

JULY 1968 75c

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# Guns

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T-BOLT RIFLE  
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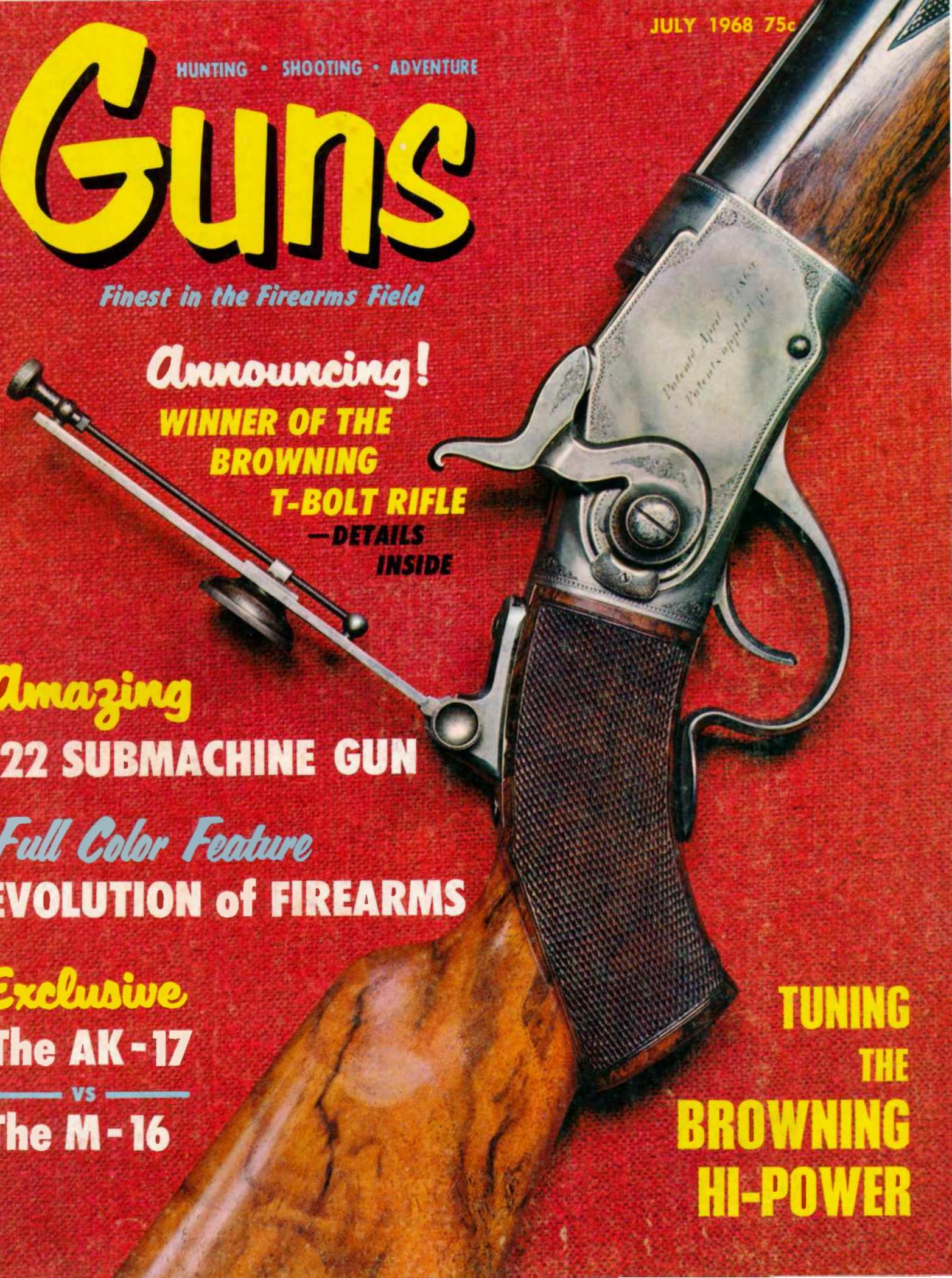
**The AK-17**

vs

**The M-16**

**TUNING  
THE**

**BROWNING  
HI-POWER**

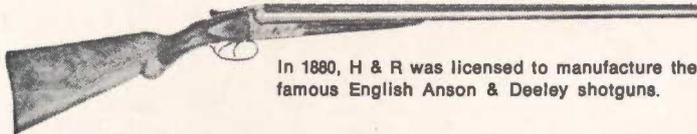


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# TRIGGER TALK

## ANNOUNCING!

**Forrest Kocher  
Wins Browning Rifle**

THE APRIL issue of GUNS Magazine announced the first of the GUNS free rifles contests. The prize, a brand new Browning T-Bolt .22 rifle. And we have a winner! Our congratulations to Mr. Forrest F. Kocher of Massillon, Ohio.

We would like to thank all of the readers who entered this first contest, and urge them to keep reading GUNS Magazine—more exciting gun prizes will be offered in future issues.

Our sincere thanks, also to Browning Arms Co. for their cooperation in co-sponsoring this contest.

We would also like to mention our appreciation of all of the kind letters which accompanied many of the contest entries. The publisher, the editor, and all of the people who work on GUNS Magazine thank you all for your words of praise and support. We found that all of you liked the idea of winning a free gun, and we enjoy helping people who enjoy the use of guns in any of the shooting sports.

• • •

We have had literally thousands of requests to reprint some of the best cover photos and color gallery photos without type, and suitable for framing. Well, your wishes are our commands. In one of the early fall issues, we will give you a full color gallery of your favorite photos. If you have a favorite, let me know. The more requests we get for any one photo, the better its chances of being selected.

### THE COVER

Truly one of a kind! A rare Sharps Model 1875 Long Range rifle. This model was listed and pictured in the Sharps catalog of 1876, but never offered for sale. This is the only one known to exist. Possibly a few more were made, but they are probably long gone. This rifle was on display at the Philadelphia Exposition of 1876 for an extended time. The proud owner of this rare Sharps is W. S. Peace of East Bernard, Texas. Photography by Dr. R. L. Moore, Jr.

JULY, 1968

Vol. XIV, No. 8-07

George E. von Rosen  
Publisher

# Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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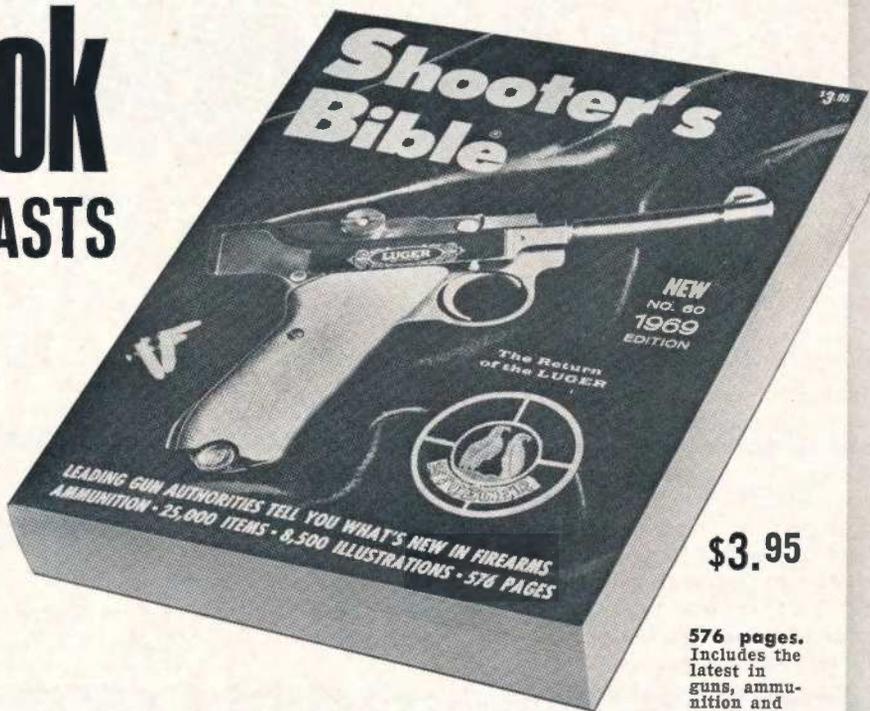


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# CROSSFIRE

## *Charola y Anitua Admired*

I should like to thank you for Mr. Stewart's excellent article on the Charola y Anitua pistols in your April 1968 issue. I have always admired these weapons for their appearance and original features, but have never before seen any information on them. Mr. Stewart has obviously been pursuing them for some time and has developed a lot of information that can only be obtained the hard way!

C. S. Andrews  
Azusa, California

## *New Auto Pistol Collectors Group*

A group of collectors, whose primary interests are automatic pistols, have gotten together to form an association called "National Automatic Pistol Collectors Association." We will have a monthly newsletter starting in April.

This group is nonprofit, non-professional and exists strictly to enlarge our knowledge of automatics now in our collections as well as the ones we hope to add to our collections.

We feel that an association such as ours has long been needed. Families of automatics such as Walthers, Colts, Mausers, Savages, etc. have had at least one or more excellent books written about them. This still leaves around 6,000 automatics to be explored, examined and cataloged. Naturally, this will take quite a while to even make a dent, but at least we are getting started.

While we say our group is non-professional we do have some members who know their automatics. Having seen some rough drafts of articles coming up—other than those shown in our literature—we believe that some day our newsletters will be kept in reference files by our members and be used for more complete identification of a particular automatic.

Our membership is widely varied.

They come from all over the United States and represent such fields as, successful businessmen, officers in the armed services, doctors, dentists and a couple of professional writers whose names you would recognize.

We hope others will join us in this new collectors group.

NAPCA  
c/o Dan Byrne  
P.O. Box 15855  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
74115

## *Good Grief Charlie Askins!!*

I have just read "Let's Dump The Obsolete Handgun Cartridges" by Charles Askins. My reply is "Let's Dump Charlie Askins." This is the second "big caliber gun critic" who has come to my attention lately with their "modest proposals."

I have one of those "obsolete .38 S&W's." I like the damned thing. I have the fixings, I hand load and I shoot the heck out of it—for less than I can .22's—and enjoy it more—there must be a lot of us around—so think about that, Charlie!

Charlie's point, of course, is that the ammo companies should cut production and get down to Charlie's favorite calibers—wish they'd do that for me.

Half the fun is knowing the MV isn't 9 million fps—and that what's in it is limited.

As far as the big ammo companies are concerned, let Charlie come up with something good and the gun people and the ammo people will grab it and run with it. In his article Charlie didn't come up with anything, so I have to classify his article as a good old fashioned "gritch" for the sake of filling GUNS Magazine space—and shame on you Charlie!

All kinds of old nickel-plated lemon squeezers are found in homes today. They make a hole, perhaps not a deadly hole, but a hole—and that keeps the tigers away ("There aren't any tigers within 2000 miles of here.")

"See, it works!"—Ed.). You can bet Charlie's sox that the ammo companies know this and provide ammo for the old "bicycle works specials." As a matter of fact, my mother has one and she'd be pretty deadly with it if she needed to be—and she can't even lift a ".357 Super-air-weight-tank-stopper" (Look! Up in the sky! It's a Super-air-weight-tank-stopper.—Ed.)

Among the audacious cartridges Charlie suggests keeping is the .45 ACP—come on, Charlie; who are you kidding?

I don't care how many cartridges the ammo companies make—and neither should Charlie—because, as I said above—if Charlie comes up with a good "something new" they will grab it and run. So come on, Charlie—stop picking on us little guys who have our fun with clunkers. If it weren't for those guns and the good old ammo companies, who know about guys like me, I'd have to shell out a pocket of lunch money for what one great pistol man recently wrote me, "Throw away that old gun and get a new one." Ho! Ho! If I had the money—if I only had the money ("If I had the money I'd rule the world."—Ed.). Let's not knock the gun buffs, editors, they buy your magazine.

Bill Barnes  
Sante Fe, New Mexico

## *Guns And The Law*

I just thought that I would drop you a line to let you know that, in my opinion, your magazine is the best in its field. I haunt the newsstands weekly looking for gun magazines, but your's is the best I have found.

I very strongly support your stand against any legislation which would require the registration of guns or any laws which would restrict the use of firearms by law-abiding citizens.

I am a young man (25) with a wife and son, and I would certainly not hesitate to use a gun on anyone who threatened the safety of my family or home. I keep a loaded weapon in my home and have taught my wife in its safe use. I plan to raise my son to know guns and to love the outdoors.

I just can not picture my son not being able to go out on a frosty morning on the opening day of pheasant season because some armchair, double-breasted senator who has never seen a sunrise except through blood-shot eyes at the end of a Washington party passed a bill forbidding citizens from bearing firearms or enjoying hunting or target-shooting.

John A. Clark  
Lynn, Massachusetts

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Model UA 4x15mm ¾"  
With 20mm objective bell.



Model UB 3x7x20mm ¾"

Every one the top of the line. Featuring UNIVERSAL'S own Semi-automatic 30-CAL CARBINE — 6 models, all with machined steel forged receiver, certified for greater structural strength (easily convertible to bolt action repeater).

The 12 or 20 gauge Double Barrel Shotguns — 28" barrel lengths (modified and full choke)—26" barrels (improved and modified) . . . all made to UNIVERSAL'S high quality specifications.



Model UL 3x9x40mm 1"



Model UE 4x32mm 1"

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The attractive full color **UNIVERSAL'S** display that allows you to select your base mount and rings in less than 10 seconds. (at most dealers everywhere)



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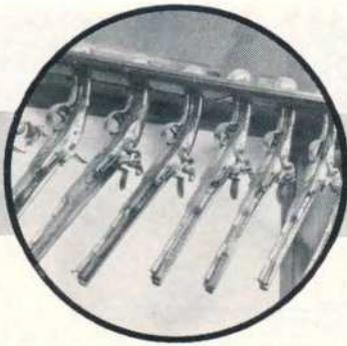
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# GUN RACK

## The Incomparable Mauser

Until about 1950, the list of surplus military rifles available was generally limited to the Krag, Springfield, 1917 Enfield, and the '98 Mauser. Then, when nations began changing to auto-loading weapons, the obsolete arms gravitated to the U.S. By 1965, distributors here had every model and type of bolt action military rifle ever made, as well as a good number of more ancient arms and a few outdated autoloading types.



M43 Model 98 Mauser

Model 98K 8mm Rifle

Because of availability, variety, and especially quality, the Mausers are by far the most popular, and many fine commercial sporting rifles use actions based on the 1898 military Mauser. The Mauser 1898 action had so many improvements that it rendered the earlier Model 95 actions virtually obsolete. The best of these was the addition of a third, or safety, locking lug at the rear of the bolt. Another safety feature is the large gas shield located at the front of the bolt sleeve. In the event of a punctured primer or a ruptured cartridge case, the hot gases and brass are deflected away from the shooter's eyes.

The firing pin offers greater safety than most others, in that the shoulder that the firing pin spring rests against has two flanges. These flanges take such a position when the bolt is even partly open that, should the firing pin break at the rear, it cannot go forward and fire the cartridge in the chamber. The firing pin can go fully forward only when the bolt is fully closed and the flanges on the firing

pin line up with the cuts on the inside of the bolt.

The basis of all modern hi-power bolt action sporting rifles is some form of the Mauser Model 98 action. In fact, the surplus military model 98 action is being used by many firms manufacturing new sporter versions costing over \$150.00.

Surplus Mausers are available in 7 mm, 7.65 mm, 7.92 mm (usually called 8 mm in this country), and .30-06. You can get several types of actions

—medium length, full length, large receiver ring. Those cocked by the closing motion of the bolt are the older, less strong types; the others cock on the upward lift of the bolt handle. The particular model you choose is not important unless you plan to rebarrel and put a real investment into the finished rifle. Then you want the best type suitable for the intended caliber. You will have to know the exact model number to order the correct sights and sporter stock.

Century Arms, Inc., St. Albans, Vermont, now stocks the most complete selection of Mauser Military Rifles to meet the needs of the most discriminating shooter and collector. Century Arms offers too the genuine walnut premium grade monte carlo Mauser sporter stocks, which are hand checkered and fully inletted for immediate fitting. Many types and calibers of surplus ammo are always in stock to assure customers an inexpensive source of target ammunition. Write Century Arms at St. Albans, Vermont.

## Mini Survival Flares

Hunters, fishermen, skin divers, campers, motorists, and practically anyone who travels outdoors can now "be prepared" with a new product line of survival and warning devices soon to be placed on the market.

Manufactured by Dela Enterprises, Inc., and distributed commercially by Calflare Distributing Company, the new Mini Survival Flares come in two models—one burning with a brilliant red light and one emitting a large volume of luminescent colored smoke. Each device ignites instantly by sim-



ply pulling the bottom part of the two-part plastic case from the top, and each will burn for approximately 30 seconds. The flares are only 3½ inches in length and ⅜ inch in diameter and may be easily carried on a key chain or in a coat pocket. They may also be ignited under any weather conditions, including under water where they will rise to the surface.

Priced at only \$1.00 each, the Mini Survival Flares may be purchased at your local sporting goods dealer or by writing to the Calflare Distributing Company, 1718 Valley Boulevard, Dept. G, Suite C, Escondido, California 92025.

## Bushnell Featherlight Insta-Focus

The D. P. Bushnell Co. has a new hunting binocular. The Featherlight 7X35 Insta-Focus has a corrugated button on the eyepiece near the right thumb which provides a rapid focus of both eyepieces by a simple rotation. In a pinch the user can hold the glasses in the right hand and come to a quick focus. The Insta-Focus binocs weigh 23 ozs., have a height of 5½", an exit pupil of 5 mm, and a field of view



of 420 feet at 1,000 yards. There is a 20-year warranty.

The glass is equipped with "squint" (Continued on page 54)

**MAUSER M-43 MAUSER MODEL 98 SHORT RIFLES**  
Cal. 8MM



**THE LATEST M98 LARGE-RING MAUSER**  
Manufactured after WWI into the 1950s. All milled parts. Each with distinctive La Corona Coat-of-Arms crest on receiver. Complete with original cleaning rod. Original bayonet with scabbard \$2.25. Plenty of 8MM ammo—\$5.00 per 100.

NRA GOOD \$24.50  
NRA V.G. \$29.50

**MAUSER GERMAN MODEL 98K MAUSERS**  
Cal. 8MM



**Best '98 MAUSER Buy in the Book**  
WW II originals, made at famous German arsenals. Large-ring '98 action, turned-down bolt. The makings of a perfect sporter but a great shooter "as-is". Bayonet with scabbard \$3.50.

NRA GOOD \$28.00

**MAUSER M-95 GERMAN-MADE CHILEAN MAUSERS**  
Cal. 7MM



Made in Germany when German craftsmanship was at its peak. Each stamped with distinctive Chilean coat-of-arms.

NRA GOOD \$24.50  
NRA V.G. \$29.50  
NRA X'LNT \$34.50

Pre-war manufacture, all milled parts, one of the most costly and carefully made Mausers of all time. An excellent shooter and a "must" for collectors. Bayonet with scabbard \$2.25.

**JSC F.N. 1924/30 MAUSER MODEL 98 RIFLES & CARBINES**  
Cal. 7MM



Each stamped with Fabrique Nationale d'Armes De Guerre markings and Venezuelan coat of arms.

RIFLES: NRA Good \$34.50. V. G. \$37.50. X'LNT, \$49.50

Cream-of-the-crop of large-ring '98 Mausers. All milled parts, walnut stocks. Rifle 23" bbl., Carbine 17 1/2" bbl. and turned-down bolt. Bayonet w/scabbard \$3.75; leather sling \$2.50. FN Take-down Manual \$2.50.

RIFLES AS INDICATED CARBINES NRA GOOD \$39.50

**SWISS SCHMIDT RUBIN MODEL II RIFLE & CARBINES**  
Cal. 7.5 MM



All NRA GOOD—RIFLES \$18.00, 2 for \$34.00; V.G. \$3.00 add'l.—CARBINES \$23.00, 2 for \$44.00.

Swiss-made rifles and carbines, noted for superb accuracy. An excellent conversion candidate, because of its rugged action and safe, straight-pull ring-bolt. Original bayonet with scabbard (fits both rifle and carbine) \$2.25. 6-pc. Swiss army "issue" cleaning kit, complete, suitable for all .30 cal. rifles, 90¢. Leather "issue" sling, \$1.00. Soft point ammo, \$4.25 per 20.

**UK FAMOUS BRITISH JUNGLE CARBINE No. 5**  
Cal. .303



**EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE**

Universally acclaimed the fastest-handling of all military rifles—and the model preferred by hunters because of its lightweight and "issue" sporter-type stock. Built-in recoil pad and flash eliminator; adjustable sights, 10-shot magazine, Extra magazines, \$3.50 each. Bayonet with scabbard \$3.75.

NRA GOOD ONLY \$39.50

**SWISS SPORTER CARBINES**  
Cal. .308

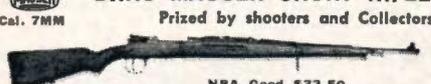


**A STURDY .308 SPORTER**

These super-accurate Swiss carbines are factory-converted to the universally popular .308 caliber. Each with 6-shot detachable magazine. Supply limited.

NRA EXCELLENT \$39.50

**MAUSER BRNO MAUSER SHORT RIFLE**  
Cal. 7MM



Prized by shooters and collectors

NRA Good \$33.50.

NOTE: Made for Republic of Guatemala by the famous BRNO Arsenal. Each with Guatemalan coat-of-arms crest. Pre-war large-ring '98 Mausers. All milled parts. Bayonet with scabbard \$3.50.

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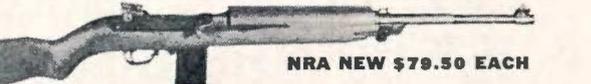
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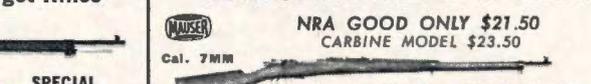
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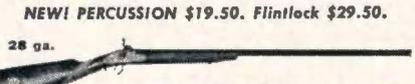
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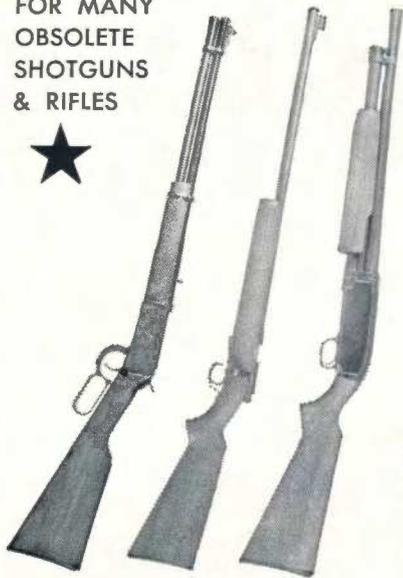
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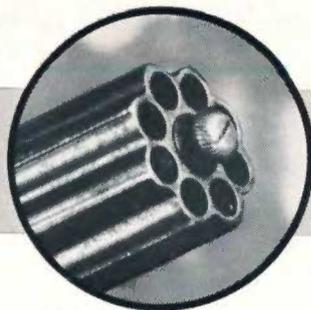
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## COLLECTOR'S CORNER

By ROBERT MANDEL

**P**ART TWO . . . Third and last of the three groups of Colt Percussion Arms. This Group includes the Colt Pocket Pistols: the Rare Baby Dragoon Model of 1849; the Sidehammer Pistol Model of 1855; the Pocket Pistols of Navy Caliber or 1853 Model; and the Police or 1862 Model.

The Rare Baby Dragoon Pocket Pistol was produced with barrel lengths of 3", 4", 5", and 6". Of .31 caliber, its rare features include: a straight back trigger guard; lack of loading levers on the first 11,000 pistols produced; and oval locking slots on the early models, rectangular slots on later models. A portrayal of an Indian fight is on the cylinder of early models, and a stagecoach scene on the cylinder of the later models. Loading levers were added to the later models, but only about four thousand of the model with loading lever and straight back trigger guard were produced. Collectors value for the Baby Dragoon Pocket Pistol will start at \$350 and run as high as \$800 or more.

The Colt Pocket Pistol Model of 1849, most common of all Colt percussion arms, was made in three barrel lengths; 4", 5", and 6". Some pistols were manufactured with a 3" barrel and without a loading lever. This model is called the Wells Fargo Model, and is very rare. The standard Colt 49er was of .31 caliber, made in five and six shot (the six shot being more rare) with a stagecoach scene on the cylinder. Value of the Model of 1849 will start at around \$90 in just good condition and run as high as \$250 and more if in mint condition.

The Sidehammer Pocket Pistol, or Model of 1855, was made in two calibers, .28 and .31. Barrel lengths are 3 1/2" and 4 1/2" and are both octagonal and round in shape. The .31 caliber has a stagecoach scene and Colts patent and serial number. The cylinder in .28 caliber has an Indian and cabin scene and Colts patent and serial number. Other 1855 Models will be found with a full fluted cylinder marked "Patented Sept. 10th 1850" in one of its flutes. There is no trigger guard in this model and the trigger is a sheath type. It is also the first Colt

arm to have a strap over the cylinder. It was the least efficient of all Colt pistols, for with small and delicate parts, it had many mechanical failures. Collectors value for the Sidehammer Model of 1855 will start at \$95 and reach top at \$300.

Pocket Pistols of Navy Caliber were made only in .36 caliber. Barrel lengths run 4 1/2", 5 1/2", and 6 1/2", and are octagonal. The cylinder bears a stagecoach scene and is a five shot with 5/8th of the rear section rebated. With a rebated cylinder this Model of 1853 has a collectors value of \$100 to \$350. If in the like new or mint condition value will run to about \$500.

The Police Model, or Model of 1862, is also of .36 caliber, but instead of having only the rebated cylinder as in the Model of 1853, the Police Model has a semi-fluted cylinder and a small section in the rear is also rebated. Markings on cylinders are "Pat. Sept. 10th 1850" in one of the flutes. Barrel lengths are also 4 1/2", 5 1/2", and 6 1/2", but the barrel shape is round. The frames of both the Police Pistols and the .36 caliber Pocket Pistols are the same, and many times the rebated cylinder could be changed to a fluted cylinder, and in turn the octagon barrel could be changed to a round Police type. Collectors value for the Police Model of 1862 is about the same as the Pocket Pistol of Navy Caliber or 1853 Model . . . \$100 to \$395, but may bring a little more if with a 6 1/2" barrel.

I will end this Collectors Corner of Colt Percussions with a short write-up of a few Colt imitations that were being made at the time Sam was trying to do a selling job on his own. Found frequently is one much like the Navy Models of '51 or '61. They were European-made and copied from Sam Colts designs where Colt had no protective patents, and sold in competition to the genuine Colt Patent Arms. I would think that one or two of these European imitations may fit into a collection of Fine Colts, but only to show the poor quality and make it evident that even in Europe, Colt Firearms were thought to be the finest in quality of material and workmanship.

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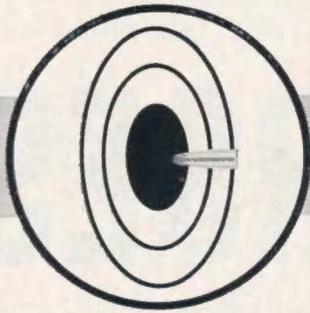
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# POINT BLANK

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

**I**T IS PRETTY GENERALLY accepted that a boattailed bullet is hardly worth its salt until the velocity drops to around the speed of sound. The speed of sound varies but we usually accept 1100 fps as an average. The fact is, however, that the boattail commences to prove its worth long before it is going this slow.

At the longer game ranges, 300 yards, 400 yards and out to the extreme yardage of 500 yards, the slope-tailed number is definitely out-performing its flat-based brethren. You may shoot the old .300 H & H, which is a pretty good performer, out to 1,000 yards and you will find that with the 180-gr. boattail, as against the 180-gr. with the flatbase, that differences commence to be substantial at 300 yards. At this range the BT is zipping along with 160 fps more velocity. At 400 yards the difference has gotten up to 240 fps and at 500 yards it amounts to 270 fps more velocity—1970 fps for the boattail as against 1699 fps for the flat-base.

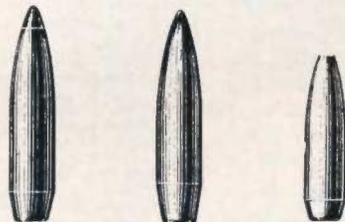
Velocity is important, for the longer the slug is in the air, the more adversely it is effected by cross winds. That is the whole idea of the tapered heel projectile—to get out to the mark faster. It does this through a lowered air resistance. Base drag is reduced with the rear end sloped off and this is desirable for it is one of the factors that slows the bullet in its travel. The other factors are air friction along the sides and pressure on the nose.

When air flows over the bullet it forms a sort of vacuum at the base and this sets up a drag reaction which definitely reduces the speed of the missile. The larger the base, the greater this drag and there, precisely, is the reason for the boattail. We have experimented with various angles of taper on the base and have struck on 9 degrees as best for the .30 caliber bullet. If a more pronounced taper is attempted we get flow separation and instead of reducing the base drag it is accentuated almost as much as though we had a flat-base bullet again.

The little 5.56 bullet in the M-16

service rifle now in use in Vietnam weighs 50 grains and has a 6 degree boattail. This is pretty generally worthless. The usable range of this bullet is only 300 yards and at this distance the base configuration has precious little to add or detract. Our experience has shown that the boattail must have a length of about one caliber to be worthwhile and slope should be somewhere between 6 and 10 degrees. The 5.56 has an extremely sharp turn at the shoulder and a length of less than one caliber. A gentle or comparatively gentle shoulder produces better performance. Such a shoulder isn't possible on some of the shorter bullets.

## BOATTAIL BULLETS



SPITZER

MATCH

HOLLOW POINT

At supersonic speeds where the boattail shoulder is quite abrupt, and may possibly possess a taper too sharp for the length and weight of the bullet, a fourth source of drag occurs. This comes, we believe, at the abrupt angle of the boattail shoulder and is caused by expansion and the formation of shock waves. A very low pressure occurs at this point and this acts as a drag precisely like the vacuum which forms at the base. These shock waves do not occur at subsonic velocities and this is why we like to think that we get a better performance out of the BT when it is fired so far that the speeds have fallen below that of sound.

It is contended that because of the tapered base that quite a bit of gas leaks by the BT bullet when it passes through the lead of the barrel. This

contributes to a shortening of tube life. Tests at Frankford Arsenal, the military test lab, tends to refute this. It was found that with heavy barrels, used to check out the accuracy of various lots of .30 caliber ammo, these barrels showed no perceptible loss of accuracy and life as a result of the constant use of boattails.

Not many BT loads are available from the factories; only the '06 and the .300 H & H and these are intended for match shooting. However, from the bullet makers there is a wider choice. The reloader can make up a variety of loadings using the taper-heel and when he does he gains velocity at the longer gamefields ranges, cuts down on bullet drift because the slug is in the air for less time and he measurably adds to his bullet energy on the mark.

During World War II a lot of stories were bandied about as to the 7.92 X 57 cartridges fired in the M-1 rifle. According to the saga, the rifle always "blowed up." The M-1 fires the '06 cartridge with a bullet running .308". The 7.9 mm standard German service round has a slug that goes at .323"—a pretty tight fit.

According to the chronicler the round, 1) sometimes was loaded inadvertently, or 2) the unit ran short of ammo and found the 7.9 would chamber and so fired it, or 3) some wild Indian said he could shoot the kraut round in his M-1 and proceeded to prove it. With invariably disastrous results!

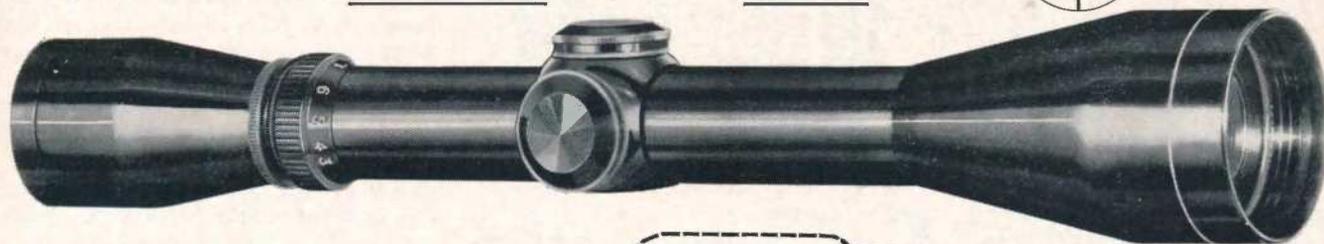
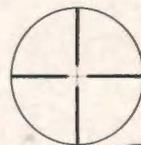
The facts are that the 7.9 mm X 57 won't chamber in the '06. It is too big in the neck. The neck runs, as an average, at .350". The .30-06, as an average, goes at .340". On other measurements, however, specs are pretty close. The cartridge head of the 7.9 is .473", that of the '06 is .473". For length the '06 is a little longer, but not much. It runs 2.494" while the 7.9 is 2.240". At the shoulder, the '06 is .441" while the 7.9 mm is smaller, at only .434". The only rub is in the neck which, as I have pointed out, is bigger on the German round.

The thing is that during the war we had some pretty sloppy barrel making and even sloppier chambering, and to contend that some of our G.I.'s didn't try the 7.9 in the old M-1 and thereafter fired it would be untrue. They did get an occasional 7.9 to chamber and when they did they had a combination of a loose '06 chamber and an 7.9 round that was probably a mite undersize.

As for the rifle blowing up that is probably baloney. In a gun as strong

(Continued on page 72)

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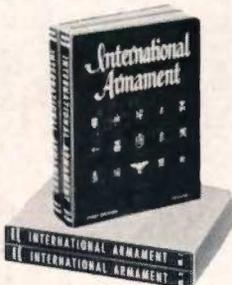
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# Panel of Experts

## Astra Criticized

A few months back I read an article, which you authored, about the Astra Model 600, for which you had high praise. Well, George, I bit at your bait.

About a month after reading the article I received my Astra. I opened the box with glee, and was much chagrined. This relic, in which I had invested around \$30, had seen much service and the bore was akin to a Mexican stove pipe. Well, I cleaned her up and took her out to the range along with some commercial and military ammo.

That cannon reared like a bronco and kicked worse. The trigger pull was approximately 15 lbs., certainly not less! The grip to bore angle is even less than a .45 auto.

Needless to say, I couldn't place my shots in a bushel basket at 50 yards. Maybe the design is inherently accurate, but who would know with that trigger pull and jarring recoil!

Paul E. Dyke  
Walla Walla, Washington

It's nice to hear that not everyone agrees with me—whether it is on the Astra M600 or something else. Apparently you got a dog in your particular gun. The specimens I examined were, I thought, fairly and honestly described as to condition. Most Astras do come with a pretty heavy trigger pull. This is characteristic of the design, since the sear slides horizontally in a deep notch in the hammer. The engagement is made purposely very heavy because of the military usage for which the pistol is intended. The pull can be reduced considerably by a gunsmith who is accustomed to doing trigger work on handguns. I've never found the recoil or barrel/stock angle particularly offensive. Recoil energy is certainly no more than with any other gun of the same weight in the 9 mm Parabellum caliber—however, the

slide does come back more smartly than in some other designs and delivers a secondary impulse to the hand. As for accuracy, I've found both Astra M600's and M400's, in average condition, to shoot as well as the average G.I. .45 auto. I can't recall that I said anywhere in my article that the Astra was superior to the .45 or .38 Super Colt. I did say that dollar for dollar it was a better buy at \$25 or so than the others at three times that price. Now surely you don't expect a \$25 gun to come up to a \$75+ one, do you?—G.N.

## Getting A Bright Blue Finish

I recently purchased 3 bluing vats complete with burners. Please tell me what mixture to use to get a real bright blue finish using caustic soda and salt peter, if this is possible. Any other tips on gun bluing would be greatly appreciated.

A. L. Sell  
Woodward, Oklahoma

A "real bright" blue finish on guns results mainly from having a high glossy polish before processing, (rust type blues excepted). There are numerous chemical mixtures. Angier's book lists a lot of them. The immersion boiling process, used mostly now, also has a lot of variations. A sort of standard among the fellows who mix their own is: 25 parts Potassium Nitrate; 65 parts caustic soda; 10 parts sodium nitrate. Your tank size determines the amount. Use soft water!! Fill your tank about 2/3rds with water, add the salts slowly, stir. Start heat. The solution should boil at about 275 degrees when the parts are put in, suspended on hooks. The small parts can be contained in a stainless steel mesh basket. If it starts to boil at a higher temperature, add water in a slight trickle only in a tank corner, and stir until the right temperature is

reached. Don't try to control boiling temperature by the amount of heat, (only by the mixture ratio). It is often necessary to let the solution boil until temperature reaches 285 to 290 to blue some parts. Excellent ready-mixed chemicals complete with directions are supplied by such firms as Brownell's, Montezuma, Iowa; Protective Coatings, Inc. Box 3985, Detroit, Mich.; Heatbath Corp., Springfield, Mass. 01101; Benrite Chemical Co., 353 Covington Rd., San Antonio, Texas.—W.S.

## Steigleder Combination Gun

I have a combination gun which I believe is a rare one. I have no idea of its value or true name. It's a 12 gauge above and an 8 x 57R below, and is in excellent condition. Here is a list of markings on the barrel and breech: Ernst Steigleder, Berlin—Suhl; Flusstal Krupp Esseit; Krupp Essen; 114028; \*Nitro 8\*N; S.T.M.G.; F.A.W.

Please give me what information you have.

Jim White  
San Gabriel, Calif.

My records indicate that Ernst Steigleder was only active for about fourteen years (1921-35), thus your gun would be 32-46 years old. Some of his combination guns were quite nice; if yours is in really excellent condition it should be worth \$225-275.00 in the market place.—S.B.

## Fixing A Broken Sear

I inherited a Winchester Model 41-.410 shotgun from my grandfather. It is a fine single-shot bolt action in excellent mechanical condition, though the finish is poor.

Recently, the sear broke off as a shell was being ejected. The metal at the break appeared to be crystallized. Could the piece be brazed or welded back on or would an entire new mechanism be needed? Despite years of hard work it is still a good gun.

Denton Warn  
Hillsboro, Missouri

The broken section of sear bar can be re-welded onto the part in the form of a new section of steel, then re-cut to work properly. By using Kasenite or other case hardening compound it can be hardened and should last for many years. The steel can also be tempered without the case hardening compound. This type of sear usually also serves as a bolt stop, and some restraint should be practiced in bringing the bolt forcefully to the rear. (Take the entire gun to your gunsmith.)—W.S.

### D. Egg Percussion Pistols

I have in my possession a pair of percussion dueling pistols with the following identification marks. On the barrels and side locks is the name "D. Egg, London." The barrels are about 8½" long. The bore is smooth and approximately .58 caliber. The pistols have ram rods, single set triggers and safeties. All numbers match and are consecutive.

These pistols are in good condition and I think were made around the 1830's or 1840's.

Dale Carter  
Plainfield, Ill.

*I find two listings for D. Egg in London. One is Durs Egg, the other D. I. Egg. The first, Durs, lived from 1750 to 1834; D. I. Egg from 1832 to 1865. the pistols sound like a fine pair, and they have a great makers name. If cased, I would guess the pair to have a collectors value of around \$800 or more depending upon the condition and quality. If just the guns alone, the collectors value would be about \$400 or so, also depending on condition.—R.M.*

### Bye-Bye .220 Swift??

Knowing that the downfall of the superb .220 Swift is near, I would like to know from what readily available brass the .220 Swift can be made. Also, how long do you think it will be before this ammo will be discontinued? And is the .220 Swift as accurate, or nearly as accurate, as the .222 Remington or the .308 Winchester?

There are all sorts of stories about its light 48-gr. bullet being easily deflected by the wind. However, the .222 Rem., .225 Win., .22-250 Rem., or the .224 Wby., with the same light load, will drift even more. If the Swift is loaded with the same 50 or 55-gr. loads as the cartridges above, it will shoot flatter, buck the wind better and kill farther away than any of the others.

Am I just being a silly old-timer about the Swift?

Kim Condelli  
Long Island, N. Y.

*Don't worry about the .220 Swift brass, it will continue to be made through our lifetimes. However, it may be made from the .30-06, 7 x 57 mm, etc.—simply be reducing the head diameter forward of the rim and then sizing down, trimming to length and reaming the neck. The .220 is superbly accurate when properly loaded. All other factors being equal, it will shoot as well as the other cartridges you listed.—G.N.*

### Making A "Junker"

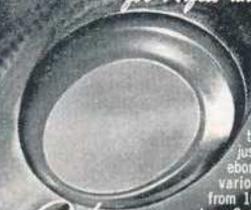
I have recently acquired the following: Automatic Pistol, Beretta; cal 7.65; serial number 569024, all numbers matching; two magazines; original; holster, grey, military, original, very little sign of wear.

In general, the weapon appears to have seen very little use. Matter of fact, it is so "tight" that when I took it to our local gunsmith, he had to use a mallet to break the barrel out. There is no sign of rust and has apparently been a "bedside table" gun since its acquisition during World War II. The finish is what I would call military and slightly rough. Question: what is its worth and would you advise chrome?

Lt. Col. D. W. Lierely, Jr.  
Ft. Hood, Texas

*The outfit you describe is worth about \$35-45.00 in the market place. If you like the gun, keep it; if not, sell it—but under no circumstances would I recommend that you have it chrome plated. Not only would this entail expense in addition to reducing the value of the gun, but it is probable that reassembly after plating would require so much fitting and stoneing that the gun would wind up as a "junker."—S.B.*

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## HANDLOADING BENCH

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

**B**EFORE GETTING INTO the useful (we hope) part of this column, there are a couple of points I'd like to kick around. Often I am asked why a certain item was mentioned or described, yet another was not. Then there are times when *ye ole* editor and myself are castigated more or less severely like this: "Three times now you've talked about Brand Y, but everybody knows its no darn good and that Brand X is the *only* one to use. How much are they paying you?"

A lot of factors enter into deciding what goes in this column, but two are uppermost; reader response, and what we think readers want to see.

For example, I've a thick stack of letters on my desk asking about light-bullet loads in the .357 Magnum—specifically with Super-Vel or similar hollow- and soft-point bullets. So, you're going to get that very dope in this same column today. We figure for every guy who takes the trouble to write and ask, there must be a hundred or so who'd like to know the same thing but don't get around to writing.

Then, too, there are the methods

And, of course, we always want to tell you about new tools and accessories and how they work out for us in the loading room.

So, to begin. A couple weeks ago, I talked to Lee Jurras of Super-Vel Cartridge Corp. and asked him if he could let us have some loading data for use with the bullets he's selling. He retired to his lab and worked up a number of .357 Magnum loads, testing for both pressure and velocity (see table).

Naturally, these loads won't produce quite the same velocities in a revolver barrel of comparable length because of the cylinder-gap. Jurras also warns about indiscriminate substitution of bullets—even though of the same general type and weight. In pressure-testing thousands of rounds while developing bullets, he encountered wide pressure variations caused by seemingly minor differences in bullet construction. This means simply that substituting another 125-gr. SP bullet in load No. 7 *could* easily kick pressures up into the danger zone. So, don't do it—cut charges 10% and work back up when switching bullets.

Load No.	Bullet	Wt.	Powder Wt.	M.V.	Pressure
1	S.-V. H.P. or S.P.	110 gr.	AL-8 15.5 gr.	1786	29,000
2	S.-V. H.P. or S.P.	110 gr.	AL-8 14.5 gr.	1689	26,200
3	S.-V. H.P. or S.P.	110 gr.	HS-5 10.7 gr.	1678	26,000
4	S.-V. H.P. or S.P.	110 gr.	HS-5 9.7 gr.	1587	24,800
5	S.-V. H.P. or S.P.	110 gr.	Unique 10.0 gr.	1780	28,500
6	S.-V. H.P. or S.P.	110 gr.	Unique 9.0 gr.	1613	25,400
7	S.-V. S.P.	125 gr.	AL-8 14.5 gr.	1661	29,000
8	S.-V. S.P.	125 gr.	AL-8 13.5 gr.	1534	25,100
9	S.-V. S.P.	125 gr.	HS-5 10.0 gr.	1540	25,500
10	S.-V. S.P.	125 gr.	HS-5 9.0 gr.	1412	23,800
11	S.-V. S.P.	125 gr.	Unique 9.5 gr.	1640	28,000
12	S.-V. S.P.	125 gr.	Unique 8.5 gr.	1515	25,500

*Firing tests conducted in 6-inch pressure barrel; pressures taken with strain gauge equipment, then converted to crusher gauge values. Test rounds loaded in Super-Vel (made by Norma) cases. Top charge with each powder-bullet combination is considered by Jurras to be maximum. Start at the lower charge and work up carefully.*

and ideas fellow handloaders write us about. We feel passing them on via the printed word is the thing to do.

Jurras has promised further tested loading data in other calibers and for  
(Continued on page 52)

# OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

## THE RIOTS IN WASHINGTON—A THREAT TO FIREARMS OWNERSHIP

Picture a mild April evening in the nation's Capital. Washington is celebrating the Cherry Blossom Festival, and pinkish buds in full bloom surround the white marble buildings. Flood lights, reflecting from the waters of the Potomac, show the spectacle to visitors as dark comes on the city. It's the stuff picture postcards are made of, and tourists are everywhere. This was the official Washington of April 4, 1968.

There was, still is, another Washington. It is the dingy world of absentee landlords, where buildings show their age. For the most part, its people are like most others, but they own little and they are black. Their's is, by virtue of its poor conditions, a money-mad neighborhood where neon signs soak up government checks.

The brightest spots are always the liquor stores and bars that flourish in abundance. They compete, with the flashy clothing stores, home appliance outlets and used car lots, for the residents' cash and credit. These people, guided only by their immediate pleasures, have slowly been ripped of their social consciences. It is the young that is the most affected. They are unprepared to meet the needs of, or provide for their own needs in, middle-class society.

On April 4, the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. touched off burning and looting. His death did not directly cause the violence, his death was only a signal, an excuse for young hoodlums to openly defy authority. The malcontents knew that others of their kind outnumbered police authority to such propor-

tions that together they could do pretty much what they pleased.

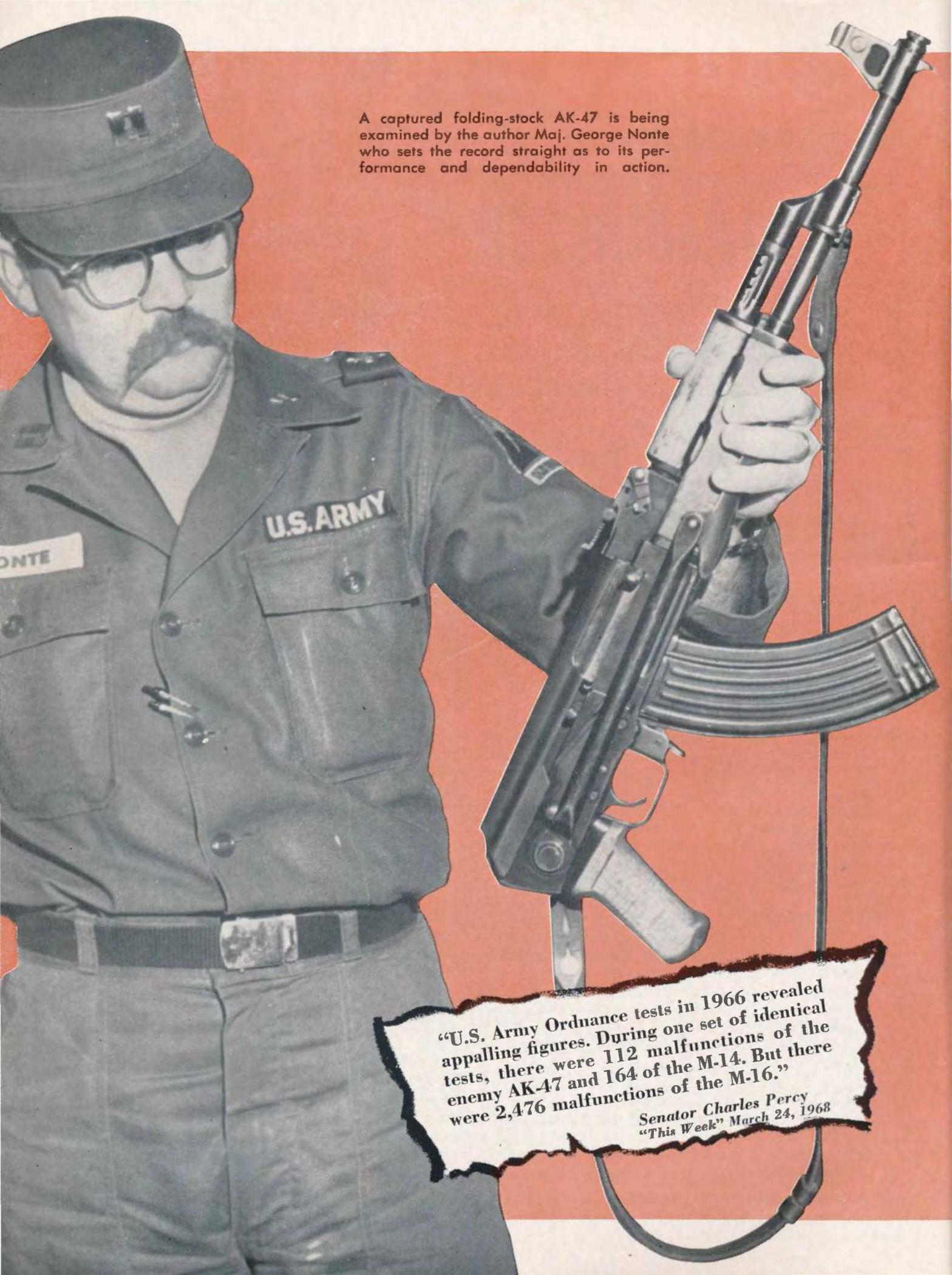
It started slowly. Young adults becoming more and more violent. This reporter watched it happen. It was not a race riot. For the most part it was young adults taking what they wanted and burning what they did not. The second day was critical. All morning the police faced impossible odds. Time and time again individual policemen were outflanked by small gangs. One white officer had to run for the protection of a number of Negro construction workers near historic Pennsylvania Avenue.

By noon the police were begging for federal troops. At three o'clock I saw four young thugs knock out Haufman's Clothing Store windows across the street from the FBI building on historic Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and Capitol Hill.

One of the participants, a young man in his twenties, dumped an armload of clothing into a baby blue '64 Cadillac and drove off as if he had paid for them. By this time the city was being evacuated. Every office worker was trying to leave downtown at the same time. There were no police to direct traffic. The only sure way to get anywhere was to walk. Still, the troops had not come.

I saw TV cameramen shake their fists at the lawbreakers to show their sense of anger. But it was the police who took the force of the mobs. Their restraint prevented mass bloodshed. In the absence of federal troops there would have been even more destruction, had the police overreacted in the limited areas where they dealt

*(Continued on page 72)*



A captured folding-stock AK-47 is being examined by the author Maj. George Nonte who sets the record straight as to its performance and dependability in action.

“U.S. Army Ordnance tests in 1966 revealed appalling figures. During one set of identical tests, there were 112 malfunctions of the enemy AK-47 and 164 of the M-14. But there were 2,476 malfunctions of the M-16.”

Senator Charles Percy  
“This Week” March 24, 1968

# the Mysterious

# AK-47



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George C. Nonte".

By Maj.  
George C. Nonte

“WHAT IS AN AK-47?” This is a question we’ve heard quite often of late, usually in the wake of news media controversy and mud-slinging at the U.S. M-16 .223 (5.56mm) rifle seeing service in Viet Nam. A goodly number of news stories tell about U. S. soldiers who have appropriated and are using “AK-47’s” in preference to the weapon issued them. Sometimes the AK-47 is described by zealous, but weapons-ignorant correspondents, as a submachine gun; as a rifle; or in awed tones that imbue it with “ultimate weapon” qualities. The end result of all this is to create in the public mind an image of a terrible, effective “new” arm with which Viet Cong and North Viet Nameese troops can overwhelm at will the U. S. trooper.

It’s not quite that way, really. In 1942, a new concept in infantry weapons was introduced to the Russian front by Germany—the “Assault Rifle,” in the form of what was to become the MP-43/44. It was a compact selective-fire weapon chambered for the 7.92mm Kurz cartridge driving its 125 grain bullet at a bit over 2100 fps. It was far more accurate and effective than the submachine gun, which the Soviets had already adopted.

Apparently mightily impressed, the Soviets developed their own intermediate cartridge—7.62mm M43—quite similar (Continued on page 56)

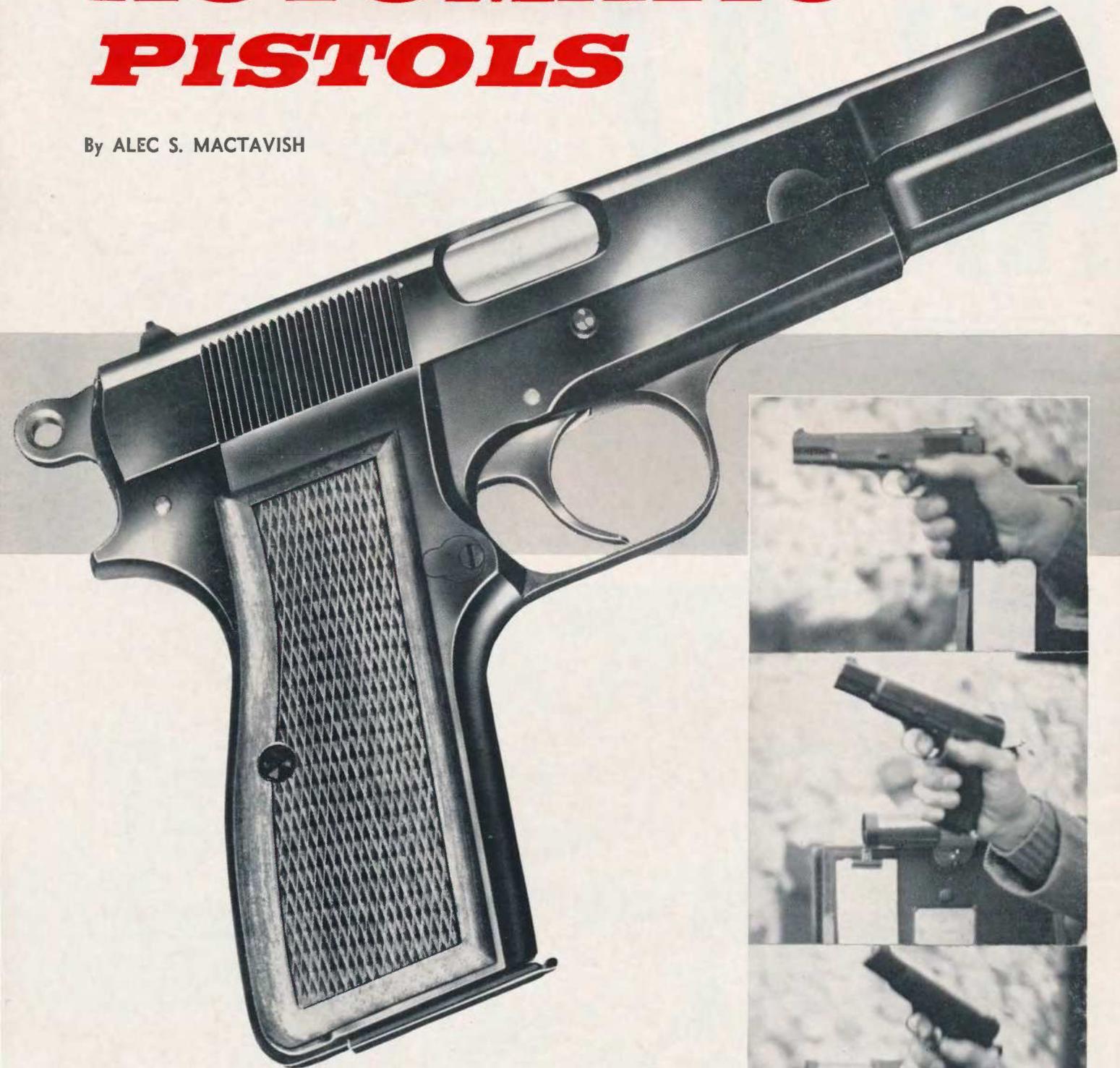


To illustrate its adaptability to extreme climates, the AK-47 is shown in action in the Russian Winter and semi-tropics of Guantanamo, Cuba.



# **POWERHOUSE OF AUTOMATIC PISTOLS**

By ALEC S. MACTAVISH



The twist of the Browning's kick is offset by the oversized grip which provides a secure hold.

**I**F THE EXPRESSION had not been used a century before for the Henry rifle, the Browning Hi-Power handgun would qualify easily as "the gun you load on Sunday and shoot all week." Packed into the handle of the Belgian automatic is a double-tier magazine holding no less than 13 rounds of 9 mm ammunition.

The Belgians named it well when they called it G.P.—*pistolet de Grande Puissance*—high powered pistol. The name fits. The Browning Hi-Power, a prized trophy of the war, chosen by Canadian paratroopers as their service arm, remains today one of the most accurate pistols for civilian shooters. And if the Pentagon ever pensions off the present .45 auto, they could do much worse than pick the Browning, which is already the standard handgun of Belgium, Britain, and Canada.

Why does a handgun, never made in the U.S. and known mainly to the gun bugs and small arms experts, aspire to the laurels worn by Colt and Smith & Wesson for generations? The answer is simple: the Browning Hi-Power is, to big automatics, what Jayne Mansfield is to uplift. In other words, it's the most! Only the military adherence to the domestic .38 and .45 caliber sidearms has kept the Browning from the high place it deserves in American popularity.



A stripped Hi-Power shows a fixed bushing on the slide, a fixed cam lug on the barrel and the big 13 shot clip.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

This article first appeared in GUNS Magazine in the January, 1957 issue. It is reprinted here because of the many requests received for this issue. If any of the material seems dated, please keep in mind that it is a reprint.

Externally the Browning Hi-Power resembles the army .45 auto-pistol but the Hi-Power is way ahead of the Army .45 in design. Actually, back in 1935 the Colt company had a chance to make the new Browning, but turned it down. The Belgian factory, makers of other Browning pistols, produced it instead.

The Hi-Power's most unusual feature is the trigger and sear linkage. The trigger works on the sear through a bar positioned in the slide over the magazine. In the trigger assembly is a hand or pawl which contacts the slide sear lever. This, in turn, operates the sear, which is located in about the same position as in the .45 army pistol. In spite of this roundabout design, lock time is fast. A very creditable trigger pull can be produced with a little working over.

The 13-shot staggered magazine provides exceptional firepower. It makes a big man-sized grip which has great natural-pointing qualities.

Two other features contribute to the Browning's fine over-all performance. The first is the added length of contact between slide and receiver. This is produced by having a separate pair of guide grooves on the forward end of the frame. The second feature is the permanent, pinned-in bushing at the barrel muzzle. Provided there is no play between barrel and bushing, loss in accuracy resulting from worn or loose bushings, so critical in the earlier .45 pistols, is impossible in the M1935 Browning.

In most Hi-Powers the slide fits quite tightly. Any looseness can be corrected easily by squeezing together the grooves at the rear of the slide and front of the frame. Done properly, these two tricks are all that are needed to tighten the slide.

In some other automatics it is necessary to remove the bushing from the slide in order to make a liner or sleeve into which the barrel can fit with a minimum of play. Some Browning accuracy jobs include this re-bushing as standard procedure; others omit it. Resulting accuracy as shown by competition use in Canadian civilian and military pistol matches seems about on a par in both types of worked-over guns. Apparently the new bushing is optional.

Installing a trigger stop is the next operation. This is done by drilling and tapping a small hole in the underside of the receiver ahead of the trigger. An Allen screw can then be fitted to bear on the forward extension on the right side of the trigger. As the trigger is squeezed, this extension pivots down towards the bottom of the receiver. The trigger stop arrests the travel of this pivoting movement at the critical point, immediately, after tripping the sear.

When the trigger group is removed for installing the stop, it is advisable to polish all the interior surfaces of the receiver on which the moving parts bear. This should

## AUTOMATICS

include the channel in which the trigger bar moves to make contact with the sear lever.

Particular attention should be given to polishing the magazine disconnecter stud which is located at the rear of the trigger. The leading face of the magazine where the disconnecter stud bears should also be polished. As the trigger is squeezed, this stud moves on the face of the magazine. If the surfaces are left rough, poundage is added to the trigger pull.

Trigger pull can be adjusted easily. First, polish all bearing surfaces. Second, ease the piano-wire trigger spring. This is done by trial-and-error. The arms of the spring should be bent so they apply only enough pressure to insure completely reliable functioning and no more.

Working over the sear and hammer assemblies depends to a certain extent upon the individual gun. One simple way to lighten trigger squeeze is to reduce the area of bearing surface between sear and hammer notch. This is done by working the lower edge of the sear on a piece of very fine emery paper until the lower edge is slightly undercut. In doing this, make sure that the relieved surface is uniform. An absolute minimum of metal removed will make a noticeable difference in trigger pull. Do not make the mistake of touching the upper leading edge of the sear; this is what bears upon the face of the hammer notch.

When the trigger notch depth and sear thickness are compared, there may be a temptation to stone down the rounded face of the hammer until the bearing surface of the notch is reduced to a more reasonable depth. At the same time the shooter may want to grind off part of the underside of the sear in order to reduce the contact still further and get rid of some of the creep. Both these operations will cause trouble. Don't try either, because the correct location of the safety catch depends on the hammer being in a specific position at full cock. Any tampering with the angle at which the hammer beds down when cocked will throw out the positioning of the thumb safety.

There is a way to overcome creep, by pinning the hammer. A small hole is drilled into the face of the hammer immediately below the notch. A drill rod or tool steel pin is then inserted into the hole and stoned down until the depth of the notch has been reduced to allow the correct engagement without creep. This, since it blocks up the notch instead of cutting the hammer, does not interfere with the safety when cocked.

For refinement (*Continued on page 62*)



The point where the trigger rubs the clip is burnished for competition. The long bar in the slide rocks to release the sear, drop the hammer and fire the pistol.



Top left: An Inglis made Chinese Browning. Top right: The pre-war Belgian military model. Lower left: A Canadian Army model. Lower right: Belgian pre-war commercial model. Bottom: German Army model.



# MONTY KENNEDY: *STOCKMAKER*

By BOB TREMAINE

## PERSONALITY PROFILE

When Monty Kennedy talks about his work he relaxes and laughs readily, but when he goes to work on a stock he is the picture of concentration.



**S**TOCKMAKING is not difficult, but *good* stockmaking is an art that must be placed on the same level of accomplishment as fine engraving—a lot of guys try and darn few succeed. One who succeeded and who has become a “name” stocker is D. J. “Monty” Kennedy. I had the unique privilege of interviewing Monty and watching him work for the better part of three days. To see Monty handle a piece of wood or his hand-made checkering tools is to behold a master working in his favorite medium. What makes a man a stocker, how does he succeed in the face of stiff competition from run-of-the-mill stockers as well as masterly craftsmen?

Kennedy has been a full-time stockmaker since 1946, worked part-time as stockmaker for five years before landing his first full-time job in the field. Born in Saco, Montana, Kennedy, like all youngsters in the west, began shooting at an early age. When he was nine years old, he found an old Model 99 Savage that had been in a fire. The action and the barrel were still good, but the stock had been burned off completely. “The lines of the 99,” Kennedy recalled, “struck me then as just being the last word.” He managed to acquire the stockless rifle, and proceeded to carve a gunstock for his new gun from a stick of pine.

While working for Lockheed Aircraft on the nightshift in the pattern and tooling department, he heard for the first time of the NRA and promptly joined. That was in 1939, and he carefully read every word about stocks in “The American Rifleman” and scrutinized every picture of stocks. His first attempts at stocking were directed at his own guns. He found a good piece of black walnut and stocked his Enfield with it. “I did not try to checker this stock, but eye-pleasing lines and handling comfort were the points that I was after,” he told me. Later he rebuilt a French 8 mm Lebel, using the military stock. He not only checkered this stock, but also replaced the ungainly trigger guard with a whittled maple trigger guard. To finish the stock, he inlaid contrasting woods where they appeared suitable and added a schnable to the forend.

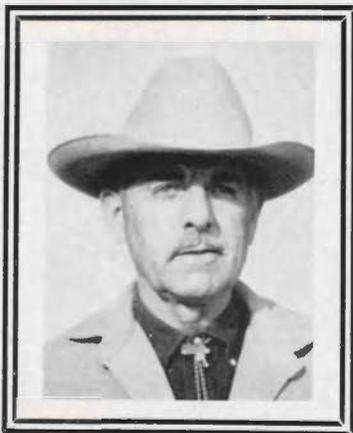
“Although these were my first real attempts at stocking a rifle, (Continued on page 48)



# SHOTGUN LOCK-UP



Cutaway photo shows how breech locks into barrel extension on Remington Model 870 Wingmaster pump shotgun.



*Charles Askins*

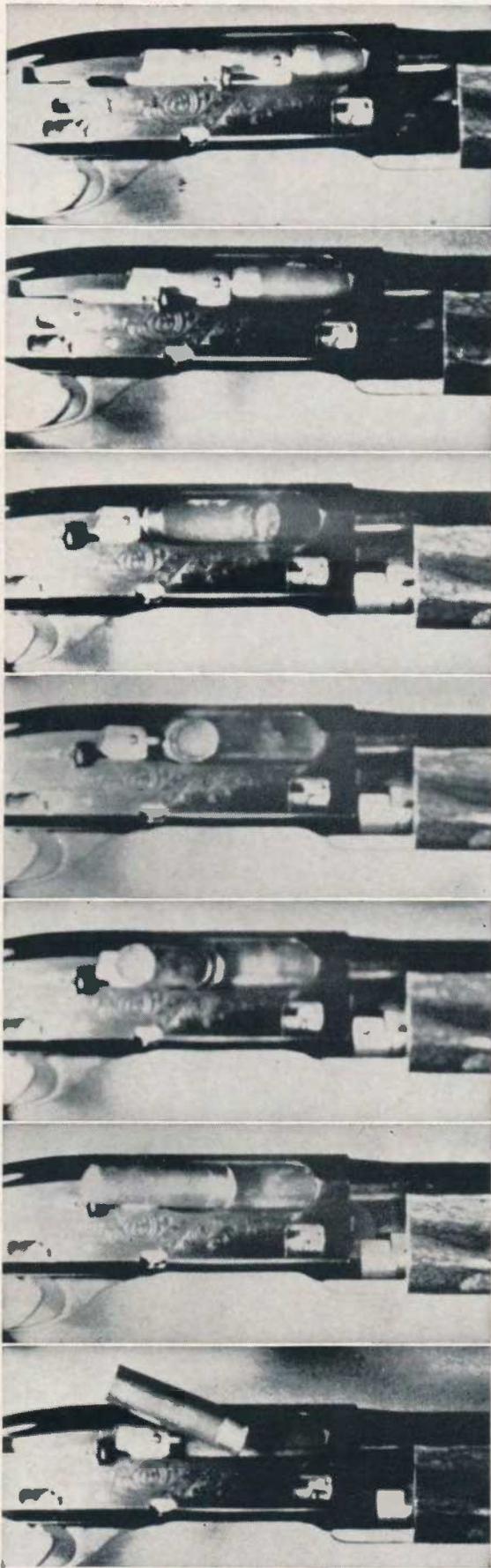
By CHARLES ASKINS

**T**HE SCATTERGUN LOCK-UP does not have to be so extremely strong as in a rifle for it need withstand no more than 6 tons pressure. For the same reason, barrels can be thinner than the rifle, and the cartridge can be put up in a paper case. Despite the lack of high breech forces, the practice has been to lock up the tailgate of the smoothbore with more latches than you will find on a Boston bank vault. We have not been as guilty about this multiplicity of locks as have the Europeans, some Continental models having as many as five fasteners.

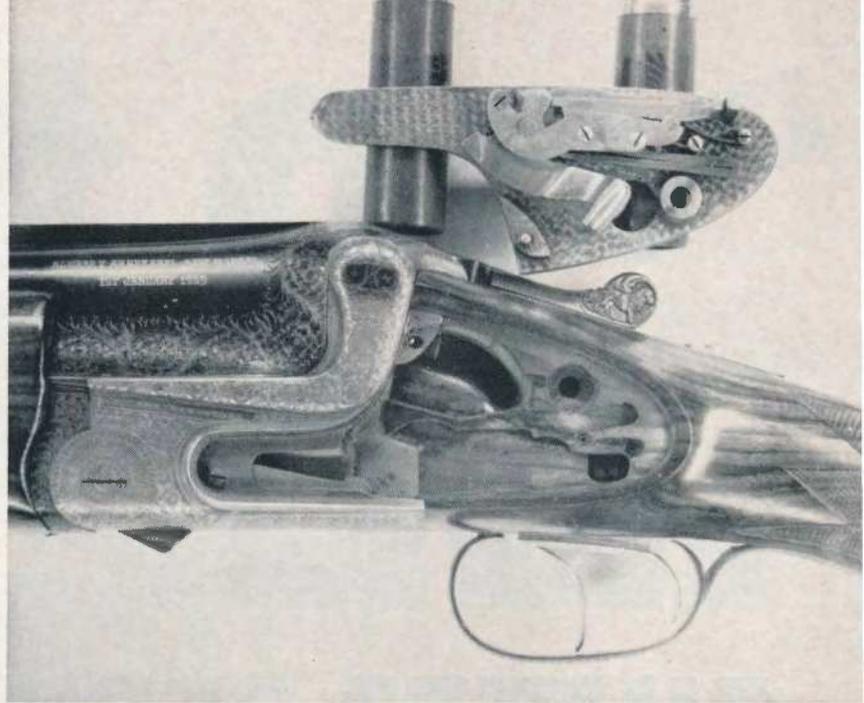
When you dig into this predilection for multi-latches you find it isn't so much an attempt to halter the 5 or 6 tons of pressure but more an attempt to eliminate the rattle. Have you ever picked up a venerable double barrel and after a good shake listened to the rattle? A lot of them are more noisy than a bucket of bolts. And some of these same muskets possess more locks than the farmer's henhouse.

Probably the best side-by-side double gun ever made is the Winchester Model 21. It has precisely one lock. I have yet to see a "21" that rattled. The best of our automatics and pump repeaters have a single latch. We Americans shoot the heaviest cartridges in the world and do it out of guns with only one fastener. The over/under shotgun is a highly popular number. It has been growing in affection and renown since the Great War. One of the best of all the superposed models is the Browning. How many locks do you suppose the immortal John Browning incorporated in his most popular hardware? *One!*

A half-century ago the popular gun in the game fields was a side-by-side double. Some of these guns were equipped with two underbolts to fasten 'em tight. Lugs were brazed to the underside of the barrel rib and stood in line—one ahead of the other. The top lever actuated two bolts which were under spring tension and rode in the cuts purposely machined into the lugs. But this was not enough. Top-side the same shotgun would have a crossbolt. This was generally a *round shaft*



A sequence photo taken from a 35 mm Remington film shows the operation and ejection of the modern, gas operated Remington 1100 shotgun.



An Aguirre y Aranzabal over/under with sideplate locks has a Merkel-type back action with mainspring behind the hammer.

which was also actuated by the top lever and passed through the dolls-head extension on the top rib.

Then, on either side of the standing breech, would be Purdey sideclips. These were slight extensions, or wings, which snugged up against flats cut on either side of the barrels. These were supposed to eliminate sideplay in the barrel-tubes.

These multi-locks may have appealed to the gunners of that day but here more lately we've discovered that all the extra design work, extra machining, and additional handfitting was a waste of time.

Those same shotguns differed from those we have today in the type of action they employed. Some had Anson & Deeley boxlocks; others had sideplate locks. The A&D boxlock is now a hundred years in being and is notable for an exceedingly compact action body. Within this body the cocking levers, tumblers, sears, springs, and safety are all contained. The action is peculiar for a shorter watertable and is criticized because the tumblers are usually swung on pins which not only penetrate the action body from side to side but are located close to the fracture point. This point is the juncture of the standing breech and the watertable. Too, it is claimed that because the sear fingers are longer than usual the trigger pulls will be sorrier.

My suspicions are that despite the fact that Brother Anson and Mister Deeley were some of the finest English gunsmiths, there was quite a lot of antipathy against their action from the competition. Outfits like Purdey and Holland and many others put the whammy on the boxlock. They had many British writers to take up the cudgels for them. The lock that was the great favorite with Cousin Jack was the sideplate.

The sidelock has a lot going for it. Most of all it is pretty. The whole lock, the tumblers, cocking levers, main springs, and sears are all neatly fitted to a plate. This plate is fastened to the side of the action with either screws or a single neatly fitted and virtually hidden bolt. When the shooter wants to get at his lock, he can lift off the sideplate in a jiffy, for adjustment, for cleaning, for oiling, for you name it. The sideplate contributes to better trigger pull. And above

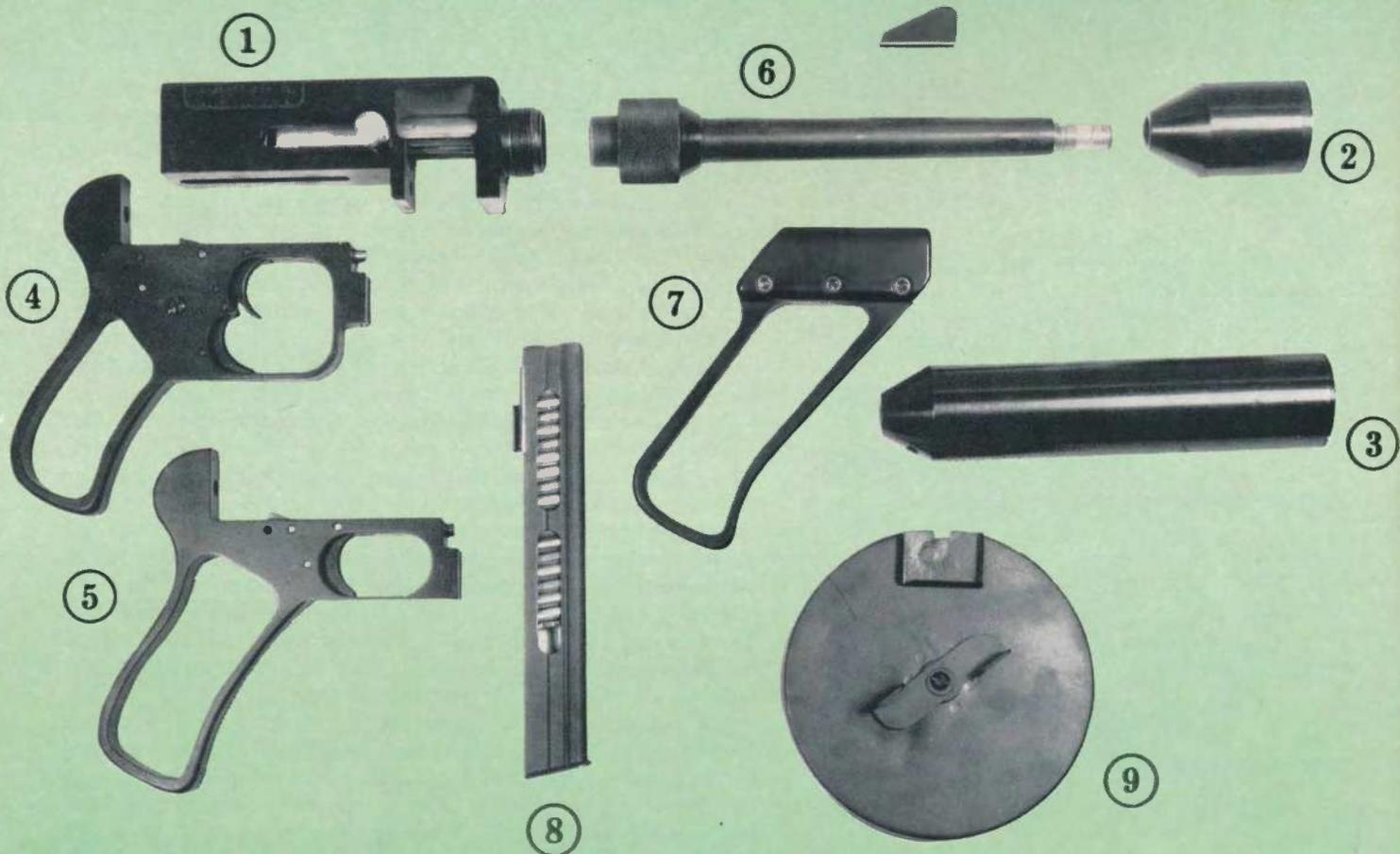
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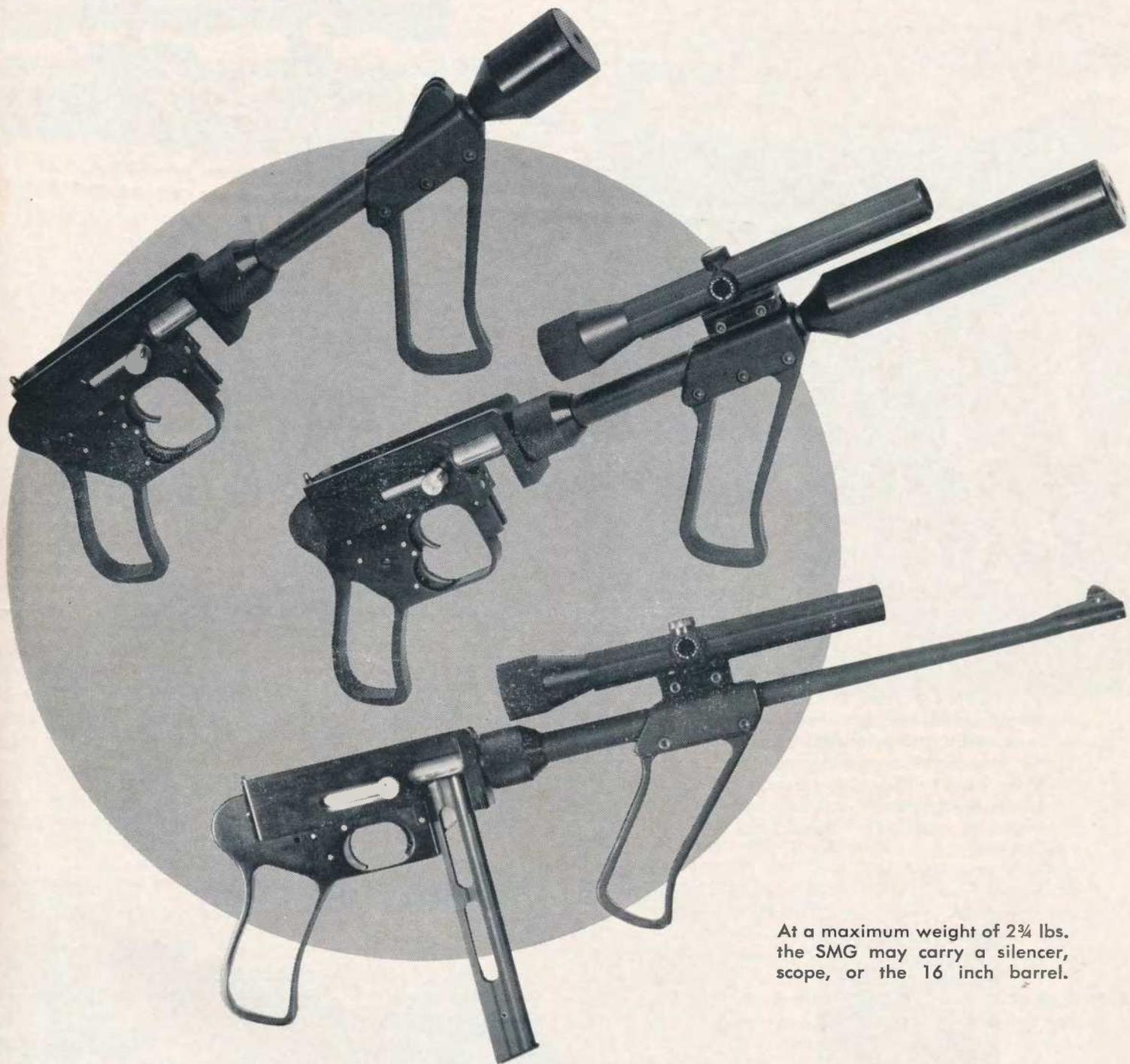
# NEW 22



At a rate of about 750 rounds per minute, the author rips through a 20-round clip in selected full-automatic fire.

# RIMFIRE SUBMACHINE GUN





At a maximum weight of 2¾ lbs. the SMG may carry a silencer, scope, or the 16 inch barrel.

By JOHN BROZ

**W**HILE NOT a military cartridge, the .22 Long Rifle has certain advantages which could be applied to military usage. It is low in cost; light in weight; and effective as an anti-personnel cartridge within certain limitations.

With these thoughts in mind, Hans Seggern, a gun designer from New Jersey (22 Carpenter Pl., Cranford, N. J. 07016), worked on the development of a military weapon which utilizes this popular cartridge. His design is a unique .22 submachine gun which could be used as a survival weapon, a special purpose weapon for guerrilla warfare, or as a basic training weapon for indoctrination of soldiers into the aspects of full automatic fire.

The mechanical features of the Seggern .22 SMG are as unique as its appearance. It is only 17" over-all (23" with silencer), and weighs from 2½ to 2¾ lbs., depending on accessories used. The prototypes shown have a cyclic rate of fire of 750 rounds per minute. Following the parts photograph, we see the receiver (1) which contains the bolt, bolt handle, (Continued on page 50)



SEARCHING FOR THE

# ALL-AROUND RIFLE...

**A**RGUMENTS ABOUT just what is the "perfect rifle" or the "all round rifle," have been going on for quite some time—ever since hunters have had a choice of three or more calibers, I suppose. I rather imagine the stone age man argued the merits of the big axe against those of the little axe when it came to killing. There must have been those who thought the little one was the best for all round work and those who insisted only the biggest would do. However, I'm quite sure that the sensible hunter used a number of different size axes, depending on just what he was hunting, and I can't help believing that the sensible hunter of today doesn't do the same in regard to the rifle.

It is pretty hard to qualify or justify the use of the average big game rifle and cartridge for use on any of the smaller types of game or varmints, and certainly good varmint rifles and cartridges are not the best for even the smallest big game. There is also the question of rifle types; carbines being best for certain kinds of hunting, longer barreled rifles for other kinds, bolt actions are best for some uses and cartridges. Lever, pump, or automatics are preferred and used better by some shooters. The list is pretty long to limit it to one "perfect rifle."

Actually, as progress in ballistics (both exterior and interior) is made, the bore size of cartridges for all uses



*Les Bowman*

By LES BOWMAN



The .458 cal. Winchester 70 is a big game rifle and would decidedly hurt a chuck.

A well placed shot with this .17 cal. Winslow would only tickle an elephant.

has dropped considerably. Back in the 1800's large bores to nearly 1" were popular, and .500 to .600 were just ordinary. Then velocities began to go up and caliber size became smaller. Accuracy improved and longer range, better kills could be made. Today, I believe we can easily dispense with all caliber sizes above .375, if we exclude kills on African game such as the elephant, rhino and perhaps the buffalo.

There are only two North American game animals that justify the use of a .375. One is the large Alaskan Kodiak or Brown bear and the other, the equally large Alaskan or Canadian moose. Even on these two animals there are many shooters who have, and use, the .338, the .350 and the .358, and insist that they are quite adequate. Very possibly more of these large game animals are still killed by such calibers as the .30-06 than by any other.

I left the Polar bear out of my list because he lives in an entirely different area and is hunted under quite different conditions. While Brown bear and the big moose are usually shot at distances of 100 feet or under, and in brushy country, the Polar bear is hunted in the flat uncovered ice country and shot at a considerable range, as a rule. This means that a good rifle for Polar bear should be a long range, flat shooting gun. I can think of no better caliber and cartridge type than the various .300 Magnums, used in rifles not carbines.

If one uses the .375 for Brown bear, the 22" barrel length is my preference, and for the .350 Remington Magnum the 18½" barrel carbine is quite adequate. Actually, I feel that the 20" length of the latest model 660 Remington series is a better length. The large Alaskan or Canadian moose can be killed very neatly with these same rifles, although many have been taken with the various .30 Magnums and at longer distances.

There are, of course, many hunters who insist that all North American game can be killed with any of the good standard .30-06 case head size cartridges, from the .270 on up. It is quite possible they can be, but not as cleanly and quickly as with a specialized caliber gun.

There is another factor that bears considerable weight in any discussion of calibers, cartridges, and barrel lengths. This is the proper bullet, and much depends on the type of game being hunted, the distance at which the game will probably be shot at, even the twist of rifling in the barrel. The structure of the bullet used is very important. Each of the bullet types—a full jacket, soft point with fast expansion, or a soft point with little lead exposed and deeper penetration before expansion, perhaps a round nose soft point or the Nosler type with controlled expansion—has its place. What might be a perfect rifle for some particular game may become a very poor choice if the wrong bullet is selected and used.



Bowman and outfitter Munsey pose before a brown bear Les downed with a .350 Remington Mag. carbine.

Not too long ago, velocities with *any* size bullet were pretty low. New powders, new cartridge designs, better rifles, and better bullets have resulted in a remarkable increase in velocities. Accuracy has kept pace with the higher velocities and accuracy of bullet placement by the shooter has also improved, especially at the longer distances. Sure kills are quicker and easier to make with these new high velocity rifles when the shooter uses the bullet that is structured for the game he is after.

The speed and energy of a bullet that hits the ground on the off side of the game, after penetrating completely through the animal, certainly does no good as far as killing quickly goes. One of my hunters shot the largest bull buffalo I have ever seen (2765 pounds on the hoof) in the neck, just forward of the shoulders, with a .510 grain solid, using a .458 Winchester Magnum—and the bull just walked off! It took us thirty minutes to get him clear of the herd for a killing shot with a soft point bullet. Actually, that bull could have been dropped, quite dead, with one well placed shot from a .243, using a properly structured bullet of only 100 grains weight. So, what one person may claim to be a perfect cartridge becomes a very poor one when used with improper bullets, and a cartridge with inadequate power can become a good one in the hands of a good shooter who uses the proper type bullet and places his shots carefully.

Many times, a rifle and a bullet may be selected for a special type of game. I made such a hunt recently for a Black-buck antelope, a small animal from (*Continued on page 70*)

# COLT BREECHLOADING SHOULDER ARMS

By JAMES E. SERVEN

SAMUEL COLT died in 1862, just as a new era in armsmaking was born. Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson had just patented a radically new revolver; Oliver Winchester was producing his Henry repeating rifles; Christopher M. Spencer was busy with repeating rifles and carbines. All these arms employed self-contained rimfire cartridges, a great improvement over cap and ball ammunition.

Colonel Colt's death dumped the problems of the new ignition system in the lap of Elisha K. Root, Richard W. H. Jarvis and Gen. W. B. Franklin, who were to be responsible for the Colt company's direction until the turn of the next century.

Early problems were not easy to solve. Smith & Wesson had a patent that gave them exclusive right to bored-through cylinders until 1869, and other patents threw up obstacles here and there in the Colt search for models to handle metallic cartridges. A Colt employee, F. Alexander Thuer, designed a tapered cartridge and a system to convert the standard Colt revolving cylinder rifles and pistols to use this unique front-loading,

tapered cartridge. But it was a short-lived, makeshift sort of operation that aroused little customer response.

The Colt people followed a course pursued by many others after the demand for Civil War muskets had suddenly ceased in 1865—they hurriedly searched for a simple and inexpensive method to convert the existing supply of muzzle-loading arms into breechloaders.

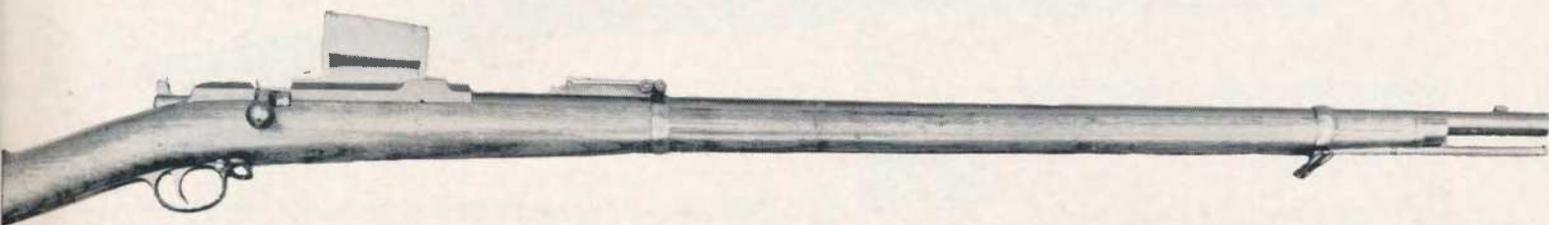
Col. Hiram Berdan had a conversion system ready for Colt by 1866. This conversion of the Springfield-type 1861-64 muskets had a hinged flip-up breech, but it never reached first base due to the similar but more practical Allin system adopted at Springfield Armory. Conversion designs by Colt's C. B. Richards, Horace Lord, and E. K. Root were equally unsuccessful. All was not bad news at Colt's, however, for in October of 1866 they received an order from the Egyptian government to supply 12,000 rifled muskets, converted to use metallic cartridges by installing the Snider-type breech which was hinged to swing open cross-wise of the bore.

Col. Hiram Berdan, a mechanical engineer by profession before he had made a name for himself in the Civil War as head of Berdan's "Sharpshooters," returned to his profession after the war and, with his mind oriented to weapons, designed (on his second try) a bolt action breechloader that gave the Colt company their first big order for a gun specially designed to use metallic cart-

The Colt muskets of 1861-64 were the last caplocks. Methods were sought to convert the guns to breechloaders.

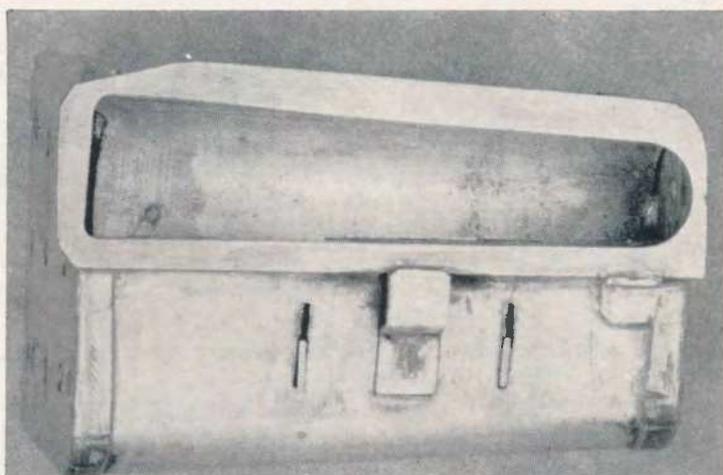


The "unique" bolt action repeater with a gravity-feed magazine atop the breech is separated by a century of progress from the controversial rapid fire M-16 rifle.



The  
Evolution of  
**COLT**  
LONG ARMS

Third of a three part study of Colt-made rifles and shotguns, from the first revolving cylinder models, through the early cartridge era, to the modern M-16



Designed by General W. B. Franklin, the detachable gravity-feed magazine saw limited production, for obvious reasons.

ridges. Berdan also developed a special primer for the cartridges.

In February of 1868, Colt contracted to deliver the Russian government 30,000 of these Berdan guns chambered for a special .42 caliber necked cartridge. The order was completed by March, 1870. The Berdan rifles and carbines had round barrels, the rifle weighing 10 pounds with bayonet and the carbine proportionately lighter. A few sporting-type rifles using this action were made by Colt; most of these "sporters" had octagon barrels and halfstocks like the carbine but provided with a fancy crescent-shaped butt plate, an ebony fore-end, and a raised cheek piece.

Another adventure in producing a military rifle was undertaken at the Hartford plant when Gen. W. B. Franklin, a veteran of the war who had become a Colt vice-president in 1865, took out patents in the late 1870's and early 1880's for a bolt action repeating rifle. This rifle was really an odd one, with a detachable box magazine that was placed *atop* the breech, feeding nine .45-70 cartridges by

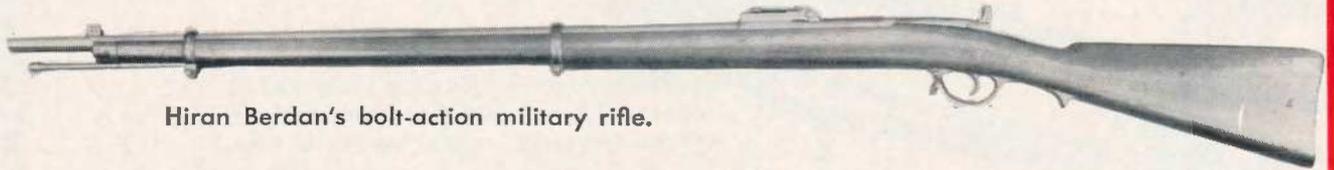
gravity into the action as they were needed. It is rather obvious that this rifle was not a howling success and very few were made. The best that can be said for this rifle is that it makes an interesting collector's item and today a specimen is rare and valuable as such.

A more practical rifle design than General Franklin's gun, however, was to bear the Colt name and rampant colt trade-mark. Having obtained patent rights from Andrew Burgess and R. L. Brewer, in 1883 the Colt company introduced a lever action repeating rifle for which they claimed: "This rifle possesses advantages over all magazine guns now in market. The materials used in the construction of the arm are the best of their kind. . . . The cartridge used is the same as that used in our 'Frontier' .44 cal. Army Pistol."

This .44 caliber lever-action Colt sporting rifle was offered with round or octagon barrels 25½ inches long and in a carbine size with 20-inch barrel. The carbine held 12 shots, the rifle 15. Weights ranged from 7¼ to 8¾



A muzzleloader converted to the breechloader uses Snider breech.



Hiram Berdan's bolt-action military rifle.



Berdan designed rifles with octagon barrels saw use as sporting models.

## COLT LONG ARMS

pounds and prices from \$24 to \$27.

About 6400 of the lever action rifles and carbines were made, the carbines few in number. The early discontinuance of the Colt lever action rifles has not been satisfactorily explained, but it can be reasonably assumed that the company decided the factory space and manufacturing effort could be more profitably devoted to a different type of rifle than the very popular and highly competitive lever action rifles of Winchester and some others. There was at this time on the Colt horizon a lightning fast repeater employing a relatively novel action.

The lever action model had but a few short years of production when there came from the Colt planning boards a new repeater destined to be Colt's best-selling sporting rifle of the 19th century. The basic system was patented by Dr. William H. Elliott, and it became known as the Colt "Lightning Model."

The basic Elliott patents of 1883, plus later patents contributed by C. J. Ehbets, W. B. Franklin, F. F. Knous, and F. W. Weatherhead (all members of the Colt organization) led to the production of rapid-firing, slide-action (pump) Colt rifles in a variety of styles and calibers.

These rifles came on the scene when Winchester's .32 WCF (.32-20), .38 WCF (.38-40) and .44 WCF (.44-40) cartridges were enjoying popularity for use in Winchester's Model 1873 rifles along with Colt's Single Action Army revolvers. By making rifles that could use these same calibers Colt simplified the ammunition problem, an important consideration in remote parts of the country.

Three frame sizes were designed for the Colt "Lightning" rifles. The Model of 1885, first introduced, had a medium size frame and was chambered for the calibers mentioned above. When Winchester introduced their .25-20 necked cartridge in 1895, Colt advertised that they would chamber their gun for that caliber. If they did so, I have never

seen a Colt Lightning model in that caliber, nor do I know anyone who has.

There was a variety of optional features for the 1885 model. A regular carbine with 20" barrel and a lighter model, advertised as the "Baby Carbine," were available. The standard carbine weighed 6¼ pounds, had a capacity of 12 shots, and cost \$16.50 in the 1890's. Standard size rifles then cost \$16.50 with a round barrel and \$18.00 if fitted with an octagonal barrel; their magazine and barrel capacity was 15 shots. If desired, rifles with shorter tubular magazines might be had, and if you wanted something extra fancy, you might order a gun fitted with a pistol-grip stock of selected grain walnut.

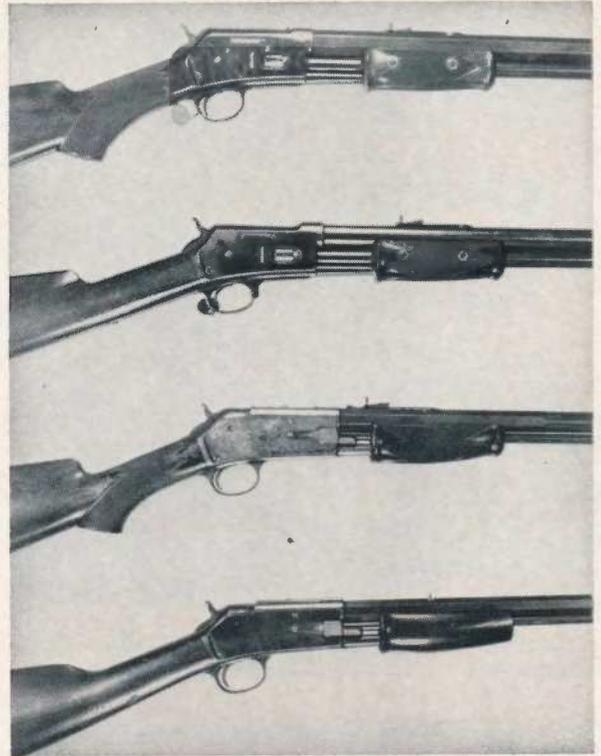
Lyman tang and barrel sights were optional, along with Colt's own line of sights. I have owned a fine rifle of this type mounted with a full-length telescope sight. The Barlow patent (Ideal) loading tools in several styles were recommended. Loading was effected through a concave loading gate on the right side of the receiver, thus feeding the cartridges into the spring-loaded tubular magazine under the barrel.

By 1888, the Colt Model 1885 rifle had attained a sufficient measure of popularity to encourage the company to build a big brother, a heavier gun similar in operation to the 1885 model, with a sliding wood grip encircling the magazine tube and which by trombone-like action cocked the hammer, ejected a spent shell and fed a fresh cartridge into the barrel. This heavier gun was offered in calibers .38-56, .40-60, .45-60, .45-85 and .50-95 express—calibers similar to those in Winchester's Model 1876 or Model 1886 lever action rifles.

The same optional features were offered as for the lighter guns. The carbine barrels were 22 inches long, the rifle barrels 28 inches except in the .50-95 express for which the barrel was limited to 26 inches. Sling swivels



The recently introduced "Stagecoach .22 Autoloader" is 33 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long with a 13 round magazine. The guns at the right are various versions of "Lightning Model" magazine rifles.



and strap could be furnished if desired. The weight was increased over the medium size 1885 rifle by 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  pounds and the capacity cut down from 15 to 10 shots. This was Colt's "big-game" rifle.

An uneasy stirring of concern had begun to manifest itself down at New Haven in the Winchester plant. Oliver Winchester had died in 1880, but those who succeeded him in the direction of the company had no intention of giving up their dominant position in the rifle-making field. Now that Colt was treading on their toes, they requested their master gun designer, William Mason, a former Colt employee, to design a revolver that would be competitive to Colt's big seller, the Single Action Army model. This Winchester revolver was prominently displayed for the Colt people to see. While the inference was clear, it took the Colt company some time to regard it seriously; they went right on making rifles. Not only did they make the medium frame and heavy frame "Lightning" rifles, but they also put on the market a light .22 rimfire model. On this model a hinged brass magazine block was employed for loading rather than a grooved gate.

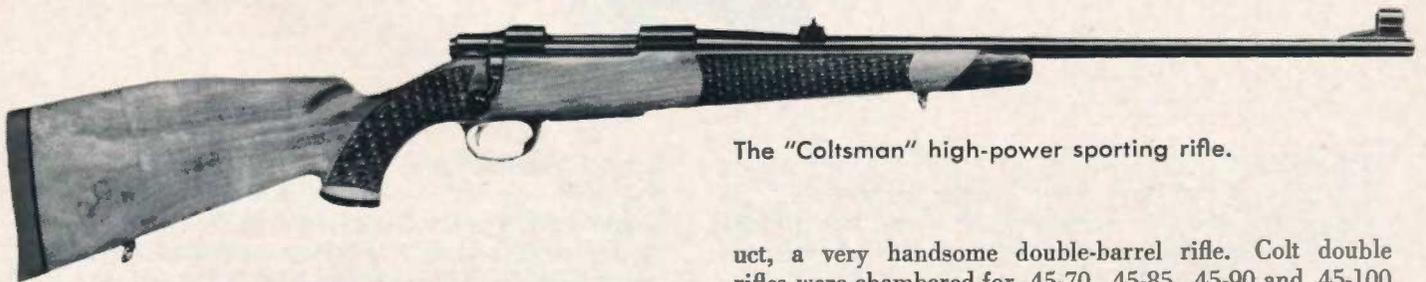
The primary promotion for the Lightning models was directed at the civilian field although a few guns with saber bayonets were hopefully made up for the military trial; a feeble attempt was made to produce a takedown model, but this was not seriously pursued and a take-down model was never put in production.

As the century drew to a close the manufacture of sporting rifles at the Hartford plant began to slacken. The

1891, and a hammerless model was introduced in 1883 and manufactured up to March, 1900.

As in the sporting rifle field, Colt ran into very stiff competition with their shotguns. In addition to an increasingly aggressive Winchester, there were imports from England, Belgium and France. Parker Bros., L. C. Smith, Remington, Ithaca and other American-made guns fought actively for the sporting arms trade.

Possibly the most notable thing to come out of Colt's shotgun operations of this period was an associated prod-



The "Coltsman" high-power sporting rifle.

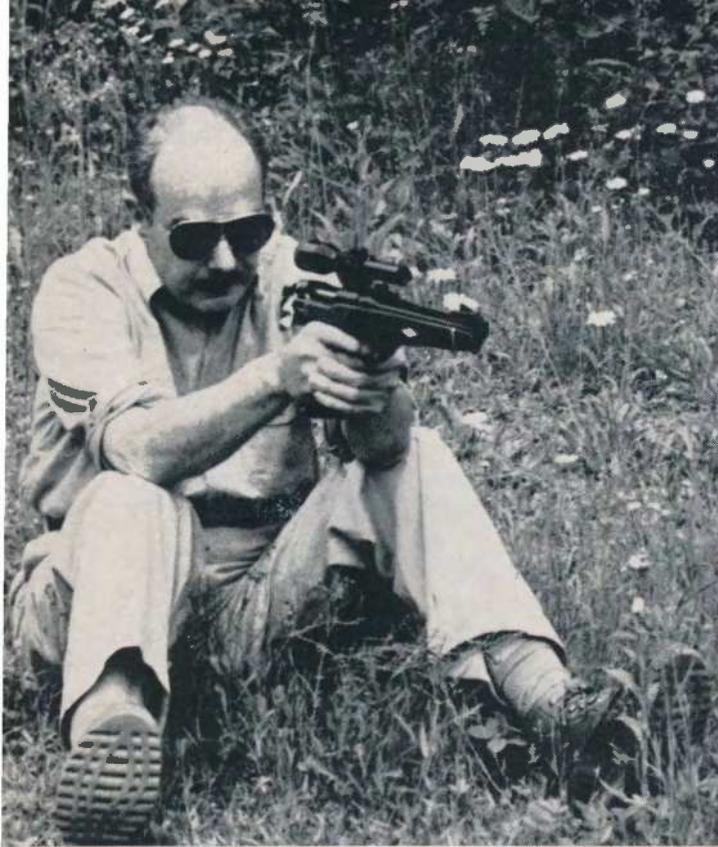
same was true of shotguns which had been designed for the Colt company by A. E. Whitmore and William Mason. Their patents of 1874, 1879, 1881 and 1882 had gotten the shotgun program under way; then in 1885, 1889 and 1895 F. F. Knous and C. J. Ehbets added improvements.

Twist and Damascus barrels were imported for Colt's double-barrel shotguns, which were bored for 10 or 12 gauge shells. A hammer model was made from 1878 to

uct, a very handsome double-barrel rifle. Colt double rifles were chambered for .45-70, .45-85, .45-90 and .45-100 loads and were in effect custom-made. I once owned a pair of these rifles, serial numbers 20 and 21. The workmanship would have been a credit to London's Holland & Holland or Purdey. Caldwell Colt is said to have been an important influence in the exploration of the double-rifle field, an area of arms manufacture long dominated by English gunmakers. Very few Colt double-barrel rifles were made and they are valuable. If you chance to own one, don't trade it off for a .30-30 (Continued on page 66)

# SCOPED HANDGUNS

By MASON WILLIAMS



Williams fires a Remington XP-100 from the sitting position, using two hands to achieve a steady aim.



At the left is a Remington XP-100, topped by the Leupold M8-2X. Above is the Ruger Hawkeye (discontinued) with a 2.6X Bushnell Phantom scope.

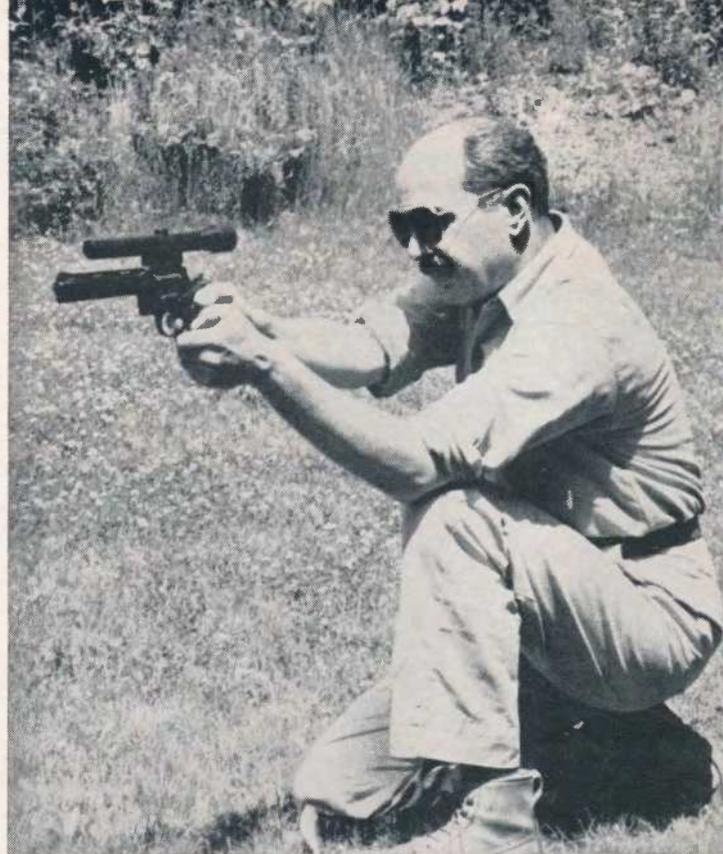
**H**ANDGUN HUNTING is an ancient sport, dating back to the days when feudal lords would fire their matchlocks or wheellocks at game from horseback. In America, this sport came of age when Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia spent weeks hunting buffalo and other big game with his then-new .44 cal. Russian revolver turned out by Smith and Wesson for the Czarist Cavalry. Since that time, many a man—either through necessity or for the sport—has dropped big game with a handgun.

Today, at distances under one hundred yards, a good handgunner can fell game with reasonable confidence, but beyond that distance luck plays a major part. In recent years, there have been many attempts to fit

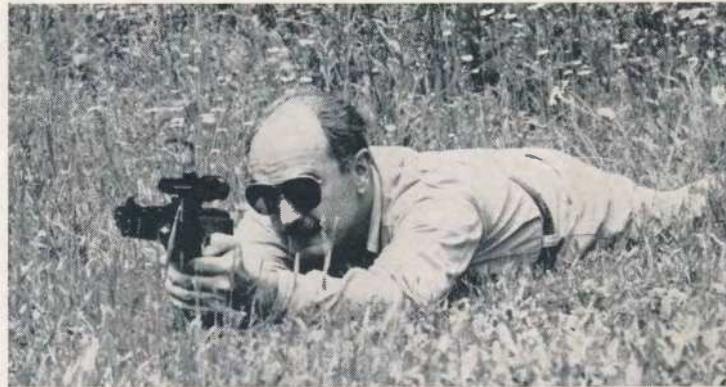
scopes onto handguns to provide the necessary clarity and definition that has been lacking at long ranges. Magnification is not important. Rather, the ability to place the bullet precisely is important, and the modern development of low power 1.2X, 1.5X and even 2X scopes has helped immeasurably to cut down on wounded game.

Combine such a scope with new concepts of bullet design and ammunition and we now have handguns capable of providing handgun hunting up to ranges of two hundred yards under ideal conditions. The novice has a tendency to attempt to "reach out" too far so that care must be exercised to limit ranges to distances that are practical for the individual hunter.

# FOR HUNTING...



Field conditions may somewhat dictate the position from which the hunting pistol is fired, but it is very important to use the one which is most stable.



The 1.5X Tasco hand gun scope rides the Smith & Wesson Model 27 revolver.

Each hunter has his own skill with a handgun and until he has had sufficient experience, both on targets and on game, he should always get just a little closer than he believes necessary before firing. As he gains experience he will be able to gradually increase his hunting ranges.

Another important factor in handgun hunting is the use of the correct bullet. A varmint bullet cannot be used successfully on big game. A big game bullet will penetrate varmints without downing them. Slow moving, hard, cast lead bullets are not entirely suitable for long range, high velocity handgun hunting and because of this I recommend the use of long jacketed bullets designed for high velocity shooting. What

firms manufacture these bullets? Speer, Incorporated, Lewiston, Idaho; International Bullet and Ammunition Corporation, 30 West 22nd Street, New York City; Mack Shooter's Supply, Pine Plains, New York; Hornady Bullet Company, Grand Island, Nebraska. In addition, there are many small shops that turn out excellent jacketed bullets.

Good handloads are a must for handgun hunting, because this long range shooting demands the finest accuracy plus maximum velocity. They enable the hunter to literally custom tailor his ammunition to fit the characteristics of his specific handgun but if he does not reload then he can readily find a competent firm or individual that will be (Continued on page 59)

# Evolution of Firearms



**I**N THIS, OUR SECOND LOOK at some of the magnificent color photographs from the book "100 Great Guns," by Merrill Lindsay, we trace the development of firearms from the earliest handcannon through the modern autoloading pistol. The firearms shown here are but samples of the major periods of firearms development. Between, are such devices as the snaphaunce, pill lock, tube lock, and the various forms of early metallic cartridge ideas from the pin fire and needle fire to the rim fire.

We could, if we so chose, go on publishing photos from this great book for a good many issues, but I think that you now have a much better idea of the quality of illustrations which it contains. There are not many gun books which you might want to show to your non-shooting friends, but "100 Great Guns" is one book that you will show with pride.

Photos on the next five pages through the courtesy of Walker & Co., publishers of "100 Great Guns," and the author, Merrill Lindsay.

## IDENTIFICATION OF COLOR PHOTOS

### PAGE 37

1. Earliest dateable handcannon. Vedolsprung gun, found under the ruins of a castle in South Schleswig destroyed in 1326. Barrel to touchhole, 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ " ; 32" over-all; bore tapered from 18 to 27 mm. No. 8 B I Toftus Museet, Copenhagen.
2. 1585 Munich matchlock petard. Green and white bone and ivory inlays, caliber .51". No. 8 32.75.111 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Morrison Collection.
3. 1548 wheel lock rifle. Oldest dated firearm in the Toftus museum. "L.S." on barrel, date on stock. Rifle exhibits early external spring wheel retainer. Augsburg. Length over-all, 39 $\frac{1}{4}$ " ; barrel, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ " ; caliber .56". No. 8 B.35 Toftus Museet, Copenhagen.

### PAGE 38

4. Brescian miquelets signed "Schiazzano" in the lock plates (Stockel; c 1700). Gold-mounted casque-bullets with open foliate pattern-book gold inlays. Russell Aitken Collection.
5. Combination matchlock and flintlock from Louis XIII's Cabinet d'Armes. Made by F. DuChas. This two-shot superimposed load gun works the match with a trigger and the flint with a trigger. Cabinet number 151, dated 1636. Length over-all, 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ " ; barrel, 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ " ; caliber .70".

### PAGE 39

6. Over and under Kentucky pistol with Golcher lock and steel silver decoration. Two-storey

flash gun with sliding cover. Russell Aitken Collection.

7. Five-barrel valley gun. First model Forsyth detonator with vent bottle. Serial No. 3235, probably made around 1820, although the Forsyth patent was issued in 1806. The primer flash discharged all barrels simultaneously when it entered the platinum lined false breech. Length over-all, 41" ; each .410 gauge barrel, 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ " including false breech. N. 8 XII/1589, Tower of London.
8. Fine target rifle with scope. Made by Wm. Billingshurst in Rochester, N.Y., in 1868. The bull barrel pistol has a rifle stock extension, a false breech, and scope. Caliber .32". Dr. Harmon Leonard Collection.

### PAGES 40-41

9. Walther auto pistol, caliber 7.65 mm. Especially engraved as presentation piece from Heinrich Himmler to General Karl Wolff. No. 2400 West Point Museum.
10. Westley Richards double rifle, caliber .375 H&H Magnum, with hand removable locks. George Roschbottom Collection.
11. Andy Palmer's stunt gun. Single action Colt .45 caliber Army with ivory grips and special hand honed factory action. From Merrill Lindsay Collection.
12. "E. Remington & Sons, Ilion, N.Y." Mint condition rolling block with case hardened receiver. Serial No. 11970, caliber .38 extra long center fire. Harry Sefried Collection.



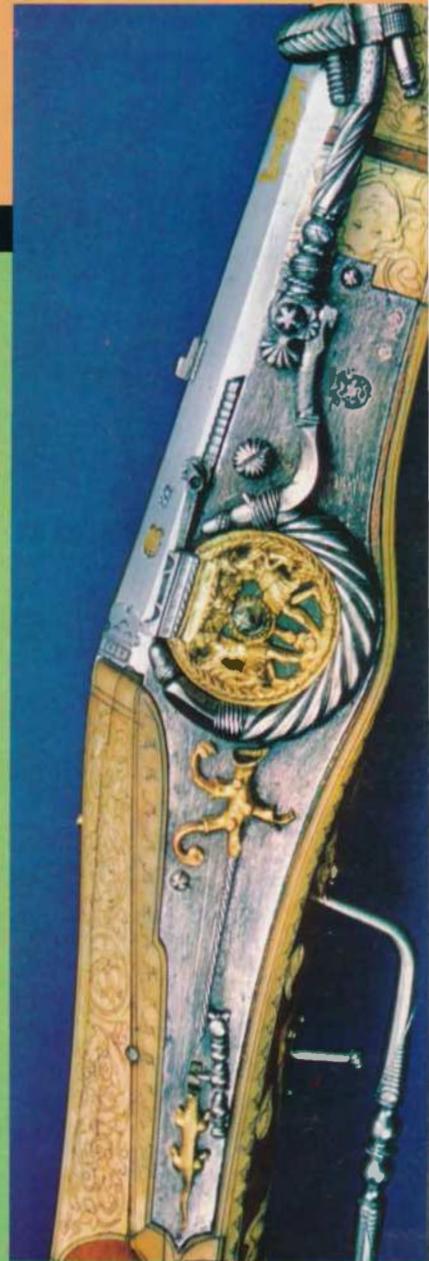


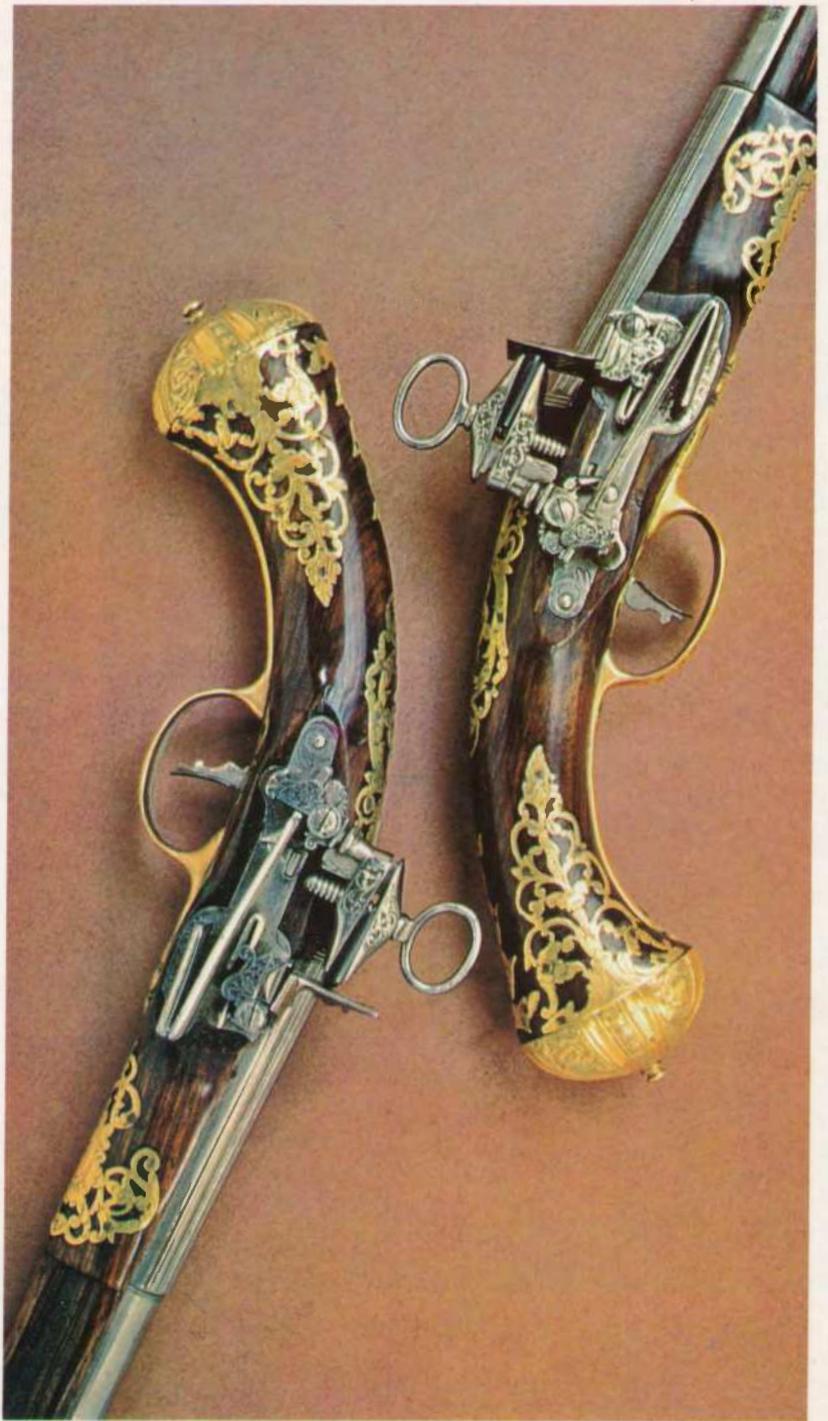
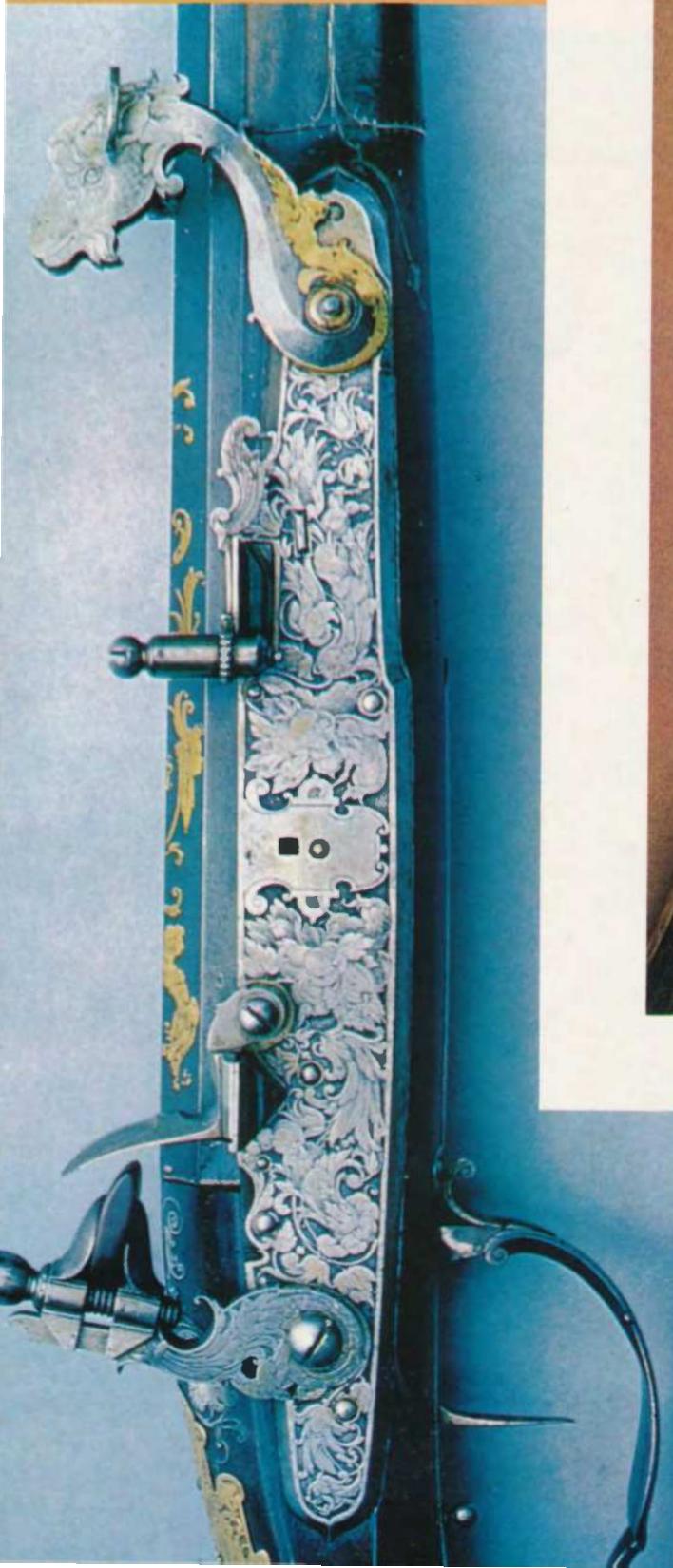
*1- Handcannon*



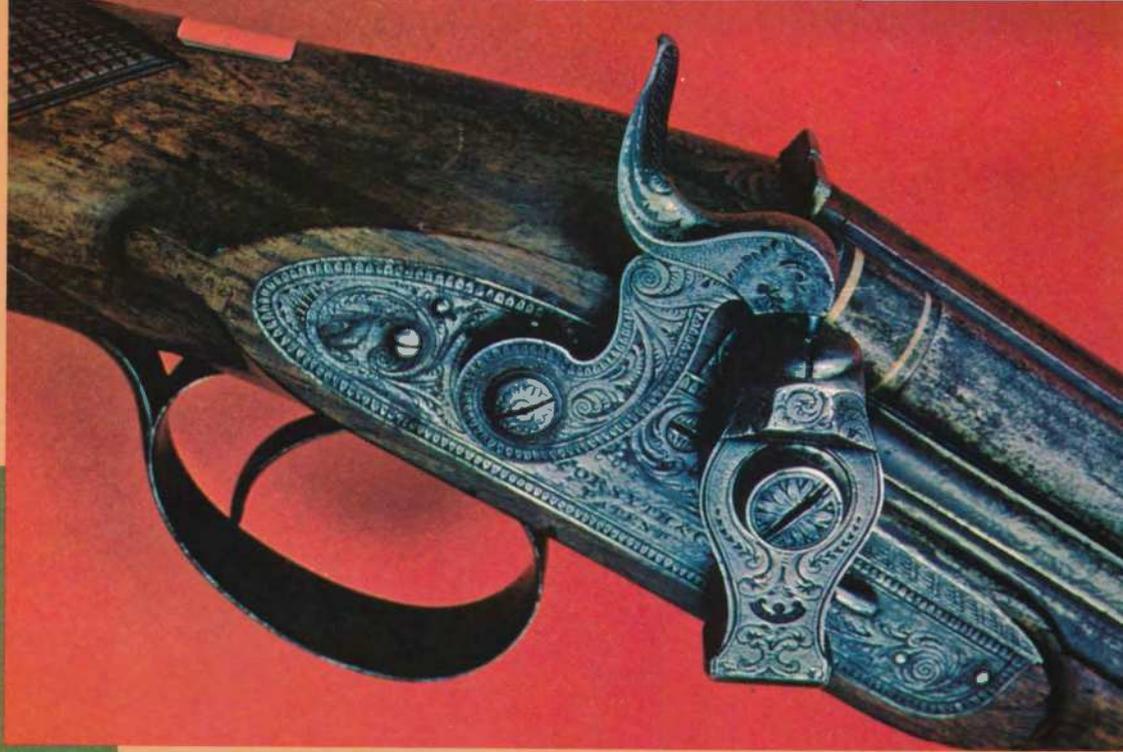
*2- Matchlock*

*3- Wheel Lock*



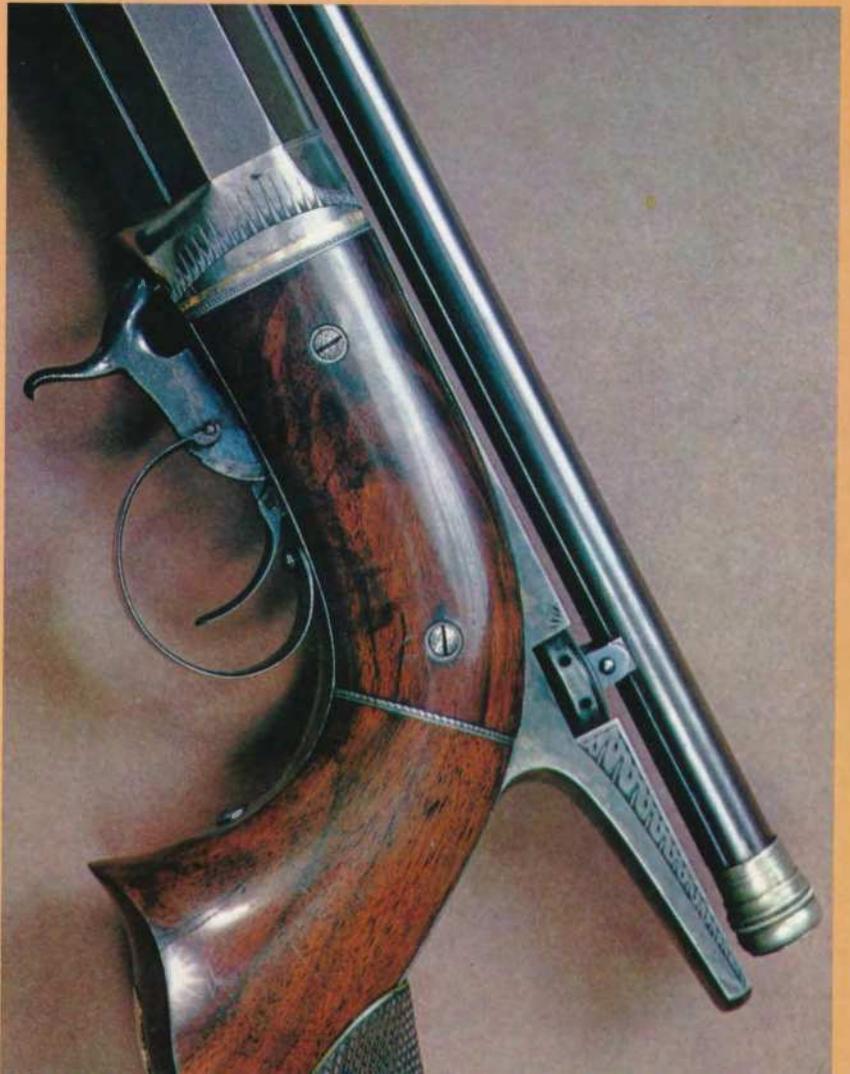


- 4- Miquelet
- 5- Combination
- 6- Flintlock



*7-Transitional*

*8-Percussion*





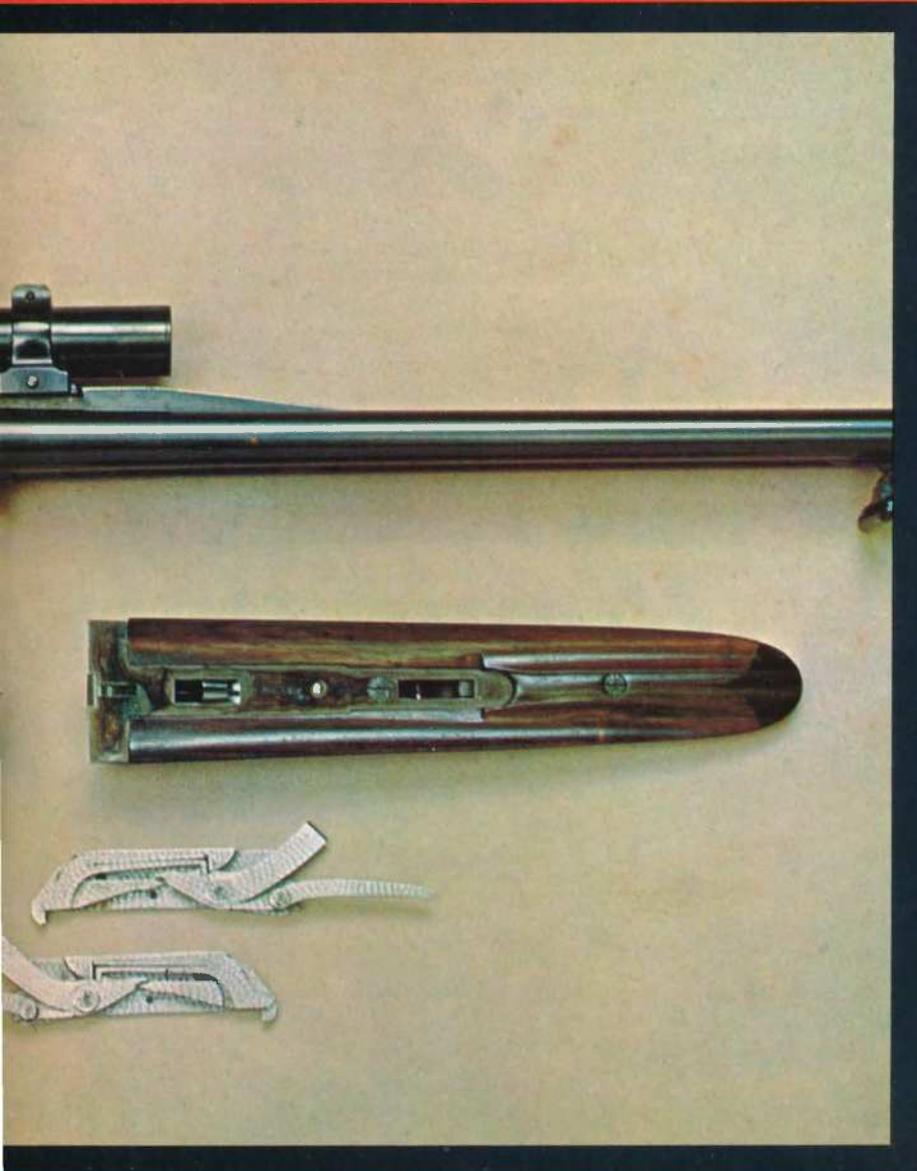
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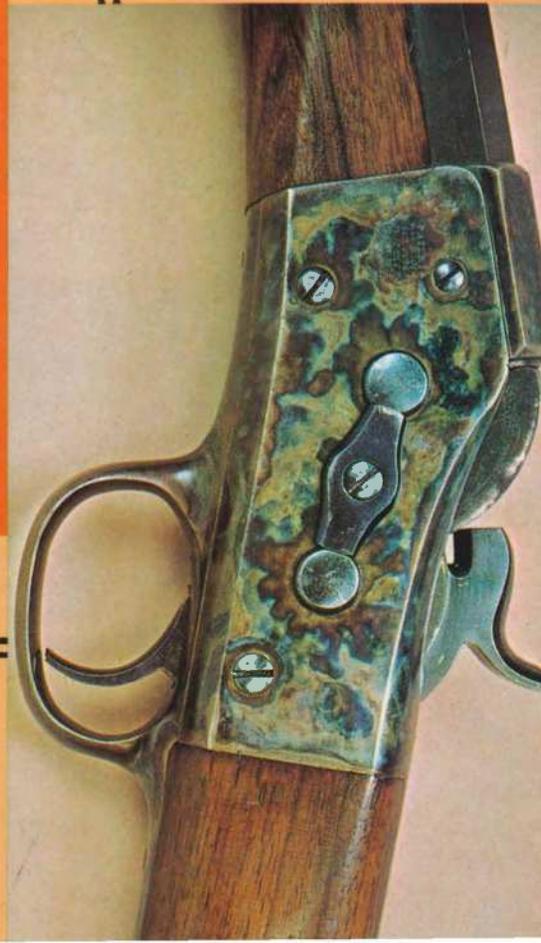
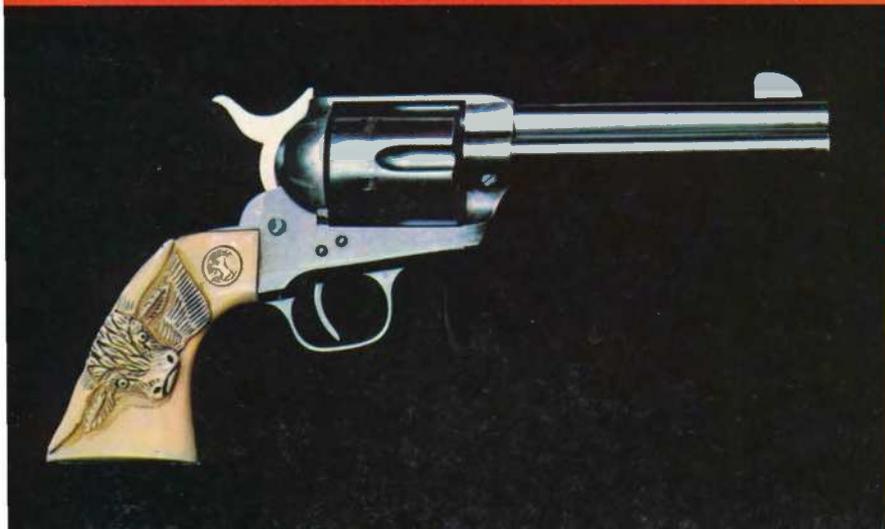
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*Metallic Cartridge*

11



12



Remington Beals revolving rifle.  
Photo courtesy of Remington Arms  
Museum, Bridgeport, Connecticut.



# *Remington*

## ***GUNS at the SAHARA***

### **GUNS MAGAZINE VISITS THE MID-WINTER ANTIQUE ARMS SHOW AT THE SAHARA IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

By **ROBERT MANDEL**

**T**HE SIXTH ANNUAL "Mid-Winter" Sahara Gun Show, held at the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas, once again proved that it is still the undisputed "Quality Show of the Country." The show theme was dedicated to the oldest gunmaking firm of the nation . . . Remington. For over 150 years the name Remington has stood for a standard of quality unsurpassed by any other American firearms manufacture. It was more than fitting then, that the quality antique gun show of the nation, and the quality arms manufacture of the nation should at last meet under one roof.

Over a century and a half have passed since Eliphalet Remington made his first rifle. In that time, millions of other firearms bearing the Remington name have appeared. The name has become known throughout the world. From the farmer to the big game hunter the Remington firearm has been a standard of quality, created by a continuing

series of fine products and a tradition of excellence. Throughout its history, Remington has produced many outstanding firearms, some were revolutionary new arms; others have been highly refined examples of types already well-known. With its Remington theme, The Sahara Antique Gun Show brought to the attention of the gun collecting world the most magnificent display of Remington rifles and handguns this nation's collectors have ever assembled under one roof. The splendor of the Sahara Hotel was all but overshadowed by this assembly of the finest of collectors, Remington Arms. This Remington theme will keep the society of gun collectors talking for many months and perhaps years to come. Never before in history have so many magnificent one-of-a-kind Remingtons and Remington group displays been shown at one time. Just outside the exhibition hall was the great Remington factory dis-

play of rare and one of a kind experimental arms, with Remington Arms Company Representatives D. Lee Braun, Richard Dietz, and good friend Dick Baldwin. Mr. Braun is one of our countrys finest skeet and trap shooters; and Dick Baldwin is also an up and coming trap shooter.

The Remington factory display had all the collectors at the show talking, as the rarity of the arms displayed took ones breath away. All came out of the Remington Museum and some were pictured in full color in the December, 1967 issue of GUNS Magazine. A great display.

One of the most interesting of the non-factory displays at the Sahara show was the notable display put on by my friend, Gordon Frost of Texas. Titled "Frank Hamer and the Remington Arms Company," the display contained many of the well-known Frank Hamer, Texas Ranger guns. Although Hamer was best known as the Texas Ranger who tracked down and killed Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker, he was considered by many, including J. Edgar Hoover and a half dozen Texas Governors, to be "one of the greatest law officers in American history." Contained in this display were many of Bonnie and Clyde's personal guns.

Although displays of Remington arms were numerous, and all of great quality and well displayed, the one that topped them all was displayed by Karl Moldenhauer of



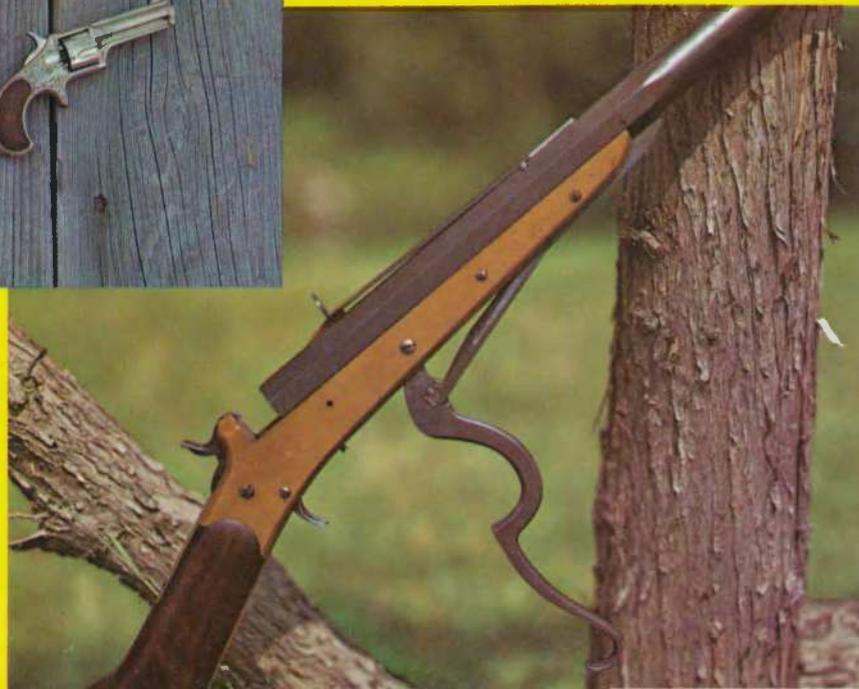
At the Remington Arms display were (l-r): Lee Braun, Richard Dietz and Dick Baldwin; all of them representing Remington.



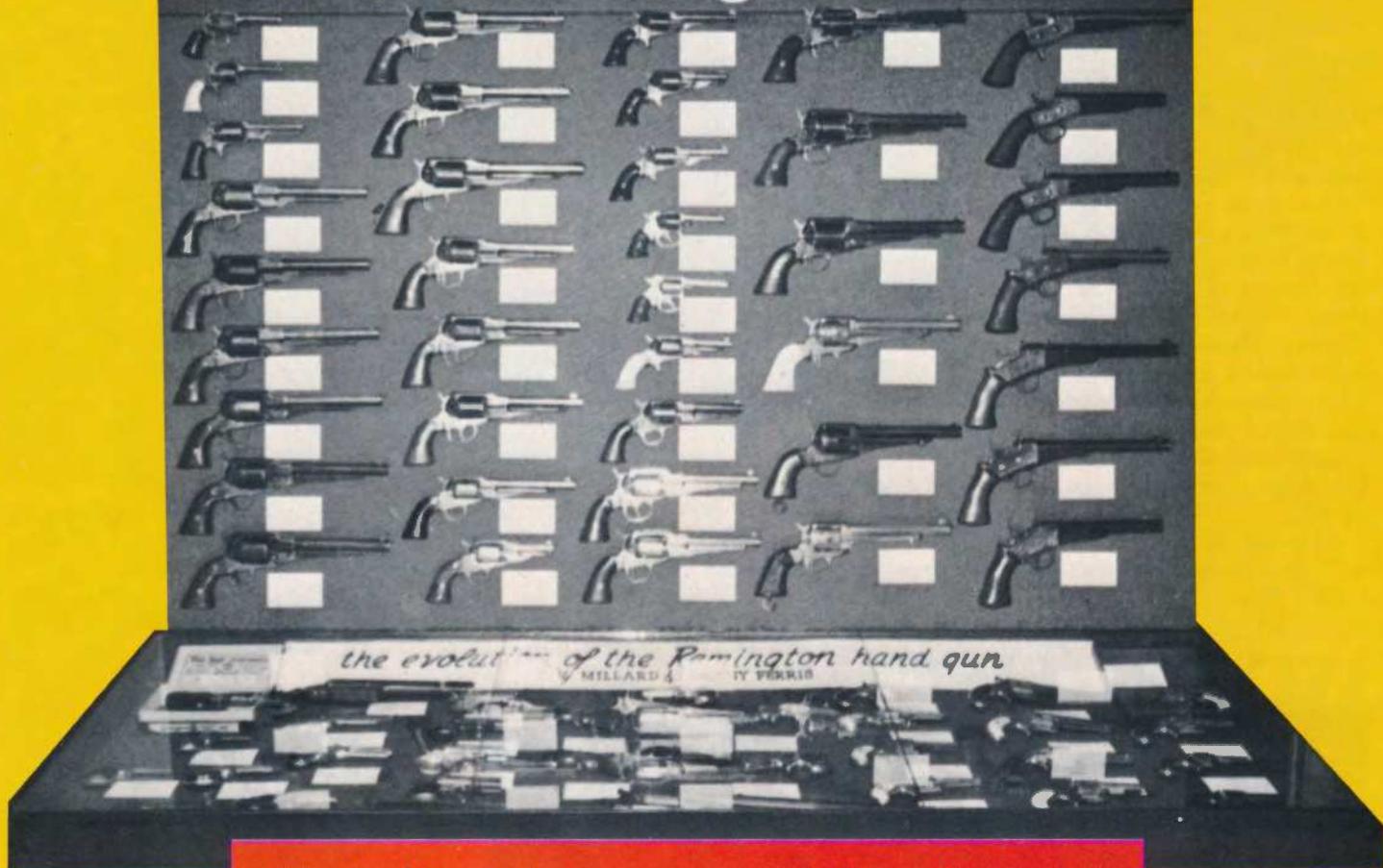
Through the inventive genius of such men as Fordyce Beals and Joseph Rider, Remington offered a variety of handguns.



This rare rifle was designed by Beals. It is a single shot with lever action and sliding barrel. Photo courtesy Remington Arms.



# Remington



Millard and Dorothy Ferris were winners at the Sahara Show for their excellent display showing the evolution of the Remington hand gun.



Pistols were awarded to (l-r): Karl F. Moldenhauer, (Queen Lori Malloy), William Locke, Leon Wier, Jr., Ed Donohoe, M. Ferris, with R. Baldwin of Remington.

Remington Rolling Block rifles were much in evidence, though other guns were also very well represented.



Bonnie Parker, of the infamous Bonnie and Clyde gang, was represented by a collection of her various guns.



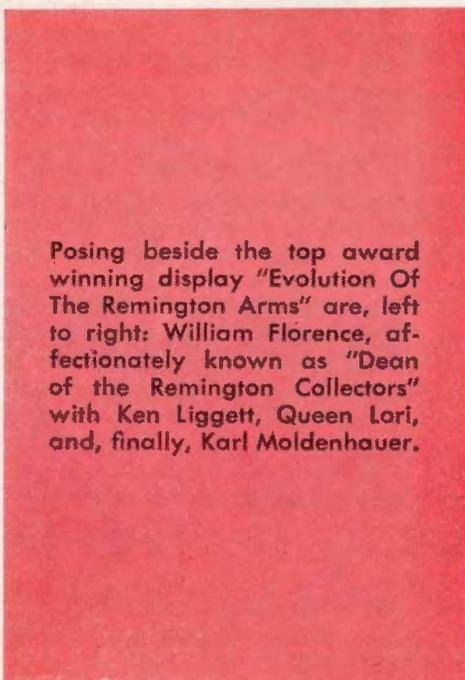
William Locke stands beside the collection of Remington pistols ranging from pocket type to the rolling block.

Cedarburg, Wisconsin. Not only did he win a presentation Remington XP-100 handgun for his outstanding display, he also received the Sahara Trophy for his rare, Nimschke Engraved 1858 Remington Army Revolver; one of the finest collectors arms displays I have seen in many a year. Other winners for their Remington displays were Millard and Dorothy Ferris; William Locke, for a great display of engraved Remington cartridge arms; Ed Donohoe for his Remington shoulder arms; Leon Wier for Remington pistols; Dr. Jim Lucie for Best Arms Display for the Show with his U.S. Martial Flintlock Pistols; Ivan Hart for his Henry Rifle display; and good old "Mr. Winchester," Jim Fowler, took first award for his Engraved Winchester.

Other winners of trophies awarded by the Sahara Hotel were: Harold Ward, Derringers; Elmer and Gwen Taylor for their Volcanics and Winchesters; Jon Peck, Ulrich engraved Winchesters; Charles Patterson for his fine display of 51 Navy Colts; Al Cali, Civil War revolvers; Bill LaRue, U.S. ramrod Rifles in America; and Dr. C. M. McClure, for the 1886 rifle and carbine display.

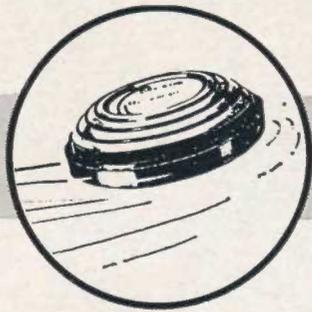
Other "One Of A Kind" displays that won awards were: Robert Ables, for best individual American edged weapons; Jim Bandy, European armour; Dr. John Murphy, Confederate arms; Jon Peck, for his fine individual American Arm; Mike DeLee, best American edge weapons; Jim Bandy, best European edge weapons; Dick Dodge, best Japanese edge weapons.

From this group one can see that though the theme for the Sahara show was Remington, other collectors of quality arms are never forgotten, and in many cases their displays sometimes can and do surpass the theme displays. So once again, under the capable direction of Harry Mann, the shows co-sponsor and Hotel Sahara's executive officer, John Romero, the Sahara Gun Show, featuring Remingtons, was a credit to the "society of lovers of firearms," and to the exhibitors themselves. The Sahara Hotel, Harry and John are again to be congratulated for coming up with a show that seems to outshine each of the previous presentations. The photographs speak for themselves . . . the finest of guns at the finest of shows. 



Posing beside the top award winning display "Evolution Of The Remington Arms" are, left to right: William Florence, affectionately known as "Dean of the Remington Collectors" with Ken Liggett, Queen Lori, and, finally, Karl Moldenhauer.





# PULL!

By DICK MILLER

**M**Y TRAVELS AROUND the North American continent during the past few weeks have produced some interesting observations with respect to the clay target sports. One of these observations more than confirms an item I just read, stating that skeet has enjoyed a gain of 80 per cent in shooters, and that the ranks of the trap game have been swelled by 60 per cent.

That these claims are valid becomes more evident everywhere I go, in both the United States and Canada. There are more and more shooters who have discovered the games of trap and skeet, and they want to talk about shooting. It is not necessary to editorialize further on this happy fact, other than to say that I think it's great!

Another observation, not exactly profound, and certainly not new, reaffirms that beginning trapshooters have trouble with right-hand angles if they shoot from the right side, and that southpaws dread left-hand angles because they are southpaws. (Skeet shooters have hang-ups too, but I shall leave them with their hang-ups until next month, sorrowfully—if that's any consolation.) A third fact becomes very clear during conversations with new or neophyte trapgunners. All, or almost all, are wondering out loud about just where to hold the gun muzzle on each station.

The fourth and final observation is one which pains me, and one which I would rather not make. It has been brought to my attention that despite the treatment I have known and received at most gun clubs, there are a few trap and/or skeet clubs where a new shooter or stranger is treated with all the cordiality that a marine recruiting sergeant might receive at a hippie love-in.

This week the sporting goods buyer for a large Western jobbing house, who is sincerely trying to develop a yen for the clay target games, told me of his experience when he showed up at a local gun club.

He said (not his own words, but my construction) that he was greeted with all the warmth that a robed member of the Ku Klux Klan might expect at a convention of the NAACP, and not nearly so much attention. I could editorialize ad infinitum on the subject of treatment of new or visiting shooters at clay target clubs, but am going to say only this: Please don't let your club be one of the cold ones. If the rest of the shooters don't at least speak to the man, take it on yourself to say something, even if it's only to ask him if he doesn't think it's a nice day. He may not think so, but at least you will not have ignored him. I think you get the picture.

Now, for right angles and left angles. I do not propose to depart from my oft-repeated assertion that all new shooters receive gratis much shooting advice, all of which is well-meaning, and some of which is good, but not all of which is helpful. The problem of angle shots is almost always tied directly to foot or body position. To make this clear, let's take post one as an example. If you are right-handed, and shoot from the right shoulder; what is the most difficult shot you can expect from post one? Naturally, for most people, it would be the extreme left angle. After you become a veteran shooter, you could have a hang-up on little quarter angles that you try to shoot as straightaways, but that usually comes later (Oh, you say there's more after I lick the big angle. Yes, Virginia, there is more).

Suppose you are on post one, and point your left, or leading foot at the trap house, or point both feet at the trap house. What happens when you get a screamer to your left? Elementary, my dear neophyte. You have to push the muzzle at the screamer, you don't catch up with it; the score keeper yells "lost," and marks a big fat "zero" on the score sheet. Suppose instead you take picks (Hoosier for get prepared for) on that most difficult target. To do this, if you are right-handed, you point your left foot

out in left field at the point where you would expect to shoot the hard target if you get it from this post. You swing your gun muzzle back to a point about three feet to the left of the trap house edge (which is the most popular spot for muzzle hold on post one). Now you will find that if you do get the left screamer from this position, you can swing after the target, instead of pushing at it, and break that target come easy. Even from this position all other angles from post one should present no problem.

All of this theory or advice is based on one of the great truisms from trap, to wit: the name of the game is to cut down the amount the muzzle must move to catch up with the target. Shorten the distance you must move the muzzle and you improve your chances of breaking the target. Another great truism is that you can swing a gun barrel faster than you can push or shove it.

I also firmly believe the statement which I have heard from the greatest shooters in the game to the effect that almost all missed targets are missed because the shooter shot behind them (or didn't catch up with them, if you prefer that wording). The shooting greats firmly hold that you can shoot above or below, or to one side or the other of a target, and miss it, but nine times out of ten, you simply shoot behind it (or don't catch up with it, which means the same zero on the score sheet).

I repeat, position yourself on all posts so that you must *swing* at the target instead of *shoving* the muzzle at it. To do this, you must not, must never, not ever, *face* the traphouse for angle targets.

Let's move on across the field. On post two, you can start your swing from just over the left corner of the traphouse, and your pointing foot need not point quite so much to the left.

On post three, shoot or stand any way you please. Relax and have fun. On post four, go back to the premise that it makes sense to get set for the worst possible target, which is, you guessed, the hard right. So, you point your left foot (if right-handed) out where that right-angle would be broken, start your swing off the right corner of the house, and smash the target.

On post five, you begin your swing from a point three feet to the right of the traphouse's right corner, and point that leading foot just a little more into right field.

If at this point you still don't believe me, try this test. If you are at home, point your left foot at an imaginary traphouse, and take swing either

right or left. Did you get in a bind and find that you could shove the barrel only so far. Now, point the leading foot out to where the most difficult target would be broken, and swing again. See how much faster and looser your swing becomes. Makes sense doesn't it?

During lunch with a first-year trap-gunner last week, I relearned another fact of shooting life. My friend is a southpaw, and I learned once more that it is difficult for a right-hander to give tips to a southpaw, or conversely, it is difficult for a southpaw to take advice from a port-sider (as many of your readers have written me over the years). But, bravely, if not confidently, I shall try to help the southpaw.

My southpaw shooter confessed that post five holds no terrors for him. It is post one that might drive him to badminton instead of trap. I tried to help him obliquely by relating that before my good years at the Grand, I once broke an 82x100 in handicap, missing 18 of the twenty targets from post five, and breaking all the rest. How did I correct the problem? By taking the advice I have just given. In the beginning of my efforts to master post five after that horrible experience in Vandalia, I exaggerated my left foot position so much that I was almost turning my back on the traphouse. It worked. I no longer trembled at the thought of post five, and as I improved, I edged the foot back into a more conventional position, as described.

I mentally switched shooting shoulders, and told my southpaw friend to point his *right* foot out into the left field on post one, to achieve the same degree of correction we port-siders do on post five. I hope it works for him, and for all southpaws.

He also voiced a problem that my travels indicate bugs most of his fellow new shooters, and that is the problem of how high above the trap to hold. He revealed that he had been holding just over the roof, and other

shooters had told him he would get better results from holding 18 inches above the house. I told him he would break more targets from a hold 18 inches over the house, and still more from three feet above the house, in normal wind conditions.

How high above the traphouse to hold is tied in with the cardinal rule of trap I mentioned earlier, which is that the less you have to move the muzzle, the more likely you are to hit the target.

Let's set up an example. The wind is blowing in toward the trap, and birds are leaving the trap at an arc of almost 45 degrees straight up. If a shooter is holding level with the top of the house, he must lift his muzzle as much as ten feet to intersect the path of the target. If the shooter began his shot from a point three feet above the house, he need only move the muzzle seven feet or less. Which gunner has the best chance to record a broken target?

Now, to reverse the conditions, let's say that the wind is from behind you and the targets are barely climbing. Naturally, you would drop your hold, so that you can shoot almost point blank at the birds. If you persist in a high hold with low targets, you can lose them behind the muzzle, which also puts zeroes on the score sheet.

To summarize, base your holding height above the house on wind conditions, or the climbing angle of the target, keeping always in mind that the less you move the barrel, the better chance you have of connecting.

Incidentally, not all shooters agree with the advice I have just offered. If, after trying it my way, you still don't hit targets, see an optometrist, get another gun, or try someone else's advice. They just might know something. The test of who is right is whether or not you break the targets. There is no rule which says how you must break the target, except by hitting it with a prescribed amount of shot, propelled by a specified amount of powder.



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## MONTY KENNEDY—STOCKMAKER

(Continued from page 23)

I was bitten by the bug a long time before that. In 1927 and 1928, Alvin Fischer ran a one man gunshop in Burbank, California." Alvin did a lot of target shooting whenever he could manage to get away from the shop, and Monty began to hang around the Fischer shop. In the usual debris of a gunshop, Monty found a Krag with the butt broken. In exchange for the privilege of hanging around the shop, Monty offered to restock the Krag and also a Model 70 that needed a new piece of wood. By putting the stock from the Winchester on the Krag and making the needed changes, Kennedy had managed to complete his first "commercial" stocking job. "Alvin was the first one to start me in the direction of commercial stocking," recalled Kennedy. The method of inletting the Krag was new to Monty, and the finished gun was not bedded solidly enough to suit Fischer. The next job Monty tackled for Fischer was another fixing-up job on a Mauser, and complete stocks soon followed. By February 1946, D.J. Kennedy was a commercial stocker with a backlog of about 20 jobs.

Craftsmen of Kennedy's caliber have certain ideas and notions, likes and dislikes, and Monty is the first one to admit having a whole passle of 'em.

"What," I asked him, "are your favorite woods?"

"I think that the very finest and also the one that is best to work with, is southern European walnut that comes from France, Italy, or Spain. Good, but not in the same class, is the California or Oregon grown English walnut." Kennedy sticks to the standard woods, such as French walnut. He cannot work up any enthusiasm for the exotic woods, and Claro walnut he won't handle. He considers it too pulpy, but admits that other stockers have had a fair degree of success with it. Monty is equally as vociferous about grip caps and forend tips in contrasting woods—they don't appeal to him, and his personal guns don't have them.

"What's your favorite finish?" I asked him. "There's only one finish, and that's oil. I now use Linseed oil, and if I could not use this finish, I'd never finish another stick." He admits that there are other finishes, that others produce some good looking finishes, but as far as he is concerned, it's an oil finish or nothing at all.

In stock designs, he prefers the con-

ventional Monte Carlo lines and the conventional forend style, although he often does jobs that are not as conservative as he likes to see them. Sometimes, but not often, a customer can persuade Monty to make a stock in a design that is not Kennedy's cup of tea. But in general, he finds that the customers who come to him and who are willing to spend the time and money on a Kennedy stock will, in the long run, accept his suggestions for stock design even though they are often the very opposite of what the gun owner originally wanted. "I've been lucky so far, none of my customers ever really complained about the stock changes I made," Monty grins, knocking on wood.

His choice of checkering runs to 24 lines per inch, although he has done a number of stocks with 26 and even 30 lines per inch checkering. "I am just one of a number of custom stockers," Monty explained. "I don't like some of the patterns others make, but this is strictly personal, and if a customer wants, I'll checker the stock that way. On the other hand, some of the stockmakers—I know them all and have seen their work and have seen them at their checkering cradles—don't like my conservative approach, but again, they'll make a stock along those lines when their customer asks for it."

Kennedy's approach to other men's work is best shown in his introductions to the various sections in his "Checkering and Carving of Gunstocks" Stackpole, 1962, \$10.00. Designed primarily as a guide for the amateur checker, this book has undergone extensive revisions in 1961, and it is probable that yet another revision will make its appearance in the next few years. In this book, he describes not only his own methods of checkering and laying out the checkering pattern, but he also gives the reader a chance to study and examine the work of other "gun handle scratchers."

"The steel butt plate has class, but it has largely been replaced by the rubber recoil pad. Whenever possible, I prefer to use a steel plate, but I now have Frank Pachmayr make up special rubber recoil pads." Offered only to a few custom stockers, these pads are the standard White Line pads but with the white line removed—Monty refers to these pads as the "No White Line" pads.

Over the years I have talked with a number of stockers, many of them

categorically refusing to attempt a Mannlicher-style stock. Some claim that there are no blanks to be found where the wood fibers run in the right direction to give the wood enough strength. Others claim that the true, two-piece Mannlicher stock with its attendant headaches of matching the grain and figure of two pieces of wood and making them stick together, especially when the gun has a hefty recoil, makes a Mannlicher stock more of a problem than the whole job is worth. Being addicted to Mannlicher stocks, I asked Monty about them.

"Mannlicher stocks are elegant, but they do present problems. First you have to consider the barrel length and barrel contour. If the barrel is too short, or has been cut short so that a Mannlicher stock can be put on it, chances are that in some calibers, especially the belted magnums, you'll get a lot of recoil and muzzle blast. And the shorter barrels often don't give adequate ballistics. Secondly, you have to find just the right stick, and that means you either take time out to shop for the right stick, or if the customer is in no hurry, then you can wait until a fine stick with suitable density comes in." Monty prefers the one piece Mannlicher stock, although he has made up several of the classic two piece stocks.

What about barrel bedding? Should it be tight, should the barrel be free-floating? A great deal has been written about the merits of the free-floating barrel, and in the old days, tight barrel fitting was the order. The fact is that some of these tightly fitted tubes have never changed their point of impact; some of these guns shoot today exactly the same way they did 10 or 15 years ago when the first test shot was fired.

"I like them tight—that is, a good, close fit between steel and wood. But I don't like the fit so tight that you can't get the barrel out of the stock without danger of splitting the wood."

What about glassbedding? "Glassbedding for repairs has its place, but for custom work as I do it, no thank you. If I can't fit a barrel and a piece of wood tightly any more, then I have no business being a custom stocker." If a stock has warped badly and glassbedding becomes essential, and the customer cannot afford to have a new stock made, then glassbedding is acceptable. However, Monty won't touch the work himself and farms it out to another stockmaker.

I had heard from several shooters who have Kennedy stocks that you had better not be in a rush when you order a stock from Monty. "How long," I asked Kennedy, "does the av-

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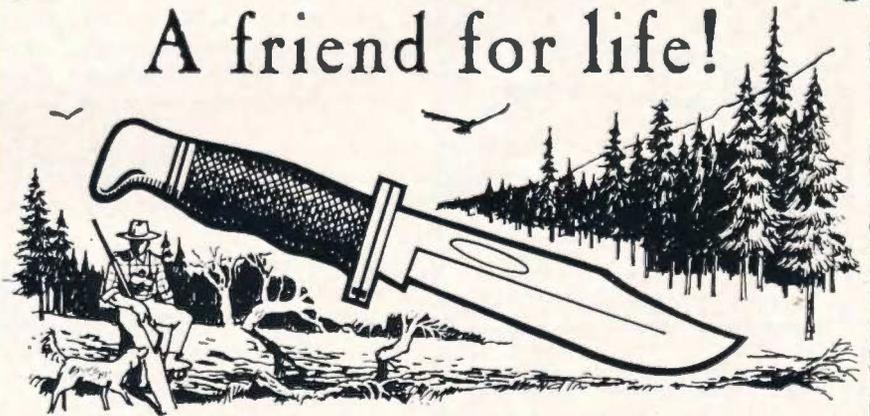


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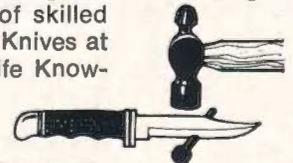
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erage stock take, complete with checkering?"

"You have to differentiate between working time and waiting time. First of all, when a job comes in, I might not have the wood on hand that the customer wants or that I want to put on the gun. Then comes the job of laying out the blank, rough shaping it, final shaping it, inletting, finishing, checkering. You have to figure as actual working time about four months as the very minimum. But the average job, including waiting time during the finishing process, runs to about eight months. Sometimes wood has to be dried, is hard to checker, or a special design is wanted. All of these specials take time, and I won't accept rush jobs." And that is understandable when you consider that Monty now has a backlog of two years' work.

How much does a Kennedy stock cost? I know of one stock that set the shooter back several hundred dollars, while another friend with a Kennedy stock claims that his Kennedy job did not break him. "There is no way to say that a stock is going to cost so much. It depends on the stick, the degree of checkering, how much fine checkering, the special features on the forend or the butt. Actually, most of the time, when I follow the customer's wishes, he is the one that sets a maximum price and most of the time I find that he is way over."

Monty's shop, about two miles outside of Kalispell, Montana, has the ideal setting. His checkering cradle is

set by a 4' x 6' picture window that faces north, giving him the best possible light and a view that would be hard to beat—the peaks of the Glacier National Park which, most of the time, are snow-capped. "When I want to rest my eyes, I look at the mountains for a couple of minutes. Sure is restful, but that stick may have to stay in the cradle an extra couple of hours, or maybe days." Monty's customers don't seem to mind waiting, and his roster of customers reads like Who's Who in the shooting world: Robert Lee, the famed African outfitter and white hunter; Fred T. Huntington, president of RCBS, Inc.; Sam May of the Apex Barrel Co. and Sam's wife have several rifles stocked by Monty—small wonder since Monty used to work for Sam at one time and is still one of the greatest .300 Apex Magnum boosters. Frank Hemsted and Joe Pfeifer, for whom Monty worked for a while, are Kennedy customers. And so the list goes—the great and the near great in the shooting world—but one name stands out especially, Audie Murphy, the WW II hero and movie actor.

What does it take to become a successful stocker? Thinking that one over for a minute, Monty mused: "Persistence, a good eye, skilled hands, and above all, a love for good wood. If you don't respect it, you can't do a good job." And what about checkering? "The first thing you need is good judgment for pleasing lines... if the design is well laid out, half the battle is won."

## .22 SUBMACHINE GUN

(Continued from page 27)

and driving spring. The .22 SMG has no extractor or ejector; these functions are performed by the gas trap (2), which holds the empty case on the face of the bolt until it has recoiled back to a point where the case is tipped off of the bolt face by a lip on the magazine, and ejected. The silencer (3) also acts to trap the gas and hold the empty case against the bolt face.

Trigger assemblies are of several different types. The double trigger arrangement (4) has the top trigger operating full automatic and the bottom trigger operating as a semi-automatic. A single trigger assembly (5) can, with interchangeable searing, operate as either semi-auto only or full auto only. With a semi-auto trigger assembly, this gun could be sold as a self-loading pistol, and would not violate the federal machine gun laws. (This is, of course, subject to examination of

the gun and interpretation by federal authorities—editor).

The barrel (6) is secured to the receiver with a large threaded nut. The front hand grip (7) attaches to the barrel, and incorporates the front sight. Several magazine styles are available; the 20-round straight clip (8); the 80-round drum magazine (9); or a 40-round, two-position feed, staggered column curved box magazine (not shown.)

The .22 Seggern SMG operates on the straight blowback principle, and fires from an open bolt. The firing pin is machined on the bolt face. The prototype models shown here are made mainly of aluminum, with the exception of the barrel liner, bolt, trigger, and sear parts. Aluminum parts were made of bar stock, but production models would utilize die cast components.

One of the prototypes has fired

more than 6,000 rounds without a malfunction, and the combination of aluminum and chrome-plated steel parts required no lubrication. The designer says that accuracy is comparable to a good plinker, and shooting full auto, all the shots can be held into a man-size target at 50 yards.

Searching for possible applications for the .22 SMG, we should first look at the ballistics of the .22 LR cartridge. The .22 LR High Velocity cartridge, with a 40 grain bullet, has a muzzle velocity of 1335 fps and a muzzle energy of 158 fp. Not impressive by today's standards, but certainly not harmless. Then, take a look at the weight of the ammunition. A case of 5,000 rounds of .22 LR weighs about the same as 800 rounds of .30-06; or 1,500 rounds of .30 Carbine. The ammunition cost differential is equally impressive. Even if purchased at commercial retail prices, you can buy almost 200 rounds of .22 LR for the



The Segger .22 SMG prototype with the semi-auto trigger assembly and 20-round clip scoped by a Bushnell.

same price as 20 rounds of .223 ammunition. This cost factor is important when you consider using the .22 SMG as a training weapon for the military.

When used as a special purpose military weapon, the light weight and compact size of the .22 SMG are all important. The gun and 1,000 rounds of ammunition would weigh only a few ounces over 10 lbs. Also, the noise level of the .22 LR is minimal compared to almost any other caliber, and with the optional silencer, the .22 SMG has a report comparable to a BB gun.

The Segger .22 SMG is still in the development stage. The design could be refined as military agencies make known their specific needs; perhaps ammo using a jacketed bullet; a higher or lower cyclic rate of fire; configuration more like existing SMG's; or even a new, hotter, rimfire cartridge. If the military can find the need or needs for such a weapon, Hans Segger is ready with his unique .22 LR submachine gun.



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## HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 16)

his other bullets, so, from time to time we'll be able to pass the results on to you here.

While we are on the subject of handgun loads, perhaps you'd like to know that Hercules Red Dot, Green Dot, and Herco do right well in that department. The shotshell handloader who loads a bit of pistol fodder will find he can do so without stocking additional powders. For example:

have an enviable reputation for reliability and accuracy. And, the Swiss spent lavishly of time and effort to fit and finish them beautifully in a day when emphasis was not upon quantity as much as quality.

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		Charge Weight (Gr.)	Approx. Veloc. (Ft/Sec)	Charge Weight (Gr.)	Approx. Veloc. (Ft/Sec)	Charge Weight (Gr.)	Approx. Veloc. (Ft/Sec)
.32 S & W Long	98	2.3	800	2.6	800	3.6	900
.357 Magnum	158	7.6	1400	7.8	1400	10.0	1400
9 mm Luger	125	5.0	1150	5.2	1150	6.0	1150
.38 Auto	130	4.7	1000	5.0	1000	6.3	1050
.38 Special	148	3.0	800	3.5	880	4.0	900
	158	4.2	900	4.5	900	5.8	950
	200	3.4	780	3.8	800	4.8	850
.44 S & W Spl.	245	5.8	840	6.0	840	8.0	900
	250	5.0	800	5.8	820	7.0	850
.44 Magnum	240	11.0	1300	11.5	1300	13.5	1400
.45 Auto	193	5.5	950	5.9	950	7.8	970
	230	5.3	800	5.7	800	7.5	850
.45 Long Colt	260	6.5	800	7.3	800	10.0	850

This same dope, along with a good bit more, is contained in Hercules' "Smokeless Powder Guide", available on request from Hercules Powder Co., Inc., Explosives Div., Wilmington, Delaware, 19899.

Yours truly first encountered shotshell powder in handgun ammunition back during the tail-end of WWII. One day some W.R.A. 9 mm ammo made for punching holes in Axis troops was broken down to salvage a few bullets to use in a 9 mm Steyr M12. The powder charge weighed a bit over 5 grains and had those familiar red flecks in it. A little research proved my guess to be correct—Red Dot had been used in a lot of domestic-production 9 mm Parabellum military ammunition. Incidentally, the ALCAN reloading manual also contains handgun loading data using the AL-series shotshell powders.

Swiss M1911 service rifles (the Schmidt-Rubin straight-pull bolt design) are again being offered by various dealers at rather low prices. While there are always some dogs in any surplus military arms lot, many of the ones we've seen from Century Arms are in excellent external shape and have perfect bores. While not of great grace or beauty, these arms

some .284 Winchester brass and a set of 7.5 mm Swiss dies (try RCBS for the latter if you can't get 'em elsewhere). Make certain the 7.5 mm expander plug is smoothly polished and has enough taper to enter the .284 case mouth.

Run the .284 case into the 7.5 mm full-length resizing die. When it comes out it should fit the 7.5 mm chamber nicely—though an occasional case may bind a bit at the head. When that happens, a little polishing is usually all that is necessary to get a fit. As it comes from the die the reformed case is ready for loading. The small-appearing rim is much less in diameter than that of the Swiss case, but the long Schmidt-Rubin extractor claw grabs it solidly. There have been no extraction problems in any of the guns I've checked.

The M1911 and later rifles are bored to use .308" diameter bullets, so any standard .30 caliber projectile will do. Here are some of the loads we used:

Bullet	Powder	Velocity
Sierra 150 gr.	3031-45.0 gr.	2800 fps
Hornady 180 gr.	4064-45.0 gr.	2570 fps
Speer 200 gr.	4350-46.0 gr.	2450 fps

By way of comparison, the Swiss  
(Continued on page 54)

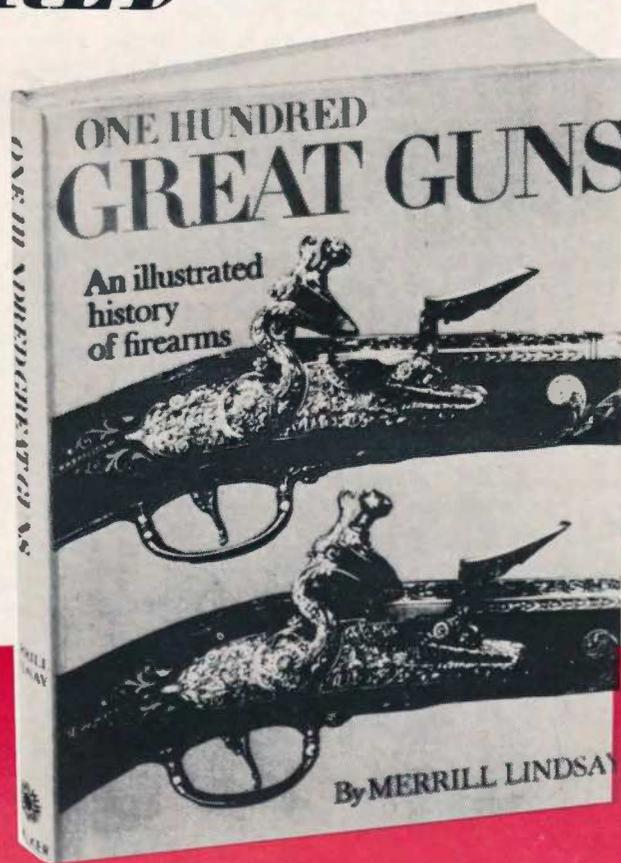
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military load drives a 174 grain pointed, full-patch bullet at about 2650 fps from the 30 3/4" barrel of the M1911 rifle—the same length as the above velocities were obtained in. Also currently available is a 23"-barreled short rifle which will probably produce 6 or 7% less velocity—we haven't chronographed it yet.

• • •

Along about this time of year its usual to be asked about snake loads—shotshell ammunition for use in assorted revolvers and, occasionally, even in big bore auto pistols. The latter is a pretty knotty problem, but light shot charges for revolvers of .38 or .357 and larger calibers are simple enough. Of course, we're not talking about 85% patterns at 40 yards—but, rather, a shot cluster that will demolish a rattler or similar varmint at ranges of a dozen feet or so.

For .38 Special and .357 Magnum, start with primed, full-length resized cases into which you've dropped a 3.5 to 4.0 grain charge of Unique. With a pencil or dowel, seat a .357" gas check, *mouth-down*, solidly on the powder. Pour in No. 9 shot to within 1/16" of the case mouth and set another gas check *mouth-up* on top. If you have a wad-cutter bulletseating punch in the seating die, run it down until it will hold the gas check solidly against the shot as the case is run into the die for a good solid crimp. Lacking a wadcutter punch, just use a dowel thrust down through the hole that normally accepts the punch.

The case will hold a shade more shot if the second gas check is used *mouth-down*—but the crimp won't hold it in nearly so well.

In .44 (Spl. or Magnum) and .45 Colt calibers, use the same method with 7.0-7.5 grains of Unique. The heavier charges of shot and powder and their attendant recoil make it essential that the over-shot gas check be very well crimped in place.

Loads assembled in this fashion shoot well enough for close-in snakes, or to discourage a camp-prowling varmint. However, if you want better patterns and greater range, a few improvements can be made. First, add 1/4" of composition filler wad between the over-powder gas check and shot charge—and that means less shot in the load. The ALCAN Co. offers pistol-caliber wads for this purpose. To go a bit further, make polyethylene shot wrappers *a la* W-W Mark V. A piece of plastic dry-cleaning bag once around the shot will reduce pellet deformation and eliminate clogging the rifling with lead.

There is a lot more that can be done to provide top shot load performance in handguns—enough to fill dozens of pages. For occasional use, though, the above loads are entirely adequate, so there is no need to spend a lot of time and money on special methods, components, and equipment—not to mention gun alterations. A dozen or so such loads in your pocket or tackle box will fix you up for the season.

As for shot loads in auto-loaders, resign yourself to paying through the nose for a handful of the full-length, brass case, M15 military .45 ACP shot load. Once fired, they can be reloaded as above, but with a .44 caliber gas check over the shot, and a card wad over the powder. Both must be used because of the slight bottle-neck case shape which won't pass a .45 cal. gas check.



## GUN RACK

(Continued from page 8)

proof" lenses. These lenses are coated with amber magnesium flouride to control internal light loss, and prisms are slotted and anchored solidly to maintain alignment. As for the "squint proof" business, the glass is blue in color and long tests over sandy stretches of waste sand during the middle of the day indicate a satisfactory lack of reflected glare.

Bushnell has probably been the first with a new sort of eyecup. These are a special convenience for the fellow who shoots and hunts with eyeglasses. The Bushnell cup has rubber eye-pieces which can be readily folded down for the gunner with specs. The Insta-Focus dispenses with these ac-

cessories. These binoculars have wide-angle lenses that require the user to place his eye at a minimum distance from the ocular lens. You can compare the wide-angle binocular to a knothole in a board fence. You've got to get your eye close to see the ball game!

Bushnell has an entirely new sort of carrying case for the Insta-Focus glasses. This one, for the want of a better name, has been dubbed the "two-legged" case. It is a soft leather form-fitter. Either barrel of the glasses slips into a "leg" of the zipper cover. This new design has a lot going for it. It can be worn on the chest where the glasses are quickly usable

by the huntsman and in this position the binocs will not chafe or rub.—Col. Charles Askins

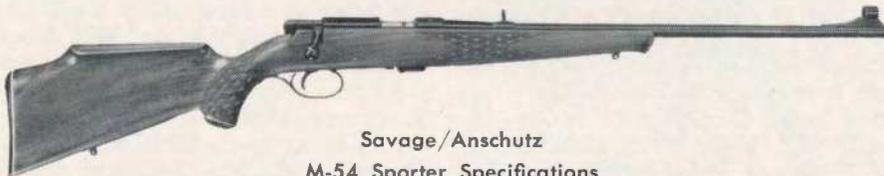
### Savage/Anschutz 54 Sporter

The new Savage/Anschutz 54 Sporter is one of the honest-to-god fancy-dan numbers. Forty years ago the Winchester Model 52 was made in a special sporting type. It was called the 52 Sporter and was not only a real

comfortable and has a swell on the right side to fill the palm of the right hand marksman. The Germans have long made these swells which they refer to as the wundhammer grip.

There are rings for sling swivels. Metal parts show a good order of finish with a deep blue. The bolt has been left in the white and, judging from the tool marks that are visible, has not been chromed.

The receiver is most securely lashed to the stock with two hefty screws. One of these attaches to the tang, the second to the receiver ring. Still a



Savage/Anschutz  
M-54 Sporter Specifications

<b>BARREL</b>	Special steel, proof-tested. Chambered for .22 long rifle only. Length 22½ inches.
<b>ACTION</b>	Match 54 action; cocks on opening. High speed ignition for maximum accuracy.
<b>TRIGGER</b>	Single stage, adjustable for weight of pull and take up.
<b>MAGAZINE</b>	Five shot clip, ten shot available .22 LR only.
<b>SAFETY</b>	Wing safety at left rear locks firing pin, bolt.
<b>STOCK</b>	Monte Carlo, of high grade French walnut. Handcheckered pistol grip, fore-end. White-line butt plate, grip cap. Sling swivel studs. Rollover check-piece, schnabel fore-end tip. Durable hand-rubbed finish.
<b>SIGHTS</b>	Front: hooded ramp with gold bead. Rear: folding leaf, folds flat for scope. Receiver drilled, tapped and grooved.
<b>LENGTH</b>	40¾ inches.
<b>WEIGHT</b>	5½ pounds.

whizzer as a shooter but was pretty too. The latest from the Savage/Anschutz makes the old 52 look mighty plain-jane. It is called the 54 Sporter and is a blood brother to the famous Model 54 match rifle. This latter is the hottest .22 target rifle in the world today. The action, heart of any firearm, is identical on both firearms.

The 54 Sporter has a light barrel, 22½" in length, chambered only for the .22 long rifle cartridge. The gun has a fully adjustable trigger and the hammer fall is one of the fastest in the world. There is a 5-shot clip; a 10-shot can be had on order. The prettiest single part of this 6-¾-lb. sporter is the stock. It comes in a high grade of selected French walnut and has a Monte Carlo with a roll-over comb for the right-hander. The skip-checkering at the pistol grip and on the forend adds measurably to the good looks.

Stock specs are for a man. The length of pull runs 13¾", with a 1" drop at the comb. This is too straight for iron sights but excellent for scope usage. The milled receiver will accept a tip-on scope mount. Better than this, the receiver has also been drilled and tapped for much more sturdy scope mounting.

The forestock tapers abruptly and at its forend is an old-fashioned schnabel tip. The pistol grip is large,

third screw, and a big one, passes through the stock and into the lump below the rear sight about three inches ahead of the receiver ring. The barrel is free floating from the rear sight forward.

A Weaver K6 scope with the new Dual X reticle was mounted on the rifle. A mount was improvised to take the four screw holes in the top of the receiver. This provided a much more sturdy rig than the usual all-too-flimsy tip-off mount. A 100 shots were fired at 100 yards from benchrest. Fifty shots with Peters Rifle Match cartridges were popped off in strings of ten shots each. The average of the five strings fell into 1.32". Fifty shots were then fired with Remington Kleanbore Rifle match cartridges. Average group size for these five strings was 1.16".

The appearance of the 54 is hurt somewhat by a forestock which is too small in diameter, tapers too abruptly and has the schanbel tip. The schnabel is a continental touch not likely to earn many kudos. We abandoned these 40 years ago as being ugly. The iron sights on this handsome rifle are somewhat superfluous. This is one of the very finest of .22 sporters. It demands a high quality scope sight. The roll-over comb is splendid for right-handers but one shooter in every sixteen is a southpaw. He cannot cope with this one.—Col. Charles Askins

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## THE MYSTERIOUS AK-47

(Continued from page 19)

in size and shape and slightly superior in performance to the German round. By 1946-47, they had adopted a short, light, semi-auto carbine—the SKS (Simonov)—to use it. Vast quantities of the SKS were produced, and today they may be found wherever Red influence is felt.

Hard on the heels of the SKS came the weapon in question, the AK-47. In concept, performance, general configuration, size, and weight it was quite similar to the German MP-43/44 series from which the Soviets had taken their lesson. Credit for the design goes to T/Sgt. Mikhail T. Kalashnikov. "AK" means, simply, "Avtomat Kalashnikov."

The design is quite conventional. It is gas operated, with piston and cylinder above the barrel to drive a heavy bolt carrier rearward in the machined steel receiver. Riding in the carrier is a very ordinary rotating bolt with front locking lugs. A curved, staggered, double-column, 30-round magazine is inserted beneath the receiver. It has a two-piece straight-line stock and separate pistol grip, and is fitted with open sights quite high above the barrel. A large safety lever is pivoted on the right side above the trigger—with three positions: top, safe; middle, full-automatic; bottom, semi-automatic.

The AK-47 was manufactured almost entirely from machined steel forgings and showed excellent workmanship. However, by our standards it was unnecessarily heavy for its cartridge (9.5 lbs. empty) and costly. It did not have a bolt hold-open device (to tell the soldier his magazine is empty) or provision for fixing a bayonet. The design did permit use of a hinged metal buttstock on weapons for issue to armored vehicle crews, paratroops, etc., where a shorter arm is desirable.

The AK-47 soon proved to be a durable and reliable weapon that required very little maintenance and care in the field. This fact that it was of conventional design—well-proven mechanisms assembled to suit a specific concept, rather than a radical departure from existing weaponry—may well be responsible for its quick success.

The Soviets consider the AK-47 effective to 300 meters in short, full-automatic bursts—and to 400 meters fired semi-automatically. While existing accuracy standards may differ slightly, the weapon was required to

place 3 out of 4 shots in 15 cm (5.9") at 100 meters in U.S.S.R. acceptance tests.

Following its adoption, the AK-47 was placed in large-scale production—not only in the U.S.S.R., but in several satellite nations as well. One military arms authority stated a couple of years ago that he estimated as many as 35 to 40 million AK-series weapons had been produced within the entire Soviet Bloc since the late 1940's. Much of this at a time when Western nations were at a virtual standstill insofar as new rifles were concerned.

In addition to the U.S.S.R., the AK-47 became the standard arm of Bulgaria, Poland, North Korea, North Vietnam, Romania, Hungary, East Germany, and Red China. In most, it is produced just as in the U.S.S.R., but Hungary has modified it slightly. Also, in East Germany it is designated MPi-K, and in Red China, Type-56. In addition to being the standard infantry weapon of many nations, it has been furnished in varying quantities to Cuba, the United Arab Republic and revolutionary and guerilla groups elsewhere.

The Czechoslovakian Model 58 rifle (chambered for the same Soviet cartridge) is so similar in appearance that it is often mistaken for the AK-47. In reality, it is an entirely different design and is of much lighter weight. In Finland, the M60 and M62 Assault rifles are highly modified copies of the AK-47 and use the 7.62 mm M43 Soviet cartridge, though they appear less like the AK than does the Czech M58. In short, within relatively few years after its introduction, the AK-47 became the most widely used and manufactured modern, selective-fire military rifle in the world. It remains so today.

The AK-47 design has not remained entirely static in the score of years since its Soviet adoption. Like any other mechanical device, it has been the subject of minor changes and improvements from time to time. That no major changes have been made in the basic design seems ample evidence of its excellent performance in the field. Its tenure as a major power's standard arm already matches that of the M1 rifle in the U.S. Even with WWII and Korea thrown in, M1 production never began to approach the quantities of AK's that have been built.

About 10 years after the AK-47 went into service, a new model ap-

peared. Called the AKM, it retained the basic AK design, but utilized a heavy-gauge stamped (pressed) steel receiver instead of the older forged-steel type. This simplified, cheapened, and sped up production, since the receiver is by far the most complex and costly part of the AK-47. It also achieved a weight saving of about 12 ounces—significant in view of Western criticism of the AK-47's weight. Apparently, though, the Soviets aren't as weight-conscious as we.

Some changes were also made in the gas system, particularly the gas-relief ports; and a rate-reducing device was added to the firing mechanism. Apparently, the two changes balance one another out, for the rate of fire remains virtually identical with that of the AK-47. There are other minor differences, such as shape and width of fore-end; phosphated rather than bright finish on bolt; etc. Regardless of all this, the AKM remains simply a lighter and cheaper AK-47, and a great deal of parts interchangeability exists between the two.

The Soviets were sufficiently pleased with the AK-47 and AKM that the RPK Light Machine Gun was developed from the basic design. Take an AKM: replace its buttstock with one of LMG style; substitute a longer (23.2") and heavier barrel; and add a folding bipod—and you have an RPK LMG. It uses a 40-round box or 70-round drum magazine, as opposed to the 30-round box of the AK-47 and AKM, but will accept the rifle magazine.

This has given the Soviet Bloc an Assault Rifle/Light Machine Gun combination in which most parts are interchangeable, and in which both use the same ammunition—something most other nations are still striving to achieve. A fair degree of success along these lines has been accomplished with the FN FAL, the CETME, and the as-yet-developmental Stoner System.

How does the AK work? **Semi-automatic fire**, with safety-selector lever in full down position, hammer cocked, bolt locked, round in chamber, loaded magazine in place. When the trigger is pressed, the semi-automatic sear and disconnector rotate. The rear of the sear (actually part of trigger) raises the end of hammer/trigger spring. As movement continues, the sear slips from hammer engaging surface. Hammer/trigger spring rotates hammer around its axis to strike the firing pin to fire the cartridge. As the bullet passes the gas port, gas bleeds into a gas cylinder and expands against the gas piston face, forcing piston and bolt carrier (connected together) to the rear. After short preliminary travel

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("dwell") of the carrier, the carrier cam acts on a bolt guide lug to rotate bolt to left, thus disengaging the locking lugs from their seats in receiver. Inertia of the heavy carrier keeps it moving to rear, drawing the bolt along, extracting and ejecting the fired case, and compressing the recoil spring.

Also, as bolt and carrier move rearward, the hammer is forced to rotate into cocked position, compressing the hammer/trigger spring. The disconnecter rotates with the hammer and the disconnecter spring forces the disconnecter to enter its notch in the hammer and hold it at fullcock. Releasing the trigger causes the hammer/trigger spring to rotate the disconnecter and semi-automatic sear to rear, releasing the hammer to rotate slightly until the cock notch engages the semi-automatic sear.

Rearward movement of the carrier is halted by the rear receiver wall, and as the bolt clears the magazine mouth, the follower spring forces a fresh cartridge up into feeding position. The recoil spring asserts itself and drives carrier and bolt forward, the latter stripping the ready cartridge from the magazine into the chamber. As the bolt approaches the barrel face, it begins to rotate to the right to engage the locking lugs in their recesses, and the extractor snaps over the cartridge rim. Continued carrier movement after the bolt halts, cams the bolt to rotate farther right, completing locking lug engagement. Carrier comes to rest against its abutment in the receiver—leaving the weapon ready for another pull of the trigger to repeat the cycle.

**Fully-automatic fire.** As above, except that the semi-automatic sear and disconnecter functions are blocked out and the full-automatic sear is rotated into position to hold the hammer at full cock, and is withdrawn by trigger movement. Then, during the carrier's final travel (after bolt locking) the full-automatic disconnecter strikes the full-automatic sear and disengages it from the hammer, allowing the arm to fire—to repeat the cycle so long as the trigger is held to the rear.

**H**OW to operate the AK? Simply shove a loaded magazine into the recess under the receiver until it snaps into proper position. Set safety-selector lever in middle full-auto or bottom semi-auto position—in top ("safe") position it prevents opening the action. Pull the operating handle (right front of receiver) fully rearward and let it snap forward under spring pressure—don't "ride" the handle. Aim, and press the trigger. If

firing full-automatic, the muzzle will begin to climb early in the burst. Recoil of single shots is moderate—in fact, only about 4½ foot pounds is produced by a fully-loaded gun—less than that of the .222 Remington Magnum cartridge in a 7-lb. rifle. It is also approximately ½ foot-pound less than the recoil of a fully loaded M16, .223 caliber rifle.

Theoretically, this makes the AK-47 more controllable in full-automatic fire than the M-16. Add to this the fact that the M-16 rate of fire ranges from 100 to 300 rounds per minute higher than that of the AK-47. This means that in a burst of given time length, the M-16 will deliver 16 to 50 per cent more recoil impulses to the firer, increasing muzzle climb a comparable amount.

**W**HAT else has the AK-47 got going in its favor over the M-16? The weight of its recoiling parts (bolt, bolt carrier/gas piston) is considerably greater than those of the M-16. This produces two effects: Less violent extraction, thus, less likelihood of the extractor pulling through a case rim when chamber and/or if ammunition is dirty; more energy available as the bolt closes, thus, greater reliability in chambering deformed or dirty ammunition, or in the event of a dirty or roughened chamber. There is also the fact that AK 7.62mm ammunition is often loaded in steel cases, making extraction more difficult but, at the same time, making the rim much more able to resist extraction forces and less likely to deform or give way and leave a case stuck in the chamber. Then, the AK uses a conventional gas piston, isolating powder fouling from the rotating and reciprocating surfaces of the bolt/carrier combination—an area where fouling causes trouble in the M-16.

In ammunition, some comparisons can be made. The 7.62mm AK bullet moves out of the muzzle at 2330 fps and 1346 fp of energy. The U. S. .223 produces 3250 fps and 1287 fp. While much has been made of the wound-producing capability of the .223 because of its relatively high velocity, ex-Captain (M.C.) Tom Bryan, now in civilian practice, states that in examining over 1,000 combat wounds, he found it impossible to differentiate between those produced by the .223, .30 Carbine, .30-06, or 7.62mm M43—even when individuals were shot at very close range where any difference should be the most evident.

So, in the final analysis, is the AK-47 better than the M-16, as is implied and stated in news stories and off-the-record utterances of some Vietnamese veterans? Depends on what

you mean by better. These questions and answers may enable you to make up your own mind:

*Is the AK more accurate (than M-16): No. Is the AK more stable in full-auto fire: Yes. Is the AK lighter or easier to carry and handle: No. Does the AK require less maintenance: Yes. Does the AK have a larger magazine capacity: Yes. Does the AK produce more severe wounds: No. Is the AK less likely to malfunction: Yes. Does the AK have a greater effective range: No. Is the AK avail-*

*able in more compact form: Yes.*

And, let me make a final statement—remember that the AK-47 has been in existence more than 20 years and that at least 30 have been made for every M-16 that's come out of Hartford, where the M-16/AR-15 has been in production only 5 years. The AK has to be good to have achieved its present status; it has to be thoroughly "debugged," after all that service and development while the M-16 can't be expected to be in such a short time.



## SCOPED HANDGUNS

(Continued from page 35)

glad to work with him.

Let's now consider the present day handguns that may be used for practical handgun hunting and which, when equipped with a scope, allow the handgunner to enjoy all aspects of handgun hunting.

In my opinion, the finest small game and varmint handgun is the XP-100 manufactured by Remington. This bolt action pistol is a single shot firearm chambered for the Remington .221 Fireball cartridge that has a proven record for superb accuracy at ranges out to two hundred yards.



One way to carry the large gun and scope is with the Bushnell holster.

Remington has endowed the XP-100 with a plastic stock and hand-contoured pistol grip that makes it a natural pointing firearm. The bolt action mechanism makes this pistol the strongest and safest handgun ever designed and built, capable of literally firing rifle cartridges to give near-rifle velocities and accuracy. The 10½" barrel has a ventilated rib with a high front sight.

In order to obtain maximum accuracy with this XP-100 the shooter must use a scope because the potential cartridge/handgun accuracy far

exceeds the accuracy potential of the iron sights. Before we get into a discussion of scope sights let me give you some data on the .221 Fireball cartridge. This cartridge resembles a shortened version of the now-famous .222 Remington cartridge. It fires a 50 grain factory bullet at a listed velocity of 2650 fps in the ten inch barreled XP-100. Muzzle energy runs a full 780 foot pounds, making it one of the top handgun cartridges. This cartridge has proven to be versatile and will handle bullets from 40 grains on up to 55 grains in handloaded ammunition giving the handloader a relatively large selection of bullets. One of the best powders for reloading is #4198. My favorite load is 16.0 grains of #4198 powder, the Nosler 55 grain ZIPEDO bullet, and CCI small rifle primers.

When equipped with a scope, this XP-100 can handle turkeys, jacks, crows, chucks, coyote, fox and even predators the size of treed bobcats and mountain lions. The choice of bullets gives the handloader the ability to let this XP-100 substitute for a saddle gun, truck gun or even long range varmint rifle.

Recoil is negligible so that women and youngsters can fire it. How the XP-100 is fired controls to a great extent the degree of accuracy that results. This is not a conventional handgun to be fired in the conventional handgun manner; rather it is a super accurate firearm that must be fired in such a way that its potential accuracy will be fully realized. This means using two hands to hold it—regardless of firing position. The shooter should make full use of all natural and artificial aids to enable him to pin-point his shots.

Bushnell, Leupold and Tasco manufacture scopes and mounts for the XP-100 giving the hunter a variety of equipment that will aid considerably in utilizing the full potential of this

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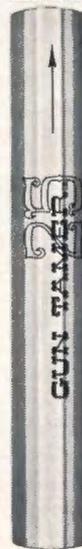


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firearm and its ammunition. Because of the type of base that must be used on the XP-100, Bushnell continues to furnish their excellent old style scope, mount and base for this handgun. This arrangement continues to use the one piece scope and mount that slide over the dovetailed base and lock on with Allen screws to give a good, solid set up that is more than strong enough to handle the light recoil of the .221 Remington Fireball Cartridge.

Leupold turns out a scope and mount that I consider to be particularly well suited to the XP-100 and in my opinion gives the shooter an exceptionally fine set up. As a matter of interest, this unit is the only one Leupold makes for use on a handgun of any kind and its rifle designed origin is obvious in the heavy, solid, rigid one piece base that locks onto the top of the receiver using the rear screw hole plus the two screw holes over the receiver ring to fasten the base securely to the receiver.

Leupold has machined shoulders into the base against which the scope rings butt so that the shock of recoil is distributed over a wide area. The two-piece scope rings lock onto the machined shoulders of the base by means of two locking levers that permit almost instant removal of the scope from the base plus use of the iron sights if desired.

Leupold sent me a scope that they call the M8-2X equipped with their Duplex crosshairs that are the finest I have ever seen for use in handgun hunting. They draw the eye in fast and then pin point the shot location through use of fine crosshairs that allow the hunter to retain full view of the game. There is no blacking out of the game at long ranges. I consider this set up one of the best for use on the long range XP-100.

Tasco uses a short base similar to the Bushnell that holds their scope locked into position with Allen screws. The crosshairs, like the Bushnell, are plain and appear to be medium. The 1.5X Tasco scope has excellent light gathering powers. I consider this new scope to be far superior to the old style Tasco.

These three scopes with their mounts and bases provide the varmint hunter with as good a handgun hunting set up as he can find and which, when combined with the .221 Remington Fireball cartridge and XP-100 pistol, can open up an entirely new and fascinating year-round sport.

The .22 Remington Jet has turned out to be a controversial cartridge that fires a 40 grain bullet at 2100 fps in the Smith and Wesson .22 Center Fire Magnum Model 53 revolver with

an 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " barrel. The shorter 4" and 6" barrels are not recommended for long range varmint hunting. It is advisable to wring out every possible bit of muzzle velocity from this little cartridge with the oddly shaped case by using the long barrel. This cartridge should never be used in a lubricated chamber due to the set back that often jams the cylinder.

When fitted with either a Tasco or Bushnell scope this handgun and cartridge combination can reach out 70 or 80 yards to bag a chuck or fox. This cartridge packs a lot more wallop than the rim fire magnum, which I consider to be underpowered for handgun varmint shooting. While not up to the performance standards of the .221 Fireball, the .22 Remington Jet is still a practical, close range, varmint hunting handgun cartridge. The 4" and 6" barrel versions of the Model 53 revolver can give the woodsman an excellent little handgun that would be ideal for the trapper or hunter living off the country in the bush. The scope will give him that extra range that is so often necessary. The best part is that he can reload this cartridge carrying a simple set of reloading tools and by using various bullets he could shoot partridge, varmints, or trapped game.

The reloader can turn out excellent ammunition using the 40 grain Speer or Hornady bullets backed by 10.3 grains of #2400 powder and the CCI Magnum primer. Or, he can use 9.5 grains of AL-8 and the CCI Standard primer.

The Ruger Hawkeye .256 Magnum handgun has been discontinued. This single action, single shot pistol can often be found in excellent condition and, in my opinion, is well worth picking up as a varmint and predator hunting handgun. The 60 grain bullet moving at 2350 fps turns out 735 foot pounds energy in an 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " barrel.

A couple of good loads for this handgun cartridge are: 60 grain Speer bullet; 18.5 grains of #4198 powder; CCI Standard primer. The second is: 60 grain Speer bullet; 14.5 grains of #2400 powder; CCI Magnum primer.

This cartridge and caliber are on the breaking point of being able to handle both varmints and some small game like javelina, jacks, coyote and similar size animals, but it should not be used on even the smallest deer or antelope. Even though equipped with a scope, it should be used basically on large varmints only. The cartridge just does not have sufficient power to down larger game.

Varmint cartridges have definite hunting limitations but when we come

to the larger center fire handguns we can, in one instance, cover almost the entire hunting field with one cartridge. For my money, this is the .357 Magnum. When handloaded, this cartridge can take anything from varmints up through mule deer in the hands of an experienced shot and can prove to be the most versatile handgun hunting cartridge on the market today. With a range of long jacketed bullets that run from around 110 grains up through the big 170 grain bullets, this cartridge, in the right handgun, can prove to be an extremely efficient hunting cartridge.

The Colt Python with its 6" barrel gives the hunter an ideal moderate length handgun that may be equipped with a scope and carried with ease. This revolver has the weight and balance to permit extremely accurate shooting at all practical handgun hunting ranges. I cannot recommend the shorter barreled models. In my opinion, a six inch barrel is the minimum length in which slow burning handgun powders should be used. There is no advantage to using a slow burning powder in a short barrel because much of the powder potential will be lost as unburned powder, contributing nothing to the bullet velocity. After all, it is bullet velocity plus bullet construction that determines to a great degree how efficiently the bullet downs game.

Next is the Colt Single Action—the classic handgun—and the choice of many handgun aficionados for hunting. You can buy this revolver with a 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " barrel that proves to be close to the ideal because the barrel length burns powder well in addition to cushioning recoil.

The Ruger Blackhawk has a maximum barrel length of 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". This is another single action revolver that fits into the hunting picture well and one that is carried by many handgun enthusiasts. Both the Colt and the Ruger single action mechanisms should be worked over by a competent gunsmith so they can handle long range shots just as precisely as any double action revolver.

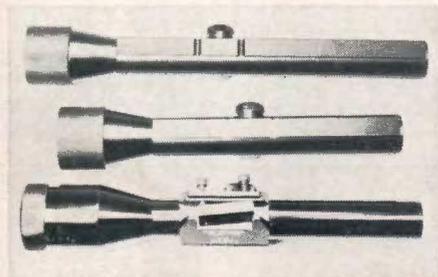
Smith and Wesson manufactures its Model 27 in a variety of barrel lengths but for a hunting handgun I would highly recommend choosing the 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " barrel which enables the hunter to obtain superb long range accuracy plus maximum efficiency from the cartridge when firing high velocity handloads.

For all practical hunting purposes I have found that the following handloads will do the job well. *Varmints up to 150 yards:* 1) International Bullet 125 grain Nuro-Shok bullet; 16.0

grains #2400 powder; CCI Magnum primer. 2) Speer 125 grain bullet; 17.0 grains #2400 powder; CCI Magnum primer. *Large Varmints and small game:* Speer 146 grain bullet; 15.0 grains #2400 powder; CCI Magnum primer. *Big game at ranges under 100 yards:* 1) Speer 160 grain bullet; 15.0 grains #2400 powder; CCI Magnum primer. 2) International Bullet 170 grain Nuro-Shok bullet; 15.0 grains #2400 powder; CCI Magnum primer.

The .41 Magnum has stirred up quite a lot of controversy because it falls between the .357 Magnum and the big .44 Magnum so that everyone can, if desired, attack the .41 from either side. Nonetheless, the .41 Magnum has proven to be an excellent hunting cartridge whether fired in the Ruger Single Action Blackhawk with a 6½" barrel or in the Smith and Wesson with an 8¾" barrel.

The following loads have given me good results in the field. 1) Speer 200 grain bullet; 19.0 grains #2400 powder; CCI Magnum primer. 2) International Bullet 210 grain Nuro-Shok



The two Bushnell scopes and the Tasco use similar short bases that fit to the XP-100 via Allen screws.

bullet; 18.0 grains #2400 powder; CCI Magnum primer. These loads are excellent varmint and small game loads despite the fact that the .41 is a bit large for small varmints.

The following loads will handle game up through black bear, mule deer, bear and sheep. 1) Speer 220 grain bullet; 17.5 grains #2400 powder; CCI Magnum primer. 2) International Bullet 235 grain bullet; 16.5 grains #2400 powder; CCI Magnum primer. Both Bushnell and Tasco scopes and mounts fit the above cal. .41 Magnum handguns.

The two big .44 Magnum handguns can be chosen pretty much by personal preference. For the single action aficionado the Ruger Super Blackhawk is a superb hunting handgun that takes both the Bushnell scopes and the Tasco scope. For the double action fan the Smith and Wesson Model 29 is hard to beat. Again, both Bushnell and Tasco scopes may be used on this revolver. Because of the size and power of the .44 Magnum cartridge it cannot be classed as a varmint cartridge although the fol-

lowing load has proven deadly on the larger varmints and small game. Speer 225 grain bullet, hollow point; 22.5 grains #2400 powder; CCI Magnum primer.

A load using: International Bullet 230 grain Nuro-Shok solid nose; 22.0 grains #2400 powder; CCI Magnum primer, is not recommended for varmint shooting because the big bullet will generally penetrate chucks, fox and similar varmints. However it will give good performance on javelina.

An intermediate load that may be used on large or small game is: Speer 240 grain bullet; 21.0 grains #2400 powder; CCI Magnum primer.

I have found that the International Bullet 260 gr. Nuro-Shok bullet with solid nose, 20.0 grains of #2400 powder, and CCI Magnum primers produces an ideal load for the big game hunter. If the shooter can handle the recoil and properly place the bullet, this load will do its part.

The newest handgun suitable for hunting is the Thompson/Center "Contender." This is a single shot pistol which is available with interchangeable barrels in a wide variety of hunting calibers, including the .22 Jet; .22 Hornet; .38 Special; and .357 Magnum. The Contender is highly suited to scope mounting, and has a grooved barrel top to accept several mount styles. The 10" and 8¾" barrels are made to order for the handgun hunter who will be reloading.

The basic differences between the Tasco and Bushnell scopes, mounts and bases are best illustrated by comparing them, step by step, on the big Smith and Wesson Magnum revolvers. First of all, the Tasco scope contains an integral mount that is attached to the base by means of a machined, sliding dovetail controlled by two screws. As the screws are tightened the dovetail block is drawn up into the base. Further, the two screws fit through the base to add further strength and to prevent the scope from moving forward or backward under recoil.

The Tasco base fits tightly into the rear sight base, machined into the tops of the revolver frames. The base is locked into the cut by means of two screws.

Bushnell, on the other hand, has now designed everything into the scope base that acts both as a base and mount. The scopes have been streamlined with dovetail cuts machined in the scopes themselves with half round cuts in the bottom of the scopes to permit the base screws to lock the scope into place. Bushnell has two scopes—a small one of 1.3X and a

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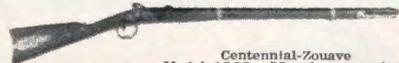
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larger one of 2.5X both designed for use with handguns.

Bushnell had adopted their rifle-type scope bases to pistol use utilizing their tapered studs of chrome-moly steel to provide a base for the mount. These studs screw into the top of the handgun frame after the iron sight assembly has been removed. The scope base then fits down over these studs to lock solidly into place by means of four Allen screws.

The scope slides into place on the base and is then retained in place by the two screws that pass entirely through the base, from side to side, at the same time fitting into the half round cuts machined into the base of the scope itself.

Despite the differences in basic designs, both the Bushnell and Tasco scopes end up about the same height above the frame. Neither scope moved during my tests.

When a long barreled, large caliber handgun is combined with a scope, the resulting firearm is both heavy and unweildy. To hunt with it you must carry it with you. But how? One school of thought recommends just plain carrying it in the hand or in a case until game is sighted. Another group believes that the scoped handgun should be carried in a holster. If

the country is rough, both the handgun and scope must be protected and a well made holster is necessary.

During the above tests I worked with two Bushnell holsters and one Seventrees holster. The Bushnell shoulder holster keeps the handgun pretty much out of the way giving a modified cross draw effect. The hunter can move, stand or run without difficulty while wearing it, and this particular holster will not flap or strike the body. This holster design securely holds the gun close in to the body.

The Bushnell belt holster may be worn forward of the right hip but a heavy solid leather belt should be used to carry it. My specially designed Seventrees belt handled the big XP-100 in the holster but after several hours of working with it I could feel the strain.

The Seventrees holster for the XP-100 is a shoulder holster that rides well under the arm giving the handgun extra protection. Because of the design it held the XP-100 comfortably yet tightly into the body so that the pistol rides firmly and evenly. None of these holsters are cheap but I consider the investment as well justified if any amount of hunting will be done with the big scoped handguns.

## BROWNING HI-POWER

(Continued from page 22)

make a recoil cushion out of the recoil spring guide. This type of kick inhibitor has worked very successfully in .45 pistols and there is no reason why a similar idea wouldn't work in the Hi-Power.

All that remains to convert old *Grande Puissance* into a target pistol is to hang on a pair of custom stocks, possibly a trigger shoe, and some adjustable sights. And what do we have when done? As sweet-shooting a handgun as ever came out of a shop. The gun is inherently accurate, and can be made more accurate by the do-it-yourself pistol enthusiast. Groups already tight are closed in still more by these simple gunsmithing changes. It is pleasant to shoot, having neither heavy recoil nor muzzle blast. It packs 13 lethal doses in one loading and is unbelievably reliable even under the most adverse conditions.

Recently I had a chance to check out the Browning's reliability. Canadian Industries, Ltd., maker of "Dominion" ammunition, asked me to test-fire a batch of 9 mm ammunition. A cart-load of assorted pistols was

begged and borrowed, including a half-dozen Brownings. It seemed impossible to make these guns hang up, short of deliberate abuse. On every single shot the Brownings did their stuff.

Among the tests the Canadian Brownings passed was one given them before the model was adopted by the Canadian army. Two pistols were completely stripped down, the parts scrambled in a box, and the lot dumped into a sand pit. A box of ammunition followed. Next, men were marched and counter-marched over the sand pit. Then two instructors were told to assemble and load the pistols. After the pistols were assembled with clips filled and inserted, they were ordered to lock the slides back so that the actions might be subjected to an additional baptism of sand. One not-too-energetic shake was all that they were allowed to clear the guns before the slides were set in battery and firing commenced. The order was for rapid fire until the ammunition was exhausted.

The guns stood up magnificently. Although a certain amount of gritting

and gnashing of moving parts could be heard, there were no stoppages or malfunctions. But this was not surprising; the reputation of the Brownings for reliability had stood for many years.

Reliability, accuracy, and large magazine capacity were all demanded by the French government back in the early 20's when the Browning Hi-Power was born. Original models for this gun are hammerless, with a spring-loader striker. A rumored "short" version of the basic GP model, supposedly made for the French Indo-Chinese troops, is described as having a 10-shot magazine and shorter slide. No such model has ever been found, although there is a rare variation of the Hi-Power that appears to have been made for French test in 1936. It has a standard clip, and is chambered for the French .32 Long caliber. But this rare model pistol, which resembles a scaled-down Hi-Power is not related to the design of the bigger pistol. By 1927 the gun was fairly well standardized in design.



Custom Herret grips on a Canadian Hi-Power helped hike target scores.

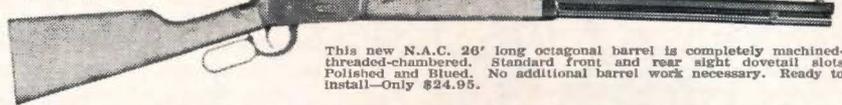
Then the death of inventor John Browning at the factory in Belgium postponed its manufacture nearly a decade. Finally, in 1935, the Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre issued the G.P., last of Browning's inventions and one of the most famous pistols of the age.

Production models of the Hi-Power are fundamentally similar, but variations exist. Pre-war Belgian commercial guns are of two basic types. The civilian model has a fixed rear sight and rounded slide top. This is a fairly scarce gun. Another, fitted with a tangent military leaf sight and with the frame slotted for a shoulder stock, was made for military and police use. Lastly, in Belgium, the fixed-sight model was produced in great quantity for the German Army as a substitute standard pistol. Since the war, only the fixed-sight model has been made.

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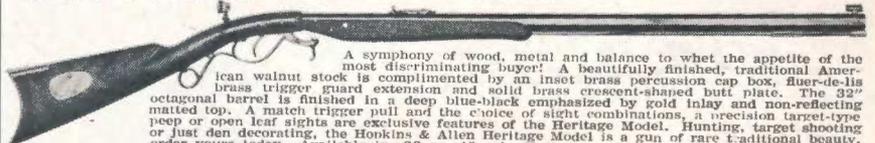
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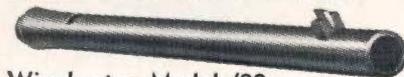
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The rest of the Browning pistol family has its branches first in China, and then Canada. The Chinese army before World War II was equipped with Belgian-made Hi-Powers. When the Germans overran Belgium, the Canadian boiler-making firm of John Inglis & Co., Ltd., of Toronto, contracted to manufacture Browning pistols for the Chinese national government. Four or five Belgian shoulder-stock guns were shipped to Inglis by China and it was from these that Inglis draughtsmen made their working drawings.

These Chinese Brownings were identical to the military Belgian gun except in finish. Canadian Brownings had a dull, sand-blasted finish and black plastic grips, while the Belgian guns were finished in a fine, glossy blue with checkered walnut stocks. The Inglis name of course replaced the Fabrique Nationale markings. Inglis started making Brownings in 1943. In all, they turned out approxi-

created a model stamped "Mark I\*" or "Mark one star."

Two types of stocks are fitted to Brownings. The first model, Belgian commercial or military, is a flat wood board with a leather flap holster riveted to it. The flap either buttons over a brass stud or is held by a wire loop on the body of the holster, with a leather strap passing through the loop. The second type of holster was made for Chinese use. It is completely of wood and carries the pistol inside, like the military Mauser. Original Browning holsters are very rare, but the all-wood Chinese version made in Canada is common.

With so many different makes and sources for Brownings, there might be some question about quality. Let it be said that, like whiskey, there are no bad Browning Hi-Powers. Some are just better than others. Pre-war Brownings, civilian and military, are superb. Quality of materials was above reproach and their workmanship and finish is invariably of the highest possible order.



These "before and after" shots show the tighter group attained after the proper modifications.

mately 152,000 pistols. Not all were the same model, however.

After their Chinese contract, Inglis began to manufacture Brownings for the Canadian armed forces, for the Greek government, and for the British. The majority of these arms had fixed sights and no stock cut. A visible change from the pre-war fixed-sight Browning was the sight base, a heavy lump at the rear of the slide on the Inglis guns. This was an improvement, and was the only purely Canadian feature in their design. The big lump allows these Canadian pistols to be fitted easily with Micro adjustable target sights, since all that is needed is to cut a dovetail on the slide. Basic Canadian-British guns are designated "Mark I," but in late pistols the shape of the ejector and relocation of the hammer strut to speed up lock-time

Some of the postwar Brownings are not as smooth as their pre-war counterparts. In some the slides permit too much lateral play, even for military-type pistols. In others, the trigger pull breaks at a nice, clean 25 pounds. On the credit side it must be admitted that, if due care is taken in selecting the individual gun, a couple of hours of tinkering will give mighty smooth shooting.

The Canadian pistols are tops in quality, too. But Inglis guns were never made commercially, and it is no use writing to them in hopes of obtaining a leftover—they just aren't to be had. But myths are already circulating about the Canadian guns. The first myth is that the Canadian Browning is tougher than its Belgian brother. This arose from the fact that Canadian pistols use the same ammu-

dition as the Sten gun—the implication being that if a handgun could digest submachine gun ammunition, it automatically became possessed of almost “magnum” qualities.

This is not true. The Belgian gun will handle Sten ammunition with exactly the same degree of safety as the Canadian pistol.

The second myth is that the Canadian pistol has some secrets of design; that it was built specifically around the Sten load. Again, false. The gun was adopted in the first place because of its inherently safe handling of the Sten load. As put up in Canada these 9 mm's generate a muzzle velocity from 1340 feet per second up to as high as 1478 f.p.s., depending on the run of ammo. Pressures with the Sten vary, from an average of 35,820

pounds per square inch to a recorded high of nearly 40,000. There are no hard and fast rules about the wisdom of using machine gun ammunition in a Browning. Even the slave labor guns have handled the stiff Canadian and German service loads satisfactorily. But for plinking or target practice the constant use of Sten ammunition would give the pistol an unnecessary pounding.

Probably the wisest course would be to use the light commercial Winchester or Remington ammo for plinking and target shooting—it is ample in power. But for any heavy-duty chore you have in mind, by all means use a Sten load. You'll find the Browning is a true friend, with thirteen good hearts in his body.



## SHOTGUN LOCK-UP

(Continued from page 25)

everything else it is handsome. It contributes to a sleek, streamlined sort of look and when the owner wants some engraving added the thing offers a lot more surface to embellish.

Against the sideplate lock is the serious disadvantage of a weakness in the stock. So much wood must be whittled out of the stock at its smallest and most puny end, the splinters left must be treated with great solicitude else the bits and pieces will commence to split away and then there is hell to pay sure enough!

There are, generally speaking, two kinds of sidelocks. There is the bar action sidelock which carries the mainspring ahead of the tumbler. Then there is the back action sidelock which has its mainspring behind the tumbler. This one is always considered the better because it does not require so much metal to be removed from the action body to permit the free movement of the mainsprings. It is significant that on the heavy kicking guns, the big magnum smoothbores and the bigbore express rifles, the action is almost always the back action type.

The Germans, before the Great War, made what they called the Blitz action for their finer scatterguns. This design mounted the tumblers, sears, springs, and the trigger group on the trigger plate. This was unique and took a lot of brilliant engineering. The greatest fault with the Blitz action was that it necessitated the whittling away of even more stock wood than did the sideplate jobs. Since the war I have not seen any

Blitz designs out of West Germany. These days their models are box locks.

Today, the double barrel in this country is a box lock. The magnificent Model 21 is made that way; so is the Fox-Savage. Marlin has recently introduced a new version of the L. C. Smith; it has always had a sideplate lock. But the coming double in this country is the over/under.

The Browning has a bolting system which employs a single lump below the lower tube. Operation of the top lever withdraws a wedge of steel from a recess machined into the under lump. The cut is tapered, the wedge is likewise tapered, and as the lock wears the latter bites deeper and deeper into the recess. I have never seen a Browning shoot loose. The Winchester Model 101 O/U has precisely the same lockup. So do many other superposed models, including the new Franchi “Aristocrat” skeet gun.

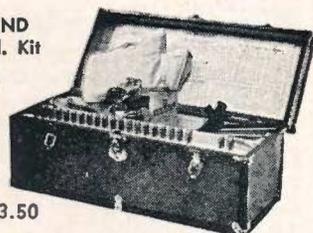
We are a nation of repeating scattergun users. The double barrel shotgun is still selling in good numbers, and the over/under is gaining popularity. For all that, Americans are shooters of autoloading and pump repeating smoothbores.

There isn't anything new about either. We've had scatterguns that would go rattly-bang since the 19th Century. The first really good ones were the Winchester Model 12 pump and the Remington Model 11 auto-loader, both developed by the remarkable Browning. The Model 12, very probably the best pump-action ever made, locks up at the butt end

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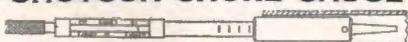


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of the breechbolt. During the very tag end of the closing movement, the rear end of the breechlock is cammed upward and comes to a firm stop in a recess milled into the very top of the receiver. It is a good lock and a secure one.

The Remington Model 11 has a lock which is a part of the breechbolt. As the breechblock slams home, the lock is cammed upward and wedges into a cut in the barrel extension. When the gun is fired the barrel, barrel extension, and the breechbolt travel backward as one. On nearing the end of the rearward travel the lock is cammed out of its recess in the barrel extension and the barrel and its extension slam back into battery. The breechbolt comes along a mite later, having first ejected the empty and picked up a live round as it journeys forward. The system is a whale of a good one, and as sure and certain as judgment day. Both the Model 11 automatic and the Model 12 pump, you will note, have a sum total of one latch each.

Here more lately we've gotten quite a bit more fancy about how we breach up our modern fowling pieces. Winchester all but relegated the Model 12 to the museum at New Haven and in its stead have a brand new pump-action. This is the Model 1200. Instead of one latch, it now has four, and these are situated at the end of a bolt which rotates. This is pretty revolutionary and is also an improvement. For the truth is, this makes for the strongest shotgun action ever developed. The action is very reminiscent of rifle actions and if the barrel was made as heavy as we put on our high-intensity rifles this action would tak pressures of 50,000 psi.

There is also a new Winchester automatic, the Model 1400, and it uses an identical lock-up. At the front end of the breechlock is a rotating bolt-head. This head has four lugs, located circumferentially about the bolt. When the gun fires, the breechblock moves back under the impetus of its gas system but the bolt head does not rotate until the pressures in chamber and barrel have subsided to safe limits. Then it rotates and commences to move backward in the ejection-reloading cycle. The four lugs turn in a barrel extension and because of the design give the cartridge head more support than any repeating shotgun.

The Armalite Co., developers of the present M-16 service rifle, have a shotgun which also utilizes the turning bolt as a lock-up. As with the new Winchesters it is tremendously strong.

Remington has not been asleep at the switch and the new automatic and the equally new pump repeater, the first the Model 1100 and the latter the Model 870, feature new lock-up systems. Instead of a turning bolt head and many lugs, Remington's designers just use one. This lock is up forward in the breechbolt and under camming force moves into a recess cut in the barrel extension. It functions perfectly, is as strong as it needs to be with a great margin of safety, and accounts for long trouble free operation. A happy feature of the Remington design is that an endless number of strange barrels can be slapped into the Remington action, and without any headspace adjustments or trips to either factory or local gunsmith, the gun functions perfectly.

## COLT LONG ARMS

(Continued from page 33)

deer gun until you get an appraisal!

Colt began to feel the pinch of very stiff rifle and shotgun competition early in the 1890's. By 1895 the big-bore Lightning model rifles were taken off the market. In 1900 the shotguns and medium-frame Lightning model fell by the wayside, and three years later production of the .22 rifle ceased.

Those who directed the Colt fortunes saw the handwriting on the wall as the 20th century began its fateful course and had built up experience in a new market—supplying the government with rapid-fire weapons. As manufacturers of Dr. Richard J. Gatling's crank-operated "terrible gun which shoots all day," Colt had begun

a modest production of this forerunner of the machine gun as early as 1867. Dr. Gatling moved to Hartford in 1874 and thereafter all American production of his famous many-barreled gun was undertaken in those brick buildings of the Colt factory at Hartford near the bank of the Connecticut River.

The Gatling guns were made in a variety of calibers from a 1 inch shell down to the 6 mm Navy, but the greatest number were chambered for the .45-70 government cartridge. Some models had an exposed cluster of barrels; on others the barrels were encased in a cylindrical bronze cover.

Gatling guns were reported in government service from the Rio Grande

to the Saskatchewan in Canada. They became a part of the Custer controversy, for if Custer had not left his Gatling guns behind when he hurried to disaster on the Little Big Horn the outcome of that fight might have been very different.

Dr. Gatling died on February 26, 1903, his invention responsible for a heightened world-wide interest in rapid-fire military arms. As Dr. Gatling had been approaching the sunset of his life, a brilliant new inventor appeared on the scene—John Browning of Ogden, Utah.

A start on machine guns had been made in 1885 by Hiram Maxim, an American residing in England. About 1895 this gun was adopted by the British government and it was made for a number of years by the Vickers Company.

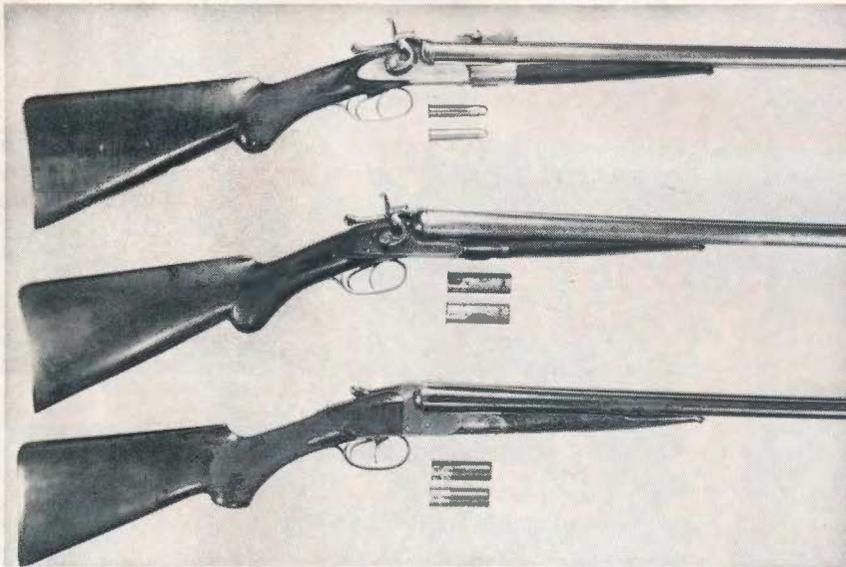
In the same year that production was started on the recoil-operated Maxim gun, Browning invented his

Browning models, Colt also manufactured machine guns on the Vicker and Benet-Mercie systems. Then came a variety of machine rifles, sub-machine guns, the B. A. R. automatic rifles, aircraft guns and automatic cannon.

Under the weight of heavy competition in the sporting arms field and the military demands for heavier arms resulting from two World Wars and stepped up armaments around the world, a half century was to slip past before shoulder arms of sporting type were to reappear on Colt manufacturing schedules.

In 1957 there appeared the "Colt 57" bolt action sporting rifle. It was the traditional sporter design and built on the popular Mauser action. The first calibers available were .30-06 and the relatively new .243.

Later in 1957 Colt introduced a single shot .22 caliber bolt action rifle they called the "Colteer." Originally



From top: Colt's rare .45 caliber double barrel rifle; the hammer shotgun offered first in 1878; the hammerless model, 1883.

gas-operated machine gun. A long and profitable association for Browning and Colt was begun when Colt obtained manufacturing rights for Browning's machine guns. Colt's first gun of this type was put on the market in 1898 and was generally referred to as "The Colt Gun." It was a .30 caliber belt-fed gun supported by a tripod, on one leg of which was fastened a bicycle seat—a rather crude affair by today's standards, but at that time quite an innovation. The U. S. Ordnance Department ordered 75 in 1900 and 80 more the next year.

Once the manufacture of machine guns was started, the pace soon rapidly increased. In addition to the

chambered for the regular .22 rimfire cartridges, several years later it was also chambered for the .22 RF Mag.

After a year of manufacture the "Colt 57" rifle, with some improvements, became the "Coltsman" and it soon was offered in a variety of calibers from .223 to .375 magnum, with optional stocking and sights.

In addition to the single shot .22 rifle, a "Colteer" .22 autoloader carbine now made its appearance. The tubular magazine had a capacity of 15 long rifle cartridges. It was a trim little gun, weighing only 4¾ pounds, with an overall length of 37 inches. Recently a glamorized version of this

(Continued on page 69)

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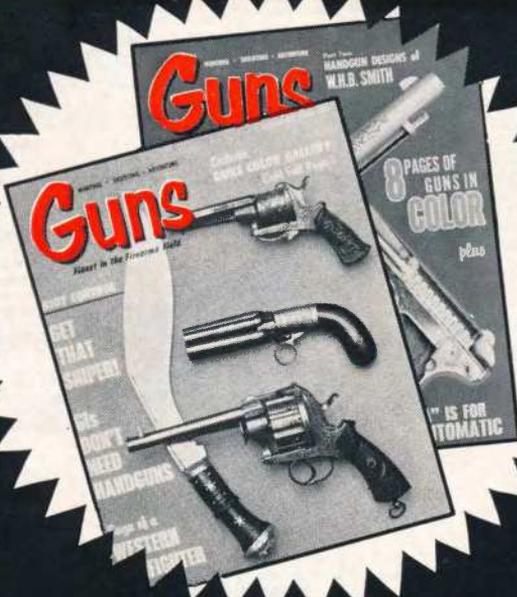
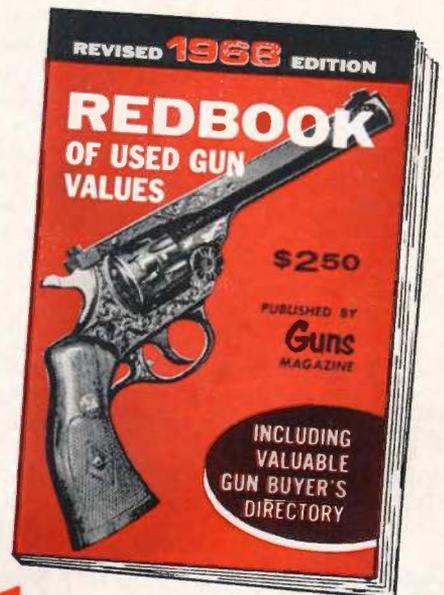
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(Continued from page 67)

rifle has been introduced which is called the "Stagecoach .22 Autoloader." On the left side of the receiver there is engraved the stagecoach hold-up scene once roll-engraved on the cylinder of Colt's Model 1849 cap-lock pistols. The "Stagecoach" rifle is a bit shorter—33¾ inches overall—with a correspondingly lower magazine capacity of 13 rounds.

Shotguns also have been restored to Colt production, and two models are offered—a pump action gun and an automatic model. Either type may be had in standard or custom grades, with the customary options of gauge, choke, barrel length, and chamber depth.

With the passage of time, change is inevitable for most big businesses. Ownership of the Colt company has passed into a corporation with greatly expanded interests of which the firearms division is only one; but it is a tribute to the Colt reputation that the enlarged enterprise has adopted the corporate name *Colt Industries, Inc.*

The firearms division of Colt Industries at Hartford continues to produce, as it has for approximately 120 years, the handguns for which the company has long been famous. And they are again in the field of sporting shoulder arms. The third area of Colt's major contribution to weaponry—rapid-firing military weapons—has not been neglected either. Most prominently mentioned of late is the Colt combat rifle, known as the M-16.

The M-16, capable of a great volume of very rapid fire, has experienced some functional and ammunition problems in combat under very adverse conditions, and these are being remedied. It is regarded as the army's most effective combat rifle for Viet Nam's jungle fighting.

For many years the Colt name has been synonymous with firearms. For the shoulder arms, especially sporting models, there have been periods of non-production, but since activities started at Hartford in 1848 any slack in one field of Colt production has usually been taken up in another. Other than Springfield Armory, few plants could equal Colt's contributions to the national defense. The Colt production of sporting shoulder arms, while not comparable with the overall success attained by Remington and Winchester, did become a substantial factor in the shoulder arm trade. As Colonel Colt had hoped, the company he had launched with a few dollars, hard work, and boundless faith had won widespread recognition as rifle-makers even though this role was overshadowed by its pre-eminent position as pistol-makers.

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## ALL-AROUND RIFLE?

(Continued from page 29)

India, weighing about 85 to 95 pounds on the hoof. This beautiful little animal is now available to hunters in this country. The big Y-O ranch in Texas has a considerable herd of them and this was where I went to hunt.

The rifle I selected to use on this game animal was the new .240 Weatherby Magnum. The factory loads bullets of 70, 90 and 100 grains for it. The velocity of all of these is extremely high for a 6 mm caliber. I knew hydrostatic shock would be a factor. I chose the 100 grain Norma load as I knew from past experience with my 6 mm's that the bullet was structurely tough and would penetrate well in large deer or even elk before opening up too much. I hoped that in the case of this small animal it would hold together entirely, if I placed it through the lung area, and kill without spoiling meat or hide. That is exactly what happened. The lungs were completely destroyed by hydrostatic shock and there was only a small round hole on either side of the animal.

Actually, the hunter of North American game doesn't need a long list of many calibers, cartridges, and bullets for successful hunting. Two or three should be sufficient, but I do think we need that much of a choice to do a good job on all animal types. A good rule to go by is to always carry the rifle size and cartridge best suited for the largest game one may run into. It may be more than is necessary for the smaller, less dangerous game, but will do the over-all job safer and better. This applies to hunting all over the North American continent. In many areas, there is really no dangerous game and the selection of a rifle cartridge combination adequate for the largest type game you are hunting is a matter of personal preference. Any of the .30-06 case head size type cartridges from the .270 Winchester up, will be sufficient. In the magnum case head sizes, this can start with the 6.5 Remington Magnum and run up through the .30 caliber magnums. The .338, the .350 and the .358 Magnums, I feel, are unnecessarily large in caliber size, although some shooters like them and use them well.

A good varmit rifle is one with fairly low recoil, that is flat shooting, uses bullets that disintegrate easily (for safety measures in built-up areas) and has a reasonably low report. These take in the various .224

caliber sizes, with the 6 mm's used less frequently, and then only with varmint bullets. Other caliber cartridges that are used to kill predators such as wolves and coyotes are usually used only when a hunter is hunting bigger game and is the caliber that he has at the time. A good hunter does not go after varmints and predators armed with an elephant gun.

The trend in all new cartridges is moving towards producing a smaller diameter bullet that gives higher velocities. A good example of this is the growing popularity of the .17 caliber. Although many cartridge cases are being wildcatted to the .17 caliber, the most popular are the .222 case head sizes. These start with the .221 Remington Fireball and include the .222, the .223 and .222 Magnum cases. The .221 case is probably the most efficient of any of these, and bullets in the lighter weights reach 3800 fps. The .222 Magnum case is merely necked down and then called the .17 Magnum. It develops as much as 4700 fps using very light bullets. If one uses a medium weight bullet, 25 grains, you get about 3900 fps, a more realistic figure. Varmint kills out to 300 yards can be made with it. The additional speed compensates for the smaller caliber and still seems to give nearly the same efficient kills as the .224. Wind drift of the light 25 grain bullet, contrary to what one would expect, is not very different from the various .222's. This is due to the higher velocity of the .17's and the fact that the sectional density of the 25 grain bullet is nearly the same as for the 55 grain .244 bullet.

There is no good reason why anyone should try to make one rifle cartridge combination do for every job. The man who says that a .458 Winchester Magnum can be loaded down for rabbits and up for elephants could just as well argue that a 30-ton truck could take care of every kind of transportation problem, from one person to a locomotive. It certainly could, but who wants to go to church in a 30-ton truck.

It is no longer a matter of economy or expediency for a man to own only one rifle, and very few do. About 95 percent of all rifle sales are in calibers from .30 caliber down to .17 caliber. The .338's and up are special purpose rifles and certainly have their place in the world of guns, but not as a "perfect all around cartridge."

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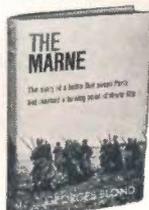


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## POINT BLANK

(Continued from page 12)

as the M-1 it did not let go. The fact that the bullet was .323" in a tube only .308" did not matter. During the first few inches of travel with breech pressures around 80,000 psi, that .32 caliber slug got sized down. And quick-like! It has been done since as a test and not once but numerous times and in good stout turning bolt rifles nothing happens. Obturation is good because of the fit of the 7.9 in the '06 chamber and the only squeeze is on that big bullet! What the resized slug hits after it gets out of the bore is, of course, another thing.

Another one of interest is the business of shooting the .308 Winchester in the '06. The .308 is about a half-inch shorter than the older cartridge and ordinarily any thinking individual would never drop the shorter cartridge into the older gun. But it has happened. More than that the curious—including this experimenter—have fired the .308 just to see what would happen. Despite the fact that it is usually stated that the .308 is the '06 simply shortened, in truth it is not. The heads on the two cases are practically the same; the .308 is .470" while the '06 is .473", but the .308 has a case with less taper to it. At the shoulder it runs .448" while the '06 is only .441". Of course the shorter cartridge does not reach the '06 shoulder so it will chamber in most .30-06 ri-

fles. I say most for I have some rifles with chambers which run to the minimum size and these will not take the .308. Others will.

To be sure of firing, I always feed the round up out of the magazine and am thus assured that the extractor has snapped over the head of the case. If you do not do this you are likely to get a misfire. The firing pin will drive the cartridge up into the chamber and it is then not only difficult to remove but somewhat hazardous, too. When the extractor snaps over the extraction groove the round will fire. Obturation is good and while accuracy is sketchy there are no hazards involved.

The .300 Savage, a kissin' kin of the .308, can be fired the same way. The .300 Savage has a case head that goes .470", a length of only 1.875" and a dimension at the shoulder of .449". It will chamber, and as with the .308 must be caught beneath the extractor to be sure of ignition.

An interesting thing about these shorty rounds in the longer chamber is that every last iota of the shoulder is blown out. The case, when it is removed, is fire-formed to a cylinder from head to mouth. Splits at the shell mouth are common.

These are stunts. They are not to be tried. They are not recommended for duplication.

## OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON

(Continued from page 17)

with the young hoodlums.

On Capitol Hill, the lawmakers adjourned early the day of the violence. It was officially declared a short day in respect to Dr. King. But there is the shocking possibility that fear added to the adjournment. Not that the violence would come to the Capitol grounds for there was nothing there the looters wanted. But, obviously, the lawmakers knew they and their employees would have to move through the city to reach home.

It was in this atmosphere that Congress enacted some gun legislation into law and moved other anti-gun legislation toward enactment. The law enacted relates to firearms and civil disorders.

The law was an amendment to the Civil Rights Bill. In the first session of the 90th Congress, the House

passed the legislation after holding public hearings. There were attempts to attach anti-gun amendments to the measure on the floor, but the move was rejected. Passed and referred to the Senate for additional hearings, the measure was amended in committee but without anti-gun amendments. However, when the measure reached the Senate floor, Sen. Russell Long (D., La.), the Majority Whip, offered a firearms amendment which the Senate accepted.

Because the Senate version differed from the House-passed version, the measure went back to the House for consideration of the changes. There, the House Rules Committee, which controls what legislation the House will consider for passage, was reviewing the amendments when the civil rights fighter was shot. Dr. King's

death rushed the measure forward. Within days, the House accepted the Senate amendments and the President signed the measure into law.

The firearms amendment became law. There was no review of the amendment. It is aimed at preventing the use of firearms in civil disorders. Yet, it could affect gun ownership.

The law provides that, "Whoever teaches or demonstrates to any other person the use, application, or making of any firearm . . . capable of causing injury or death to persons, knowing or having reason to know or intending that the same will be unlawfully employed for use in, or in furtherance of, a civil disorder . . . shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both." The term "civil disorder" means any public disturbance involving acts of violence by assemblages of three or more persons, which causes an immediate damage of or results in damage or injury to the property of person or any other individual.

Under the uncertainty of this language any gun club accident could be a civil disturbance. What is "having reason to know?" If a shooter knows a person dislikes another and shows him how to use a firearm and there is a shooting later involving three or more persons, what then?

Can you show your gun to other people when newspapers report that a civil disorder may develop in the area? If that person later misuses firearms, you could be in trouble!

The burden of proof is on the federal authorities, but it would cost time and money to defend against such charges. The language is just too loose. Congress in rushing through civil rights legislation did not think of tightening the legislative language on firearms.

The other action against gunowners the looting and violence caused was the advancement of the "Dodd-Celler" anti-gun bill. Before Dr. King was shot the Senate Judiciary Committee three times rejected adding the measure to the Safe Streets legislation. After the King death the Committee voted to add an amended version to the legislation. Trouble was that there was no such legislation pending before the Committee.

In effect, the committee voted to report out legislation that staff members would have to later write. But, at this writing there is much confusion on just what the committee did vote to do. Different members believe they voted on different pieces of legislation. Friendly lawmakers are hoping things will cool before final action by the committee is taken.

(Details next month.)



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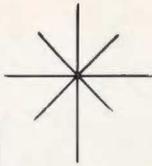
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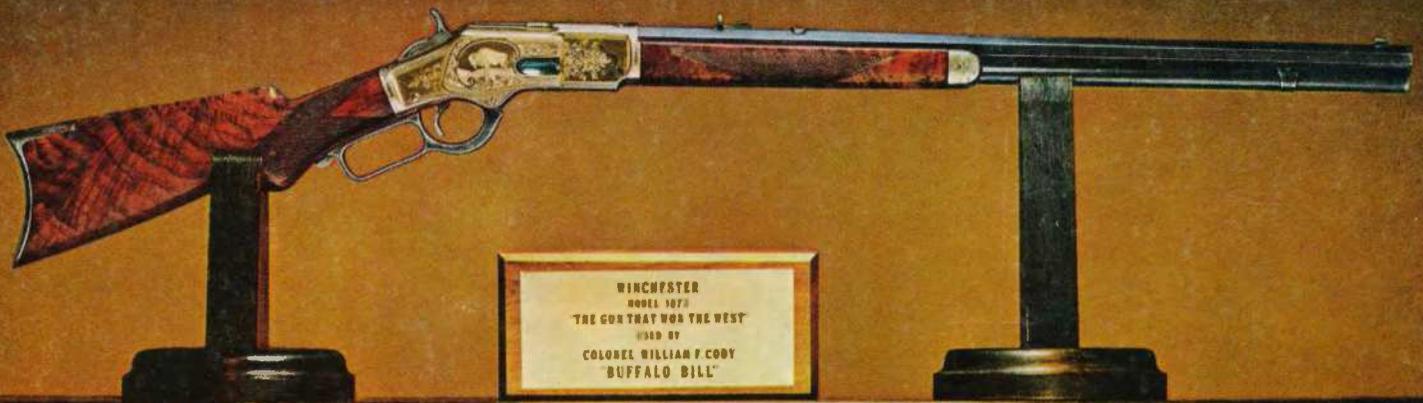
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