73*)

Road agents' spin which figures in much western fact and fiction is demonstrated by Ojala who uses loaded gun to prove value of this surprise stunt. Trick originated when westerner shot sheriff when pretending to surrender his gun.



I FOUND A SHOTGUN UTOPIA



Downing a hundred birds in an hour, author-hunter kept shooting at flocks of birds which covered the sky in north Kenya where scattergunning has not made fowl gun-shy.

**NOWHERE IN WORLD IS THERE PERFECT
SCATTERGUNNING LIKE AFRICA WITH
BIRDS CRAMMED IN EQUATORIAL SKIES**

By **GEORGE WURZBURGER**

Wingspread of bustard is held up by African guide for Wurzbürger who got trophy bird on recent African safari with 12-gauge and #4's at a range of about 40 yards.



Rifle costs for Africa are expensive but author says \$1500 could be saved if hunter went shotgunning only.

Colorful vulturines at Wurzburger's feet were tough to stalk and kill. Tiny Dik-Dik deer were for museum.

"SHOOT, Bwana!" Malindi rasped.

I was shooting, all right . . . like a guy gone nuts. The 12-gauge was sizzling. The acridness of spent powder fumed around us, there along the Tana River in Kenya's wild northern frontier. My arms ached . . . from shoving in shells. My shoulder was numb . . . from sheer repetition. Dead casings littered the tules, floated in nearby sink holes. During 60 explosive minutes I'd burned five, maybe six boxes of shells.

For an hour it'd been a marathon . . . load, aim, lead, fire.

Doubles and triples were falling around us like feathered hail.

Yet nothing seemed to phase them as by the millions, in noisy clouds, grouse, dove and duck swarmed in from thorn country to drink of the Tana.

"Scattergun virgins!" I muttered, awed that anywhere in the world there were birds who'd never heard shots zinging around them, birds that felt no fear. Yet it was true. These East African birds had never been fired into. That for sure!

Back in the days of the passenger pigeon, it must have

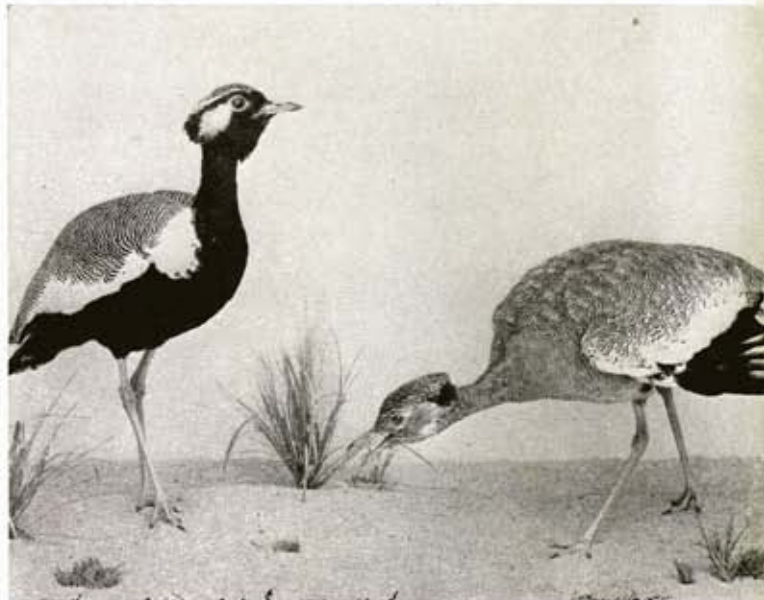




Engraved double 12 gauge German gun by Andre and several American pumps were used by Wurzburger in Africa.



Sand grouse proved lively targets but so unafraid of shooting they almost seemed to fly down gun barrels.



Bustards, one of Africa's larger birds, were trophy size but U.S. laws prevented bringing them into the country.

been like this over the marshlands of America . . . maybe. It couldn't have been better. There couldn't have been *more* birds. There's just so many a sky can hold, and this one was full-up.

I cut the marathon short.

"Enough!" I gasped, "we're got plenty for the boys . . . more than plenty."

Malindi shrugged. His wide, bronzed face showed no emotion. A million sand grouse coming in at dawn to refresh in an African river? To a Kenya gun boy it was commonplace . . . the usual . . . the stuff of every day's dawning. Commonplace, that is, in Africa. But to a guy only two weeks out of North America's bird-scarce marshes, it seemed incredible.

"Birds!" I croaked, staggering into camp, half a hundred feathered corpses slung from my shoulder.

The sun-beaten face of Vic Bentley, my guide, creased into a knowing grin, "I wrote to you, remember?"

I-remembered, all right. I'd reread that paragraph in Vic's letter three times. By the last reading I was burned up plenty, and also confused. "Don't forget," Vic had written, "bring a good shotgun . . . two or three if you have them!"

I was spending a wad of money outfitting my six-months' safari into Kenya's northern frontier—\$2000 in heavy-caliber game rifles alone, which is about average—and here Bently, my guide and one of Africa's top white hunters, was talking shotguns.

"For the birds," I fumed, "I'm going after big stuff . . . trophies."

Three months later, crouching the tules jam-packing the Tana's boggy banks, I squeezed my Krupp-barreled 12-gauge . . . and blessed the day I'd heeded Vic's advice about bringing shotguns to Africa.

Sure, the U.S. Customs guys had grinned at my lugging three shotguns over, the German 12-gauge and a couple of Winchesters of the same gauge for Vic. Some of my hunting buddies had come right out and said that any guy paying a shotgun's passage to Africa should have his trigger-finger examined.

Now, with two Africa safaris behind me (including four months in Angola and the Belgium Congo, plus a couple of junkets for Europe's best bird shooting), I'll pull the cork on a secret which apparently every African big-game man has kept bottled up from outsiders. Nowhere in all the world (except maybe Scotland's driven-birding, which isn't shooting for my money) is there scattergunning comparable to Africa. And I mean practically the whole length and breadth of the Dark Continent, from the headwaters of the Nile to Capetown.

I'll make a prediction to go along with that assertion, and it's backed by every white hunter from Nairobi to Luanda: within our lifetime, big-game shooting will have all but vanished from Africa's veldts and thorn deserts.

Big game's already scarce. And where it isn't scarce, it's protected by game reserves and tightening bag limits.



Main lure of African hunting is game animals like huge bull elephant downed by Wurzburger's .475 Holland & Holland but American sportsman switched to shotguns for the most fabulous bird shooting of his entire career.

Before another decade, if you shoot in Africa, it'll be shotgunning that lures you, not rhino, elephant or lion. You'll be gunning for the birds—for more birds than you ever imagined could cram themselves into one equatorial sky.

And not only more birds, but more varieties . . . and tougher birds. Africa breeds toughness into its winged creatures just as it does into its four-footed. And it takes more wallop, better shooting, steadier hands and surer eyes to knock an African bird out of the sky—and ground him for good.

That's the challenge, the hypnotism that keeps you sighting on guinea and geese while a prized tusker forages but a kilometer upwind.

Big game's growing scarcity and bird life's teeming millions are turning Africa into a shooting preserve—a preserve just now coming within budget-reach of thousands of avid scattergunners. Knock \$1500 off the average cost of gunning a big-game safari, and you've scaled Africa down to Mr. Average—or maybe, just above average—Shotgunner. You can cut out the high cost of taxidermy, too. And reduce the safari to maybe one truck instead of two, to a half dozen boys rather than 20. I'd judge right off that the strictly-for-birds shooter could lop \$4000, maybe \$5000 off his safari bill. Yet for all the economy package, you'll be shooting more and faster than the big-head trophy hunters.

Sure, I went over that first trip loaded for elephant, like everyone else. Got three tuskers, too, a brace of them

carrying 100 pounds of ivory; and I bagged all the traditionals besides. But I also got birds . . . though they were the last things I expected when I left California.

I took my trusty .375 Model 70 Winchester Magnum; a .30-06 Winchester, a .475 #2 double-barrel Holland and Holland elephant rifle; a .22 Winchester rifle and a couple of shotguns, including the hand-engraved 12-gauge Andre crafted by a German gunsmith, his shop in Friedrichshafen. In rifles alone I had about \$1500 invested. Add to that the freight on 5,000 rounds of ammo (including 500 of .375, both solid and expanding; 1,000 220-grain silvertip Winchester cartridges for the .30-06 and another 2,000 of twenty-two longs). Dunnage like that piles up into weight—and money. Slash expenses by that much ammunition, pick up British or German-made shotgun shells in Africa, and safari costs tumble.

A shotgun is Africa's best provisioner, to boot. You can't last out six months in the veldt dieting on antelope alone. Birds supply variety—the tender breasts of sand grouse, guinea and geese. The boys pluck them, spit them over a fire, keep them turning until they're brown, sweetened in their own juices. They tear off chunks of breast, throw the rest away.

So you keep your boys and yourself in low-cost grub . . . simply by keeping a finger on the trigger, your eyes in the sky.

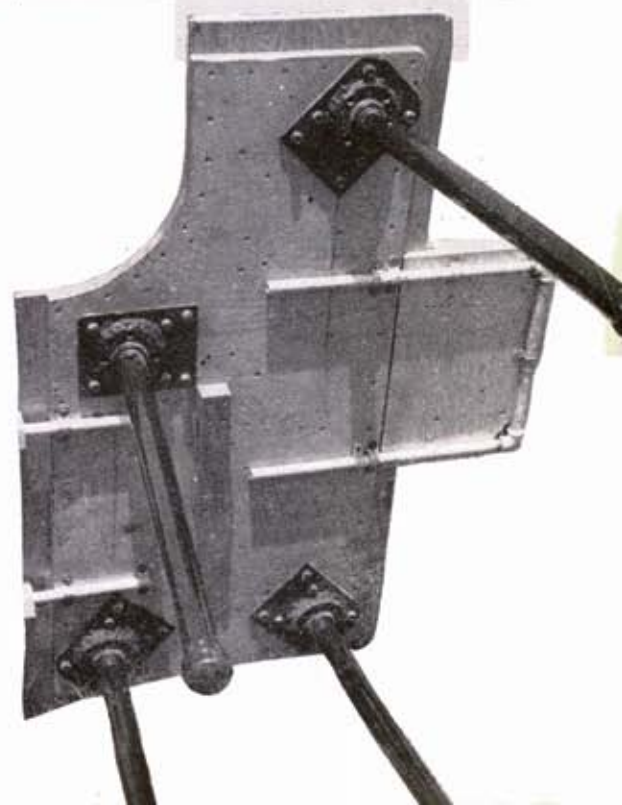
And in Africa you don't worry about the bird bag-limit . . . because there isn't any. Birds (*Continued on page 50*)



Kit boxes to hold scopes, rest and even rifle free of injury in storage or shipment also protect ammunition and components from loss or damage. Shooting bench stows into small space to afford solid foundation for rifle testing.

Shooting bench with pipe legs is sturdy, avoids vibration in use but may be taken down for storage after shooting.

MAKING A PORTABLE SHOOTING LAB



KEEPING ACCUMULATED EQUIPMENT IN PROPER PLACE SOLVED BY BUILDING LOADING SETUP AND SHOOTING TABLE IN EASY-TO-HANDLE SHIPPING CASES

By M. C. STITH

A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING and everything in its place! The man who invented that maddening platitude must have had the gun crank in mind. But I finally settled all the arguments about "places" with the "chief of staff," my wife, by planning and building a portable loading laboratory with spaces for everything from primers to a box for my pet rifles.

My portable loading laboratory is made of heavy plywood and arranged to hold the gunner's tools and gadgets that somehow manage like a creeping vine to cover every available surface in an apartment if they aren't kept under control. The cases and tables stow away neatly, are ready to set up and use either at home or at the firing range, and the boxes

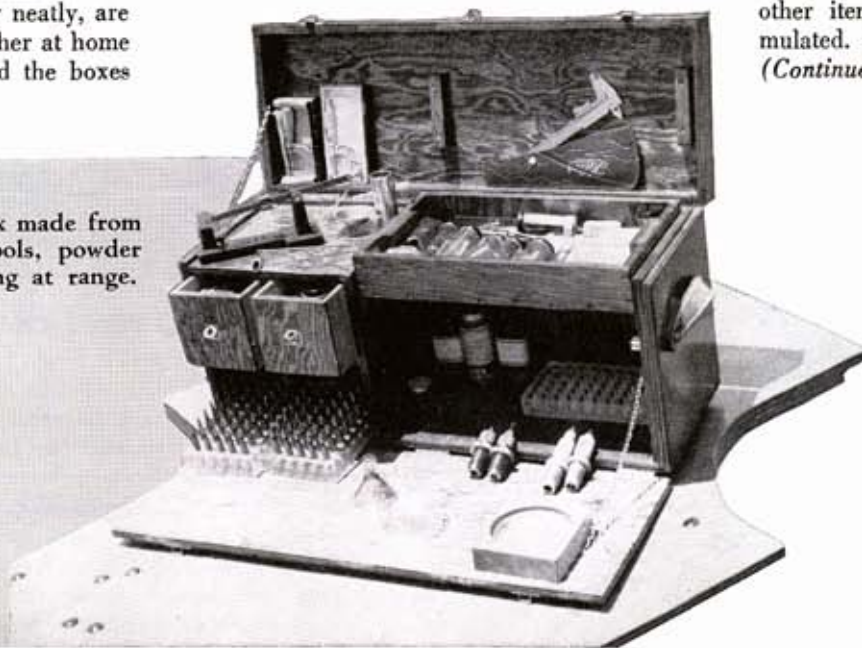
do double duty as a series of easy-to-handle shipping cases which are practically indestructible.

Like most shooters, I do considerable experimenting with rifles and loads, so laboratory is the right name for the assembly, and it surely is portable. My new "lab" with its many conveniences has become the focal point of my shooting interest.

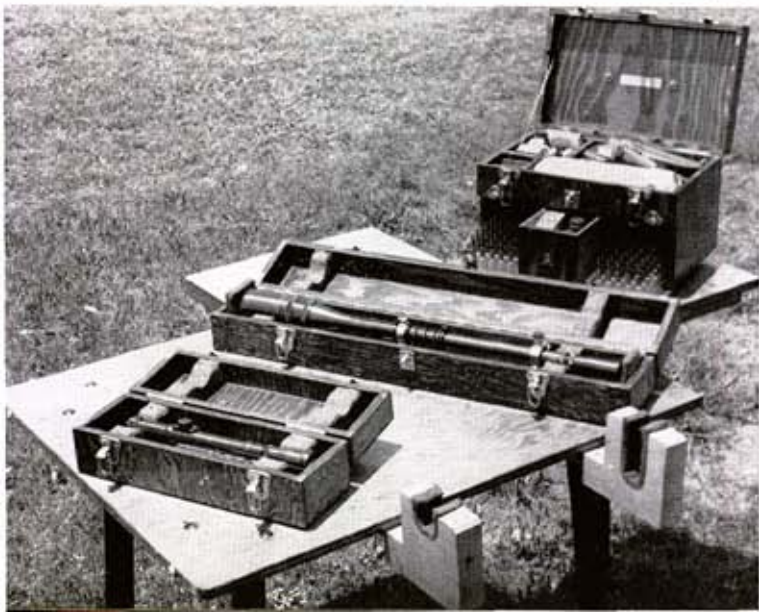
As a base for the other cases and tools, I first built a medium heavy loading table with easily removable legs to take to the range or for shipment.

Eight cabinets with carrying handles held the other items I had accumulated. Only three were
(Continued on page 54)

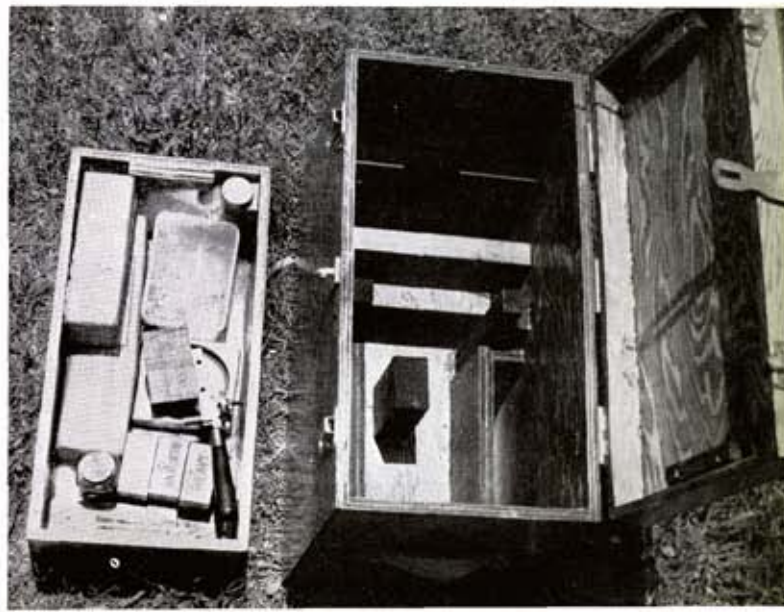
Carefully planned kit-box made from heavy plywood holds tools, powder scale and dies for loading at range.



Cleaning rods and oils fit into box which holds extra ammo while target or hunting scopes have own cases for carrying.



Heavier chest which is compartmented to hold loading press and top tray for bullets has leather carrying handles.



MIRACLE SHOOTER

Hitting wood blocks in air with .22 solid bullets was feature of Ad Topperwein's shooting exhibitions.

**FOREMOST TRICK SHOOTER OF
CENTURY ASTOUNDED ONLOOKERS
WITH MARKSMANSHIP AND WAS ONCE
CREDITED WITH A MIRACLE**

BY COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS

FOR MORE than a half century Adolph Topperwein was the greatest trick and fancy shooter the world has ever known. His feats with a rifle were fabulous but perhaps his most amazing shooting of all never resulted in any world's record.

Topperwein, who came from San Antonio, Texas, for years barnstormed the country for the Winchester Company to show what could be done with their shooting irons. During the course of each annual round, he always managed to get home for a few short vacation weeks.

One year he returned home in the Spring and the fish were biting.

"Come along, Top," invited an old friend. "We'll catch a string of perch as long as your arm." The Texan, who could have given Davy Crockett lessons in straight gun-pointing, gathered up his rod and hied him away with his

cronies. Not, however, without making it something of a busman's holiday for in his gear was the inevitable little .22 rifle.

The Waltonians—there were three—commenced to fish a tiny stream not a dozen miles from downtown San Antonio.

After a couple of hours of casting, Topperwein put aside the rod and took up the little .22 automatic and commenced to plink snakes and turtles along the brushy banks. As he idled downstream he came upon an old Spanish mission, abandoned and falling to ruin.

It was "La Misión de la Espada," built directly after the





More than 72,000 wooden blocks littered ground when Topperwein ended 10-day rifle marathon, missing only 9 blocks.

coming of the Spanish conquistadores and maintained by the church fathers for centuries thereafter.

Now deserted, the roof mostly fallen in, the walls crumbling and the lofty tower that once housed the church bell a menace to all that paused within its shadow, the ancient edifice stood gaunt above the surrounding mesquite.

Said one of Topperwein's companions, "I'll bet you can't ring the bell from here, Top." The distance was a little more than one-eighth mile. The tiny rifle a notoriously short-ranged weapon would make the feat extremely difficult, should the great rifleman elect to try it. "I happen to know the bell has no clapper. Someone toted it off a long time back," volunteered the speaker, grinning.

Despite the fact that Topperwein had once hit 72,500 tossed blocks while missing only 9—a feat that stands as a record to this day—and was in truth more skilled as an aerial marksman than a long-range expert, he instantly accepted the challenge.

Aiming carefully, he held the front sight a considerable distance above the bronze dome and fired. The first shot was a miss. The trio waited long seconds for the clang of impact but no sound returned. On the second shot the huge campana gave forth with a musical booming clearly audible to the waiting three.

Then confident he had found the range, the world's champion triggered off an entire magazine of cartridges. The bullets fell in measured cadence and produced as they smashed into the bronze a sonorous pealing. The tiny s-p-l-a-t of the rifle carried scarcely midway of the range.

The day was Sunday. Unknown to the marksman, the mission was not in such a state of ruin as it first appeared. Within the crumbling walls was a single room that had



Topperwein's wife, known affectionately as "Plinky," became expert shot, toured U.S. with husband at fairs.

Ad could simultaneously hit tin cans by aiming Colts in opposite directions and sighting with aid of mirror.





Outlining "Uncle Sam" in bullets on tin sheet was favorite trick of Top at Army camp shooting demonstrations.

been partially rehabilitated and here the few Mexicans of the local barrio gathered each Sabbath to worship. Weekly the priest visited the little congregation from not-too-far-distant San Antonio. Even as Topperwein tolled the bell in an excess of prankish exuberance, the congregation knelt in prayer.

B-o-o-m. B-o-o-m. B-o-o-m.

The sepulcher-like silence of the mission was broken by the unmistakable clangor of the great tower bell. The reverberations rose and fell, echoed and re-echoed.

"Hark, Father! It is the great bell. Que pasa?" The little flock, quick consternation written large on each countenance, gathered about their padre.

The priest was quite as mystified as his simple followers. He knew beyond doubt that the bell had been stilled these

many years, the clapper stripped, the bronze mute. But as the spiritual leader here, he realized despite the considerable trepidation that he felt, that he must arise to the occasion.

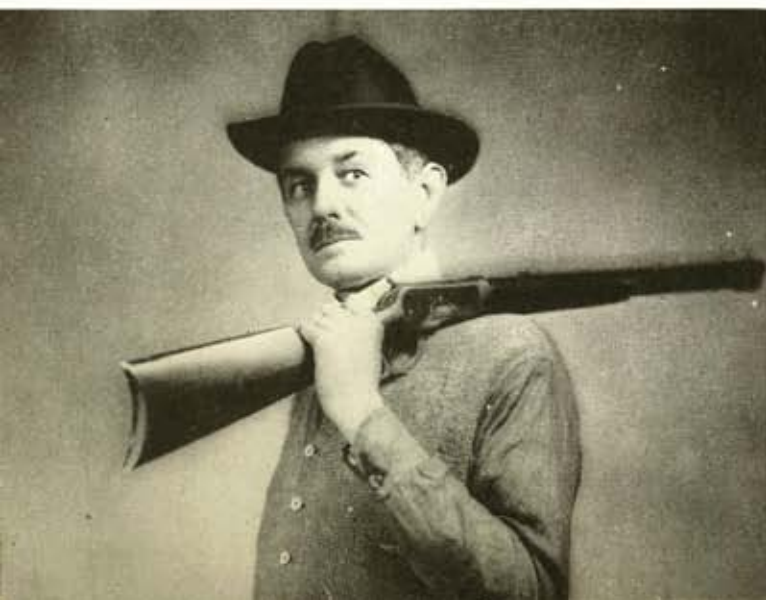
"My children," his voice quavered. "It is a *milagro* (miracle). The bell is rung of divine will. We are witnessing a miracle. Let us pray."

In trembling unison the congregation hastily dropped to its respective knees and prayed loudly and most earnestly.

Finally the tolling ceased. The innocent perpetrator of the seeming miracle, his cronies in tow, commenced the return to the hack. This was 40 years ago and autos were not as commonplace as today. Their path skirted "La Espada."

Much to Topperwein's concern (Continued on page 56)

An exhibition shooter for Winchester arms company, Top used standard M92 and other rifles and standard ammo.



Reminiscing on wood-block feat with Spencer Olin of Olin-Mathieson Corp., Top points to .22 that he used.



AN INTERVIEW WITH AD TOPPERWEIN

Q. Where were you born?

A. Boerne, Texas—1869.

Q. Your father was a shooter and gunsmith, wasn't he? Didn't he invent or at least build a rifle or two which you now have?

A. My dad was a pioneer gunsmith and a great shot with the old Schuetzen rifle and a big game hunter. He got patents on several guns and attachments, one which was a .44 calibre Repeating rifle which he sold in 1876 to the Marlin Repeating Arms Co. After 50 years I bought the rifle and I still have it in my collection of firearms.

Q. I suppose your father encouraged you to shoot and taught you marksmanship? If he did what guns did you use? How much shooting did you do? And were you always interested in rifle shooting, even when a very small boy?

A. The first rifle or gun I remember having was a 'Flober' 22 which Father got for me somewhere. Afterwards he made for me a 14 gauge shotgun (muzzle loader).

Q. Did your father know anything about or teach you to do the aerial work which is a part of your exhibition work?

A. No. Father died when I was 11 years old, but at that time he was teaching me to shoot the rifle.

Q. I suppose you lived in a neighborhood where shooting was a popular sport? Was the Schuetzen game followed? And did you ever take an interest in it?

A. Everybody was shooting when I was a kid and I used to go to the "Schuetzen Fests" with my father and mother. They had annual prize shoots every year.

Q. Were you always the best rifle shooter among the boys with whom you played? Is your brother a good shot and has it ever happened that he beat you at any time in your career?

A. I could always hold my own. The only kid that used to give me a race was a cousin of mine, Rudolph Ave. We used to shoot matches at aerial targets. He was a very good shot and later developed into one of the finest deer shots I ever met. He would always kill his buck standing or running. However, he did not keep up his aerial shooting although he was good at it. We both got the idea of shooting aerial targets by seeing Dr. Carver in one of his exhibitions and Wild West show when he came to San Antonio in 1880. My brother is a good field shot, but thinks more of fishing than shooting.

Q. When you grew up and decided to go it on your own, what did you do? I believe you were once a newspaperman and a cartoonist. Is this right? Could you trace your career from the time you cut loose from home until you finally found your proper niche—that is exhibition gunning?

A. One of my most interesting jobs I had when a young fellow was a cartoonist for the San Antonio Express and sketch artist. This gave me the idea of drawing pictures with rifle bullets. I also worked for several years in a wholesale crockery store. My father died when I was 11 years old and I had a tough time supporting my mother, sister and brother. In 1890 I packed my guns and went to New York for vaudeville dates, pulled off a stint at Coney Island, where I put six shooting galleries on the bum, breaking all the plaster birds they had to shoot at. Finally at the seventh gallery they would not let the man from

Texas shoot. This stint gave me two seasons bookings in vaudeville where I featured the picture shooting and other fancy stage shots.

Q. What circus did you shoot with?

A. My first professional work was in vaudeville from 1890 to 1892 through the east. Then Orrin Bros. Circus thru Mexico for one season. While at New York in vaudeville I visited Coney Island with a party of booking agents. They made me shoot in every shooting gallery, until they would not let me shoot any more, because I broke up too many plaster targets.

Q. Why did you quit the circus?

A. My season with the circus ended Dec. 31, 1900.

Q. When did you join up with Winchester?

A. I joined the Winchester Co. Jan. 15, 1901.

Q. When and where did you meet Mrs. Top?

A. At New Haven Conn. She was employed by Winchester in the loading department.

Q. Had she ever shot before you were married?

A. No. But three weeks after our marriage, she was shooting small objects from my fingers with the rifle. Plinky had a desire to do the things I did and although she had never fired a gun, she took to shooting like a duck to water. At the St. Louis World's Fair in 1902 where the company sent me to take charge of the Winchester exhibit, Mrs. T. came with me and there at our shooting exhibit where I had to shoot daily in connection with the Winchester gun exhibit, she practiced daily (after I finished). She shot her first targets over the traps at the old Dupont Gun Club in St. Louis where she scored 86 x 100 the first time she tried the game. She had shot the shotgun a little before at tin cans only.

Q. Is it true that a week after you were married she could do all the stationary shots with the handgun which are now a part of your performance?

A. Yes, with the rifle. The pistol came quite a time later on.

Q. How did you go about teaching her the aerial stunts which were such an entertaining part of her shooting?

A. Mrs. Top had never shot any kind of firearm before our marriage. She just wanted to do the things I did and she did.

Q. Won't you please list a number of the more outstanding trap championships which Mrs. Top won?

A. Mrs. T broke 100 straight almost 200 different times. She was the first woman to ever score a perfect 100. She scored 200 straight or better 12 times and her largest run was 367.

Q. Mrs. Top shot 497 out of 500 with the 38 at 25 yards in a time limit closely approximating timed fire, isn't that correct?

A. When she scored 497-500 she quickly fired 50 shots shooting and reloading without stopping—except changing targets. She had several other 50 shot scores—491-487-492. Her best 50 yard score was 97. However she did very little 50 yard work.

Q. Won't you please mention other outstanding shooting achievements of your wife?

A. Of course, in our many years of travel Mrs. T shot with and against many good amateur and professional shots and on long two and three day (Continued on page 62)

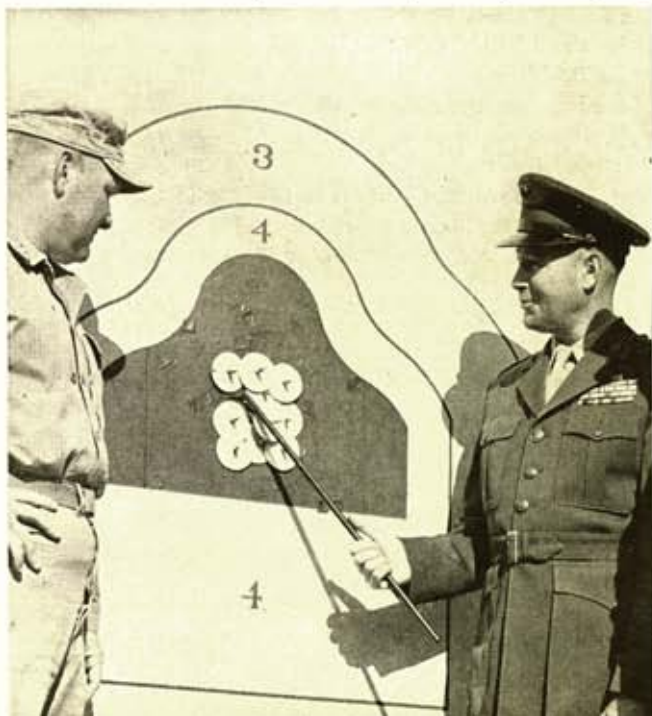


All Marines learn to fire .45 Colt automatic pistol, but carbine instruction is not given because corps considers weapon of little value. Experienced coaches take time to iron out nervousness of new shooters in training camp.

Experimental bullseye is being studied by Army to boost effectiveness of GI riflemen. Center is aiming point



Camp Matthews Marine range commander Col. T. W. William smiles as he points to 300 yard rapid-fire group.



WHY MARINES OUTSHOOT OUR SOLDIERS

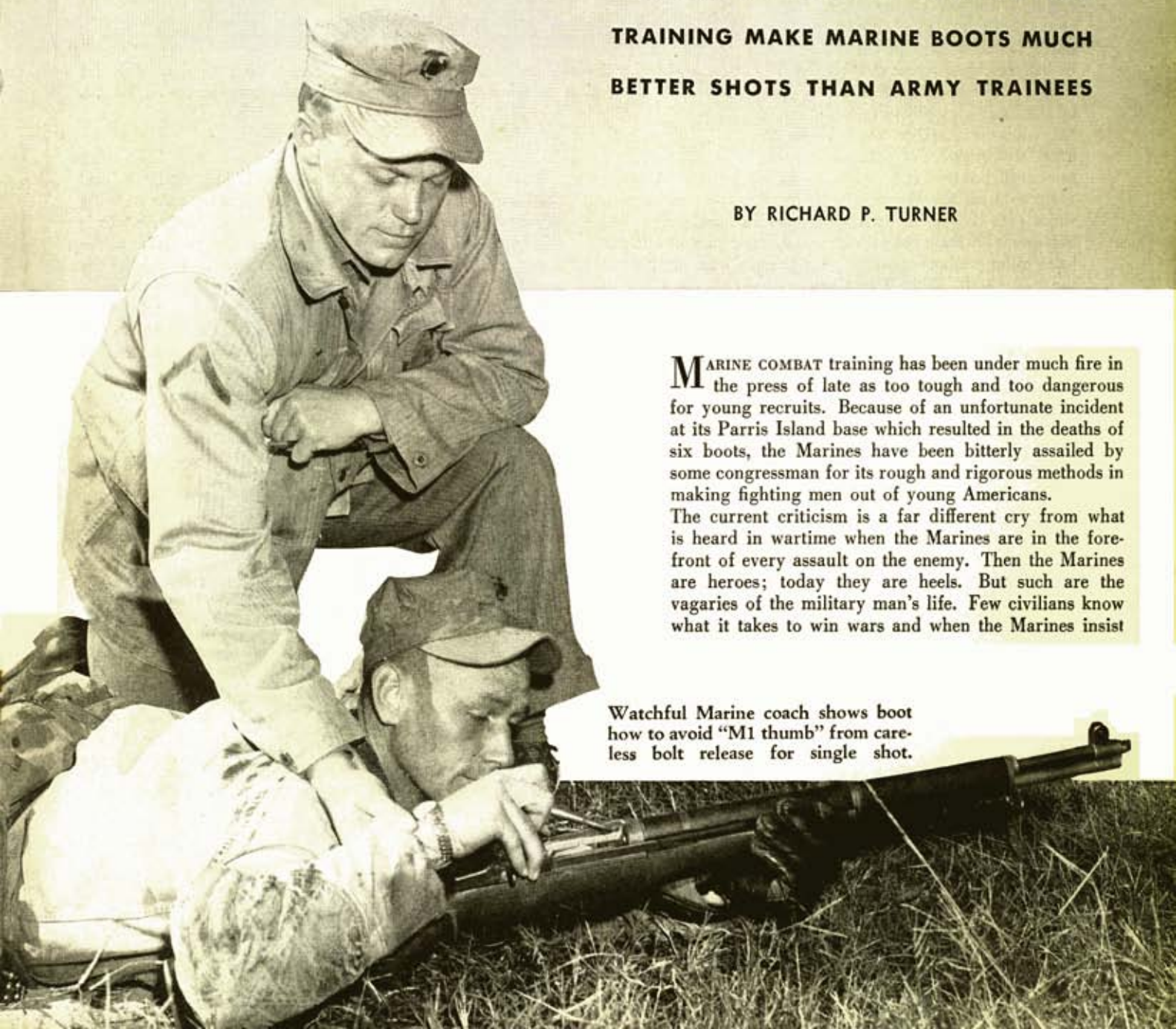
**RADICAL DIFFERENCES IN SHOOTING
TRAINING MAKE MARINE BOOTS MUCH
BETTER SHOTS THAN ARMY TRAINEES**

BY RICHARD P. TURNER

MARINE COMBAT training has been under much fire in the press of late as too tough and too dangerous for young recruits. Because of an unfortunate incident at its Parris Island base which resulted in the deaths of six boots, the Marines have been bitterly assailed by some congressman for its rough and rigorous methods in making fighting men out of young Americans.

The current criticism is a far different cry from what is heard in wartime when the Marines are in the forefront of every assault on the enemy. Then the Marines are heroes; today they are heels. But such are the vagaries of the military man's life. Few civilians know what it takes to win wars and when the Marines insist

Watchful Marine coach shows boot how to avoid "M1 thumb" from careless bolt release for single shot.



on the absolute maximum in training, there are those who insist that too much is being asked of its youngsters.

But that the Marines are not asking too much has been demonstrated in past wars and is proved continually on shooting ranges today. Consistently Marines outshoot our Armymen. Why? The reason is simple: better and longer training.

The continued Marine domination in marksmanship was demonstrated once again last summer at Camp Perry, Ohio, in the National Matches, when the leathernecks collected far more chest hardware than the soldier boys and left the Army brass quite unhappy. But instead of doing something about it, the Army top wheels are talking in terms of cutting down on the hours of rifle training for recruits rather than adding more time on the range. Army announcements state simply that it hopes to make good marksmen out of its trainees by different methods on the range. The new program is being sold on the basis of duplicating actual combat conditions rather than firing at fixed distances. But instead of the present 86 hours of instruction, there will be only 74 hours.

By contrast the Marines insist every one of its recruits shoot with the M1 at least 121 hours in boot camp. The Marines with their long tradition of marksmanship do not believe there is any substitute for time in learning how to shoot straight. While the Marines have all the latest in push-button equipment, its officers still insist that the man with the gun is the one who wins wars.

Of course, the Army still gives lip service to the role of the rifleman in such statements as that of General John Dahlquist: "Marksmanship is the soldier's basic skill. A man's pride in his rifle often reflects his pride in his unit, and a sharp-shooting soldier is a sharp soldier."



Before Marine boot shoots live ammo, he gets intensive course of dry fire including instruction in wind effect on bullets, shown here at Parris Island.

But the fact remains that the Army is lagging far behind the Marine Corps in providing the intensive rifle training essential to create a good soldier. Although the rifleman is still regarded as an important man in a combat team, the Army and the Marines don't seem to see eye to eye on the amount of training necessary to make him a good shot.

The caliber .30 Garand M1 rifle is the basic infantry weapon of both services and currently the Army recruit during his initial eight-week basic training course receives a total of 86 hours instruction with this weapon. The first 36 hours are devoted to learning the mechanical functions of the rifle, correct sight picture, exercises in the standing, kneeling, sitting, and prone shooting positions, use of the

After 76 hours of preliminary training, Marine recruit is allowed to go to the range where 45 more hours of live ammo firing follows. Marines are rated best trained riflemen of any services as result of thorough shooting instruction.





Marine training emphasizes use of .45 because many enlisted men use pistols in jobs where they need both hands and rifle would be in the way.

"Punchy Pete" man target of Army test course falls down when hit.

slings, sight adjustment, and "dry firing" to perfect trigger squeeze. Gadget devices such as a cable release to the trigger are used. They may help the instructor show the recruit how trigger squeeze is so important but do not increase the amount of time spent on drilling the fundamentals. After this, 50 hours are spent on the range firing live ammunition for practice and qualification.

In contrast, Marine recruits in boot camp have a total of 121 hours of M1 instruction. Each Marine, whatever his eventual specialization, sits through 76 hours of preliminary instruction including 35 hours devoted to dry firing practice only! All this he has to go through before the fledgeling leatherneck is allowed to squeeze off his first live round. After this comes 45 hours on the range practice firing.

The Marine recruit spends almost as much time (76 hours) in learning just the fundamentals of shooting as the entire Army course of 86 hours! Why is there such a discrepancy in the amount of training between the two services?

Major reason is the Marine Corps principle of individual excellence along with working as a team. Each man is indoctrinated with the belief that he must learn to be a superior marksman. Behind that battle-proved tradition lie tactical successes such as the Marine breakthrough at Belleau Wood in World War I where the few German prisoners we bothered to take commented frequently on Marine shooting precision.

Marine basic training is two weeks longer than the present Army course. This allows more time to be spent on marksmanship. The Army recruit spends time learning to fire the carbine, rocket launcher and machine guns besides the rifle. Marine "boots" learn only the .45 pistol and Browning Automatic Rifle as extras. All heavy weapons training with the machine gun, rocket launcher and mortars is given in the advanced course after the preliminary schooling is completed.

By limiting the number of weapons taught during boot camp, a thorough course of rifle marksmanship is given to each man.

Now the atomic-minded army brass is considering cutting down rifle training even further in a new method of instruction called "Trainfire." The Army program is being sold on the basis of making a rifleman out of raw recruits "in a minimum time and with minimum expense." The Army contends that enemy targets rarely appear beyond 300 yards and the new "Trainfire" course is designed to teach a rifleman to hit only in that limited area. New "Pop-up Pete" targets are used. They are mobile silhouettes that are exposed at irregular intervals at varying distances.

Some Army men have evidently been telling it to the Marines and there, too, the longtime art of shooting at long distances are being forgotten. I have been told by Marine brass that it is virtually impossible to find time to teach a man to shoot effectively at 1,000 yards. And so sniping is being forgotten.

We still have weapons available certainly, scope-equipped M1 and Springfield rifles proved in combat at long ranges. There is accurate ammo for these weapons. There are also ranges. The Marine Corps has a 1,000 yard range at Camp Matthews near San Diego. But officials feel that sniping is a thing of the past because of advances in other weapons.

Marines have dropped firing to the 500-yard range, figuring that a rifleman shooting well at 500 can do almost as well at 600. So far, though, formal shooting courses at the National Matches still feature 600 yard competition.

In checking on the Army, I learned that there has been no organized training in long-range sniping since the end of the Korean war.

There is, however, a rifle company of the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif., that is still equipped with M1's and sniping scopes for shooting up to 1,000 yards. This company is perhaps the last sniper outfit left in the corps and has been undergoing special training in con-



Every Marine is thoroughly indoctrinated with the fundamentals of marksmanship before he fires a single round of live ammo. Regular dry firing and aiming practice develops trigger finger coordination needed for good shooting.

nection with amphibious operations. Evidently we have come a long way since World War II and Korea, where picked marksmen carrying 1903 Springfields with scopes accompanied rifle companies in the field searching for targets. These methods of operation are no longer in existence, according to the Marines.

If it appears that rifle marksmanship in general has been de-emphasized by the Marines, such is not the case. The recruit training program in marksmanship at ranges up to 500 yards has been running at full speed since World War II. Every Marine receives *three weeks* of intensive weapons training during his three-month "boot" camp period. On

the West Coast this training is done at Camp Matthews near San Diego and consists of a rugged twelve-hour daily grind starting with .22 rifles and pistols, and working up through the M1 rifle, B.A.R. and .45 pistol courses to the final examination, qualification firing for record with each weapon. No Marine is permitted to graduate from "boot" status until he has fired the minimum qualification score with his basic weapon, the M1.

On the other hand, the Army recruit receives an average of ten days in marksmanship training of all types during his basic period, exactly half of the time the Marines allot to their men.
(Continued on page 44)

Experimental Army "Trainfire" program is tried out to improve GI accuracy. Fox holes are firing points for unknown distance shooting but 1,000 inch range is also used for usual riflery. All shooters get coaching.





By MARTIN CORNEY

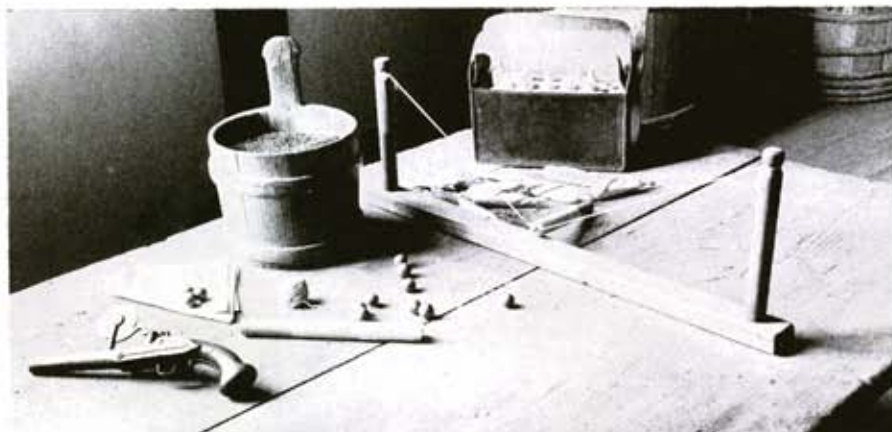
Latest Cartridges—For 1856

ONE HUNDRED YEARS ago the Army ordnance department was issuing the new Model 1855 rifle-musket, a muzzle-loading percussion rifle of .58 caliber, using a paper cartridge. The primary defects of the elongated ball cartridges then coming into use by other armies were the reversed position of the bullet in the paper cartridge and the use of the paper wrapper as a patch. The U.S. adopted the expanding minie bullet of French design, so the patch was no longer necessary. Gas pressure from the burning powder would expand the hollow base of the bullet to form a tight fit in the bore. Consequent-

cartridges, one with a 500 grain bullet for the 1855 rifle and musket, the other with a 450 grain bullet for the M1855 pistol-carbine.

Lyman's hollow base mould No. 575-213 casts a bullet of 475 grains adequate for either .58 cartridge. The only tools needed are a pair of scissors and a five or six inch stick either .58" or .69" in diameter, the same as the bullet. One end should be scooped out, slightly concave.

The minie balls should be lubricated. I use a standard bullet grease like Ideal Lubricant and force it into the grooves by hand. The Army originally specified that the grease grooves of the bullet should be covered with "a melted



Setup for making paper cartridge for muzzle loaders.

ly a new type of paper cartridge was developed.

Since large numbers of the .58 rifle-muskets are still with us in use by shooters, I find the regulation cartridge as handy today on the range as it was to the rifleman of 100 years ago. The 1855, 1861, 1863 and 1864 Springfield or contract rifles are all of .58 caliber, and the various Enfield .577 rifles can use this cartridge as well.

The paper cartridge which I make to shoot in my .58 Model 1861 Bridesburg contract rifle-musket is a direct copy of the cartridge prescribed in "Reports of Experiments with Small Arms for the Military Service by Officers of the Ordnance Department, U.S. Army," published in Washington in 1856. Loads were prescribed for three different calibers. The .69 cartridge was for the smoothbore Model 1842 musket which was altered by rifling, termed a *rifled musket*. There were two .58 caliber

mixture of one part beeswax and three parts tallow which should be applied hot so the superfluous part will run off." All lubricant should be removed from the bottom of the bullet so it cannot soak through the paper and damage the powder.

Case of the paper cartridge has three parts: a cylinder case, cylinder wrapper, and outer wrapper. The cylinder case is of stiff paper and protects the powder. Over it is wrapped a thin paper which folds over one end and is glued. Around all is the outer wrapper. I find that a poor grade of typing second sheet is just about right. The cylinder wrapper may be the same or a little stiffer grade of paper. The cylinder case should be of some stiff paper like target paper.

A wooden dowel about eight inches long is used as a core for forming the cartridge. It should be correct diameter for either (Continued on page 46)



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WHY MARINES OUTSHOOT OUR SOLDIERS

(Continued from page 42)

It stands to reason that the Marine recruit will be a better marksman with his basic weapon than the soldier with only half the Marine's training. Why the big discrepancy? The Army considers its training "adequate" for the infantry soldier, at least that's what I am told. Perhaps the size of the service has something to do with it. The Army, with over a million men under arms, can put more men in any given area than the Marines with approximately 200,000.

Since the Army can place maybe five times as many soldiers on a theoretical firing line, maybe they figure that it is not necessary for each GI to be a hotshot with the rifle.

But even if the Army is five times larger than the Marines, there should not be that much of a discrepancy in training with the basic infantry weapon.

Here is something else to consider. The Marine Corps has replaced the carbine with the old, reliable .45 automatic pistol! It seems hard to believe, but all personnel whose duties in the table of operations required them to carry a carbine instead of an M1 had to turn them in and draw pistols instead.

Marines seem to consider the carbine just so much rattletrap junk. Its low velocity and poor penetration damn it as an effective weapon for front line use. That is the official word. I have listened to stories from colonels on down to private ranks describing use of the carbine. "I plastered a North Korean with well-aimed carbine fire and failed to drop the man. Somebody else cut him down with an M1 or BAR—lucky, else I wouldn't be here today."

From such experience in the field Marines eliminated the carbine from Fleet Marine Force combat units. Since 1954 when the carbine was scrapped, boots are not trained in using the weapon. They fire a familiarization course with the .45 pistol instead.

Why should the Army keep using the carbine and throw away the pistol, and why should the Marine Corps junk the carbine? If it wasn't powerful enough, couldn't better ammunition have been developed with more stopping power? Since the Army is still using the carbine and all recruits are trained to shoot the arm, it would follow that top brass believes the carbine is an effective fighting tool. But a direct question on how good was the carbine brought forth some fancy footwork in reply. Said the Office of the Chief of Ordnance, responsible for weapons designed to meet battle conditions, "A quote on the effectiveness of the carbine cannot be provided at this point. The decision as to a new lightweight rifle is still pending, and no one in authority wants to appear to be upsetting the balance by coming out in favor of the carbine while the discussions are under way."

The carbine was developed as a design to straddle the fence between rifle and pistol. As far as Marine Corps experience is concerned, it neither replaced the .45 nor the M1. Their experience showed the carbine was not sufficiently effective at long range to be a rifle, and too clumsy at short range to replace the pistol.

Besides having different training methods, the Army and Marines also differ on the tactical use of weapons in the field. For example, the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) is the standard infantry support weapon in both

services, having proved an effective combat arm in World War II and Korea.

An Army rifle squad of nine men utilizes one BAR, while a Marine squad uses *three*! However, the corps employs a different organization within its squad than does the Army. There are 13 men divided into three fire teams with one BAR per team. This heavy concentration of automatic weapons was adopted early in World War II to provide increased unit firepower during amphibious landings against the Japanese. It proved so effective that it was retained as standard operating procedure.

"Our present squad organization of three fire teams equipped with the BAR is a distinct improvement over the old formation," claimed Lt. General Edward A. Craig, commander of the 1st Marine Brigade in the Korean war. "The firepower of such a unit is indeed formidable." Probably the understatement of the decade, four-man teams with their strength centered around a light automatic gun and supported by semi-automatic rifle fire make a hard-hitting unit.

But the Army has a different view. "Soldiers are equipped with weapons according to experience gained in many battles," said an Army spokesman. "We feel that our nine man squad consisting of eight riflemen and one BAR man is amply equipped to handle any combat situation."

This may be official thinking but the Army has been studying nine-man squads incorporating two BAR's, a big boost in firepower. A heavier unit, an 11-man squad of nine M1

riflemen and two BAR men, has also been tried out. So far no changes have been made. Apparently each service arms its personnel with a backward look at past wars instead of counting on the future, and believes that present distribution of weapons is adequate to meet their battle needs.

Yet the Army neglects to train the recruit with the BAR in basic. During advanced infantry training certain soldiers are designated as BAR men and receive special training. The others—that man who may be next to a BAR man who is killed in battle—do not learn to handle the weapon. But every Marine learns the BAR inside and out during boot training. Emphasis on BAR mass fire along with M1 aimed fire seems to indicate a better understanding by Marines of the modern fighter—a soldier trained in aimed fire or bursts.

There is great confusion in military training and tactics, creating an even wider rift between Army and Marines than their traditional sharpshooting rivalry. Our military leaders have publicly claimed that the foot soldier is important, and that rifle marksmanship is his basic skill. If this is true, then why shouldn't the soldier receive the same intensive training the Marines give their men? That training difference shows up in combat, on the target range, and even in lore and legend which claims Marines can outshoot soldiers. The record proves it: they can!

Our soldiers must be better trained with the weapon they use in combat. Pre-induction training deserves attention, but Army recruit training should be increased to provide the same detailed, thorough schooling in the art of marksmanship fed to Marines. ●

CROSSFIRE

(Continued from page 7)

Anne Woodward case. The weapon, as was frequently mentioned in the newspaper accounts, was a Churchill.

Frank Hill

North Hollywood, California

Target Rifle Shooting

I have just finished reading the article, "What's Wrong With Target Rifle Shooting?" and find it very interesting. I agree with Colonel Askins' views on the subject.

In the past I have done quite a bit of shooting, both rifle and handgun, myself. I find in my area that one of the big factors that cut down rifle shooting is the lack of proper shooting ranges. It is very difficult to keep men interested in shooting if they have to travel long distances to a range for either small or large bore shooting. Most of the existing ranges only permit prone shooting.

My interest in shooting runs mainly to moving and bobbing targets, be it rifle or pistol. I would teach my boys, all six, to shoot if the proper facilities were handy. As it is we usually have to travel 20 miles to a farm to shoot.

One of my complaints is that in the armed forces a man is forced to use awkward positions. If a man were permitted to get into a comfortable position, he might take more interest and become a better shot. Also bobbing and moving targets at various ranges would be better training for a combat soldier.

Luther J. Gibbons

New Jersey Arms Collectors Club
Rahway, N. J.

Drawing Guns

On your May issue of GUNS Magazine, you published a letter from Don K. Wittig, my son. Don did not mention to us when he wrote you and when he read his letter in May issue, he was very much pleased. We were also, as Don is just 15 and seems to have taken a particular interest in all kinds of guns. While he has never had any course in drawing, he does very well in most any kind. His accuracy in this line we do attribute largely to your magazine. His practice work in drawing has attracted both the Minneapolis Art School and the Connecticut School at Hartford. We do expect to enroll him in the near future. I feel sure he will not miss a copy of GUNS in 1956, and if he shows success in that line of work, we naturally will feel kindly towards you.

Oliver B. Wittig
Frostburg, Maryland

Muzzle Loading

Being a fairly new reader of GUNS Magazine, I extremely enjoyed and was delighted to read the article on muzzle loading guns in your April magazine issue.

The article proved to be very informative, imaginative and realistic without employing many technical terms that would be an unnecessary burden to the reader.

My sincere congratulations on printing a magazine of great informative importance to gun enthusiasts.

Richard Caplin
Great Neck, L. I.

GUN RACK



By H. Jay Erfurth

Winfield Martini Rifles

WINFIELD'S LITTLE MARTINI rifles are "cute as a bug's ear," and worth investigating in terms of price and caliber for a wide range of shooters. The musket is unusual, being a miniature of the big Martini military rifle. Winfield offers these in several styles, bored out to .357 Magnum (also taking .38 S & W Special) and in .32 Winchester Special as a deer rifle, or in the original .310 Greener or "Cadet" caliber as a small game and varmint rifle. (see photo)

I tried out the .357 and the results

Freeland of Rock Island, Ill. This is without a doubt the neatest bolt-action rifle on the market today. Stock schnabel tip is perhaps a trifle too large, although butt and cheekpiece styling are clean lined and in harmony with the rest of the rifle. An all-new bolt action of basic Mauser pattern is as close to the old Mauser as a Cadillac is to the horseless carriage. When I opened the shipping box, I got a faint hint of what it was like to open a new rifle box before 1939—this BSA job seemed to holler "pre-war quality" from every pore. (see photo, top)

The metal polish, fit of the hinged



were quite satisfying. The report and bounce of the little rifle made one realize that the caliber was a pretty respectable one, even for a "handgun" cartridge in a rifle. Accuracy was under 3" groups at 100 yards, and while only a little shooting was done from a rest, I had the feeling offhand that the gun shot right where I aimed. Various Lyman and Redfield sights will fit the flat Martini receivers by drilling and tapping mounting holes. Barrel bases can be fitted for most scopes.

Trigger pull is surprisingly crisp, and show why these actions are sometimes used for match rifles.

Winfield offers these guns in original and custom stocked versions, in "good" condition and also reblued with new barrels. Winfield offers semi-finished stocks and foreends that the fussy gun crank can finish up himself. Prices for rifles range from \$16.95 up to \$66.50.

Freeland BSA 7mm Rifles

The Birmingham Small Arms Co. of England makes a "medium action" sporter in 7mm caliber, sold by Al

floorplate, shape and position of the bolt knob, and the smooth, easy functioning of the action were all a pleasure by contrast with the ordinary new sporter. Trigger pull was crisp and a pleasant surprise to the fellows at the range who tried it.

Sights are open, fold down leaves at 100 and 200 yards. There is no adjustment. Action is drilled for usual peep micrometer sights and scope mounts. Priced at \$151.50, the BSA 7mm will give shooters a first class rifle for one of the finest light all-around cartridges ever developed. It is worth looking at if you want to spend a little more money for hand finishing and fine metal polishing.

Lightweight Ruger Single Six .22

Alloy guns are here to stay. Ruger's latest is an all-aluminum version of the justly famous .22. Barrel is steel, but the cylinder is of 7075T6 alloy aluminum, finished by the "Martin Hard Coat" process. The alloy with a tensile strength of (Continued on page 48)

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HOW IT BEGAN

BREECH Early inhabitants of Britain wore crude clothing made from skins and hand-woven fabrics. An important male garment of the era was the *brec*, a piece which covered loins and thighs. Eventually the garment's name was modified to breeches. Meanwhile, it became closely linked with that part of the body which it covered. So by the 16th century, common folk used the term to designate both human buttocks and the hind part of a beast.

Perhaps in joking fashion, some unknown smith or gunner made a comparison between the human rear and the back of a cannon, and dubbed the latter "breech." By 1575, the colorful usage was firmly established. It



probably involved something of a pun on the idea of the equipment now variously designated as "rump" or "derriere." At any rate, the noted author of *Hudibras* tickled the fancy of his sophisticated readers by suggesting that

Cannons shoot the higher pitches
The lower we let down their breeches.

Henry VIII had a crude breech-loading gun that was made prior to 1537. But not until the early 19th century did the usage come into general vogue among gunsmiths. It was difficult to machine parts in such fashion that gases would be retained. As late as 1858, a noted military analyst considered the breech-loading cannon to be too dangerous and flimsy to justify extra cost of manufacture.

Improved methods of production soon made his judgment out of date, however. From field artillery to small arms for combat and hunting, firearms came to incorporate some type of break or opening at the breech. Centuries removed from the rough clothing which provided its name, the modern *breech* may be described as "that gear which covers loins of a gun."

TO COCK Sportsmen of medieval Europe took great interest in cock fighting. They developed many strains of feathered gladiators. Almost every village had its pit, where on holidays and at festival time it was customary to stage fights of the death. Consequently, the cock was generally used as a symbol of valor. Any proud, dashing human was likely to be termed "cock of the walk."

During the century before the time of Ferdinand and Isabella, artisans made sweeping improvements in the manufacture of guns. Someone learned how to fashion a lever suitable to hold a burning wick, or match, poised above the firing pan. Released, it dropped into fine powder and discharged the weapon.

Since the cock stood for aggression, it was natural to shape the match-holding lever like a feathered fighter. Germans and Dutch named the device for their word for "fowl;" English termed it *cock*. One of the earliest written references to the new-fangled gadget describes a murder. One Patricke Balentine chased down a woman, then "offered a pistol against her belly with the cocke down." When he released the fire-bearing mechanical bird, his victim was killed.

From the process of getting the cock in position to strike, a person who readied any type of firearm was said to cock the weapon.—WEBB GARRISON

CARTRIDGES

(Continued from page 43)

the .69" old model muskets, or .58" for the new rifled-muskets and the pistol carbine, Model 1855. The rectangular cylinder case paper for the .69 is cut 1.1" high, and long enough to lap over for gluing around the dowel, about 2 3/4". The .58 case measures 1" x 2" for the rifle. The pistol case is only .8" high. The cylinder wrappers are big enough to fold over, with a bias edge which rolls into a spiral around the tube when glued. Wrapper should be about 1/4" higher than the cylinder case, and an inch longer on the longest edge, tapering to the same length as the case paper along the short edge. The case paper and wrapper are rolled into a tube together on the stick. Close the end of the cylinder by folding the ends of the cylinder wrapper into a concave scoop on the end of the stick. A little glue or paste will strengthen the cylinder and prevent powder from sifting through.

The outer wrapper encloses the powder case and the bullet. It is also cut with a bias that when rolled up is lengthwise on the tube. The length of the paper when rolled up is 5 1/4" for the old musket, and 4 1/4" for the .58 rifle and pistol. This outer wrapper is put on when the glue on the end of the cylinder case has dried. Remove the stick, lay the cylinder and bullet on the outer wrapper and roll them into a cylinder. Choke the outer wrapper about the nose of the bullet and tie some thin string or heavy thread around the choked paper with two half hitches. Trim the cord and paper at the bullet tip and spread the paper so the string will not slide off. Remove the stick and add the powder.

Original load for the .69 caliber 730 grain bullet was 70 grains of black powder. The 500 grain .58 rifle load had 60 grains of powder; the pistol-carbine load only 40 grains. Either Fg or FFg black powder should prove adequate. I normally use several grains less than the standard charge.

After adding the powder, fold or pinch the open end of the outer wrapper into a long narrow tail.

To use the cartridge, tear or bite off the tail and pour the powder down the rifle barrel. Hold the bullet and strike the cylinder squarely across the muzzle to break the cartridge wrapper and expose the bottom of the bullet. Pinch the bullet out of the paper and ram it home. After capping, the gun is ready to fire.

Cartridges made this way can be rolled in any size for various muzzle loading guns. They require no tools or cases for shooting, but yet are strong against accidental breakage from rough handling. They not only make an interesting evening's work before that Sunday beef shoot, but they recall the days long ago when draft dodgers would have their front teeth, "cartridge biters," pulled to make them 4F.

Question Marks

"Came across a load that looked like a .32/20, but it has a flat-end jacketed bullet, and was stamped .32 CLMR on the base. What was this?"—R. R., Kansas City, Kan.

When Colt made the "Lightning" pump action rifle, in calibers from .22 up to .50,

they wanted to get the ammunition for the guns identified in the public mind with their rifles. Thus they invented the cartridge designation "Colt Lightning Model Rifle," to follow a common cartridge, such as the .32/20, .38/40, .44/40 which are otherwise known as "Winchester Centerfire" cartridges. For a while Colt actually made ammunition, but most of the "CLMR" cartridges were made for them by such firms as the Union Metallic Cartridge Company at Bridgeport, now a part of the Remington works. The flat end was to make these cartridges perfectly safe against accidentally firing during recoil while in the magazine tube of the rifle. Being carried end to end, the bullet tip was in contact with the primer of the cartridge ahead of it. With pointed bullets or sensitive primers an occasional cartridge has fired in the magazine of a tube-loading gun, like the Winchester or Colt. The flat bullet points which are found on all the .32/20, .38/40 and .44/40 cartridges reflect this use in rifles, whether called "WCF" for "Winchester Centerfire," or "CLMR" for the Colt.

"I have a foreign paper shot cartridge which I think is one of the smallest ever made. It is headstamped '6 1/2' but very little else is visible, just a sort of blurred shape. It looks like a rimfire, with a crimped end just like a big shell, but it is only about .22 caliber. A friend says it is a 'goose shooting' cartridge. Can you tell me how it was used?"
—L. W. S., Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Sorry, but your friend is mistaken when he calls that one a "goose cartridge." In Europe a few years ago, and even in some parts of France and Belgium today, shooting at geese is permitted with an odd multi-barrel rifled gun. Seven .22 rifle barrels are bored in one solid barrel, and the gun shoots the .22 long rifle cartridge, sending out a pattern of seven bullets at once which are suitable at long ranges against large waterfowl. The St. Etienne works in France and the Peiper factory in Liege, Belgium, made and make such guns.

Your cartridge is, I suspect, a bird watcher's shot load, intended to shoot small birds with little damage to their skin. ●

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GUN RACK

(Continued from page 45)

82,000 pounds per square inch and a yield point of 72,000 stacks up well compared with some mild, unhardened steels.

The hard coat process is a novelty in arms

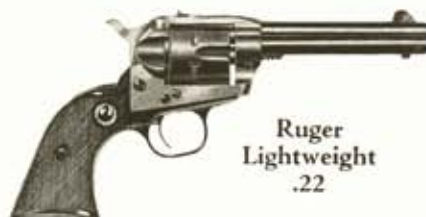
manufacture. Anodizing is, generally speaking, a surface hardening which changes the aluminum into aluminum oxide. Sometimes known as "alundum," aluminum oxide is second in hardness to the diamond. The Martin Hard Coat, unlike ordinary anodizing, cannot be dyed with the pretty colors which make the aluminum Brownings, for

nearly 50 years of production of this gun in Belgium, the .22 Browning still is up-to-date in line, balance, and most important, efficiency.

Grade I is blued, and has some light scroll engraving of good quality, with clean wood. Sells for \$69.50. Grade II at \$99.50 has more engraving, a game scene or two, and silver-like finish. But the Grade III is the one to buy! At \$159.50 it is anything but a cheap toy, with the handsome relief carving and oak leaf engraving. Wood on the sample I handled was absolutely magnificent French walnut, with a clear, blonde color and high gloss finish. Checkering was fanciful diamond style making a pleasing contrast with the wide areas of the buttstock. I think the butts are so darn big because the stock-makers don't have the heart to shave off any more wood than necessary from the beautiful blanks they use.

The gun holds 12 shots. Action is positive with double extractors, bottom ejection. No hot cases to drop down the neck of your shooting partner. Loading through the stock also means that the gun isn't pointed at yourself or anyone else as can happen with other .22's. A new adjustable leaf sight with an eccentric cylinder carrying the sight notches gives quick, positive settings for 50, 75, 100 and 125 yards. Barrel is grooved for scope mounts.

Most important of all, though, is the takedown. Unfastening from the receiver like the Browning shotguns, the barrel and stock groups can be packed into a small space. For luggage convenience this takedown Browning can't be beat.



Ruger
Lightweight
.22

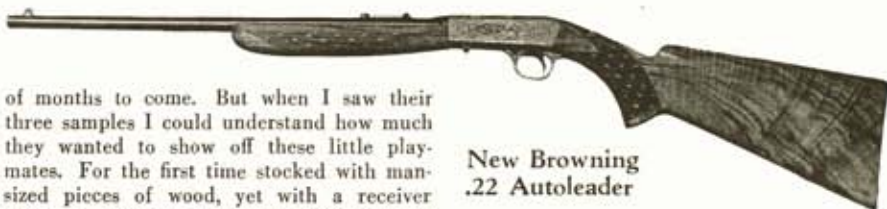
instance, so attractive. Hence it comes out brownish gray. It is an electric current treatment done in a bath held at or below freezing: only the sulphuric acid in the bath keeps the solution from icing up. The Martin hard coat will burnish files, and guarantees an abnormally long life to cylinder ratchet and bolt slots of the new Ruger.

With a 4 5/8" barrel, Ruger's latest weighs just 23 ounces, hardly enough to notice it in a belt holster or in the pocket. It is the type of rugged, durable gun to stay with the hunter and camper wherever he is.

Browning .22 Deluxe Rifles

Browning Arms Co.'s unveiling of their .22 autoloader at the sporting goods show in Chicago was a premature announcement, for they won't have guns in the market for a number

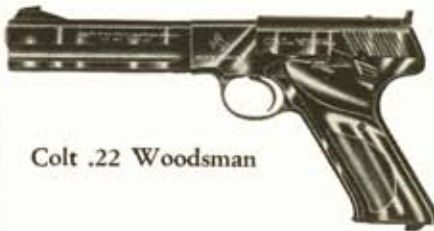
of months to come. But when I saw their three samples I could understand how much they wanted to show off these little playmates. For the first time stocked with man-sized pieces of wood, yet with a receiver which is slimmer than ever before in the



New Browning
.22 Autoloader

New Colt Match Target

Unwrapped the new Colt .22 Woodsman match pistol, and the first thing that caught my eye was the big "rampant colt" stamp on the frame. That "Colt" is a colt! There has been some restyling in the interests of manufacture and shooting. The plastic grip adapter is no longer offered nor is the grip drilled for fitting it. The face of the trigger has been changed to a wide, curved profile, making the pull seem light because of the increased area of finger contact. The ACCRO sight has proved out to be durable and positive in adjustment and is fitted to the slide. It is less attractive than the older sight but

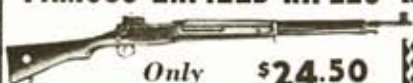


Colt .22 Woodsman

seems to do the job better. Noticeable changes are the better finish and the omission of the side-button magazine latch. Price is unchanged: \$84.50.

Colt fans who sigh for the good old days of bright blue and high polish had better

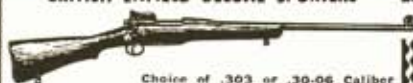
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CHARLES W. LEAVELL

SUMTER,
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take a new look at the Colts cantering out of the corral these days. Polish is by machine, and the sides of frames and slides are flat, son, really flat. Look down 'em slaunch-ways and you don't see the ripples that used to be on all flat-sided guns, from 1851 Navy octagon barrels all the way down to the 1911 .45. I glassed the finish with a 20x linen tester magnifier and the polish was a regular, fine cut with no scratches.

Colt Serial Numbers

Looking up serial numbers of old guns at the Colt factory has become quite a chore for the genial museum director, Charles Coles. It takes too much of his time away from necessary work. Consequently a fee is now being charged and you guys who used to barrage him with a letter containing dozens of serial numbers of guns in your collection are going to have to pay for research. The cost is not high, about \$2 a look. I checked the books there for a number and took about an hour looking through the maze of numbers. They are not in sequence and a gun made in, say 1925, might not have been shipped for two or three years later. At \$2 the search fee is cheap for the work involved, so don't be surprised if you get a postcard bill for money before you get the information.

New Gun Oil

I got a sample of the Winchester new gun oil, put up in the conventional squeeze and spout cans, and in pressure cans with a push-down valve cap like shaving soap, paint, and other fluid materials. While the usual claims are made as to the effectiveness of this oil for preserving guns in storage for six months or more, and protecting against rain, salt water spray, and humidity, one claim was easy to check: "Lubricates effectively at temperatures as low as 25 degrees below zero."

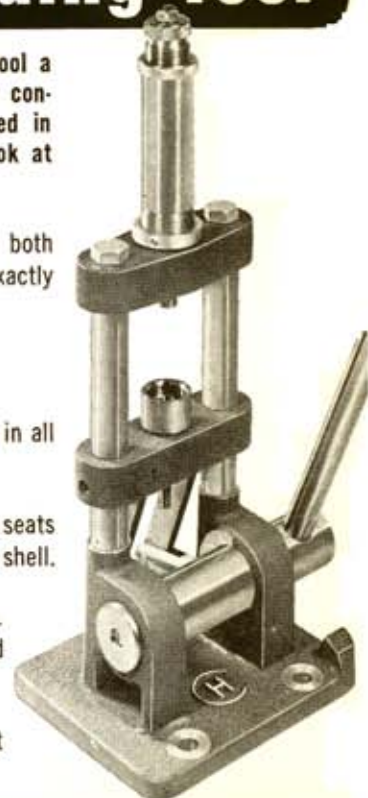
My refrigerator didn't go quite that low—I like my steaks thawed enough to chew—but I did put saucers of both Winchester gun oil and one of the popular long-time sewing machine oils commonly used for guns, fishing reels, and other light equipment, in the freezer cabinet. With the temperature about 10°—20° F., I knew that the oils would be subjected to the kind of temperatures most likely to be experienced by a Sunday hunter who has his lever gun full of "rust preventative." After five hours in the refrigerator, no change was evident in the gun oil, while the other oil had become definitely sludgy, showing a definite superiority of the Winchester gun oil. Three ounces are 40 cents. ●

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I FOUND A SHOTGUN UTOPIA

(Continued from Page 31)

are on the house, though to field a safari you still need gun permits. But you can lop off the average \$1200 for big-game licenses (\$200 for your first elephant, \$400 for each succeeding tusker, \$30 for rhino, additional for ostrich and giraffe). As birding becomes big in Africa, there'll probably be small-cost permits . . . for the guy out on a strictly feathered foray.

Lying abunk of a night, with the raucousness of pigeons and hornbills loud overhead, Vic brought the conversation again and again to birds . . . and the shotgun.

"Can't figure it," he'd muse, "most of my Yank clients are myopic. It's gotta be big as a rhino, mean as a wounded buffalo, before they'll level sights."

Right there Vic fingered one reason why Africa has come to mean bigness and not much else. For there're two right times to bird shoot, whether you're camped along a Kenya river or working the veldts farther south. It's early in the morning, just at sunup and again at sundown, when birds come to water. Best are the first two hours after daybreak. Too many safari joes bunk in then, lie waiting for a tent boy to bring them a wake-up cup of coffee. Malindi and me? We'd be up with the first boy, and out of camp stalking the river, just as the birds thundered in.

Vic had the game picture figured, and it spelled hard times ahead for white hunters like himself, unless they could adapt themselves to safaris specializing in birds.

"Civilization," he gestured, "is killing off the game. Big animals can't live fenced in. Farms are spreading over the veldts. Birds? They adapt, learn to live right on the fringes of civilization."

If anything, Vic said, there were more birds than when he'd first come to Kenya 30 years before. And seemingly more varieties, too.

Sand grouse? By the millions they worked the thorn-bush country, flying in just at dawn for a daily drink at the rivers. Heavier than the bob white, but with white-eye patches offsetting their sepia bodies and a melodious call that announced their arrival, they'd come to water via the sandspits jutting midriver. My 12-gauge handled them easily, with #6 shot killing clean. If I'd had 7½s or 8s, I'd have loaded with those. It was Stateside shooting, only a thousand times more rewarding, though it had its hazards. Drop a bird mid-river, and a croc's maw would

swivel open and stomach your bird whole. Maybe half the kills ended up in a croc's gullet, until I wised up and took my leads as the birds headed back toward arid country, away from the river.

"What gets me," I told Vic one evening, "is how you can drop a bird right out of formation and the others keep coming, like nothing happened."

Vic nodded. "They're not gun shy, that's all. Don't know the meaning of a shotgun's blast."

It was the same with the three families of guineas we'd flush in thorn country—the helmeted, common and vulturine.

The vulturine's a suave gent decked out in turquoise breast streamers, each tipped in white. The vulturine's noggin is bald as his namesake's. They roam all across Africa, big and unafraid.

To flush the big birds, I'd send Malindi in afoot. He'd be all but winded, thrashing barefooted through thorns, before a bird would rise out of cover. A 12-gauge handled them, but a 16 or 20 might have made it cleaner. For the vulturine's a tough adversary, a ground-runner who keeps to cover. Takes a callous-footed Wakamba tribesman like Malindi to flush them. For vulturines and the lesser bustards, I used #4 shot, saving #6s for grouse and dove.

Talk about dove. Five species make their home in Africa, and there are untold millions. In big-game country you grow apprehensive when dawn breaks and the doves aren't cooing. It's downright abnormal.

Ducks and geese—from pintails and mallards to the magnificent Egyptian goose—are almost as plentiful as grouse. But harder to kill.

Biggest, toughest of them all is Africa's huge greater bustard, whose stork-like build and six-foot wingspread makes him a formidable target—and the killing's a job best assigned a .22. But I've kayoed the monsters with a shotgun. That, in itself, proves the point about African birds: because they're not gun shy, they let you get close, within 25-30 yards.

Far as I'm concerned—and I've shot almost every game bird on Africa's east coast—there's but one that a shotgun won't handle. That's the ostrich, of course. Strangely, it's a bird I never hankered to draw bead on, though if I had, I'd have sighted in with a



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Working from camp one morning, with Malindi toting my .375 (you don't shotgun in Africa without carrying a heavy weapon, should you meet something big and mean in the bush), I knocked down ten different species in as many shots. Had I wanted another 10 varieties, I'd merely have shoved in 10 more rounds. It was that easy.

But it's not so easy as to grow tiresome. That's the thing about Africa . . . the unexpected. You never know when you'll run into a herd of elephant, stumble onto a python, or come upon a pride feeding over the night's kill. And there no knowing what birds are covering in the bush.

One morning, shotgun at ready, I was pushing through the bullrushes which marsh the Congo there, 100 kilometers upriver from Matadi. Close on my heels strode Joseph, my Congolese gun boy. We'd rolled out early for wading birds, especially the purple-plumed mud hen, a difficult shot because it rises so erratically—like a wind-blown leaf—from the river.

I was working fast through the marsh, pushing close to the Congo, when suddenly something hulked not 20 feet ahead.

Startled, I vaulted backwards, pivoted, and all but knocked Joseph flat.

"Hippo!" he rasped . . . and turned tail, beating me to solid ground at antelope speed.

Couple more steps and I'd have been astride the monster.

You're after birds, sure, but there's no telling what lurks around the next thicket.

Another time, hunting the receding shoreline of Kenya's Lake Magadi, I'd leveled on a lesser bustard, watched as he fell from sight behind a rise. Malindi and I double-timed over the dune—and stood amazed at what we saw below. A fierce-looking wild dog had beaten us to the bird.

"Gun!" I croaked, as Malindi, from habit, pressed the .375 into my hands, and took the shotgun.

In one motion I aimed and fired. The poacher, racing for cover, crumpled in mid-step, somersaulted and stiffened. It'd taken two shots, but I'd gotten them both, dog and bird.

You can expect surprises of another kind.

We'd been working from across the Nyiru, dropping grouse on some sandspits lying perhaps 30 yards across the river.

That first time I thought my eyes were playing tricks. I'd peppered a flock, saw two birds drop like rocks to the sand bar. But suddenly I saw them hopping up again, not flying, just hopping.

"Look!" I gestured.

Malindi's keen eyes confirmed. He blinked in amazement.

I shot another dozen times. Each time a bird dropped . . . only to dance up again once he hit the dune.

"Come on," I said, "we're going to put an end to them."

We paddled across river. Even before the dugout ground onto the bar, I was chuckling. A half dozen grouse, their necks looped in

native snares, were hopping fretfully about. Around them, very dead, lay my dozen birds. The nooses—which Nyiru-dwellers set for grouse—had provided the illusion.

I don't know how the safari guys are going to bill Africa, when it comes to luring the shotguns, but I've got a slogan that's appealing as it is factual: "Come As You Are . . . Shooting's The Same."

That's Africa's big inducement, as I see it . . . especially for the guy of modest means who wants the world's best scatter-gunning. Big game and its unfamiliar weapons is a new technique for the fellow used to Mississippi bottomlands or Colorado marshes. But shotgunning in Africa is just like shotgunning at home. The guns are identical. You take the same leads and use the same weight ammunition. You don't need to invest in special guns. If you're a dead-shot along the Wabash, you'll be on target in the Belgian Congo or Kenya, or anywhere else in Africa. Which is more than you can say for big-game shooting.

Even gun care's no different (the Africa you hunt for birds is usually pretty arid, except along the rivers. It's not deep jungle stuff as the movies play it). Usually your safari truck is installed with a gun rack. You keep your shotguns racked and ready. Guns get cleaned daily, usually at night after supper. You give the gun boy your weapons, and he brings them back for your inspection. It's only during rainy season (the long one, January to mid-May and a shorter 3-4 weeker toward the end of September), where corrosion is any real problem. You simply keep your weapons cased and better cared for.

As for shells, you'll find the English ones don't pack the same wallop as the heftier, heavier-shotted and faster-powdered American breed. But it's hard to tell the difference in the shooting.

African scattergunning does have a drawback: don't go expecting to bring home trophies. The U.S.'s migratory bird act prohibits import of foreign birds. There's one way to get around it, though it may take some doing. That's to arrange beforehand for a permit naming you a natural science collector for your local museum. Birds can be brought back for museums, though not to decorate your den. As a collector for the Los Angeles County Museum, I've ranged through Utah, scouting mule deer for exhibit. It's not a shotgun assignment, of course. However, shotguns, carefully used and lightly-shotted, could down good exhibit material for that museum back home. And many local museums, hard-pressed for exhibits, are only too glad if the community's ace scattergunner offers to track Africa for birdlife. Otherwise, you'll have nothing for your trophy room but maybe some plumage.

Right now our bags are packed—my wife's and mine, ready to shove off for a six monther in Southeast Asia. Tiger? That for sure. But the shotguns have top priority.

Bird shooting, they say, is great in Ceylon and Thailand. But I'm not expecting the sky-falls as in Africa, nor the variety, either. I don't expect to be standing casing-deep in shotgun litter, burning five boxes of 12's an hour, knocking down 100 birds in sixty minutes.

In all the world there's only one place you can still do that. It's Africa—where I found a scattergun utopia. ©

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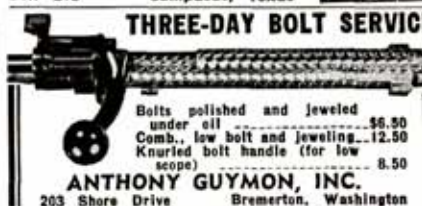
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WHY DOESN'T SHOOTING GO PROFESSIONAL

(Continued from Page 17)

the spectator point of view is no more exciting than shooting—and less so to me. Sure, there are amateur golfers, but if they are any good, they usually wind up as pros.

And the cash purses that are posted in golf matches are fabulous, running up to \$25,000 in the George May tournament in Chicago. Where does the money come from? Basically from smart people who know a good promotion stunt when they see one.

Why couldn't the same be done in shooting? Why can't the gun companies put up some prizes worth shooting at?

Why don't some of the giants of the gun industry wise up to the fact that the only way to sell more guns is to get more people shooting and the only way to accomplish that is to make shooting a bigtime sport once again? Too many of the gun firm executives have put all their eggs in one basket—that is hunting guns—and forgotten completely about competitive shooting. For an outfit like Winchester, which is part of the \$500 million Olin-Mathieson industrial empire, to put up \$25,000 in prizes at an annual national match certainly would not break the corporation. The same goes for some of the other biggies in the gun field—Remington (which is owned by the super-colossal DuPont outfit), Savage, Smith & Wesson, Harrington & Richardson.

Oh, occasionally a gun company will charitably contribute a prize at a match—perhaps a rifle that cost them \$35. But it's always small potatoes, nothing to get excited about.

Even to a rank amateur in the business world like myself, it seems that a \$25,000 purse posted for the winner of a national rifle match would be a smart and even profitable investment for Winchester or Remington. I feel that the resultant competition would result in gun sales far in excess of \$25,000.

The trouble seems to be that too many big outfits sit back on their haunches and are satisfied with what they have rather than go out and really build business. Strangely some of the smaller companies seem more alert in this regard than the big fellows. For instance, the Sierra Bullet Company, which specializes in

precision handloader's bullets only, has posted cash prizes of up to \$1,000 for good shooting in bench rest competition.

And once shooters get off the rifle and handgun range, they find there are cash compensations for being a good shot. The trap gunner can shoot for \$10,000 at the annual meet at Vandalia and many a sportsman comes from the far corners of the country with the thought of winning the "Grand."

Too many oldtimers in the shooting game have tossed in the sponge as far as the future of the sport, convinced that competitive shooting started dying in America when the frontier disappeared. Talk to them and they hearken back to the good old days and are pessimistic about the future.

But all that can be changed with an intelligent, far-seeing public relations program by the leaders in the gun industry. It's time to modernize our thinking in regards to guns—to find ways and means of dramatizing the sport. And going professional would be the obvious way—put a cash premium on marksmanship and it's bound to revive interest in the sport. Come up with some new gimmicks to make marksmanship something visible to the naked eye instead of just a couple of holes in a piece of paper 1,000 yards away.

Today television is the greatest means of communication in the country but how much shooting has been seen on TV? A bit here and there but nothing consistent and nothing staged with a flair for showmanship.

And it can be done. Consider, for instance the 1955 National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. Let's pick up the last match in the Double-Critchfield aggregate of 640 shots for the smallbore championship. After a commercial from a leading gun company sponsor, the camera cuts to a little lady on the firing line. According to the commentator, the shooter is Mrs. Viola Pollum, who has been shooting like a house afire during the week of the matches. For the first time in history, a woman is in line to win the smallbore crown. She's sighted in, ready to go for record. Her male competitors are out for blood

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in this match. The legend of male shooting superiority is seriously contested. Can she keep those last 40 shots in and beat the finest smallbore riflemen in the nation?

The camera shows her as she takes a last look through her spotting scope, shoulders her rifle and aims. One bad hold, one error in judging wind and haze, one twitch of a shoulder muscle, and her chance will be gone. A "zoomar" long-focus lens picks up the target and we see the lady's first shot sail in for X-10. The camera switches to her competitors' targets and they're off to a good start, too.

We see one fellow loading and aiming. He's one point behind the lady with more hits in the X-ring during the week's shooting. We see his next shot land in the middle of the X-ring, a pinwheel. The guy is really laying them in and so are the other men who are in a position to beat the lady if she slips. We see her second shot has straddled the 10-line at 3 o'clock. Was it a bad hold? Did she misfigure the wind? Or is she getting the buck? Thirty-eight shots to go and anything can happen.

If the family were watching this performance and you walked over and switched off the TV, chances are you'd get knots on your head. With all the inside dope from the commentator so the match was understandable, they'd want to know whether the lady made the grade. In case you haven't heard, she "do'ed it," 6390 x 6400 with 491 out of 640 shots cutting the X-ring. Which, no doubt, will set off notions in pretty female heads all over the land and we'll have to shoot like hell to beat them. Women are tough competitors, once they decide to shoot seriously.

But what did the competitors get in that match? What did Viola Pollum earn through months of constant and careful practice, through hundreds of dollars worth of match .22 ammunition? Virtually nothing! Acclaim and honor, yes, but only among her peers, the other shooters. Most people never heard of her to begin with, and if she lives to be a hundred and wins matches over all those years, most people will still never hear of her, if things continue the way they have gone for decades. And so Camp Perry matches are the same every year in terms of the number of shooters—but each year fewer and fewer young people show up. If the rewards were big enough, if Winchester or Remington for instance would offer a "year's supply of boat-tail match .30 caliber ammunition to the winner of the Pershing trophy," there might be some incentive to drag some younger target shooters out of the boondocks and get them on that sun-baked firing line at Perry.

With aroused public interest, some other benefits might come to shooting if it turned professional. The anti-gun legislators would be laughed into silence. People would soon see that firearms could be handled safely by observing a few simple safety rules. It is human nature to fear the unknown. Familiarity through TV with firearms and safe gun handling would dissipate the genuine fear which some people have of guns. Hunters and especially younger people, could be taught safety in gun handling.

But perhaps more important than all of this is the need to revive interest in shooting purely as a means of strengthening our national defense. Despite all the H bombs and flying missiles, the fact is that rifle marksmanship is still important in modern war. But too many youngsters don't know their butt end from a muzzle. Turning shooting

into a professional sport, a national game that millions followed avidly, would make every young man in the nation anxious to learn how to shoot straight.

Right now, however, even learning how to shoot is a problem for a high school or college youth. Where the hell is he going to shoot? My own city of Sacramento had a so-called "Municipal Range" that fell prey to petty politics and civic inattention till it was closed down after several near-accidents. The shooters of Sacramento were split up into smallbore, .30-caliber, shotgunners, pistol shooters, and an assortment of city and state police teams, all contending for use of the range at the same time. They couldn't get together because there was no unifying spirit. The range had been handled so miserably on a local government level that each group was afraid they would be discriminated against if they supported the range project. So it folded and the city manager took a vacation and left us to stew.

But the Army's Director of Civilian Marksmanship could correct this. There is an act of Congress that says ranges "built wholly or in part with public funds" shall be open to competition and shooting by civilian shooters. Hah! Try to get to use a fort or camp range whenever you have a free Friday evening or want to spend Sunday afternoon shooting instead of golfing. Listen to the denials, the screams, the refusals from the CO's of a hundred army posts over the country if civilian shooters did try to use such ranges. Only on very rare occasions, mostly as guests of Army-sponsored matches, do civilian shooters get to fire on government ranges. In any big city right now there are a dozen National Guard ranges which are closed 90 per cent of the time.

If the Federal Government really wants to encourage target shooting to train people how to shoot, then the first step is certainly to make some places to shoot. A network of really up-to-date ranges over the country should be created, continuously available to all who want to shoot, whether for testing, practice or matches.

And then it's up to the leaders of the gun sport to create the interest in shooting to bring out millions to the ranges. The embryo of a year-round gun boom is there in the 16 million hunters alone who currently are limited to an occasional crack at a jackrabbit. Give them the place to shoot and prizes worth shooting at and you'll have a confirmed gun nut.

The problem of reviving shooting as a great American sport is primarily to extend shooting to the average guy, to put shooting within his economic reach and to give him a feeling that he can hit pay dirt if he's any good. It's basically getting to the ex-GI who disgustingly put his M1 in cosmo line and got a receipt from Uncle Sam. In the Army he was a crack shot but what can he do with his marksmanship now except spend a lot of money that he needs to support his wife and kids. He just can't afford to blast away shells every weekend. So he sits in his easy chair with a tall glass of the sponsor's beer, watches baseball or football and wishes he was good enough to be out on the diamond and gridiron.

But show him shooting, show him admiring crowds and he'll swear that he can do as well and bring that old M1 out to prove it.

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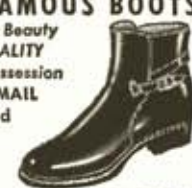
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MAKING A PORTABLE SHOOTING LAB

(Continued from Page 33)

for actual loading tools. One is the regular shooter's kit box I take to the range containing ammo, cleaning equipment, screwdrivers, oil, patches. One is my "hunting kit." In it I keep the shooting equipment normally taken along on a hunting trip. Another cabinet is a chest in which I pack my guns for shipment. Between moves (when the Army gets tired of reassigning me and lets me live in one spot for a while,) it is a storage cabinet for almost anything that will fit in it. I have two small cases for my target and my hunting scopes. Like the bigger boxes, these are excellent for damage-proof shipping, or for carrying to the range.

My portable-shooting table has removable pipe legs. I use it at ranges not equipped with permanent bench rests, and find the bench useful on other ranges where there may be one or two such rests. With my own bench, I can set up and begin shooting without either waiting for someone else to finish, or tying up the permanent bench myself. I have a home-made folding stool high enough to use with either table or bench rest, at home or on the range. To complete the outfit, I made up a portable gun rack from scrap that comes apart for shipment.

First problem in making this set which has to be overcome is the "how?" If you don't own woodworking tools—and a lot of us how-to-do-iters have them nowadays—there may be a commercial hobby shop near you where you can do the work. The local high school or city recreation program usually has adult classes in woodworking. These gun cabinets are ideal projects because only straight sawing and simple joinery are involved.

Half-inch fir plywood is excellent for building the cabinets, but any wood you can purchase cheaply will do. The outsides of these boxes will be scuffed from shipping so there is no point in making them of a finely-grained expensive wood. If you use pine boards, you will have to do a lot of edge gluing. The cabinets will be considerably larger and heavier than plywood construction with the same inside dimensions. Joints which are fixed with glue and fairly large screws are very strong and will really take punishment.

The cabinets are first assembled as completely closed boxes and then the tops sawed off on a bench saw, after determining where you want the lid to open. The boards, after sawing to size and allowing for their thickness, are grooved and assembled. Using 1/2" boards the grooves are 1/4 by 1/4 inch, all on

the same face of the boards which have been precut to final dimensions. Use a good grade of waterproof glue in assembling the cabinets, and screws approximately 6" by 1 1/4" in size spaced three or four inches apart along the edges.

My loading cabinet for home or range use during a match is built with two drawers, each the same size as a loading block. These drawers may be removed and two more blocks put in, a total of four blocks. There is a shelf for powder scales. The tray top is removable and in windy weather the scales are set up in this large compartment. A plastic sheet is set up in front of the scales to keep powder from blowing about. All hardware is brass and heavy duty. The case has wooden feet 3/4" high.

Some shooters use a steel tool or tackle box for their shooting kit. I prefer the wooden case I made which holds everything necessary at the range. It has a drawer for cleaning materials which is the same size as a loading block, and when substituted, three loading blocks can be carried instead of the usual two. The upper tray holds a sectional cleaning rod, scope sun shade, target stamp and pad, ear stoppers, screwdrivers, extra eyepiece for the target scope, and a heavy duty target staple gun. The carrying handle is on the case lid.

The loading tool fits into its own case for storage and shipping. Of course the size and interior of the case must be laid out to fit the press which you are using, and the heavy tool must be securely blocked to prevent movement. If it rattles around, it will knock the box to pieces in transit. I put in partitions for small items, extra dies and plugs, wrapped in oiled cloth. A removable tray holds dies and bullet making equipment. Because of the tool's weight, I made the bottom of this cabinet 3/4" plywood for added strength.

A small storage box may be necessary to hold loading tool odds and ends. It is just a straight rectangular box with the top sawed off about 1 1/2" from the top edge. It keeps the little woman happy for the box can store miscellaneous loading tool parts, extra powder cans, and almost anything else you want to keep out of sight. The biggest storage box I have is my rifle shipping case. For myself, I built it to hold four rifles. Armory cases hold up to 20 rifles and weigh over 200 pounds loaded. The size and length of this chest will of course depend on how many guns you own or expect to ship. Rifles must

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be securely blocked in transit. I cut several pieces of wood which fit over barrels and actions that hold the rifles tightly when the case lid is closed. When not full of rifles, the case is handy for miscellaneous storage.

Scopes are fragile, too, and must be held securely in shipment. My two scope cases exactly fit the particular scopes I use. Each scope rests on heavy felt pads glued on contoured securing blocks. Putting the carrying handle on top tends to keep careless freight handlers from throwing the scope boxes around in shipment, aside from being the natural way to carry them.

Both loading table and shooting bench are built for combined lightweight, portability, and yet rigidity in use. Tops are of two 3/4" plywood panels glued together and reinforced from the underneath by Phillips-head screws, put in while the glue is still wet. A two-by-four rim is bolted underneath the loading table and serves as support for the legs. A single bolt holds each leg snug in each corner of the two-by-four rim. The loading table is heavy enough for bullet making. By using a Versa-vice clamped on a home made checkering cradle, I have found it steady enough to hold a gun stock while checkering.

The shooting table has the same double thickness plywood top. The bottom thickness is cut three inches smaller all around the edge, reducing weight without sacrificing strength. A notch or curved section is cut out of the left corner to accommodate the shooter's body in firing position. Legs are lengths of 2" diameter pipe, capped at the bottom and screwed into a floor flange at the table. The flange (of which there are four for each leg) is welded to a larger piece of 3/8" steel plate. The plates are drilled to receive the bolts which hold them to the table. The caps on the pipe legs can be turned on or off to adjust for height and steadiness on the floor.

Outdoors, a little unevenness makes no difference as the table will be "self levelling" in the dirt. A side shelf with a pipe support slides into brackets to hold the shooting kit. On the left edge of the bench are hooks to hold a spare rifle. With both loading table and shooting bench I use a simple home-made folding stool made of scrap wood, a felt pad and some old canvas for a seat cover.

At home, to keep these boxes neatly stored, I built a roller platform for the three most-used cabinets. The loading tool box, shooting kit and loading tool accessory boxes all fit on this low platform, and can be rolled out of sight under the loading table. On all the boxes only heavy solid brass hardware is used, with Phillips head screws which are very neat and can be installed with a power driver.

Exact dimensions of these boxes and tables will vary, depending on the articles you want to fit in them. Lay out your whole shooting kit some evening and make full scale sketches of them, the way you want them in the boxes. Figure the minimum inside dimensions and be sure then to allow all around for the thickness of the wood you'll cut them from.

Building a portable shooting laboratory is fun and the whole set will prove useful many times in your shooting career. If the wife has a dim view of your taking on another hobby, that's just one problem you will have to solve in your own way. I solved it, but I can't remember which present I gave her. ●

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MIRACLE SHOOTER

(Continued from Page 36)

as he drew near the mission he noted a little cluster of men and women about the entrance.

"Gosh, Harvey," he stopped, turned to face the man behind. "If I'd any idea there were people in the church I'd never have shot at the bell." He was at once contrite and not a little ashamed.

It was evident, even at the distance, that excitement gripped the little throng. "Un milagro! Un milagro! Ha pasado un milagro!" they cried over and over gesticulating toward the tower.

Topperwein called to a young Mexican boy whom he knew slightly and asked him the cause of the excitement.

"Don Adolfo, we have just witnessed a great miracle. While we were at prayer, the great bell in the *torre* commenced to toll. It is known to all that the clapper has long been missing. It is a miracle! El Señor above has surely touched our *campana*! Surely He is to reward us all!"

Slack-jawed and only half comprehending the enormity of his deed, the world's greatest rifle shot whirled in his tracks and shooing his comrades before him, hastily retreated. "Let's get out of here," he hissed, "I'm not prepared to perform any more miracles this morning."

Things are changed today. The Mission de la Espada has been completely restored, not by divine intervention but through the efforts of thoughtful Texans. It is now visited annually by thousands of tourists. They find the chimes replaced, the clappers restored. But the story of the bell-ringing remains unchanged in the telling, one of the brightest most repeated *cuentos* of La Espada.

Also unchanged is the story of Ad Topperwein, a miracle shooter if ever there was one. Now 87 years of age and still living in San Antonio, Topperwein is the last of a long line of sensational American shooters.

The first of the legitimate trick and fancy U.S. shooters was A. H. Bogardus, a duck and goose shooter from the game-rich state of Illinois. In Lincoln, Nebraska, on July 4, 1877, Bogardus shot at 1,000 glass balls, 2½ inches in diameter, using two 12 gauge breechloading shotguns. He missed but 27 of the targets and had one run of 300 baubles without a miss. This was a record at the time.

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himself in Cincinnati and feeling especially steady again essayed the 1,000 ball stint. Net result was a new record, with 19 failing to go smash. Before the year was done, and this time in Bradford, Penna., he contrived to crush 990 out of the thousand. This was a high water mark for the first of our exhibition shooters who were entirely on the level. During 1879, Bogardus shot at 5,000 thrown glass balls in New York and failed to connect with 156.

Buffalo Bill was putting on two shows daily during these days but Mister Cody was a showman and not always given to dealing from off the top of the deck. His records, if he ever established any, are not recorded.

However, Annie Oakley who worked in his show shot a 16 gauge shotgun at 5000 glass balls and missed but 228. This was in 1884. It was no small chore and commendable in that "Little Sure Shot" whanged away without letup until the 5000th target had risen.

The year before Annie had done her stuff, an unknown, Dr. A. H. Ruth of New York, startled the shooting world by abandoning the scattergun, used by Bogardus and Miss Oakley, and firing a .22 repeating rifle, walloped the staggering total of 984 out of 1000 of the inevitable glass fliers. Next year, Annie got 943, shooting as Doctor Ruth had done, with a .22.

Into the arena, about this time, strode the most colorful of the exhibition marksmen since the flamboyant Buffalo Bill, Doc Carver. What the shooting dentist couldn't do with his guns, he covered in ballyhoo and bluster. It is debatable to this day if he was as good as he immodestly claimed.

Be that as it may, it is recorded that one day in 1885 the good molar mechanic commenced to plink away and some 10 days and 60,016 shots later had busted 55,151 of the frangible glass spheres. This was a new world's record and the newspapers throughout the world hailed the beaming Carver as the world rifle champion.

Seeking to improve on his mark, which actually had seen him fail to hit 4,865 targets, he started shooting in Minneapolis and continued his stint from 11 a.m. daily

until midnight. The gunning went on for 10 very strenuous days. At the end the marksman had most materially bettered his score. As a matter of fact he had hung up such a record as appeared to be unassailable. Out of the 60,000 targets tried, Doc had missed only 60. The year was 1886.

Carver proceeded to tour this country and Europe hailed as the greatest rifle shot. That was all fine until an upstart named Bartlett from Buffalo, N. Y. came unwound one day and when he decided to call a halt some 64,017 composition balls (measuring only 2 1/4 inches as against 2 1/2 for the glass balls used by Carver) later, it was found all but 280 had been reduced to dust.

Bartlett was king but for some unknown reason obscure at this time and from this distance, neither Carver nor the Buffaloan ever made any attempts to get together and settle their respective claims in a shoulder-to-shoulder bangfest.

It was in 1894 that a long, gangly Texan came striding up out of Mexico, a hectic spot where he had been touring with a circus, giving trick and fancy rifle shooting exhibitions.

This was Adolph Topperwein, who had been born in Boerne, Texas, in 1869. First trying to be a newspaper cartoonist, he had finally given way to a lifetime urge to be a rifle exhibition gunner.

In 1894 without fanfare or publicity Topperwein, variously called "Ad" as a shorter handle for Adolph, or "Top," generally preferred by some ten thousand friends, had 1,000 clay discs heaved skyward at a distance of 25 feet from his gun muzzle. Shooting a .22 Winchester pump gun he knocked down 955 of the targets. Not satisfied he tried again and raised the ante to 987. Before the year was out he ran the thousand again and lost only 11 of the discs.

To vary the game a bit he switched to regulation clay targets as shot by the shot-gunners and burst 1500 without a miss. The first 1,000 targets were tossed at a distance of 30 feet; the last 500 at 40 feet.

His next attempt was on wooden blocks, sawed 1 1/2 x 1 3/4 inches. Shooting at the



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Harvard Gun Club in San Antonio, Texas, he lost 46 out of 5,000 of these tiny squares. There was one long run of 1165 without a loss. At the World Fair in St. Louis the year following, Topperwein ran 3507 targets without a miss. He had swapped the wooden blocks for clay discs, discs of the same diameter but not such stable targets because of poor flight characteristics.

In 1907 our Texan shot at 20,000 blocks chopped to a dimension of 2½ inches. In four days he had ran through the 20,000 and had chalked up but 10 escapees. It was pretty obvious by this time that he was gunning for the Bartlett record. He had had one long run of 8840 targets without a miss.

In December, 1907, Topperwein commenced the shooting which has earned for him the title of world rifle champion. He continued shooting in the San Antonio Fair Grounds for 10 days. During that time he shot at 72,500 blocks sawed 2¼ x 2¼ inches. His guns, he had 10 of 'em, were the then new .22 Winchester automatics, Model 1903.

It had been his intention to shoot at 5,000 squares daily for the week-and-a-half stint. However, the first day he ran well over his 5,000 allotment, having actually pulled the trigger 6,500 times, so seeing that he was in good form and shooting with all his skill he determined to just see how many targets he could smash in the 10-day period.

Complications developed. He had contracted for only 50,000 blocks from a local sawmill. When these were splintered, he simply commenced to reuse the larger splinters. As well, he had provided himself with only 50,000 .22 caliber hulls. When it be-

came apparent these would all go down the drain, all the sporting goods emporiums, hardware and crossroads stores were scoured for the available supply. This wasn't the days of air express delivery; this was 50 years ago.

During the shank end of the shooting stint, Topperwein found he could get his arms shoulder high but could not lower them. He found if he got them down to his sides he could not lift them again. His tossers—the hombres heaving the blocks—petered out and had to be replaced. The replacements were more enthusiastic than accurate and sometimes heaved the wooden cubes like baseballs. When Top went to bed at night, his sleep was one continuous nightmare. He saw wooden blocks floating aloft during every moment his eyes were closed.

But he didn't let these minor inconveniences disturb his aim. At the end of 10 days and after 72,500 blocks had been whanged away, he had missed the insignificant total of 9. Yep nine. Probably the ammunition accounted for those escapees. Twenty-two hulls weren't the instruments of precision a half century ago that we expect today.

There was a longest run of 14,500 blocks without a miss.

Today, Ad Topperwein still is a crack shot despite the fact that he is extremely deaf and has failing eyesight. His beloved wife, Plinky, who shot with him during his entire career, died in 1945. Top has his shooting lodge some 20 miles outside San Antonio and there each Sunday he and bosom comrades gather to burn powder and yarn away the hours.

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HOW TO JAZZ UP THE 30-30

(Continued from Page 20)

buck jumped as I snapshot, and to my shame was hit in the ham. He was only 50 yards away, and the resultant destruction, hamburgered meat and broken bones, would have done credit to a .30-06. Altogether, this is an amazing load.

But perhaps it's not varmints and top accuracy, but an elk and moose load you're looking for? Well, I'd hesitate to recommend the .30-30 or its ilk for elk or moose. But they're certainly used for them. Recently a former trapper and guide casually told me of buying an old .30-30 for \$20 and killing two moose, two deer, and nine coyotes with the first 13 cartridges fired from it!

The man who clings to his familiar .30-30 deer rifle for elk or moose and takes only close shots—which are commoner than you may think—may do just as well as if he shifted to a more powerful rifle whose strangeness and extra recoil could easily cause wild shooting. Men have been known to miss a moose with a magazineful from a scope-sighted Magnum. If only we could give that .30-30 a little more poop for the purpose.

When I started experimenting, I tried several other powders—4320 and 4350—but couldn't get enough into the case to give desired velocity. So I swung back to good old 3031. With a little compression I can get 32 gr. in, giving an estimated velocity of close to 2300 feet per second with 180 gr. bullet. Though flatter shooting than the 170 gr. factory load, this Speer bullet opens up much more slowly, and in my penetration tests it averaged fully 25 per cent deeper than factory loads.

This Speer bullet has no crimping groove. It was fine for single loading but the problem of how to anchor those smooth bullets for tube magazine use had me baffled until I remembered having seen military cartridges with the bullet held in by three stab crimps in the neck. So I carved a wooden cradle to lay my completed .30-30 180 gr. loads in, and with the end of a small screwdriver and a hammer made three dents around each cartridge neck about 1/8" inch back of the mouth just deep enough to bite into the bullet. It takes a bit of fussing to prepare such loads, but for a few shots a year it comes as close to making the .30-30 a big game rifle as I can contrive.

All these are hot loads for good power and speed in the .30-30. But suppose we wanted to go in for the economy package, the cheapest loads that will do for casual target, plinking and small game. In that case, your first purchase would be a bullet mould for \$8. A melting pot and ladle for \$3.50 will be handy, though you can get by with a plumber's ladle. The kitchen stove or a gas camp stove will provide heat for melting your metal. You can get a .310 inch bullet sizing die from Lyman for about \$3.

You'll need to scrounge or buy a pound or more of lead. Also, if you go to your nearest newspaper office and ask for old stereotype plates that they've used for printing pictures, you'll probably get them pretty cheap, and this metal mixed roughly



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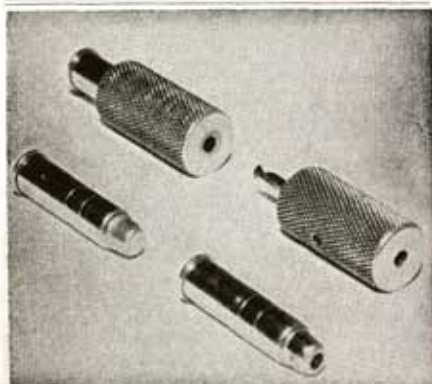
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half-and-half with lead is my pet bullet alloy. Cast bullets require lubricant; you can make some by mixing equal quantities of beeswax and Japan wax, with a little castor oil to soften, heat them till they blend, then cool. You can rub this into the bullet grooves with your fingers just about as quickly as using a Kake Kutter, though it's messy.

Now you're all set to go, and by following the Lyman handbook you can turn out cast bullets by the hundred. Your total equipment has cost less than \$15, lead and lubricant total less than 1 cent per bullet; what could be cheaper? And unless you want to crimp your loads to run them through the magazine, you don't actually need any more equipment than I've listed.

Which cast bullet will you get a mould

for? What powder will you make it with?

For the first two, you can safely take your pick of any handbook recommendations; not so the last. When I tried to get an accurate light load with the Squibb 169 gr. pointed bullet (not for magazine use) and Dupont 4759 powder, none of the recommended loads shot worth a hollow hoot. Various half-grain or whole-grain changes of them were no better, and I was almost ready to believe scoffers who snorted that accuracy with a light load and cast bullet in a high-powered rifle was a paper-pusher's pipe dream.

What solved the problem was good old toilet paper. A little bit of it—half a square inch roughly—wadded on top of 10 grains of 4759 to keep the powder from shifting position in the case tightened my previous wild

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groups down to 2 inches for 5 shots at 100 yards, and I was satisfied.

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1. They shoot much lower than factory full-power loads; some 30 inches, in fact, at 100 yards, 8 at 25 yards, 2 inches at least at 30 feet. If, however, you aim with the base of the front sight where ordinarily you put the top, you'll soon learn to place the cast bullets quite accurately with the big-game sight setting.

2. The traces of lead left in the bore by bullets cast of the alloy mentioned are slight, but enough to make the first jacketed bullets fired after them land low—about 3 to 4 inches, I find, at 100 yards.

3. These light loads are no toys. They'll shoot through a 6-inch tree at close range, carry probably over a mile. Yet they don't swell the cases much, and you can use them over and over again before having to discard, or full-length resize them.

If you're interested enough and flush enough, you can go on to buy a bullet seater and crimper, a powder measure, and reloading tools, and try many other bullet-and-powder combinations besides those listed.

I hope you do, for there are probably more shooters interested in the old .30-30 than in any other center fire cartridge, and it has possibilities which nobody has yet explored.

For example, when I got 1 1/4 minute accuracy with iron sights from a plain prone position with a rolled-up coat for a rest, what would a .30-30 do with a scope sight from a bench rest? Especially if you added to the old lever action the sort of hand-honed special barrel that most bolt actions are favored with for accuracy tests? What will the short-barreled carbine do for accuracy? And other makes of .30-30, and other similar cartridges?

The power possibilities, too, are as intriguing as a wind-blown skirt. The .30-30 case is actually longer than either the .300 Savage or the .308. What if it were blown out to larger capacity and different neck shape? An 'Improved .30-30' might yet become the Backwoods Baby Magnum!

Fooling around with the old .30-30 is like taking a respectable lady of plain looks and uncertain age, giving her a new make-up, hair-do, and strapless gown, plus a cock-tail or two, and taking her out on the town. You never know what is going to happen until you try it out.

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AD TOPPERWEIN

(Continued from Page 37)

shoots she as a rule always figured in the general average and also won many high averages over all. At the Wilmington, Delaware, Eastern Handicap some years ago she was high 98x100 over 240 shooters shooting from 20 yards. She shoots best when she is pressed hard by competition.

Q. Why did you decide to shoot at 10,000 blocks each day for ten days?

A. Just to establish a record.

Q. What gun did you use? What ammunition?

A. I used 4 Winchester .22 Auto Rifles with regular .22 Auto ammunition.

Q. Where did you do this shooting? What was the date? Who watched you? How many carpenters were kept busy sawing the blocks? What size were these blocks? Who counted them as they were hit?

A. San Antonio fair grounds, December, 1906. Blocks were made by the local saw mill. They said I was crazy, that I could not shoot that many in all my life. It took two men to score and referee—two men to toss the blocks, changing every 50.

Q. Please describe how this remarkable shooting marathon progressed?

A. I started out with the idea of shooting 5,000 daily, but ran ahead of my schedule the first day—shooting 6500. Then someone suggested to see how many I could shoot. The largest number I shot in any one day was 8,000 (two days in succession). I did not miss any the first 8,000 and one in the second day. I missed 4 out of the first 50,000 and 9 out of the 72,500 when I was obliged to stop because I ran out of ammunition and could not get any more in town, having exhausted the supply I had and the stock of the local sporting good store. I would have liked to make the score 75,000.

Q. How many blocks did you finally shoot at? How many did you hit and how many did you miss? What were the longest runs? How did this shooting stack up against the records of Doc Carver and other exhibition shooters.

A. The final score shot at 72,000. I missed 9. I missed 4 first 50,000. The longest run was 14,560. There were several runs of 10,000 and over. Carver's record was 60,000. He shot them in six days and nights (shooting up until 11 p. m.) However, he missed several hundred. Capt. Bartlett later shot 66,000 glass balls—but he also missed several hundred. They had no long runs (except a few hundred).

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Q. Just as an estimate, how many shots have you fired?

A. Lord, I don't know. When Mrs. T and I shot at the Texas Centennial, we used up 168,000 in four months. We used about 600 rounds in every exhibition we gave. I guess we used up a couple million.

Q. How many miles have you traveled and how many times have you been in each of the 48 states? What foreign countries have you visited?

A. I have circled the U. S. many times. Also been to Canada and Mexico which means many thousand miles. I have been to every state in the U. S.

Q. Which of your stunts do you consider the most difficult? Which required the most practice to master?

A. All of this shooting requires frequent checkups and practice. Sometimes they are all easy—other times all seem hard to do. The hitting of the bullet end of a cartridge while it is turning up and over in the air is the one stunt which keeps me guessing. Some days I do this stunt easy the first time. Then again it may take several trials to do it. While I miss the shot frequently, I very seldom ever hit the shell on the wrong end—if I hit it. The stunt takes careful timing and coordination. Of all firearms I have used, I like the old Winchester lever action the best of all. There is something about this gun which I can't find in others. They tell me that I can shoot that lever action awfully fast. Well if I do, it's come easy to me. The pistol I believe is the most difficult one to master. It keeps you guessing all the time. It just won't behave all the time.

Q. When was it that you and Mrs. Top set up a stand at Coney Island and shot there? Were you with Winchester at that time?

A. The Coney Island stunt was done before I was with Winchester. It was simply a publicity stunt by a theatrical manager to get me bookings for a vaudeville tour, through Keith's and Proctor's and other vaudeville routes which I worked for two years just before I joined the Orrin Circus in Mexico and just before I joined Winchester.

Q. Have you ever had to shoot anybody? Or use your extraordinary skill to defend your life or the life of a friend? Have you ever come near doing either of these things?

A. No, I'd rather shoot at tin cans.

Q. Is there anything you'd rather be than the world's best exhibition shooter?

A. I would rather be a good shot and be able to pass the idea along to our coming generation, than to be President of the U.S., if I had brains enough to take the place. ©



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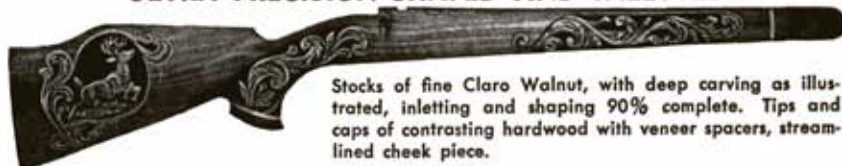
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REMINGTON SHOTGUN

(Continued from Page 23)

with this over-pressure, the gun would soon be damaged by slamming the bolt to the rear too hard. Remington solved this one by ventilating the magazine cap. This cap serves two purposes: it is threaded to the front end of the magazine tube and holds the gun together as well as serves as a closing end-plug for the gas cylinder. By simply drilling three vents in the thing, excess gas is permitted to escape. Going beyond this the engineers placed a rotating collar on the cap and by a one-sixth turn the gun is instantly made ready for either light uplands or heavy duck loads.

The cap is engraved with a series of "H" and "L" markings. Twisted to "H" it adjusts the shotgun to digest 1¼-oz loads (or heavier); turned to "L" trap, skeet and lightest uplands cartridges can be fired. On "H" all three vents are opened; on "L" just a little one is opened. The tiresome business of fiddling with the recoil rings common to last year's auto shotguns is a thing of the past with the new Remington.

The 58 is a 3-shot. Two cartridges are held in the magazine and the third is carried in the chamber. There isn't any possibility the capacity will be increased since the magazine tube is limited by the utilization of its forward end for the gas system. With bag limits scanty, there isn't any need for more than a 3-shell capacity.

The new model is limited to 12 gauge with a hint that sometime soon it will be ready in 20. The original Model 11-48 will continue to be carried so that Remington is covered in the lesser gauge field.

Sears, Roebuck, makers of the first gas gun, the Model 60, had the devil's own time to get reliable operation out of their fussee because of a wide variation in breech pressures. The shotshell regardless of who makes it don't maintain a nice even pressure from round to round. The pressure curve looks like a temperature graph of an hombre suffering from double virus pneumonia. Sears finally licked the problem by drilling three gas ports in their barrel and Remington has resorted to two. It will be interesting to see what happens when the latter outfit attempt to cover the waterfront in 20, 28 and 410 bores, all cooking on gas.

The M58 looks just like its forerunner, the 11-48. You have got to stack the two side by side to distinguish one from the other. The gas system has been so neatly stowed inside the forestock it cannot be spotted at all. The newcomer is advertised to weigh 7 pounds, actually it runs 7 pounds 6 ounces, unloaded. The 11-48 is advertised at 7½ pounds but no one has ever gotten one that feathery yet. In view of the current swing to 10 gauge loads in the 12, i.e. this fad for 1½ ounces of lead, it is a good thing the 58 doesn't run lighter!

The present crop of automatics are for the most part built for uplands and not duck loads. The Browning Double Auto scales 6¾ pounds; the Franchi, an Italian import hits 7 pounds; the Breda, also from the land of spaghetti, runs 7½. And then we have a couple of heavyweights in the shape of the Winchester Model 50 at 8 pounds 6 ounces and the JC Higgins (Sears, Roebuck) 8 pounds 5 ounces. Anyone who sets off a couple dozen of these new standard magnum (1½ oz) 12 gauge loads in an auto hefting 7½ pounds or less will sure know he has

been in a shooting match. The punishment is something like going three rounds with Rocky Marciano.

The Remington is available in three barrel lengths—26, 28 and 30 inches. Likewise three chokes are yours for the selection—improved cylinder, modified or full. With the 28-inch barrel, the gun has an overall dimension of 47½ inches. By comparison the Browning DA runs 46½ inches; the Winchester 47½ inches; the Higgins 48½ inches.

The stock has a length of pull on the M58 of 14 inches, a drop at the comb of 1½ inches, at the heel of 2¾ inches. These measurements are okay for length of pull but the stock is so "straight" (the drop of only 1½" at comb and 2¾" at heel,) it means this chopper will throw its pattern 14-16 inches high at 40 yards. This is just too too rosy for rising game like mallards bounced off a slough where the target is a towering one. Or just the McCoy for regulation trap shooting, or for trapped live pigeon gunning as done on the Continent, and for any winged thing that affords a rising mark. But for many a gunner it will cause him to miss. Especially if he is one of these dead slow joes who holds hard on and not beneath his game.

The forestock has all the objectionable depth of the average self-ejaculation model. From the center line of the bore to the place where your fingers wrap around the forend is 2½ inches. A good over/under shotgun similarly taped shows a bare 1 inch. It is axiomatic that the lower the forward hand is beneath the barrel the more sorry the scatter-gun points. The shiny new Remington is an average offender.

The new gun has a trigger pull breaking at 4 pounds 8 ounces. It is creepy, spongy and

poor. Like the seven-months-along, pregnant-appearing midsection common to all auto-loaders, the 58 has like all others a sad trigger let-off. A Winchester I had pulled 4 pounds 11 ounces; a Browning the same although the pull was as clean as a pine smell; a Higgins similarly tested ran to 4 pounds 3 ounces; a Franchi would not go at 4 pounds 12 ounces, and a Breda while a full pound lighter was full of a series of stops in the trigger. The inability to get a really first-water pull on an auto springs from the fear of the maker that if he puts a decent release on the trigger, it will double. As a result pulls from 4 to 6 pounds are the rule.

I got a Model 58 with two barrels. The first of these was an FC 30 inches long. The bore ran .729-inch which is commonly accepted as full cylinder in the 12 gauge. At the muzzle the measurement pinched in to .695-inch. This is a few points shy of what the manufacturers like us laymen to believe is full choke. However, it has been my observation after miking a good many tubes that few U.S. makers now choke a 12 gauge the 40 points they were once given. Improved cartridges produce full choke percentages with less constriction. Some 1½-inch behind the muzzle the barrel measured .702 inch; at .5-inch it ran .704-inch; and two inches back of the snout the gauge showed .724-inch. It is likely the choke is a swaged job; swaging is quick, cheap and easy.

The skeet barrel, advertised as 26 inches, actually runs 25½ inches and sports a handsome raised ventilated rib with two bead sights. The muzzle measured .724-inch which is routine for skeet (IC) choke. The bore from the forcing cone to 8½ inches forward held to a true cylinder diameter of .729

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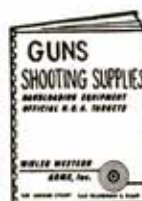
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inch. But at this point, some eight-and-a-fraction inches forward of the breech was a tight spot. So constricted was the barrel at this point that a .724" plug would not pass. At 10¹³/₁₆" down the tube was another ring. This one was not so tight. It would not let the .729" gauge pass but would accept the .724" plug.

Still a third peculiarity was discovered. While the very muzzle held to a dimension of .724-inch and should normally have been the most tightly constricted portion of the barrel, there actually was a spot 1¹⁹/₃₂" back of the muzzle where the .724" plug gauge was stopped.

In effect this barrel has a series of three wave chokes in it. A most novel situation and while I have heard of the wave choke all my life this is the first time I have had the exceptional good fortune to look one squarely in the business end. If Remingtons are now reaming wave chokes, I think it is hiding their light under a bushel not to make this enlightening fact known. Of course, there is some slight possibility that in their over-weaning haste to get into production on this new shooting iron an inspector or two along the way just goofed.

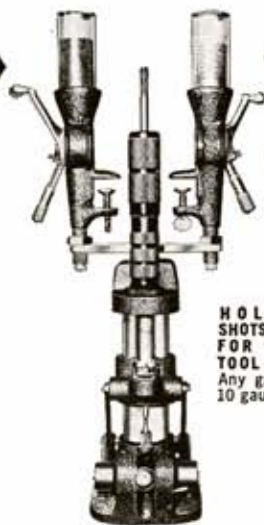
I have not patterned the skeet barrel. However, it breaks clay targets like Egypt's Nasser busts the UN rules so I guess those three waves I got (in addition to the muzzle constriction) must give me my money's worth. Four chokes for the price of one!

When I got the Remington, I was busy field testing a number of automatics. I took the newcomer along with the others and tossed it down on the desert and then covered it over. The piece was loaded. It fired once when I gathered it up. I cleaned the weapon

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and pumped 100 target loads through it in less than 10 minutes. It chirruped beautifully. Two malfunctions of somewhat minor nature were the only troubles to develop.

I then fired the gun 50 times upside down, 50 times with the ejection port upward and 50 times with the port downward. Of these 150 shots in the out-of-the-ordinary positions two jams turned up.

I shot 3-inch 12 gauge magnum loads. The gun does not kick unpleasantly. Extraction and ejection when the big round is loaded singly was normal. With a big 3-inch in the chamber and another in the magazine, it functions most of the time. The magazine will not hold two of the 3-inch cartridges. The 58 is chambered for the 2 3/4-inch case. The longer shell should not be used. I test fired the gun with this cartridge solely to see what would happen. The practice is not recommended.

Slug loads pattern well and function perfectly in the shotgun. The company suggests that the "L" setting be used on the gas cap when firing the single ball. I found it did not matter. I fired 25 of the new 1 1/2 ounce standard 12 magnum loads, the 15th shot caught a jam. This load is about as pleasant to shoot in the 7 pound 6 ounce Remington as an afternoon of bareback Brahma bull riding. You really know you have been to the cleaners!

I poleaxed a couple of inches off the 28" tube and shot the musket. It rattled right along. Nothing daunted, I proceeded to whittle off another one-sixth foot. This produced no disastrous aftermath. On the next amputation I went down to 20 inches. At this abbreviated dimension standard target loads would not function the action. However, with 1 1/4 ounce duck loads and with Federal 1 1/2 ounce magnum shells, the shotgun put on a perfect show. I found that the gas vent had to be set to "L" and not to "H" to gain this desired performance.

My interest in the Model 58 with 20-inch barrel stems from the fact that for guard and riot purposes, for consideration by the military and for future sale to the police, all of whom demand a 20-inch length, it is important to know how the gas job is going to behave.

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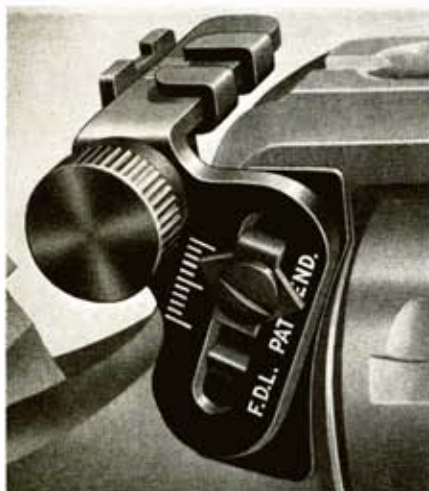
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HOLLYWOOD STARS

(Continued from page 27)

wire setup to manipulate the gun, Ojala's real live shooting saved the budget a few bucks and drew a round of applause as well as a handsome bonus.

Just as a side line, as if his normal pursuits were not enough, Arvo designs special holsters for many of the stars. He includes among his customers for these items Dean Martin, who got intrigued with gun slinging during the shooting of "Partners," Rory Calhoun, who boasts one of the fanciest holsters in Hollywood made by Ojala of real alligator skin, Hugh O'Brian, Jim ("Gun-smoke") Arness and Sammy Davis, Jr.

Arvo's favorite gun is probably the old-fashioned single action Colt with a 4 3/4 inch barrel length, with which he is particularly adept. His record with this gun is drawing, cocking and firing all in less than 1/6th of a second. For this writer he performed his fantastic half dollar trick with his Colt, dropping a coin from hip level with his right hand, drawing, cocking and firing simultaneously with his right hand and hitting the half dollar before it dropped a distance of four inches!

He performed this particular piece of gun-play for Gary Cooper during the making of "The Friendly Persuasion" and Cooper, no mean hand himself with a Colt, was so moved by the Ojala technique that for once old monosyllabic Gary let loose with a torrent of more than two minutes of mixed praise and astonishment for Ojala's wizardry.

Ojala's assignment on "Friendly Persuasion" incidentally, was as technical advisor showing "Coop" how to handle an old time muzzle loader, done by loading the barrel with three grams of black powder, ramrodding the wadding in tightly so the explosion would be realistic.

How long does it take the old maestro to teach a man to look good with a gun? Ojala admits he can train a man for rapid draw and firing in about two weeks of hard practice. "Of course," he adds modestly, "they won't be quite as fast as I am." Which should qualify as the understatement of the year. ●

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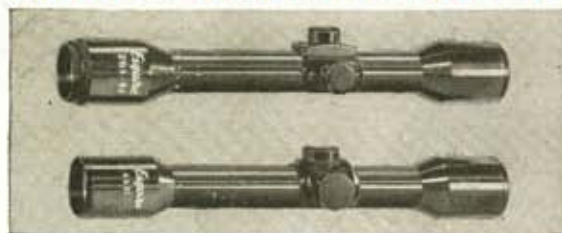


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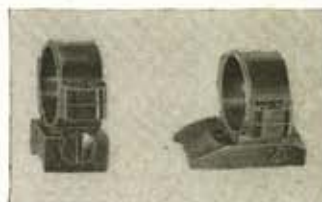


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