

JULY 1962 50c

HUNTING • SHOOTING • ADVENTURE



# Guns

**SPECIAL  
CENTENNIAL  
★ ISSUE ★**

**CIVIL WAR GUNS**

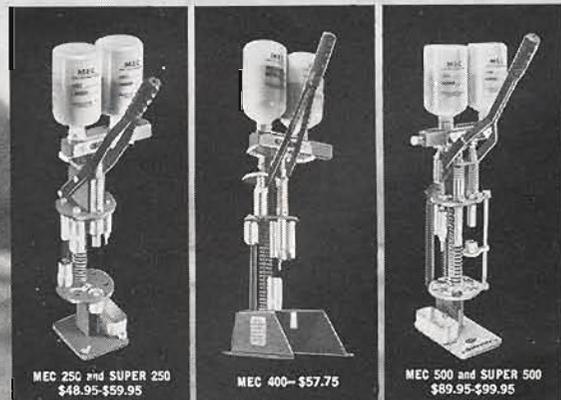
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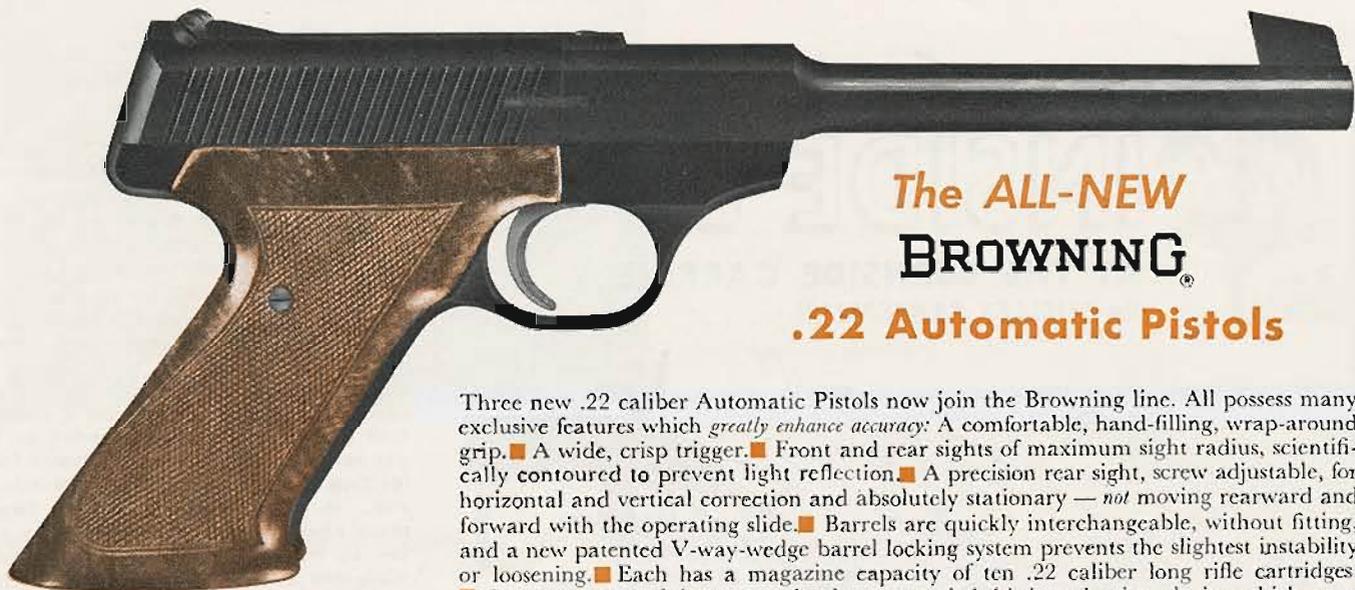
Thru modern design, the use of the very latest manufacturing techniques, interchange of parts and subsequent high-volume production, MEC tools have been priced, without sacrificing quality, to offer more features per dollar. This is proven by the fact that MEC Reloaders outsell the next two leading brands combined. This simply means that your best buy is MEC. See these reloaders at your dealer. Compare them against any others. Compare features . . . then look at the price tags. That's all there's to it. There's a MEC Reloaders . . . five of them . . . to fit any requirement. A catalog? Ask your dealer or write to Mayville.



SIMPLE AS

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MAYVILLE ENGINEERING CO. Mayville, Wisconsin



## The ALL-NEW BROWNING® .22 Automatic Pistols

Three new .22 caliber Automatic Pistols now join the Browning line. All possess many exclusive features which *greatly enhance accuracy*: A comfortable, hand-filling, wrap-around grip. ■ A wide, crisp trigger. ■ Front and rear sights of maximum sight radius, scientifically contoured to prevent light reflection. ■ A precision rear sight, screw adjustable, for horizontal and vertical correction and absolutely stationary — *not* moving rearward and forward with the operating slide. ■ Barrels are quickly interchangeable, without fitting, and a new patented V-way-wedge barrel locking system prevents the slightest instability or loosening. ■ Each has a magazine capacity of ten .22 caliber long rifle cartridges. ■ Over two years of rigorous testing have preceded this introduction, during which more rounds have been fired through these models than it would be practical for an owner to shoot in a lifetime. ■ You can be sure these .22 Automatics represent Browning product standards in quality and performance and embrace the same functional simplicity so essential to dependability and long life.

The Challenger \$64<sup>95</sup>  
with either 4½ or 6¾ inch barrel  
35 ounces — 8¾ inches long  
with 4½ inch barrel.

### The CHALLENGER

The Challenger possesses an all-steel frame which provides extra steadiness for precision shooting. Its select walnut wrap-around grip, finely hand-checked, provides the feel of a target model and a beauty none but a custom artisan could duplicate.

Trigger pull can be regulated by a screw adjustment on the rear face of the frame and, so easily, one may quickly vary pull between that desired for target shooting and the safer degree for general shooting.

A convenient stop-open latch which operates manually and automatically, after the last shot is fired, permits convenient loading and cleaning and supports handling safety.

The fine steel of the Challenger is exquisitely hand-polished and blued to justly compliment its carefully machined and hand-fitted mechanism. Its grooved trigger is gold plated.



The Medalist \$112<sup>95</sup>  
with extra weights  
and lifetime fitted case.  
46 ounces — 11½ inches long.

### The MEDALIST (Available in July)

The Medalist was designed for the serious competitor who demands faultless accuracy. Meticulous attention is accorded the fitting of every part to assure smooth, precision function.

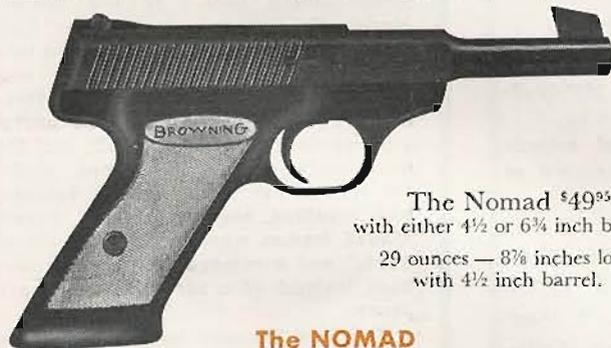
Its hand-rubbed walnut grip with thumb rest is carefully contoured to permit the most sensitive control while firing, and the medium heavy barrel with non-glare ventilated rib is exactly proportioned for maximum steadiness and balance. A trim walnut forearm is interchangeable with variable weights to allow delicate refinement in forward ballast.

Trigger pull is exceptionally clean and crisp, and broadly adjustable for weight of pull and backlash. The wide, gold plated finger piece is grooved and contoured. The recoil-proof, micrometer rear sight is click adjustable and remains in rigid alignment with a removable front blade. Sight radius is a full 9½ inches.

An inimitable new feature on the Medalist is its Dry-Fire mechanism. It is integral with the thumb safety and, when put into play, a shooter may dry-fire with ease, experiencing identical trigger let-off to actual firing. A slight pressure on the safety latch after each trigger pull relocks the mechanism, so practice can be continuous without disturbing aim. Important mechanical parts of the pistol are unburdened by constant practice and actual firing is impossible when on dry-fire.

The Medalist is as much a masterpiece in fit and finish as it is in mechanical perfection.

Prices subject to change without notice.



The Nomad \$49<sup>95</sup>  
with either 4½ or 6¾ inch barrel.  
29 ounces — 8¾ inches long  
with 4½ inch barrel.

### The NOMAD

The Nomad is an ideal pistol for the person who likes to roam the fields and hills for all-round shooting pleasure. Its strong but lightweight alloy frame makes it pleasant to carry and contributes to its fast shooting characteristics. Fine materials and workmanship throughout, including a tough Novadur plastic grip, afford the durability an outdoorsman expects. The positive safety is positioned where the thumb naturally rests.

The Nomad has the balance and feel of a target model and is capable of exacting performance. Since barrels are interchangeable, the handier shorter barrel may be used for general plinking and, when maximum accuracy is desired, quickly replaced with the longer barrel.

### ENGRAVED MODELS (Available in July)

The Challenger and Medalist are also offered in striking gold inlaid models. The modern, straight-line style of gold engraving produces a startling beauty against the rich blue-black body of the pistol.

## BROWNING®

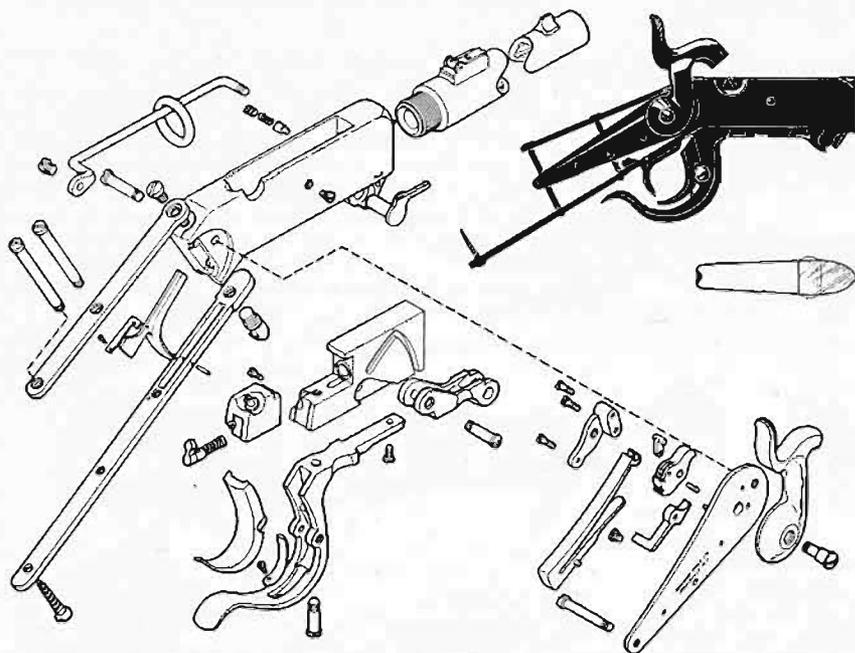
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# AN INSIDE LOOK

AT THE BURNSIDE CARBINE  
By SHELLEY BRAVERMAN



**P**ATENTED in 1856 by A. E. Burnside, this unique carbine appeared in four models, and 55,567 of them were used by the United States during the Civil War. The special cartridge for this gun drove a 400 grain lead bullet with a charge of 45 grains of black powder.

To understand the operation of the mechanism, it is necessary to visualize the cartridge. The Burnside cartridge case tapered to the rear from a mouth that had a convex ring intended as a gas seal. A hole in the base allowed for ignition by a conventional percussion cap. In effect, this gun has a two-piece chamber, as the bullet portion of the cartridge is seated in the barrel while the case portion is contained in the movable breech.

To load, the gun was first half-cocked. Pressing the latch in the trigger guard forward unlocked the lever which pivoted to rotate the breech block backward. The chamber was then exposed, allowing the cartridge to be dropped into place, base first. Closing the lever pivoted the breech against the counter-bore of the barrel. The convex ring of the case was supposed to act as a flange, filling the juncture as a gas seal. The addition of the musket-cap completed the loading operation.

After discharge, the case received primary extraction from a spring-actuated plunger in the breech block; post-war models had an ejector acting on the cartridge case flange.

All Burnside were .54 caliber carbines with barrels of 22 to 26 inches, but there were variations in the different models. The First Model lacked trigger-guard lock. In the Second Model, the breech was marked "Cast Steel 1861," and the trigger guard lock patented by George P. Foster was used. This model had no wooden forearm. In the Third Model, the barrel was marked "Cast Steel 1862" and the guns were similar to Second Model specimens, but with wooden forearm and modified hammer. In the Fourth Model, frames were marked "Model of 1864," and a removable hinge pin was used instead of a screw for a breech pivot.

The Burnside may be considered the third step in an evolutionary process, being preceded by the Morse and the Hall.

It is reported that excavations for the Grand Coulee Dam recovered Burnside bullets, most of which indicated that the crimp portion of the case had torn off on discharge and had been swaged onto the bases of the bullets. These bullets retained the land marks of the rifling.

Warning: Do not attempt to fire the Burnside with loose powder and ball; the presence of the Burnside case flange is essential to control flare-back.

(Next: An Inside Look At The Browning Parabellum Pistol)

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National Civilian Champion, 1957-58-59-60 and 61.  
Holder of numerous national awards including civilian aggregate record of 2652-121X.

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"CCI primers are tops in my book and I certainly recommend them to all shooters who want maximum results and top performance from their reloads."



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WORLD'S LARGEST PRIMER SELECTION FOR RELOADING.  
POWDER ACTUATED TOOL CARTRIDGES FOR INDUSTRY.  
RED-JET BULLETS FOR INDOOR SHOOTING.

Cascade Cartridge, Inc., Lewiston, Idaho

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# Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

JULY, 1962

Vol. VIII, No. 7-91

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## THE COVER

In this Civil War Centennial year we take pleasure in presenting, along with numerous articles about Civil War guns, a cover that spans the century: a Colt's Model 1851 Navy, caliber .36, nickel plated, together with a flag, cap, and canteen owned by a member of the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry "Morgan's Men"—a Civil War regiment formed by Gen. John Hunt Morgan in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1861. The picture is by Paul R. Ellis, Covington, Kentucky.

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GUNS Magazine is published 13 times a year, monthly and twice in August, by Publishers' Development Corp., 8150 N. Central Park Avenue, Skokie, Illinois. Second class postage paid at Skokie, Illinois, and at additional mailing offices. SUBSCRIPTIONS: One year (12 issues), \$6.00. Single monthly copies 50c. Special Fall Edition \$1.00. CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Four weeks' notice required on all changes. Send old address as well as new. CONTRIBUTORS submitting manuscripts, photographs or drawings do so at their own risk. Material cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. PAYMENT will be made at rates current at time of acceptance and will cover reproduction in any or all GUNS Magazine editions. ADVERTISING RATES furnished on request. Copyright 1962, Publishers' Development Corporation. All rights reserved. Title to this publication passes to subscriber only on delivery to his address.

# norma man's

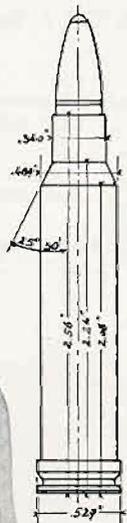


critical  
eye  
approves  
factory  
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.308  
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magnum

"I've been handloading for more years than I like to admit," he chuckled, "but I can still learn a thing or two from the workmanship on this new factory cartridge. With .300 Magnum ballistics on a 30/06 length case, plus top quality virgin brass and the amazing new Norma Dual-Core™ bullet . . . well, it's even got the old-timers buzzin'. Test it, you'll see what I mean!"

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|-------------|------|------|------|------|
| Range, yds. | 0    | 100  | 200  | 300  |
| Vel. (f.s.) | 3100 | 2881 | 2668 | 2464 |
| Egy. (f.p.) | 3842 | 3318 | 2846 | 2427 |



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In Canada: Globe Firearms Ltd., Ottawa  
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# HANDLOADING BENCH

By KENT BELLAH

## The Amazing .357 Magnum Cartridge

WHEN Smith & Wesson introduced the .357 Magnum in 1935, most handgunners looked on it with awe and reverence. Gun writers gave it such a sales pitch that some people were afraid to fire it! Winchester's cartridge for it was the first revolver round designed for smokeless powder. It was the most potent commercial load ever made. Breech pressure is still higher than any other revolver round. It represented a major breakthrough in velocity, terminal energy, and flat trajectory. Ballistics were as shocking as the 158 grain bullet starting at 1512 feet per second, for 802 foot pounds energy.

S & W listed the "accurate range" at 600 yards! At 550 yards the bullet was well upset after penetrating 2" of live hickory. Never before had man packed so much power in a handgun. It set a new velocity record just when handgunners were becoming aware of the potentialities of Hi-V in a short tube.

Revolver efficiency in black powder "daze" depended mostly on bullet weight and caliber. You simply doubled the weight to double the energy. But energy would have increased four times if velocity could have been doubled. Actual shock could be increased still more with bullets of the right design and material. Phil Sharpe's superb bullet added much to the efficiency of the original WRA load.

Smokeless powder permitted rifle velocities to zoom like mercury in the summer sun. Re-



Original S&W .357 Magnum (1935).

volver construction eliminated taking advantage of old smokeless powders. For decades handgunners were stuck with ballistics hardly better than with the messy 1-2-7 mix of sulphur, charcoal, and saltpeter.

S & W's first Hi-V effort was the .38-44 of 1931 vintage, merely a souped up .38 Special. But gun writers praised it. It lacked the big bullets of ancient big bores, and the deadly shock of Super Hi-V. Doug Wesson and Phil Sharpe used it to develop the forerunner of the .357, testing loads in the 38,000 psi range. This is entirely too hot for

heavy frame .38 Special working pressure, which should be under 24,000 psi.

Hercules 2400 type double-base (nitro-glycerine) powder, introduced in 1932, made "The Magnum" possible. WRA used 15 grains of non-canister grade, ignited well with their Large Pistol primer. Their 1.291" uncanneled brass case was excellent. It had to be!

Phil Sharpe's Hensley & Gibbs No. 51 cast bullet, the best plain base type, was used by Winchester. They added another



From left to right: Original WRA; a Super-X Lubaloy; Super-X M.P.; R-P Lead; R-P M.P.; Norma's new 1/2 jacket.

grease groove, and a cupped base to aid production swaging and increase powder space. The advantages of short jackets and gas checks were unknown in those days. The gun was first center-fire with recessed head chambers, and the first designed for pressure above 45,000 psi. It was probably the finest example of the revolver-making art, in a country that has always excelled in revolver design, development, and production.

Original WRA ammo was hotter than a five alarm fire, without excessive pressure. Discontinued under their label in 1949, they supply Super-X today. One of Doug Wesson's Magnums fired 125,000 rounds of original fodder. It still passed factory inspection, except for outside wear and scratches. That's over \$13,600 worth of ammo at retail prices today!

Perhaps unfavorable storage for over a quarter century causes some original lots to run high pressures today. Robert B. Bothwell, Beaumont, Texas, sent me a box of lot 75 22, made in 1935, for testing. Cases had to be driven out of the chambers. In a standard pressure barrel, velocity registered 1655 fps and pressure a whooping 51,900 psi. It's entirely too hot for working loads. Velocity was recorded at 15 feet, over 20 feet, and pressure with .225 x .500 copper crushers. Some loose ammo developed 47,200 psi, giving slightly sticky cases. I don't recommend any ammo that gives sticky cases.

Here's an interesting excerpt from a 1935 catalog:

(Continued on page 62)



## TRY, USE AND COMPARE — AT OUR RISK

Our NO RISK offer to you. Try, use and compare our United Rifleman Instruments for 30 days. If not 100% satisfied, return for a full refund of your money. This GUARANTEE has led United into its 26th year of service to the American Rifleman. United offers you a scope for every shooting need—Big Game, target, or varmint. Dad and I suggest you give a UNITED BRAND NAME SCOPE a thorough testing. Send your order, remembering that each bears the United "Seal of Quality", YOUR ASSURANCE OF *Law Thomas Jr.* SATISFACTION! Good Shooting!



### 4x32 GOLDEN HAWK



You have to see and use this Nitrogen Filled scope to fully appreciate its value. Send for one, examine it thoroughly, and if any time within 30 days you decide we were wrong in our enthusiasm, return it for a full refund. Normally the GOLDEN HAWK wholesales for \$24.48. During this special offer you pay only \$19.99 plus 75¢ each for postage, handling and insurance. The Suggested List Price is \$44.50. The 4X GOLDEN HAWK weighs only 19 oz., has a field of 20' in 1 1/4" long, 8 mm exit pupil, water-dust resistant and has cross hair reticle. 1" tube fits all standard mounts. Fully HARD COATED. Simple built-in Parallax adjustment. Handsomely blued thru-out. Windage and elevation adjustments with click stops. Only the price suggests the bargain. Comes with plush-lined cowhide scope caps.

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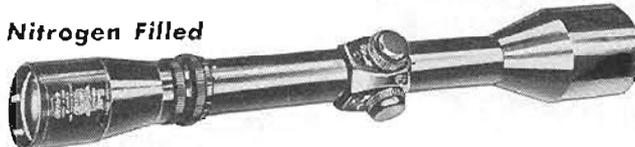
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WHOLESALE

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Nitrogen Filled



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  - No. 130—Winchester model 70 magnum, calibres 276 and 300.
  - No. 150—Remington model 721, 722, and 725.
  - No. 160—Remington model 740, 742, and 760.
  - No. 170—Marlin 235.
  - No. 180—Savage model 99.
  - No. 190—Savage model 110.
  - No. 210—Colt model 1,579.
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| 7 x 31     | 9.5 oz. | 18'            | 49.50          | 24.75     |
| 9 x 40     | 12 oz.  | 13'            | 54.50          | 27.25     |
| 12 x 46    | 12 oz.  | 11'            | 64.50          | 34.95     |

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# CROSSFIRE

## Australian Marksman

At our last "Gala Shoot" of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia, we saw some shooting by Vince Baldwin that set a new record: a 10-shot group of 1.48" at 285 yards!

The combination was achieved with a custom single-shot rifle, F. N. Mauser action, barrel 1 3/4" x 31" by Apex Rifle Corp. (U.S.A.), on a beautifully laminated densified stock. Rifle was accurized and chambered by Bill Marden of Punchbowl, Australia, fitted with a Canjar trigger and a 25X Lyman Super Targetspot scope. Cartridge was a Winchester Zipper "R" case turned to .219 Donaldson Wasp caliber. Bullets were 53 grain Sierra hollow-point bench-rest, with 26 1/2 grains of 3031 powder and CCI primers. The outfit weighs approximately 25 pounds.

C. W. Packeridge  
Sydney, Australia

## Challenge To Fast Guns

In regard to the "Crossfire" letter so titled (May issue) from Jeff Maxwell, The Arizona Kid, why not get a story from this old timer? Not many of his type are left who can tell us how guns were worn and used in the old days, and this could be a worth-while story.

Terry Angell  
Zephyr Cove, Nevada

*We agree. But "The Arizona Kid" said, in a postscript to his letter, that he was not using his real name, and he gave no address. Why not write an article for us, Jeff Maxwell? We'll give it interested consideration.*

—Editor.

## Letter Within A Letter

News commentator Carl Zimmerman recently came out with an "editorial" on one of our Milwaukee TV programs advocating Wisconsin legislation requiring registration of firearms and other restrictions on their sale. I enclose copy of my letter to Mr. Zimmerman.

Warren H. Soeteber  
Sheboygan, Wisconsin

*The following is excerpted from Mr. Soeteber's excellent letter:*

"I was watching your usually pretty fine news telecast Friday evening when you came up with something you called an editorial. You even had a police officer appear, I suppose to convince listeners that your new idea was correct. The "new" idea was to solve all crime in Wisconsin simply by having people register their guns.

"How foolish can we get? Who will register his gun—the criminal, or the honest citizen? The freedom to keep and bear arms

is supposedly guaranteed by our Federal Constitution. New York has a legislative monstrosity called the Sullivan Law. Would you care to take any wagers that New York's crime is lower than ours, or lower because guns must be registered?

"I took a tour in broken Germany where police once registered firearms owned by citizens. Hitler never had to worry about where those firearms were; he knew.

"There's one alternative I still have. If your silly anti-gun promotion continues, there's a handy knob on my TV set; I can flip my viewing to another channel.

"But I won't flip my freedom away! Register guns? NO!"

*This is a weapon available to all: the right not to listen, not to watch, not to buy anything that threatens the rights you cherish.*

—Editor.

## Birthplace of the Long Rifle

The Philadelphia Police Department recently appealed to citizens (*Philadelphia Daily News*, April 5, 1962) to turn in their guns so that they could be destroyed and thereby curb crime by eliminating guns.

Nothing was said about turning in hammers, hatchets, ice picks, razor blades, baseball bats, golf clubs, kitchen knives, and other lethal weapons.

Perhaps the police forget the important role played by guns in protecting lives and property. A thug will steer clear of an intended victim if he suspects that person is armed!

J. L. Stearns  
Philadelphia, Pa.

## Wants Catalogues

Just a word of praise for your magazine, which I can occasionally obtain over here. Most of my hunting is confined to reading about it, due to restrictions in this country. However, I am collecting as many different American gun catalogues, etc., as I can, and I wondered if your readers would help me with anything they have in that line and for which they have no further use.

Ray Gillings  
5 St. Cuthbert's Ave.  
Billingham, Co. Durham, England

## Knew Ben Lilly

I was delighted with William Brent's article on Benjamin Lilly. My father remembers him quite well, and he lived at our house when he came to hunt bear in the Big Thicket in the early 1900's. Evidently, his habits had changed by the time Mr. Brent knew him, because he not only slept inside the house but also "on Sunday morning, he would get a pan of warm water, and take a

bath. Then he changed to clean 'Sunday' clothes, less thread bare than his usual garments, and went to church."

Also of interest to the author is the fact that, while in New Mexico, he once killed a she-panther, climbed the tree and caught her 2 cubs, put them in a sack, and carried them 80 miles on his back to the nearest railroad station where he shipped them to my grandfather.

H. A. Hooks, M.D.  
Kountz, Texas

### One of Many

Congratulations to Harry Reeves on his excellent article, "The Gun That Makes or Breaks Champions," in the March issue. Being a Military Policeman in Kassel, Germany, means carrying a .45 for 8 to 12 hours a day and it is commonly stated in the M.P. Corps: "My only friend while on duty is my .45."

I also enjoyed Jeff Carter's article, "They Gun for Dough Down Under." Please send me his address. I expect to be discharged in September and this seems to be right up my alley. I would enjoy corresponding with anyone from "Down Under."

Sp4 Stephen Hochman  
U.S. Army, Europe

### A Distressing Fact

A friend of mine gave me several back issues of your magazine which I have read cover to cover and have compared with other magazines of this type. Result: check here-with for my subscription.

I particularly appreciated your Lawmakers column, and I am disappointed it is being discontinued, although temporarily.

I was not fully aware that we are slowly being deprived of the right to protect ourselves, but the articles in your magazine have certainly brought this fact to my attention, and it is a most distressing fact indeed.

Gentlemen, many thanks for a fine publication.

John C. Steinberger  
Washington, D. C.

### Guns For Defense

I have been a subscriber to GUNS for over a year, and I want you to know I am really pleased with it. Tom Newburgh's recent article, "A Gun Could Save Your Life," was great and should be read by the anti-gun people.

If more people in business would own guns and know how to use them, our crime rate would go down.

I enjoy owning guns, for protection and pleasure. My hobby is handloading and making sporters of military guns.

Miles D. Sands  
Broomfield, Colorado

### Call To Arms

Keep up your fight against anti-gun legislation! Let's not let some do-gooder or slick tongue talking boob take away our right to keep arms. We still have the right to vote for those who will stand up for our rights. We always look back at what our forefathers did for us. Now what will we do to keep it? Will those who come after us say that we lost it for them?

A. Fanuko  
Chicago, Ill.

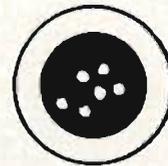


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# GUN RACK



## Lin-Speed Mark 2

When we tackled the first stock refinishing job a good many years ago, an experienced friend insisted that we use the Lin-Speed oil that can be found in any gunshop. Since then, a number of rifle and shotgun stocks have been done over again with Lin-Speed, and we have used it extensively on various field guns. The old Lin-Speed sometimes, especially under humid weather conditions, took a long time to seep into the wood.

Lin-Speed Mark 2 is the latest development. Unlike its predecessor, it comes in a small jar and the ease of application and degree of absorption is vastly improved. With little or no hand rubbing, the finish achieved with the Mark 2 is in the best oil finish tradition, yet much less work is involved. The Mark 2 has also been improved in keeping-power; the opened jar was left on our bench for two days without affecting

the oil or its spreading ability. Best of all, the new jar cannot tip over, there is no dried oil around the top of the screw top, and Mark 2 sells at your gunshop for \$1.50.

## Fitz Grips

Few serious handgunners are ever satisfied with factory grips, and the search for a better hold on the gun, with the hope of boosting scores, seems to go on and on. Our Colt .45 ACP is a gun that has had a number of grip alterations, but we finally found one grip that does help us a good deal. The Fitz Accu-Riser grips are installed in a jiffy and, being completely adjustable, have helped our .45 Rapid Fire shooting considerably. We won't mention scores because they are not overly impressive, but the fact remains that with the Fitz grips our groups looked lots better. Accu-Riser grips are available for a number of guns from Fitz, Box 49702, Los Angeles 49, Cal., or from your dealer.

## How "Deadly" Is Gunpowder?

Recent inquiries have sent us digging through a considerable library of data on the dangers, real or imagined, in the handling and storage of powders for handloading. Relax! You're not nestling a nuclear bomb in your basement. That jug of gasoline your wife keeps for cleaning purposes, or that you keep to fuel your power mower, is far more dangerous.

Propellant powders do not detonate; they burn, producing vast volumes of gases which, as they expand, push the bullet out of its confining chamber. Powders ignite very readily, so you should not smoke while handling powder, nor should you open cans with metal instruments which might strike sparks. There would be no detonation, but the swift ignition could cause painful burns.

Black powder ignites more readily and burns more rapidly than smokeless, and is to that extent more dangerous. However, black powder is not much used by the average handloader; and even here, the long history of black powder usage proves that accidents with it are extremely rare and caused only by gross carelessness.

Smokeless (single base, double base, and coated) powders are not sensitive to shock, are slower to ignite than black powder, do not detonate. A recognized authority states unequivocally that "It is inconceivable that, in case of fire, the explosion of a few pounds of powder and especially smokeless powder, will develop any destructive force." Another authority states, after extensive research, that "when ignition occurs, the regulation 150-pound storage container of smokeless powder only splits at the seam and vents the hot flame of the burning powder."

One observer, in 1937, did warn that nitroglycerine powders might, through serious deterioration or bad manufacturing procedures, begin after long storage to "sweat out" tiny beads of pure nitroglycerine which could, if the canister were shaken, cause ignition by friction. Here again, however, the result would be flame, not detonation; violent flame, to be sure, dangerous, but with pressure enough only to rupture the canister and vent the flame. And we are assured by other experts that this "sweating out" does not occur with powders of current manufacture.

Stored small arms ammunition is not dangerous, either. In a fire, cartridges and shotgun shells explode individually, bursting their cases. Bullets, lacking the confinement of the gun chamber, are not propelled dangerously; bits of brass from torn cases may fly a few feet but not with sufficient force to penetrate an ordinary cardboard box.

So stop worrying! In even the best-kept house, you live daily with a dozen dangers far greater than the ammunition and loading components that reside in your gunroom.

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.30 Cal. Luger—50 rds. \$3.00  
.25/20 Cal.—50 rds. \$3.50

## New .38 Ammo

Federal Cartridge Corporation has supplied us with some of their new .38 wad-cutter ammo. We took a box of 50 to our range and ran them through a S&W Model 52. The first few shots were a little low and a couple of clicks on the sight took care of this. From then on, it was just a matter of pulling the trigger and loading the clip. Ejection was perfect, and the ammo performed to our complete satisfaction.

Since many target shooters are reloaders, we checked the brass for reloading properties. All in all, we fired 100 rounds of factory loads, and then loaded that brass five



times, checking for case length, primer pocket enlargement and so on. Editorial deadline precluded more extensive reloading, but the six firings the test lot underwent did not appear to change the brass more than any other .38 brass is changed in firing and working. One reload was done on a Star tool, the other loads were made up on a Hollywood Senior Turret tool with a set of dies that have seen much service. All reloads functioned well, and case life seems to be up to the usual standards.

Ballistically and loading-wise, the new Federal .38 wadcutters are identical to other factory loads. The 148 grain wad-cutter is lubricated and seated flush; muzzle velocity is around 770 fps, and at 50 yards it is 655 fps. Mid-range trajectory at 50 yards is 2.1 inches, and energy is 195 fp at the muzzle and 140 fp at 50 yards.

## Kodiak Model 260 Carbine

The Kodiak Model 260 Rifle was an instant success, especially since it was then the only auto-loader chambered for the small, but potent .22 rim-fire Magnum. Now Kodiak has introduced the carbine version of this gun, which differs only in barrel length and stocking from the original rifle. The barrel has been cut to 20 inches, the stock has been slimmed down, and the pistol grip removed. Retailing for \$67.50, the carbine will, we predict, be even more popular than the rifle. The carbine handles extremely well. We test-fired it from a rest and at 50 yards with gusty cross winds and a 4X scope, getting groups that averaged out to 1 1/4 inches.

The tube magazine holds 11 rounds, and the test gun performed smoothly and well. Inasmuch as powder burning in the .22 rim-fire Magnum is not complete, residual unburned powder can occasionally lead to malfunction, but a cleaning patch with some powder solvent run through the bore and the chamber will alleviate this pronto. However, in firing 3 boxes of Winchester ammo, we did not encounter a single malfunction. The cross bolt safety functioned well, but we could have wished for a smoother trigger pull. Repeated checking of the gold-plated trigger showed that the pull was slightly over 4 pounds, with considerable creep. This could be remedied, of course, quite easily.

There is no trick to stripping the gun for

cleaning; the directions are unusually complete. This little Model 260 Carbine should do very well in the field, and its weight, only 4 ounces over 6 pounds, will delight many shooters.

## Case Tumbler

Thomas Kidwell, 522 W. 74th Street, Shreveport, La., has introduced a small case tumbler, the Model 30. The bigger models are used extensively in custom loading shops and by pistol clubs, but the smaller model is ideal for the private handloader who enjoys using clean brass.

We had just finished going through some old .30-30 brass and decided to give the Model 30 a test. With the sawdust supplied and running for only two hours, the brass came out looking as if it just came off the assembly line. The machine is complete; all that is needed is a stand for it so that the sawdust can be tumbled out and into some sort of receptacle.

Because this is a direct drive shaft from the motor to the tumbler unit, it is suggested that only decapped and re-sized brass be cleaned in it. We tried some .357 Magnum loaded ammo that had been collecting dirt and dust for some time, but found that the drive shaft does have a slight tendency to damage the soft lead bullets. Since it really makes little difference when cases are cleaned in the course of loading, we altered our routine somewhat and found that the time allocated to cleaning the cases in the Kidwell tumbler could very well be used for some other loading operations or some light house-cleaning on the bench. As this is written, the price for the Model 30 is not fixed, but it should be reasonable enough for most anyone who reloads in quantity.

## Sportsman's Compass

A good compass should be a part of the on-the-person gear of every hunter who ventures outside the fenced fields, and the improved, lightweight, weatherproof Leupold Sportsman Compass is a good one. It is a precision-made instrument, weighs only two ounces, measures only 2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/2 inches, fits easily into a small pocket, or can be worn on a neck- or buttonhole-lanyard. You can sight it like a gun to take bearings, set it to correct for true north (versus magnetic north) in your area. It sells for \$9.95; not cheap, but when you need a compass at all, you need one you can trust.

You get a bonus for your money in the form of a detailed little booklet on how to use the instrument. This is important! It is amazing how few people do know the relation.

(Continued on page 65)

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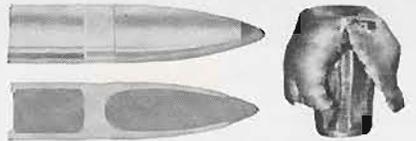
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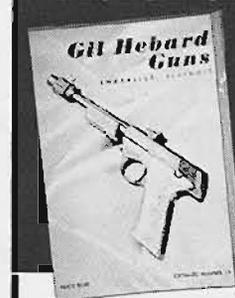
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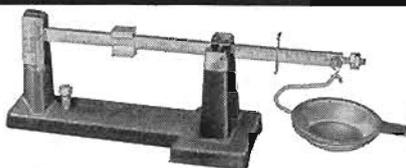


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**ANSWERS**

**To Your Questions About**

**"SHOOTING FOR DOUGH DOWN UNDER"**

By JEFF CARTER

SINCE PUBLICATION of my article, "They Gun For Dough Down Under" (GUNS, March, 1962), literally hundreds of readers have written for more details on how to make a living as professional rabbit shooters in Australia. Many wrote to me via this magazine; others wrote various Australian government agencies, in the United States and in Australia.

Letters to Australian government agencies were answered with a form pamphlet, long out of date and merely reprinted to meet the flood of letters inspired by my article. That pamphlet states that rabbits for commerce are trapped, not shot, and that "it would be difficult to imagine anyone making a reasonable living from rabbit shooting." Nevertheless, the facts are as stated in my article: scores of Australian shooters are making between \$200 and \$400 a week as professional

Anyway, here are answers to your questions, including some you didn't ask for but should have:

1. The rabbit shooting area I visited straddles the borders of three Australian states: New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia. It is bounded, roughly, by the city of Broken Hill in the south, Lake Frome and Strzelecki Creek in the west, the ghost town of Innamincka in the north, and the tiny town of Tibouchurra to the west. The total area is about 50,000 square miles. It is all red sandhill desert country. In summer, daytime temperatures go to 145° Fahrenheit in the sun, about 115 in the shade; at night it cools to about 90 degrees. In mid-winter, temperatures go down to freezing point at night, with daytime temperatures ranging from 45° to 70°.

Cold winds blow night and day for part of



A mobile chiller in Southern Australia and tents that house crew for 9 months. Weekly trailer empties the chiller, brings supplies.

rabbit shooters, and I know this is true because I have camped with these men, photographed them, discussed their business with them—things the government "experts" have not bothered to do. I am an Australian, make my living as an outdoor writer-photographer, was for five years editor of "Outdoors," Australia's biggest sports magazine, could not possibly afford to jeopardize my livelihood by writing fiction and labeling it as fact. Stories identical in fact to that which was published in GUNS were published in two of Australia's leading magazines ("Peoples" and "Outdoors"), and I have sent copies of these magazines to the editor of GUNS to prove that I said the same things to my Australian readership (who should be able to trip me up in any lies), and that I have not yet been run out of the country!

I certainly never expected that more than a few Americans would seriously consider coming down here as professional rabbit shooters. Instead, the flood of letters was simply more than I could possibly handle; letters from scores upon scores of eager shooters who wanted to come here, bringing their wives and children, to make their fortunes. Well, I retract not one single word of my article; it was all true. But many of you seemed to have failed to read what was surely clear in the story and in the pictures—that this is a rough, pioneering job in a rough, pioneer country. It is not an easy, luxurious road to riches!

In winter, there are blinding dust and sandstorms about once every six weeks. The whole area is unsuitable for all but the most rugged of women, and completely impossible for children unless they are born to it. Only outdoorsmen able to stand heat, cold, and loneliness should tackle it. (Do not be fooled by your map when you see "Lake Frome," "Lake Blanche," "Strzelecki Creek," etc. There is no water in the lakes; they are just great salt pans, dry and hard; and the creeks run for only a few days every four or five years. The annual average rainfall in the whole area is less than 5 inches, and often there are spells between rain of three or four years.)

Flies are a problem during the height of summer, which is November through February. There is not a single made road in the entire area, only wheel tracks through the sandhills and across the claypans. A four-wheel drive vehicle is essential. Drinking water has to be carted from Broken Hill, which may be 400 miles from your desert camp! Undrinkable salty hot water is available from permanently flowing artesian bores which supply cattle troughs where the animals drink.

2. I hear that shooting is beginning to replace trapping in the west of South Australia, and also in the state of West Australia, but as I haven't been to these places, I can't report on them. Enquiries could be directed to Mr. Jack McCraith, Australia's biggest

rabbit dealer, who buys 2 million pairs yearly from these areas. His address is Spencer Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

3. Anyone considering coming to Australia should write to the Australian Consulate General, 636 Fifth Avenue, New York, or 153 Kearney Street (Doe Building), San Francisco. One of the requirements for travellers to Australia is a certificate of health, and another is a clean police record (apart from minor traffic breaches and such). If you are thinking of emigrating permanently to Australia, our government will help pay your fare here, provided you sign an undertaking to stay two years. Assistance is given at the rate of approximately \$150 per adult, and a lesser amount for children. Single men or married men without children must be under 45 years of age, those married and with children must be under 50 years, if monetary assistance is required.

4. The single airfare to Australia (economy class) from San Francisco is roughly \$550; from New York it is around \$650. Children between the ages 2 and 12 years travel at half fare; those under 2 go for 10% of the adult fare. A ship leaves San Francisco once a month for Australia. Fare in a 6-bunk cabin is about \$350; in a 4-berth, it is around \$400. Children under 12 travel at 1/2 fare; those under 3 at 1/4 fare. Full information from Union SS Co. of N. Z., 230 California St., San Francisco.

5. Vehicles. Don't bring anything but a 4-wheel drive. Do not bring an American trailer; they are too big. If you have owned your vehicle for 18 months before arrival in Australia, and arrive as a permanent immigrant, not a visitor, it is admitted without any customs duty. Visitors bringing in vehicles have to sign an undertaking that they will not sell their vehicles here, and pay a guarantee of half its local value here (equal usually to the full American price), plus 71 per cent of the local Sales Tax on the vehicle. This money is refunded when you, and the vehicle, leave Australia. The local automobile club in your home state can arrange



This is a typical rabbit hunter's camp in far west New South Wales.

a "carnet" certificate for your vehicle, and pay the guarantee on your behalf, thus saving you putting your hand in your own pocket. Do not bring a left-hand drive vehicle to Australia. Conversion to right-hand drive is compulsory and costs over 1000 dollars!! All in all, unless you happen to have owned a right-hand drive Jeep for the past 18 months, it is probably cheaper and simpler to buy a vehicle when you get here.

Cost of shipping a vehicle to Australia by boat is based on its cubic measurement at the rate of about \$45 per cubic foot. A Jeep, or the popular British-made Land-Rover, costs about \$3,500 new in Australia. A small second-hand local trailer suitable for two people will cost you between \$700 and \$1000 here. You can buy this and your

vehicle at any of the three suitable cities of arrival: Sydney, Melbourne, or Adelaide. Adelaide is closest to the shooting area.

6. Rifles up to .22 caliber are admitted duty free, as personal effects. Bigger calibers, pistols, and machine guns are prohibited imports. (You can buy the big calibers after you arrive, in any gun shop, but apparently can't bring them in.) If you enter Australia by the most common point-of-entry, Sydney, NSW, no rifle or shooting license is needed. In Victoria, where Melbourne is the city-of-entry, you have to take out a rifle license, a mere formality. No private citizen carries a pistol in Australia; you absolutely cannot get a license to carry one, so leave them at home. Ammunition here for .22 rim-fires is \$2 per 100, retail; or about \$1.50 per 100 if you buy by the case.

7. Game laws affecting rabbit and kangaroo shooters in the area mentioned: None. Rabbits are classed as vermin and may be destroyed in any way at any time. Kangaroos are protected animals in the settled areas of eastern and southern Australia, but in most of "out-back" Australia, including all the rabbit areas mentioned and millions of surrounding square miles, they may be shot all the year round. No game license is needed. There is no maximum bag, or minimum size.

Kangaroo skins are worth from \$1 to \$1.50 each, selling to dealers who will visit your camp and buy them; or you can consign them by truck and rail to a city such as Sydney. If you are camped near a mobile chiller buying 'roo meat, you can sell the

(Continued on page 59)

# CENTENNIAL ARMS CORP

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Announcing the all-new series of Walther-MARS pistols, and finest sporting and target rifles, now sold only in Mid-America by Centennial Arms Corp. The pistols include Mod. P-38, the famous German army pistol in powerful 9mm caliber firing Sten Gun or Parabellum ammo. The PPKs are ideal pocket and defense pistols. In .22LR both all-steel and special alloy lightweight models are on hand. Nicely finished in full royal blue, each pistol comes in a compartment display box complete with spare clip and two cleaning tools. The PPK-38, is chambered for the hard-hitting .380 ACP cartridge, and is one of the most powerful pocket pistols available. All Walther-MARS pistols have the famous Walther double action system, world's most modern. A design pioneered by the Walther factory, it is now widely imitated, never surpassed. None can successfully imitate the traditional Walther quality, as made by Walther in the German factory at Ulm, Germany. These are not copies, but the original...

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| KKJ-PS .22 full stock   | \$149.87 |
| KKJ-D .22 match rifle   | \$88.75  |
| KKJ-M .22 match rifle   | \$135.96 |
| KKJ-H .22 match rifle   | \$198.50 |
| KKJ-Int'l .22   | \$229.50 |
| KKJ-H .22 Hornet rifle  | \$129.76 |
| KKJ-PS, same, 5-shot, full "mannlicher" stock   | \$144.92 |
| Mod. A .20-06, Mauser, D&S  | \$191.81 |
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Finest of the Enfields, light Lee-Enfield carbines caliber .303. Dust and snow cover on bolt, flush magazine 5-shot, good \$19.95; best \$39.95.

.303 ammo \$7.50/C



Uniforms of the "Guilford Grays" are exact copies of those worn by North Carolina volunteers who saw service during the Civil War. All guns used were made before year 1865.



# GUNS OF WAR SPEAK

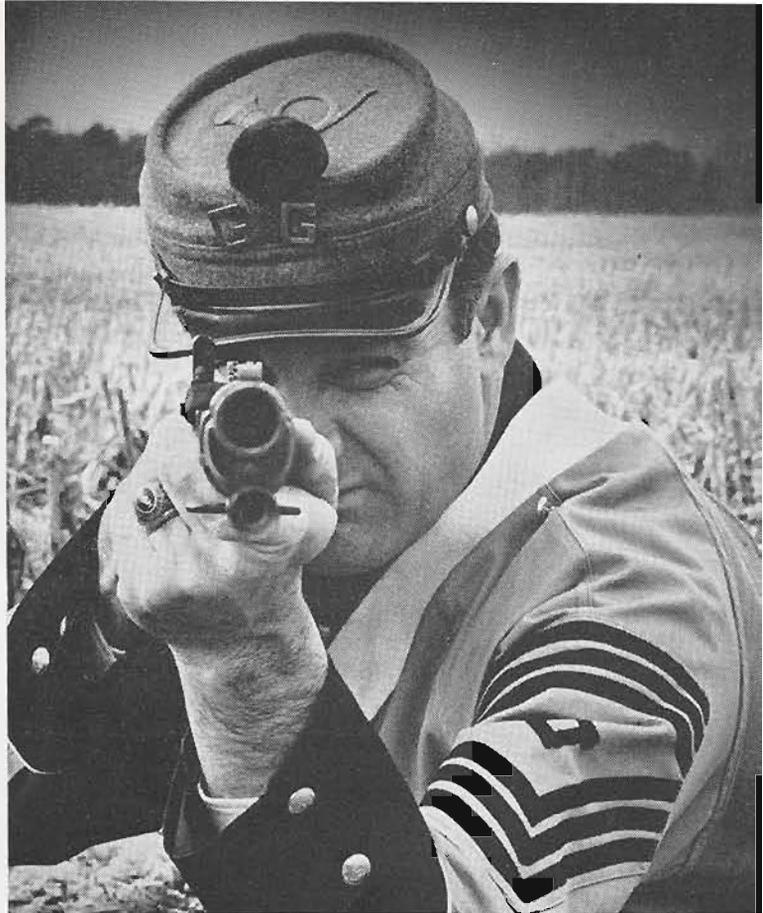


**GUNS AND UNIFORMS ARE  
THE SAME AS THOSE ARRAYED  
AGAINST EACH OTHER IN THE 1860s,  
BUT THESE MEN MEET IN FUN  
AND FRIENDLINESS**

By BRUCE ROBERTS

P. I. P. Photos

# IN PEACE



Dr. Joseph Christian, a physician in Greensboro, North Carolina, is the Commander of the "Guilford Grays," a group of Civil War buffs and muzzle loader shooters.

ALMOST ANYWHERE in America this summer you may see, marching along a village street or formed in line of battle on the village square or in some farmer's field, a company of men arrayed in Union Blue or in Confederate Gray, bearing arms that might have come fresh from battles fought and won—or lost—a century ago. These are Skirmish Companies: groups of Civil War buffs who dress and arm themselves like Civil War units to drill and march and fight mock battles with the guns (or with replicas of the guns) that blazed and thundered in "The War Between The States."

What uniforms you see depends on where you are. In Greensboro, North Carolina, the men marching behind "the Bonnie Blue Flag" carry also the company banner of Greensboro's famed and honored "Guilford Grays," and the uniforms they wear are painstakingly tailored reproductions of those worn when the Grays were organized as a volunteer company with the assistance of the State Militia in 1860. And the guns they bear are not replicas; the Grays are purists, and their guns are all muzzle loading pieces made before 1865.

Among the many Civil War battlefields on which the original Guilford Grays fought with distinction were Harper's Ferry, Sharpsburg, Antietam, Fredericksburg, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Courthouse, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg. Re-organized in 1957, the Grays have "fought," also with distinction, in four major modern North-South Skirmishes, competing against more than 70 teams. At the big Fort Meet Skirmish, the Grays ranked ninth out of 72



As shooting kit for his muzzle loader, Dr. Christian uses an old medical bag from his office. Among other war souvenirs, he prizes a medico-surgical history of the war, paintings of battle scenes.



Sergeant helps new recruit to sight in and to shoot the gun that latter will use during the North-South skirmishes. Medical bag in hand, Dr. Christian walks to range after parking car.



teams competing in the exhibitions.

The present Commander of the Guilford Grays is Dr. Joseph Christian, of Greensboro. Dr. Christian shares a spacious, well equipped clinic with his partner, Dr. W. A. Stafford. That Dr. Christian is a true Civil War buff is instantly apparent to anyone who walks into what Dr. Stafford jokingly refers to as "that Civil War museum we call a waiting room." In one corner of that waiting room stands an authentic battle-torn Confederate flag. The walls are heavily laden with portraits of Confederate generals, framed Confederate money—and Civil War guns. In a place of honor is an autographed picture of Robert E. Lee, a gift to the doctor from a grateful patient.

Under the guns are typed cards bearing such information as Dr. Christian has about each—maker, date, source, and whatever is known of its history. Under one musket is a card which might cause controversy in certain circles: "This Springfield musket was taken from a company of damyankees by a disabled Confederate soldier." It accounts, at least, for the presence of a "foreign" gun in a strictly Southern environment.

Dr. Christian's father was, he explains, a courier in the War. He doesn't say on which side; that would be stressing the obvious. Yet interspersed on the walls among the gray-clad generals are colorful prints of battle scenes, some of them of Union victories. "I try to be fair," says Dr. Christian, "and they're bright; I hate a drab waiting room." This one is guaranteed to take a patient's mind off his problems, particularly if he is a student of the Civil War, or of its weapons.

Naturally enough, Dr. Christian is also keenly interested in the medical aspects of the Civil War. Among his prized possessions are copies of "Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion," and "A Manual of Military Surgery" used by surgeons in the Confederate army.

Several other physicians are members of the Guilford Grays, among them Dr. George Hocker who is interning at Moses H. Cone Hospital. Coaching Hocker in the intricacies of loading and firing (*Continued on page 48*)



# THIS ONE PUZZLES THE EXPERTS



**WHO MADE THIS MYSTERY RIFLE  
THAT SEEMS TO COMBINE  
PATENTED FEATURES OF MANY  
WELL-KNOWN MAKERS?**

Unique markings on barrel of rifle suggest that its maker intended to conceal identity.

which show many of the characteristics and form of this rifle have appeared in various collections from time to time, but in all such instances known to the writer, these have been marked with the name or names of a dealer or dealers. This is the first example that has come to my attention that bears the mark of the obvious original maker. A long and thorough search has failed to reveal the existence of any company using the name, "New Patent Revolving Rifle."

One is led to believe that this first example of an unusual design was offered, perhaps as a trial balloon, under a fictitious name to avoid liability for possible infringement on patents of such famous makers as Webley, Lang, Wilson, Collier, Warner, Calvert, Leeds, Whittier & Daw, Parker-Field, and Moore & Woodward. Actually, the finished prod-

uct contains many of the details of patents by the foregoing craftsmen.

One of the features of this arm is the tightening of the cylinder against the end of the bore or barrel when the hammer strikes the nipple in firing. It may be recalled that a patent to cover this feature was granted to Phillip Webley under date of September 14, 1853, registered in England as No. 2127, to cover the point of the gas seal between the cylinder and barrel.

There is a possibility that the arm was made by a gunsmith or dealer for a wealthy British sportsman; in which case, the undisclosed maker used "New Patent Revolving Rifle—London" to disguise the source of manufacture, so that many of the best available features of numerous makers could be incorporated in this arm.

Revolving rifles of heavy caliber of English source and of the percussion era are extremely rare.

By **RAY RILING**

**T**HE RIFLE is marked with a die along the top surface of the octagon barrel, on either side of the three-leaf folding sight, "NEW PATENT REVOLVING RIFLE—LONDON." The caliber is .58, measured at the top of the lands. There are twenty lands in the rifling, which J. N. George refers to his great book as "hair" rifling.

All parts of the rifle are marked with a die number, "1". The cylinder has six chambers, each of them numbered. The nipples are perpendicular to the face of the cylinder, rather than horizontal or diagonal. The barrel length is 26½ inches.

A number of arms—say three or four—

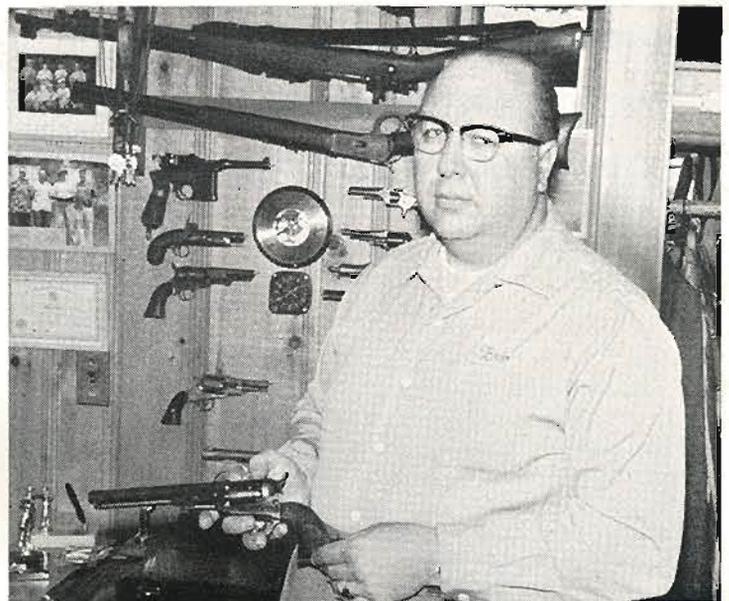
# TIPS FROM A TOP HANDGUN COMPETITOR



This rapid-fire target at 25 yds. with a .38 converted by Giles, won Ross a medal.



Bob Ross and fellow members of First Army Pistol Team admire Ross' latest addition to a crowded collection.



Though no gun collector, Bob has a few treasured guns, and is especially fond of his cap and ball Colt revolver.

By BOB TREMAINE



Bob always uses prescription ground shooting glasses and earplugs. Note the sight notes on lid of pistol box.

**W**ANT TO SAVE wallpapering or painting that spare bedroom? Do what Bob Ross, competitive pistol shooter, did. He panelled the walls of his den, and then proceeded to fill every nook and cranny of it with shooting medals and trophies, until they overflow the den, stand around in the living room, and collect in odd dresser drawers. As a matter of fact, Bob has now reached the point where he refuses to accept any and all medals or trophies. He hasn't room for them!

But, you say, how do I win all those medals? Easy enough for Ross, maybe; but I'm just a mediocre pistol shot; maybe not even mediocre. Maybe he has some suggestions?

Yes, Bob Ross does have some suggestions to offer the mediocre or less than mediocre handgunner who wants to score in competition. Out of many years of shooting, many

WHETHER YOU WANT TO WIN MATCH TROPHIES OR JUST HIT YOUR  
PLINKING TARGETS, THESE TIPS ARE WORTH TRYING



Typical of the expert .45 auto shooter, Bob stands relaxed and with gun arm slightly bent. Camera was split-second too slow to record shot. Arm is still raised from recoil, but Bob Ross is ready to fire next shot in Rapid Fire match.

years of medal winning, many years of coaching Army and civilian teams, Bob summarizes his suggestions very simply: "Practice," Bob tells you. "Practice, and then practice some more. When you think you have it down pat, practice some more. Get an experienced shooter to show you the ropes, observe his stance and position, practice in front of him, and take his advice. Don't try to ape him exactly, but listen to what he says—why he does what he does. Find out why he does it that way. His way may not be the best way for you, in the long run, but his reasons will give you a lot of short-cuts for figuring out what way is best for you. When you're sure you understand his reasons, you can tailor them to fit you. Until then, do it his way. He just could be right, you know. Some experts are!"

Bob urges beginners to start with a .22 semi-automatic, make not important, since any one you buy can shoot

better than you can hold it. Only after it has been mastered should another gun be considered. As Bob puts it, "It's better to be a terrific shot with one gun, than a lousy shot with three or four guns."

He does suggest, from broad experiences not only in shooting but as general manager and part owner of the Loven Firearms Co., New Jersey, that you buy the best gun you can afford. A good gun will last for many years, and sell (if you must sell it) at a fair price. Bob's Smith and Wesson K-38, after 15 years of competitive shooting, looks brand-new and has never let him down when every point counted. I'd give him its purchase price for it, but he'd laugh if I made the offer.

How did Ross get to be a champion shooter? His story only proves that crack shots are made, not born. About 20 years ago, he bought a Smith (Continued on page 42)

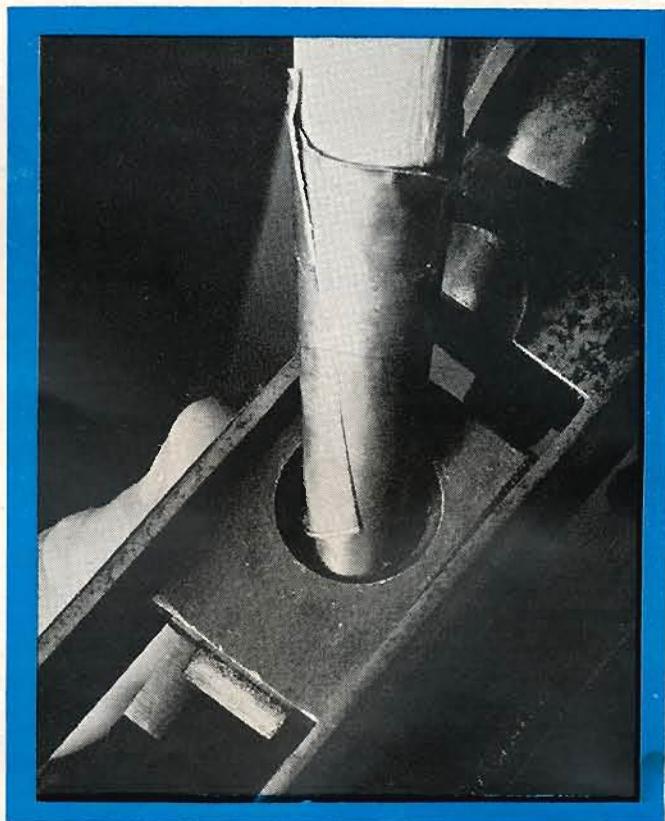
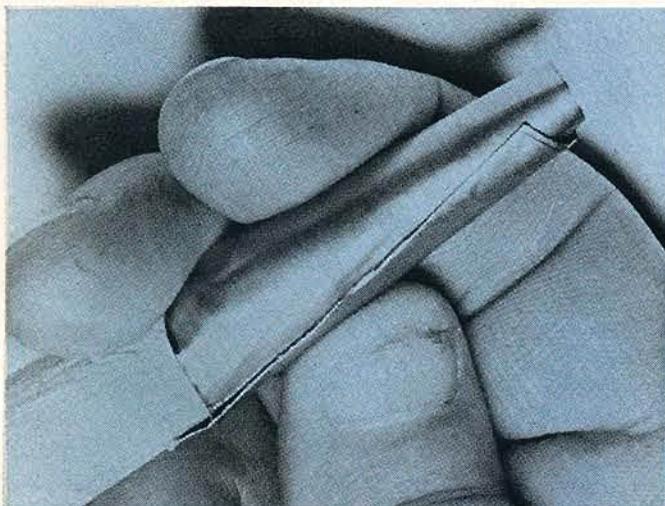
Major problem in shooting this fine Civil War Burnside carbine lies in lack of ammo which anyone can make.



# SHOOT

**HOME MADE CARTRIDGES SOLVE THE "NO AMMO" PROBLEM THAT HAS BARRED THIS CIVIL WAR CARBINE FROM THE BLACK POWDER FUN SHOOTING THAT IS NOW SO POPULAR**

By DANIEL K. STERN



A  $\frac{5}{8}$ " dowel is shaped to fit chamber, sheet copper cut to size for case blank, left top. Case is wrapped around dowel by hand, left. Above, dowel and case are placed in chamber, turned against direction of wrap, fold ear down.



# THAT BURNSIDE!

WITH INTEREST IN Civil War carbines at an all-time high, it was inevitable that many collector-shooters would begin exercising the old-timers on the range. Consequently, much has been written recently about how to load and fire such century-old weapons as the Sharps and the Smith, the Starr and the Merrill.

Guns similar to these can be used by fabricating rather simple cartridges of materials such as paper, cardboard tubing, and linen; but what of the fellow who owns a Burnside which operates with a metallic cartridge shaped like a miniature ice cream cone? He doesn't find much information available.

From the standpoint of numbers purchased by the U.S. during the Civil War—more than 55,000—the single-shot Burnside carbine was the second most popular weapon of its type. Thousands of these .54 caliber carbines exist today in gun collections, but few of their owners have shot them. The reason is—no ammo, or no usable ammo.

Exclusive of the standard .58 musket load, purchase of Burnside cartridges during the Civil War totalled nearly 22 million, far behind the repeating Spencer, but leading the third-place Sharps by 5.5 million. While cartridge collectors probably do not regard the Burnside cartridge as a

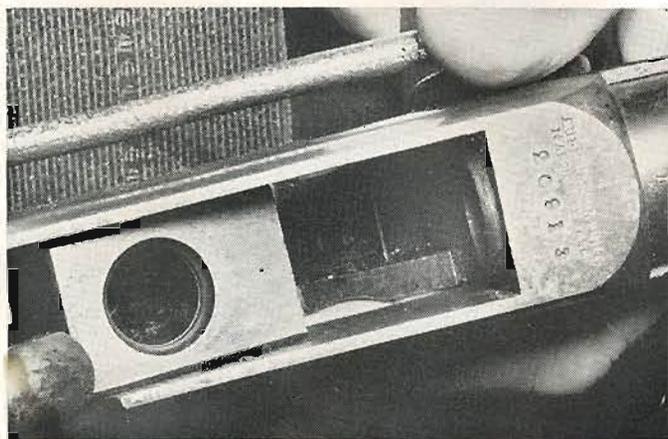
rarity, surviving black powder ammunition of this vintage is virtually worthless for shooting, even if the Burnside owner cared to pay the price.

Of course, firing *can* be done with loose powder and ball, but this is a procedure bordering on the foolhardy. First, there is a gap of .019 between the face of the block and the breech, which spews hot gas like crazy as well as substantially reducing power. Second, there is a danger, although slight in this type of weapon, of a blow-up if the bullet is not properly seated back against the powder.

Having a Burnside with a gleaming bore, I itched to shoot it. But I wanted a solution that was safe, practical, and easy; one that required no soldering and few, if any, tools.

While I know many collectors tend to look down their noses at the Burnside, the little gun has always fascinated me. Next to the Smith, it has the cleanest and most modern lines of any of the percussion single-shot breechloaders.

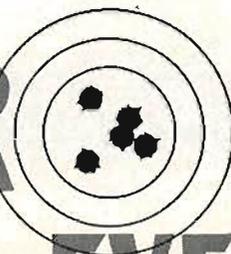
The Burnside utilizes a lever-action system, with a breech-block that drops back and down, making the chamber easily accessible for loading. A light, handy weapon—it weighs just under seven pounds with an overall length of 39 inches including a 21-inch barrel—the (Continued on page 52)



Top: Left is the tapered chamber in breech block; note grease groove. Ring on right is barrel throat. Right: Two complete rounds on top, others partially completed. With home-made ammo, Burnside can be fired once more.



# SHARPENING YOUR SHOOTING EYE



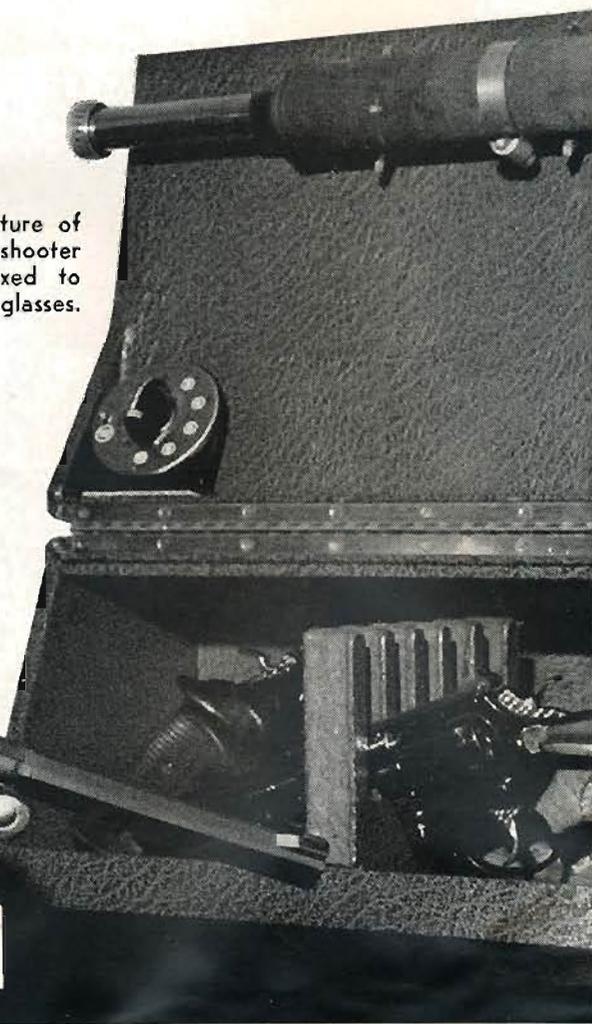
**G**OOD VISION is vital in all the shooting sports. Whether you are a dedicated target shooter or a when-I-get-around-to-it plinker or hunter, good vision will increase your pleasure, will bring home the hardware from the range, or put meat in the freezer.

There is no question that aiming is visual. But so is timing. Your eyes tell you, or guide your brain to tell you, that *this* is the moment you should squeeze the trigger, and your muscles then follow the stimulus that has been released by your eyes. Since all of us have slightly different vision, this visual-muscular operation varies from shooter to shooter.

Like your guns and other shooting paraphernalia, your eyes need care and attention. But it is up to you to put them to the best possible use, and



To sharpen sight picture of master eye, pistol shooter uses pinhole disk fixed to lens of shooting glasses.



**YOUR MISSES MAY NOT BE CAUSED BY POOR  
GUN FIT, PLAIN BAD LUCK, OR LACK OF SKILL.  
MAY BE YOU CAN BLAME YOUR EYES**

By JAMES R. GREGG, O.D.

lots of shooters don't do that. As a matter of fact, vision surveys of shooters have revealed that there are a good many shooters with defective eyesight who do not know that they have impaired vision!

Don't be fooled just because you have 20/20 eyesight. Good vision is certainly desirable for shooting, but your eyesight should also work with top efficiency. The term 20/20 means the eye can read a letter  $\frac{3}{8}$ " high when it is 20 feet away. If the letters have to be made larger to be identified, the denominator of the fraction becomes progressively larger (20/40, 20/60, and so on). The bigger the second number, the more blurred the vision.

The slightest blurriness can cut down shooting efficiency. You should



In field hunting, ground vision is essential. Special bifocals won't blur ground, but standard ones do blur.



To get maximum benefits from use of scope, see that the eye relief is adjusted properly. Shotgun sports require more and better peripheral vision than target punching. Glasses should allow for this.

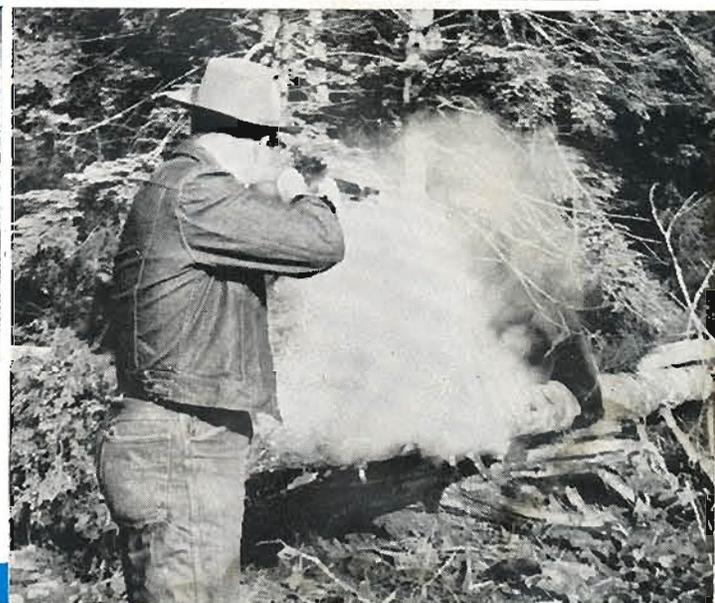
have the sharpest and fastest vision you can get—better than 20/20 if possible. But the most important factor is not how eyesight rates without glasses, but how well it can be *corrected*. Any shooter who has less than 20/20 eyesight should wear glasses for shooting. It is just as important as having the right gun and equipment. The sharper your eyesight, the more accurately you can center the sights on any target.

You can check your visual acuity by noting how sharply you can see a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " letter 20 feet away. Try each eye alone, then together. This is only a rough test and shouldn't be relied on completely. If there is even a trace of blurriness, have your eyes checked for the cause.

It takes more than sharp eyesight for good shooting. You must have fine depth perception, broad side vision, and delicate control of eye muscles. Even with a 20/20 vision, you can shoot a poorer than usual score, because eyes fatigue quickly when (*Continued on page 41*)



# IT'S



Scoped .58 caliber black powder gun and Minie ball brought down this blue grouse. The trapped bear—a tough, old, and battle-scarred animal—was caught in predator trap, could have torn loose easily and charged author. Scar on bear's nose was aiming point, camera clicked moment gun was fired.

Exit hole made by Minie ball shot into a 5" alder.



**A MODERN SCOPE SIGHT MAY LOOK STRANGE  
ON A CIVIL WAR MUZZLE LOADER, BUT THIS BIG  
VETERAN PROVED BOTH ACCURATE AND POWERFUL**

# STILL A BIG GAME RIFLE

By ALFRED J. GOERG

WHEN THE Civil War ended nearly a century ago, a westward migration started that was beyond understanding and belief. Yanks and Rebs alike headed west into the wide open spaces, both of them armed with guns that not too long ago were trained on each other. Veterans of both sides had returned home, only to find impossible living conditions, and, more often than not, homes and land devastated. The west beckoned to these men and women; there was an abundant supply of game, wealth was there for the taking, and there was always the chance for a good Indian fight.

One of the most popular rifles of the time was the Remington single shot muzzle loader in .58 caliber, Model 1863. Until the use of the Minie ball became widespread during the war, the gun had been loaded with the usual round ball. The Minie ball added greatly to the gun's accuracy.

The Minie ball, it may be recalled, is bullet-shaped with an extreme hollow cavity, and the three large grease grooves must be filled by hand before loading. After charging the gun with black powder, the Minie ball is inserted, seated with the cavity end down, and tamped securely over the powder. No wad is used, and the nipple is capped with a percussion cap. When fired, the pressure forces the thin-walled bullet into the rifling, and the consequent bullet spin improves accuracy greatly. It is a matter of record that artillery men had to back up a good many yards when the Minie ball came into use.

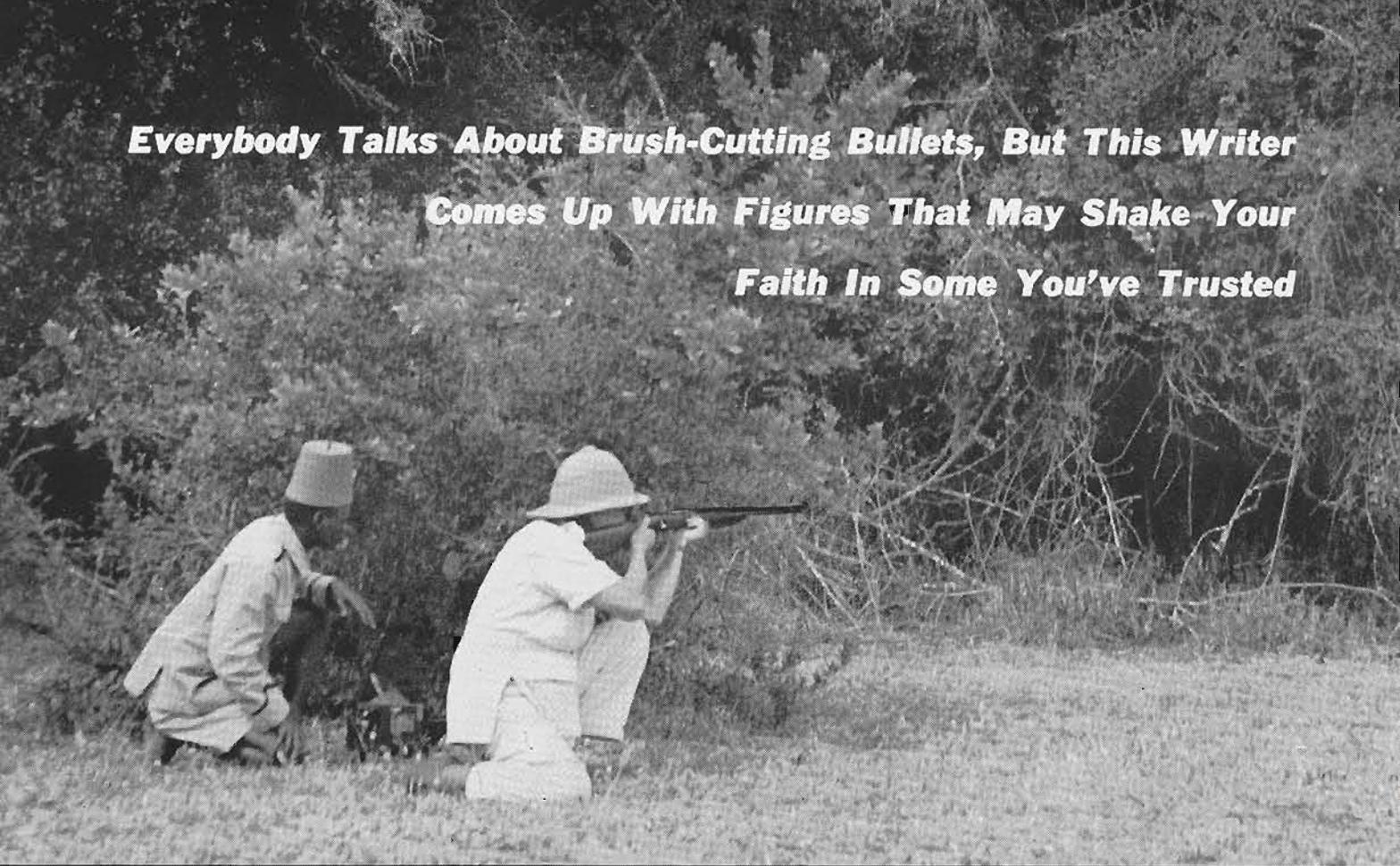
To find one of these .58 caliber muzzle loaders in excellent condition is quite difficult. Realizing the shortage of guns and the increased interest in competitive muzzle loader shooting, Navy Arms Company of Ridgefield, New Jersey, had exact replicas made in Italy. When I obtained one of these guns, I was interested in finding its potential accuracy and knock-down power on game. How capable was this charcoal burner?

The fixed iron sights left a lot to be desired. As the easiest improvement I installed a Weaver K1 shotgun scope; even without magnification the scope put everything in the same focal plane. With 65 grains of FFG black powder I was able to keep the group to the size of a dinner plate at one hundred yards. In order to do this I had to run first a damp and then a dry piece of cloth through the bore after three shots. If this was not done, I would get perfect keyholing at fifty yards. If I cleaned the bore after each shot, I was able to reduce the 100 yard group to six inches. The black powder rapidly fouls the very shallow (Continued on page 40)



Civil War .58 caliber replica black powder rifle was equipped with a Weaver K1 scope.

**Everybody Talks About Brush-Cutting Bullets, But This Writer  
Comes Up With Figures That May Shake Your  
Faith In Some You've Trusted**



Brush deflects even the heavy, slow travelling bullet. Shot at dangerous Cape buff requires clear bullet path.

# **MORE ABOUT BRUSH-**



If target looks like one at left, don't shoot! Tests showed that all bullets, big or small, are deflected by brush and (worse) lose energy needed for clean kills. Even sturdy .44 Magnum slugs, though they grouped well (right), were not in killing area, had lost much of their initial energy. As expected, light, high velocity bullets blew up or missed the target entirely.



# BUSTERS..

By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS



In order to eliminate human error, Col. Askins fired all tests from a solid rest, under ideal conditions which are not found while hunting.

WE HAVE A pet saying, generally applied to bullets of .35 caliber or bigger, "That slug is a good brush-bucker." Such bullets are usually blunt at the front end, weigh from 200 to 500 grains, and it has been told and retold that this combination of characteristics just naturally enables a bullet to plow down acres of brush and still clobber a game animal.

The old buffalo rifles, with their mammoth calibers and slugs weighing up to 750 grains, had this kind of a reputation; and in more recent times, such calibers as the .35 Remington, the .358 Winchester, the .375 H&H, and the new monster .458 African, are said to be stopped by nothing less than a California redwood. Last spring, when Bill Ruger came forth with his .44 carbine, big claims were made for its 240 grain, blunt-nosed slug as a brush cutter. Shotgun slugs have also been credited with near-miraculous abilities for mowing down timber. These stories have been told so often that they are accepted without question. But who has really tested it, and where is the data?

I searched long and hard for proof about brush-cutting bullets, and all I found were opinions, based at best on pretty hasty and unscientific experiments. Admitting in advance that, for an experiment to be truly scientific, it must be based on uniform conditions for each object tested, and admitting that once a slug has cut down all the brush in the wood-lot it's pretty hard to set up identical conditions for the second firing, we nevertheless determined to set up some tests that would be at least open minded. We don't claim to have arrived at the absolute, incontrovertible last word on the subject, but we did come up with some conclusions that cast some doubt on the fables. Let's state the conclusions, and then try to prove them.

First, we concluded that *all* bullets are deflected when they strike timber as much as half an inch in thickness. This happens whether the bullet is large or small, heavy or light, blunt-nosed or spitzer-pointed, whether it is traveling with the speed of nuclear reaction or just ambling. As expected, the big heavy slugs are *less* deflected than the light speedsters, but they are deflected more than you think; deflected from three to seven times as much as could be accounted for by the normal variations which establish the "spread" of a group with a given load.

We found also that brush-cutting does more than just deflect a bullet, and that these other effects are, in many cases, even more damaging than deflection.

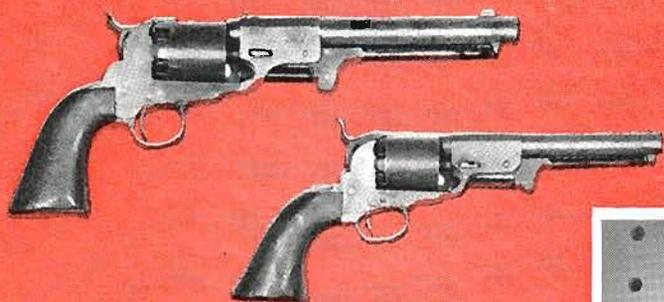
Bullets in flight lack perfect gyroscopic balance. When a bullet plows into brush in which living growth may average half-inch thickness, its imbalance becomes wobbled. Once wobbling starts, a second impact may set the slug to tumbling. Those or subsequent impacts will throw it well off its flight line. This occurs to all bullets to a greater or lesser degree, regardless of caliber or weight.

When the target is directly on the yon side of the brush, the bullet may still strike the target, not at the point of aim but reasonably close. If, on the other hand, the brush is midway of the range, say at 100 yards with the target at 150, and if the bullet must penetrate from 3 to 6 half-inch live-oak wands, it will be deflected so far as to miss a mark the size of a whitetail deer with 3 of every 4 shots fired.

Our experiments bore out the opinion that the big .35 caliber and upward slugs are better brush-cutters than the peewees, but this is not to say that even these big 200-500 grain bullets will cut through the thickets and still smack the game. Sometimes they do, and sometimes they don't! Distance is a major factor in determining the amount of deflection, and so is the initial power of the load. The .44 Magnum cartridge, for example, is a poor brush-bucker, due (Continued on page 44)

# COLTS...

## 'Made in Texas by Texans'

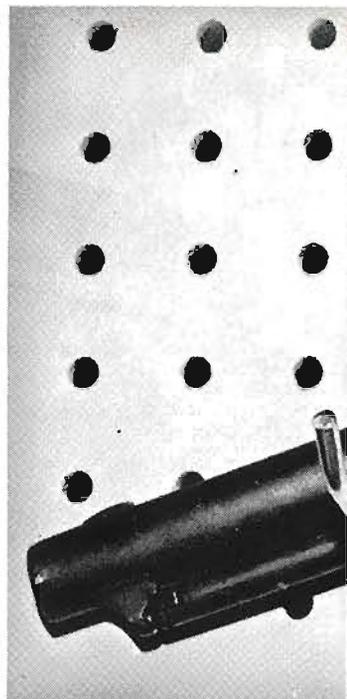


Exceedingly rare in either size are the Dance Brothers revolvers pictured above (.44 cal. at top, .36 cal. below) which were made in Columbia, Texas, 1863-1864.

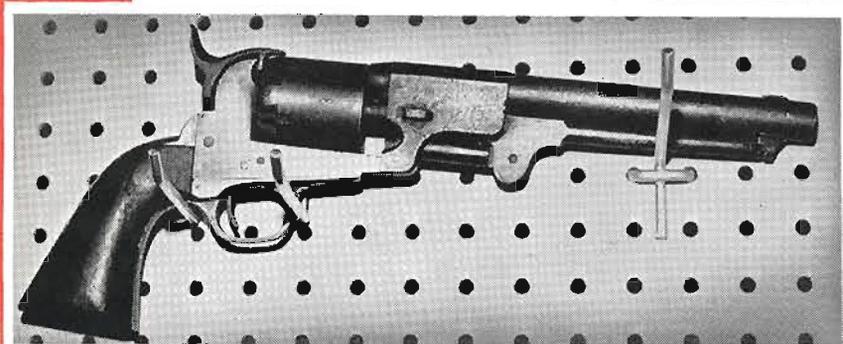
This article is excerpted from the chapter, "Texas Fights Alone," in William B. Edwards' forthcoming book, "Civil War Guns," which is being prepared for publication in September, 1962, by The Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa.



Geronimo, outlaw Apache, is said to have carried a Dance revolver.



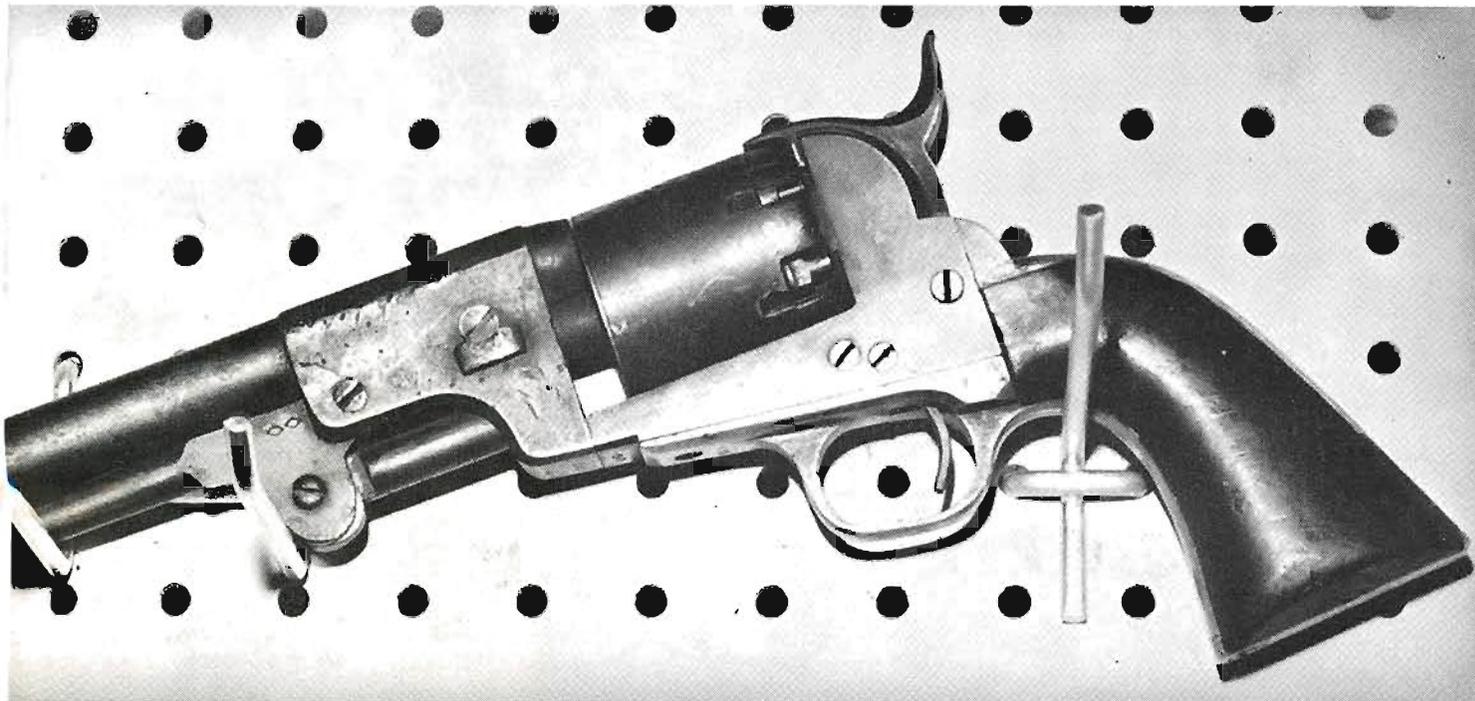
Pictures by Bob McCoy  
Courtesy Davis Collection  
Claremore, Oklahoma



By WILLIAM B. EDWARDS

SUPPLYING THE TROOPS with arms was a major problem of the Confederacy throughout the war, and after the fall of Vicksburg, supplies to Confederate forces in the west were cut off. But the western Confederacy was less weakened by this logistic failure than one might suppose. In point of arms, the western Confederacy was self-sustaining, with more capacity for making guns than has been generally recognized. A large population of skilled German farmer-craftsmen contributed arms in small quantities, but by the end of the war, one of the largest armories in the entire South had been begun at Tyler, Texas; and in Lancaster, a town which is now a suburb of Dallas, a pistol factory had been started which had a capacity of 200 revolvers monthly, patterned closely after the Colt Dragoon. At Marion, now East Columbia, revolvers were also made in quantity, by machinery, of good quality.

Distance had created the autonomy of Texas, and autonomy had created the will of Texans to



History unknown, the Dance Bros. revolver (above and left) bears Serial No. 4 and double-diamond identification marks in several places (on loader hinge, on cylinder, and three times on bottom of the frame and trigger guard).

## STORY OF CIVIL WAR ARMSMAKING IN TEXAS

### READS LIKE TODAY'S NEWS OF MILITARY GUN SHORTAGES

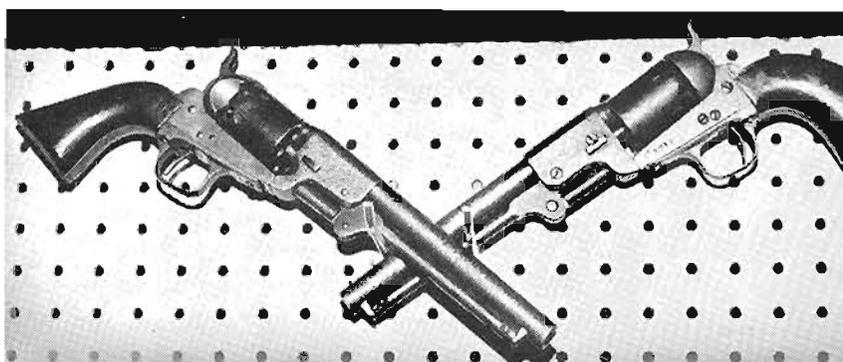


British made Le Mat .40 cal. 9 shot revolvers with extra .20 ga. shotgun barrel, were owned by many Confederates.

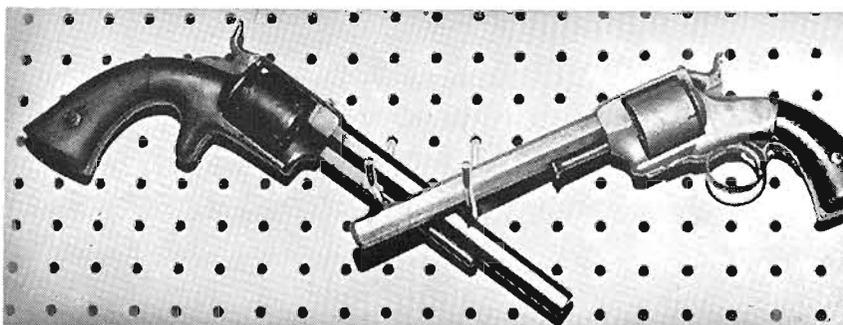
handle their own affairs. Thus the Act of January 11, 1862, created The Military Board of Texas, an ordnance committee designed to spend \$500,000 for buying and manufacturing arms. This Board included Texas Governor F. R. Lubbock, State Comptroller C. R. Johns, and State Treasurer C. H. Randolph. Embroiled in the Board's activities was, also, the Hon. John M. Crockett, Lieutenant Governor of Texas.

It is reasonable, I think, to assume that the Texas "dragoons" of the pattern generally called "Tucker & Sherrard" are the first model pistol produced at Lancaster. Collectors generally believe that the Texas authorities gave "Tucker & Sherrard" a contract for 3,000 pistols and that only about 400 were completed; but records unearthed by Vic Friedrichs and published in "The Texas Gun Collector," (Issues 51, 52, 67) somewhat alter this picture.

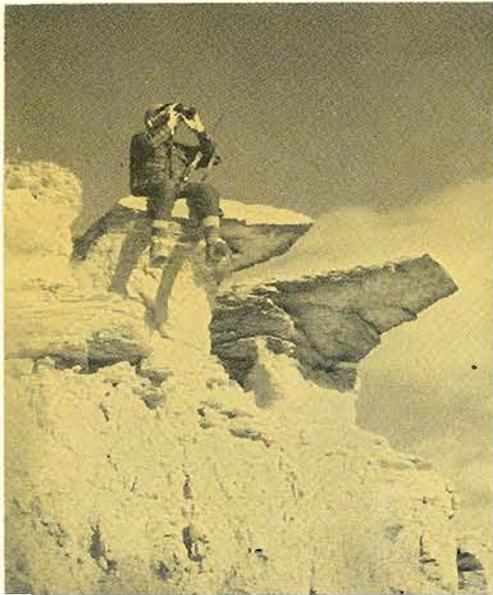
The Dallas "Herald" of Feb. 19, 1862, states that "Messrs. Sherrard, Killen, and Brunie, of Lancaster, this county, (Continued on page 46)



History of the .36 caliber Confederate "Colts" above is not known but they are much prized items in Davis's collection.



Gun on left may have been made by Bacon Mfg. Co., or a copy of Bacon work. Gun at right, a Prescott, or a Prescott copy?



Typical cliff country in Wyoming where hunt for an elusive antelope took place.

# Some Days, ‘Everything Goes **DEAD WRONG!**’

**BUT LADY LUCK USUALLY RELENTS, AS SHE DID  
THIS TIME, WHEN A MAN KEEPS TRYING**

By BERT POPOWSKI



Rich MonteVerde wearily rests beside his first pronghorn antelope, the culmination of a long-awaited hunt.

**E**AGER WAS THE WORD for Rich MonteVerde as he stared from the window of our cabin at the band of more than 20 pronghorns high on the slope some 500 airline yards distant. At the headwaters of the Powder River-Crazy Woman flowages in the southeastern fringe of the Big Horn mountains, this was an unlikely place for pronghorn antelope; we were there to hunt muleys. But there they were; and the buck that led them was a beauty.

I had filled my pronghorn ticket earlier, in more typical habitat, so I wasn't interested. Guide Ed Rickman didn't care what we hunted; but Rich had come all the way from California for his first taste of Wyoming big game hunting, and a good pronghorn was one of his most hoped-for trophies. So we decided to let the deer wait while Rich had his crack at the buck he had sighted. When we started out next morning, Rich was so excited he forgot his gloves and had to borrow a spare pair Ed had with him. They were green gloves, and Ed warned him, "Don't you lose 'em! They're my lucky gloves."

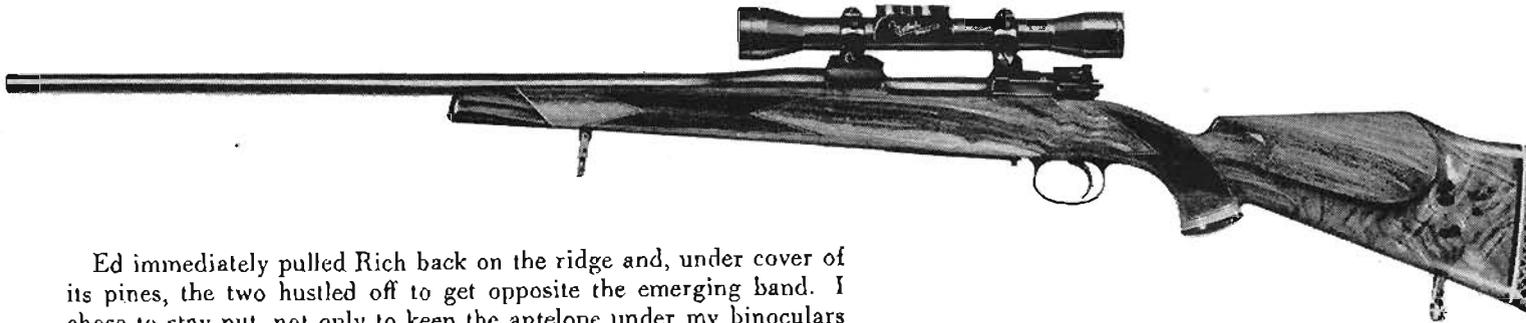
Rich didn't even answer. He was busily stuffing .308 cartridges into his Remington semi-auto, fitted with a Bausch & Lomb 4X scope, and his mind was fixed on loftier matters than any mere pair of gloves, lucky or not. He was on Cloud Nine in anticipation.

Our first careful scanning of the next valley showed nothing but a lone horse. Not until we'd been glassing for some five minutes did we locate a single antelope coming out of a small draw. Then, in quick order, the rest of the herd emerged. Last in line came the buck, looking as proud and arrogant as pronghorn bucks always do.



Bert Popowski had downed his annual Wyoming pronghorn antelope buck the week before the mountain hunt in classic plainsland habitat.

Good choice for antelope plains rifle is a Weatherby Magnum equipped with scope and a sling for long shots so often offered here.



Ed immediately pulled Rich back on the ridge and, under cover of its pines, the two hustled off to get opposite the emerging band. I chose to stay put, not only to keep the antelope under my binoculars but also to track them if they cut up the long slope toward me.

I'd been on lookout for perhaps 15 minutes, with the antelope steadily feeding up the slope of the ridge where, somewhere, Ed and Rich were closing in to shorten the range as much as possible. Judging by a point of pines that seemed opposite the herd, I guessed it would still be a 300-yard shot. That is quite a lengthy poke, and I remembered that Rich had mentioned that his rifle was sighted in for 100 yards. I wondered if he knew the ballistics of his load well enough to raise his hold for an accurate hit at 300—and then compensate for the downslope angle the shot would require. On such downhill shots, bullet strike is often tough to gauge, and if the first shot is a miss, correction has to be purely guesstimation.

I was still meditating these matters when Rich's rifle cracked once, paused, and then started that steady hammering that means a miss. The antelope streamed into a draw, ran in its cover for some 200 yards, and then emerged on the opposite side. From then on they ran in little spurts, 50 to 100 yards at a time, until they'd covered fully 600 yards. Then they got over their fright and merely drifted.

Fifteen minutes later, Ed and Rich rejoined me. Rich was still eager, but chastened. "I must've overshot him," he told me. "And, after the first shot, I don't know where my shots were going."

Ed, all business, suggested that Rich and I circle ahead while he cut in back of the band and tried to drive them to us. "Get up to about that big cedar yonder, and I think you'll get another crack at them."

Sure enough, when we reached the spot (Continued on page 48)



Rich MonteVerde, guide Ed Rickman, right, with pronghorn antelope that finally was collected.



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- 7.35 Italian In Clips (M.C.).....\$5.00
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(Those few with asterisk (\*) above are partially shottable but fully componentable.)

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CAL. .303



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UNBELIEVABLE BUT TRUE! The rarest gem of the Emerald Isle. Genuine, original Pattern 14T SNIPER RIFLES in the very last IMPROVED model! Only a few made, and only a few available in spite of the ENTIRE lot. A breath-taking "one of a thousand" offering and only one to a customer—to prevent an avaricious one from making a fortune on the entire lot—Ye Old Hunter is all heart. Equipped with 3 power sniper scopes (pointed post reticle and graduated elevation adjustment) and complete with leather dust caps. Also special protective scope carrying case. Quick detachable claw type mounts—found only on the most exclusive, expensive, European sporters. In very good condition and worth at least DOUBLE!

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CAL. .30-06



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CAL. .303



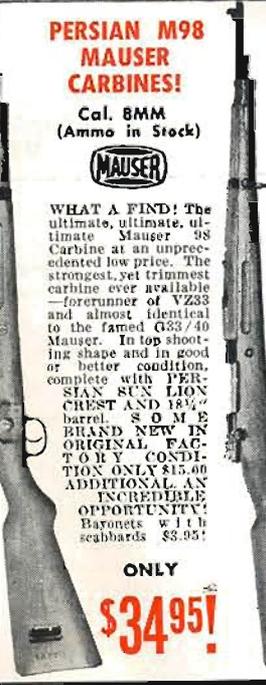
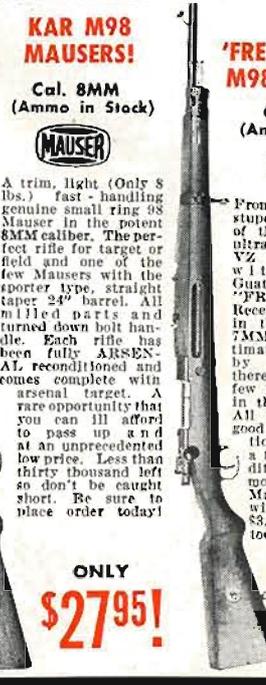
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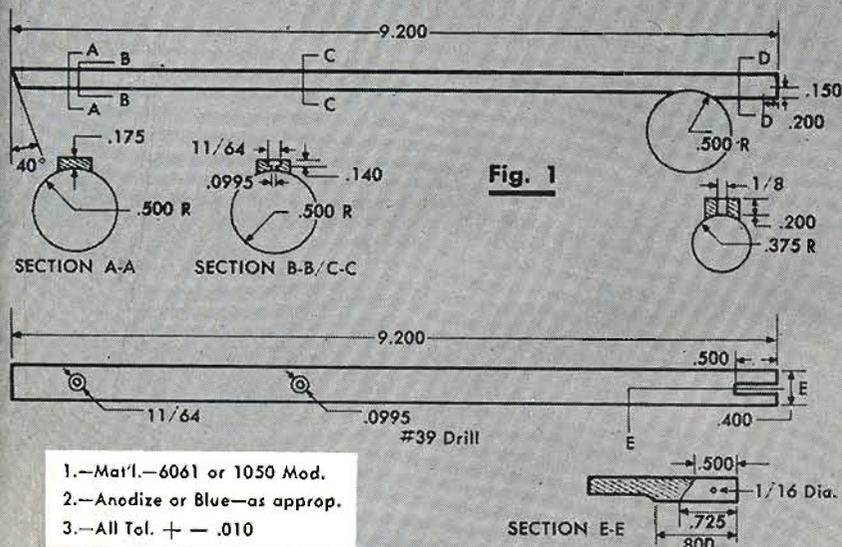


# A RAMP FOR YOUR RUGER...

Top and side view (above) show how the Ruger Mark I looks with the new ramp. Making, mounting it is easy, and ramp cuts sight recovery time.

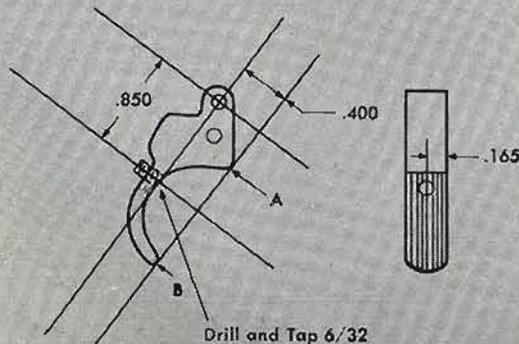
By Lt. CARL J. DAVIS

## HERE'S HOW YOU DO IT



**Fig. 2**

- 1.—All Tol.  $\pm$  .010
- 2.—Drill w/#29
- 3.—Locate stop from line intersecting AB



**B**ILL RUGER'S fine little target pistol, the Mark I, has been praised far and wide, not only for its dollar value but for its design, quality, and fine accuracy. In 1953, James Clark won the National Championship for .22 caliber with a Ruger Mark I, with muzzle brake, in as-is factory condition. But few target pistolmen are long content with "factory condition," even in guns that cost much more than the Ruger. They like to add their own touches, to "gild the lily;" and custom pistolsmiths have made many alterations on many Rugers to suit the requirements of many shooters.

Customizing a target pistol usually means adding custom grips, may include refitting and honing the action, replacing the standard barrel, adding a trigger-stop, replacing or altering the trigger, and tuning the trigger-pull to the exact requirements of the owner. A complete re-work can be quite costly.

But several of these "custom" changes can be made on the Mark I by the shooter himself if he has some mechanical ability. The standard aluminum trigger, for example, can be replaced with a Clark steel trigger in a matter of minutes and at a cost of \$5.00 or less. The Clark trigger can be purchased with or without a trigger stop. This trigger eliminates side play, reduces the amount of wear that occurs with the aluminum trigger under constant usage. (Continued on page 54)



# Pull!

BY DICK MILLER

**P**ULL'S Florida bureau was not able to supply complete results on the biggest Florida state trapshoot on record, but our eagle-eyed operative sent a flash on the wind-up that redeems the lack of over-all coverage.

Sonny Hughes of Miami was the Florida over-all winner. Bill Brauer II, from Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, won open high-over-all, plus the out-of-state doubles title and the Bart Geiger trophy. Hughes put a big leg up on the high-over-all honors with his state singles championship on Saturday before the Sunday wind-up, and helped his cause with a runner-up spot in Saturday's doubles.

Angelo Spicola, the Tampa hardware distributor, picked up the hardware in the Champion of Champions special event. The shooting Flocks, Carl and Punkin, accounted for two trophies in Sunday's wind-up. Punkin was high-over-all in the week's feminine events, and Carl took the state doubles trophy.

Milton Ostrander, from Cleveland, took the first Lewis class doubles award, and the second Lewis Class fell to Joe Bradham from near-by St. Petersburg.

Sarasota's Bill Sweet topped the Florida entries in the handicap division, and Lt. Gordon Horner from Ft. Benning, Ga., moved across the line to capture the out-of-state handicap objective. Bill Sweet added the state veteran title to his handicap win for a good week's effort.

The #1 state team is the quintet of Carl and Punkin Flock, Katie Mills, Vic Fite, and Cecil Crouch. The #2 team was the Cigar City aggregation of Tom Spicola, Dr. Don Foxworthy, Marvin Essrig, Wayne Richards, and P. M. Gonzalez.

Earlier in the week-long shoot (Friday) Ted Bachhuber, the Mayville Wisconsin reloading magnate, had himself a big day. He won the morning race in Class A 16 yard, and graduated to Class AA for the afternoon program, where he promptly bettered his morning score of 97 with a 98, thereby winning the Class AA trophy.

Our Florida operative forwarded one clipping from a Tampa newspaper, without a story, but we infer that the story lies in the five young fellows who were pictured as class winners. The five youngsters were Homer Clark Sr., Alton, Ill., Robert Boyd, Lemans, Iowa, Jump Houchin, Indiana, George Cady, Leavittsburg, Ohio, and Willard Gause from St. Petersburg. These boys can shoot with the best (and were the best in their classes on one day of the Florida event).

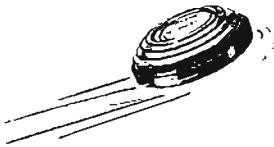
o o o

Now, in Mid-Summer, Pull turns from chronickling the doings of the great and near-great in trapshooting to the interests of other GUNS readers. If you have been reading about and hearing about the rapid

growth of both the clay target sports of trap and skeet, and want to add these great games to your shooting interests, these words that follow are for you. If the idea of smashing clay targets appeals to you, but you are not sure which of the games holds the greatest promise of fun and recreation, here are some yardsticks, and a few hints in the way of an introduction.

Let's say that you are a shotgunner, and that the flying target, other than clay variety, is no stranger to you. Most of your hunting is for waterfowl, pheasant, and other game requiring long-range shooting, done principally with full-choke guns. Chances are, but not necessarily, the trap game will come easier for you. Trap is a relatively long-range clay target game, in which most of the shots are taken at distances of thirty-five yards or more.

There are three divisions of the game, called 16-yard, handicap, and doubles. If you are shooting trap for the first time, you



should begin with the 16-yard event, and shoot it until you can hit a fair number of targets before you move on to the other events. Generally speaking, you might find handicap and doubles discouraging until you have mastered the 16-yard line. In this game, every shooter stands at a point 16-yards from the front of the traphouse, and shoots at targets which have moved about 20 yards by the time the shooter sees the target and gets off his shot.

In a regulation trap "round," each shooter fires five shots from each of five posts. In club or novelty shoots, the shooter may shoot only one or two from each post.

If you find yourself in a trap squad and are not sure just what is expected of you, it will help to remember these customs. The shooter on post one, who shoots first, makes sure that each of his squad-mates has taken his position and is ready to shoot before taking his first shot. He will often inquire, "is the squad ready?" before shooting. After each shooter has completed the required number of shots from the first post at which he is stationed, each moves to the next post to his right, with the gunner on post five moving *behind* the squad over to post one. The shooter on post one waits until the shooter on post five has moved to post one and is ready to shoot, before taking his first shot from the new post.

No shooter leaves his post before every shooter on the squad has finished shooting at

his last post, including the shooter who started on post one. The post one shooter holds his position until the other four shooters have finished, when he fires his last shot from post five.

There are many styles of shooting, of course, and the acid test is whether or not they will break targets. But a few general hints might help your beginning scores.

First, if the targets are generally low, hold about one or two feet above the traphouse. If they are high, raise your hold to three feet or more.

When shooting posts one and two, hold to the left of the house, and you will be set for the left angle. From posts 4 and 5, hold to the right of the house, and you won't be behind the extreme right angles.

These tips should make your beginning trapshooting more enjoyable.

Now, if most of your hunting is short-range you may find the game of skeet more to your liking. Most skeet shots are taken inside of 25 yards, and many of them much closer than 25 yards. You will shoot two single shots from each of eight posts, then shoot doubles from four posts. The first shot you miss is repeated, and called an optional, to round out a regulation round of 25 shots.

If you will point your gun at the center of the field for posts two through six, then swing your body so that you are picking up the target about 10 feet from where it emerges from the traphouse, and keep swinging when you pull the trigger, you should break a satisfactory number of targets.

From post one, shoot the bottom edge off the target going away from you, and the nose off the target coming toward you. From post seven, you should shoot the outger in the tail, and the in-comer on the nose.

Please don't be scared by post eight. Most beginners are, but this shot is the easiest on the field, if you will just snap the gun up and meet the target.

And don't rush the doubles. You have plenty of time to shoot them, despite your opinion to the contrary, if you are a skeet beginner. Take your time, and make both shots count.

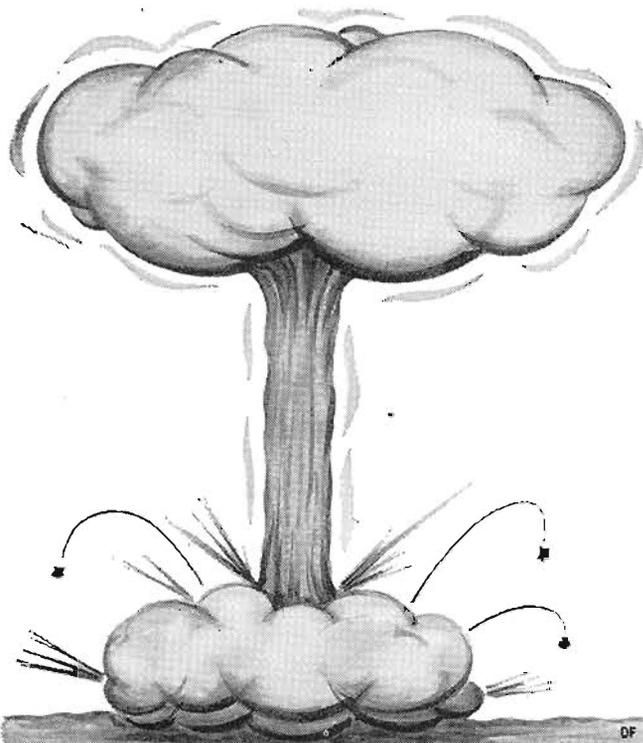
One of the best teaching gimmicks in skeet is to tell the shooter that the gun is a paint brush, and that it (the gun) should be used to paint the target from the sky. The trick is to follow through, as in golf. If you stop your swing, or try to aim at a skeet target, the result is usually one lost bird.

The regulatory body for trap is the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA), with headquarters in Vandalia, Ohio. The ATA sanctions all registered shoots, i.e.; tournaments conducted under ATA rules, and scores are reported to the national association. The national trap tournament is held annually during August at Vandalia, Ohio, and is the oldest and largest individual sports tournament in the nation.

Governing body of skeet is the National Skeet Shooting Association, with headquarters in Dallas, Texas. The national skeet championship location varies from year to year, and will be held in Montreal, Quebec, in 1962, for the first time out of the United States.

We hope that you find all the fun in the clay target games that is had by those who now have the "bug." And, if you haven't tried either of the games, why not do so? The way shooting goes, you may be the next national champion!





## LAST WORD in HANDGUN CARTRIDGES

By A. D. BRIXEY, Jr.

**T**O BROADEN the choice of modern, high velocity revolver cartridges for the inveterate long range varmint hunter, I am hereby submitting—for serious consideration by shooters everywhere—my new .228 Atomic Rocket Magnum (Improved). The “improved” version of the earlier .228 Atomic Rocket Magnum (known commonly as simply the .228 ARM) was arrived at by sharpening the shoulder angle of the old .228 ARM case by  $\frac{1}{4}$  degree. The .228 Atomic Rocket Magnum (Improved) also uses the .338 Winchester Magnum case necked down to .228 caliber. The 48 grain full metal cased bullet is pushed along by 70.5 grains of 4064.

The original .228 ARM had a chronographed muzzle velocity of 4,640 fps. In the .228 ARM (Imp.), I increased this to 4,645 fps from the same length (11  $\frac{3}{32}$ ”) barrel, and with an increase of only 5,000 psi pressure. This increase of 5 fps makes the .228 ARM (Imp.) a healthy 535 fps faster at the muzzle than the .220 Swift from a 26 inch rifle barrel. Pressures developed in the .228 ARM (Imp.)



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NOT FOR LOADING!**

are about 67,751 psi as compared to 62,751 psi from the earlier version.

Because of these high pressures, my revolver is a modified heavy frame S. & W. .44 Magnum. Most noticeable changes are the limited capacity 4 shot cylinder and its increased length to accommodate the .338 Winchester Magnum case. The barrel is almost one inch in diameter, and loaded with 4 rounds, the gun weighs nearly 80 ounces.

I have noted with some alarm early reports that shooters had some difficulty in extracting spent cartridges and in swinging open the cylinder after firing a .22 center-fire “Jet” Magnum. It should be kept in mind that the .22 “Jet” is a mere .357 Magnum case necked down to .22 cal. Extraction of fired brass from the .228 ARM (Imp.) is really difficult! When shooting this revolver it is recommended that a sledge hammer be kept handy to facilitate extraction. The hammer should be well covered with friction tape to prevent damage to the cylinder.

As for muzzle blast, the .228 ARM (Imp.) is beyond belief. After firing eight rounds from this revolver about a month ago, I still have no hearing whatsoever in my left ear, and only 7 per cent normal in my right one. The potency of recoil is in keeping with the muzzle blast. My right arm was nearly dislocated from its socket, but after a week or so, it was healed almost completely. Inasmuch as I am all but totally deaf, I am preparing to fire several more test rounds from my .228 ARM (Imp.). To avoid possible law suits, I must wait until I can have the local pistol range all to myself.

Before discussing the killing power and field tests of this new cartridge, a few words about expected barrel life. Frankly, I would say that it is very likely to be short; I fully imagine that it would be possible to fire 25 to 35 rounds before needing a new barrel. I have noted no appreciable barrel wear or decrease in accuracy after the eight rounds I fired. I had hoped to include a photograph of the target fired at 51 yards, but the target and frame completely disintegrated during the tests.

In the field, the killing power of the .228 ARM (Imp.) is absolutely fantastic. Four shots were made in the field in Hidalgo County, south Texas, on animals of varying sizes. One shot was on a jack (*Continued on page 50*)



**STORIES FROM UNDER THE SKY**

By John Madson  
(Iowa State University Press, Ames. \$3.95)

John Madson is a shooter, but this is not a book about shooting; it is a book of stories about the people (two-legged, four-legged, scaled, and feathered), the along-the-Mississippi people John knows so intimately and must love else he could not write about them so vividly. I defy anyone who loves the outdoors not to enjoy this book or, having read it, not to enjoy the outdoors more and know it better. And if I seem to be enthusiastic, it's only because I am enthusiastic about the most pleasant reading experience I've had for a long time. Buy it!—E.B.M.

**MUSEUM OF HISTORICAL ARMS, 1961 CATALOG**

(Museum of Historical Arms, 1033 Alton Rd., Miami Beach 39, Florida. \$1.00)

Valuable for identification of firearms and edged weapons, and (since prices are printed) tantalizing to the collector, this fat little paper-back of 210 pages is well worth its modest cost to any addict. Guns pictured and described can be ordered, satisfaction guaranteed, at prices that seem, in the instances on which I could check, to be extremely reasonable.—E.B.M.

**PISTOLS: A MODERN ENCYCLOPEDIA**

By Henry M. Stebbins  
(The Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Penna. \$12.50)

Definitely one of the better books on handguns, this one shows the results of experience gained in the production of Stebbins' earlier rifle "encyclopedia." Working in collaboration with Albert J. E. Shay and Oscar R. Hammond, Stebbins had made this book considerably more than a catalog of modern handguns (mostly U.S., but some foreign) by including readable and reasonable discussions on such subjects as which gun for what purpose, methods of target and combat shooting, fanning, slip-shooting, point shooting, double-action shooting, fast draw, and holster-belt equipment. Considerable space is given also to cartridges and hand-loading, and to gunsmithing the handgun for speed, accuracy, reliability. A handsome book of 380 pages, heavily illustrated, and worth the money.—E.B.M.

**THE WINCHESTER BOOK**

By George Madis  
(Published by George Madis, Dallas, Texas, 1961. \$15.00)

Long in preparation and long expected, this book easily surpasses the advance publicity that it received. George Madis has an extensive Winchester collection and did a superb job in collecting the material. It is a large book, totaling 384 pages, and the more than 600 pictures are well taken and well printed. This work is a scholar's labor of love and a definitive work in the field. This is a Limited First Edition, and the sooner you order your copy, the better.—R.A.S.

**SAMUEL COLT PRESENTS**  
(Wadsworth Athenaeum, Hartford Conn., 1961.  
\$10, deluxe and limited edition of  
500 copies, \$25.00)

Col. Colt made history in the firearms field in more ways than one, and his competitors never did approve of the many revolvers, often specially made, that Col. Colt gave away with his compliments to those who could do the most for him and his company. This volume is a catalog of the presentation guns of Col. Colt, gathered from all parts of the world. In addition to giving the reader a wonderful picture of the man, the times, and the Colt company, it will serve as constant reference work for the Colonel's revolvers. For the gun historian or the Colt collector, a must book.—R.A.S.

**FAST AND FANCY  
REVOLVER SHOOTING** By Ed McGivern  
(Follett Publishing Co., Chicago. \$7.50)

This book is, of course, an offset reproduction of the original which was published in 1938. Copies of the early edition, if they can be found at all, bring collector's prices, and handgun buffs should be grateful to the publishers for making this handgun classic once again available.

McGivern's work should need no introduction and several of his handgun feats are still unbeaten. Like Hatcher's "Notebook," the McGivern book is a must on any library shelf and the price tag is reasonable enough for anyone's pocket book.—R.A.S.

**ANTIQUE PISTOL COLLECTING**  
By J. Frith and R. Andrews  
(Arco Publishing Co., New York. \$7.50)

This comprehensive study of antique pistols (1400 to 1860), is very interesting from several points of view. By British authors, it is, quite naturally, predominantly concerned with the work of British gunmakers. For the American collector, the book is of interest because it contains a list of early British proofmarks and dates, and because the approach our British cousins have to restoring is different from ours. To them, restoring and repairing is not only permissible but desirable, and the chapters on restoring and

repairing are well worth the price of the book. The examples of antique guns shown in the 25 superb half-tones could easily make the reader into a confirmed antique pistol collector, and the line drawings used to illustrate the text are extremely well done. This is a vital tool for the collector and the historian, and makes pleasant reading for everyone.—R.A.S.

**THE WEST OF THE  
TEXAS KID, 1881-1910**  
By Thomas Edgar Crawford  
(University of Oklahoma Press. \$2.00)

"If I were a bachelor, I might write you a more lively tale. But I have a wife and two little girls, and . . . children need protection." So writes Thomas Edgar Crawford, known as The Texas Kid et cetera; and so one believes after reading his recollections of his association with "The Wild Bunch" in Jackson Hole, with the Hole In The Wall Gang, and others. Ably edited and introduced by Jeff Dykes, Crawford's story includes no confessions, no over-dramatization, no apologies. It does include a lot of matter of fact detail about how men "on the dodge" lived when they were not robbing banks and shooting up hamlets, and in so doing it adds a valuable chapter to western history. Another contribution to Western Americana in U of O's fine "Western Frontier Library" series.—E.B.M.

**THE COMPLETE BOOK OF  
MODERN HANDGUNNING** By Jeff Cooper  
(Prentice-Hall, Inc. \$7.50)

The title promises more than this or any book can fulfill, as Cooper admits in his Preface, which begins: "This book will tell you quite a lot about pistols and revolvers." On that more modest premise (and with the proviso that not all it does tell you is true, as witness the picture at the top of page 21 which is certainly not a "Colt Officers Model Match"), the book is an interesting addition to the growing volume of gun literature; interesting if only for the purpose of detecting the rather numerous errors and quarreling with the author's opinions and conclusions. Many will do a lot of both.—E.B.M.

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## IT'S STILL A BIG GAME RIFLE

(Continued from page 27)

rifling of these guns, and once the powder residue hardens in the barrel, the ball won't accept the rifling. This of course explains the increased accuracy when the gun was cleaned after each firing.

I wanted to try the musket under hunting conditions in a wilderness area. I had heard of an area where black bear were damaging the coniferous trees by skinning them near the base to get at the sweet cambium layer of bark. Because of this habit they had been declared as predators.

In this area there is a heavy growth of salal brush. These brushes become heavily laden with berries in the fall and are the food that puts the last layer of fat on the bear before he goes into hibernation. These berries are also relished by the sooty, or blue grouse. I chose this country as an ideal spot to run my field test.

In order to gain confidence in the 500 grain Minie ball with its charge of 65 grains of black powder, I stepped off twenty paces from an alder tree that was five inches in diameter. When the blue smoke cleared, I could see a small hole, the diameter of the bullet. On the back of the tree the Minie ball tore a rougher and much larger hole and then lost itself in the underbrush. Obviously, penetration was not lacking, and the gun with this load could well take care of any encounter with a bear or similar dangerous animal.

The growth in this area was quite thick and the majority of shots were made at rela-

tively close range. Coming around a fir tree there was a crash of brush nearly at my feet. A large blue grouse had flushed and landed high in an old growth conifer. This bird provided an excellent opportunity to test the accuracy of the gun in the field; I braced myself against a stump and took aim at the neck of the bird. As soon as I fired I stepped to one side just in time to see the fluttering bird fall in a cloud of feathers at the tree's base. The neck was almost shot away—which seemed to pretty well settle the accuracy question.

Three repeated hunts for bear thereafter were sterile. I was getting somewhat discouraged in my attempt to test the .58 caliber musket on a large and potentially dangerous animal. Fortunately, an opportunity was offered that I could not afford to turn down.

To control some of the bear predations, trappers were sent into the forests to decrease the bruin population. Some of these bears put on quite an exhibition of ferocity. One trapped bear had torn down and completely chewed all alder trees within his reach. One of these alders was nearly six inches in diameter, and the destruction was impressive.

At another trap, or snare, the trapper had caught another and smaller bear that probably tipped the scale at 130 pounds alive. The carcass was then used as bait. When we arrived at this set, we found the trap sprung but no bear. The animal that had been used as bait had been dragged about ten feet from the set as the sign indicated. Then it was as if it had vanished into thin air. Not one hair could be found. There was only one conclusion. It was carried away by a bear of sufficient strength and size to lift it entirely from the ground. What a show of brute force!

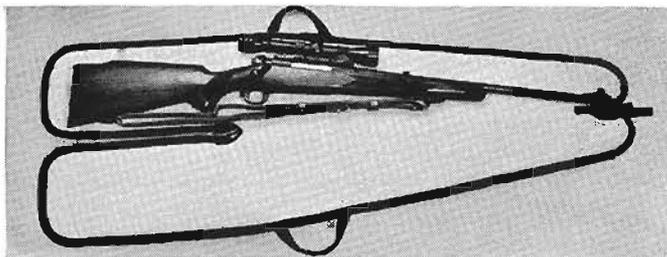
In all probability this bear would again be looking for carrion in the traps. About a mile away from this trap was another set, and this time we had a feeling that the big boy would be there waiting for us. We were right.

The set had been placed along a logging road. As we came around a bend in the road, we saw an enormous black bear standing on a log and looking at us. Parking the Jeep a hundred feet away, we climbed out slowly; I placed a percussion cap on the nipple and carefully walked forward. It was hard to predict the reaction of this big bear. One wild surge could easily break him loose from the trap and he was more apt to be aggressive than defensive.

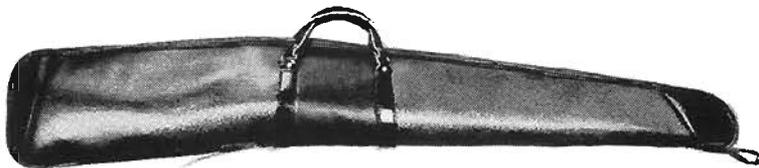
As I approached the bear to within 15 feet, he crouched and glowered at me over his battle-scarred muzzle, one leg held tightly by the trap's snare. This was no time for a bad shot and I aimed carefully between the eyes at the large scar. When the smoke cleared, the 300 pound bear was dead. Here was proof of the potency and power of the Civil War musket. Although it was limited to one shot, the men who used these guns to open the west were true riflemen who made the one shot count. Is it possible that we could learn something from these hardy old pioneer ancestors of ours?



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## SHARPENING YOUR SHOOTING EYE

(Continued from page 25)

concentrating on a distant bullseye.

Side vision is particularly important when hunting. Moving targets are located almost entirely through side vision. A shotgun is more "centered" on a target than actually aimed, and with a rifle, side vision helps somewhat to hold the target centered in the sight. Target shooting with a pistol, and to a lesser degree with a rifle, does not require complete side vision.

You can check your side vision by looking at a distant object with one eye at a time. Move a small object, a pencil tip will do, in from the side. Note how quickly you can see it in all directions. A good average is about 90 degrees to each side and 70 degrees up and down. If you have less than this, you should find out why. Your shooting glasses should, of course, never limit side vision.

Even if side vision is adequate and central vision sharp, it takes precise eye movements to center the eyes and then keep them lined up. And they must work perfectly to track a moving target. This is a matter of eye coordination. It is best to sight with both eyes open if at all possible, but this you won't achieve if your eyes don't coordinate.

Why should you aim with both eyes open? For one thing, it is far more natural; squinting one eye shut puts tension on eyelid and facial muscles. Moreover, with both eyes open you get a wide field of view and more normal perception, enhanced depth perception, and more light entering the eyes narrows the pupils, thus sharpening vision. Unfortunately, with both eyes open, the target looks double when you focus directly on the front sight, and vice versa. With some practice, it is possible to learn to ignore the extra image, making sighting more comfortable.

Not every marksman finds it equally easy to suppress the image of one eye. This partly depends on perseverance and practice, but also on the strength of eye dominance. One eye is usually dominant. But if there is mixed dominance, it is difficult to sight with both eyes open. Here is how you can determine your eye dominance: Punch a hole the size of a pencil in the middle of an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper. Hold the paper on the short sides, one in each hand, at arm's length. Keep both eyes open and sight a small, distant object through the hole, moving the paper to get alignment. Now bring the paper towards you until it touches your face, keeping the object centered. The hole will be in front of your dominant eye. Repeat this a number of times to be certain.

If you always sight with the same eye in the above test, then you should aim with both eyes open, provided your dominant eye is on the same side as your dominant or shooting hand. However, if your dominant eye is opposite from your shooting side, or if you have mixed eye dominance and can easily line up the hole in the paper with either eye, then you may find it difficult to suppress one image when sighting with two eyes. On the range it is desirable to sight with two eyes and in the field it is almost essential. If you can't learn this, it is better to block off one eye with a cover rather than squint it closed each time. You probably can learn to keep both eyes open. Practice it; put in a few minutes of regularly sighting

practice daily, a pencil will do for "sighting" on a distant object.

Depth perception is not a factor in target shooting. But once the object moves, judgment of speed, direction, and distance can make the difference between a hit and a miss. Accurate depth perception is dependent upon sharp vision and on eye coordination. You can estimate your depth perception like this: Take two short pencils and stand them on a table behind the edge of a book. Have someone move one a 1/2" closer when you're not looking. Can you judge the movement four out of five times? Try it with one pencil only 1/4" closer than the other. If your depth perception is poor, your eyes may need attention.

Suppose the number 987658763 is flashed on a screen. How long do you think it would take you to get it right? It can be done in 1/100 of a second. Speed of perception is another visual skill which makes one marksman better than another, especially in skeet, and hunting. This is a skill which can be learned, but it takes practice. Would it not be foolish to fire a thousand rounds of ammunition to improve your skill when the real fault lies in your eyesight?

How can you do something about these visual skills? First of all, be sure your vision is all it should be. Don't try to judge it yourself, but seek professional advice if there is any question. Your eyes can be trained to see faster and better, and you might need visual training. Exercise may be needed to make your eye muscles work



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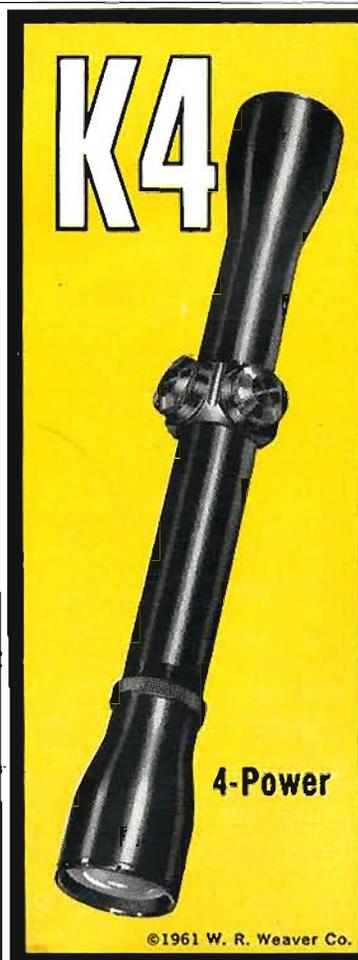
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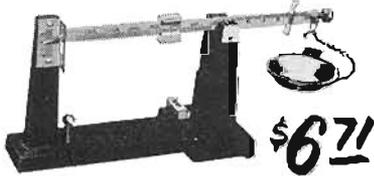
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smoother. With professional guidance, you might be able to do most of this yourself.

Should glasses be necessary, here are some important things to consider. They must give the finest possible distance vision, should minimize problems of glare, sharpen the target if possible, and at the same time not interfere with a broad field of view.

One visual problem faced by every shooter is glare and brightness. Sunglasses are an almost essential part of shooting equipment. If your eyes are particularly light-sensitive, then a moderate to dark tint should be chosen. A good quality green is usually the best all-around color; the greys and browns are generally too dark for average brightness, though just right for very high glare. However, if the lens is also used to sharpen contrast between target and background, one of the specially-designed yellows should be the choice. The yellow cuts haze, though does not reduce glare. Any necessary prescription should be ground into the sunglasses.

Reflections, even some glare, can be reduced by having the lenses coated; this coating is similar to that used on scopes and camera lenses, though lighter in density. Coating sharpens vision a little by transmitting more of the useful light. Any spectacle lenses can be coated. There are even gradient density lenses which are darker at the top and lighter at the bottom.

Ordinary eyeglass frames are generally not suitable for shooting moving targets. The lens size should be more than ample to provide a maximum field of view, and the temples (the piece that fits over the ears) should be narrow and out of the way. Frames conforming to the facial shape by curving backwards slightly at the temples are best. Obstruction of vision by lenses or frame can interfere in locating a moving target. Shooting glasses are specially designed to give plenty of seeing room.

For target shooting, lens size is less important and everyday glasses may do, provided they give sharp distance vision. But if you wear strong lenses, they may not correct your vision properly for shooting, although they are adequate for ordinary seeing. Chances are you don't sight your gun through

the center of your eyeglasses. Lenses, especially in strong powers, produce the most exact focus in one small area—the optical center. Vision through any other part of the lens may not be as perfect, depending on the lens quality. In ordinary seeing, or with weak lens prescriptions, this is not so important because the head can be moved around and the line of sight held in the lens center for sharp seeing.

When taking aim with rifle or shotgun, the hunter never looks through the center of his glasses. He tilts his head and angles his sight to look in the corner of his eyeglasses; right handers look through the upper left corner of the lenses, left-handers the upper right. The actual point is determined by each person's postural characteristics. Placing the best focus of the lens in that spot can give more accurate aiming vision and still not interfere seriously with general seeing. High quality lenses are optically correct to the very edge. On the range, the position of the line of sight in the lens depends upon type of sight used and shooting position. With a pistol, sighting with the right eye may be through the upper right part of the lens. However, check yourself to find out.

There are other problems with wearing ordinary glasses for shooting. Once the bifocal age arrives, lenses are designed for work needs. This may mean a bifocal high in the lens, or a trifocal, or a specially designed lens that would actually interfere with sighting. Perhaps you also have driving glasses and these could be used when shooting. But when your eyes are examined, be sure to point out that you are a gun enthusiast, so your eyesight can be adapted to your shooting needs.

Whatever your favorite shooting sport, sooner or later visual problems are going to bewilder and plague you. But loss of visual acuity does not mean that you have to hang up your guns. There are many different and new ways to correct natural vision, there are special lenses for special needs. When you do get your eyes checked, be sure to take into account your shooting hobby. You have special grips for your handguns, special stocks for your rifles—why not pay some attention to your eyes? 

**TIPS FROM A TOP COMPETITOR**

*(Continued from page 21)*

and Wesson K-22 as a plinking gun. He learned to shoot it fairly well. Once he got into matches, he acquired the K-38. In 1942, Bob entered the Army. After discharge, he joined the National Guard. In 1954, he was instrumental in organizing the Army Reserve program, where he is still very active with the rank of Master Sergeant. It was in the course of his Army career that he became seriously interested in competitive shooting. Today, he shoots regularly in Military and civilian matches.

Last summer, Bob Ross was selected to represent the United States in the Sixth Maccabiah Games held in Israel during August and September of 1961. Under Army orders, he fired in the International Free Pistol Match, using a Model 41 Smith & Wesson with long barrel, weights, a special set of Olympic stocks rushed to him in Israel by Steve Herret, and a 3/4 pound trigger pull set up by his old friend John Giles. "I almost won the match in spite of the fact that

all the other competitors used the Hammerli Free Pistol. I only lost first place by two points, and was ahead until the very last string when I bounced off a bad shot and wound up in third place. However, I was quite happy, since this was actually the first time that I fired in this type of competition, and slow fire never really was my strong point."

Strongly influenced by his Army service, Bob favors the .45 ACP, with which he has become a distinguished shooter. He still recalls the first match he fired with it. Although he did not place at the very bottom of the list, it left him with nothing more than a mediocre Marksman standing. Since then, it has been a constant struggle to attain handgunning mastery.

Because of ammo cost and since he feels that handloads give him greater accuracy, Ross reloads his own ammo, using an old Star press and a Schmitt tool. He fires an absolute minimum of 150 non-competitive

rounds a week, and like many other shooters, feels that he should fire at least 150 rounds a day for at least a week before major matches.

Although Bob is an excellent rifle shot, the lack of a place to shoot a rifle regularly has turned him completely to handguns. Despite the fact that he works for a gunshop, he does not own a magnum; but he is often called upon by manufacturers to test guns and give them his expert opinion.

All of Bob's guns are worked over and accurized by John E. Giles of Odessa, Florida, who has a national reputation as specialist in target guns.

Although Ross considers himself a good shot, he feels that he is still not an outstanding one, but that he is very lucky being able to combine vocation with avocation.



One corner of the den houses early trophies and other shooting souvenirs.

Being a well-known shooter can have its drawbacks. Some years ago, when body armor was being put into bullet-proof vests for G.I.s, the New York City Police Department became interested in the vests. But before they placed an order, they wanted living proof that the armor plate would really stop a bullet. The inventor of the armor plate, a Mr. Spooner, was asked to hold a wallet containing a piece of plate in front of his stomach while somebody fired several shots at it with a service revolver.

There were no volunteer shooters, so the Police Department asked Bob Ross if he would do the shooting—not in the laboratory, but in front of television cameras! Bob confesses that, even though he felt in top shape, he practiced like mad for several days, and still shudders when he thinks about it. It is a feat that he would just as soon not repeat. . . . It goes without saying that the test was successful, so far as Bob was concerned. He hit the plate, and it stopped the bullets.

Ross is the founder and first president of the Empire Gun Club of New York, a life-member of the N.R.A. and of the U.S. Revolver Association. Over the years, Bob has collected over 250 trophies, more than 700 medals, numerous watches, desk sets, wallets and other awards and citations. But he is proudest of the solid gold U.S. Army Distinguished Pistolman Award. Only 400 or 500 of these awards have been handed out since its inception over 30 years ago, and it is estimated that less than 5 percent of the competitors who try for it make the grade. It is considered the highest military handgun award in the U.S.

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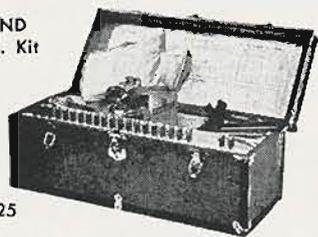
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There is, however, one more handgun goal Bob is striving for. Like all competitive shooters in the Master category, Bob says, "Possibles are fine, but I want to become a member of the 2600 Club before I hang up my guns." This elite group of about 40 men has established an almost unbelievable record. Shooting .22's, .38's and .45's in National Matches, they must score 2600 out of a possible 2700 three times in a row. Any number of shooters fire the score once, a few of them even twice, but three consecutive times is darned near impossible.

Since 1954, Bob has been shooting at the Camp Perry matches. He is a regular competitor at the National Mid-Winter Matches, the Flamingo Matches, the Regional Pistol Matches, the U.S. Army Reserve Championships, and the State Championship meets. Because of the cockeyed legal tangle and the Sullivan law, Ross—like many other shooters—refuses to enter New York matches except when under military orders.

Master Sergeant Robert Ross has a proud record of 15 years of military service, with a distinguished combat record in the Pacific Theater of Operations. He strongly favors compulsory military training for the benefit of the country as well as that of the individual, and feels that the ability to handle a gun, any kind of a gun, can determine the survival of the United States and that of the individual in case of war. To further this interest in guns, Bob spends a great deal of time coaching the First U.S. Army Reserve Pistol Team, and acts as Administrative Assistant for Marksmanship for the Second U.S. Army Corps.

How does a man get that steadiness of

arm and hand needed for competitive shooting? Ross feels that the best way to attain this is by regular physical exercise and working with weights. Another trick is to pick up the empty gun, select a point of aim on the wall, and—standing in shooting position—hold the gun as steady as you can for as long as you can. Another way is to pick up an empty milk bottle, using the top of it as imaginary sights against a selected point on the wall. Hold the bottle for 10 minutes in the morning, ten minutes in the evening. When this seems easy, add a cup of water in the bottle. Add water daily until you are able to hold the full milk bottle steady on target for ten minutes. Nobody ever gets rock steady, but keep trying—you're building muscles that will come in handy when you start trying for that membership in the 2600 Club.

As a competitive shooter, Bob has travelled all over the country and counts among his close personal friends some of the most notable names in the shooting world. As we were talking, Ross stood relaxed, holding his .45 ACP steady on a paper target on the wall. "I practice this way every day, not even pulling the trigger. It helps me to get into shape for next week's matches. Even my friend Joe Benner, probably the best-known pistol shot in the country, practices every day, this way, and by dry-firing, to perfect his trigger pull. Benner shoots every day, too, or close to it. That's one of the advantages of being in one of those military marksmanship units. They're hard to beat, those fellows. Like I said, it's practice. Get enough of it, and nobody can beat you!"



## MORE ABOUT BRUSH BUSTERS

(Continued from page 29)

to a very rapid fall-off in velocity. It is not deflected as much as many, but brush-cutting reduces its game-smacking power.

We found that the 250 grain .338 slug, for example, at 50 yards, with a live-oak brush screen of some 3 to 6 wands each measuring 1/2-inch thickness, showed an average deviation from aim of 3.3 inches. At 100 yards, with the controls as nearly the same as possible, deviation was 5.1 inches. At 300 yards, the average deflection was 13 inches. At 500 yards, the deviation was 43 inches. The target in every case was positioned 30 feet behind the brush screen.

We account for this largely by the loss of oomph in the slug. That bullet has lost a lot of its zip by the time it reaches 300 yards, and far more at 500. But the brush is just as tough and just as resistant at 500 yards as at 50.

Many bullets, notably the .243, the .244, the .250 and the .257, simply go off into the wild blue yonder when extended to 300 yards on the brush pile. From 300 to 500 yards, these bullets have slowed down so much that not more than one in ten will go to pieces on impact with the live oak wands. What does happen, however, is that the brush deflects the little slugs to such extent as to cause them to miss the target entirely.

At 50 yards and out to 125 yards, these bullets do many times go to pieces, portions of the jacket piercing the target. The Nosler is an exception to this rule, we noted.

The .30-'06, a sturdy old timer accepted by many aficionados as the final answer, is no great shakes as a brush-cutter. We tested

the 180 grain and the 220 grain bullets, and found the latter much the better. The 180 with its sharpened ogive does not shear through the thickets nearly as reliably as does the heavier, blunter 220—thus confirming the fables to some extent, but not entirely. Neither bullet was any great shakes as a brush-cutter.

Our tests at 50 yards with the brush 10 yards in front of the target, showed an average deviation from point of aim, for the 180 grain, of 4.7 inches. At 100 yards, this had spread to 7.5 inches; at 300 yards, the bullet strayed 17-19 inches from point of aim; and at 500 yards, only one out of every 3 shots would strike the silhouette of a deer. This is poor performance.

The 220 grain did better. At 50 yards, average deviation was 3.7 inches; at 100 yards, it was 6.4 inches; at 300 yards, it was 15 inches; and at 500 yards, deviation was 36 inches. This ain't so hot, either!

Without exception, every load we tested showed wobble after penetrating the brush screen. Many of these loads would commence to tumble end over end. It was obvious that when a bullet was thus upset, whether wobbling or tumbling, its velocity had been reduced and energy equally affected. The killing performance of such a slug would be lessened. The question was, how much? We could not take velocities at the longer ranges and thus arrive at energies, but we could run some penetration tests. This would give us a very fair measure of the remaining oomph in the bullet. We finally elected to fire into a sharply-

sloping hillside, completely free of rocks and shale, composed of a moist sandy loam.

Firing was done first to gain data on the penetration of our various loads without brush interference by firing into the bank and measuring the penetration. This took a lot of firing, and a lot of digging, but we eventually established a relatively accurate table of penetrations for our many cartridges. Shooting was done at 100, 300 and 500 yards.

With the exception of the .458 and .460 calibers (both elephant cartridges with full metal jacket slugs), all other calibers were tested with sporting expanding bullets.

These data completed, we then commenced to fire through our standard screen of 3 to 6 live oak wands, 1/2-inch diameter, placed 30 feet before the embankment. This firing was also at 100, 300, and 500 yards. Here is the table of results:

| Caliber | Free Penetration<br>in<br>Moist Sandy Loam |        |        | Penetration Through<br>Brush Barrier<br>Moist Sandy Loam |        |        |
|---------|--|--------|--------|--|--------|--------|
|         | 100 yd                                     | 300 yd | 500 yd | 100 yd   | 300 yd | 500 yd |
| .243    | 13   | 9      | 5      | 7  | 5      | 2½     |
| .244    | 16   | 11     | 9      | 9  | 7      | 5      |
| .250    | 11   | 9      | 4½     | 6  | 5      | 3½     |
| .257    | 13   | 8      | 5      | 7½   | 5      | 4      |
| .264    | 22   | 19     | 11     | 14   | 11     | 9      |
| 7mm     | 24   | 21     | 15     | 13   | 9      | 5      |
| .30-30  | 13½  | 10½    | 8      | 10   | 7      | 3½     |
| .30-'06 | 25   | 23     | 19     | 18   | 12½    | 8½     |
| .32 Spl | 12   | 10     | 9      | 9  | 5½     | 3      |
| .338    | 37   | 36     | 23     | 30   | 23     | 14½    |
| .375    | 32   | 26     | 19     | 23   | 19     | 11     |
| .458    | 64   | 49     | 40     | 52   | 38     | 29     |
| .460    | 73   | 60     | 53     | 60   | 48     | 37     |

The data indicate that the velocity, energy, and penetration of every cartridge

tested has been materially effected by firing through the thin barrier of live-oak brush. We could not measure the velocity and energy losses, but the penetration is starkly indicative of the fall-off of speed and power. As an example, let us take a look at that old stand-by, the '06.

Firing the 220 grain bullet, we note that at 200 yards we got an average penetration (the figures here are computed on the firing of 5 shots at each range) of 23 inches in the moist sandy loam of the hillside. Just as soon as we erected our barrier of thin sticks, that penetration came out to only 12½ inches—a loss of almost 50 per cent in the necessary quality of penetration. The .338, one of our better cartridges and provided with big, heavy bullets of 250 and 300 grains weight, likewise showed a fall-off from a free penetration of 36 inches at 200 yards

to only 23 inches when forced to knife through the live oak maze. This is a loss of

33 per cent, which is very considerable.

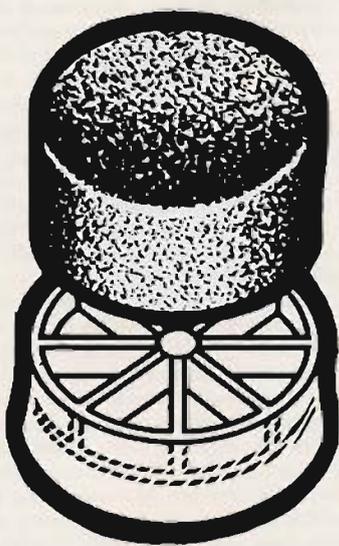
Our data for the smaller calibers is not completely accurate, since only those bullets which actually struck the hillside could be recovered and tabulated. Frequently, the .243, the .244, the .250 and .257, and once in a while the .264, would blow up. This was more common at the closer ranges, 100 and 200 yards. These bullets, of course, provided no working data and by their performance tend to water down the comparison-value of these figures, but you can be sure that very few of the blow-ups (if any) would have felled that buck!

The lessons to be gained from these firing tests are simply understood. Bullets, regardless of caliber, weight, shape, or speed, are adversely effected when driven through any shielding materials such as brush, limbs, grass, and even weeds. As we have long believed the smaller and lighter the slug, the more harm comes to it. What should be completely understood, however, is that *all* bullets are disrupted. Even the elephant numbers, the .458 and the .460, are slowed up and turned aside.

If the lessons are obvious, so too is the moral of this little saga. Don't drive your bullets through screens of limbs and bush! The oomph of your round is syphoned off to the tune of some 30 to 50 per cent, and your chances of wounding your game rather than killing it cleanly are stepped up some five or six times. It just isn't worth the gamble. Wait until your target is in the clear—and *then* bust him. This will get you more game, and it will save you the need for dreaming up a lot of alibis to account for those misses!



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(Continued from page 31)



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have formed a co-partnership for the purpose of manufacturing Colts and other revolving pistols." News of this enterprise filtered back to Austin and, on March 6th, the Military Board directed Lt. Gov. John M. Crockett to "interview immediately with gentlemen in your county who are constructing revolving pistols, and learn from them the extent of their ability to manufacture pistols—whether the Board can in any way aid them to increase their results, and whether they can build guns for the army."

Crockett reported, March 17th, from Dallas that "There is no establishment of this kind in this country, but there are about 20 gunsmiths, some of whom are first rate. . . They are willing to go into a shop at any time." Crockett then induced a few of the better gunsmiths to open a shop. With their presently available tools, they believed 30 revolvers a week was a possible output. The firm organized by Crockett was called Tucker, Sherrard & Co. On April 11, 1862, the Military Board signed a contract agreeing to "take by purchase . . . all the pistols they shall make within one year and after the first day of May next, not to exceed 3,000." The contract bound the makers to deliver 100 pistols in May, the pistols to be "subject to inspection at said shop before delivery." Note that the contract was not for 3,000 but only up to 3,000 or such lesser number as may be delivered.

The arms to be made by Tucker, Sherrard & Co. were described as "to be of the kind and quality of Colt Revolvers, but the exact

form and style (is) immaterial so that said pistols are good substantial arms of the size and after the manner of the said Colt Revolver. One-half of said pistols shall be of Colt Army size and the other half of the Navy size." The contract was signed for the firm by Laban E. Tucker, J. H. Sherrard, W. L. Killen, A. W. Tucker, Pleasant Taylor—and, last but not least, John M. Crockett.

Crockett now devoted his entire time to the project, in which it seems obvious that he had a financial interest. But some of the workmen who had been engaged did not come in, others were taken by the draft, and Crockett had to report on June 30th that "We are not ready to deliver 100 pistols." He goes on to say positively that "we have several hundred on the way and could finish 100 at very short notice and perhaps a much larger number but we desire to be advised." He explains that in making these "several hundred" guns they had used up all of the cast steel available, and he asks the Military Board if iron would do.

Actually, Tucker, Sherrard & Co. could have assembled at least some pistols by this time, but had refused to do so for fear the guns would be seized by the nearest military authority, without payment. Guns ready and awaiting delivery would be too much of a temptation to gun-hungry cavalymen!

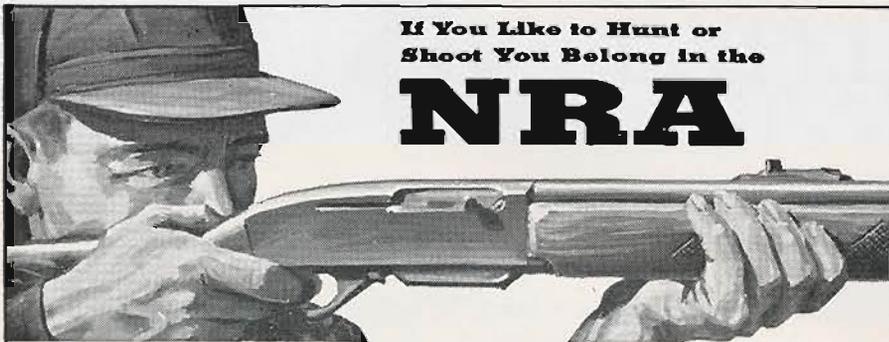
On August 18th, Crockett wrote: "We are now at work on the third hundred pistols and our expectation is to complete the four hundred during the month of September. A very large portion of our labor, ever since we began, has been best used on tools and machinery. . . We could not think that a small lot would be of any great importance. We expected from the beginning to cast the breech pieces, and consequently did not proceed to forge them so as to complete a part of the pistols." This last is a statement of great importance to collectors when it comes to identifying this company's product.

Late in September, the Military Board was advised that the Tuckers had withdrawn from the company, which would now do business as Sherrard, Taylor & Co. The Board advanced the company \$5,000 toward operational expenses, and the company signed a bond in the amount of \$10,000 to deliver 300 pistols in October.

But throughout October, Crockett burdened the mails with complaints about impressed workmen, inability to get artisans, and inability to get necessary materials.

On Nov. 20th, Crockett, now weeks behind the delivery of 300 pistols as promised under bond, wrote as follows: "The writer has devoted his whole time to the business since it began & for the last three months has remained in the shops from little after sun up till sundown every day, except Sunday. . . In that time the most has been done that it was possible to accomplish with the number of hands employed. . . It is easy to see how Colt with certain facilities could make the article for nearly one third of our price and make money. We could have completed 100 parts, perhaps 200 by this time, but we did not begin to do a tinkering business, and large operations move slow."

Crockett also furnished some astonishing information concerning the manufacture of Colt revolvers: "Colt's pistols are not pure



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cast steel and scarcely a piece of them hammered—they are either cast, or cut out. They answer a good purpose, but are not as good as ours. He cast his cylinders, barrels and breech pieces of iron converted to steel in his own foundry. We are failing to find material and are now preparing to melt our own ore & do all we can to secure material by our own resources..."

By January 28, matters had not improved. Though Crockett had planned to make 200 guns a month, apparently the first five months was spent in making machine tools which they could not buy in the market.

Crockett also complained bitterly about the low price at which the pistols had been contracted. In an attempt to jack up the ante, Crockett had Texas Senator Guinn

### Big Business

**Hunting is now a billion dollar business, according to recent estimates. Only 31 per cent of this total is spent on guns and equipment, the rest is spent on lodging, travel, etc. Women hunting today number one million, double the number in 1955. It is estimated that there are 11 to 15 million hunters in the United States and 50 per cent of them live in rural areas, the majority of the rest in towns, while big city residents account for only 3 per cent.**

**One state, South Dakota, estimates that the ring-necked pheasant alone is worth 10 million dollars annually to the state's economy. That places the ring-neck ahead of the proverbial goose that laid golden eggs, says the Remington Research Bureau, because South Dakota's fabulous pheasant hunting results from early expenditures of less than \$20,000 in introducing the bird. The state has never had a game farm, and the pheasant population, estimated at 40 to 50 million in good years, comes from a release of 4,000 in 1914-15.**

introduce a memorial on March 2nd in the Legislature, calling for an increase of the State price of the pistols to \$80.

The conclusion of the affair came in June. The legislature, in view of the failure to deliver, decided to cancel the contract upon repayment of the \$10,000 which had now been advanced. In July, the parties repaid the loan in Confederate Treasury notes with \$814.00 interest. Possible cause for Crockett's bringing the contract to this conclusion is offered by the Board's endorsement to this transaction: "The difference in the specie value of this money at the time it was advanced and at the time of its return was very considerable, but from the language of the law the Board has no alternative but to receipt the tender made, and cancel the bond."

But this cannot be written yet to the story of the Tucker-Crockett pistols. Analysis of the above testimony reveals that Crockett did not forge the frames, "expecting to have them cast." Note also his protestations of difficulty in getting materials—difficulty, we assume, in getting iron suitable for casting the frames. Crockett's firm was not the only one which faced this problem.

The sad chronicle of Mr. Crockett raises a logical surmise, based unfortunately on

nothing but the existence of another class of Texas Civil War-era revolvers; those of the three Dance brothers, James, David, and George. Produced at the Dance blacksmith shop a little west by south of Galveston near Columbia, the old state capital, these guns exist in two basic sizes, .36 and .44. The .36 is a round barreled Navy of Colt size. The .44 is not, as often surmised by those who have never handled one, a "Dragoon" pistol: it is a scaled up Navy, basically an Army-sized pistol, not Dragoon.

The distinctive feature of all Dance revolvers is the absence of the round part of the frame or standing breech. The frame has been described as "milled flat" at this point.

Another revolver resembling the .36 Dance in points of manufacture but with a complete rounded frame boss, a la Colt, is known with the Tucker marking: L. E. TUCKER & SONS etched on top of the barrel. It has No. 72 on the cylinder.

I surmise that Crockett, upon paying off the debts of the factory in inflated currency, was left with unfinished parts on hand, all parts except the frames, which he "expected to cast" but was not able to produce by this method—and that he sold the frameless sets of parts to Dance, liquidating his investment and probably making a profit. The parts were good parts, well machined, made with the excellence his full-time attention to detail warranted. The basic machines could also have been easily sold. Carrying the inference a step further, we could surmise that Crockett and the Tuckers did not get along too well after the Board contract was annulled and debts paid, and that Tucker took over what frames had been made and fitted up the L. E. Tucker revolvers. This is at least logical, whether provable or not.

In East Columbia, Dance commenced making frames for the pistols. Without forging dies to stamp a lump of iron with the round frame, the Dances did the next best thing—they cut the frames from plates of rolled iron. If the Dance revolvers were made "from whole cloth," with the tools advancing from step to step, no benefit would be gained by making the frames flat. But with a pile of parts finished and ready for frames, there was a very considerable financial advantage in making the frames as quickly and as cheaply as possible. What I am suggesting is that the frames were not "milled flat;" they were made from raw material that was of that thickness to begin with!

Geronimo, the great rebel Apache, has been pictured with a Dance revolver which he is said to have owned and claimed as his "favorite." Whether he owned the gun or whether it was handed to him to hold for photogenic reasons, this connection has lent the Dance gun considerable publicity and perhaps greater collector interest ("by association") than it deserves. Those flat frames, however they may have come into being, are dangerous. Lacking the Colt-style breech to deflect them, gases and bits of metal blow back straight toward the eyes of the shooter, even when only one chamber fires. The danger multiplies if more than one chamber fires, and there is nothing to guarantee against (in fact, little to hinder) this malfunction.

If the Dance was Geronimo's favorite, let Geronimo have it, so far as shooting is concerned. Maybe his medicine was strong enough to prevent "backfires!"

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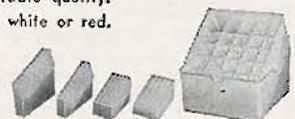
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## WAR GUNS SPEAK IN PEACE

(Continued from page 18)

an original Civil War musket (which all members are required to use), Joe Christian is trying to turn this native Pennsylvanian into a "rebel" sympathizer. "The Confederacy needs you, sub," Christian said laughingly when he first recruited him.

Joe Christian's Grays look forward to the colorful spring and fall North-South Skirmishes, and they practice for them intensively at their weekly shooting sessions. Members pour their own bullets and measure out the powder to suit their individual guns. These are fired in the same way they were in the war between the states, and the guns are amazingly accurate. The men's single breasted frock coats with brass buttons and black piping are copies of those originally worn by the earlier Guilford Grays. Equipment is matched as closely as possible.

For the skirmishes, the men sometimes grow beards, and wives and children attending frequently wear costumes of the period. In the evening, banjo players and men in uniform gather with their ladies around the campfire to sing and talk, presenting a real Civil War atmosphere.

Dr. Christian gains the same relaxation with his antique muskets that many men find golfing or fishing. And a week seldom passes that he doesn't go out at least once with his

1863 muzzle loader and practice to give those "yankees" some real competition at the next North-South Skirmish.

These Skirmishes have become, in recent years, a part of the American scene in many parts of the country. Units in carefully authentic uniforms, with authentic or replica arms and authentic or replica (often personally made) accouterments, meet to match their skill—at drill, marching, or in the speed and accuracy of their fire with the muzzleloaders. Not long ago, a Skirmish team visited ex-President Dwight Eisenhower's farm to demonstrate before his eagle military eye how soldiers shot a century ago.

Call it adult make-believe or what you will, there is no better way to study history than to relive it, recreate it, experience for yourself the faults and merits of the tools that helped to shape it. Those tunnel-bored old muskets did their full share toward making their war the bloodiest men have ever fought, and the black smoke rolling from their muzzles carries the scent of history.

It carries, too, a healing quality for wounds long forgotten; for the men in Blue and the men in Gray who meet today in North-South Skirmishes meet, not in enmity and hatred, but in the friendliness born of a common interest.

## "EVERYTHING GOES DEAD WRONG"

(Continued from page 33)

Ed had mentioned, the herd was there, almost directly below me and scarcely 175 yards away, all staring at Ed as he approached them from far down the valley.

"This should be easy," I told Rich. "Just ease up behind that thick cedar, get a solid rest, and put your bullet where it counts. Take your time; they don't know we're here. Wait until I'm all set to help, in case you miss."

I should have known better; Rich couldn't wait. Before I was in shooting position, his first shot banged out. The herd jumped but, with their eyes fixed on Ed, who was still a good three-quarters of a mile away, they didn't run. They just milled, some of them covering the buck.

"You were high! Hold lower!" I muttered. "Wait for the does to get out of the way; then bust him." And this time, I thought, I'll clinch it for you!

Rich's shot and mine banged out almost simultaneously. The buck went over on his back, all four legs thrashing, and the rest of the herd streaked away from their stricken harem-master.

But there was something odd about that buck's struggles. I hadn't the faintest idea where Rich had aimed, but I had held almost at his belly-line, with my .300 Weatherby Magnum zeroed dead-on for 200 yards, trying to get a bullet into the chest cavity in the heart area. My shot alone, I thought, should have held him. But it didn't. In a split-second, the buck was on his feet again and laboring off.

I still thought he was fatally stricken; that he'd run, maybe, 30 to 60 yards and pile up, dead. But his run steadied the further he went. Now he was climbing the opposite slope, and really hoofing it. I hate to shoot any animal on a straight-away run. But I know from several sad and sweaty

experiences that a wounded buck antelope is plain hell-on-wheels to catch up with, so I held high with my second shot, hoping to drop my bullet into his head or neck.

"Low," Rich yelled. "Low, and right behind him!"

I held a yard higher and tried again. "Still low," said Rich.

I swore, and hoisted my final try from a good solid hold, adding an extra yard of elevation, plus a yard of lead as the buck angled slightly. "Still low," said Rich. "Right at his hind hoofs."

By that time the buck was out of sight, the Weatherby was empty, and I was fit to be tied. "Low-low-low!" I grumbled. "You sounded like a cracked phonograph record! And are you carrying that .308 along just for an ornament?"

It was easy enough to figure what had happened. That buck was lengthening the range with every jump, and putting on a fresh burst of speed as each miss spurred him on, and I simply hadn't lofted my shots enough to compensate for his speed, the distance, and the slope of the face of the opposite ridge.

"We've a helluva job on our hands now," I promised Rich. That buck is apt to take all three of us all day to find him and put him down. We'll be mighty lucky if we get the job done. Let's get going while we still know approximately where he went. With Ed coming up the valley, we might just pin him between us. If we don't, we may never find him. We're lucky he isn't a loner; at least we have his herd to help us in locating him."

We pitched down the steep slope and into the saddle beyond, then up the long, gradual slope of the ridge behind which the herd had vanished. As we neared the top, we took every possible precaution to minimize the

chance of being skylined as we glassed another swooping valley, with the nearest timber at its far edge, well over a mile away. Meanwhile Ed, interpreting our move, had also crossed the ridge and was coming up the bottom of the valley below us.

"There they are!" Rich whispered. "Coming out of that dip on the valley floor. And the buck is clear over beyond them. It's another long, nasty, downhill shot."

The situation was exactly as Rich described it. Further, the buck was looking right at us. The only favorable feature was that he was standing full broadside, offering the maximum target.

"I'm going to try him," I decided, wrapping up in my sling. "We've got to move him," I muttered, seeking a firm rest on a rock outcrop. "We can't get any closer as long as he stays in that valley."

But I didn't get the chance to touch off that testing shot. While I was still squirming for a solidier shooting position, the herd broke suddenly and headed down-valley, toward Ed. They should pass him within 100



yards, where he'd surely be able to get in a telling shot. Moments later, we heard Ed fire—three times. That didn't sound very hopeful.

"I had to run 50 yards to get in position," Ed told us, half an hour later. "I was puffing a bit, but I still don't see how I could miss that buck! But I sure did—three times!"

"The critter must be bullet-proof," mourned Rich. "Three of us have gotten three or more shots apiece at him, and he's still going!" He went on to tell Ed about the knock-down shots at the foot of the ridge behind us, and how the buck had recovered and escaped.

Ed shrugged. "He went past me as if nothing had happened. He sure looked plumb healthy. Anyway, we've got to make powerful medicine. They must be somewhere along the ridge yonder, and maybe not too far if he's hit hard, the way you think he is. You and Bert cover this valley, and I'll try to get around behind them."

Rich and I had been in position for half an hour when we heard a shot. Moments later we heard another. But it was another hour before Ed came trudging along the ridge toward us. His bloody hands told the story. Our chase was ended.

"How that buck ever got up after that first knockdown, I'll never know," Ed said. "The tops of his withers are shot away. And he has a bullet-hole through one horn, from a broadside angle."

We deduced that both Rich and I had hit the buck with both of the two shots we fired almost simultaneously. Both shots were disgracefully high, but we would never know which of our bullets had hit meat and which had pierced the horn. Nor, with the buck bagged, did it make much difference.

That evening, with the buck safely hung on the line-cabin porch, we toasted the harem-master that had given us such a rous-

ing workout. We hadn't done a neat job on him, but at least we had the deep satisfaction of knowing we had not lost a suffering cripple.

"Rich, you've a rare trophy there," Ed summed it up, after we'd rehashed the hunt for the third time. "A buck that three hunters shot at, and all hit! I've hunted a lot of years, but I've never seen another with that sort of a record." Then Ed chuckled. "And, since my green gloves turned out so lucky for you, I'm going to give them to you as a souvenir!"

Green gloves—for a man whose family name, MonteVerde, translates into "Green Mountain." Lucky green gloves for a lucky "Green Mountain" hunter. It seemed quite fitting.

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# THE LAST WORD IN WILDCATS

(Continued from page 38)

rabbit, one on a 38 pound bobcat, one on a common 3 ounce field mouse, and one on a sick Santa Gertrudis cow. All tests were made with a variable 2½-8X telescopic sight welded to the topstrap of the revolver. The jack rabbit was shot from a sitting two hand hold position, at a range of 41½ yards from a deer stand 10 feet above ground. At the time of the shot, and high in a tree about 30 yards away, sat a Mexican eagle. Much to my amazement this bird dropped from the tree stone dead immediately after I fired. He had died from the shock of the muzzle blast. Looking for the remains of the jack rabbit, I was able to find only bits of fur here and there around the edges of a small crater 2½ feet across and one foot deep—utter devastation!

Next came the bobcat. He was shot from a standing position, with the scope set at 8X, again using the two hand grip, resting my hands on a low tree limb. The range was 167 paces. At the crack of the .228 ARM (Imp.) disaster almost struck. Another limb,

about two feet above the one I was using as a rest, broke off when the revolver discharged, and barely missed my head. The bobcat never knew what hit him. A ball of fur indicated a direct hit. One ear was the largest piece left, and it is now mounted in my office on a plaque along with the empty case of the .228 ARM (Imp.). Any experienced reloader looking at that case can readily see the signs of pressure generated by this load.

The field mouse was a small target, probably too small for such a devastating cartridge. Nevertheless, to determine accurately the .228 ARM (Imp.) effects on all sizes of animals, the field mouse offered an inviting target. Again, as in previous tests, only one shot was required; the range was estimated to be about 4 yards, scope set at 2½X. Results were as expected—another, even larger crater than that made by the shot on the jack rabbit. It was apparent that the poor mouse was killed not only from the explosive effect of that 48 grain bullet, but also from the heat-searing created by the long fireball which bursts from the short 11 ⅜" barrel. There was evidence of fused caliche in and about the crater over which the mouse had been sitting.

A good-sized, mature, but sick, cow was chosen as the target for the "effects on big game" test. This sick Santa Gertrudis cow would have been killed by the rancher anyway, so a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was presented. The cow was anchored to a chain. At 250 paces the scope was set to 8X and the .228 ARM (Imp.) bellowed. The cow never moved. It was dead, paralyzed in a standing position from the extreme shock of the velocity of the little 48 grain bullet.

With such startling results from these four tests, it is safe to predict that the .228 ARM (Imp.) could well handle anything on the North American continent from field mice on upward to elk and moose. I have not as yet had the opportunity to try it on Kodiak or grizzly bear, but when the new 59 grain bullet is available at 4,505 fps, such tests will be made.

At last the shooter can now have a complete arsenal of magnum handguns. Let's review the cartridges available: The .22 WMR, the .22 Center-fire "Jet" Magnum, the .357 Magnum, the .44 Magnum, the old .228 Atomic Rocket Magnum, and now the new .228 Atomic Rocket Magnum (Improved).

It is apparent that the new .228 ARM (Imp.) is probably the most devastating cartridge ever loaded. It gives the shortest barrel life, has the worst muzzle blast, worst recoil for a handgun, and is the most unpleasant gun to shoot ever made. But, and this is *all* important: It does have the finest ballistics ever known for a revolver.

No .22 caliber rim-fire inserts are now or ever will be available for the .228 ARM (Imp.). This revolver cartridge is intended to be a Magnum, pure and not so simple. If the average shooter feels the need to shoot such mediocre performing ammunition as .357 Magnum, he can readily buy some really excellent pistols and revolvers.

As far as I am concerned: Long live the .228 ARM (Imp.)!

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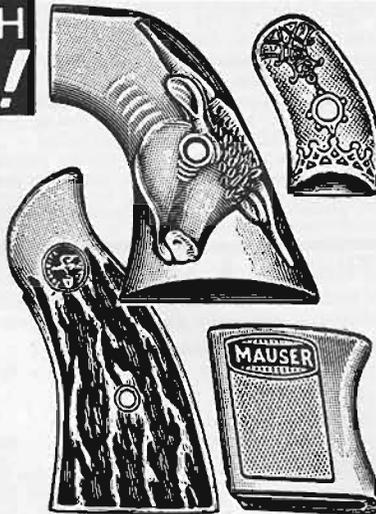
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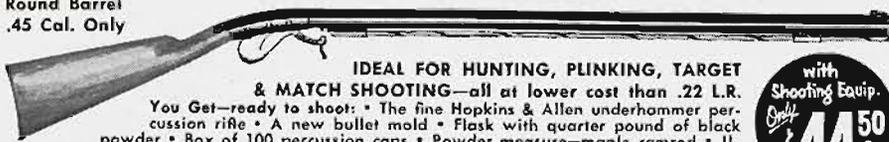
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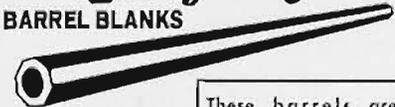
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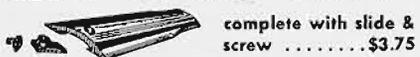
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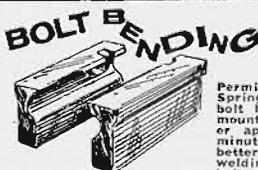
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# SHOOT THAT BURNSIDE

(Continued from page 23)

Burnside essentially is far stronger than the break-open Smith, and, because its metal cartridge prevents gas leaks, it shoots harder than the Sharps or Starr. It was patented in 1856 by Ambrose E. Burnside, whose career of rapid ascents and equally rapid plunges resembles a ride on a roller coaster.

Improvements over a five-year period provide the collector with four models, of which the fourth and last is the one usually seen, since it was the only one produced in real quantity. Total production of the first three probably does not account for five percent of the total.

But before we get any deeper into the gun

and the ammo situation, let's take a look at its inventor, a man with more facets than a diamond. Born in Indiana in 1824, young Ambrose was apprenticed to a tailor when he was 18; but Burnside wasn't cut out of that kind of cloth. Within a year, he wangled an appointment to West Point and was graduated in 1847, a bit too late to see active duty in the Mexican War.

By 1853, while still under 30, he had invented the gun which bears his name and left the army to form a company to produce it at Bristol, R. I. Undercapitalization, lack of government orders and the panic of 1857 are all blamed with causing the financial collapse of the firm, and Burnside had to turn it over to his creditors, who moved the plant to Providence, R. I.

Meanwhile, out in Chicago, a former Army friend, George B. McClellan, was chief engineer and the new vice president of the Illinois Central Railroad. He got Burnside a much-needed job as cashier in the land department. Moving up fast, Burnside became Illinois Central treasurer in about a year, and was shifted to New York.

When Lincoln called for 75,000 troops after the fall of Sumter, Rhode Island asked the erstwhile officer-inventor-manufacturer to command a regiment. Early successes helped put Burnside in command of the Army of the Potomac late in 1862, replacing his former benefactor, McClellan.

The disaster at Fredericksburg dropped him down just as quickly as he had risen. But, after fresh successes in the West, he returned east and into more ill-fortune, drawing the blame for the bloody Union repulse before Petersburg in 1864 which caused the failure of the plan to breach the Confederate lines with an enormous mine.

Out of the Army, Burnside served three terms as governor of Rhode Island, took over initial leadership of the National Rifle Association, and wound up in Congress.

So much for the man who, unlike the roller coaster, finished on a high level.

As mentioned, the Burnside carbine is a relatively common weapon, with the cartridge being the sticker which blocks much modern-day firing. Originally, the ammunition was made of brass, with timed versions also reported, the latter a Frankfort Arsenal product. According to Col. B. R. Lewis' "Small Arms and Ammunition in United States Service," both cartridges used a 400-grain conical bullet. Two powder charges are given as 53 grains and 45 grains. The heavier charge required a case 1.89 inches long, while the smaller one was 1.83 inches. Overall lengths were stated as 2.55 and 2.38 inches respectively.

This data supplied one clue: apparently the gun was not critical on overall cartridge length. A recollection about coiled brass cases gave me another clue: why not use copper sheet for the cases, like that used by hobbyists to make copper plaques? It would be light and easy to work.

The copper turned out to be .005 thick. A square foot cost 50 cents, and proved to be enough to turn out upwards of 30 usable cases.

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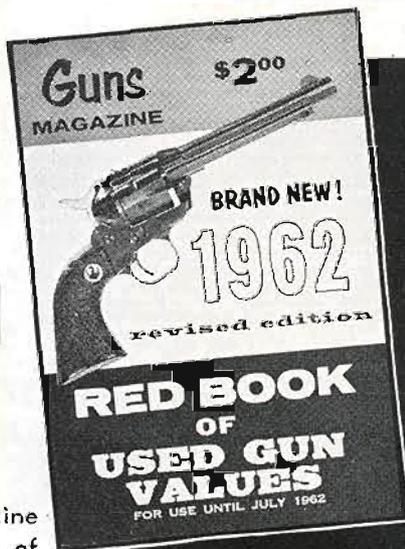
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chamber exactly. Next, the copper sheet was cut into truncated cones 19/16" at the bottom and 2 3/4" at the bullet, or open, end. Each piece was 1 3/8" deep.

These were rolled around the dowel, lengthwise, with a slight twist. With the metal still wrapped around the dowel, the whole works were inserted in the chamber again for final shaping and tightening. The slight flap at the bullet end was bent over and pushed flat with the dowel to help hold the case. The dowel was then withdrawn and the process repeated. It doesn't take two minutes for the whole job, and the only other items required are a paper pattern and metal shears to cut the copper.

Cases should be checked to see that they touch the chamber base and are long enough to lap over the block-barrel joint to form a gas seal, but not too long to prevent the action from closing.

It was found later that the dimensions given could be trimmed and given less slant, as my original cases proved a bit longer than necessary. Dimensions, however, depend in part on the type of bullet you are going to use, and the angle at which you wrap.

Not having a mold able to produce the original 400-grain conical bullet of .56 cali-

much the cases are moved or shaken. Either way, the final product may not be handsome, but it works.

Using a conventional charger, 45 grain loads of FFG black were dropped into the cases. Bullets were placed so as to contact the powder, and graphited cup grease inserted in the area between the edge of the case and the curve of the ball. Final step was to press in the mouth of the case slightly to hold the ball securely in position.

You have probably noted that this procedure ignores the characteristic wide grease ring in the conventional factory Burnside cartridge. One reason the cases were permitted to overlap was to provide enough metal to fill this ring on firing and still prevent gas leakage. The assumption proved correct. Fired cases emerged better shaped and with full lubricant ring formed.

Cases using the tissue over the round hole seem to last better than those that were crimped, the latter being somewhat hard to crimp a second time. On the other hand, more misfires occur with the paper base than without, thin as it is.

It is my opinion that this may not be due to the paper as much as it is inherent in the gun. The tiny curving channel leading from the base of the nipple to the base of the firing chamber clogs very easily, and once fouled, cap snapping will rarely clear it. It takes a fine steel wire, and usually necessitates nipple removal.

Another caution is care in screwing in the nipple. If this is screwed down too hard, misfires will result. In fact, the hammer may hit the cap on the edge and fail to fire it. If this happens, and the nipple is a good one, try backing it out of its seat a half turn at a time until it fires.

Care in cleaning the breech block of the Burnside is a must after use; otherwise you're in for trouble.

The 45 grains of FFG behind the 260-grain ball produced a little sharper recoil than I had expected. For one thing, the butt plate is a curved job, although not nearly as bad as that on the 1873 Winchester. For another, the Burnside is as much as a pound lighter than most of its contemporaries.

I cut the load to 40 grains and found it more pleasant to shoot. If you plan to use the heavier conical ball, I'd suggest even less as a starter. Remember to wear safety glasses when firing. Eyes are harder to replace than guns.

Carbines of this type were generally considered to have effective ranges of 150 yards. My own feeling is that, with the normal conical bullet, man-sized targets could be easily hit at 200 or better, although I could not make it work that well consistently with the round ball. Part of the trouble could rest with the sights which, to say the least, are rather crude with a broad front blade and big open rear "V".

Case longevity appears to be limited to about three loadings. Heavier metal than the thin copper might be the answer. After firing, wash cases in mild soap and water, rinse, and dry.

It all adds up to one thing: if you have a Burnside that you're itching to shoot, you can do it without much trouble! Just be sure it is in safe working order, and wear those safety glasses! You won't drive any tacks at 100 yards, but you'll have some fun—which is the reason why we shoot.

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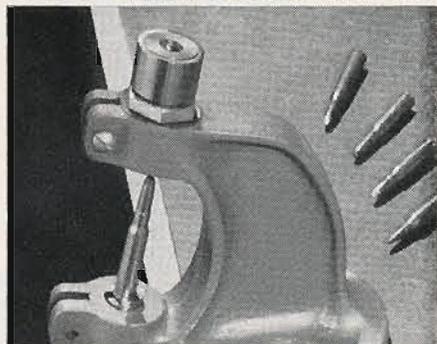
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**E**VER consider how much of the shooting lingo has become part and parcel of our everyday language? Here are a few that come readily to mind:

**You keep your powder dry so you won't have a flash in the pan, so plans don't misfire or fizzle out. You are for the shooting sports lock, stock, and barrel, and when you draw a bead, you aim high.**

**You shoot when you see the whites of their eyes, but if you don't hold your fire you'll be short of the mark or be shooting in the dark. Your partner is straight as a ramrod, and he hits them dead center and is a straightshooter or sharpshooter. He's a crackshot with hair-trigger nerves.**

**You either score a bullseye or overshoot the mark, but you never go off half-cocked when you are loaded for bear. But you may be primed for the occasion and somewhat trigger-happy. You aim to hit dead center and being quick on the trigger and a square-shooter, you call your shots. You can't miss, being hotter than a dime store pistol; and you are primed and ready—might even say you are going great guns. But if you shoot your wad, the whole thing is not worth the powder to blow it to—smitherens!—By Bob Tremaine**

ber, I contented myself with a .56 round ball weighing about 260 grains. As the groove diameter was .549, this was a good snug fit.

The cases had been rolled so as to leave a 1/8" to 5/32" hole at the base end. Before putting in the powder, a single thickness of toilet tissue can be used to close the gap, or this can be omitted and the base crimped, being sure to leave enough opening for the flame to enter. With crimping, some powder leakage will result, depending mostly on how

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| 30-40 Krag Silver Tip                    | Per 100                | 17.50   |
| 32 Remington Soft Point                  | Per 100                | 12.00   |

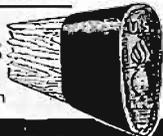
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## A RAMP FOR YOUR RUGER

(Continued from page 36)

Or you can easily install a trigger-stop to the standard aluminum trigger. Locate and drill a #29 hole as shown on the drawing. Tap it a 6/32 thread, and install an allen-head set screw. Backlash is eliminated by stopping trigger travel with the set screw against the frame.

The Mark I trigger pull is usually good, but it can be improved by very careful application of a hard Arkansas stone to the friction surfaces of sear and trigger. Only machine-tool marks should be removed. Care must be taken to cut away tool marks and roughness only, without changing the sear angle. Too much stone work here can make your pistol full automatic and a menace to yourself and everyone else. Unless you have had experience in trigger work, better leave this work to someone who knows how.

The over-the-counter Mark I hangs very well and handles nicely, but score-hungry shooters often feel that it takes longer than they like to regain the sight picture after the first shot in Timed and Rapid, due to the very high front sight. This problem can be corrected by replacing the standard barrel with one of larger diameter and without taper, thus reducing the height of the front sight, or by adding a complete barrel ramp. The Ruger Mark I complete with Simmons ramp is now available from Gil Hebard Guns. The object of the ramp is, of course, to improve the sighting plane, reduce the apparent height of the front sight, and shorten pick-up time between shots.

You can make and install your own ramp quite easily and at modest cost. Some time ago, I added a Ruger Mark I to my pistol battery, planning at first to replace the barrel with a straight custom barrel with one-inch diameter. But test firing proved that this gun with its standard barrel would score consistently inside the 10 ring at 50 yards, and a barrel that will do that is too good to discard. I decided to retain it and add a ramp to improve the sighting plane.

A ramp was designed to be as simple as possible, eliminating difficult tooling operations wherever possible. It seemed at first that the ramp would have to have a tapered radius to match the barrel taper, plus cut-in steps to match the receiver and front sight band. Finally, however, we came up with a design that eliminated these difficult operations yet still permitted a simple but reliable method of mounting.

The ramp shown in the accompanying photographs and drawings meets the above requirements. It is made of 6061 aluminum, .400" wide, and is mounted to the receiver with two 3/56" machine screws and a 1/16" diameter roll pin through the front blade. The aluminum ramp weighs less than 2 ounces. If additional weight is desired, the ramp can be made from steel.

There are no really critical dimensions which must be held, and all dimensions allow a tolerance of + or - .010. The receiver of the Mark I is 1.000 inch in diameter, and therefore a .500" radius is milled to match the receiver, except for the last .800" where the cutter is pulled away from the stock and a .375" radius is cut to match the barrel band on the muzzle end of the ramp.

The slot for the front blade is cut with a 1/8" Woodruff keyway cutter to allow the

ramp to straddle the front blade. The final machining cut is a 40° angle, which is made to match the face of the micro sight mounted on the Mark I. A slight amount of hand work may be required to insure proper fit.

The ramp is fastened with two 3/56" machine screws on the receiver, and a 1/16" roll pin through the front blade. The 3/56" machine screws should be cut, so that .150" of threads are left. After the ramp has been hand fitted and assembled, it should be removed for metal finishing before being attached to the gun.

Testing after ramp installation showed that the Mark I had lost none of its accuracy, and had gained a great deal in sight pick-up time in shooting Timed and Rapid. It had gained a great deal also in appearance, in my opinion. Installation of the ramp furnishes the finishing touch to any Mark I, and once a trigger stop has been added to control backlash, the trigger suits me to perfection. This ramp is simple and inexpensive, and will provide a crown to top off your Mark I. And it will make the sighting a lot easier!

## Truths About Hunting

Once upon a time there was an expert hunter. He read all the outdoor magazines, listened to the sages around the barber shop. Compared notes with other experts (so classified if they agreed with him), and was top gun in the local weed patches. That hunter was me, and it was some time ago, and I'm no longer an expert. A quarter-century afield has made me discard most of the things I've read and heard about hunting... but what I do know is for sure. It falls into four broad categories:

**People:** (1) A hunting partner usually oversleeps. (2) A wife sleeps deepest when her duck hunter wants his breakfast. (3) The guys in the next blind are game hogs. (4) If you wonder where to hunt, ask a barber. (5) Blessed be the camp cook, the wife who cleans game and the partner with two candy bars.

**Equipment:** (1) Hip boots leak only in cold water. (2) A knife can't be too sharp. (3) When matches are fewest firewood is wettest. (4) For a drippy nose, a wool glove beats any bandanna. (5) Never be the only man in the party with a game pocket in his coat.

**Critters:** (1) Foxes are not fit to eat. (2) While a duck is still coming at you, shut up. (3) Squirrels can't lie still for over 20 minutes. I can't sit still for over 19. (4) Geese aren't smart; they're just smarter than most hunters.

**Other things:** (1) Fences are always two inches higher than my legs. (2) Your shot was lucky; mine was skillful. (3) Bird dogs are optimists; pheasants are pessimists. (4) There is no greater faith than a small boy's defense of his birdless Dad. (5) The last hills are the highest.

—By Primghar Bell in "Target Tabloid"

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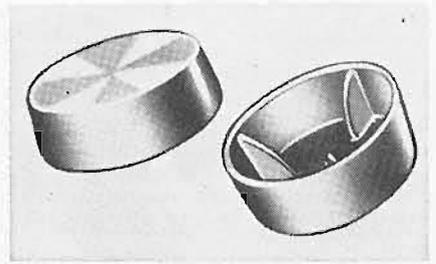
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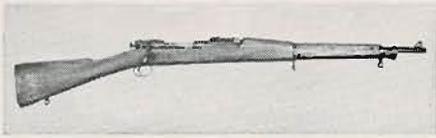
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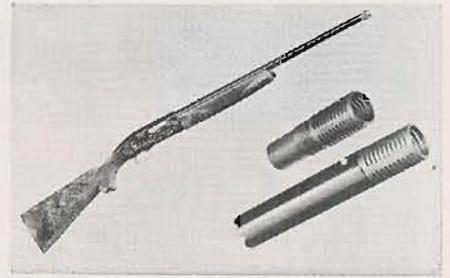
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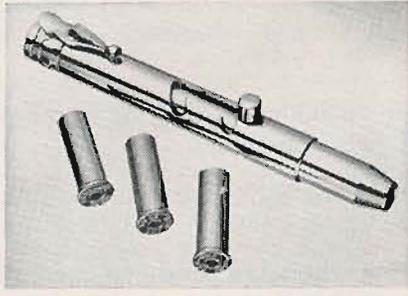
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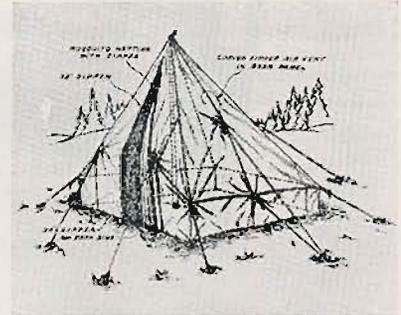
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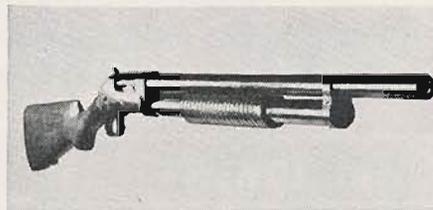
**THREE NEW .22 caliber** automatic pistols have been added to the line of Browning Arms Co., Ogden, Utah. The LR models are known as Nomad at \$49.95, Challenger at \$64.95, and the Medalist at \$112.95. All models feature a comfortable, hand-filling, wrap-around grip; a wide, crisp trigger; front and rear sights scientifically contoured to prevent light reflection; a precision rear sight, screw adjustable for both horizontal and vertical correction; quickly interchangeable barrels, without fitting, and with new patented V-way-wedge barrel locking system that prevents instability or loosening; ten round magazine with follower button that adds ease and speed to loading procedure. The Nomad (pictured above) ideal model for all-round shooting pleasure.



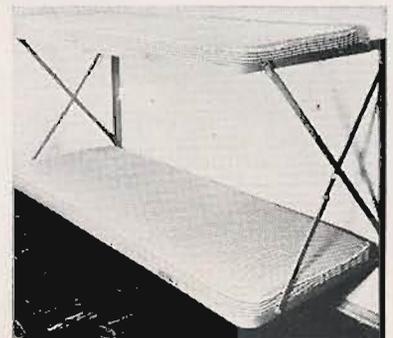
**HUNTER'S CAMPER TENT**, light weight, weighs only 8¼ pounds, yet sleeps four persons. Standing room in center 7'4"; floor inside 6½' x 8'. 72" vertical zipper opening with two 36" zippers at bottom flap. Made of Oxford cloth. Neoprene coated nylon floor. 9" square opening at back wall. Nylon mosquito netting in front with 7" zipper, mosquito netting over rear window. Priced at \$69.50, does not include stakes or center pole. Also available, one-and two-man tents. Manufactured by Recreational Equipment, Inc., 523-G Pike Street, Seattle 1, Wash.



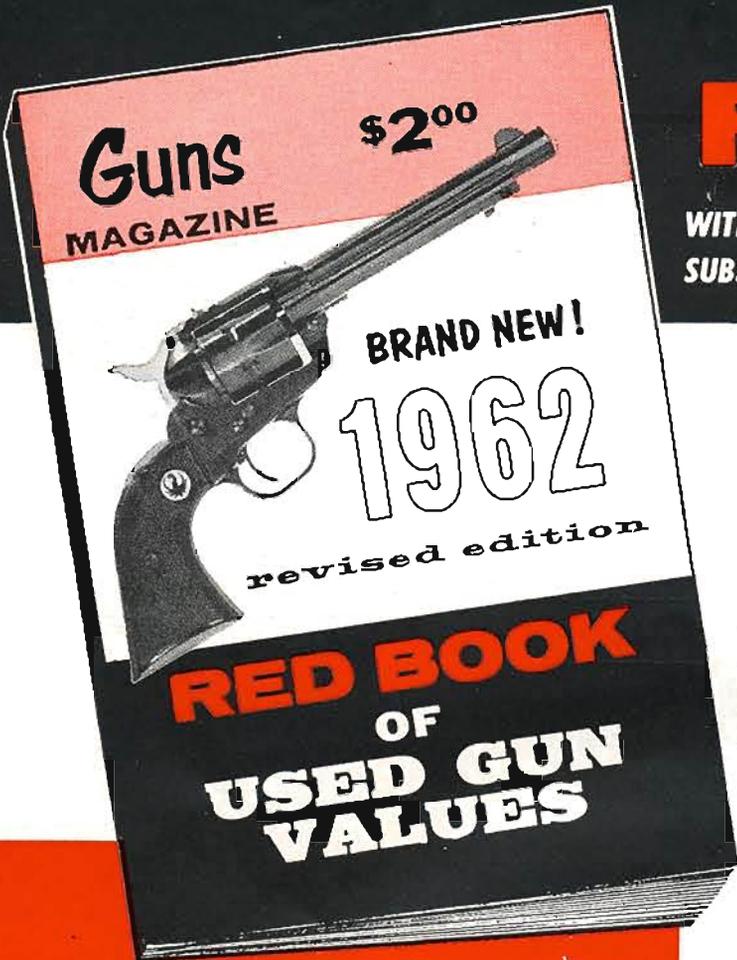
**MODEL '49 SADDLEGUN**, single shot, Martini type action .22 developed for America's shooting youth, introduced by Ithaca Gun Co., Ithaca, N. Y. Retail for \$21.95. Chambered for .22 Rimfire: Short, Long, Long Rifle, Long Rifle Shot, BB cap, and CB cap. Overall length 34½" with 18" round tapered barrel. 5½-lb. weight. Stock and forend of finely finished American black walnut. Automatic rebounding hammer safety hand operated, independent of lever-action. Genuine leather saddle scabbard for gun available for \$5.



**LIMITED QUANTITY** of Winchester's immortal Model 97 scattergun obtained from the City of St. Louis by Mars Equipment Corp., 3318 G. West Devon Ave., Chicago 45, Ill. Available models include 20" barrel cylinder bore "riot" which sold in 1910 for \$25. Now available for very little more. Good, serviceable gun, clean, complete, in fine working order, \$29.95. A select gun, more blue and finish, just \$35. A very few, near mint, ultimate in collecting, just \$39.95.



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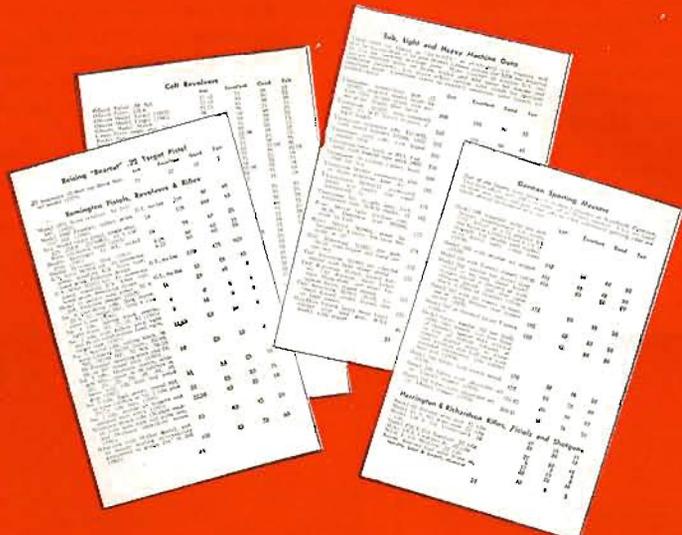
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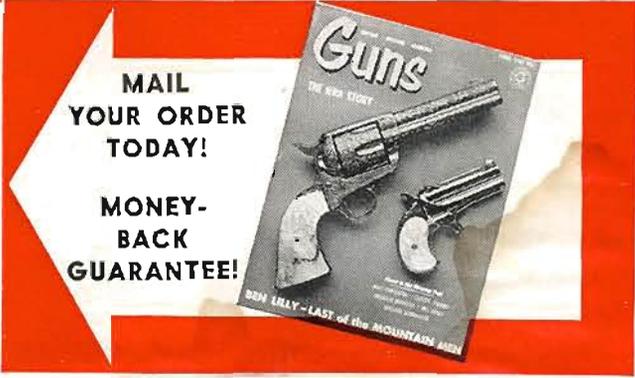
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## AUSTRALIAN RABBITS

(Continued from page 15)

unskinned carcasses at around \$2 each. This is perhaps a better proposition than skin selling, because you don't have to skin the animals, can afford to shoot more each night. (Most skin shooters stop when they have tallied about 50 'roos, because this represents about 5 hours skinning work next morning.)

8. Camp equipment. I have suggested a trailer, because I imagine that most Americans would prefer this form of shelter. However, most Australian shooters buy a couple of tents for about \$30 each, a camp stretcher for \$10, bedding for \$15, a camp table and kitchenware for about \$30, and let it go at that; total cost may be \$125 to \$150. Apart from normal camping gear (and, brother, if you don't know what normal camp gear is, *stay at home*), the only special equipment consists of a couple of empty 44-gallon petrol drums. These are for drinking water, which you cart from Broken Hill, say once a fortnight, when you drive down for supplies.

9. Food, clothing, ammunition, camp gear, petrol, Land-Rover and (some) Jeep spare parts can all be obtained in Broken Hill. A mail truck visits sheep and cattle stations (ranches), in the rabbit area once a week. You can arrange for food and most other supplies to be delivered by this van to a tiny settlement called Smithville Outpost, right on the SA-NSW border about 200 miles north of Broken Hill. You can't get your water this way, though.

10. How do Australians regard Americans in the area? Well, frankly, they regard Americans as soft, and mildly amusing, until they prove themselves otherwise. There is no animosity toward Americans, but bush-born Australians are easily irritated by overconfident, over-talkative tourists, Americans or otherwise.

The lease-holders who run cattle and sheep in the area are suspicious of strangers with high-power rifles. You need the permission of the station managers to shoot in the area, and this is readily granted provided you don't look and act like a hooligan. Those managers want to get rid of the rabbits and kangaroos, but not their sheep and cattle! I strongly advise you to take only .22 rimfire gear to the rabbit area. Later, when you know the locals and they know you, that .22 Hornet or other high-power, if you want it, can be sent up to your camp.

In Broken Hill, the men who operate the town freezing works will tell you where the mobile rabbit chillers are in the bush, and direct you to the homesteads on the stations where you should ask permission to shoot.

Make friends with the manager, and he will direct you to an area that hasn't been claimed by any other shooter. He will know if there is a chiller on his property, or where the nearest one is located to your proposed camp.

Next step is to find the chiller and introduce yourself to the rabbit buyer in charge of it. He will advise you further on procedure, and help you to avoid treading on the toes of other shooters already in the area. Naturally, all the best spots close (within ten miles) of the chiller may be taken up. That's hard luck for you, but later, when you get to know the country and your

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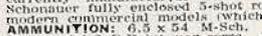
At the time of Great Britain's withdrawal from India and Pakistan, these historic Martini-Enfield rifles in original caliber 577/450 (.45 cal.) were carefully stored away and, until recently, forgotten. Through an exclusive good with the Pakistan Government we now offer a limited quantity of these rare Martini-Enfield rifles.

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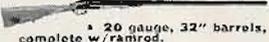
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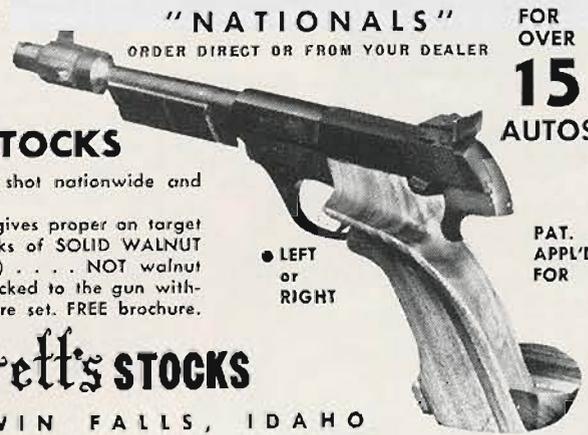
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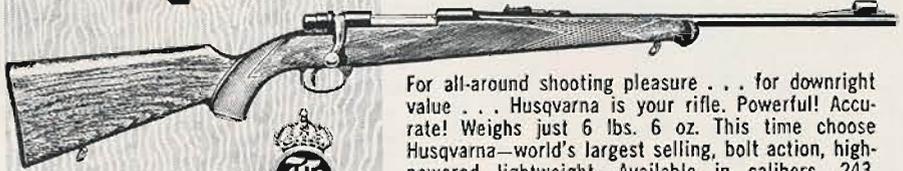
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fellow shooters, you will certainly improve on your location.

The best way to get ahead in the Australian bush (as elsewhere) is to ask questions, listen, and don't talk much at first, except to offer help to anyone who seems to need it. Later on, you'll find that help will be offered to you just as readily, once you are accepted.

If I were an American on my way to become a professional rabbit shooter in Australia, I would buy my Land-Rover and camp gear in Sydney, Melbourne, or Adelaide, then drive to Broken Hill. There I'd put up my tent in the town's camp ground (or if I had money to spare, book in at a cheap hotel), and spend a week around the town. I'd talk to locals in the hotel bars, introduce myself to Peter Hatzl, one of the big rabbit buyers and freezer managers in the town, talk to the local police, garage owners, and Pastures Protection Board officers. I'd also read the two local daily newspapers, including old issues. With luck, I'd meet a few shooters in town getting supplies, and ask their advice on locations, and so on. This way, I'd get the "feel" of the area, and learn how to get along with Australians, as well as useful facts about professional hunting. Then I'd set out for a likely area, preferably no more than 200 miles away, to try my luck.

11. There are no churches, schools, resident doctors, garages, or shops of any kind in the rabbit country. In the little one-street town of Tibooburra in far north-west NSW, there is a garage and a couple of stores, a hotel, a police station, a tiny school ("integrated," Southerners please note), and a just-opened bush hospital, small but modern. However, the Flying Doctor Service, based at Broken Hill, serves the entire area. In case of serious illness or an accident, you need only get word to the homestead nearest your camp (seldom more than 50 miles away), and they immediately radio the doctor, who flies up pronto. Assuming you break your leg at 10 a.m., the flying doctor should be at your side by 2 or 3 p.m. that afternoon and you will be in the Broken Hill or Tibooburra hospital by sundown.

12. Snakes, poisonous spiders, savage wilde beasts? Very few snakes, if any; no dangerous spiders, no dangerous animals. Flies, heat, loneliness, boredom, sun and wind-burn are your chief enemies. Biggest danger is getting lost and dying of thirst. Seven people have done this in recent years, including a dingo trapper, two children belonging to a rabbit shooter, and some native stockmen (cowboys).

13. Income tax? No problem here. Americans here for a short period only, say two years, on a visitors' visa or similar, pay only American income tax. Those staying here permanently or for longer than two years, pay Australian tax only. If they decide to go home with their money, after paying tax here, they are not taxed again by the U. S. government. Americans in Australia can

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**GUNS? See page 58**

mail home \$250 monthly and send an additional \$325 home as a "gift" each year. When leaving the country, there is scarcely a formality about taking up to \$5,000 with you. By filling in a few forms and getting official permission from various government departments, you can take out almost any amount. Frank Sinatra recently took home more money than any rabbit shooter is ever likely to earn, so don't worry on this score. (Verification of this is available from the Exchange Controller, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Martin Place, Sydney.)

14. Other jobs if professional shooting fails? Sorry, not many. Our methods of sheep and cattle ranching are different, so experience at this in America isn't much help. American university and technical college degrees are rarely recognized here, nor are American trade qualifications. However, there are always a few jobs vacant on the out-back stations, for male cooks, mechanics, boundary riders (fence menders), and men willing to learn sheep or cattle management. Opportunities are best in the real out-back areas, such as those you will be shooting in. Jobs are hardest to get in and around the big towns and cities. Anyone interested in further information should send an enquiry, together with their personal qualifications, to the Secretary for Labor and National Service, Box 2817AA, G. P. O., Sydney, NSW, Australia.

15. Living costs in Australia? A cheap cafe meal costs a dollar, a "slap-up" feed, \$2. Country or city hotel or motel accommodation averages \$5 a day, which includes breakfast. Country houses, if available, rent for from \$12 to \$20 a week; city houses or flats (readily available, particularly the dear ones), range from \$15 to \$45 weekly.

The rabbit shooter could live extremely well on \$25 a week for food and tobacco. Petrol and oil would require about \$35 weekly. To shoot 90 pairs of rabbits a night, the average shooter will use almost 300 cartridges. At \$2 per 100 (you can get them cheaper in bulk), this is \$36 for a six-day week. (You'll miss at least one night's shooting a week, due to strong winds, mechanical breakdowns, driving to Broken Hill for supplies, and so on.) This all gives a total of about \$100 a week to cover complete living and shooting expenses.

Assuming you shoot only 90 pairs a night at the bedrock price of 50 cents a pair, your gross income for a six-night week will be \$270. Deduct your \$100 expenses, and your profit, before tax, is \$170 a week. Shooting tallies among professionals vary from the novice's average of 60 pairs nightly to the veteran's 140 pairs. The record for one man in one night is 213 pairs!

Well, there it is; the full, unvarnished story.

I did not and do not suggest that half the population of America can come to Australia and make their fortunes as rabbit (or kangaroo) shooters. But I stick to my original statement of the facts: there are definitely

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good opportunities here for at least a few score of capable, adventurous, straight-shooting Americans to set up as professional hunters in the area I have mentioned—and perhaps in other places.

So far as supplies of rabbits are concerned, there is absolutely no possibility of supplies ever becoming limited. They have been trapped, poisoned and shot for nearly 100 years and (except in the close-in mosquito country where myxomatosis has decimated them), are just as thick as ever. Shooters will always have billions of targets

in the far-out areas under discussion. Only atom bombs could get rid of them.

There is definitely an element of risk in the venture. It is a gamble, like anything else. But for those who are used to a rugged outdoor life, who can withstand the discomforts and loneliness of desert living, it is not a bad gamble. Don't bring your wife, unless she is a girl of exceptional toughness and determination—and don't bring children.

But hurry, before the Aussies have the whole shooting area car-marked for themselves!

## HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 6)

"1512 foot seconds muzzle velocity! 802 foot pounds energy! No hand arm cartridge ever manufactured has developed within hundreds of pounds of this terrific impact. And with this speed and power, accuracy. The Sharpe-type bullet will shoot through steel plates that are only dented by other cartridges. It upsets to .50 caliber in 8" of soft paraffine, while other bullets pass through practically unchanged in form. The S & W ".357" Magnum has far greater shock power than any .38, .44, or .45 ever tested. And with this power it produces machine rest groups at 20 yards of less than 1 inch! At 100, 200, 500 yards, and even beyond, the inherent power and accuracy continues to exist.

"A most interesting fact disclosed by the machine rest groups at 50 to 75 yards is that the size of the groups does not increase in proportion to the range. The groups averaged 1.83 at 50 yards, and 2.59 at 75 yards."

These ballistics were for 8 3/4" revolvers. Unvented pressure barrels register higher velocity, depending on the load. Super-X listed original ballistics for a while, then reduced velocity to 1450 fps. Current stuff is best, correctly listed at 1410 fps in a 8 3/4" gun. It uses about 13.5 grains of non-canister W-W ball powder, and the Small Pistol primer they have always used. Before WW-II they made the best varmint load with hollow point bullets. The factory doesn't have a record of these, but I shot some, and still have samples in my collection. I hope they revive this fine load, and soon.

Super-X Metal Piercing bullets have a pointed, jacketed nose, with a lead alloy bearing surface. Ballistics are identical to their Lubaloy pills that are much superior for man or beast. I believe the Lubaloy (lead alloy) pill is better even for specialized police work, such as car stopping.

One lot of Super-X tested two years ago ran 44,800 psi. It has varied less over the

years than any other make. Once in a blue moon all ammo makers produce lots below standard, as do makers of all other products. Years ago, lot 57NC3 had a few soft primers that flowed in the firing pin hole of S & W guns. The cylinder had to be turned by hand to shear off the extrusion. I reassembled some with a different lot of Western primers, which corrected the trouble. Some empty, early post-war shells, lot 44FH81, pulled apart at the deep cannelures with hot loads. This was at a time when nearly everything had hit a new low in quality, due to demand for merchandise and lack of skilled labor. If any cartridge deserves good brass, it's the .357. Super-X hulls are now available without cannelures, I'm happy to say. Current ammo quality and quality control is higher than ever before.

I can't imagine why Peters long supplied ammo with Large Pistol primers, while Remington used the Small Pistol type. For many years they listed ballistics identical to original WRA ammo. Actual velocity varied. Some lots were hardly better than hot .38 Specials. Perhaps the reason was due to foolish conversions of .38 Special guns, that were not designed for the powerful .357 cartridge. Some chaps even asked the factories to replace blown up conversions with a

### Squirrely, But True

Black and grey squirrels are brothers-under-the-skin and may occur in the same litter. In the big continuous woodlands of primitive times, blacks outnumbered greys in many areas. However, with the coming of civilization, the black color phase declined greatly in numbers for reasons not well known.

In primitive times the numbers of blacks and greys far exceeded anything we know today. The fabulous numbers encouraged contests in the mid-1800's. In one contest, the individual winner shot 900 in 3 days.

Fox squirrels are stay-at-home animals and often live out their life in a 10-acre woods. But in late summer, a population shuffle occurs. Then some individuals are known to move as much as 40 miles.

Food burfed summer and fall is relocated in the winter by an acute sense of smell. A foot of snow is no barrier to the unerring location of a cache.

Bones of a fox squirrel are pink when cooked; whereas those of a grey squirrel are white.

—Remington News Letter

new gun! Of course they didn't get one. Old R-P cases were shorter than 1.278". While okay for factory loads, they gave handloaders grief. Dies for standard cases wouldn't crimp short ones. Pressure increased with short cases and correctly seated bullets.

By 1958, both makes had switched to Small Rifle primers in full length cases, a change for the best. They fire perfectly in guns in good condition. But a weak mainspring may give occasional misfires with the harder rifle primers. Remington lot F14S 90, tested in January 1962, registered 1446 fps at 30,600 psi in a standard test barrel. Velocity in a 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " revolver was 1268 fps, and in a 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " gun it was 1095 fps. This had the REM-UMC headstamp.

Current stuff with the R-P headstamp is the best they have ever made. Remington lot X17G uses 14.3 grains of ball-type powder. I haven't checked it for velocity, but it shoots.

Dominion's load, not widely distributed in the U. S., uses the No. 1 primer and a 158 grain Metal Point bullet, listed at 1400 fps. This type bullet is suitable for small game.

The .357 Magnum guns are notorious for bore leading with naked alloy bullets. If you have a "leader," the trouble is often corrected with a different brand of ammo, or a different lot number.

When Jim Harvey created "The Most Deadly Bullets," (See GUNS, May 1956) the Jacketed Jugulars, I predicted that premium grade factory ammo would use a similar type. Norma's load, introduced in 1961, was a "first." Not a copy of the Jugular, it has a long half jacket crimped over the forward band to cover the entire bearing surface. Leading is impossible. The flat lead nose is exposed for fast expansion and maximum shock. I consider it the finest bullet factory loaded; jackets are gilding metal.

Listed velocity of Norma's 158 grain pill is 1520 fps at 39,000 psi. Lot 106147, of the first production registered 1541 fps at 42,500 psi in a test barrel. Velocity in a 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " revolver was 1440 fps for 726 foot pounds muzzle energy. With excellent accuracy, bullets expanded to .70 caliber when fired in moist sand at 50 yards. They perform beautifully in a Winchester 92 carbine conversion. Expansion is over one inch. On impact jackets rupture at every rifling groove, after

expending terrific energy inside the animal.

We tested Norma's first experimental ammo. It shot beautifully, except that soft primers extruded in the firing pin hole of S & W guns. None was circulated until the trouble was corrected in formal production lots. Their full length uncanneled brass case is a dandy for reloading. Vents are drilled, rather than punched.

The .357 Magnum is not old, as cartridges go. Since WRA's original, little factory development work has been done on it, except the small production of Super-X hollow point stuff, and Norma's modern bullet. Hunters need a H.P. factory load for a more potent punch.

You can drill all lead bullet loads with the Forster Hollow Point Accessory, that I suggested for use in the Forster Case Trimmer. This does a fine job, and about doubles the shock. Use their  $\frac{1}{8}$ " drill, and set the trimmer for cavities about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or  $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep.

The .357's are fine hunting guns for all handgun game, including deer with a well placed hit. A gun writer said, "The handgun . . . distinctly is not for such beasts as coyotes, wolves, deer, antelope, and those species even larger." The deer I've bagged with a .357 Magnum didn't know this—they all dropped dead pronto. The only secret is to place your hit well, which is true of any game shooting. The cartridge is okay within your accuracy capabilities. My friend, Bill Blevins, dropped a moose in his tracks with a Super-X load. It wasn't much of a feat for a well-placed bullet, and a .357 Magnum is adequate for combat with the "most dangerous game"—a man with a gun.

(Continued on page 65)

## PRECISION SWAGED SPEER BULLETS FOR HANDGUN RELOADS OUTSELL ALL OTHERS!



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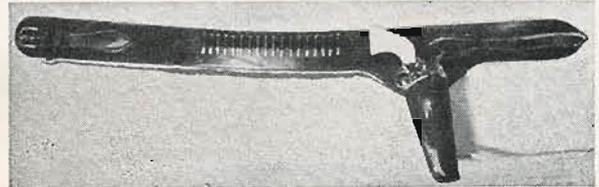
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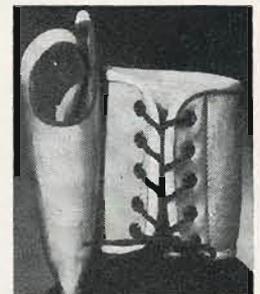
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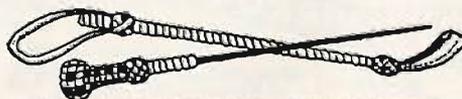
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John-Aer Corporation Paterson 4, N. J.

(Continued from page 63)

Many rifles, mostly Winchester '92's, have been converted to .357 Magnum. Ward Koozer, Walterville, Oregon, has converted over 200 of them and never knew of one giving trouble. Phil Sharpe told me that, having designed the cartridge, he knew it wasn't safe in the '92's, designed for pressure under 30,000 psi. I've had three that never gave any trouble. I hope to see a factory .357 carbine someday.

Colt soon produced the New Service, Shooting Master, and Single Action Army for the cartridge. None were revived after WW-II, until the famous S.A.A. was again chambered for it in December, 1957. Colt's popular "Three-Fifty-Seven" target grade gun was introduced in October, 1953, and the prestige Python came out in May, 1955, with a 6" barrel. I joined many people in asking for a 4" tube, which they added in 1960. They call it the Police Python, but many sportsmen found it was exactly what they wanted for utility use.

Ruger's Blackhawk in .357 Magnum caliber came out in 1955, to be an immediate success. Great Western also makes a single action in this caliber.

Smith & Wesson introduced the Highway Patrolman in June, 1954. It's identical to the S & W .357 Magnum, except is not so well finished and is lower priced, available only with 4" or 6" barrel. In January 1956 they added the lighter frame .357 Combat Magnum. I believe it's the most practical utility gun in their line, and correctly named. The 4" tube is easy to carry and permits fast gun handling.

The .357 Magnums have accuracy that about equals .38 Specials. They shoot the entire line of Special with fine accuracy. I believe the guns are the best all-around caliber for any normal handgun use. They are the best "one gun" for handloading, as they shoot cream puff target reloads beautifully, or take hell-for-leather reloads for increased shocking power. Reloading is easy, and the cost per round is extremely low, so you can afford plenty of practice.

Any type of gun you like is available in the .357 Magnum, except a snub-nose. Many lawmen need a potent 2" undercover gat for their service cartridge. Sooner or later, some progressive firm will supply the demand for a hot-shot hide-out gun. In my book it will make the little .38's obsolete.

## GUN RACK

(Continued from page 13)

tively simple rules for using this tool that can save its user so much in time, distance, discomfort—could even save your life in real emergency. A compass can do much more than just "point north;" it can be a silent guide home for the hunter who might not get there without it.

### Powley Powder Selector

Powley's Computer for Handloaders is a "must" for every loading bench. Homer S. Powley has now condensed the knowledge gained through years of experimental work into a slide chart that will almost immediately indicate to the handloader the best military rifle powder for any cartridge with any bullet. The chart also enables you to estimate



velocity and lists sectional density. Retailing for the sum of \$3.50 at your gunshop, the Powder Selector will save you that much money in primers, bullets, and powder on the first run-through in developing loads. The slide is 4" x 9" and is printed on a stiff cardboard that will survive rough handling on the bench for quite some time. All figures are printed clearly and full directions come with each Selector. The Selector in conjunction with the Trajectory Chart (in this column, GUNS May 1962), enables anyone to figure out some of the basic ballistics so vital to handloaders.

### Atlas Shotguns

Atlas Arms, 2704 North Central Ave., Chicago 39, Ill., is importing some very fine Italian shotguns, and we recently checked two of these guns on our range. Being an enthusiastic but not outstanding trap shooter, we were delighted with the handling qualities of the Atlas Trap Gun, Model #1.

Receiver and barrel are made of Bohler steel, the bore is chrome lined, the ejector is fully automatic, the fully ventilated rib makes a superb sighting surface, and the whole gun creates a very pleasing impression. This test gun had made the rounds of the local trap clubs and had been fired better than 2,000 times by the time it reached us. We fired 300 rounds of trap with it, and the lock-up was as tight as the day the gun came from the factory.

This single barrel gun features the monoblock system, and the receiver is especially tempered and highly engraved. The barrel is full choke and the gun is available in 12 ga. only, in 30 and 32 inch barrel lengths. The test gun weighs 7 pounds 11 ounces, and has a perfect balance. Equipped with a rubber pad, recoil was negligible, and the stock dimensions (1 3/8" x 1 3/8" x 14 1/2") made shooting the gun a sheer pleasure. This gun retails for \$295, while Model #2 complete with gold trigger, release fore-arm, gold catch, plus heavy scroll engraving, sells for slightly under \$340.

We also checked out a side-by-side Atlas Model 200 field grade gun. This gun has double triggers, plain ejectors, and is available in a wide variety of gauges and chokes. This stock was a bit too straight for our comfort, but doubles thrown from our Trius

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Trap disintegrated with fair regularity—much more so than some of the crows that we have been gunning for recently. This gun retails for \$145; the single trigger model retails for \$180, while the single trigger model with auto ejectors goes for \$220.

To round out the testing of this gun, we set the Trius Trap to deliver towering birds and moved the trap to the left and slightly behind the firing line. With the gun at high port, dusting the birds was no trouble once we got used to the double trigger and the fact that the gun had to be shouldered slightly differently because of the stock. Both guns were tested with Monarch and Winchester factory loads, as well as with trap and field loads made up for testing purposes.

While we were at Atlas Arms, we looked over a number of imported shotguns. They looked very nice and were priced reasonably. If the two sample guns we fired are any indication, the fine Italian gunsmithing skill evident in these shotguns will convince a lot of shooters that near-custom grade guns need not cost a fortune.

### Colonel Whelen Range

To honor the late dean of shooters, the Col. Whelen Range was recently opened near St. Louis, Mo. There are 18 covered outdoor bench-rest firing points, and by allowing 3 feet per shooting bench, it is possible to use these firing points for position shooting also. The four indoor benches are arranged in a similar fashion, and the range offers 50, 100, 200, 300 yard, and a running deer target.

For pistol shooters, there is a 200 foot pistol range with 25 and 50 yard firing positions. The range is affiliated with the N.R.A. and the N.B.R.S.A., and membership totals almost 150.

### More Pacific News

We recently put the new Pacific Sup Mag

loading tool through its paces and promptly placed an order for one. This is a massive three position tool that performs every loading job with ease, including swaging. The tool can be changed from down to up stroke, from left hand to right hand operation; but the unique design of the Super Mag lies in the fact that the links incorporated in the tool are attached to the top of the frame. This means that in operation, the downward force on the dies is equal to the upward force of the rams. This arrangement assures a perfect alignment of dies and ram. Latest plan, as we hear it from Pacific, is to supply sets of suitable shell holders for the three rams in all popular pistol calibers, and possibly a spare shell holder for popular rifle calibers.

By the time you read this report, the complete package of tool and shell holders will be on the market. For the man who uses 3-piece pistol loading dies, this tool, once the technique has been mastered, can turn out revolver fodder at a high rate of speed, yet the Super Mag can then be used for other loading operations.

In testing this Pacific equipment, we also used, to our complete satisfaction, their Big Mike case gauge. This case length gauge has three different base stops which can be adjusted to suit the cases to be measured. The gauge will measure any case up to 3 inches in length; by adjusting the base stop and inserting the case mouth downward, the micrometer can be brought down until it bears on the base of the case. It is then a simple matter to tighten the set screw on the mike, and measuring cases can then be undertaken without the possibility of errors or re-adjustment of the mike.

Full instructions for use come with Big Mike case gauge, and included is a listing of cartridge case lengths that are most often encountered.

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