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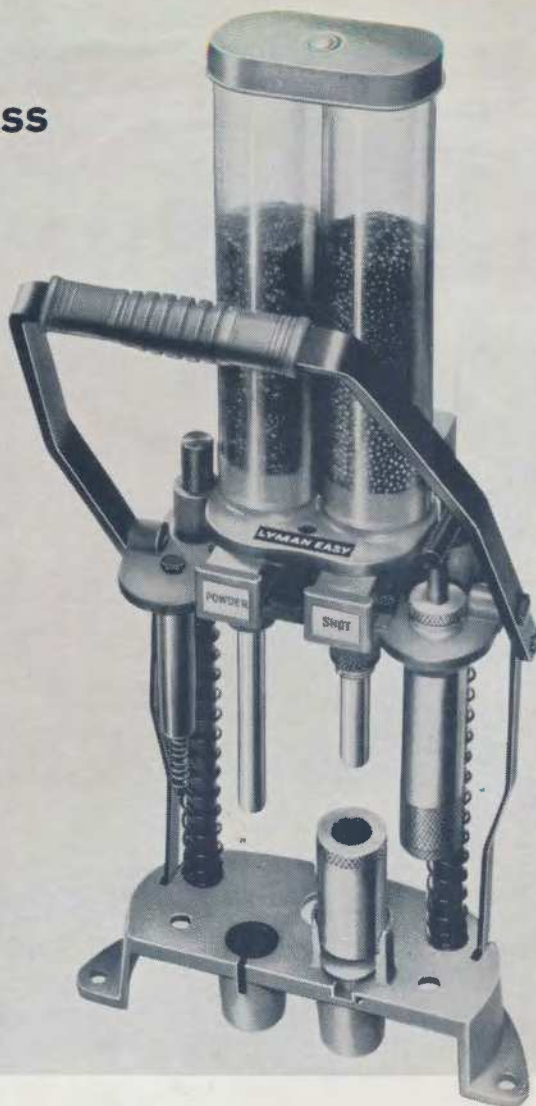
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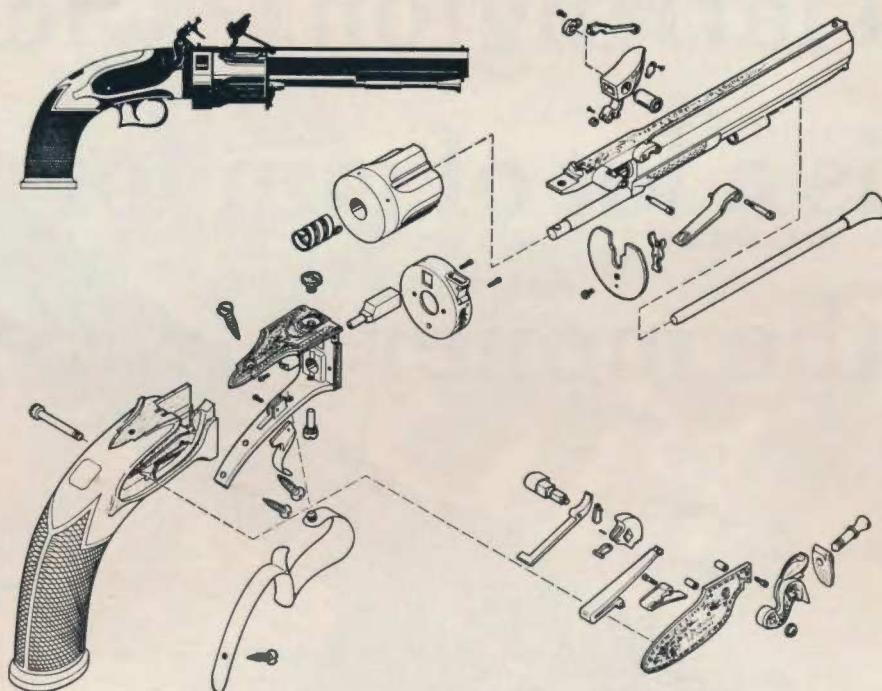
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AN INSIDE LOOK

AT THE COLLIER REPEATING FLINTLOCK

By SHELLEY BRAVERMAN



CONSIDERABLY SCARCER than the Paterson Colt is the almost legendary Collier Repeating Flintlock. Although invented in the United States by Elisha H. Collier (in conjunction with Coolidge) in 1808, it is generally accepted that the guns were actually made in England about ten years later; the English patents were granted in 1818. As marketed, it was called a "Cylinder Gun."

The workmanship is superb, equalling that of Best Grade English Shotguns, and indicates considerable hand-fitting. Collier also made shotguns and rifles, but it is not likely that more than three hundred guns were marketed.

The illustration is of the regular type, 6 1/8" barrel, smooth bore and .47 caliber; overall length about 14"—earlier types were 11 1/2" long and of .42 caliber.

In operation the gun is automatically primed—a tremendous advance for the flintlock era—but negated by the percussion cap; as in so many instances, quality could not supplant design, nor could the guns be produced at competitive prices.

To load the gun it was first placed at half-cock; the chamber-shield was removed and each chamber loaded with powder, wadding and bullet and the shield replaced. To revolve the cylinder

it was necessary to draw it back against spring pressure, thus disengaging each uppermost chamber mouth from the barrel breech. The priming-magazine is inside the frizzen, and held enough powder for about ten shots. In use, the cylinder was manually turned for each shot, but the frizzen dropped a priming charge "automatically" each time it was closed.

All Colliers known are five-shot and have back-action side locks. The gas check design (whereby the rear of the barrel would be inside of the mouth of a chamber at the moment of discharge) doubled as an indexing system by "locking" the cylinder. It is reported that some Colliers were converted to percussion by individual owners. Recently discovered Collier rifle has a detachable shoulder-stock and nine (9) groove rifling for a .60 caliber bullet.

Apparently Collier had considerable association with Samuel Colt; Colt acknowledged Collier's prior claim to a successful application of the revolving principle and when Colt brought his famous patent infringement suit against the Massachusetts Arms Company in 1850, Collier was an important witness. In his executive address to the Institution of Civil Engineers (London, November 25-26, 1851) Colt included a detailed description of the Collier.

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

JULY, 1966

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Publisher

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Ass't to the Publisher

TRIGGER TALK

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TODAY, THERE ARE two big "gunfights" being waged by American shooters. One is the fight by civilian shooting sportsmen to maintain their right to keep and enjoy guns. This magazine has always been, and will continue to be, an intrepid fighter in this battle. E. B. Mann brings you up to date on gun legislation in his article on page 30, and Neal Knox alerts us of another manifestation of the big push against legitimate gun owners and dealers on page 46. Combine these articles with the up-to-the-minute reporting of Carl Wolff, Our Man In Washington, and we have the best legislative coverage available.

The other big "gunfight" is being fought by American soldiers in Viet Nam, in what is certainly a war of small arms. The guns used by our GI's—and those used by the Viet Cong against them—are covered in depth in our feature article on page 20.

I doubt if any of our readers need an introduction of the guns of Charles Newton. However, not many are aware of his radical leverbolt design. Through the cooperation of Kingsley Karnopp, we are able to present the first facsimile reproduction of an advertising flyer for this rifle that I have seen. It is a rare piece of Americana that is both nostalgic and technically interesting. The accompanying article by Harry O. Dean gives full details on this unfortunate venture.

I think that the beautiful four color work on pages 39-42 speaks for itself. This will be a continuing feature of GUNS Magazine, and in future issues you'll be seeing many guns never before shown in full color—old guns and new.

To round out this issue, Bob Steindler gives us his test report on the newest in rifle stock design; Louis Steinwedel covers Indian trade guns; Bob Hagel gives a meaningful answer to the question "What is hunting accuracy?"; Bert Popowski explains the reasons behind our shotgun misses; and Charles Askins expounds his ideas on handgun holsters. In addition to these articles and our regular features, we've added a couple of new departments; Guns In The News and Gun Patents.

This, then, is part of the new look of GUNS Magazine. We think it is in keeping with our boast of bringing you the "Finest in the firearms field." But what we think is not really important. To bring you the kind of material you'd like to see in GUNS Magazine, we must know your wants. This is your magazine, and you should have a voice in selecting the material. We are open to suggestions and constructive criticism.

THE COVER

Members of the 16th Armor, 173rd Airborne Brigade advance down an ox-cart trail in territory previously held by the Viet Cong, near the town of Ben Cat, just north of Saigon. GI with the M-60 machine gun, though tired and dirty, keeps sharp eye out for Viet Cong. U.S. Army photograph.

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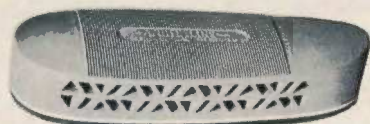
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GUN RACK



By R. A. STEINDLER

Remington 6.5 Ballistics

At long last, Remington released the factory ballistics for the 6.5 Remington Magnum. The 120 gr. Core-Lokt bullet, the only factory loading announced at the present, has the following ballistics from a 20 inch barrel.

Range	fps	ft./lbs.	Drop in Inches	Trajectory, zeroed @ 200 yds.
0	3030	2450	0	0
100	2750	2010	2.0	+ 1.8
200	2480	1640	8.6	0
300	2230	1330	21.0	- 7.5
400	2000	1076	40.0	-22.0
500	1790	850	68.0	-45.4

The ballistics of the 6.5 Remington Magnum place this cartridge into the medium game class and into the hi-vel, flat trajectory group of cartridges for game such as deer, antelope, sheep, and goat. In my experimental rifle with the 20 inch barrel, my average MV was 3050 fps, and preliminary calculations of my own ballistics data indicate that my and Remington's drop and velocity figures are very close. I feel that the short, lightweight Model 600 in this new belted cartridge caliber will find a great deal of acceptance in the west among those hunters who do a lot of stalking and do a lot of their hunting from high mountain camps and on horseback.

The Model 1100 gas-operated autoloading shotgun has already found many friends and is available in 12, 16, and 20 gauge. Last fall, Remington tried out a new version of the Model 1100 in 20 gauge—a lightweight model with a mahogany stock that, with a 28 inch barrel, should appeal to all those who want a light 20 gauge gun.

Pachmayr Pads

Frank Pachmayr, the genial chieftain of Pachmayr Gun Works, recently shipped me two of his new recoil pads. The White Line Presentation Model features a basket weave design, is available for rifle and shotgun, and I found it to be one of the best pads that I have ever tried. Made of a fine rubber that compresses smoothly and easily, it absorbs recoil well and the Presentation pad certainly dresses up a gun.

Frank tells me that a new trap pad is due to make its appearance soon and he has high hopes of getting his new sling swivel on the market sometime later this year or in the early part of next year. This is a quick

detachable sling swivel, which when removed, leaves the stock and fore-end completely clean and without projections.

Brass Cleaner

Some shooters seem to take pride in having dirty hunting clothes, battered rifles, and crummy looking brass. Others keep their shooting irons in good order, look neat and tidy, but when it comes to the matter of rifle brass, they too have brass that could stand some TLC (tender, loving care). Handgunners who load their own ammo have long ago learned that tumbling cleans cases and loaded ammo to perfection, but tumbling loaded rifle ammo is not feasible. That leaves us with dirty brass, but now there is one fellow who has done something about it. Gordon O. Toftner, a custom gunsmith whose shop is at 2388G N 490W, Layton, Utah, has a case cleaner that works well and without too much fuss. His case cleaner contains no miracle ingredients or jet-age chemicals, but the stuff that he sells under the logical name of Case Cleaner does the job, neatly and swiftly. Complete instructions come with each bottle of Case Cleaner, and there is nothing difficult about getting two or three hundred cases clean in somewhat less than a hour. Clean brass will last longer, and there is less chance of having the gun chamber scratched by grit. Case Cleaner not only brightens and cleans the brass and the primer pocket but it also removes the oil and grease that accumulates in loading the cases. Like most of the other metal cleaners, Case Cleaner works best hot. My bin now holds GI brass which sparkles and shines so much that I'll have to get around to cleaning the rest of my brass.

Weatherby Gun Cases

Roy Weatherby told me about his cases over a year ago, and now they have become reality. Made of a tough and apparently highly durable plastic, the cases are lined with foam. The two-gun case that I have been testing for several weeks has leather tie-downs for the guns so that they won't slip or slide around. The cases have strong hinges and enough padding to withstand almost any kind of shock and each comes with lock and key so that you need not worry about pilferage. As of this writing, prices for the cases have not been determined, but you can get them from your Weatherby dealer.

Torn Case Extractor

I guess I must have been lucky all those years, but I have never had a shot-shell part company in the chamber of a gun. But I have seen it happen and know what a project the removal of the torn hull can be. The Turner Co., 2265G Spring Hill Dr., Dallas, Texas, 75228, now offers a Torn Case Extractor that works like greased lightning. I cut a couple of cases apart, both plastic and paper, then ran them into the chambers of a pump, an autoloader, and a double. You just slip the extractor into the torn end of the hull, close the action, open the action and presto, out comes the Torn Case Extractor with the torn hull. Since cases can also separate in the sizing die of a shotshell loader, especially if you try to make them go just one more round, you may find one of these Turner tools quite necessary. Again I cut a couple of plastic and paper hulls, shoved them into the sizing dies of several loading tools, inserted the Turner Torn Case Extractor, and out popped the torn hull. It's really a fine gadget.

Magnum Ammo Boxes

Al Barney, who heads up Fitz, is a close student of firearms trends. Last year he and I discussed his ammo boxes—the red Ammosafe is well known on every range—and the upshot of our discussion is the new magnum rifle Ammosafe. The large boxes have been somewhat re-designed and construction is sturdier to accommodate the heavier rounds. The cases will handle all magnum rifle car-

tridges, including the .458 Winchester Magnum rounds. You can get the magnum Ammosafe either from your dealer or from Fitz, Box 49702G, Los Angeles, Cal.

Speer Manual


The new Speer loading manual, the 7th edition, is due to make its appearance shortly. Dave Andrews, the Speer ballisticsian, tells me that this will include loading dope for the .350 Remington Magnum and also for the 6.5 Remington Magnum if Speer can get a factory rifle in time. Since the Marlin .444 won't handle the .44 caliber Speer bullet, Speer staffers are busy designing a new bullet for the .444. Incidentally, the 7th edition of the Speer manual will also incorporate loads for the RelodeR powders.

A New Shooting Rest

Shooting sticks or rests are nothing new and most of them are relatively simple stick designs that can be put into the pocket of a hunting jacket. I have found them handy when popping varmints at the longer ranges, but have never tried them on a big game hunt since I am usually burdened with a couple of cameras, binoculars, and rifle. Now a very unique and very adaptable shooting rest, known as Truaim, has made its appearance, and, let me tell you, it's quite a gadget. Unlike most of the current crop of shooting rests which are designed to be used in the field only the Truaim rest can also be used on the bench. You can use

it with a rifle as well as with a handgun if you rest the barrel on a support of some kind.

If the Truaim rest is used on a bench, then the somewhat curved leg is fastened to the upright by means of a thumbscrew, and the two points of the leg plus the support offered by the upright, holds the rest so that you can place a rifle into the plastic-covered yoke. Since the height of the yoke is fully adjustable, the Truaim rest can be used on any hard surface, such as the hood of your car. In field usage, the leg is removed and the rubber cap over the spike of the upright is also taken off. This leaves the two sharp spikes exposed and it is a simple matter to push the Truaim rest into the ground, providing of course that the ground is not too hard or too rocky. Since the yokes offer a wide choice of adjustable heights, the rest is probably the most versatile one that has come to my attention in the last few years.

For field carry, there is a provision for slipping the Truaim rest over the belt, and when fully retracted, the rest does not get into your way as you are walking. The Truaim rest makes a dandy auxiliary bench rest, should prove to be a boon to the varmint, and might well be considered by big game hunters, although I have some reservations here. The metal of the rest appears to be chrome plated and reflects light and sunshine quite strongly. If the rest were finished in some other manner, perhaps something like a Parkerized finish, the rest would be better for hunting the more wary game. Made by the Truaim Co., Box 111G, Pittsburgh, Pa., 15230. 

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News from the...

SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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

Months ago, sportsmen throughout the nation were infuriated by a blatantly anti-gun article in "Harp-er's Magazine." In reporting this anti-gun smear, we showed how the article in question was aimed at an audience which was preconditioned to anti-gun attitudes, opinions, and propaganda.

The same type of attack has once again been made on your constitutional right to firearms, and as be-fore, it has been made before the same general audi-ence. Titled "The Big Shoot," and written by one Robert G. Sherrill, it appears in a recent issue of "The Nation," a well-known "liberal" publication.

This particular attack goes beyond anything we have read in some time. Without a single good word for firearms, or the men who enjoy their use in the legitimate shooting sports, this article launches attacks on: (1) The National Rifle Association; (2) E. B. Mann, Editor of GUNS Magazine; (3) Mail order sales in general; (4) Present licensing laws; (5) Firearms dealers; (6) Interstate shipments; (7) Souvenir weapons; (8) Letter writing campaigns; (9) The firearms industry itself; (10) Rep. Sikes of Florida; (11) The National Board for the Promo-tion of Rifle Practice; (12) The Defense Depart-ment; (13) Availability of free surplus ammunition.

Obviously, our space here is too limited to answer such a random spattering of charges. And probably it would be a waste of time to do so, for in our opin-ion, the article was meant only to be a "circulation-builder," directed to the attention of those who are ready to believe anything bad about shooters.

Since readers who rely on "The Nation" for infor-mation are disposed to believe that firearms are inherently bad anyway, this particular article will probably do us little harm. But it does illustrate a point which we should keep in mind.

Anti-gun writers know just what to say to appeal to a certain segment of society, and where to go to get their material placed before this particular public. We, on the other hand, have had as our main method of transmitting information, the various firearms publications. Just as anti-gun writers cannot reach out to the uncommitted general public

through the "liberal" publications, we cannot reach the same uncommitted general public through the various firearms publications.

We cannot do anything about the material "The Na-tion" chooses to print. And since it is true that this particular journal, as was the case with "Harp-ers," influences only those who are likely to be anti-gun already, we should not waste energy fight-ing their propaganda.

Instead, we should commit all our energy and tal-ent to obtaining space, however insignificant, in the nation's daily and weekly press. It is here that we will find the "general public" which ultimately may be called on to vote for or against local, state, and national legislation.

As part of the S.C.A. membership package, you have the right to send us the names of "influencers" - outdoor writers; editors; columnists; radio broad-casters; TV commentators, etc. - who are either sympathetic to our cause, or at least willing to listen to reason. On receipt of such names, we will add these to our "Pro-Gun Information" mailing list, and supply them with all the facts, figures, and points of view available.

Through this vigorous service, we are already mak-ing headway in the fight for uncommitted individ-uals. We wish to extend the range of this effort, even though we fully realize that the results will not be spectacular or immediate. Though it may be hard for you to become excited about a small article in your local paper, or a particular set of statis-tics buried in a large metropolitan daily, every-thing we do now will lead to ultimate victory.

If you are now an S.C.A. member and have not yet contributed names to our "Pro-Gun Press Information Service," do so at once. If you are not yet a mem-ber of the S.C.A., now is the time to join. Act now, and along with the membership coupon below, send us the names you want added to our "Pro-Gun Press In-formation Service." Help yourself, and help pre-pare the way for future generations of shooting sportsmen, by joining the S.C.A. right now!

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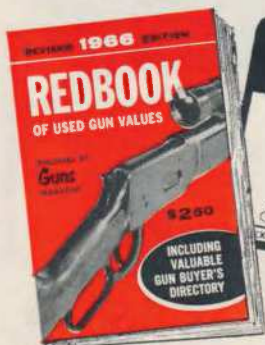
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CROSSFIRE

Remington History

Your history of Remington differs quite a bit from what I read some time ago, and read again in a current issue of another magazine. The version I read goes like this:

1. Harley & Graham purchased large interests in Remington in 1888.
2. Upon the death the following year ('89) of Philo Remington, Hartley acquired complete control of Remington.
3. Hartley had organized the Union Metallic Cartridge Co. in 1866, but it was not until 1912 that they were merged as the Remington Arms-Union Metallic Cartridge Co., and was reorganized as the Remington Arms Company, Inc. in 1920.
4. du Pont de Nemours & Co. purchased controlling interest in 1933, and they acquired Peters Cartridge Co. in 1934.

As you can see this is quite different than what you have on page 27, even as to the date of the Rem., U.M.C. merger.

Walter Lehman
Philadelphia, Pa.

Johnson and Guns

Now that President Johnson has made his stand to prevent crime in his "Great Society" with more gun legislation, how can I as a law abiding collector, reloader, and shooter help to make sure this gun legislation will not snowball into complete gun restriction? It certainly has in England.

I've written my representatives explaining my feelings on this. No matter how much gun legislation or complete restriction we have, criminals will still obtain firearms illegally.

Let's not damn the gun or lawful ownership and use; let's enforce and legislate laws to protect the law abiding gun user, and throw the book at the illegal user of firearms.

I believe one of the things that makes our Nation so strong is that we are a nation of riflemen. Let's keep it that way.

Clarence L. Stoecker
Van Nuys, Calif.

My Old Man

Have just read "My Old Man and his Many Shotguns." As a long time admirer of the Old Major, I enjoyed it very much. I was reading his stuff 25-30 years ago and it's still good. Got his book "Modern Shotguns

and Loads" from Ray Riling some years ago and wouldn't part with it. Think he was one of the greatest shot gunners ever.

Used to share his son's idea of the 16 gauge, but as I get older and more mature have come to appreciate it more and more.

R. J. Weaver, M.D.
Sioux Falls, So. Dak.

007 Goofs

George Liu is creative—not to think of writing such a piece as the 007 one, but to think it was marketable. Some place I have a list of such goofs in all manner of popular suspense fiction, but it was just to amuse myself.

However, George Liu does not go nearly so far as he could have gone with 007. For example, James Bond liked to file the firing pin of his Beretta .25's to a point, which is a dandy way to promote jamming; for example, in the movies, the armorer states that the .32 PPK "hits like the hammer of Thor." I want to say as a half-Norwegian-American that I consider this an insult to Thor. In Dr. No, there is a neat little scene that has Bond and another pecking away at an armored car and not hitting its spotlights at under 25 yards. On the Savage 99 mentioned in "For Your Eyes Only," Bond used a most magical scope mount—had range settings and everything and allowed him to carry the scope off the rifle and slip it on at the last minute—and also pointed out a few things to 6 mm enthusiasts, since this 99 was a .250 and they said very nice things about it. And Liu missed that great scene in From Russia With Love, the movie, when Bond used an AR-7 to shoot down a helicopter, just after assembling said AR-7 while the chaps in the chopper dropped grenades on him.

Ken Warner
Sarasota, Florida

.454 Magnum

I have never written to a magazine before and given my comments but I feel I must in reference to your feature article on the .454 Magnum in the latest issue of GUNS Magazine. Having read your magazine (and many others) for quite a few years, I have seen many good and some bad articles, but without a doubt the article on the .454 Magnum

was the worst I have ever seen, in so far as a ridiculous conversion and completely unreliable, unsafe handloading practice.

A conversion of this type is unquestionably interesting is a general sense but to go into detail with no mention of adequate pressure testing by experts, a mixed powder load recommendation, and almost an endorsement of this odd-ball, to me at least, you have violated an obligation to your readers.

A revolver that operated in the 60,000 psi range, first of all, should not be gone into detail about unless it come from a qualified firearms manufacturer who has the necessary engineering qualifications and knows what he is doing. How this hypothetical figure of 60,000 psi was arrived at was not mentioned, but I can imagine.

To even mention a triplex load in relation to 60,000 psi chamber pressure really cinched the case and I immediately thought of the beginning or prospective handloader reading this and accepting it because it came from GUNS Magazine. For years all qualified experts and the NRA have warned against mixing smokeless powders. Now along comes your article with absolutely no mention of a warning and the possible (and probable) results of mixing smokeless powders.

I personally think you should not publish any article such as the .454 Magnum by a screwball, unqualified gunsmith without an editor's comment as to the dangers involved and the item's unproven safety. You are one of our best magazines for authoritative and reliable information. But about two more articles like the above and you won't be.

Richard L. Baker
Hamden, Conn.

We gave Richard Casull, who converted the Ruger Blackhawk to .454, the chance to answer Mr. Baker publically.—Editor.

First, let me emphasize our appreciation to your magazine and Mr. Calder for a fine job, well done, in reporting the facts about this development in handguns.

"Wild Bill," as we know Mr. Calder, is most accurate in his illustrative description of our handgun and its amazing capabilities, so by this, we feel is answer enough to Mr. Baker's letter.

However, we also feel we owe you an explanation and possible answer to any further repudiating response that you may receive regarding Mr. Calder's report.

The details of the ballistics, loading, and construction of the gun were arrived at by actual tests several years ago by myself and others who are regarded as more than unqualified "screwball" gun buffs. Mr. P. O. Ackley of Salt Lake City was an associate in these tests.

Such tests, as you know, are not an easy task to complete and are, at any rate, an exhausting and expensive undertaking. But, if any ardent, interested handgunners may want demonstrations, badly enough to foot the expense, and to travel to my gunshop in Midvale, Utah, I will be very happy to re-establish the facts, as were set forth in the article.

It is true that this high loading requires the shooter's undivided attention. The velocities and pressures attained by Tri-Plex loading can be dangerous, but only if the shooter

allows them to be. Using caution and standard safety precautions will allow the shooter a comfortable amount of safety margin.

At the present time, we are engaging only in converting Rugers to the .454. The response from your magazine's readers has been very enlightening and has spurred us to continue our conversion program, but not enough as yet to go into a production status.

Richard "Dick" Casull
Sandy, Utah

16 Gauge Magnum

I wish to thank Mr. B. R. Hughes and your magazine for the article "Why Not A 16 Gauge Magnum?" I will pay \$100.00 for the first 100 paper star-crimp 3 inch 16 gauge hulls that anyone will send me.

Philip P. Griffie
1623 Alderson Avenue
Billings, Montana

Wild Bill Hickok

Your article, part one of "Wild Bill Hickok—Man or Myth," is most interesting, especially as you put the emphasis on his gun life. I am an old timer, and over the years I have read much about this man,

"Wild Bill," and always find him interesting. Looking forward to your second part, and with my best regards.

R. Horace Grigg
Philadelphia, Pa.

Happy Fan

I am writing you a few lines to let you know I am one of your subscribers who gets a lot of enjoyment out of reading your magazine. I enjoy practically all phases of the gun hobby, from hunting, collecting, handloading and the lot. I am a 100 per cent "gun nut."

The "Safari" issue of Guns Magazine is my biggest favorite and I look forward to getting the next issue.

Since I am a double rifle collector and shooter, I wish you could write a few more articles on double rifles and anything on the reloading of them. Since there are many good double rifles in the USA today, I know this information would be appreciated.

My one big dream is to go to Africa on a Safari. My number one of the big five would be the Cape Buffalo. Most of my double rifles are Westley Richards'.

Jim Huiett
Salina, Kansas



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HANDLOADING BENCH

By DAVE WOLFE

Editor and Publisher of
The HANDLOADER Magazine



THOSE OF US who test handloads off a bench-rest often run into problems for which there seems to be no solution. Over a two-year period a friend of mine had put many hundreds of rounds through his Model 70 .220 Swift, consistently getting $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch (and less) five-shot groups at 100 yards. Then one recent Sunday afternoon all semblance of accuracy went to pot. Groups swelled to 2" for no apparent reason.

He had not removed the action from the stock, nor fiddled with the sight bases. Weather was not a factor. His favorite load of 45.5 grains of 4831 powder, Remington #9½ primer, and Sierra 55-grain spitzer, had not been changed. The bench set-up was the same—a Beecher rest with leather bags.

He drove home in utter disgust, muttering nasty words about his pet rifle. A few days later he experienced the same thing—after taking great pains in preparing three boxes of .220 reloads.

Can a rifle barrel go sour over night? We didn't think so. Rather than begin experimenting with a new load, we decided to start eliminating factors that might affect variances in accuracy: brass, flash holes, bullets, powder, primers, scope bases, tension on fore-end screw, etc. To make a long story short, we finally located the culprit—the primer. At least this was OUR conclusion.

For several years my buddy had been using Remington primers he'd purchased almost five years ago. Of the several cartons of 1,000, all had the same lot number. Early this year he acquired some new 9½'s, and these were used in the "erratic" loads. To test this theory we loaded 40 rounds of .220's in his best cases, using the old primers in half and the new batch for the balance.

You know the result: the old primers brought groups back to normal.

I discussed this problem with several experts at the last NRA convention in Chicago. Evidently changes in primer composition are not uncommon among the various manufacturers. Competitive bench-rest shooters have been aware of this for a long time and they watch the lot numbers closely—a good point to keep in mind when you record those "pet loads" for your favorite guns.

These composition changes are not the fault of the maker, I'm told. Unavoidable variances occur in the batches of compounds, and improvements are being made constantly in mixtures and methods of production. It behooves us, therefore, to work up new loads when we change primer makes, or primer lot

numbers. Chances are, though, that you will not experience the drastic fall-off in accuracy that my friend did. His happens to be a very temperamental rifle.

While on the primer subject, don't forget that corrosive primers are still floating around, especially in surplus military ammo. Younger shooters tend to be complacent about the use of non-corrosive primers—and the fact that rifles and pistols no longer need to be cleaned the same day they are used. This N/C blessing, pioneered by Remington in the late 20's with the Kleenbore mixture, did eliminate potassium chlorate; after burning, this turned to potassium chloride which remained in the bore and attracted moisture. But mercury and ground glass were still present in the compound. The fulminate of mercury made cases brittle, and the glass chewed up bores of the barrels.

In 1959 I ruined the barrel on a fine little '06 sporter because of sheer stupidity, and laziness. I still hate me! But perhaps my lesson will save you some headaches:

At the time I was playing around with .30-06 squibb loads, using Lyman #311413 gas-check bullets, 165-grain, with 23 grains of HiVel #2 powder (now discontinued). My brass was old, very old—some stuff my Dad had stashed in an old coffee can, ONLY TO BE USED IN CASE OF WAR!

Primers for these loads were N/C, N/M Remingtons. But the brand doesn't matter; they WERE non-corrosive.

After an afternoon's shooting I placed the gun on the wall rack in my shop and did not look at it again for several months. It was hot and humid in Central Illinois that year. One day I found some of my hand tools rusting, so I quickly grabbed the '06 off the wall. Bore was a ghastly sight—ugly rust from chamber to muzzle.

Why the rust? Simple, in my opinion, once you understand the properties of old corrosive primers, and especially one ingredient, potassium chlorate (which was approximately 20 per cent of the compound). Particles had remained in the dry cartridge cases for years, and were suddenly released in the bore of my beautiful rifle.

When I told Major George Nonte this story he scoffed at my theory, maintaining that he'd fired thousands of reloads from old cases without a trace of corrosion. I have an idea George has been wise enough to clean his rifles every week or so. Anyway, he couldn't come up with a better theory.

Potassium chlorate turns to potassium

chloride after burning—a chemical similar to common table salt. It draws moisture when exposed to humid air, and hence the rust. So, boil or chemically clean old cases. And watch for brittle brass.

Several good case cleaners are being advertised, and all do a respectable job when used properly. There is a new one on the market, made by Gordon O. Toftner, The Foothills Gunshop, 2388-G N. 490 West Layton, Utah 84041. For two bucks you get a six-ounce plastic bottle of concentrated solution which makes about four quarts of cleaner.

It's been a couple of years since this columnist has done any amount of handgun shooting, a situation that will change this summer. But in going through my notebooks the other day I found one of my pet loads for the .45 ACP (for just plinking, not competitive target shooting). It calls for 4.2 grains of Hi-Skor with 200-grain H&G bullet and CCI #300 primer. Bullets were cast of type-metal (very hard), sized and lubed in my SAECO tool.

Now that Hi-Skor has been discontinued, I'm itching to work up a load using 700X powder. This powder is more dense than Hi-Skor, so don't attempt to substitute charge weights! An excellent article on the .45 ACP in the May-June issue of *THE HANDLOADER* Magazine tells how to work up loads in this caliber—tricky business if not done right.

If any of you readers have experimented with 700X in the .45 auto, I'd like to hear from you.

Not long ago Phil Teachout gave a report on reduced loads that still has me scratching my noggin. Phil found that accuracy was far better in his .308 and .30-06 rifles if the light powder charge was positioned next to the bullet instead of the primer. Rather than tipping the muzzle up prior to firing from a bench, he pointed it toward the ground.

Now I like reduced loads in big bores, and have had some respectable groups in my .30-06 sporters with cast bullets. The thought that I've been doing it all wrong is more than a little disconcerting.

Phil tested the "powder forward" method in two rifles—a Savage 110 in .308 caliber, and a .30-06 NRA sporter. His .308 load was 15 grains of 4759 powder and a 125-grain home-made bullet. The '06 load used the same bullet, but with 18 grains of 4759.

He split 60 rounds in each gun, firing 10 shot groups. With half of each box he lifted the muzzle 60 degrees or more, to settle the powder at the rear of the chambered case; on the next 10 he pointed the gun down about 45 degrees, thus pacing the powder at the base of the bullet.

In both rifles, groups ran 50 per cent better with powder in the front. Interesting? Sure, but how does it work? Is there more uniform ignition with a large space between flash hole and powder? Common sense tells me uniformity would be best with powder next to the primer.

This is on my list (a long list) of projects for this summer. Those of you who beat me to it, send in your results.

Warning: don't attempt to use reduced charges of slow burning powder, especially in high intensity calibers such as .243, .25-06, etc. More than a few guns have been ruined by an unexplained detonation phenomenon where light loads of these propellants were used.

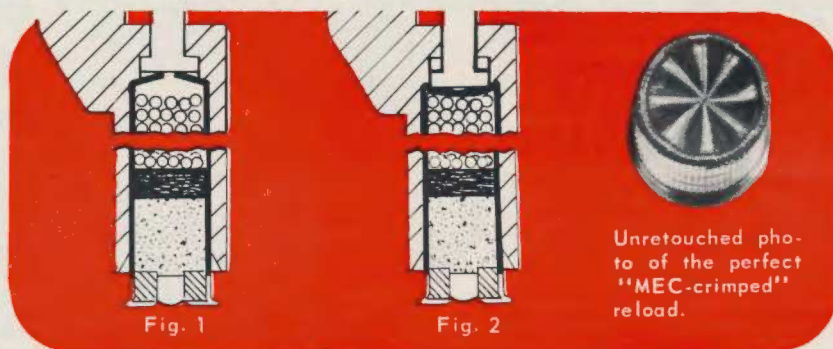


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STEVENS RIFLE TELESCOPES

Catalog Reprint
(*American Memorabilia Soc., Box 294,
Bronxville, New York, 1965. \$1.00*)

This is a facsimile reprint of the telescope catalog of J. Stevens Arms and Tool Co., first brought out by Stevens in 1903. It announces the purchase by Stevens of the Cataract Tool and Optical Co., and their entrance into the field of sporting rifle scopes. On the 32 pages of this catalog, you'll find illustrations and descriptions of some 14 different scope models, including the "New Pistol" scope for handguns and the "Multiscope," a variable scope of 6X to 12X. And if you think that the extended eye relief scopes of today are new—this catalog shows a "Colt" scope, mounted on the barrel, with a 7½" eye relief.

There is a lot of good information in this catalog, as well as a lot of nostalgia, and it is well worth the buck that it costs.—J.R.

COMPLETE BOOK OF SHOOTING

By Jack O'Connor
(*Harper & Row, Inc., New York, N.Y.,
1966. \$5.95*)

The major share of this book contains much of the material that Jack O'Connor has presented in his two previous books, the one on the rifle and the other on the shotgun. Jack, as usual, has done a fine job in presenting the how-to of shooting rifle and shotgun, plus a lot of hunting savvy, while Alex Kerr did the section on trap and skeet—a job for which he is well qualified. Roy Dunlap, the gunsmith and target shooter, did a fine job in presenting the target shooting end of things with a rifle, and much of his material will be of real value to the shooter who is interested in target shooting.

The book is, on the whole, as complete a book as you can pack into 368 pages, and many of the illustrations help more than is usual for a book of this kind. This is a solid book that will be valuable for the beginning shooter or one who is just getting into some of the intricacies of shooting.—R.A.S.

NO ROOM FOR BEARS

By Frank Dufresne
(*Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc., New York,
N.Y., 1965. \$6.00.*)

A great many books have been written about bears, but this one is so totally different, so personal and yet objective, that I found it impossible to put it down. Frank Dufresne has lived and worked with the big Alaska bears, he has filmed them, has studied them, and we can only hope that this book will help to protect them from the inroads of civilization. This is a book that should be read and re-read by every sportsman, be he big game hunter or fisherman, since much of the material presented here plays an important role in the future of our

natural resources. If we don't know what is happening to these resources, it seems quite likely that we won't be able to defend them when the time for defense comes. Get "No Room For Bears," read it, tell all your friends about it—you too will be enthralled with it and you too will close it with regrets. Let's hope that Frank Dufresne will write another book soon!—R.A.S.

LET'S START A CARTRIDGE COLLECTION

By A. Donald Amesbury
(*A. D. Amesbury, 4065 E. Montecito Ave.,
Tucson, Ariz., 85711. \$2.00*)

This slim volume is unique in many respects. The author is a top-notch cartridge collector and is well known in collector's circles. This background has given him a splendid insight into the why's and wherefore's of cartridge collecting and also has furnished him with a good deal of material on how to start, house, catalog, and present a collection. Even if you collect only currently produced cartridges, you are bound to get much good from this book and it is easily worth the two bucks.—R.A.S.

IDENTIFYING OLD U.S. MUSKETS, RIFLES AND CARBINES

By Col. Arcadi Gluckman
(*The Stackpole Co., Harrisburg,
Pa., 1965. \$10.00*)

This volume is a companion book to "United States Martial Pistols and Revolvers," and the author is well known for his work on and his extensive knowledge of U.S. martial arms. Thus, this book should be a welcome addition to the library of any student, dealer, or collector of American military arms, and much new material has been added to the second edition of this volume. This is a most comprehensive work and fills a very definite need in the area of U.S. martial arms.—R.A.S.

Booklets:

RCBS Catalog from RCBS, Inc., Box 729G, Oroville, Cal., 95965. The finest and biggest loading tool catalog produced by RCBS with handsome four color cover. A very useful catalog to have on your loading bench, contains many important charts and tables. Free.

WEBLEY & SCOTT LTD. catalog from Service Armament Co., 689G Bergen Blvd., Ridgefield, N.J., features many of these imported guns and shooting accessories. Catalog shows, for first time, full pistol grip shotguns which are imported by Service Armament Co. Free.

NORMA'S GUNBUGS GUIDE (\$1.00) and NORMA'S BEGINNER'S GUIDE (free), both available from Norma-Precision, South Lansing, N.Y. If you are handloader or are curious about some of the stuff manufacturers and handloaders stick into cartridge cases, these two small volumes will do a lot to help you understand some of the intricacies of modern ballistics.



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OTHER INFORMATION: All entries are subject to the complete Contest Rules, terms and conditions which appear only on the Official Entry Blank. Contest is void where prohibited by law, regulated, taxed or abused. Contest is sponsored and underwritten, and prizes are guaranteed, by the publisher of **THE NEW HUNTER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA**.

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Panel of Experts

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

Pieper Pistol

I am looking for information on an auto pistol that I have. It's a .380 caliber Pieper manufactured in Belgium. No one can seem to tell me where I can get parts for it or where I can contact the manufacturer.

Joseph Pristi
Blue Point, New York

The address for the Pieper (Bayard) Company is Herstal, Belgium. Parts for the 9mm Pieper or Bayard are very scarce and, when found, quite expensive; finding the specific parts you need will probably be a matter of chance. You might try the various parts dealers listed in the "RED BOOK" (GUNS Magazine), or let me know just what you need.—S.B.

H & R Parts

I have a H&R sportsman revolver, late model. It shoots fine, but the cylinder comes off when I break the gun open. The shells eject when I hold it in place. Is there some kind of pin that holds it, if so could you tell me where I could buy one.

Charlie Sills
Palm Springs, Calif.

Evidently your cylinder catch is broken. Write to Harrington & Richardson, Inc., 320 Park Ave., Worcester, Mass., giving them the model and serial number of your gun and enclose \$1.25 for the part and postage.—P.T.H.

Glass Bedding

I have just purchased a Model 70, Winchester in the .300 Win. mag. caliber. I want to know if glass bedding is a good idea. Is it completely necessary? I have heard it will increase the value of my gun.

Danny C. Russey
Fort Worth, Texas

Full length glass bedding is, most times, not necessary. If you want to, glass bed receiver and chamber part of the barrel since this will usually give you the best results. Value increase is minimal, even if your new Model 70 is glass bedded full length.—P.T.H.

Sword Bayonets

I have two nickel plated bayonets, sabre type. Perhaps you can identify them for me; both are the same. One has serial No. 344, the date 1862, and the letter "G". The other has serial No. 395 (the 3 is upside down), the date 1861, the numbers 3438, and the letter "G," which is also upside down. The bayonets are 30½" long. What would their value be?

Edward F. Guinazzo
Dorchester, Mass.

The bayonets you have are the Merrill Navy Rifle Sword/Saber Bayonet, Model 1862. It is believed that these rifles were made for Merrill by Remington Arms Co. About 770 Merrill Rifles were ordered by our government during the Civil War in 1862. The company went out of existence in 1869. Value of your Sword/Bayonets in fine condition should be about \$40.00.—R.M.

Safe Load?

I recently purchased a few rounds of 9mm cartridges with the following markings: "D I 43 9MM." Also, at about 4, 8, and 12 o'clock around the primer, there are three triangular shaped impressions in the base of the case.

My questions are: 1) What is the origin of this ammo, and 2) Is this safe to fire in my new commercial Walther P 38 pistol? W.H.B. Smith, in his book "Walther Pistols and Rifles," states that there are two schools of thought on Sten-gun ammo and its use in Lugers and P 38 pistols—one faction asserts that this ammo is too powerful, the other believes that it is entirely safe for pistols in good condition. I believe the cartridges I have are Canadian manufactured for pistol and sub-machine gun. (They are clean and bright and sturdy in appearance, which

should never be too much trusted.) Do you think I could safely use them for practice?

Jon Craig
Oceanside, Calif.

Your 9mm Parabellum ammunition was made in 1943 by Defence Industries, Ltd., of Canada, a wartime division of Canadian Industries, Ltd. I've fired DI ammo in pistols, both the Luger and P-38, without trouble. I'd rather not actually recommend that you fire it as it's pretty old, and some lots of wartime ammunitions were not up to commercial standards. I consider it safe, but if I recommended it and it damaged your P-38 I'd feel responsible.—D.W.

Hopkins & Allen

I recently purchased an old falling block action .22 rifle. The barrel is marked "Made by The Hopkins & Allen Mfg. Co., Norwich, Conn. U.S.A." Also, with "The Merwin & Hulbert & Co. Junior." Can you tell me anything about the rifle and its approximate value as a collector's item?

John M. Barnes
Warm Springs, Ga.

The firm Hopkins & Allen was established in Norwich, Conn., in 1868, and remained in business until 1918. Until 1888 it produced only lower price revolvers, at this date it offered several different single shot lever action rifles. Among these rifles was your "New Model Junior Rifle" made in both round and octagon barrels. Priced then at \$6.00. Collectors value today for a fine condition "Junior Rifle" would be about \$25.00, and would drop if the condition was poorer.—R.M.

Savage 99 Conversion

I have a problem that I would like help with. I have a Model 1899 Savage, take-down model in .22 Sav. HP with a .410 shotgun barrel serial No. 167037. I would like to know if this action can be rebarreled to .225 Win. with the barrel being installed permanently. The gun wasn't fired more than 200-300 times and seems very tight. Will the half threads in the action in any way effect the safety of such a rebarreling job?

Bernard W. Baltz
McMechen, W. Va.

I do not consider the Savage 1899 suitable for conversion to .225 Win. and I do not advise any alteration on this gun.—P.T.H.

.44 Special Loads

Dave Andrews of the Speer Company suggested I contact you concerning the making up of shot loads for my .44 Spcl. I would appreciate any information you can supply, and, if possible, advice on where to get the wad material and cutter.

Jordan I. Isaiou
Bellevue, Wash.

A good .44 Special shot charge is 4.5 grs. Bullseye. You'll do better to have your gun chambers deepened for .44 Magnum cases, as



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they hold a bit more shot and 1.0 gr. more powder. The Merwin Co., Box 414G, Hurst, Texas, sells an inexpensive crimp die that works far better than any other for shot cartridges. They also sell inexpensive card wads and furnish free loading data. I do not know of a commercial wad cutter punch. You can make one, but I suggest you try the Merwin wads and die first.—D.W.

.25-35 from .30-30

I am an admirer of the .25-35 caliber and am making preparations for the day when the factory ammo goes off the market. I have read that .25-35's are easily formed from .30-30 cases, which should be around

for some time. I am therefore considering the purchase of a set of dies for forming .25-35 cases from .30-30. What should I order in the way of dies to accomplish this case forming?

Clark L. Shively
John Day, Oregon

RCBS can supply a .30-30 to .25-35 form die. But the .30-30 is a bit short and small at the head. I wouldn't clobber-up cases when fresh new brass is available. About 300 new shells will last longer than your rifle. Fresh shells in this caliber will be good for over 20 years, probably 35 years if unfired, and I'm sure they will be available for a good many years.

A generation from now might be a better
(Continued on page 77)

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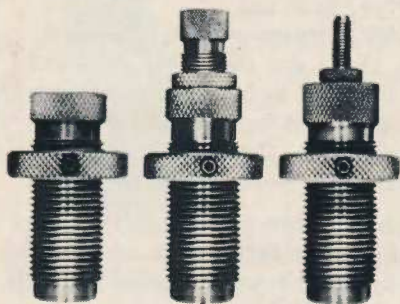
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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



CARL WOLFF

THE BATTLE FOR VOTES IS ON

One can't read the Congressional Record, official journal of legislative activities, without being reminded of the anti-gun drive here in Washington. Nearly each issue carries speeches or some development, often proclaiming that yet another lawmaker has joined the crusade.

On April 6, for example, Senator Edward Kennedy (D., Mass.) had a speech reprinted. Originally delivered before the Boston University Symposium on Crime, April 1, Sen. Kennedy stated, "I intend to work hard for the passage of effective firearms control legislation."

Previously young Kennedy had been relatively silent. Though he voted for the infamous "Dodd Bill" as a member of Dodd's Subcommittee to Investigate Juvenile Delinquency, it had been thought it was to please brother Bobby Kennedy (D.-N.Y.) Now, it is clear both are anti-gun progressives. They must be ranked with Dodd and Senator Joseph Tydings (D.-Md.)

"Passage of gun control legislation would," said young Kennedy, "meet head on the problem of crime in the streets." As for details on the misuse of "dangerous and lethal firearms," they were the same old hat Dodd has been verbally wearing for years. The interpretation of the data just as questionable as when originally aired by Dodd.

Fortunately other lawmakers are realizing crime can only be prevented through direct action. Senator Margaret Chase Smith (R.-Maine), herself twice a victim, reported to the Congress on April 6, "Maybe when enough of us have been hurt we will really rise up and do something about it. Maybe we will inject enough citizen firmness in our everyday life to reduce the number of young hoodlums who constitute the hard core of the alarming increase in crime."

"I have experienced being a victim of crimes. Fortunately, I have not been attacked or bodily injured. But I have been the victim of a robbery and a bombing."

"More than 50 per cent of the houses in the block where I reside have been robbed—5 out of 8. But none of the thieves have been apprehended."

"Yes, I have been lucky that I have not been a greater victim of crime—that I was not in my office in the Senate Office Building when my television set was stolen or I might have been injured like Representative Cleveland of New Hampshire was in his House Office



Building office—that I was not near my mail box when it was bombed and destroyed—that my house has not been robbed.

"But I wonder just how much longer my good fortune will last and I think about the thousands of Americans who are murdered and maimed each year by the young hoodlums who are just out for kicks." Mrs. Smith, unlike others, is not blaming the gun.

Here is young Kennedy's opposing view: "Some say this growth in crime is due to a weakening of our country's moral fiber, a growing disrespect for the law encouraged by the civil rights demonstrations of recent years. Others seek to place the blame on recent court decisions expanding the constitutional safeguards we afford individuals accused of crimes.

"We must not blame the crime rate on criminal codding of bleeding-heart judges."

Whose answers seem to make the most sense?

DOES A FRIENDLY LETTER REALLY HELP?

Probably everyone considering writing a letter objecting to gun legislation asks himself if his one letter will do any good. Well, there is an old saying, "The wheel that squeaks the most gets the most grease." This was never more true than when a letter comes to the office of a lawmaker in Washington.

The men on Capitol Hill must become involved in national and international issues. Thus, not only are they removed from their bailiwick, there is the ever-present threat of loosing the tempo or thinking of constituents.

Congressmen and Senators spend of their own, and often limited funds, for poll-taking, newspaper clipping services, and other such sounding boards. Hometown radio and TV newscasts and programs where people express their opinions are recorded and sent to Washington. And, trips home are not merely to put in an appearance. Drop in on your Congressman if you visit Washington and you will likely find him anxious to discuss back-home opinions.

Letters are the best way to determine what is bothering the voters. In this case, the lawmaker figures, especially when he has not heard from the author before, the subject raised is important enough for the signer to step out of his normal character and undertake the relatively strange task of putting his thoughts on paper. The late Speaker of the House, Sam Rayburn, of Texas, personally answered his constituent mail. Most members do.

If the reply appears to be a form letter, it really means that enough similar viewpoints are being expressed to require some production methods because of a limited staff. The best way to get a specific answer is to voice your views in a friendly way and ask a specific answer: "Will you vote yes or no on the 'Dodd Bill?'"

Another point often overlooked by the letter writer is the different people who represent him. There are generally only one Congressman, but two Senators and the man in the White House. Since the gun legislation is most active in the Senate, the Senators are presently more important.



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6.5 Carcano



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

6mm Rem.



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

.22-250



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

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

.223



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

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**WEAPONS OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE ARE
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THE INDO-CHINESE JUNGLE at night presents a symphony of sound. The nocturnal denizens combine their voices with the living rustle of millions of plants in constant, though minute, motion. Life, in its thousands of forms, makes itself heard, if man is but there to listen—and man is.

But the sounds of the jungle at night are now often interrupted. First there is the low-pitched bark of a Soviet SKS carbine (in the hands of a Viet Cong), answered perhaps by a high-speed rattling burst from a U. S. built M-2 carbine. The jungle reverberates, then roars, as other sounds join in. The staccato cough of an Arvin-held BAR, the muffled thump of an M-79 40 mm grenade launcher, the flat bark of M-1 Garands, the higher-pitched, ripping re-

port of M-14's on full auto, and M-60 machine gun with their rattle and ping as links and cases cascade to the mold underfoot. The pop-pop-pop of Thompsons and the same sound slowed as it comes from grease guns. As the crescendo rises, the shrill, tearing clatter of the latest-blooded battlefield visitor—the M-16 and its tiny, high-velocity round—interrupts. Perhaps a pistol here and there will speak, and 12 gauge shotguns cough out their deadly hail, only to be lost in the flat crash of grenades, the muffled clump of mortar shells and the thunderous roar of claymore mines—and the unforgettable sound of men dying.

When the jungle regains its normal voice, the wounded are gone and the dead are buried. Only the myriad clumps



The M-1 Carbine, M-14 rifle, and M-60 Machine gun are basic arms in our Viet Nam small arms arsenal.

Left: The controversial AR-15 is used widely in Viet Nam. Right: An airborne infantryman carries his AR-15 at ready while on patrol. U.S. Army Photograph.



of spent cases and battlefield debris remain. The jungle soon reclaims its own and a wanderer may see only rankly overgrown depressions, their vague but distinctive characteristics faintly reminiscent of man's explosive violence. The moving hand. . . .

The jungle and rice paddy battles in Viet Nam today see a wider variety of hand-held small arms than have ever before been used in so small an area. In addition to the latest U. S. weapons, the area is saturated with the remnants of 20 years of war. France, in her valiant, but less than brilliant, campaign to hold Indo-China, poured millions of modern and obsolete arms into the country—and most stayed there. Foolish indeed would be the Viet Cong who did not make use of this bounty. Junks plying the coastline and cargo vessels flying the flags of our valiant allies discharge hundreds of tons of Soviet and Chinese weapons—some being the latest types. Blacksmiths-cum-armorers turn out crude but death-dealing rifles in hill and tunnel strongholds. Anything that will shoot is put to use in classic guerilla fashion. Nothing is wasted, nothing idled.

On the other side, opposed to the Viet Cong and regular troops from North Viet Nam, many shiploads of U. S. WW II arms of all types have been funneled into the country. Augmenting this are ever-growing shipments of U. S. and other troops armed with the latest individual weapons this country has produced.

It is truly a hodgepodge of armament, nearly paralleling the situation faced by the Confederate Chief of Ordnance when he was confronted by demands for over fifty varieties and calibers of small arms ammunition during our Civil War. So what is to be found in the opposing armies? The Viet Cong uses everything that comes to hand. Among material captured from French forces before the fall of Bien Dien Puh were the weapons shown in Table I.

From various Soviet and Chinese sources, "Charlie" has received many more items since (and even during) the debacle; see Table II.

Also, since the guerilla ever looks to his enemy for weapons and ammunition (often attacking solely to obtain



TABLE ONE

Rifles

Lebel 8 mm
MAS 1936 7.5 mm
MAS 1949 7.5 mm
M-1 Garand .30
M-1 Carbine .30C

Machine Guns

Hotchkiss 8 mm
BAR .30
M-1931 7.5 mm
M-1952 7.5 mm
Browning .30
M-1924/29 7.5 mm

Submachine Guns

MAS 38 7.65 mm
MAT 49 9 mm
Thompson .45
M-3 U. S. .45
Schmeisser 9 mm

Pistols

MAS 1935 7.65 mm
M 1950 9 mm
U. S. M 1911 .45

TABLE TWO

Rifles

Mod 91 7.62 mm
SKS 7.62x39
AK 7.62x39
Czech M-52 7.62x45

Machine Guns

Degtyarev 7.62 mm
RPD 7.62x39
Czech M-52 7.62x45
DS DP 7.62x39
RP 7.62x39
ZPU Series 14.7 mm

Submachine Guns

PPSH 7.62 mm
PPS 1943 7.62 mm

Pistols

Tokarev 7.62 mm
Czech M-52 7.62 mm



UPI photo from Tass

Team of North Vietnamese militiamen train with Russian weapons. Rifle is the Mosin-Nagant M-1891 in 7.62 mm. RPD light machine gun is seen in background.

them), VC units have substantial quantities of virtually all U. S. WW II weapons. While the majority were obtained from South Vietnamese troops, the current massive employment of U. S. forces has naturally contributed more, including M-14s, M-60 MGs, M-16 .223s, shotguns, etc. Some of the latter types may not be of much use because every round of ammunition must be won in battle from U. S. casualties. Even so, they can be hidden until enough ammunition is accumulated to make their use practical.

Extremely popular among the V. C. is the U. S. M-1/M-2 carbine. It is light and small—easy to carry and hide. Ammunition for it has the same virtues. All such weapons can be presumed to be captured from ARVN and militia troops to whom they were supplied by the U. S. in large quantities. Another favorite is the BAR, for its durability, reliability, and power. Naturally, the Soviet AK and SKS assault rifles are eagerly sought, but there aren't nearly enough to go around. In spite of its weight, bulk and ammunition supply problems, the VC will go to great lengths to capture a Browning .50 caliber machine gun. Its deadly effect on low-flying U. S. helicopters justifies almost any effort to get one. Even 12 gauge riot guns only recently shipped to our side have turned up in VC hands.

The VC loves light mortars and mines, and uses them

with deadly effect, but we are not concerned with such items here, or with the many varieties of makeshift VC weapons or artillery and high performance aircraft armament.

The U. S. or ARVN soldier may face virtually any WW II or later weapon in the hands of the VC. That such arms may be considered obsolete by our standards makes them no less deadly.

But then, what is in use on our side—and more important how does it stack up? ARVN troops are armed with the basic infantry small arms used by U. S. troops in WW II—M-1 Garand rifle (.30-06), M-1 and M-2 carbines (.30 Carbine), Browning light machine guns (.30-06), BAR (.30-06), Thompson submachine guns, 1928 A1 and M-1 (.45), Browning M-2 HB .50 caliber machine guns, recoilless rifles, and 3.5 inch rocket launchers. An assortment of pistols is in use, with the .45 M-1911 the most common.

All of these weapons were proven in the world's largest conflict and are, at the very least, equal to average VC armament. Only two VC weapons, the AK & SKS assault rifles are of a later period and therefore, presumed superior to ARVN equipment. Actually, a valid comparison is hard to make since individual VC units may range from virtually unarmed to fully equipped with the latest Soviet



French MAT 49K submachine gun is used often by the VC.

arms. Across the board, though, the average encounter will find the ARVN force in possession of a considerable fire power advantage, as well as a greater quantity of ammunition. Seldom does the V.C. have any fire power advantage except as supplied by the tactics and numbers utilized.

In case of U. S. forces, the situation is considerably different. Basic infantry troops are equipped with 7.62 mm M-14 rifles, 7.62 mm M-60 machine guns, .50 caliber Browning MGs, .45 caliber M3 A1 submachine guns, .45 caliber M-1911 pistols, M-79 40 mm grenade launchers (both single and 3-shot models), 3.5-inch rocket launchers, and an assortment of special purpose and auxiliary weapons. In fairly heavy use for (Continued on page 66)



UPI Telephoto
U.S. Marines examine captured Viet Cong weapons of every description at Plei Me., South Viet Nam.



By LOUIS W. STEINWEDEL

Rifles OF THE Redskins

INDIAN TRADE GUNS PLAYED AN
IMPORTANT PART IN COMMERCE
AND CONFLICT WITH THE WHITES

Few pictures can be more inaccurate and misleading than that of the noble American Indian armed with those stone age relics, the tomahawk and bow and arrow. Almost from the time the European set foot upon these shores the native red man was admirably provided with guns of surprising quality and ample ammunition; sometimes, ironically, better supplied even than his white adversary.

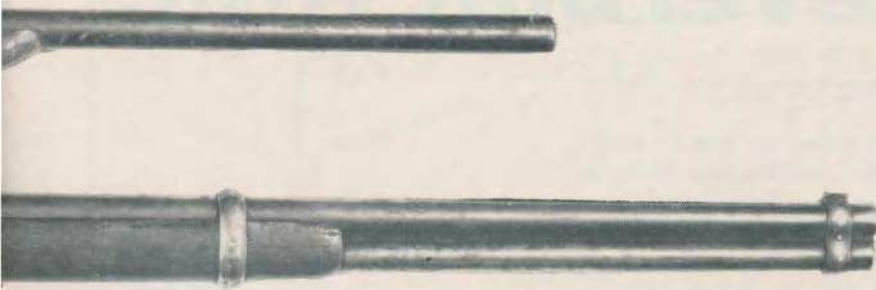
There were two reasons why the immigrant settler chose to distribute the day's most potent tools of destruction among hordes of at best semi-civilized savages who for quite some time continued to outnumber the colonists. First, it must be remembered that the America of colonial days was a multi-colored map of "spheres of influence," shuffled between European powers by force and intrigue. Quite willing to participate in the "game" of displacing the French from English lands and vice versa were thousands of Indians who, after a bit of explanation and practice, could pull the trigger of a flintlock just as expertly as a French *chasseur* or a British regular.

The second reason why the firearm found its way to the Indian so freely was because of his sterling qualities as a customer, eager to pass over as many as twenty beaver pelts for a single trade musket costing as little as one tenth the value of the coveted furs. Of course traders, unlike politicians, were quite apt to dispense guns to any Indian with twenty beavers regardless of his political sympathies. As a result, most of the colonial powers, (such as the Dutch) enacted varying penalties up to and including capital punishment for supplying guns to the Indians—that is, the *wrong* Indians. However, none of these dictums appreciably stopped the flow of firearms to anxious feathered recipients.

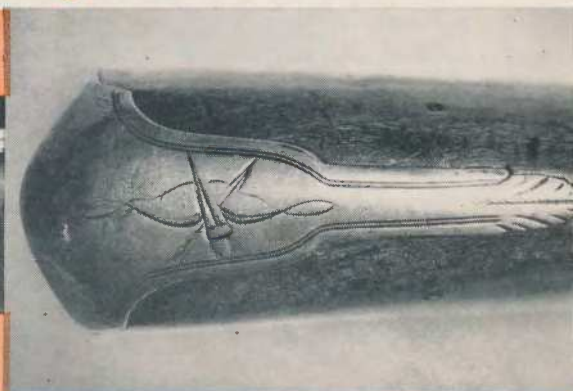
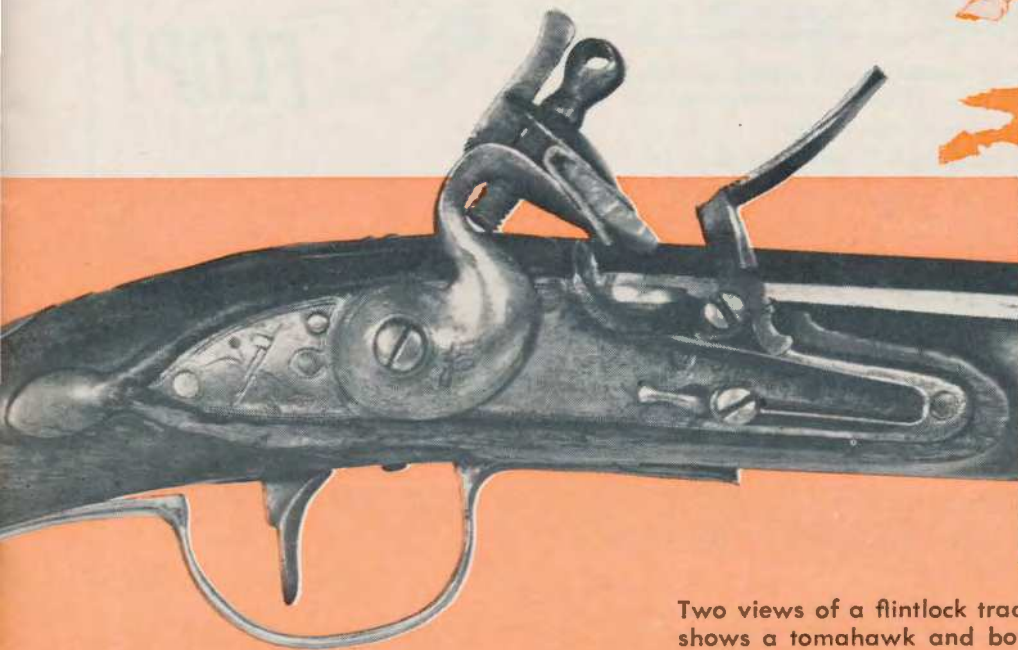
The musket of colonial America presented no insoluble problem to the cunning aborigine mind. In fact, as long ago as 1576, a band of Indians knew enough of the operation of the primitive European matchlock to persuade a band of Spanish soldiers to extinguish their "matches" or long smouldering nitrated cords essential to the ignition of these ancient guns. To allay the Indians' feigned fears the Spanish conquistadores obligingly put out the saltpeter soaked "matches" and (Continued on page 54)



The breechloading Sharps percussion carbine quickly became the Indians' favorite rifle.



Top: Flintlock trade gun had a long life among the Indians. Bottom: Winchester MH 1866 was turned in by Chief Sitting Bull when he surrendered in 1881.



Two views of a flintlock trade gun by P. Bond of Cronhill, London, shows a tomahawk and bow and arrow on butt plate and lock.



Bond musket in the University of Kansas Museum shows the strange dragon ornament which appeared on Indian trade guns from the earliest up through the 1880's.

Newton's Leverbolt Rifle

“ALL BOLT ACTION rifles made in this country today are merely modifications of the Model 1899 Mauser, and all the modifications made in it are solely in the line of reducing cost of production. . . . Not a single one having in view the making of it a better rifle for the user with the sole exception of Newton rifles, now no longer made.”

This was the boast with which the LeverBolt Rifle Co. introduced its arms to the world. They further claimed that their gun “. . . combines the best features of both lever action and bolt action rifles and avoids the objectionable points of both types. It has all the strength and simplicity of the bolt action type . . . and with these qualities are combined the speed and ease of operation of the lever action type.”

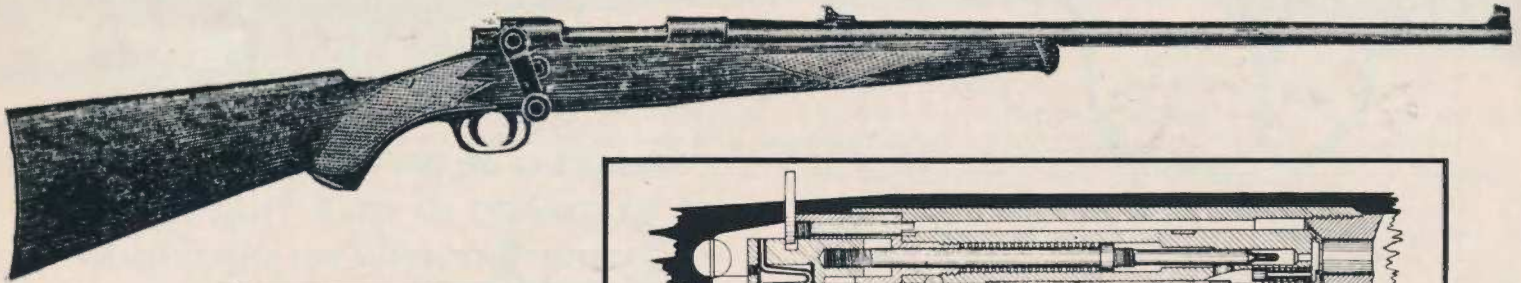
Strong words? Yes. Advertising propaganda? Well, maybe, but you have to admit the LeverBolt design was radically new and different. The LeverBolt rifle was the brainchild of Charles Newton, a rotund and genial lawyer from Buffalo, N. Y., who designed close parallels to almost every magnum rifle we have today. And he did it in the opening years of this century.

The first germ of the idea had already infiltrated Newton's mind as far back as 1904. At that time he was trying out all manner of necked-down wildcat calibers and was using Winchester falling block lever actions for testing. When the power of his cartridges increased and he sought to use the more modern rimless cases, he found that the powerful turning bolt actions of the Mauser pattern offered better sealing at the breechface. The positive extraction of high pressure shells by the more favorable ratio of the rotating cam action was also of prime importance. Newton finally concluded

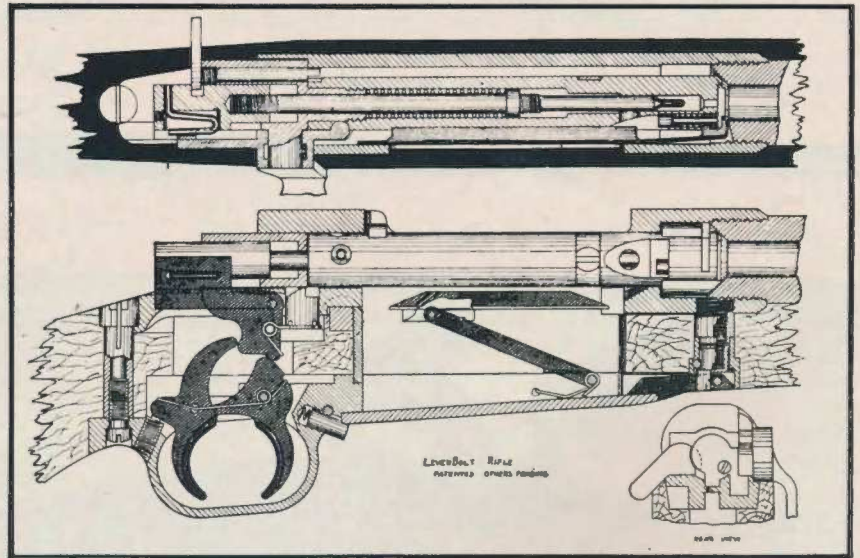
(Continued on page 52)

—THE FABULOUS FLOP!

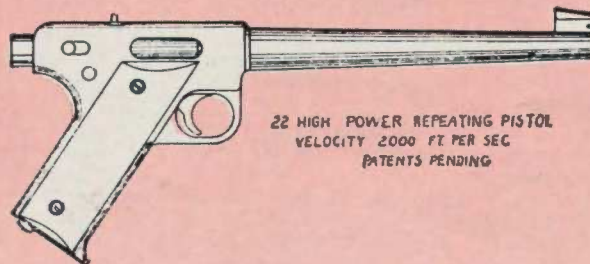
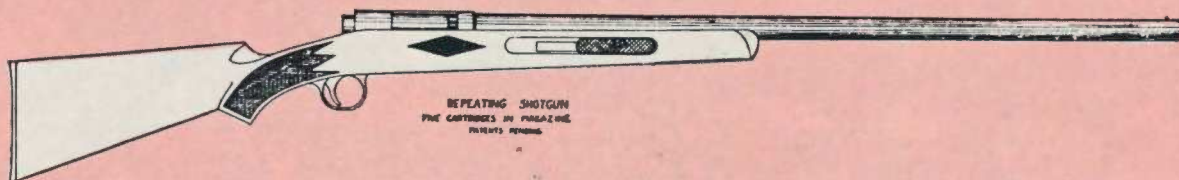
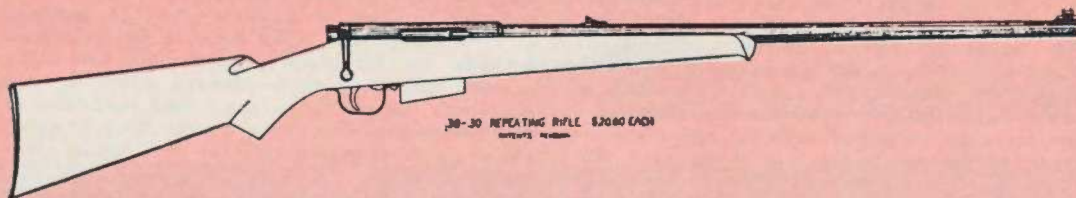
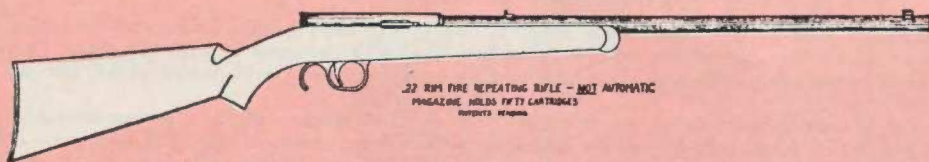
By HARRY O. DEAN



Newton's Leverbolt design featured push-pull cocking, opposed set and single triggers, and cam extraction.



On the following pages, GUNS Magazine presents an exclusive facsimile reprint of the rare LeverBolt Rifle Co. leaflet.



The above cuts show the outlines of some of the new firearms we intend bringing out IN CASE THE DEMAND FOR OUR IMPROVED HIGH POWER RIFLES SHOWS OUR SPORTSMEN WANT BETTER GUNS.

We are also developing an entirely new shotgun cartridge, which gives promise of a muzzle velocity of 2000 feet per second yet retaining the present closeness of pattern. This will revolutionize the shotgun game to a basis of smaller bores, smaller charges of finer shot, yet with greatly increased killing power, just as the high velocity rifle with smaller bore and lighter bullet, is far more deadly than the .45-90 and .50-110 which they superseded.

If our sportsmen want improved firearms it means the sale of millions of new firearms, with corresponding profits to the dealers and pleasure for the users. Now is the time for the sportsmen to decide whether or not they want them.

Yours for better guns,
LeverBolt Rifle Co.,
New Haven, Conn.

Special Notice

The **LEVERBOLT** rifle is the result of a combination of the expert knowledge and inventive ability of Charles Newton and other up-to-date inventors of firearms, who designed it, with the plant, equipment, manufacturing ability and experience of the Marlin Firearms Co., who will make them for us under contract.

Mr. Newton has long been known to riflemen, first as the designer of high power cartridges such as the Savage line of .22 High power, .250-3000 and .300 Savage; later of the .256 Newton, .30 Newton and .35 Newton cartridges, all of which have far longer range, higher velocity, flatter trajectory and greater killing power than any other cartridge made. He also designed the first model Newton rifle, made at Buffalo, N. Y., until war conditions forced that firm out of business; then he designed the Buffalo Newton model and started its manufacture at New Haven but failed because he lacked an organization of workmen, skilled in mass production methods, for his factory, on account of which his rifles cost too much to build and the quality of the work left much to be desired. Now he has gone a step farther and designed the **LEVERBOLT RIFLE**, which has all the strength and simplicity of the bolt action type combined with the speed and ease of operation of the lever action, thus bringing within reach of the sportsmen that thirty year old dream of "a lever action rifle for the highest power cartridges."

Mr. Newton not having the financial ability to put this new rifle on the market, we have acquired all rights to it, also to the first model Newton and the Buffalo Newton. We have also retained Mr. Newton himself as a member of our organization, that our customers may always have the benefit of his expert knowledge of rifles and cartridges.

The Marlin Firearms Co., needs no introduction to American sportsmen. Sixty years ago its Ballard single shot led the field of target rifles at Creedmoor, Wimbledon, Dollymount and other great long range matches, since which time it has been constantly growing and furnishing to the sportsmen firearms of many kinds and all of the best quality. It has a large plant, ample equipment of all kinds, and an organization of workmen most of whom have spent nearly their whole lives in its service. Therefore it is admirably equipped for building rifles and building them right in every way.

We believe, as Mr. Newton has always believed, there will be a large demand from American sportsmen for a rifle which will work as rapidly and easily as the lever action, yet handle the most powerful cartridges with all the strength and certainty of the bolt actions, which are objectionable because they are so slow and clumsy to operate. On the other hand, the Marlin Co., is very conservative and cannot see why anyone should want a rifle more powerful than their .30-30, Model 1893. Once they are "shown" they are ready, willing and able to build them for us to sell. You alone can "show" them.

If we are right your orders will come in promptly, work will be started on the first lot of rifles as soon as orders for five hundred of them are received, and the business will grow as big and as fast as the demand of the American sportsmen for better rifles will make it. If the Marlin Co., is right you will not order and the rifles will not be built.

But in ordering you do not want to take any chances as to the quality of the rifles or of not having your rifle delivered. We have arranged to assure you the quality will be right by having them manufactured by one of the oldest and most experienced of our great arms factories. As to your being sure of getting your rifles, since you do not yet know us we have planned for your protection as follows:

Make out your order on the enclosed blank, first having carefully read its terms and conditions. Make your check or money order for the first payment of \$25.00 per rifle payable directly to The New Haven Bank, of whose standing your own banker can advise you, so that bank alone can endorse and cash it. Send both order and check direct to that bank, so it alone can handle them, and it will at once place the money to your credit on its books and there it will stay until such time as we have made the rifle, shipped it to you C.O.D. for the balance, and presented to that bank the duly signed shipping receipt for it. Then and not till then, will that bank turn your money over to us. If the rifles are not made, due to not enough orders having been received, that bank returns your money direct to you.

Thus you have the full responsibility of that bank that you will receive either your rifle or your money back, and that rifle, when received, will be of the best quality one of our oldest and best factories can produce.

So, for the first time in history, the question as to whether or not one of our greatest arms factories shall bring out a new and better rifle is put up directly to you, the individual sportsman. You determine whether it shall or shall not be done. And it is not a big undertaking for you. You do not have many tens of thousands of dollars worth of tools to build for the work. All you have to do is to buy one rifle, at the regular price. If you buy that rifle, the rifles will be built; if not they will not be built. If they are built they will continue being built so long as the sportsmen will buy them.

In case you would like the better ballistics of the Newton cartridges, these rifles will be built to use them. If you prefer the .30 U.S.G. cartridges, they will also be built to use that line. Just specify in your order which you prefer and that you will get.

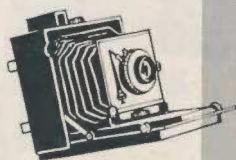
And remember there is no more difficulty in getting all the Newton cartridges you want. They are made by the Western Cartridge Co., of East Alton, Illinois, are regularly catalogued by them and carried by jobbers who carry WESTERN goods. And as soon as these new rifles come out they will be made by all the large factories and carried everywhere that the .30 U.S.G. are carried, as the demand will cause them to be carried. And they will be sold for exactly the same prices per 100 as are the .30 U.S.G., sporting cartridges.

In case your verdict be in favor of better rifles, we are prepared to follow these rifles with a full line of other firearms, all far better, both ballistically and in mechanism, than any others of their types now made. This covers rifles of .22 caliber rim fire, and of medium power; also shotguns and pistols. If sportsmen actually want better firearms, of any kind, and this is proven by the sale of these rifles, the others will follow. If they do not, the others will not be built.

So it is now definitely up to you. An order now is a vote of "yes." A failure to order now is a vote of "no" regardless of the reason for that failure. It is a case of "thumbs up" or "thumbs down," and the thumbs which will deliver that judgment are YOURS. The question of **BETTER RIFLES** is entirely in your hands. We have done what we could to make them available.

Trusting our efforts in that direction will meet your approval and support, we remain

Yours Truly,
LeverBolt Rifle Co., New Haven, Conn.



GUNS IN THE NEWS



TAKING NO CHANCES. Secret Service agent carries an AR-15 while guarding President Johnson as he attended Brooklyn funeral services held for Mrs. Emmanuel Celler, wife of Congressman Celler of New York. President Johnson flew to the services amidst unprecedented peacetime security measures.

UPI Telephoto

WE BEAT NATIONAL ANTI-GUN LAWS IN 1965
BUT DON'T RELAX, NOW . . .

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

By E. B. MANN

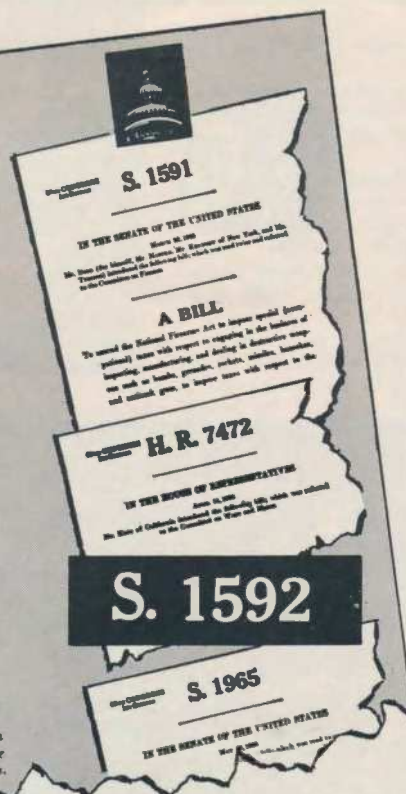
YOU THINK 1965 (and 1964, and 1963, and 1962) were bad years in the war against anti-gun legislation and propaganda? Well, don't just sit back and relax, and don't lay aside your weapons—because 1966 promises to be worse!

Hear this, by Leslie H. Whitten, Hearst Headline Service, "New York Journal-American," Thursday, November 18, 1965:

"Washington, Nov. 18—President Johnson will ask Congress to pass a strong firearms bill in its next session, it was learned from official sources here today.

"Mr. Johnson has also given the word to the Justice Department to come up with other measures to fight crime in the streets. The firearms bill is seen as the major complement to his anti-crime package in 1966.

"In the past session Sen. Thomas Dodd (D-Conn.) introduced a strong Administration bill to control gun sales, but it did not get the enthusiastic presidential treatment that anti-poverty, voting rights,



FEDERAL ANTI-GUN
LEGISLATION HAS PASSED
ONE HURDLE. HERE'S
AN UP TO DATE REPORT
ON THE DODD BILL

"We told you so..."

By E. B. MANN

I TOLD YOU SO is a nasty phrase, but show me a man who doesn't use it on occasion and (to paraphrase a current advertising catch-line) I'll eat my editorial hat!

We told you, in an article titled "Here We Go Again!" in the March, 1966, issue of GUNS, that 1966 might well be the worst year yet in the anti-firearms legislative war. We heard from many sources, some of them "Authoritative Sources," that we were wrong. Many added that, even if we were right, we should "let sleeping dogs lie."

This wasn't surprising. After several decades of writing and editing, my daily mail has taught me that many, many people know far better than I do exactly what should be written and

what should be published. Writers and editors, like politicians who seek and gain public office, set themselves up as targets, and targets get shot at. One politician who is learning this is Senator Dodd.

Here also we have had a spate of editorial advice—including the urgent suggestion that we "bring out a special edition, devoted solely to a complete exposé of the charges being made against the Senator from Connecticut. Well, you won't see any "special issue," and you won't find any recapitulation of those charges in this article. Our business is guns. When Senator Dodd attacks guns, we fight him. What gifts he does or does not accept, from whom, whose favor he seeks, and why, and how he pays his travel or other ex-

penses—these are matters to be judged by his fellow club members in the United States Senate, by the courts if court action is warranted, and—perhaps most importantly—by the voters of Connecticut.

But events current as this is written make it pretty obvious that we weren't just "crying wolf" when we said it would be a rough year. Senator Dodd's Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency, in a closed session, approved Dodd's infamous Senate Bill 1592 and sent it onward and upward to the consideration of the full Senate Judiciary Committee. Members of the Subcommittee who voted for the Bill were: Senator Dodd (D-Conn.), Senator Fong (R-Hawaii), Senator Bayh (D-Ind.), Senator Tydings (D-Md.), Sen-

WASHINGTON... UPI... MARCH 22, 1966... A Senate Subcommittee Tuesday approved

ator Javits (R.-N.Y.), and Senator Edward Kennedy (D.-Mass.). Those who voted against the Bill were: Senator Hruska (R.-Neb.), Senator Burdick (D.-N. D.), and Senator Hart (D.-Mich.).

Perhaps the most ominous of all storm warnings is the statement made in a News Release out of Senator Dodd's own publicity factory, that this action by the Subcommittee was taken "at the request of President Johnson."

The mountain has labored and brought forth a mouse, so far as any improvements in S. 1592 are concerned. Quoting from the same (March 22) release mentioned above, let Senator Dodd himself tell you about the amendments in the Bill:

"My five years of study on the mail order gun problem made it clear to me, and now I know to others, that our country will not hold still for the continued unregulated sale of all manner of firearms to criminals, addicts, delinquents, and others."

(Senator, that "and others" is what we object to! "And others" includes thirty, forty, maybe fifty million decent, law-abiding (and voting) citizens who have a right to own and do own guns, who use them decently, legally, and without harm to anyone. "And others" includes the firearms industry, the shooting organizations, and millions of sportsmen who have told you repeatedly that we would support firearms legislation that would prevent the sale of guns to, or the use of guns by, "criminals, addicts, delinquents." But we will fight S. 1592 as now written; and no reasonable, reasonably well-informed person need go further than your own description of the Bill to see *why* we will fight it. We quote again from your March 22 release:)

"The Bill as reported out by the Subcommittee will:

"(1) Ban the interstate mail order sale of concealable firearms, pistols, and revolvers, to individuals.

"(2) Regulate the interstate sale of sporting arms, rifles and shotguns, through an affidavit provision.

"(3) Restrict the importation into this country of military surplus firearms and certain other foreign made firearms.

"(4) Bar the sale of pistols and revolvers to persons under 21 years.

"(5) Bar the sale of rifles and shotguns to persons under 18 years.

"(6) Ban the over-the-counter sale of concealable firearms to persons who are not residents of the state wherein the licensee conducts his business.

"(7) Place special regulations over the acquisition of destructive devices."

Add to this the Bill's provision that the Secretary of the Treasury and his appointees shall have full powers in setting up administrative procedures, and you have a legislative monstrosity that drastically restricts the right of millions to buy the firearm of their choice, in order (hopefully) to deter

the few, the miniscule one in ten thousand, who might buy a gun with criminal intent.

One in ten thousand? In 1964, the homicide rate in New York City was 6.1 per hundred thousand population. This includes all homicides, not just those with guns; and this is New York City, home of the Sullivan Law, the most restrictive anti-gun law yet enacted in this country... In Milwaukee, where firearms laws are moderate, the 1964 homicide rate was 2.6 per hundred thousand population. We suggest that Senator Dodd and all lawmakers consider these figures, and consider also the words (*Continued on page 62*)

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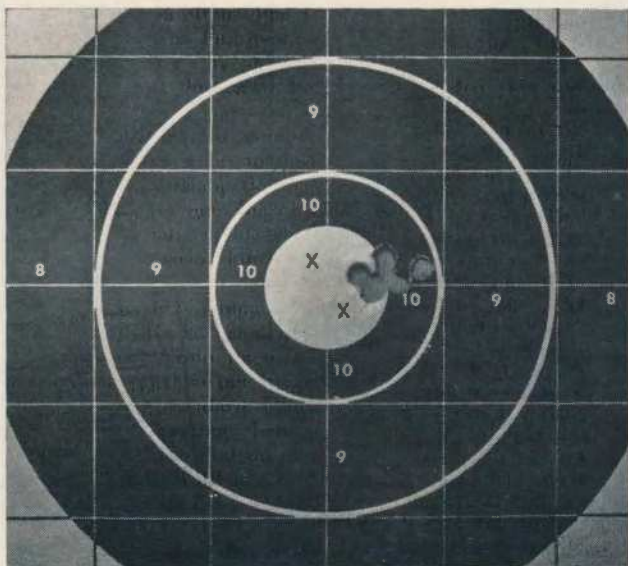
Norris Cotton (N. H.)
Frank J. Lausche (Ohio)
A. S. Mile Monroney (Okla.)
Maurine B. Neuberger (Oreg.)
Hugh Scott (Pa.)
John O. Pastore (R. I.)
Ross Bass (Tenn.)
Winston L. Prouty (Vt.)
Gale W. McGee (Wyo.)

*These are the committees and their members which lie between Senator Dodd's bill, S. 1592, and its passage into law. If you have a congressional representative among them, write to him. He is there to represent you; he can't do that if he doesn't know what your interests are. *denotes Chairman of Committee.*



HUNTING ACCURACY-

By BOB HAGEL



This group printed by a .225 Winchester shows the "hunting accuracy" necessary in a good varmint gun.

The fellow came back from the 100 yard target, sat down at the bench, picked up an ancient, sporterized military piece, made a quick sight adjustment and fired three shots. Returning to the target, he pulled the 100 yard small bore target and brought it back to the bench. One bullet had landed almost dead center at three o'clock in the X ring, another just cut the edge of the black at seven o'clock, with the third an inch out in the white at one o'clock. He looked at the target, nodded his head a couple of times, then made some remark about "this old girl shooting plenty good enough for a hunting rifle," threw the rifle in the rear seat of his car, and took off to chase a buck.

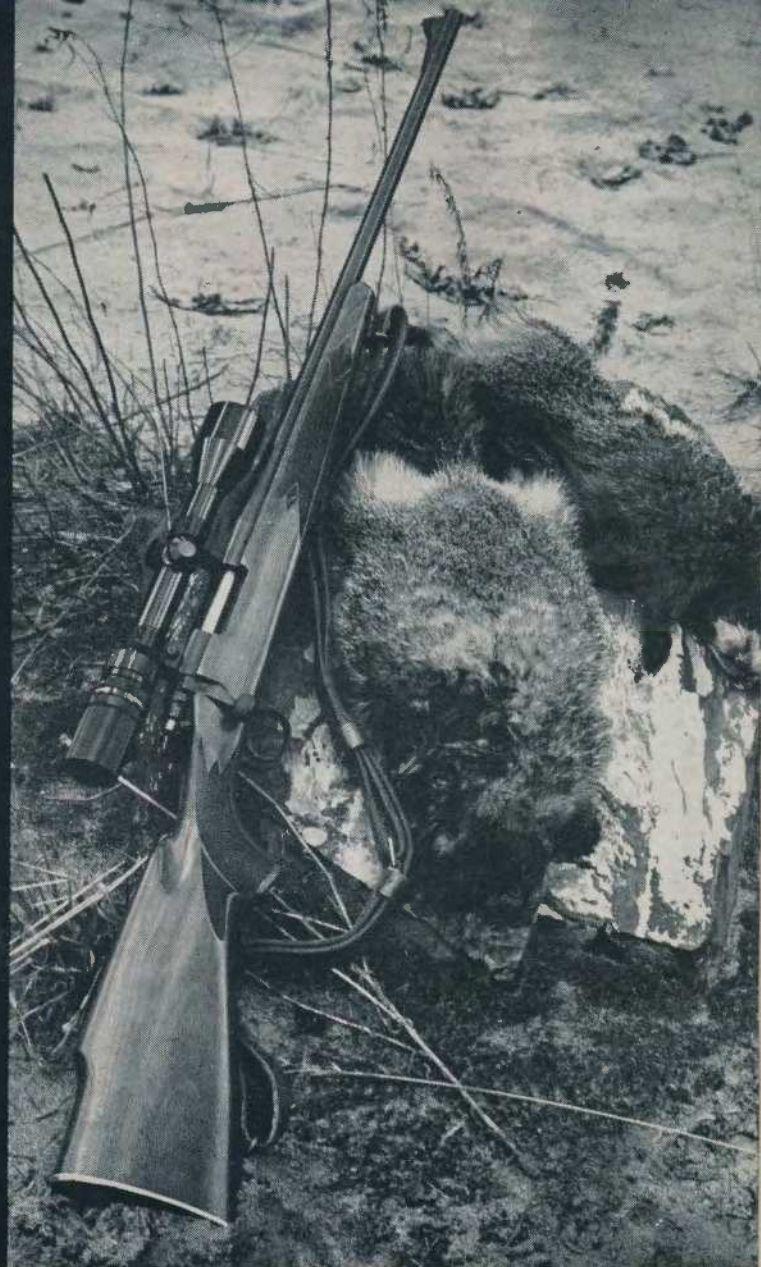
Maybe that kind of accuracy is good enough for a "huntin gun," but just *maybe*, because that depends on what you intend to hunt and where you will hunt it.

Take the fellow with the rifle that shot the 7" 100 yard group. If he hunted in heavy brush where his shots were



While the .30-30 may not be able to match the .300 Weatherby at the bench rest or hunting out to 400 yards, for the kind of shooting you do, it may be just the rifle.

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?



all down around the 100 yard mark, he would kill a lot of deer with that rifle—and he'd never know the difference. In fact, with just a little luck, he would kill *most* of the deer he shot at out to 200 yards. At that range, if everything went right and he didn't pull one a little, he would shoot into a 14 inch circle, which would also kill most of the bucks shot at. But one sour note is that most people don't shoot as well at 200 yards as they do at 100, and a lot of bullets don't either. The outcome is that with that rifle he would get some misses out around 200 yards and, worse yet, a few cripples.

Sure, if you do your hunting in the brush and never shoot at anything beyond the 100-150 yard mark, rifle accuracy can be right down sloppy and you can still kill a lot of game with it. Actually, we should modify this, because you might just see the buck's head or a bit of neck, maybe in a small hole between a couple of trees. In that case you would have only a very small target that must be hit, because the brain or neck-bone in a deer are less than the diameter of your fist. If the buck is 100 yards or so away, the rifle shooting a six inch group isn't

going to produce much venison or any other kind of meat.

It hasn't been so long ago that any rifle that would consistently place its bullets within a three inch circle was considered to be at least average, and plenty good enough for a hunting rifle. And it probably is for most big game hunting, providing that the bullets are of the right design for long range shooting, and that the twist is right to properly stabilize them. Such a rifle would shoot into a foot circle at 400 yards, which would be close enough for most long range big game shooting. This, of course, if the animal was broadside—but he often isn't. Also, this demands that you make a perfect shot each time to stay within the vital area of most animals, with not one inch for error. If you happen to slop one out in right field just at the time your rifle decides to shoot into the 3 o'clock corner, you're in trouble. So a rifle that is capable of no better than three minutes of angle, is surely marginal for plains or mountain hunting.

Within the past few years the accuracy of commercially made rifles has been steadily increasing. Where a few years ago the average

(Continued on page 69)



Myres' Border Patrol holster is a fine example of Tio Sam's skill.

Six-Gun Scabbards

A NO-HOLDS-BARRED DISCUSSION OF HANDGUN

RIGS—FROM BILLY THE KID TO VIET NAM



Left: Berns-Martin holster splits down the front. Right: Askins demonstrates the speed of the Tom Threepersons rig.

A SIX-GUN, unlike a rifle or a scattergun, needs a holster. It is not very practical, not to say inconvenient, to tote a one-hand gun unless you have some manner of leathern pouch for it. The art of whipping up these pouches here of late has gain apace. The whip-em-out-and-bang-em-out boys have contributed notably to the betterment of the cowhide. I am not the one to pohoo the legerdemain of this new crop of sixshooter twirlers. The gents who play at "High Noon" can slap leather faster than any old westerner who ever lived. Maybe their game isn't the most practical but I contend they have made a material contribution to the development of fast guns and fast harness.

Over the past thirty years I've made a study of gun harness, both the old and the new, visiting every museum holding those mementos of the old West. Always there are a few moth-eaten belt holsters, cartridge belts, and similar rigs. Too, you will find the evolutionary article, the scabbard which came along during that lusty era from the tailings of the Civil War until the turn of the century. I've seen the holster purported to have hung over the head of the bed in which Billy the Kid was sleeping when Pat Garrett came to call. And I've examined the harness Pat was supposed to have worn that night. I have seen a leathern vest supposedly an exact copy of the model made up by John Wesley Hardin, the amiable Texan who is reported to have shot and killed 39 men by the time he was 26. Wes tucked his 41's into a vest, the butts projecting forward. He made a cross-draw which looked to me damnably awkward. I saw the first crude beginnings of the half-breed rig—the shoulder holster—credited to Ben Thompson. Ben and King Fisher were knocked off with rifle fire while hoo-rahing the town of San Antonio. And then there is the more practical arrangement of Jim Gillett, Texas Ranger and ex-marshal of El Paso. Gillett disdained a holster altogether. He made up a big-headed screw which was attached to the side of his .45 and on the cartridge belt he riveted a slotted steel plate. The big-headed screw swung in this slot. All Marshal Gillett had to do was rock down on the butt of the old Frontier model and the muzzle came to bear on the other gent's navel. The screw head was so located as to ideally balance the six-gun, the muzzle hung downward whether the wearer



Bill Jordan prepares to drop the ping-pong ball, draw his revolver, and shoot the ball as it passes his hip.

was walking, sitting or riding. I've made up a similar rig and it works quite handsomely.

Sam Myres, "Tio Sam" as he was known, knew more honest-to-god gun sharks than any man up and down the border. "Tio Sam" made the best stock saddles and along with his riding leather he turned out the best gun harness. The real hard cases came to him for their scabbards. Some of these rannies were on the side of the law and some were the kind who visited Bachelor Sam's quarters above the shop after dark and left before the sun. Sam kept their secrets and he also made them some of the fastest leather.

"Tio Sam" was an artist when it came to moulding leather but he was also a modest man. He never forced his ideas on his customers. He listened to them. And when a man's life depends on the leather he wears, he can come up with some pretty good notions as to how he wants it to fit his shooting iron. Myres made holsters which were in advance of anything offered anywhere. The best of these is the one he designed around the ideas of Tom Threepersons. Tom, a full-blood Cherokee, was quite a ringtailed tooter along the Tex-Mex frontier 40 years ago. He had been, so it was rumored, in the Canadian Mounties, the Texas Rangers, the Border Patrol, a city marshal and a policeman. Six feet, three inches in height, 200 pounds and all muscle and meanness, he was an hombre with a lot of notches on his .45. He and Tio Sam designed the holster which today bears his name. I have packed a series of Threepersons (Continued on page 72)



Gun toting without a holster requires some ingenuity. A Peacemaker's loading gate or a flat spring screwed down under the .45's stock anchors them in the belt.

SHOTGUN MISSES

By BERT POPOWSKI

DURING THE PAST 40 years I've listened to thousands of excuses, including some of my own, as to why certain shotgun targets were missed. From each of them I've learned a bit more of the myriad intangibles which attend productive gun performance in the field. In fact, if the truth be known, I've learned more from my misses, and those of my friends, than I have from the far more numerous successful kills.

Take the case of my elder son, John, when on a Nebraska pheasant hunt. With his kid brother, Jerry, we'd worked out a weedy draw right up to the last few yards of cover in which a ringneck could hide. But, knowing how the wily birds behave, we gave those final yards a thorough combing. It paid off.

An iron-nerved cock flushed barely ten yards away, sat on his tail, and climbed about as vertically as any rocket that ever left its Cape Canaveral launching pad. It was John's shot, and I hoped he wouldn't mangle the bird with a dead-center hold, at about 20 yards. He didn't, he missed him clean. The next moment my full-choked Ithaca slammed and virtually ripped that bird's head off.

"Darn it, Dad," said John. "I led him about two feet and kept swinging up. But I never touched him. Now what did I do wrong?"

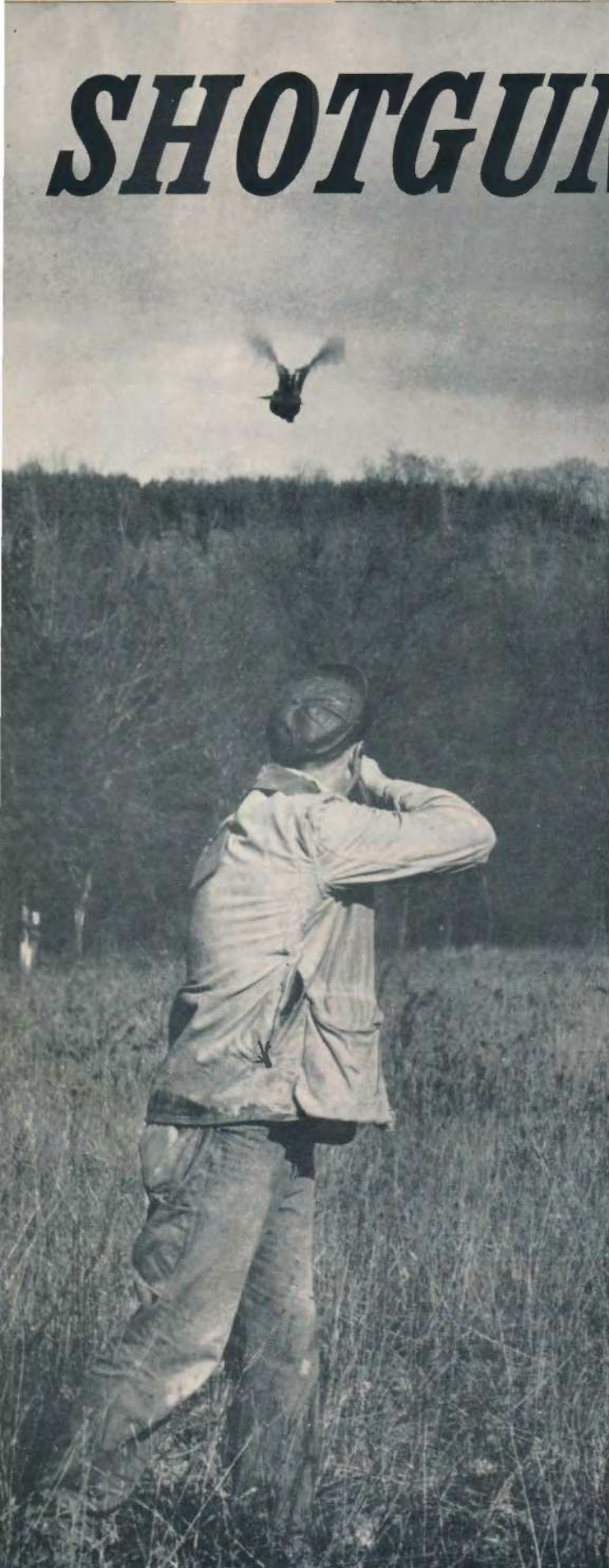
On a nearly broadside climbing shot the lad had good reason to be aggravated, and puzzled. Two-foot leads at ranges of from 25 to 35 yards on horizontally-flying pheasants had accounted for the birds he'd bagged earlier. But this one he'd flat-out missed.

Had that bird been a climbing mallard, John would have clobbered it cleanly. But ringnecks, though fleeter in nearly horizontal flight, do not own the sustained climbing speed and power of mallards. So John had used his horizontal lead on ringnecks, coupled with what he knew about mallards leaving their launching pads. He led the bird two feet and missed. I led a bare six inches, when that cock was about to level off, and collected.

About the finest advice that any successful shotgunner can give any inexperienced tyros, whether they are 16 or 66 years of age is: Don't shoot 'em where they were but where they're going to be.

Practical shotgunning can present many puzzlers. But these unravel themselves if the hunter understands a comparatively few quite inflexible facts. The sum total of these, varying only with the shooting range and the makeup of the shotshells used, remains remarkably uniform. Of course, knowing these facts doesn't automatically make a Rudy Etchen or a Joe Hiestand out of a bumbling gun handler. But it will give the tyro a sound basis of understanding for steady improvement.

Almost anyone interested can procure diagrams and drawings showing the performance of shot loads in flight; how this flying cone spreads wider and wider as



The shotgunner must sometimes hurry field shots since the unexpected angles can lengthen his reaction time.

WING SHOTS ARE EASIER IF YOU KNOW HOW YOUR PATTERN WILL SPREAD AND THIN DURING FLIGHT.

the range increases, how it spreads more rapidly when fired from an open-choked gun as compared to loads emerging from tight chokes, and how such loads are sometimes blown off course just as rifle bullets are subject to wind drift. Since these factors can be so graphically pictured they need but small interpretation.

But there is a field of shotgunning on which very little has yet been written. This is the great importance of the time element: first, the time needed for a load to reach out to some definite range from the gun; and, second, the time element which is consumed by the shooter, gun and load in reaching the target at that range. Many tyros largely disregard both, to their considerable disadvantage.

First, after the primer has been exploded, it takes a certain loading a definite interval of time to reach from muzzle to target. High velocity loadings will help shorten that time lag. At moderate ranges this time interval is so brief that most shotgunners can readily allow for it with proper leads so they achieve crash collision between shot patterns and flying birds. Thus the hunter who becomes thoroughly acquainted with the speed characteristics of some pet load rarely has any great difficulty in meshing that with his targets' varying speeds.

Second, and much more important, is the reflex time of the shooter; a success factor that is only lightly understood and casually practiced. Yet it is, by far, the most important factor which differentiates between average shots and the performance speed of the experts.

Let us use a hypothetical situation in which a gunner uses a total of three seconds in which to mount his gun, get on target with the proper lead, and "bust the cap." Thereafter, things happen so rapidly that, if all other factors have been correctly estimated, and he follows through on his



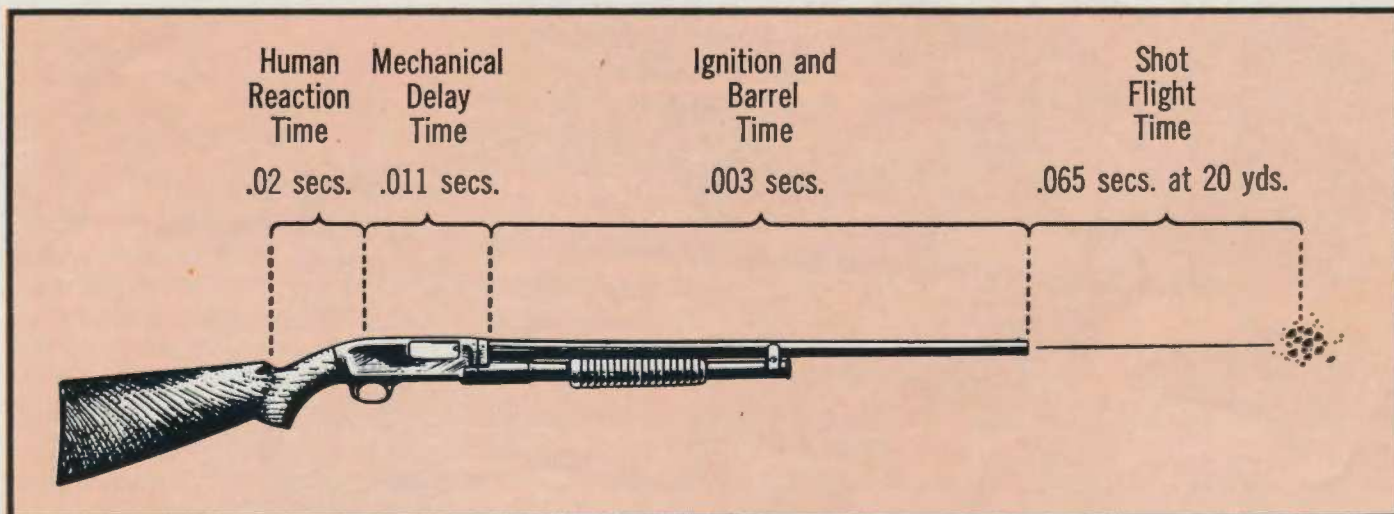
The skeet shooter can take more leisurely shots since he knows where the birds are coming from.

swing, there's nothing further he can do to insure the shot's success.

If we assume that the gunner uses one of those three seconds to mount his gun, another to get on target and start tracking it, and the third to establish the proper lead and slap the trigger, that will give us a basis on which to begin. By that time the bird, which flushed at 30 yards, is now 50 or more yards away—and under a full head of steam. The hunter shoots, peels off a feather or two, but the bird flies on.

The next flushing bird jumps at 10 yards and the hunter again uses three seconds in getting his shot away. But, since the target is then only 30 yards away, it is neatly killed. The natural explanation, true as far as it goes, is that the first bird was "out of range" when shot at, while the second was well within range. Presumably, the distance of flush from the gunner provided (*Continued on page 49*)

TYPICAL SHOTGUN LAG TIME



A GALLERY OF

Great Handguns

What makes a handgun great? To the shooter, it is flawless performance. To the mechanic, it is excellence of design and quality of workmanship. To the collector, it is the degree to which it influenced firearms development.

To the soldier, a handgun is a weapon of destruction and of self-defense; to the cowboy, it is a tool of his trade; to the competitive shooter, it is a precision instrument.

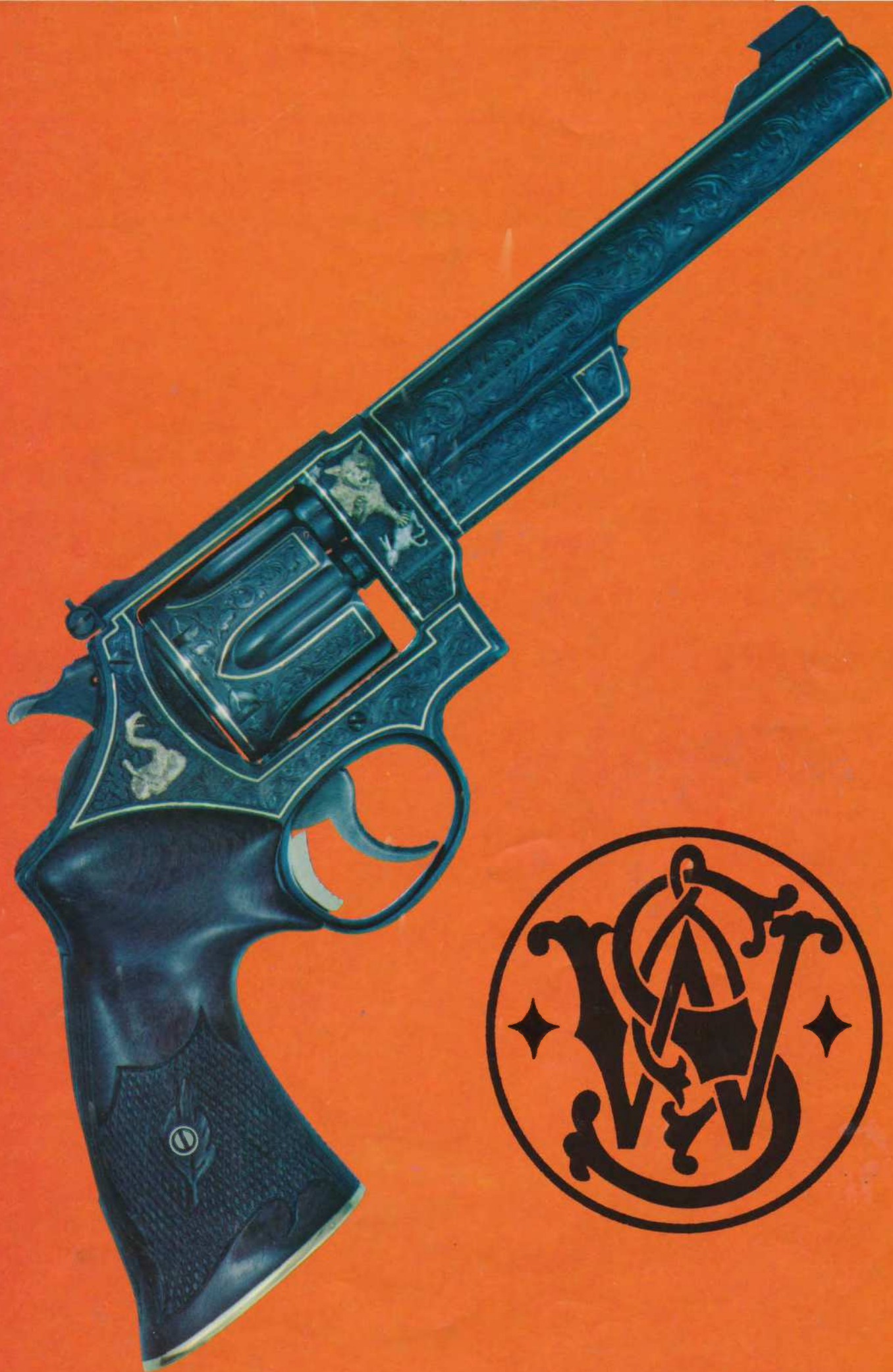
Each handgun user makes his own demands on the pistol or revolver of his choice. Most of these demands are made on the gun's mechanical design, yet there is still another element of design that must meet the exacting requirements of the gun owner—it must have pleasing lines and an appearance which matches its effectiveness.

The smooth, sweeping lines of the Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum harmonize with its potency; the stark, sinister lines of the Luger fit well its deadly role as a weapon of war; the generous proportions of the Colt Shooting Master advertise its ability to handle big tasks.

These are truly Great Handguns.

SMITH & WESSON .357 MAGNUM

The appearance of any modern firearm is enhanced by skillful engraving. But it would be difficult to find any more worthy of being so honored than the Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum. Holding the title of The Most Powerful Handgun Ever Made for two decades, it remains today one of our most popular revolvers, especially with law enforcement officers who have learned to depend on its firepower and durability.

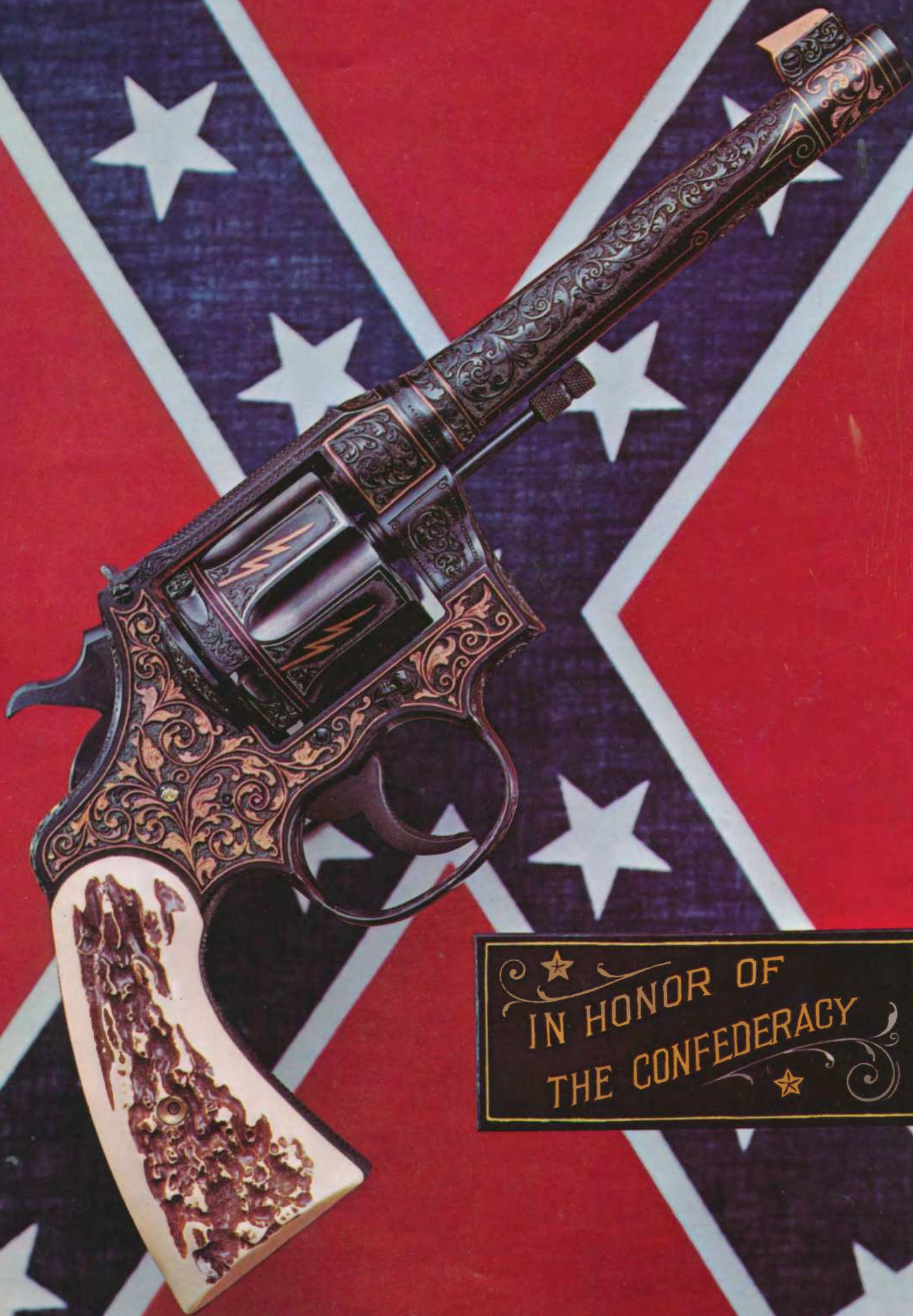






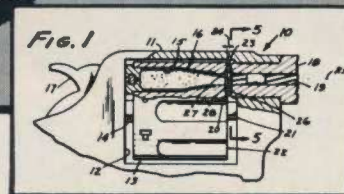
Luger

A complex mechanism is hidden by an attractive yet menacing form in the immortal Pistole Parabellum, the Luger pistol. The toggle action used on the Luger was invented, in 1893, by Hugo Borchardt, but the patents of Georg Luger make no mention of his contribution. In this startling rendition, artist Jim Triggs depicts one of a hundred variations; an 8-inch tangent sight model.

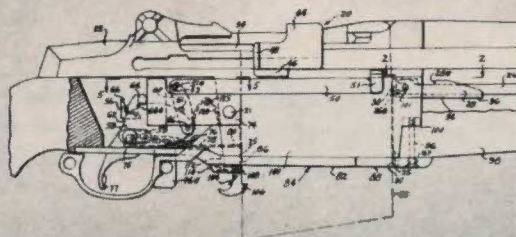


★
IN HONOR OF
THE CONFEDERACY
★

NEW PATENTS



3,240,122
SELECTIVE FIRE CONTROL MECHANISM
Seaman P. Bolles, 103 Tuttle Road, San Antonio, Tex.
Filed Apr. 14, 1964, Ser. No. 359,596
3 Claims. (Cl. 89—140)



1. A rifle having a reciprocating gas actuated bolt, a spring loaded hammer for striking said bolt, a barrel, and a fire control selector comprising a trip bar having a rearward end slidably mounted on said rifle and having a lug positioned for intermittent engagement with said bolt as said bolt moves forwardly, a first elongated link pivotally mounted on said rifle adjacent said rearward end of said trip bar, means pivotally connecting the upper end of said first link to said trip bar, a second link positioned adjacent said first link comprising an upper camming surface for semi-automatic fire and a lower camming surface for automatic fire, said camming surfaces being connected by a substantially straight surface, means pivotally connecting said second link to said first link for rotative movement of said second link, sear means mounted on said rifle adjacent said second link, said sear means including hook means for periodically engaging said hammer, and means providing a camming surface for selectively sliding along said upper or lower camming surfaces and a sear retention surface substantially parallel with said straight surface of said second link means, means on said rifle for adjusting said second link with respect to said sear means to selectively position said camming surface of said sear on said upper camming surface or on said lower camming surface of said second link.



COLT SHOOTING MASTER

A big gun for big men. The Colt Shooting Master was a deluxe variation on the New Service frame. First introduced in 1932, it was last made in 1946. The gun shown here is one of only eight chambered by the factory for the .357 Magnum. Scroll work on the frame is inlaid in yellow, pink and green gold. Plaque in lower right hand corner is inlaid in gold on the top strap. The fine engraving is by E. C. Prudhomme; photo courtesy Gun Digest.

To get a copy of patent, send the number and 50¢ to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington 25, D.C. To communicate with an inventor or assignee, if the address given is insufficient, send a letter to him in care of the Commissioner mentioning the patent number.

TEST REPORT:

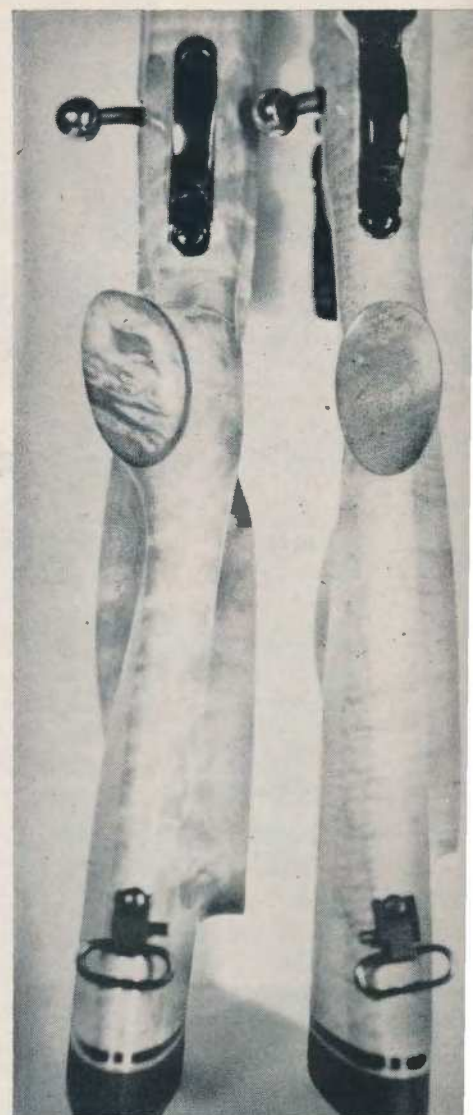


FAR-OUT STOCKS—

When I first saw Harry Lawson's Cochise Thumbhole and Apache Sporter stocks, I thought to myself, "This guy must have designed these during a nightmare!" The design of these stocks is pretty far out, but once I had thrown the gun to my shoulder and started shooting, I forgot all about their strangeness.

Lawson's two stock designs are different from anything else that I have seen, and the Cochise Thumbhole stock especially has many startling lines. As Harry points out, this stock was designed especially for the southwestern hunter who often must take long shots and more often than not, must take those shots from the off-hand position. The tapered and slightly rounded forend retains some of the flatness that is popular with some stock makers. The forend appears to be a mite too thin for comfortable holding, but, as with so many other things in life, looks are deceptive. I found that the slimmed and slightly rounded forend not only fits perfectly, but that it fits the hand even more comfortably than a stock made up according to my own specs.

The pistol grip and the heel of the Cochise Thumbhole stock are offset $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch, and this gives the stock a bulging appearance in the pistol grip area. However, because of its smoothly flowing curves, it somehow is not objectionable. This was one of the features first commented on when I showed the guns: "Look how that stock bulges in the pistol grip area." To be sure, the bulge is there, yet you forget about it the moment you pick up the Thumbhole stocked rifle. The sweeping and somewhat flattened cheekpiece with its almost platform-like appearance is designed for the use of a scope exclusively, and the thumbhole, combined with the offset grip and heel, makes it not only possible but almost obligatory that the shooter place his cheek into exactly the same spot of the cheekpiece shot after shot, day after day. Harry claims that the thumbhole stock reduces apparent recoil, that the gun equipped with a Cochise stock can be fired satisfactorily with one hand. I don't know about the recoil, since the test guns were both in low recoil calibers, but the thumbhole stock can be fired with one hand. I tried this by shooting



The butt of Lawson's Cochise Thumbhole stock has extreme cast-off while Apache Sporter follows more standard lines.

Lawson's radical stock design ideas are evident in Cochise Thumbhole and Apache Sporter stocks.



oF HARRY LAWSON

By R. A. STEINDLER

at a plastic bottle, and after three tries, I managed to hit the bottle three times out of five shots. Considering that I have been shooting rifles for a good many years in the conventional manner with both hands on the stock, a score of three out of five is not bad, especially when you consider that the target was somewhat smaller than the lethal area of a whitetail deer and that the range was 100 yards. I also verified the Lawson claim about mounting the gun each and every time in exactly the same way. I fastened a piece of tape just where my cheekbone touched the stock, and then mounted and remounted the gun some 20 times. Each and every time the location of my cheek on the stock was identical, and each time I picked up the target easily and smoothly without having to move my head to get a clear picture of the target.

The Apache Sporter is built along standard sporter lines, but it too carries the unmistakable Lawson touch. The heel of the stock is offset $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch, the cheekpiece is large and sweeping, while the pistol grip has a streamlined curve with a large and slightly oversized grip cap of fancy wood. Of the eight shooters who tried the Apache Sporter, one other fellow and I, both endowed with wide hands, had some difficulty in positioning our right hands on the pistol grip and keeping the hand in the same position while shooting or mounting the rifle.

Lawson is primarily in the stock business, but he's also makes custom rifles—and his custom gunsmithing is as outstanding as are his stocks. The gun equipped with the Cochise Thumbhole stock was built on a Husqvarna action with a Douglas XX barrel and chambered for the .22-250. Both test guns were scoped with 3x-9x Variable Realist scopes in Redfield mounts and rings. The Cochise stock was made from a selected piece of quilted maple with contrasting forend tip and pistol grip cap. The wood finish—Lawson uses a modern, high gloss finish that appears to be highly mar-resistant—gives the light colored wood an almost white appearance, although the figure of the wood remains evident and is even somewhat enhanced by the finish. I was glad

(Continued on page 60)



The bolt groove and the sweeping lines around the thumbhole show designer's attention to detail. Note the quilted maple's figure.

GOODBYE GUN SHOWS

By NEAL KNOX



WILL THE TREASURY ACTION SOUND THE DEATH KNELL FOR COLLECTOR'S SHOWS?

A FEDERAL AGENCY, acting under provisions of an "anti-crime law," has launched a move that may be the death's knell of organized gun shows, lifeblood of antique arms collecting. The unprecedented move, made legal by regulations under the Federal Firearms Act, comes at the time when Sen. Thomas Dodd and key administration officials are assuring the press and public that the broad regulatory powers of S.1592 would not and could not be abused.

On March 9, 1966, President Johnson sent a message to Congress which

called for greater controls upon firearms and passage of S.1592, Sen. Dodd's bill, but stated, "There is no need to curtail the right of citizens to keep arms for such traditional pastimes as hunting and marksmanship."

The very same day, Billy L. Gaunt, Dallas chief of the enforcement branch, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division of the Treasury Department, sent a letter to Robert M. Reilly of Baton Rouge, La., indicating plans to enforce a regulation that will definitely curtail the traditional pastime of antique gun collecting.

The letter requested that the special investigator in charge of the New Orleans A&TT be allowed to address the March 12-13 Baton Rouge gun show and "advise exhibitors of the provisions of the Federal Firearms Act, distribute the regulations, and offer any necessary assistance."

The next paragraph has sent a chill through every collector that has seen the letter:

"It has come to my attention that while the primary purpose of past gun shows was to exhibit antique weapon collections and new items for customer surveys, often firearms are traded and sold. The majority of exhibitors are firearms dealers licensed under the Federal Firearms Act. Federal law prohibits persons licensed under the Act to conduct the business of selling firearms at any location other than that shown on their licenses. Violations could result in criminal prosecution, along with seizure and forfeiture of weapons involved."

Men who were at the show said not only Moll, but several other federal agents attended the meeting and "there wasn't a gun traded."

Swapping and selling has been traditional at gun shows and is one of the major reasons for their existence, just as with coin and stamp collectors' shows. A collector or dealer-collector, if he wishes to look at guns, can visit museums, but if he wants to improve his collection, eliminate duplicates, or move into another collecting field, the place to go is a show.

Dealers from a wide area gather to display their stocks of guns, most of which have not been fired for half a century or more. A few guns are sold, but most exchanges are trades, and it isn't unusual for a single gun to be involved in a half-dozen swaps during the course of a day's tall tale-telling, gun talk and debates over the values of old powder-burners. Even the most determined of the antigun crowd would have a hard time finding anything resembling crime or criminal-type guns—unless it were the guns of criminals of an earlier era.

But Chief Gaunt or his agents weren't expecting to find hoodlums or thugs among the doctors, lawyers, ministers and businessmen who attend, exhibit and swap guns at a typical show. Chief Gaunt expected his men to do their job by ending violations of clearly stated federal regulations. He

wasn't precisely correct when he mentioned that federal law prohibits such sales, for what he was referring to is a federal regulation devised by the Secretary of the Treasury—but the effect is the same.

And it made no difference that the "law" had never been enforced that way during the years that it has been in existence. It made no difference that the regulation was designed to halt crime and not legitimate activities; for an officer of the law must uphold the letter of the law. It is not up to him to determine its rightness or wrongness or whether the law-makers intended for such activities to be ended. His job is to enforce the law.

Whether Chief Gaunt received instructions from higher authority or learned of the activity and moved under his own authority is immaterial. But some people in Washington are going to be distressed when they hear of this action, for it emphasizes the validity of the pro-gun arguments against broad regulatory authority being granted to federal agencies.

Chief Gaunt's authority is included in Part 177 of Title 26, Code of Federal Regulations, Interstate Traffic in Firearms and Ammunition (Federal Firearms Act). Section 177.33 states:

"The license applies to the operations of the licensee at a specific location. Accordingly, a separate license must be obtained for each place at which the business of importing, manufacturing, selling, or distributing firearms or ammunition is conducted."

Since selling an antique gun is an "operation of the licensee," this regulation clearly applies. The regulation is not a new one, it has existed in its present form since 1957, and may have been stated the same way for most of the 28 years that the Federal Firearms Act has been on the books.

But the stipulation that a dealer cannot sell or trade a gun anywhere except at his place of business is not included in the Federal Firearms Act passed by Congress, known as United States Code, Title 15, Chapter 18. The applicable portions are:

"Section 903. (a) Any manufacturer or dealer desiring a license to transport, ship, or receive firearms or ammunition in interstate or foreign commerce shall make application to the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall prescribe by rules and regulations the

information to be obtained in such application. . . ."

"(d) Licensed dealers shall maintain such permanent records of importation, shipment, and other disposal of firearms and ammunition as the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe."

"Section 905. (a) any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter or any rules and regulations promulgated hereunder, or who makes any statement in applying for the license or exemption provided for in this chapter, knowing such statement to be false, shall upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than \$2,000 or imprisoned for not more than five years or both."

"(b) Any firearm or ammunition involved in any violation of the provisions of this chapter or any rules or regulation promulgated thereunder shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture, and all provisions of Title 26 [Internal Revenue Code] shall, so far as applicable extend to seizures and forfeitures incurred under the provisions of this chapter." [This subsection (b) is the amendment of Feb. 7, 1950]

"Sec. 907. The Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe such rules and regulations as he deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter."

These are the only sections of the Federal Firearms Act which give the

Secretary of the Treasury discretionary powers, and all are in areas that may be considered necessary for proper administration. But it is difficult to believe that any of the framers of the Federal Firearms Act intended for these sections to affect traditional gun show activities. The purpose was to end indiscriminate sale of firearms by fly-by-night dealers, require them to maintain records and to end the interstate transportation of guns by gangsters and crooks.

The firearms dealer regulations contain a provision that might allow dealers to sell at shows, Sec. 177.56, which states:

"The Director may approve methods of operation other than as specified in this part, where he finds that an emergency exists and the proposed variations from the specified requirements are necessary, and the proposed variations—

"(a) Will not hinder the effective administration of this part, and

"(b) Will not be contrary to any provision of law."

Application for such a variation from the regulations must be submitted in triplicate to the Assistant Regional Commissioner who will forward it to the Director.

What the Director's pleasure will be won't be known until dealers in antique arms submit requests to sell at shows. Dealers may have obtained special

(Continued on page 58)



Gun shows such as this one where hundreds of people buy and sell guns may become a thing of the past if the Federal regulations are enforced.



Pull!

BY DICK MILLER

JULY IS A BIG MONTH in the world of skeet.

After a full month of key state and regional tournaments, all roads lead to the big one, the 1966 NSSA World Championships, back again to the Rochester-Brooks Gun Club in New York, at Rush, twelve miles South of Rochester, July 31 to Aug. 6. Shoot management does not anticipate that in July shooters will be treated to the fun twenty-five club members had early in the year. After a Sunday shoot, this intrepid group was snowed in at the club until Tuesday. What with plenty of food, heat, and liquid refreshments, there was no real pain, and it is reported that some exceptionally high scores were shot in the clubhouse. Scores shot outside the clubhouse in a driving storm were somewhat lower.

The 1966 NSSA World Championships could be the biggest one on record, in view of the growth of clubs and shooters, and also because of the beauty of the Finger Lakes country of New York State in late July and early August. The time and setting is ideal for any skeet enthusiast who has ever fired a target to take the family and enjoy the country as well as the magic of a national tournament. No shooter will ever forget the big one. The thrills and color can't be put in words, but it all adds up to an unforgettable experience. No less than twelve state championships will be decided in torrid July, all pointing to the showdown in New York.

The Nutmeg Skeet Club hosts the Connecticut championships and Ray Dukat Testimonial on July 2-3 at Lordship. The Oklahoma state tournament will take three days, July 2-4, at Tinker AFB. And, speaking of beauty, fabulous Colorado Springs will be the setting for the Colorado test at Ent Rod & Gun Club on July 9 and 10. I hope to be around for this one, not only to see the shoot, but to indulge in a bit of Auld Lang Syne with old friend and fellow Hoosier Daner Durbin. More about Colorado Springs later in this column. Tarheel Gun Club at Winston-Salem will host the closed North Carolina state on July 9 and 10. I'll be rooting for co-conspirator Jim MacKenzie of Greensboro if he makes it to Winston-Salem. That is, I'll be rooting for Jim if he needs me. If he's right, he won't need much rooting. The week-end of July 15 to 17 is a potpourri of skeet championship activity. Four sets of championships are at stake on those days, and three more states will use the dates of July 16 and 17 for the same purpose.

One shoot that is sure to be bigger is the Alabama affair at Morgan County Gun Club in Decatur, because of the stepped-up skeet interest in Alabama. I've attended this shoot, and the hospitality alone ought to insure a lot of competition for trophies, on July 15 to 17. One of the South's prime skeet spots is in Louisiana at the Shreveport Gun Club where some formidable competitors will turn out for championships on July 15 to 17.

The Massachusetts State & Open will be hosted by Ludlow Gun Club on the July 15 to 17 dates. I have attended this tournament, one of the finest in the East and in the country, and give you my word that it will be a torrid one, with a gaggle of All-Americans gunning for trophies. I can also guarantee that the competition for 28 gauge and .410 trophies there will be as heated as at any state in the Nation, and perhaps almost as heated as at the Nationals in New York. The July 15 to 17 dates also feature the 7th Annual Los Borrachos Open and New Mexico State Championships at Fort Sumner. Hawaii, Mississippi, and Tennessee will use the July 16 and 17 dates to decide their state winners. The Hawaiian champs will square away at Honolulu Skeet Club.

And, speaking of beauty, it is difficult to imagine a more attractive setting than the Gulf Coast spot of Biloxi for the Mississippi test. I have driven through Biloxi many times, en route to or from Mobile and New Orleans, and each time it was a new thrill. The sun, white sand, and stately homes never fail to give a lift. Biloxi Gun Club is host. Another beauty spot of a different type is Chattanooga, where Moccasin Bend Gun Club will host the closed Tennessee state on July 16 and 17. Chattanooga is another city I have never tired of seeing sparkling in the valley below me as I drive in through the mountains, especially at night. The view is almost as if you were seeing the city from a plane, and it gave me a lift even after many times and many years.

Mohegan Rod & Gun Club will host another Connecticut event, also at Lordship on July 23 and 24, then the decks are clear for the biggest test. In addition to the state championship tournaments, there are other top-drawer skeet programs all through the month of July, so that no one need to show up at Rochester with a cold hand or gun. Momentum is important, and the skeet programs for July supply just the vehicle for momentum. PULL! wishes every shooter the best.

Speaking of Colorado Springs, a very welcome, even if long overdue letter from an

old friend, Daner Durbin, reveals that he is now secretary of the Colorado Springs Gun Club. This is man-bites-dog news to me, because when I knew Daner back in Indiana, he was a rifle and pistol man. He is the man who confided to me one day many years ago that he had chided his wife Mary only that day for buying all those groceries when he didn't have a Match Target Woodsman to his name!

I quote from his letter—"Dick, you will never believe that I have finally hung up the rifle and pistol and have become a hopeless addict of the scattergun, both trap and skeet." J. Daner Durbin, we who are also hopeless addicts welcome you to the club, and may your tribe increase!

Another portion of Daner's letter should be of interest to many gun clubs and program chairmen. Because I think it's a great idea, "You might be interested to know that we have an annual affair which is the All-Around Championship of the Ent Club. Each contestant is required to compete with rifle, pistol, skeet, and trap, i.e. 10 shots slow, timed, and rapid with the pistol; 10 shots prone, sitting, and standing with the rifle; 25 birds from 16 yards; 25 birds on the Continental trap; 25 birds at regular skeet; and 25 birds with International rules. It is a two-day affair with good turnout and we give awards in classes for all events. A great time is had by all and I think other clubs are missing some fun by not conducting such a tournament."

I too think clubs are missing some fun, and a chance to attract a broader cross-section of shooting interest to the club. A program like this could easily stimulate interest in every type of shooting offered. An erstwhile rifle fan might, for example, be hooked on trap, and a skeet bug get the pistol fever. And, the over-all winner of such an event could truly claim to be an all-around marksman.

Meanwhile back in Indiana, not far from the banks of the Wabash, Southern Indiana Gun Club, at Evansville, has elected 1966 officers. Lorenzo Foster is president, Roger Cornell, vice-president; Ed Voliva, Jr. secretary; Edgar Kuhlenschmidt, recording secretary; and Lee Jordan, keeper of the purse. Just so the business meeting would not be wasted to shooting, a Camp Troy team event was the next order of business. The team of Dwane Blakeman, Voliva, Cornell, Jordan, Larry Mayer and Ollie Fuchs beat Clifton Duckworth, George Smith, Jerry Schroering, Fred Frisse, Harold Blakeman, and John Beard 242-240. The club also set Wednesday night for night shooting each week.

Word also comes from Evansville that Edgar Kuhlenschmidt and Dr. C. A. Laubscher took in the Florida Chain Shoots. My informant says that Edgar was hot and won some trophies, but the weather was cold, as was Doc Laubscher. For a word of caution to Hoosier gunners, don't celebrate a cold Laubscher prematurely. He will be hot and hotter by the time you have to tangle with him. How do I know? I have shot with the good doctor in zero weather, and then would have been grateful just to carry his gun when he was burning them up in the Grand or the Skeet Nationals. Doc is one of that rare breed who can hold his own in either national tournament, skeet or trap.

SHOTGUN MISSES

(Continued from page 37)

the distinctly different results. But since no hunter, no matter how expert, can control that flushing factor, why does the expert hunter frequently kill both birds, while the tyro gets one?

The explanation is simple to the point of absurdity. The expert shifts off that three-second schedule according to the needs of the moment. He gets his gun up faster, tracks and shoots in perhaps a trifle over one second on the long bird; though he may use up the full three seconds when close flushes require no urgent speed. That's why he's an expert. And, unless the average shooter similarly mends his ways he'll always be a dub.

By no means do I suggest that the only way to get to be a good shotgunner is to simply jerk up the gun and fire with maximum speed. There's a time to be fast and a time to be painstaking. But the hunter who

two pellets. Since it takes two pellets to break a target, and since he is averaging two hits per shot, his score might still be okay. But the fact is that two hits per clay are then the *average*; some will be hit with three pellets, some with one, and some with none. His score? About 68. At 64 yards the average hit would be one pellet per clay and his score would plummet down to around 30 clay targets, or less.

The profile presented by the average flying clay is about six square inches, as compared to some 20 square inches of vitals offered by the average pheasant or large duck. But the bird hunter will be using Number 6 shot, as compared to 7½'s or 8's in trap shooting, though his game loads will contain 1¼ or even 1½ ounces of shot as compared to 1½ ounces in the trap load.

Despite this weight advantage the larger size of game shot will automatically thin

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3 -1¼-9C940 over 25 yds.	.058	.154	.300
3 -1¼-7½C850 " 40 "	.059	.140	.259
Max.-1¼-4C1015 " 40 "	.052	.117	.205
Max.-1¼-6C .....	.975 " 40 "	.053	.123	.214
Max.-1¼-7½C .....	.940 " 40 "	.054	.129	.230
16 Gauge				
2½-1 -9C .....	.900 over 25 yds.	.062	.160	.318
Max.-1½-4C .....	.965 " 40 "	.052	.121	.209
Max.-1½-6C .....	.925 " 40 "	.053	.129	.227
Max.-1½-7½C .....	.890 " 40 "	.055	.135	.240
20 Gauge				
2¼-7½-9C .....	.890 over 25 yds.	.064	.164	.322
Max.1 oz.-4C .....	.940 " 40 "	.052	.127	.217
Max.-1 oz.-6C .....	.900 " 40 "	.054	.133	.231
Max.-1 oz.-7½C .....	.865 " 40 "	.057	.138	.248

dawdles over his shots is the guy whose game bag is often filled with excuses. Regular practice on improving gun-handling speed is one dandy way to improve that situation. Then, short flushes or long, you're in command of every potential target.

Let us take a comparable situation by trailing the expert to the trap grounds. Let us further assume that he is a perfect shot, i. e., always gets his clay in the center of his shot pattern, at whatever range, so we aren't comparing him with an erratic marksman.

When this gunner plants himself at the 16-yard line he usually tries to shoot at his clay bird within its first 14 yards of flight, which will then put it about 30 yards away. Using the standard 1½-ounce trap load he then is delivering about a 90 per cent pattern, so dense that no clay can escape being hit with from 18 to 22 pellets. Under such conditions he is a virtual cinch to break 100 straight.

But, if he lets that range increase, the pattern thins rapidly; until, at 50 yards, he will be shooting with a 50-per cent pattern and hitting his clays with an average of only

the on-bird pattern below the density enjoyed by the trap shooter. But a good share of that density loss is overcome by the larger target areas such game birds offer, especially when they're profiled around three-quarters broadside in flight.

For many years I've read a lot of poop about how straightaway birds provide hellishly tough targets, with lengthy explanations as to why this is so. On pheasants, say the boys, the long tough plumage of the tail and the retracted legs hugely protect the front-end vitals.

That's mostly hog-wash. The significant fact is that a straightaway pheasant, or duck, merely reduces its profile target potential down to about 16 square inches. No reasoning hunter would expect to get as many pellet hits on a target which is reduced in size by fully 20 per cent. It just isn't mathematically possible if the average of several such shots is considered. And there is the further fact that straightaway birds much more rapidly increase the range than do those which fly angling or broadside to the line of fire.

Trap shooters, since they fire at clays

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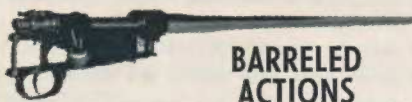
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which "flush" from a fixed point of origin, have the perfect solution for that straight-away bugaboo. They know that the shot is easier but that it must be taken more quickly to guard against the more rapidly lengthening range and the thinning pattern which automatically results. Game hunters can lick the straightaway problem in exactly the same way, whereupon the reputed "toughness" of such targets suddenly assumes its true perspective.

On horizontal targets which fly only a few feet or yards above the earth's surface, the required lead and range isn't too tough to estimate, chiefly because of fixed earth-surface markers. The experienced hunter, often subconsciously, cuts a sharp glance at the spot where his game flushes; then relays this information to his reflexes to either hurry or slow the speed of his subsequent gun handling.

But on overhead shots, which are increasingly rare and thus offer less chance for practice on them, estimating range can be quite a problem. Passing birds are then often at full flight speed, in contrast to ground flushes which are slower and offer less flight velocity to cope with. There are no measuring sticks against either a bright or cloudy sky to help estimate range. Moving clouds beyond the birds sometimes add to an erroneous impression of flight speed or direction to further puzzle the novice. Finally, wind drift at terminal ranges can be a problem.

One windy day, when "Red" Watt and I were shooting overhead crows, we faced a combination of all these confusing circumstances. A high layer of background clouds was racing past, indicating a vicious wind at their level. The flight was chiefly around 45 to 50 yards high, where the pattern density of skeet 9s is generally a dandy prescription for these small-vital but bulky-outlined birds.

I was gleeful at this ideal setup and said as much. But, while I concentrated on call-

ing, Red blew five of the first six shots, and barely scratched down the sixth crow. I made some snide remark and prepared to show the redhead how it should be done. But I didn't do even that well.

We finally solved our problem and went on to a memorable shoot of somewhat over 200 kills. But until we caught on to what was happening to our carefully placed shots we wouldn't have drawn raves at the greenest of shotgun seminars. Red and I never forgot the lessons learned that day.

In brief, we were standing in a layer of stout ground wind while the crows were flying through a stratum of moving air of much lighter velocity. These smart birds often do that; seek a level of air which least impedes their movement, especially when undertaking a lengthy flight. And above them, undoubtedly a thousand feet or more, was another layer of fast-moving air which scudded the clouds past at a tremendous pace.

Red and I knew what wind drift could do to such fine-pellet loads as Number 9s, especially over near-maximum ranges. So we commenced by giving those birds leads of from six to eight feet. Crows frequently rear back on their tails when loads of shot sizzle past just in front of their beaks. But we were missing so far that they simply ignored our feckless cannonading as representing nothing even faintly dangerous. The first crow Red dropped must have been the victim of an erratic "flyer" pellet. It certainly wasn't hit by the usual dense pattern of 9s.

The overhead clouds, racing by in a direction contrary to the flight, gave us a false impression that the birds were flying much faster than was the fact. Mainly, our mistakes were only two, but of such character that they complemented each other: first, we allowed extra lead to compensate for nonexistent wind drift; and, second, we added more lead to compensate for the supposed flight speed of the birds.

Once we discovered and corrected these two errors we consistently ran a score of over 80 per cent for the rest of the day. Until then our beginning score was a shameful four crows killed by the first 20 shots. It was an object lesson in not trying to be too dogged smart until all the facts of the problem were fully evaluated.

Although it was not a factor in the shoot just described, wind drift can provide a very real problem in proper lead. Crows, or any game for that matter, bucking into a wind are sometimes making such slight progress that they seem to be literally standing still. A lead of a mere two feet might seem excessive on such nearly stationary targets. But if the wind is high and the range is nearly maximum the combination can provide a very treacherous situation in running a good score.

Take the time Red and I were after crows and were sheltered behind a cut-bank, maybe 20 feet high, of the Blue river in Nebraska. The wind had been a solid wall of pressure against us as we walked in, lugging heavy packs of our favorite skeet 9s. But once set up in the shelter of that cut-bank we stood in a dead pocket of air, so calm that we could light our cigarettes with fully exposed matches.

We faced three types of problem shots that

day. Crows beating into that wall of wind, although making slow headway, required a full six feet of lead, most of it to compensate for wind drift on the tiny pellets of our patterns. The first shot or two at birds of any given flock were of that type. But following shots, at birds that were still facing into the wind but were allowing it to actually waft them backwards, required only half that much lead. And some crows, glimpsing our movement below, reared upward, flipped over into reverse, and added their flight speed to the buoyancy of the wind. Such shots often took from three to six feet of reverse lead, depending on how much of a start they got, to intercept their greatly increased downwind flight velocity.

So stout and uniform was the wind that every bird we shot that day fell from 15 to 60 yards on the downwind side of our blind. It was tricky shooting of the highest sporting order. But Red and I were both "hot" and ran a score of 75 per cent kills for shotshells expended. Yet, if we hadn't gained great savvy from many similar previous shoots, we might very easily have killed well under half of the crows shot at.

Experienced duck hunters have observed flocks, within good range of the ground, approaching the margins of refuges, where hunters are strung out and awaiting them. The birds very often begin an escalating climb some 100 or more yards short of such firing lines. They are then out of all reasonable range when they pass the hunters. Once safely beyond such known hazardous firing points the birds often drop down again within fine shotgun range of the ground. The cure for such a situation is to move far enough away from such spooky sports so good patterns produce sure kills.

So many years ago that the daily bag limit was 10 per hunter Morgan Drake and I had a memorable shoot on mallards that were returning to the Sand Lake Refuge after feeding over many miles of surrounding cornfields. Hunters were lined up at almost every fence-post at the Refuge boundary, but getting mostly out-of-range shots. The few birds they dropped were "accidents", i. e., really out of range but downed by single-pellet hits which struck heads or necks or broke wings.

So Morgan and I walked out a half-mile to meet the Refuge-bound flocks, where they were battling the wind at elevations of only 20 to 40 yards high. By concealing ourselves amid tumbleweeds we racked up our 10-bird limits in slightly under an hour. The shooting was so choice that 19 of our 20 birds were drakes; the lone hen was one

which had inadvertently been caught in a pattern intended for one of her much more numerous boy-friends.

At the Refuge fence we might, possibly, have gotten two birds apiece; knocked down by happenstance hits and not by killing patterns. But, using our observations of many such flights, we limited out. Plus, as I've indicated, mostly drake mallards; which left us with no guilt complex about reducing the productivity of the hens we spared. And, finally, without sticking shot pellets into a lot of birds, as the fence-line shooters undoubtedly did, with no hope of collecting such sadly wounded game.

This brings me to the point of this article. The studious shotgunner can often enhance his field sport by intelligent application of many-times-proven facts. He can actually study himself to shotgun success by observing and applying the truths which myriad shotguns have proved during past centuries. If he applies such knowledge to each shot he can learn far faster than the dub who merely lifts his gun, fires, and hopes for a miracle.

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NEWTON'S LEVERBOLT RIFLE

(Continued from page 26)

that the bolt action afforded a more secure lockup when chambering pure power.

Charlie owned several leverguns and liked them. He had to concede that lever actions were faster but they had obvious limitations where powerful cartridges were used. Charlie went on to expound his ideas in print. He was a constant contender in the early "bolt versus lever" arguments in early magazines.

Newton never argued blindly. The leverlads had a point and he knew it. When t'at bounding buck breaks brush, you can really rick-rack lots of lead through a levergun. So when Newton designed the superb .256 cartridge, he took a long last look at the lever action. He secured a Winchester Model 95 in .30-03 caliber (the predecessor of the .30-06) and rebarreled it to .256 Newton with a barrel made for him by Marlin. If the huge, husky Model 95 could handle the hot .256 Newton, he intended to try to interest Winchester in producing guns in the caliber.

Testing told the tale and Newton shook his head. "It shot well," said he, but he went on to explain that the springy lever action had allowed too much case stretching, and this would never do for the heavier cartridges he would be introducing later.

Newton admired the powerful Ross Model 1910 straight pull rifle in .280 caliber. When he introduced his own make of rifle around 1917, he used several photos of the Ross to point out how much more graceful his own rifle was. He was right. His original pattern Newton rifle was much more streamlined, but he never denied that his multiple locking lugs were inspired by the interrupted buttress threads on the Ross bolthead. And it apparently bothered him to know that the seven Ross lugs were rocked into recesses by a single swift stroke. The entire action cycle could be accomplished with two motions instead of four . . . almost like a levergun.

Newton found further fascination in the rocking-bolt action of the .236 caliber straight-pull rifle which James Paris Lee had designed for the U.S. Navy. Patented in 1879, the Lee boasted a small caliber (.240)

high velocity bullet with a remarkably advanced two stroke action. Old as it was, the Lee-Navy offered dual-stroke operation in place of the conventional bolt action. In his catalogs, Charlie raised quite a furor over a West Coast gunsmith who had re-bored and rechambered some 6 mm Lee-Navy rifles to his pet .256 Newton caliber. His major concern was that this man was making the chambers too tight, but Newton knew that the rifles worked well enough because he had tried it himself and here again was a rifle with a fast action . . . almost like a levergun.

Meanwhile the first Newton Arms Company had fallen into the hands of the receivers. Newton was a creator, not a businessman; he left this phase of the concern to others. Poor production control caused excessive rejects and a feed problem had never been fully resolved. Without some of these minor defects, the first Newton rifle was a mechanical masterpiece that many of us would be anxious to own today.

Newton imported a few post war Mausers in .256 Newton caliber and then moved from Buffalo, N. Y., to New Haven, Conn. Here he set up his second company to manufacture his modified pattern "Buffalo Newton Rifle." Although the name "Buffalo" was used, the second style guns were all of New Haven manufacture. It was the failure of this second company that led him to again consider a straight-pull rifle. But times were against him because the stock market had crashed in 1929 and money did not come easy to anyone, let alone an inventor with a failure behind him.

Between trips to Buffalo and New Haven, Newton had met a man in the vicinity of Albany, N. Y., who had a sketchy idea for a straight pull rifle action. It involved the use of two concave hemispherical recesses in the side of the bolt body which were engaged by motion-matched male studs or cam lugs. It remained for Newton to harken back to the rocking motion of a top-hung bolt handle of the Lee-Navy for the "modus operandi."

The prototype model has never been located, but it undoubtedly came from a

bolt action rifle. An early drawing shows a Springfield type cocking piece, so the working model may well have been a converted Springfield. Newton called the new design the "New Newton Straight-Pull Rifle." Later he recalled the old "lever versus bolt" debates and observed that the lever action rifle was holding its own in the popularity race. Indeed, it was doing quite well. Now wouldn't it be a great selling point if you could appeal to *both* factions of the "lever versus bolt" argument? It sure would, and from that came the name . . . LeverBolt!

With two major failures behind him, only a man with Newton's magnetic personality could hope to interest a fresh group of investors. Newton came through again, but the group that formed the LeverBolt Rifle Company wanted a major manufacturer to produce the new gun. The year was 1930 and the sound of the stock crash of '29 still rang in everyone's ears. Blinded by his own enthusiasm, Newton started off the ill timed venture by sending advertising flyers (See pages 27-28) proclaiming the new rifle. Many of the early flyers he smacked with a rubber stamp. Its red letters proclaimed "To be made for us by Marlin. Do you want one?"

Later, after line cuts and drawings were made up, he sent out catalogs of the "LeverBolt Rifle Company." Like earlier catalogs, they boasted "Highest Power Rifles in The World." The moose head, trademark of his first company, was also included on the cover. A large sheet marked "Special Notice" described how sportsmen could order the new rifle with a \$25 down payment and pay the remaining \$35 on receipt of the gun. Total price \$60.

Orders for 500 had to be received before Marlin could start production. Tight money kept down orders for the "sight unseen" rifles and the LeverBolt Rifle Co. faded away in 1932. Newton had made up sketches of future guns which he planned to build if the LeverBolt succeeded; these are shown on page 27. The slide-guard .22 RF repeater is said to hold a full box of shells in its magazine. The economy boltgun for the .30-30 cartridge featured stamped parts and simple cylindrical machining to hold down costs. The later Savage model 40 was built on a similar plan. I have seen rough blueprints of the third design, an over-under shotgun with side-break action. Another shotgun, the single barrel, five shot repeater was to operate with a knurled slide plate in the fore-end. The final illustration shows a pistol for a short .22 center fire cartridge which was based on an early experimental model he had made up. The test gun had a small bolt action and chambered a round which looked just like the R-2 Lovell.

Yes, Newton was a prolific inventor. Had he been successful, perhaps we would have had all of today's magnums a lot sooner. The LeverBolt, Ross, and Lee straight pull rifles are all lost in the past. But ideas never die, because the latest Browning bolt action .22 uses a "new" straight pull design. Do you think we should have one for high power cartridges? If Newton was alive, I think he would give us a ready answer.

The author and publisher appreciate the loan by Kingsley P. Karnopp of the materials reproduced on pages 27 and 28.



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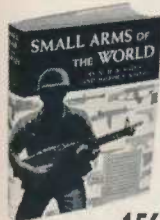


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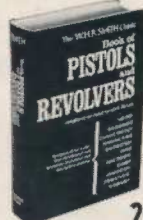


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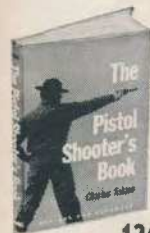
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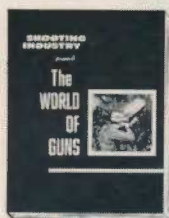
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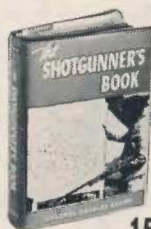
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RIFLES OF THE REDSKINS

(Continued from page 25)

after a short hassel twenty-two more guns had Indian owners.

By the time the great American fur trade had been established, the Indian trapper, feeling his new found purchasing power, began to develop a little taste and discretion in firearms selection. Perhaps because of his nomadic background, the Indian was not one to be weighed down with cumbersome items, his gun being no exception. Unbridled by the rigid military tradition and unbending discipline that saddled his suppliers, the red man could turn up his nose at the five foot, ten pound musket that was the standard of European armies. He did just that and demanded—and got—a shorter, lighter, and very maneuverable gun that has been immortalized as the “real Northwest gun”, sometimes called the “Mackinaw gun” or the “Hudson Bay fuke.”

Despite the fact that the trade musket or Indian gun was supplied by a sizeable but yet unknown number of makers, certain identifiable characteristics emerge which clearly set it aside as the traditional “Indian gun.” Besides being realistic in length and weight, the gun most often appeared in sixteen guage, .66 caliber, which meant that a pound of lead would theoretically yield sixteen balls. Almost without exception the guns arrived in the fur country

with oversized trigger guards which did not signify sloppy gunsmithing but were made big intentionally to admit a mittened hand in winter. (The same feature can be found on the old Colt “Alaskan Model” revolver.) Cost of the trade gun was negligible, generally well under \$10.00; but this is not to say that many of them weren’t solidly and honestly built for service if not for show. Old accounts and stories like the one of the Huron chief who complained that “The French give up fusees that burst and lame us,” have given rise to a mistaken belief that any stray relic firearm could be farmed off on an Indian. A little elementary deduction will show that a fur trader whose profit and very life depended on the red man’s whim could hardly afford to pass out scrap iron “parking muskets” turned out in the bottom grade European factories picturesquely—and accurately—called “blood houses.” The average trade gun was rugged simplicity itself, but it was also a reasonably safe piece of merchandise, if properly loaded and handled.

The Indian was a surprisingly keen judge of guns and quickly learned to depend on the English made piece as the most reliable and his best bargain. Even years after the British had withdrawn from the land south of Canada the Indian kept up

a firm demand for English “fusees.” Despite vigorous attempts to cash in by makers ranging from the smallest up to the mighty Eli Whitney, for years the replies paralleled that of the American Fur Company to a hopeful Philadelphia gunmaker, “We can not hold out any encouragement for (your) North West guns. Our people will not take any but the English.”

In addition to a British origin one other requisite of an acceptable gun was demanded by the Indian buyer—an odd and inexplicable dragon shaped sideplate that, with the big trigger guard, unfailingly identifies the true Indian muzzle loader. Some accounts have it that the Indians did not consider a gun “genuine” without this little brass or bronze do-dad that sometimes varied from gun to gun but which was ever present. The origin of this mysterious, even incongruously Oriental appearing symbol, and why the Indian came to accept it as a pseudo “Hallmark of quality” is one of the mysteries of gun collecting that are yet to be solved. Curiously, the precisely identical snake-like decoration holding the heads of the lock screws appears on an 1805 Barnett gun and eighty years later is still found on a good quality Hollis trade gun, one of the last of the Indian used muzzle loaders appearing in 1886.

The venerable English firm of Barnett for many years dominated the trade gun field, producing large numbers of but slight variations on the basic theme of light, short, and cheap flintlock smoothbores. As long as the Indian’s firmly engrained preferences held on, Barnett was assured of a large chunk of sales to the fur companies and occasionally even to the American Government. For instance, the superintendent of the Indian Trade Office in 1809 did not hesitate to order the imported gun by name. He wrote to a Philadelphia dealer: “I want 100 of the real North West guns by Barnett or Ketland (another large English maker). I beg you will enquire if they can be had in your city; perhaps they have been imported since last year. I pray you particularly enquire and that you may buy and send me 100 if on tolerable good terms.”

The War of 1812 understandably put quite a crimp in Anglo-American trade and John Jacob Astor, the fur trader par excellence, found his trading posts’ shelves bare of the important English trade gun. Resourceful Astor turned to American gunsmiths to duplicate the traditional product and makers including the well known Henry Deringer of Philadelphia and the lesser known H. E. Leman of Lancaster, Pennsylvania (an early gunmaking center of importance), responded with weapons that duplicated the English fusee even down to the mysterious dragon design sideplate on the left side of the gun. Eventually, the Indian learned to accept the domestically built product, although he still demanded of it the same qualities that had established it as the “real North West gun.”

The advent of the rifled barrel and the simpler sure-fire percussion system failed to greatly impress the Indian hunter or warrior. In contrast to the colorful picture of the Kentucky long rifle, the rifled gun was not well suited to Indian needs. He had neither the inclination or patience for



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the tedious and time consuming exactness that was necessary to properly load a rifle nor did he have the need for the long range accuracy that the rifle offered. Fighting, for the Indian, was generally a personal, close quarter affair where a short, easy-to-load weapon that threw a good sized bullet with punchy stopping power was the order of the day. Buffalo hunting was traditionally done from horseback with the galloping, shaggy quarry but inches from the muzzle. The Indian's preference for the smoothbore, which was to him a very practical tool, is far more understandable than the U.S. army's adherence to the smoothbore gun up to 1841.

The persistence of the flintlock, too, was a dictum of practicality. Conditions were rugged in the Far West and the flintlock seemed to suit them better than the early percussion caps which were subject to moisture and difficult to handle with cold-numbered fingers. If a shooter got his caps wet there was a strong chance they were ruined forever, claims of waterproofing notwithstanding. On the other hand, even a good soaking wouldn't harm the quality of a flint. Despite its archaic design and stubborn flash-in-the-pan shortcomings, the flintlock was a hard piece of hardware to dislodge from the frontier. Even the Government embraced the old ignition system up to 1840 and a few of the old flint guns even saw service in the Civil War.

Although he probably didn't realize it, the Indian gun toter was methodically robbed blind by the beaver conscious traders when he came looking for flints. Even when imported from the famous quarries in England, the flints were infinitesimal in cost, especially when bought in bulk. A handful of a dozen good quality English flints cost the fur trader scarcely more than a dime, yet for that handful of "solidified fire" he could get one beaver hide worth ten times as much.

The Indian apparently never did become excited about the muzzle loading rifle, although a small number of rifles were supplied to the Indians by the Government as early as 1803 when the rifle as a practical item was still something of a curiosity among far more sophisticated circles. The Indian rifle was a somewhat better piece of merchandise than the usual trade gun, being proof tested with 250 grains of powder and quite precisely made. Consequently, the Indian rifle cost more, between \$10.00 and \$15.00. Correspondence passing between makers and buyers indicates that \$10.50 for plain rifles and \$11.00 for fancier versions with "silver thumb pieces and star" were average prices. On such rifles quality improved to the point where a handsome .52 caliber model was being supplied by the Henry firm (not the repeater of Civil War fame) complete with a set trigger for improved accuracy.

The Indian remained nevertheless unenthusiastic about the rifle, but when he did show interest in one he was coy enough to insist that it was a genuine rifle and not merely a smooth bore built on heavier rifle lines. The American Fur Company's man Ramsay Crooks explained this situation clearly in a letter to an Eastern maker: "We said in ours of July 29 that the smooth bored rifles (a curious non sequitur of

terms) will not suit us. The more we reflect upon it the more we are satisfied that they will not answer at all for our Indian trade. When the Indians use a rifle it must be a real one, and they will not carry a smooth bore of such weight so long as they can get a real North West gun."

Rifle or smoothbore, the Indian gun led a hard, although amazingly protracted, life. The Indian gun owner seemed to regard his piece as a sort of living entity quite capable of caring for itself, just as his horse could. Dr. Carl Russell, commenting on Indian care of weapons in his comprehensive work "Guns On The Early Frontiers," observes, "The tendency of the Indian was to try coercion upon his rifle if it seemed to fail him. With water and fire and brute force he was apt to abuse his weapon, or simply ruin it through neglect and rough handling."

Most of the Indian guns started life with comparatively short barrels and many of them shrunk even smaller as time passed. The reason for the amputation was that although a barrel might burst the rest of the gun remained in tact and therefore it was nothing more than pure economy to lop off the barrel below the break. Then the hunter—or his survivor—had an even easier handling "fusee." Most of these bursts occurred during horseback buffalo hunts when the hunter hastily reloaded a powder charge and spit a ball into the muzzle from a supply in his mouth. Aside from the stomach-turning sulphur taste this convenient little habit must have produced, it was highly dangerous since there was a good chance the ball wouldn't seat properly and then roll forward when the gun was aimed. With the bullet lodged in the barrel ahead of the powder the barrel could easily rupture upon firing and impart more devastation on the shooter than on the target. As a point of conjecture, this unhappy event quite possibly repeated itself for a string of unfortunate Indian owners of a trade gun in the Montana Historical Society collection which has had its barrel hacked, and probably re-hacked, down to about a foot!

Just as the red man was pensive and reluctant to exchange (or have converted) his flintlock to a percussion gun, so was he cautious about giving up his muzzle loader for the white man's guns of advancing design. Although by no means a rapid fire affair, the muzzle loader was simple and rugged, not easily gotten out of repair, and its ammunition was cheap, easily available, and versatile. The new breechloaders required specially made fixed ammunition, some of it quite bizarre indeed, like the Smith rubber cartridge or the Burnside brass shell ignited by a separate standard cap. By contrast, all a shooter need for his muzzle loader ranging from a .36 squirrel rifle to the biggest bore gun was powder, lead, and the proper sized bullet mold.

Because of its initial low cost, cheap ammunition, and durable simplicity, the muzzle loader was never completely abandoned by the Indian. Curiously, the American Indian was still receiving English built guns as late as 1886 as evidenced by the trade in some rather attractive appearing

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muzzle loaders built by the London firm of "J. Hollis & Son". The importation of British muzzle guns at this date, however, seems especially incongruous in the face of tens of thousands of surplus Civil War muskets which could be purchased for next to nothing and very simply shortened and thereby altered to the Indian taste. Actually, even the Space Age has failed to toll the demise of the muzzle loader as an Indian game getter. Even though the venerable Hudson's Bay Company quit selling the front loaders to Canadian Indians in the early 1950's, thousands are still in use and probably will be for the next half century. In Europe a traditional version of the trade gun is still made—principally for South American Indians—which still answers the same specifications set in the fur trade days a century and a half ago. The pressures of inflation notwithstanding, even the price has remained the same—around \$8.00.

Surveying the amazingly complex field of emerging breechloaders, the Indian frequently pinned his faith to the best of them, the Sharps. The Sharps offered a lot to the Indian. It was highly reliable, accurate, fast shooting, and its prairie dwelling owner was not dependent on a far off factory for special ammunition—he could "roll his own" from standard components. As to speed, even some cavalry officers claimed the gun superior to the seven shot Spencer repeater. A fair number of the characteristically tack decorated Indian owned Sharps still exist in a number of collections. The number of Sharps in

Indian hands increased greatly following the Civil War when stocks of them converted to take .50 calibre metallic cartridges were given to the Indians for sporting purposes. Times being what they were, quite a few of these ended up blasting at "game" dressed in Federal blue. Ironically, these converted Sharps were better weapons than the somewhat questionable .45-70 Springfield that was regular army issue.

Probably more than any other gun the repeater fascinated the Indian mind and his title of "spirit gun" demonstrated his awe and respect for it. Because of a classic Washington blunder, thousands of Spencer repeaters which should have remained in the blue ranks were sold off as surplus for \$7.00 apiece after the war and quickly found their way West to feathered buyers who found them considerably more attractive than did the Washington bureaucrats. Wholesale post-war expansion, high-handed treatment, and breaking of the Medicine Lodge Treaty in 1867, rapidly turned more and more Indians into hostiles and the subject of Indians and guns grew into a lighted powder keg, especially since some were better armed than the U.S. Army.

When the revolutionary Henry .44 repeater was offered to the Ordnance Department the powers that be—lulled into a false sense of security by the improved rifled musket—found it a fragile jimcrack and rejected it. Not so the frontiersman nor the red man. The Henry and its direct descendants the Winchester Models of 1866 and 1873 were an instant success West of the Mississippi and they quickly passed into eager Indian hands. By the time the great post-war expansion burgeoned forth the great days of the fur trade had withered away and with it the Indian's most significant source of guns. So, other ways had to be found to get the white man's splendid "heap firing rifles." Some methods took the approach used by one Ute chief who covetously eyed the shiny brass frame Winchester Model 1866 of a touring Scottish minister named McDougall until the Scotsman acquiesced to trade it for the chief's best horse. Even this repeater was no novelty among the local Indian population, since McDougall wrote of seeing them armed with "repeating rifles, mostly Henry's sixteen shooters."

Other ways of getting prized repeaters ran to the modus operandi followed by a band of Sioux who wandered into a steamer's wood camp along the Missouri River and appeared to be amazed at the ingenuity of the white man for inventing such a marvelous thing as the repeater. When the .44 Henrys were proudly turned over for inspection they were promptly turned on their owners. However, Hollywood's fanciful celluloid epics notwithstanding, far more guns were traded to the Indians than were ever dramatically snatched from settlers. Aside from little enterprises like McDougall's, trade in Indian products flourished in commercial quantities as evidenced by an 1876 advertisement by John Lower's "Sportsmen's Depot":

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Lower also handled a number of Indian destined firearms ranging from Winchesters at \$38.00 apiece and the Leman Lancaster, Pennsylvania-made Indian guns mentioned above at \$12 to \$15 and so on all the way down to a \$3.00 muzzle loader.

Periodically, some interesting theories appear that hold had Custer been armed with this or that weapon such flamboyant history would not have been made at the Little Big Horn. Speculation aside, the fact is the showman-like, long haired Civil War veteran set out with 405 Springfield .45-70 carbines and 396 Colt .45 single action revolvers. It is equally a matter of record that at least a few of the combined cloud of Indians that swept over Custer did it with the help of good repeating rifles. One old account, among the cavalcade of material on Custer's spectacular demise, which can be regarded as reasonably realistic relates that "many of (the Indians) had needle guns of .50 calibre centre fire, as we picked up many battered bullets of that size and found a good many metallic shells that they had used. (This likely refers to the .50 calibre Sharps cartridge conversions mentioned earlier that were distributed among the Indians for "sporting purposes".) The Indians also had Spencer and Winchester and other breechloaders, but probably a majority of them had muzzle loaders and many revolvers. Many had bows and arrows in addition to their firearms." One of these Indian-owned Henrys is presently on display in the National Museum at Gettysburg.

International borders were no barrier to aboriginal interest in the repeater and a surprising supply of them found their way Northward to the Canadian tribes. One member of the expedition of Her Majesty's Boundary Commission in 1873, upon encountering some of the wilderness dwellers, wrote of the armament picture; "We gave them a present of bacon, flour, and tea. They appeared to be very friendly. There were about thirty, all mounted on very good ponies and appeared to be well armed. Some had Winchester repeaters or sixteen shooters." For the modern repeater to have spread from New Haven to savages in the wilds of Northern Canada in a maximum of seven years is not at all a bad record considering that hardly more than two centuries before it often took decades for gun improvements to reach beyond their own town of inception. Needless to say, Canadian Indians armed with repeaters caused no fewer sleepless nights among Snider carbine armed Royal Canadian Mounted Police than the same one sided situation caused among Springfield armed troopers on the other side of the border.

For collectors, Indian guns present a field almost as virgin as the frontier land they symbolize. The original muzzle loading Indian gun has but recently been categorized as a separate class of weapon, being previously treated mostly as a cheap and usually poorly preserved muzzle gun and priced proportionately. Despite the tremendous influence which Indian weapons had in shaping American history, they have so far demanded but slight attention from collectors. Although this may seem one of the great paradoxes of gun collecting,

several reasons for the slighting of the Indian gun suggest themselves. First, as a result of the Indian's usually less than loving care of his gun, those specimens that have survived are frequently found in abominable condition, sometimes even with barrels and locks bound in place with wire or rotting rawhide. Since the general aim of collecting is to ferret out guns as nearly original as possible, the bulk of collectors generally shy away from such relics despite their colorful past. Diversification, lack of solid reference, and the wide variety of Indian guns, plus the fact that some whole varieties may well have vanished forever, all tend to stifle interest; although similar problems have been overcome by collectors of derringers, percussion carbines, conversion and experimental guns, etc.

Scorning the cumbersome musket of the military as well as the slower loading rifle of the frontiersman, the Indian was a pragmatist and thereby an inventor. In addition to that eminent practicality of the short, light, and cheap muzzle loader which has survived even until today, the Indian gun is an indispensable link in the story of firearms in general and the winning of the West in particular.



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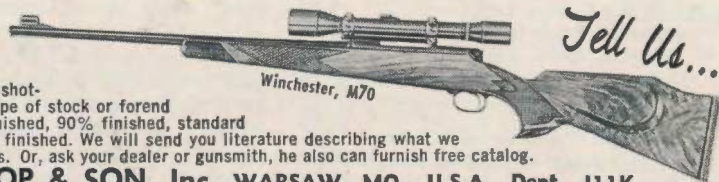
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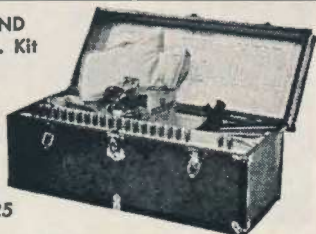
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GOODBYE GUN SHOWS

(Continued from page 47)

permission in the past, but few, if any, have requested it, for the regulations have never been enforced.

This is the situation as it now exists. What would be the effect if Sen. Dodd's administration-backed S.1592 became law? There are seven sections in the proposed bill that give regulatory powers to the Secretary of the Treasury. Some may be considered necessary for normal administration, but others are written in such a way as to give discretion to the Secretary in matters that should be decided by the Congress—where the people are represented.

Dealers would be granted a license if the Secretary were satisfied that he had enough business experience, was of good financial standing and had good trade connections. This writer has known quite a few successful gun dealers without prior business experience, but few that had many extra dollars in the bank or had good trade contacts before they entered business. How much business experience, money and trade connections would the Secretary require before allowing a gun buff to go into the business?

If a dealer or individual wanted to import a gun, the Secretary "may authorize" it, if he were satisfied that the gun were to be used for scientific research, were an antique, or "of a type and quality generally recognized as particularly suitable for lawful sporting purposes and is not a surplus military weapon and that the importation or bringing in of the firearm would not be contrary to the public interest. . . ."

What is an antique? Are surplus Model 98 Mauser actions, such as have been the basis for many, many fine sporting rifles, totally excluded by the bill? What, pray tell, is the public interest? And if the public doesn't agree with the Secretary's definition of "public interest" what can be done about it?

If the law were to forbid interstate shipment of firearms except to dealers, and the Secretary of the Treasury could so easily refuse to grant a dealer's license, where would we buy guns?

If the regulations concerning purchase of a firearm become too bothersome for the beginner to contend with, from where will the next generation of gun buffs come?

On April 9, 1965, a letter from the National Rifle Association to the membership

stated, concerning S.1592, "This bill, if enacted, would give the Secretary of the Treasury, or his delegate, unlimited power to surround all sales of guns by dealers with arbitrary and burdensome regulations and restrictions."

The Treasury Department, in an analysis of that letter, scoffed: "If a regulation were outside the statutory standards established by the Congress for the Secretary's action, or if it were not reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of the statute, or if it were arbitrary and capricious, or if it were unreasonably burdensome, or if it were irregularly issued, it would be declared invalid by the courts."

Sen. Dodd and the Treasury Department have cited the Administrative Procedure Act, which requires an agency to hold hearings before establishing regulations, and have declared many times that the Secretary could not exceed the scope of the law. But this law gives such wide scope that any of the possibilities mentioned in this article could conceivably become a part of the regulations and could be determined "reasonable" by some judges.

Senator Dodd calls his bill an anti-crime bill. The Federal Firearms Act was an anti-crime bill. But can any reasonable person contend that a dealer selling a firearm at a gun show has anything whatsoever to do with crime?

Sen. Dodd has cited the record of the Treasury Department for its reasonable regulation and enforcement of the Federal Firearms Act (although some of the gun clan don't think the record is spotless), but at the height of a struggle concerning the passage of a far more restrictive bill, the A&TT has taken steps which could, conceivably, eliminate a traditional gun pastime—nearly 30 years after the law became effective.

An authority on the passage and administration of laws once said, "You do not examine legislation in the light of the benefits it will convey if properly administered, but in the light of the wrongs it would do and the harms it would cause if improperly administered."

The gun collectors and shooters hope that the President and the Congress will consider and heed those words
of Lyndon B. Johnson.



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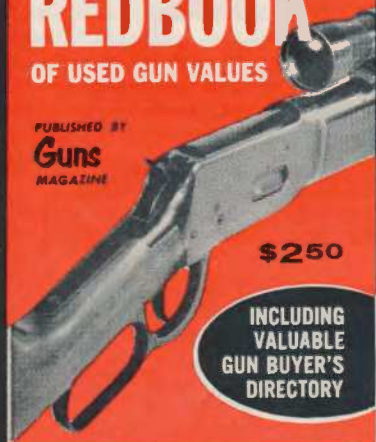
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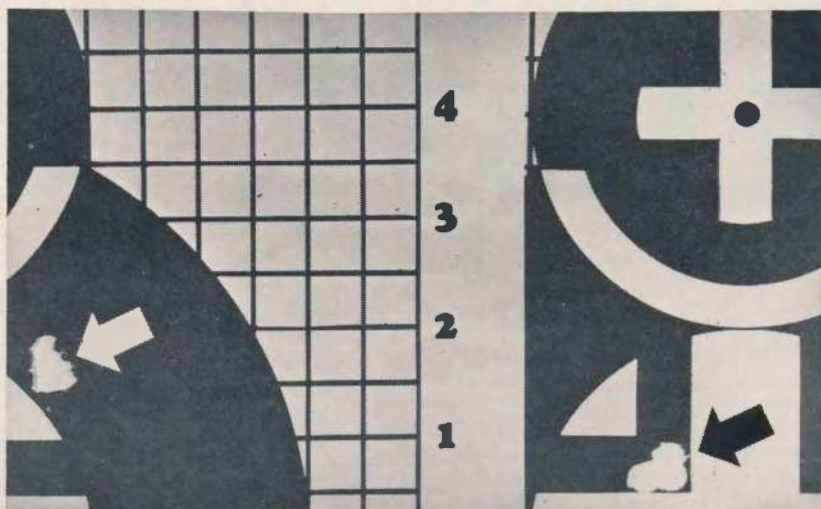
(Continued from page 45)

to note that the barrel channel had at least one coat of finish, and thus the bugaboo of wood warpage is at least partially prevented. All of the Lawson guns are fully free-floated and are glassbedded in the recoil lug area. Completed guns are furnished with Jaeger sling swivels and pachmayr recoil pads.

The blue job on the two test guns was outstanding and I cannot recall ever having seen a richer, deeper blue. Since Lawson guns are designed to be used with scopes exclusively, there are no iron sights. You do have a choice of having a small, or large inlay put into the forend. Although I usually don't go overboard for inlays of one

to fire five shot strings. In order to avoid barrel heating and consequent mirage, I fired one shot a minute from a solid bench on a clear, cool, and wind-free day. The average group with factory ammo and with handloads measured between 0.75 and 1.00 inch, although most of the groups were smaller. With the 55 gr. Speer bullet and 36.0 gr. of 4064 and CCI primer, one group—the kind most rifle nuts cut out and carry in their wallets—had a max. horizontal spread of .3125" and max. vertical dispersion of .4375"!

The Apache Sporter stock is considerably slimmed down in the action area, and since the test gun was chambered for the .257



Left: Group from .22-250 with Cochise stock.
 Right: Group from .257 with an Apache stock.

kind or another, I must admit that the inlays on the two test guns—one a small one, the other a large one—gave the stocks just enough of an artistic touch to make them pleasing without detracting from the general lines of the stocks. The .22-250, complete with scope but without sling or ammo, weighed 9 lbs, 14 oz. There was no magazine floorplate, and the trigger pull was a delightful surprise. Breaking cleanly without creep or backlash, scale showed that the trigger broke consistently at 22 ounces!

Being a handloader, I would like to be able to report that my handloads grouped better than factory ammo, but I must admit that my handloads, despite careful working up, did not shoot one bit better than the Remington factory ammo. Because of the slimmed down sporter barrel, I made no attempt to fire 10 shot groups, but was content

Roberts cartridge, I cannot tell whether or not this slimming down might affect the stock when it is used in a rifle of heavy or severe recoil. The .257 Roberts rifle was built on an FN 400 action, and again a XX Douglas barrel was used. Recoil pad and Jaeger QD sling swivels, contrasting wood forend tips and pistol grip caps, excellent inletting and bluing, and fully free-floating barrel and glassbedding were identical on both guns. The magazine floor plate is steel and the gun, without sling or ammo, tips the scales at 9 lbs. 8 oz. The trigger of this gun broke cleanly and crisply at an exact 16 ounces. This, for most shooters, might be a bit on the light side, although I personally like a light trigger pull. While factory ammunition on the average grouped for five shot at 100 yards MOA, handloads in this rifle, after considerable trial and error, were

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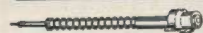
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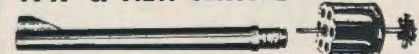
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found to be somewhat more accurate. My very best group, and again I allowed one minute between shots to prevent barrel heating, had a maximum horizontal dispersion of .40625" and an incredible vertical spread of .3125". Although I tried several times to repeat this performance, I was unable to duplicate this kind of grouping, but feel that MOA or slightly better is plenty good enough for any kind of shooting, with the exception of formal benchrest matches.

Lawson stocks are available for many types of actions and they are furnished 90 per cent finished with just enough wood left in the stock so that you or your gunsmith can fit the stock with a minimum of hand labor. The standard stocks come without inlays, forend tips or pistol grip caps, and barrel channels are undersized so that a perfect barrel fit can be achieved. The Cochise and the Apache stocks are available as left and right hand models, and prices start at \$22.50. These stocks are machine finished and are not sanded, but for the fellow who wants to finish his own stock, this presents few problems.

Although my tests of these two rifles were fairly extensive, I was not able to confirm Lawson's claim that the Cochise Thumbhole stock did a fraction better than my own rifle in that caliber, but the difference was not sufficient to draw any sort of valid conclusion. Be that as it may, the fact is that shooters go for the Cochise stock like Canada geese go for a cornfield.

Harry Lawson moved from Indiana to Arizona in 1944. A tool and die engineer, Lawson is a top ranking target shooter who, for five years was range officer for the Tucson Rifle Club. Lawson designed much of the equipment that is being used to make his stocks, and with pride and joy he points to one automatic inletting and stock-shaping machine. This machine turns four stocks at a time and is capable of holding tolerances within 0.002 inches, while competitive machines cannot do better than 0.03 inch. Although this stock shaping machine can produce four stocks in less than two hours, the demand for stocks is so heavy that Cochise Thumbhole stocks are being back ordered. Unless the customer has some special wood demands, most of the ready-to-finish stocks are made from American walnut, maple, wild cherry, and sycamore. Harry also offers such exotics as Hawaiian mango and coa, New Zealand walnut, chenau and African vermillion. The stock of the .257 Roberts, incidentally, was the finest piece of tiger maple that I have ever had the pleasure of handling. Sales for the Cochise stock run about 7 to 1 over the Apache Sporter and Lawson feels that, in the not too distant future, the Cochise Thumbhole stock will replace the conventional stock.

If by now, you have a hankering for one of those Lawson stocks, write to the H. Lawson Co., 33286 North Richey Blvd., Tucson, Arizona, for the brochure. And if you can't wait, you can always try to call Harry at 326-1117 . . . but when time permits, Harry is out hunting. Presently he is short only three trophy animals to become eligible for the exclusive Arizona Big Ten club. By the time you read this report on his guns, he may well have collected a bear, a mountain lion, or a sheep and thus be a step closer to the joining club.



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WE TOLD YOU SO!

(Continued from page 31)

of U. S. Representative John Dingell of Michigan: "The threat to society is not the weaponry of crime, but crime itself."

We suggest that you consider also the words of U. S. Representative James Battin of Montana, member of the House Ways and Means Committee: "The problem that concerns some of us on the (Ways and Means) Committee is the failure of government agencies to use the present statutes for enforcement of the present firearms laws." What would S. 1592 do that the existing federal firearms statutes haven't done or couldn't do? Other, that is, than additionally harass law-abiding citizens?

The firearms industry, the shooting sports organizations, and sportsmen everywhere have urged for years that laws be passed which would increase the punishment for any crime committed with a gun. Bills presented by Representative Bob Casey of Texas (notably H.R. 11427) took that approach, and would do more to deter the use of guns in crime than any dozen Dodd Bills. But backers of the Dodd Bills branded Congressman Casey's bills as "unconstitutional" because they "infringed on police powers constitutionally reserved to the states." How then can they support S. 1592, which not only delivers police powers into the hands of a federal agency, but also denies or restricts the right of legitimate businessmen to sell legitimate merchandise to legitimate customers, or through legitimate mail-order channels?

You say, "But we licked S. 1592 last time; what makes you think we can't lick it now?"

I'm not saying we can't lick it: I think we can. I am saying that licking it this time will be more difficult. The warning lies in the President's recent "Message On Crime." I quote pertinent parts of that message, and take the editorial liberty of adding parenthetical comments:

"If crime is to be controlled, we must control the weapons with which so many crimes are committed." (Congressman Dingell doesn't think so; see above. Neither do many other Senators and Representatives. Neither do most criminologists. Neither do many outstanding law enforcement officers.)

"We must end the easy availability of deadly weapons to professional criminals, to delinquent youths, and to the

disturbed and deranged. We must stop the flow of firearms into dangerous hands." (We're with you there, Mr. President. Show us legislation that will do this, and we'll support it.)

"It is not enough to say that gun control is a State responsibility. States with gun control laws now stand helplessly by while those laws are flouted daily by the unchecked sales of guns by mail. Our Federal responsibility is clear. It is to promptly enact legislation, such as S. 1592, to regulate and control interstate traffic in dangerous firearms." (No concern, then, about state police powers? Article Ten of the Bill of Rights is no more important, then, than Article Two? How long, then, can we expect to retain our other Constitutional rights and freedoms?)

"Only the Federal Government can give the several states and cities their first real chance to enforce their own gun laws. We must do so without further delay." (Sorry, but you lost me somewhere, Mr. President. How does the usurpation of state police powers by federal authority help the states to enforce their own laws?)

"I recommend a pistol registration act prohibiting the sale of deadly weapons to those who have been convicted of violent crimes, to those with a history of mental instability, and to habitual alcoholics." (Again, Mr. President, we're with you—in aim, but not in method. Registration won't do it. It hasn't, in New York—or anywhere else. Has automobile registration halted the use of cars in crime?)

No. S. 1592 will not end juvenile delinquency—the nominal aim of Senator Dodd's subcommittee; nor will it prevent crime—as President Johnson seems to hope. The Casey approach would do both better; the King-Hickenlooper Bill (S. 1965)—though not perfect in the eyes of all gun people—holds more promise for the accomplishment of those aims than does the Dodd Bill, and does so with relatively little restriction on legitimate gun ownership.

Also, from the Florida Sportsmen's Association, successfully instrumental in the preparation and passage of some of the best firearms legislation yet enacted at state level, comes a whole series of proposed gun laws which are, to say the very least, infinitely superior to S. 1592 and which every lawmaker should study before passing on any firearms proposal. (Address James E. Edwards, Legislative Chairman, 2822 East Commercial Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33308).

You may say, Senator Dodd, "Of course you can write bills that you like better than mine; you write them to suit yourselves!" Perhaps worthy of note is the fact that, in areas in which we are permitted to run (and police!) our own business, we are doing quite well. Statistics recently released by the National Safety Council show that, in 1964 (the last year for which reports are

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complete), a year in which accidental deaths reached the highest level since 1936, firearms fatalities decreased 11 per cent. In that year, when the number of hunters and shooters was 50 per cent greater than in 1950, hunting and shooting accidents were 13 per cent below the 1950 figure. And the money, the effort, and the leadership for the safety programs responsible for these improvements came from us—from the firearms industry, the shooting organizations, and the shooters themselves!

You see, Senator, we are really not the aggregation of cop-killers, kooks, and shaggy anarchists one might expect from your descriptions of us; we are responsible, civic-minded, decent people. And we are numerous! There are nearly 20,000,000 hunters in this country. A recent market survey showed that more than 30,000,000 American families own at least one firearm. And every one of those hunters, every member of every one of those families, has a stake in the protection of the right to own guns. Those are figures no man in public office can afford to ignore.

So, in the words of that earlier article, "Here We Go Again!" into another battle in the long, long war. What can we do about it?

We can do what we have always done: we can write our congressmen! GUNS has given you, over the years, in its "Know Your Lawmakers" columns, the stated positions of most of your national lawmakers about firearms legislation; check those statements. If there is no statement from your state representatives, it's because he didn't answer our query; write him and see if he will answer yours. Write the men who are "for" us; tell them you appreciate what they're doing. Write the men who are "against" us. Don't think it won't help; it will! It has in the past; it will again... And lest you think that is just one man's opinion, let me quote (and, for the sake of brevity, paraphrase) from a recent article by nationally-syndicated columnist Richard Starnes:

"First, write the right people. If you don't know who your Senators and Congressmen are, find out!... Next, know what you're talking about, and say it. It is not enough to tell Senator Stalwart that he is near kin to a lady coyote if he votes for an anti-gun bill! Explain your viewpoint calmly and dispassionately. Tell him how you believe the stated objectives of the bill might be better achieved without unduly limiting the freedom of some 40,000,000 sportsmen.

"Find out (from your county clerk, postmaster, or local political organization) the names of the chairman and members of the committee handling the bill. Write them; write clear, reasonable letters, free of invective or threats. Remember that one of the things you are trying to do is to persuade your lawmakers that men who hunt, or shoot skeet, or collect firearms are *not* some chinless species of raving brownshirts. Let your letter reflect your decency, your civic responsibility, your concern.

"Make no mistake, your letters will be read! Even President Johnson has elaborate machinery for testing the opinions his mail contains. Each letter is read by a Presidential assistant and a

tabulation of what it says is compiled and placed on Mr. Johnson's desk every day. Beyond that, Big Daddy frequently plunges across the street to the mail room in the Executive Office Building and personally samples random letters. Mr. Johnson is exquisitely sensitive to genuine expressions of public opinion...

"If you are writing Representative Wilbur Mills, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which is certain to have a major voice in writing firearms legislation, point out to him the importance of hunting and fishing to the economy of his state. There are more than 260,000 licensed hunters in Arkansas and, although nobody knows that better than Representative Mills, he will be impressed that you know it, that you are making your argument on merit, and that you are a reasonable person. Dig out similar facts for your letters to other lawmakers.

"It'll work wonders! All the machinery of democracy is attuned to responding to the will of the individual citizen; but it won't work worth shucks if the lonesome voter won't take the trouble to reach out and pull the proper strings. Armed with facts and emboldened by faith in the rightness of their cause, 40 million sportsmen can transform the face of America! But let them sit on their hands, and the busy, noisy minority of gun-haters... will continue to have their way.

"And the time to write those letters is now, today—not X years from now, when the only available outdoor recreation left may be shooting at empty beer cans with a beanblower!"

There's one other thing we can do, which Starnes didn't mention. 1966 is an election year: we can vote!

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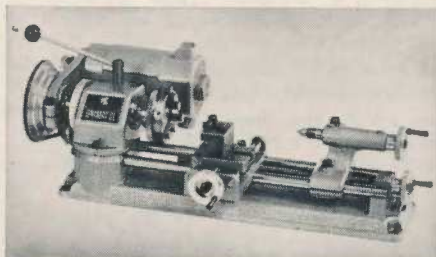
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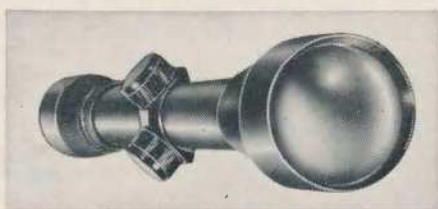
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FOR THOSE RELOADERS who are extreme accuracy bugs, the Little Kernel is just the thing to help crack that tough nut of getting accurate powder weights. Just



turn the knob and the Little Kernel will add just a granual or two at a time to your powder pan, helping you speed up the weighing job. Solidly made with enough weight to keep it from tipping, the Little Kernel is only \$3 at your Redding-Hunter dealers now.



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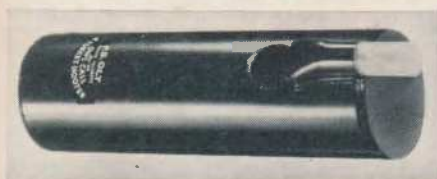
PROTECT-A-CASE provides personalized protection for those favorite guns. Made with a grained walnut finish, these cases are hand assembled, lightweight, and sturdy. Contents are protected and held immobile by two thick layers of polyurethane sponge. Produced in 12 different models and sizes, prices start at \$16.95. Catalogs showing the entire line of Protect-A-Cases are available from Penquin Associates, Dept. G-7, Malvern, Pennsylvania.

WITH Guns

AMMO-INFO labels are the latest wrinkle in gun safety for they provide foolproof cartridge identification. Developed by marksman-reloader Milt Bryon of Mount Vernon,



N. Y., these two by three inch white glossy stock labels have peel-off backing. Pressure sensitive, they adhere to any kind of cartridge box, plastic, paper, board, metal, etc. They come in rolls of 500 in three styles for \$5 a roll from Milton Bryon, Box 162-G7, Fleetwood Station, Mt. Vernon, N.Y. 10552.



THE OLT OL-40 Owl Call and Turkey Hooter causes the turkey to start a frenzied calling, enabling the hunter to locate the bird's position. The turkey can then be worked in closer to the hunter's location for a good shot. For those who do not hunt turkey, the Owl Call will give hours of enjoyment imitating the great horned owl's calling sequence and receiving the answering hoot of the owl. Priced at \$4.50, the Olt Call and Turkey Hooter can be purchased at fine sporting goods stores everywhere.

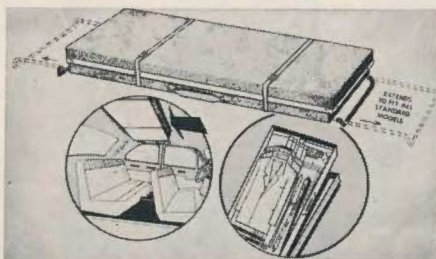
LONGER CASE LIFE for reloaders is promised by the makers of DWM sporting ammunition. Extremely close tolerances, visual inspection at every production step and induction annealing combine to produce outstanding case life. Induction annealing, an exclusive with DWM, retempers the brass eliminating the brittleness around the neck and front shoulder. Under lab conditions, 308 cases were 30 times successfully reloaded and fired in an M-14 automatic rifle at standard NATO pressure and velocity. DWM ammunition and cases are available through fine sporting goods dealers everywhere.

THE MERIT OPTICAL Attachment helps the shooter by giving him clear definition of both sights and target simultaneously through the use of an iris shutter. The use



of the aperture clears both sights and target by giving the eye increased focal depth. The iris at the same time allows the attachment to be changed to the right aperture for the particular lighting conditions at the time of shooting. Instantly attached with a rubber suction cup, the Merit Optical Attachment has no hooks, clamps, or rings to scratch the glasses. Write for further information to Merit Gunsight Co., Dept. G-7, Oakland 5, California.

THE VARIWAD, an all plastic wad column consisting of two pieces or parts which may be assembled in any one of three different lengths, is now being offered as a preassembled unit, backed by claims of less recoil, greater breaking ability of the shot string, and better patterns. Successful tests have been run at Wallace Traps and the Mid-South Open. More information from: Sullivan Arms Corp., Dept. G-2, 5204 E. 25th St., Indianapolis.



SPACE CAR CASE has been developed to answer the need for extra luggage space. It is easily installed on the ceiling in the back of the car and will carry any clothing or gun needed on the average trip. Molded of U.S. Royalite in a grained British Tan, the case measures 38"x21"x3" when closed. Telescoping carrier extends to a depth of four feet, and is cushioned for protection of weapons. Vision is not hampered at all, and \$31.95 will bring it prepaid from Franklin J. Scott, Dept. G7, 1129 W. 41st St., Kansas City 11, Missouri.

SAVAGE 110 is now available in .22-250 Rem. caliber, either in regular 110-MC or left-hand 110-MCL . . . and in right or left-handed barreled actions. The bolt of the 110 has massive front locking lugs that cam into



the receiver for a truly solid lock-up; the bolt head is fully encased, with recessed face and twin gas ports for added security. Select walnut Monte Carlo stock has high, fluted comb and checkering on fore-end and capped pistol grip. Designed for use with scope, this rifle is furnished without sights or sight slots. Receiver is tapped for aperture sights and top-mount scopes. The 110-MC sells for \$119.50 and the 110-MCL for \$124.50.



DUCK DECOYS from Pachmayr are being offered in a choice of three species, sprig, mallard and teal. These new decoys are hand-painted to duplicate exact coloring, and colors are waterproof. The ducks are made life size from sturdy, lightweight materials, and each box includes a waterproof carrying bag. Boxes of twelve sprig or mallard are \$32.00 each, and box of ten teal is \$27.50. They may be purchased at many sporting goods dealers or direct from Pachmayr Gun Works, Inc., Dept. G-7, 1220 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 15, Calif.

SWEANY SITE-A-LINE is a must for shooters and gunsmiths. Assures perfect boresight alignment every time, saves ammunition costs. Zeroing a scope or any iron sights takes just one minute, and you're on target with the first shot. Complete with spud for one caliber and vinyl carrying case for only \$39.95. From Alley Supply Co., Dept. G-7, P.O. Box 458, Sonora, California.



A NEW BOLT ACTION, center fire rifle, the Winchester Model 670, has been designed to fill the needs of outdoorsmen seeking accuracy and dependability in a rifle combining style and economy. Available as a carbine or rifle, in both standard and magnum calibers, the 670 features a free-floating, swaged barrel, high comb Monte Carlo stock, recessed bolt face, etc. Prices range from \$114.95 for the carbine to \$134.95 for the magnum rifle.

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GUNS OF VIET NAM

(Continued from page 23)

some purposes are Savage and Ithaca 12-gauge riot guns with 20-inch full choke barrels. Since the VC use no armored vehicles, heavy AT weapons are left behind. The grenade, that most personal of weapons, is used in tremendous quantities. The consumption rate of small arms ammunition is staggering, by comparison with previous wars.

Special Forces, Airborne, and Air Assault units have all the foregoing available and, in addition, are issued the relatively new (and controversial) M-16 5.56 mm (.223) rifle which is fast becoming a favorite short-to-medium range weapon.

Generally, the U. S. arms are at least modestly superior to those of the VC and North Vietnamese Regulars. This is a subjective view, as it must be, and will no doubt

be disagreed with by some. The recruit who is hit by a bullet from an ancient M-91 while trying to clear paddy mud from his M-16 may not see that superiority very clearly, but on the whole, it does exist. The Soviet AK (Automat Kalishnekov) might be a bit easier to control for a long burst, but the greater range and power and better sights of the M-14 pay off in the end.

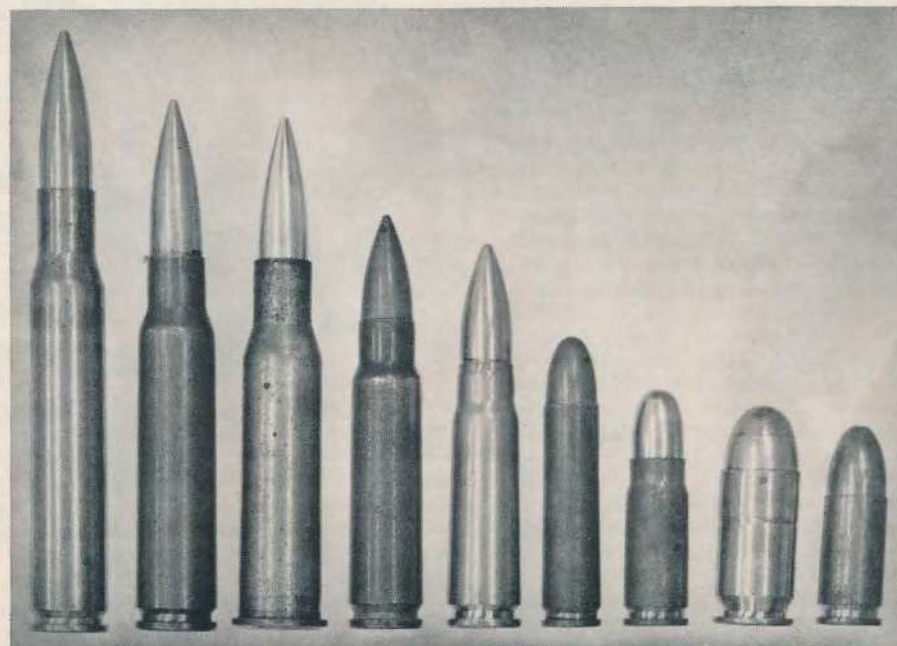
In other areas, there is really no basis for comparison. The enemy has nothing at all comparable to the M-16 rifle or the M-79 grenade launcher, nor has he any gun as devastating at close range as our 12-gauge riot gun with its handful of .32 caliber lead balls. We have them in Viet Nam by the tens of thousands.

While it really doesn't fit into this story, one tremendously effective weapon is, I'm certain, of great interest. It is the multi-barrel 7.62 mm Mini-Gun. (See GUNS, Feb. 1965.) This vicious device spews a deadly stream of bullets at rates as high as 6,000 per minute. Used with new multi-ball 7.62 mm ammo, it can put out 12,000 projectiles per minute. As this is written it is being used primarily on slow, fixed wing aircraft for delivering suppressive fires on the VC. In the near future it will be mounted in powered turrets on high speed helicopters, then, Charlie, look out! The effect of the shower of bullets is such that jungle stories say no return fire has ever come out of an area worked over by a Mini-Gun. The Mini-Gun requires an external power source, so cannot be used by foot troops. Even so, it could be mounted on a light, armored, tracked vehicle and used with devastating effect. The Mini-Gun is essentially a power-driven baby Gatling, very highly developed. As its use grows, you'll hear more about it.

Eyes are being opened in one respect. Both Army and Marine authorities have seen



U. S. Cartridges (L-R): .30-06
7.62 mm; .223; .30 Carbine; .45.



Cong ammo: .30-06; 7.5 French; 7.62x54mm, 45mm, 39mm;
.30 Carbine; 7.62 mm Russian SMG; .45 ACP; and 9 mm Parabellum.

a need for accurate, long range fire—as opposed to the usual jungle-spraying technique. Toward this end sniping is being re-evaluated. A few expert riflemen are being outfitted with target-grade bolt action rifles and high power telescope sights. At the moment they use M-70 Winchester rifles with assorted scopes, including some 15-year-old 12X Unertls in target mounts. This is a stopgap measure to be used while a new standard sniping outfit is selected. A board of officers is evaluating rifles and scopes as this is being written. It will select the best



M-79 grenade launcher.

items and marry them up. Careless VCs, accustomed to exposing themselves nonchalantly beyond normal machine gun and rifle range, are in for a big surprise.

Naturally, the question arises as to what we might expect to see enter the fray in Viet Nam. Essentially, it is a war of the foot soldier, so we'll ignore the exotic missiles and multi-million dollar aircraft. There have



Weapons system, using the Stoner action, is currently under study.

been rumors and reports of a new Soviet rifle and machine gun cartridge—one that is of .22 caliber and comparable in performance to the .222 Remington Magnum sporting round or the 5.56 mm U. S. Military cartridge. This number is unique in that it is based on the existing Russian 7.62x39 mm cartridge for which weapons already furnished the VC are chambered. Photos I have



Colt's AR-15 submachine gun is part of a complete weapons system.

seen indicate that the basic AK rifle and RPD machine gun could easily be converted to this caliber. It is possible that the Soviets might decide to furnish such .22 weapons to gain valuable battle experience. A VC so armed would certainly be giving no advantage to a U. S. soldier carrying an M16.

Having no arms industry of their own, both the VC and North Vietnamese depend on Soviet and Chinese arms. It isn't likely that really new and exotic small arms will be furnished. So far, only those items in plentiful supply at home are shipped to our enemies. This condition may be expected to continue.

Newer, shorter versions of the M16 are likely to show up soon in U. S. hands. Colt's is now producing a submachine gun version,

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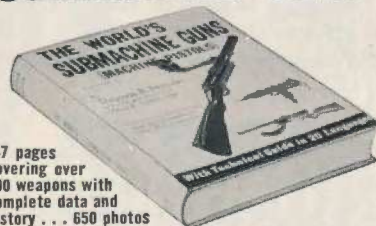
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complete with collapsible stock and large 30 round magazine. Other variations of the same basic gun have been fitted with auxiliary single-shot barrels to handle 40 mm grenade cartridges, giving the trooper a choice of type of fire, depending on his target. These, too, may soon find their way to the combat zone.

U. S. Army development of the SPIW (Special Purpose Individual Weapon) also proceeds apace and it is only logical that it be put to use in Viet Nam as soon as it reaches a satisfactory state of development. With its choice of high velocity flechettes or high explosive rounds, it might prove ideal for jungle use.

Of more than passing interest to the jungle fighter is the Stoner system produced by Cadillac Gage Co. and now undergoing Army and Marine tests. Chambered for the 5.56 mm round, this system consists of a basic action to which various barrels and feed mechanisms may be assembled (even in the field) to produce as many as six different weapons. Especially adaptable to the type of fighting going on in Viet Nam are

the auto rifle, assault carbine (really a sub-machine gun), and magazine and belt fed light machine gun versions. This system could easily wind up facing the VC before long. Use of this common group of weapons would enable troops to maintain a volume of fire for a longer period of time than possible with the arms they now carry, simply because ammunition weight is far lower and fewer calibers are required. Of course, there are other items in various stages of development. Rest assured that the latest and best will be made available to our troops in Viet Nam.

Viet Nam serves as a live proving ground for many of our new weapons, much as did Spain for the Wehrmacht. Much is in use there that you'll not hear about. But essentially, our troops and their compatriots from Australia and Korea are fighting (damn well) and dying (damn hard) with and by the weapons described here. That they fight well is in large part that they *do* have fine weapons. That they must sometimes die is not to be attributed to their weapons, but simply to War and Fate.



U.S. Army photograph
Jeep-mounted M-60 machine gun stands guard over captured Viet Cong.



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HUNTING ACCURACY

(Continued from page 33)

factory rifle would do no better than three MOA, nearly any good factory rifle today will shoot close to 2 inch groups right out of the box. With a little tuning and juggling of ammunition, many of these rifles will shoot groups of $1\frac{1}{2}$ MOA, and do it all day. Some hunters wonder if we really need this kind of accuracy for big game hunting. For a lot of it we don't, but for some of it we do. The fellow who shoots mule deer, antelope, sheep, caribou, and a lot of other game at odd times, surely needs every last bit of accuracy he can squeeze from his rifle. The less error your rifle makes, the more you can make and still stick that bullet in a vital spot.

It is often said that a good rifleman will shoot a closer group from the bench than can be fired from the same rifle from a machine rest. This may be, and often is, true. This is assumed to be so because you may pull a bit left when your rifle eases one a little to the right, which results in a center hit. Conversely, you may slop one right at the time your rifle also pushes the bullet in the same direction. This can cause a miss!

Just because a given rifle and load has sufficient accuracy—even down in the 2 MOA class—at 100 yards, does not mean that it is accurate enough for long range shooting. For one thing, even if that cartridge delivers very flat trajectory over long range with a bullet of good ballistic coefficient, it is no sign that the cartridge will give acceptable trajectory with a blunt bullet. If this is the case, that bullet is not accurate enough for game shooting any farther away than you can place it in a vital area without doing a lot of guessing. And guesses don't produce much eatin' meat.

There is another fly that can spoil the soup that few hunters ever know about, one that can cause a lot of unaccountable misses and wounded game. Just because a bullet is very accurate on the 100 yard target does not mean that it will be equally as accurate on the other side of the canyon 400 yards away.

Here's a shining example of this. Not so many years ago I was running some drop tests with the then new Model 700 Remington chambered for the, also new, 7 mm Remington Magnum cartridge. The rifle was capable of putting five of the 150 grain factory loaded bullets into an average of $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches at 100 yards, and the 175 grain factory loaded ammo into around $1\frac{3}{4}$ ". As range increased the 150 grain seemed to do even better, perhaps "going to sleep" in its spin. Anyway, it shot 2 inch groups at 200 yards and still put them in a 6 inch circle out at 400 yards. The 175 grain bullet was still doing very well at 200 yards, laying them into about 4 inch groups, but at 300 yards this had doubled, and at 400 they sprayed out to 12 inch. This rifle and cartridge certainly had hunting accuracy right out to the limit with the 150 grain bullet, but was surely beyond the ragged edge at 400 yards with the 175 grain bullet.

In fact, it would have been shaky on game like antelope at 300 yards. Here is a case where a rifle had accuracy adequate for any big game hunting with one bullet, but could be considered as having hunting accuracy with another for only short to medium range.

The kind of game you hunt, as well as the range at which you will shoot, can also make the difference between hunting accuracy and just something that shoots bullets. Say you are taking a rifle on an antelope hunt. You know that there is likely to be long range shooting involved, you also know that even a big buck pronghorn is a pretty small animal. He looks big out there on the sage flats with nothing around him but stunted sage, grass, and air, but he isn't. He'll measure about 14 inches from the bottom of his ribs to the top of his back. Some of that is hair; more is meat that, if hit, will only wound him. When you get down to vital area you'll find there is only 8 to 10 inches to hit and be sure of a clean kill. Now, you may get a shot at 100 yards or less, but there is more chance that any standing shot will be from 250 to as far as you have any business shooting. A rifle that shoots three inch groups at 100 yards is just not the answer to an antelope hunter's prayer.

Let's change things around a little and say you are going to hunt moose in some of the brush country they love so well. A moose is a right sizable critter, as a shiras from the States or a bull from southern Canada will run around three feet from back to brisket. A big Alaskan-Yukon bull will top this by nearly a foot. Take some of this out for hair, hide, surplus meat, and what not, and you still have a spot around two feet square to put a bullet in. If you put it there and it has the oomph needed for a moose, he won't make many more tracks. Obviously, if your rifle will make even a 4 inch 100 yard showing, you can dig a bullet into the vital area of a moose out to 400 yards with no sweat. Most moose are not shot at particularly long range, so a moose rifle does not require the hunting accuracy of an antelope rifle. About the same thing can be said for elk, especially when hunted on the West Coast, but in the mountain country they will, at times, tax the ability of the best long range rifleman.

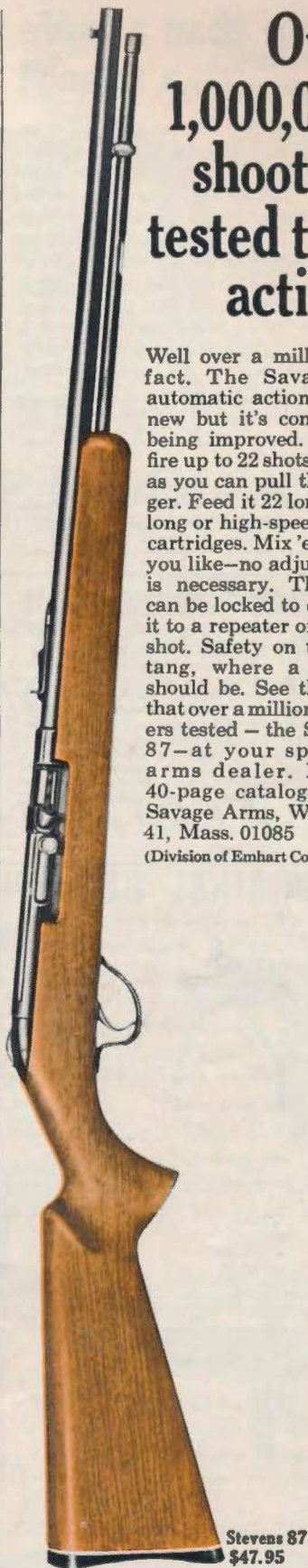
There is still another type of hunting, and while we're delving into what constitutes hunting accuracy, we'll surely have to consider it. This type of hunting attracts more hunters than does chasing big game in whatever form. This is varmint hunting. This class of hunters demands the very top in accuracy because without it they had better stay in bed.

The reason for this is, of course, the size of the game. Not only that, but they shoot these wee beasts and birds at ranges that make even antelope hunters turn the color of spring grass with envy. I'm not one to buy this 1,000 yard chuck business—so far

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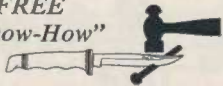
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we haven't produced either rifles or rifle-men with that kind of built-in accuracy—but they do make some real phenomenal shots. Sure a lot of us have shot varmints with big game rifles off the rack, done pretty well at it too. But very, very few big game rifles have the accuracy needed for a top-hole varmint rifle.

Let's look at the facts. Again this depends on where we hunt and what we hunt. One thing we know for sure, the game is going to be small and ranges long. Take the fellow who pops most of his caps in chuck country—I'm referring to the western rock-chuck that is somewhat smaller than his eastern cousin—he should have a rifle that will consistently stay within an inch at 100 yards. If his rifle shoots much larger groups than that he'll miss a lot of shots where the big ones belly-down on top of that far cliff.

An average size chuck will push up to about 16" when he's reared up on his tail end, and that's quite a lot to shoot at. But he is only a bit over 4" wide, and that's not so much. Let him flatten out on his fat belly with only his head poked over a ledge, and it's a lot less. Any way you look at it, you can't count on more than 4 to 5 inches to shoot at. Now put him off at 400 yards and you'll see that you haven't got anything to spare with a minute-of-angle rifle. Even at 200 you won't kill many if you get careless.

The big, long eared jack rabbits will give about the same target to shoot at, maybe a little more because he sits bumped up much

of the time, but you surely need a rifle that will shoot to around an inch to make much of a showing on jacks. The lad that lives in prairie dog country will either have to find a rifle that shoots closer than the minute-of-angle class or reduce the range, but he'll still kill most of them out at 250 to 300 yards.

Now we get down to the shooting that takes the finest of all hunting accuracy—not only the kind of shooting that separates the men from the boys, but also separates the good from the best of the varmint rifles. This is hunting of crows, magpies, and the little Columbian ground squirrel of the western plains and mountains. None of these targets afford much over a 2 inch circle,



except at times when they are stretched out in one direction—as with a sitting squirrel on his hind feet. A rifle that will shoot into an inch at 100 yards will kill most of the crows you shoot at out to 200 yards; it will kill something better than fifty percent of the ground squirrels, but very few magpies at that range. Beyond 200 yards you've got to have even better accuracy for consistent hits—we're not counting accidents.

A top-drawer varmint rifle should be equally as accurate as a match rifle, and run a close second to a bench rest job. This then, is the hunting accuracy requirement of a varmint rifle. Of course, a varmint cartridge must be extremely fast and very flat or the finest accuracy is of little use beyond 200 yards. As with big game bullets, only more so, some varmint bullets are wonderfully accurate at 100 yards, but worthless when ranges stretch beyond 200.

There is the old old saw, "one man's meat is another man's poison," and you might say that it fits what we call hunting accuracy. If you hunt large game where ranges are never long, you can get by with pretty sloppy accuracy. But hunting that same game out in open country you would find you were in for plenty of trouble. If you hunt smaller game that you know may have to be taken at long range, the best big game rifle is never over-accurate. If you are a varmint hunter, all of the accuracy that is built into the finest varmint, target, or even bench rest rifles, is none too much—you can use it all.

There is another way of summing up hunting accuracy, this is what range potential the rifle has for the kind of game hunted. Obviously, rifles in the .30-30 class will not need the accuracy level of the .270 or .30-06 class, because they will not normally be used at the same ranges. A .30-30 that will shoot 3 inch groups at 100 yards

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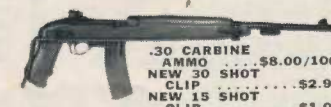
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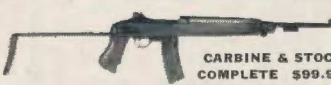
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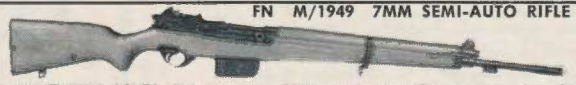


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is likely to shoot at least 8 inch groups at 200, and that is about as far as the trajectory and killing potential of this cartridge class is reliable. For any big game three minute-of-angle accuracy is certainly hunting accuracy for such cartridges. By the same token the .270, .30-06, .280 class would not need the fine guilt edge accuracy required by the .264, 7 mm, .30 Magnum hotshots. Few people can shoot the big bombers that well, but the flat trajectory and extended killing energy range dictates that accuracy be the best possible to bring out the long range hunting potential of these cartridges.

The same thing holds true of a varmint cartridge. The .222 or .222 Remington Magnum are some of the most accurate cartridges ever made. But their velocity, range, and light, wind-sensitive bullets just about fade them out of the picture as top-hole varmint cartridges at around 250 yards. Actually, you do not need quite the fine edge of accuracy for them as with the faster .225 Winchester, .22-250 Remington or the old but good .220 Swift. These cartridges are good for at least another 100 yards, and that is where you need even finer accuracy. If you want to stretch this a bit you can go to the cartridges shooting .243 caliber bullets, maybe the .270 or the .284's. These are capable of knocking off chucks at 400 yards plus, but you have to have the very Nth degree of accuracy to do it.

For my own use I want a big game rifle as accurate as it can be made without too

much weight. This is especially true of any rifle that will be used on several kinds of game, as most rifles surely will on any extended hunting trip. I want that rifle, and the bullet it shoots, to be capable of holding that initial 100 yard accuracy right out to the limit of its ability to kill cleanly. I also want it to place its bullets to the same point of impact today, tomorrow, or three months from Tuesday. This is one bugaboo that misses and wounds untold numbers of animals. A rifle may be wonderfully accurate today—that is, shoot very tight groups—but three days from now it may put that same tight group six inches high, four inches low or five inches out in left field. I've seen many rifles like that, and they're no god for a hunting rifle. No matter how tight such a rifle will shoot on any given day, it does not have "hunting accuracy." This goes for varmint as well as big game rifles.

A varmint rifle never has surplus accuracy, you can always use it sometime—there may be chances at coyotes, chucks, and magpies all in the same day and all at the same ranges. My own errors and limitations are enough to cope with, cause misses enough, without multiplying them with a rifle that also makes mistakes.

Here's something to remember: Your rifle may be capable of shooting better than you can hold it, but no matter how well you can shoot, you will never be able to shoot better groups with it than it is capable of shooting.



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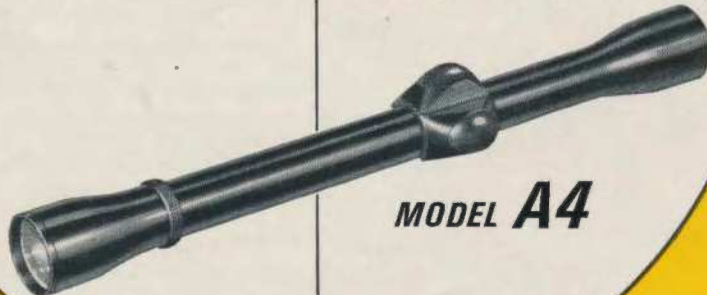
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SIX-GUN SCABBARDS

(Continued from page 35)

rigs for the last 30 years. You can't beat 'em.

Today's quick-draw aficionados use a holster which traces its ancestry directly to the Threepersons. Except that the walk-and-draw routine has been so perfected the fast bunch have changed the angle on the holster. The original Threepersons angles the butt to the front and the muzzle to the rear.

Thirty-five years ago, the Border Patrol went to Tio Sam Myres and asked him to help them design a regulation holster. This he did and the resulting scabbard is partly the thinking of old border men and partly the suggestions of the master leatherman.

This holster is a real gem for everyday wear. It is fast but it is also practical. It can be worn walking, sitting and riding, and regardless of the activity it maintains the shooting iron in a position where it can be reached in a twinkling. Since the war Bill Jordan has added some changes to the holster and this design is manufactured by Don Hume (Box 351, Miami, Okla.) It is still made by the Myres Saddle Co. of El Paso, Texas, just as it was first turned out. This rig is one of the kind which will last the owner for 40 years and he can turn it over to his boy who can also wear it for another four decades. Tio Sam never sews in anything but top quality saddle skirting leather, bullhide a little tougher and a mite thicker than the stuff we put in boot soles.

During the shooting in North Africa in 1942-3, I packed a Pachmayr-refitted .45 auto in an open top Myres scabbard. The rig was built on the Threepersons style and had no guard strap. I was a battlefield recovery officer and this necessitated climbing in and out of shotup tanks, self-propelled artillery, tank destroyers, and other ordnance, sometimes during the day but more often at night. I never lost the pistol from the leather a single time. After the scrap pinched out on the African side we hopped the Mediterranean and landed in Sicily. In Africa, the .45 had taken a licking from rain and snow and after the winter there was an endless amount of dust. In Sicily, the dust was ten times worse. The gun took quite a beating.

After the Sicilian side show we took a breather before the invasion of the Continent. I came back to the States for 5 months and went immediately to Tio Sam and asked him to make a scabbard for me with a flap on it. This time I left the old service pistol at home and took over with me the .357 S&W with a 4-inch barrel. Myres made up a holster with a generous flap on it. Though I had never carried one before, it proved entirely practical. You don't make

fast draws from a harness with a great leather hood over the six-gun, but in war you don't go in for that kind of bar-room highjinks. The revolver came through the winter in the Ardennes and the Hurtgen Forest without picking up too many barnacles. As the battlefield recovery officer for First U.S. Army I remained just behind the infantry during any major push. One day in a middling fair size burg just this side of the Rhine, I flushed a member of the Wehrmacht out of a house. As he ran for cover across an opening, I flipped up the flap on that holster, uncoiled the .357, and bored a hole plumb through him. He had a light pack on his back and the Remington High Speed Metal Point 158-grain not only knifed through it but punched a ragged hole through the front of his tunic. It did not kill him, at least not then, having missed the heart on the right side. I heaved him up on my jeep hood with the help of my driver and we wheeled him back down the road 600 yards to the battalion aid station.

It just goes to show when you have to dive into a flapped holster pronto, you can. I have conceded since that the belt scabbard with an awning has its uses. I never knock 'em.

Berns-Martin (Box 782, Elberton, Ga.) have also whumped up a good holster. This job looks a little on the Rube Goldberg side at first glance, but it ain't. The scabbard is split down the leading edge, and the six-gun is held inside the leather by a strong wishbone-shaped spring which passes around the cylinder from the rear. I packed one of these rigs for years and I liked it fine. The gun isn't drawn at all, it is simply pushed through the front of the leather. It is lightning fast, I'll tell you! I rode between El Paso and Rodeo, Arizona, a small trifle of 150 desert miles, for 5 years and most of the time I packed a Berns-Martin holster. I never lost the gun whether afoot or horseback. It remained in the scabbard until wanted and then it came to hand in something less than a twinkling. Berns-Martin were sticklers for using only the best leather obtainable. Their leather is on a par with that sewed by Tio Sam Myres, the top quality saddle skirting bullhide. The Berns-Martin rig I used 30 years ago is in just as good shape today as it was when I made that last soiree across the south end of the cactus-ridden State of New Mexico.

Berns-Martin has another one. This is a half-breed for 2" barreled six-guns. The revolver rides upside down over the left nipple. It is held in place by a piano-wire spring which is fitted and sewed inside a clamshell holster. This harness is the fastest shoulder holster ever designed. The gun isn't under the armpit at all but, as I have just said, rides on the left side of the chest. The muzzle points up under your left ear and undoubtedly if a feller was a mite squeamish about this he might not cotton to the harness too much. But apart from this minor point it is a hideout to appeal to the gent in a hurry!

The fine improvement of the ancient derringer with the advent of first the .357 magnum and more lately the .45 Colt chamberings, has uncovered some of the long buried rigs for this 2-barrel cutter. Myres makes a wristlet for the derringer which

(Continued on page 74)

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(Continued from page 72)

permits it to be packed inside the coat sleeve. The gun isn't contained in a holster in this position but it held securely by a strong flat spring which grips the barrels. The same wrist band can be worn below the knee and when seated at a table, or driving, this is a convenient location.

For my .45 derringer, I have had made up a belt holster on the Threepersons style which has an open belt loop. You ram this loop inside the pants waistband and the gun and holster are securely anchored. There is no need of a belt, the rough side of the cowhide sticks and hangs to the clothing and the holster won't ride up when the gun is snatched.

Cowpokes who come to town don't use holsters. They simply throw the loading gate on the old Peacemaker open and ram the iron down in the front of their pants. It rides there comfortably and is quick to handle. The autos are good guns to tuck in your

waistband but all of 'em sit more firmly if you'll turn the butt forward. This makes for a slow draw but the pistol is less conspicuous and less apt to loosen its moorings and go trickling down your pants leg. In Saigon one time, now the scene of some lively powder burning between our Special Forces and a guerilla crew called the Viet Cong, I attended a ritzy party given by our Embassy for the Vietnamese brass. I had walked about six or eight blocks from my quarters to the soiree and as this was considered poor practice, I tucked a .380 auto in my pants belt. At the party this sawed-off slipped its moorings and went trundling down my britches leg. It struck the floor and went scooting off across the tiled floor. This was a mite embarrassing and after that I whittled out a skeletonized holster which permitted the weapon to ride inside the waistband but securely anchored it against any further skates across the ballroom floor.

The .45 auto is a good gun to pack inside the pants belt. But it needs a flat spring which should be punched or drilled at one end and then passed over the top stock screw on the right side. It is then held in place by the stock on that side. This device keeps the flat-sided weapon from dropping down the trousers leg and at the same time does not impede the draw. I like it.

Dallas Stoudenmire, Marshal of old El Paso, who once killed three men in three seconds and a brief while later was gunned to death by Jim Manning, packed his artillery in leather-lined hip pockets. These six-guns must have been whittled-back models as the old Frontier model doesn't lend itself to carry in any kind of a pocket. The powder-sizzling career of the city marshal, replete with shootings and a goodly dollop of killings, does not record that he

was ever slow on the draw. As for me, the better pocket is a front one, leather-lined with a soft suede, and the gun should be a belly type with 2" barrel, a dehorned hammer and the trigger guard opened up in front. Henry Fitzgerald, for many years Colt's quick-draw phenom, used to pack a pair of .45 New Service in his front pockets. The guns had been chopped back to 2" barrels, the hammer had lost its spur and the trigger guards were the open-air type. Fitz could whip out either or both of these cutters muy pronto!

Those holsters which came along after the Civil War show their ancestry. These were jerked off the pommel of the saddle and buckled around the cowboy's middle. The few remaining today in museums and private collections indicate the art of scabbard making has come a long way. These old timers were terrible. The leather literally swallowed the pistol. Nothing protruded except the gun butt. A fast draw from one of these old boot-like rigs would have been an impossibility. The holster makers have moved a fur piece down the road since these forerunners came onto the scene. Today we know that a worthwhile six-gun scabbard is notable for a dearth, a stinginess, of leather. It is now strictly utilitarian; there is a holster-well and a belt loop and that's it. The fold-de-rol of skirts, extra straps, buckles, conchos, and silver mountings is out.

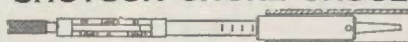
The proper scabbard, if it is for a revolver, covers the barrel and the cylinder, and it leaves free the trigger guard and the hammer and the stock as well. If the rig is for an automatic it covers the barrel and slide and leaves free the trigger guard, the hammer and the stock. I prefer, as did Tom Threepersons, a holster which has a pitch or angle on the belt which will see the butt angled forward and the muzzle rearward. The present day shoot-em-up kids, the buckos who perform annually at Las Vegas, do not like this. The angle is exactly the opposite, with the stock pointed rearward and the gun muzzle angled forward.

A holster to be worth its salt should be made of top grade saddle skirting leather. This is the portion of the hide which comes out of the middle of the critter's back. It runs about 1/4" in thickness and is as stiff and unyielding as so much cordwood. It ought to be that way. After it has been sewed into a holster for your particular gun it should be dunked in the horse tank and permitted to float there for a couple of hours. After that jam the gun into the scabbard and leave it for 24 hours. Preferably in a place where the sun will strike it. If you care anything about the six-gun it helps to grease it a little inside and out before ramming it in the dripping leather. May keep it from rusting.

After the holster is thoroughly dried, you'll find if the maker knows his stuff that the gun works out of the leather real slick like. Then oil it with neatsfoot oil. I like to make up a mixture of about 3 parts oil to 1 part powdered graphite and then work this into the holster-well by hand. This makes the gun come out all the faster and is good for the leather. If you are packing the holster every day, it is good medicine to oil it once each month. Neatsfoot oil is best. A really first-water rig will last a man 40 years and never let him down.



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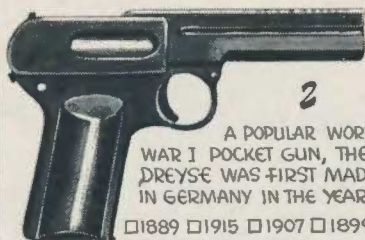
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by TOM HUNTER



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ANSWERS ON PAGE 78

How do Congressmen feel about getting letters?

Circle one. (five points)

- a. They are too busy to read mail.
- b. They want to know what people from home are thinking.
- c. They do not care what your opinions are.

(The answer is "b". They always welcome sincere letters from constituents.)

It is your duty, as a sportsman and citizen, to take an active interest in the bills introduced each year which affect the future of outdoor recreation in America. How much do you know about making your opinions count? Here is a quick test.

2. Name the Congressman from your district. (ten points)

(For answer, contact your town or county clerk)

3. Name the two U.S. Senators from your state. (ten points each)

(You can find out from your town or county clerk)

4. The preferred form of address when writing your Congressmen is: (ten points)

- a. "The Right Honorable _____"
- b. "Dear Senator _____" or "Dear Representative _____"
- c. "Dear Mr. _____"

(Most Congressmen aren't too concerned with formalities. "b" is perfectly acceptable.)

5. If I am interested in a bill introduced in the House, I should write to: (ten points)

- a. The Representative who introduced the bill.
- b. The chairman of the committee which will hear the bill.
- c. The Representative from my district.

(Write "c" first, then "a" and "b" if the situation warrants.)

6. When I write a letter expressing an opinion, I should: (five points)

- a. Quote what the "experts" are saying.
- b. Express my own reasons and beliefs.
- c. Send a petition with a lot of names.

(You are his constituent. The answer is "b".)

7. When I write a Congressman, I should: (five points)

- a. Tell him how important I am.
- b. Threaten him with my vote.
- c. State the name of any organization I represent and my title.

(The answer is "c".)

8. When I write a Congressman, I should: (ten points)

- a. Tell him what the Constitution means.
 - b. Be polite, sincere and brief.
 - c. Set him straight once and for all.
- (Congressmen are familiar with what the Constitution means. "b" is the answer.)*

9. When I write a Congressman, I should: (five points)

- a. Tell him I am a Democrat.
 - b. Tell him I am a Republican.
 - c. It is not necessary to state party affiliation.
- ("c". Leave parties out of it.)*

10. Circle one. (five points)

- a. Congressmen are hardened to criticism.
 - b. Congressmen have the same feelings as anyone.
 - c. Congressmen ignore good or bad comments.
- ("b". Although too many people overlook this.)*

11. About how many bills are introduced in Congress each session? (ten points)

- a. 3,000
 - b. 5,000
 - c. 15,000
- ("c". No Congressman can read that many bills. That's why you should call his attention to bills that are important to you.)*

12. I should express my opinion on a bill: (ten points)

- a. Just before committee hearings.
 - b. When the bill comes up for vote in Congress.
 - c. When the bill goes to the President for signing.
- (The committee recommendation usually decides the outcome of a bill. "a")*

13. When a bill has been signed into law, I should: (five points)

- a. Write and thank my Congressman for any help he gave.
 - b. Forget about the bill.
 - c. Complain to my Congressman.
- ("a". Win, lose or draw, he'll remember your gratitude on "another day.")*

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Continued from page 17)

time to start thinking about clobbering-up cases if your rifles are still good. Let's hope you shoot enough to wear them out before then.—D.W.

Wants New Pistol

I own a Colt .22 auto Match Target with a six inch barrel. I do fairly well at the pistol club but not well enough to satisfy. Some of the members say maybe I should buy another gun. Maybe I should and I have looked at several makes, but can not really make up my mind which one would be the best. The new 1966 models of Hi Standard seem to be very good, but again I don't know which one would be best. Can you give me any recommendations?

Fay G. Martin
Grand Blanc, Mich.

The High-Standard Olympic ISU Military .22 Short has certain advantages, and is particularly pleasant to shoot; if you can find a fellow club member with one, you might be able to arrange to try it.

However, before you condemn your Colt Match Target, you might consider grips. There are several custom and semi-custom grip makers and sometimes the use of properly fitted grips results in remarkable improvements. Among others, you might try Fitz, Box 49702G, Los Angeles, Calif.—S.B.

7.63 Mauser Reloads

I would appreciate some handloading data for the 7.63 Mauser auto pistol. None of the handloading manuals seem to show anything.

William Barker
Pleasant Hill, Calif.

The 7.63 mm Mauser Auto Pistol R-P load at 30,000 psi for 1410 fps can be duplicated with the 85 gr. Remington bullet and R-P primer with 5.0 gr. Bullseye. I suggest 4.7 gr., that will function in the pistol. Reloading is fast and easy, with a 2-die (rifle type) set.—D.W.

A & T Pepperbox

I would like some information and approximate value of an Allen & Thurber 6 barrel Pepperbox. On the hammer is "Allen Patent 1846." Thanking you in advance for any information you can give me.

D. T. McCouff
Lexington, Ky.

The Allen & Thurber pepperbox was the first American pepperbox to be made in

double-action. The trigger action moved the cylinder and raised and released the hammer. The "Pepperbox" was the fastest shooting handgun of its time and many were bought by soldiers and used in state militias. The Allens were made in four, five, and six shot models with barrel lengths from three to six inches and in .28 to .40 calibers. Allen's first patent for a pepperbox was issued in 1845 and sold at that time for around \$15. Collectors value today for one in good to fine condition is about \$75 on up.—R.M.

Spanish Made S&W?

I have what is apparently a Spanish made pistol, which I am unable to identify. It seems to be a copy of the Smith & Wesson. It is between .32 and .38 caliber, probably an 8 or 9 mm. It has the following stamped on the barrel: TROCAOLA ARAMZABAL Y Cia. FIRAR (ESPANA). The serial number is 133102, placed on the frame. It will be appreciated if you can identify this six shot pistol.

Ralph B. Saffie
Long Beach, Calif.

Your description indicates that yours is a revolver made by: Trocaola y Aranzabal, Eibar, Spain. This organization made a series of revolvers, both "solid frame" and "top break", all distinguished by being of indifferent quality.—S.B.

Values of Colts and Parkers

I have several guns and the only references that I can find as to their possible value is contained in the Gun Trader's Guide, which was published some 15 years ago. I would appreciate a reasonable estimate of their value, or a possible source of this information for these guns: a 12 gauge two-trigger Parker, GHE grade, 32-inch Parker special

steel barrel with ventilated rib, No. 216,031; 20 gauge two-trigger Parker, GHE grade, 28-inch Parker special steel barrel, No. 225,767; 45 caliber single action Colt revolver, 7½-inch barrel, Nos. on frame are 42,109 and HN50,524; 45 caliber double action Colt New Service, No. 56,198.

Joseph E. Bright
Buffalo, N. Y.

It is very hard to give an estimate to these guns without seeing them, but if they are in good condition, the Parkers are selling from \$250.00 to \$400.00, the Colt Single Action from \$60.00 to \$90.00, and the Colt D.A. New Service \$25.00 to \$40.00.—P.T.H.

Shotgun By Fox?

I recently acquired a 12 gauge double barrel exposed hammer shotgun. After checking with a couple of gun collectors, and receiving very little information, I decided to try you. They all said this shotgun is very uncommon. On the breech the plate which connects the barrel to the rest of the gun has the following information. G. H. Fox, Pat. Jan 4, 1670, Nov 6, 1877, Jan 28, 1878 and the serial number is 2141. American Arms Co Boston, is printed on the barrel. To open this gun, the barrels turn to one side, instead of opening at the top like most double barrel shotguns. It is in excellent condition. I would like to know what information you may have on this shotgun, especially when it was made and an estimate of its value.

James R. Miller
Perrine, Fla.

The Fox involved in the design of your gun was George H. Fox, the Superintendent of

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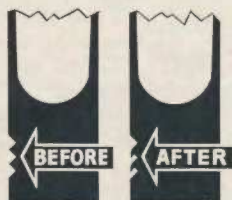
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the American Arms Company, and should not be confused with the Ansley H. Fox Company of Philadelphia. G. H. Fox died about 1900.

Your gun is approximately 70 years old and might be interesting to a collector of "types." Unfortunately this is a limited field, hence a "buyer's market." Your gun, in good condition, might bring \$35 to \$45.—s.b.

Parker Shotgun

I have a 10 gauge Parker Brothers double barrel shotgun, serial No. 13,717. The gun is in fine condition with 80 per cent of its original finish. The barrels have a curly-looking finish, but I don't think that they are Damascus or twist. What is the value of this gun?

K. L. Jordan
Pachuta, Miss.

The Parker that you have has Damascus barrels. Value to a collector would be around \$50.00.—P.T.H.

.357 Loads

I find that 7.5 gr. of Unique is the maximum charge in the Speers manual for .357

Magnum with the 160 gr. Speer bullet. If the charge was raised to 8 gr., would the pressure be dangerous in a Colt Python with a 4-inch barrel, if the gun is in new or good condition.

A. B. Lathem
Linden, Texas

You will find 8.0 gr. Unique is within acceptable pressure for .357 Magnum.—D.W.

Replacement Flints

Please give me the mailing address of a U.S. firm that can supply me with flints for a 16th century flintlock pistol. I can't find a supplier in Canada.

Keith King
Victoria, B.C.
Canada

There are a number of sources for flints that can be used in the old arms. I suggest you contact The Dixie Gun Works, Union City, Tenn.—R.M.

Answers to Collector's Quiz.

1. Omnipotent 2. 1907 3. Volcanic 4. Seven Chambers

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