

AUGUST 1955 50c

# Guns

M A G A Z I N E



**HOW  
DICK TRACY  
GETS HIS MAN**

**THE 20,000  
GUNS OF  
JESSE JAMES**

**WHY COPS GET KILLED**



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NOW - Back in Stock! A top quality Rifle Scope - built to rigid Government specifications... plus our own specially designed scope mount. The Rifle Scope contains fine precision Achromatic lenses - fully corrected for color and spherical aberration. Has full 3 POWER magnification. Dot reticle. Overall length 9 inches. The amazing Palley Scope Mount was developed for use with the above scope and can be mounted on any type rifle. Has adjustments for windage and elevation. Will allow you to remove scope from mount for carrying or storage, and in addition you can re-mount the scope without disturbing your pre-set windage and elevation settings. Made of hardened alloy steel. Price for Scope and Mount together. . .

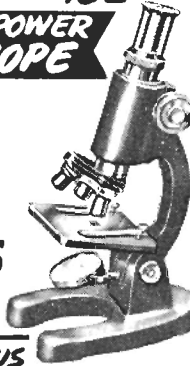
SCOPE ALONE (without mount) . . . . .

MOUNT ALONE (without scope) . . . . .

**2495**  
**995**  
**1500**

**NEW 100-200-300 POWER IMPORTED MICROSCOPE**

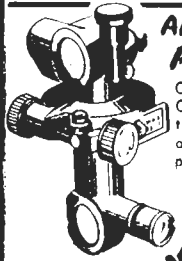
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**895**

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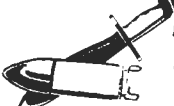
Originally used as a gun sighting scope on tanks. Objective head lens revolves through 360° and tilts through an angle of approx. 30 deg. Tube assem. contains 1 1/16" x 3" dove prism. Eyepiece is 1" Kellner and the eyepiece assembly has a 90° Roof prism. Crosshair reticle. Approx. 4 power. Use for range-finder, view-finder, etc.



**595**

**BOLO KNIFE & CASE**

Made of top quality, hardened steel. Has 15" blade. Ideal for camper, hunter, etc. Comes complete with a leather tipped belt sheath. NEW Only . . .



**198**

**NEW ARMY MACHETTE**

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**198**

**ARMY SKI TROOPER STEEL FRAME RUCKSACK**



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**495**  
**NEW**

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Ideal for use wherever it is necessary to protect the body from water, mud, silt, etc. Covers the entire body from the neck down. Made to top Government specifications. Originally designed as an Overboard Suit for landing operations. Made of heavy duty rubberized canvas with vulcanized seams. Has built-in rubber boots and gloves. Sizes: Med., Large. \$35.00 Value

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A SURPLUS BARGAIN! Made of top quality, rubberized NYLON with built-in Latex rubber shoes. The shoe is insulated against cold and has a grip tread sole. Boot is thigh height with adjustable straps. Order one size larger than your shoe size. Sizes: 8,9,10,11 . . .

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**SWISS PATTERNED NEEDLE FILES 12 PCS.**

For you riflemen who make or repair your own guns - here is a set of imported files that will do the job. Made of the finest quality file steel, specially hardened and accurately machined for precision work. 12 assorted shapes. Usually cost \$5.00. . . .



**295**



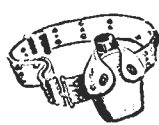
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Small, easy to use. Has 12" steel head with Mattock on one side and a pick on the other. 1 1/2" hardwood handle. With carrying case. NEW/29

**ARMY PORTABLE SHOVEL**

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# How I foxed the Navy

by Arthur Godfrey

The Navy almost scuttled me. I shudder to think of it. My crazy career could have ended right then and there.

To be scuttled by the Navy you've either got to do something wrong or neglect to do something right. They've got you both ways. For my part, I neglected to finish high school.

Ordinarily, a man can get along without a high school diploma. Plenty of men have. But not in the Navy. At least not in the U. S. Navy Materiel School at Bellevue, D. C., back in 1929. In those days a bluejacket had to have a mind like Einstein's. And I didn't.

"Godfrey," said the lieutenant a few days after I'd checked in, "either you learn mathematics and learn it *fast* or out you go. I'll give you six weeks." This, I figured, was it. For a guy who had to take off his shoes to count



above ten, it was an impossible assignment.

I was ready to turn in my bell-bottoms. But an ad in a magazine stopped me. Here, it said, is your chance to get special training in almost any subject—mathematics included. I hopped on it. Within a week I was enrolled with the International Correspondence Schools studying algebra, geometry and trig for all I was worth.

Came week-end liberty, I studied. Came a holiday, I studied. Came the end of the six weeks, I was top man in the class. Within six weeks I had mastered two years of high school math, thanks to the training I'd gotten.

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  - ☐ Aircraft & Engine Mechanic
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  - ☐ Business Correspondence
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### WELL WORTH IT!

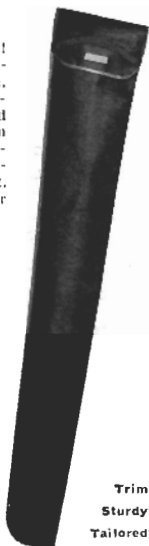
Not a sleazy sack, but sturdy, heavy-duty and tailored to resemble a good-looking case worthy of your prized guns. Attractive plastic bind. Patches for inscribing name, address and the gun inside. A "must" for humid climates, damp storage places, club lockers. Lasts at least 4 years (less than a dollar a year). A real value in superior design, sure protection and your long-run savings. Money-back guarantee. 30-day trial. Postpaid. Send check, M.O., today. Sorry, no stamps, COD's, please.

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## Davy Crockett Gun

In reference to the story in your May issue, "The Legend of Davy Crockett," by Alfred Duckett, I would like to say I enjoyed reading once more the tall tales told by and of the famous woodsman.

One thing, however, I would like to clear up for you—the matter of "Betsey," Crockett's rifle. First, Betsey and the presentation rifle were NOT the same gun! Betsey was most likely a typical Pennsylvania (Kentucky) rifle, such as generally used on the frontier at that time. And she met her end at the Alamo along with her illustrious master.

But the presentation rifle is still around!

In his book, "The Muzzle Loading Rifle Then and Now." (Standard Publications, Huntington, W. Va. 1942), the late Walter M. Cline states, "The rifle presented by the young Whigs of Philadelphia to the Hon. David Crockett, when he made a tour of the Northern states after his election to Congress in 1834 . . . is now the property of Miss Beth Crockett of Little Rock, Arkansas, who is the great-great-granddaughter of the illustrious Davy. The rifle itself is in the State Capitol Museum at Little Rock.

"There is inlaid on the barrel in gold letters, 'Presented by the Young Men of Philadelphia to the Hon. David Crockett of Tennessee,' and the words 'Go Ahead.' This rifle bears the name of its maker on a silver plate near the breech, Constable; his shop was at 2nd and Walnut Streets in Philadelphia."

Dan A. Augenstein  
Parkersburg, West Virginia

## Paris Gun

Reading Harvey Brandt's interesting article on the Paris gun was a vivid reminder to me. Some 37 years ago I was in Paris en route, for the Aisne-Marne battles, to join my battery of Royal Field Artillery (later to become attached to and for covering the 27th and 20th New York divisions in the Somme).

Apart from the loss of life, it is true that the shells did not cause material damage which warranted an expenditure of some \$5,000 a round. But speaking as one who was at the receiving end of this weapon, there is no doubt the effect on the morale of the citizens of Paris was, at first, very great. When it was established what was the cause of the explosions, their tension eased up. I did hear that sweepstakes were arranged—the winner being the one who forecast in which arrondissement, or district, the next shell would fall!



# CROSSFIRE

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your article mentions a fixed elevation of 54 degrees, but I was under the impression that this was fixed at 50 degrees. On a re-examination of a copy of the official range tables, I find this is so: the 50 degrees being established as a result of laborious calculations carried out by Prof. von Eberhardt and Dr. Rausenberger, who were the experts responsible for the ballistics of this famous gun.

I am of the opinion that the design, development, and the actual result obtained from this orthodox cannon is probably the finest piece of engineering science ever achieved in the history of artillery.

William C. Dowell  
North Wembley, Middlesex,  
England

## Wild Bill and Custer

To your "letters to the editor" department:  
For: nicely put-up magazine—nice paper—correct size—good variety of articles—excellent photography.

Against: articles like about "Wild Bill" which need explanation as to "this is just one version of the tale," or "this is the story (true or false) that Wild Bill Hickok is known for". . . .

I belong to those that say Wild Bill never beat anyone to the draw that was sober, and that he was a below-average shot.

Next, the picture of Custer. Here in Montana, in school, I was taught that Custer blundered and was up for a court martial upon his return. Custer is not to be considered a hero.

Jack Mattingby  
Dillon, Montana

## Hunting In The Heat

I've been reading GUNS since it first appeared on the newsstand and being a "gunnut," I consider it just about tops. So many of the articles cover just those subjects in the gun field on which information is rather difficult to unearth.

William Curtis's "Hunting in the Heat" was somewhat welcome to read since I'm at present living in California and I've gotten a little tired of reading articles on deer hunting in the cold and the snow. This is one of the few stories I've read of the hunting in this part of the country. However, I sincerely hope this isn't setting a precedent for this type of article, which is the stock-in-trade of any number of outdoor magazines. In this type of article, the subject of guns is secondary to the "story" of the hunting trip, which, while quite interesting in itself, has no place in a semi-technical magazine such as GUNS.

Robert W. Parkyn  
Burbank, Calif.



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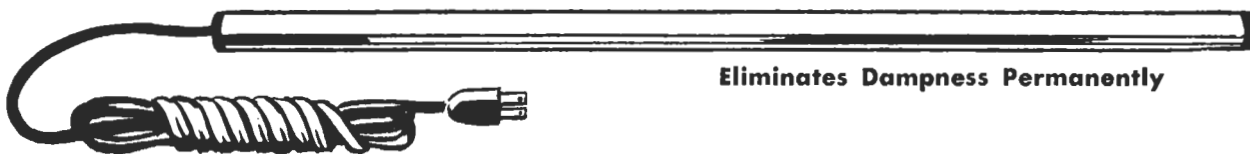
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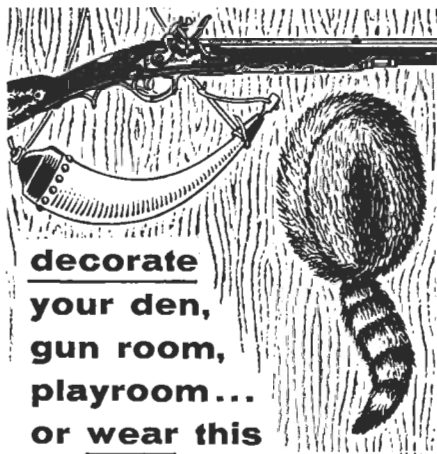
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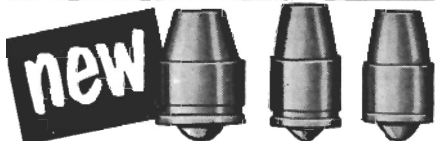


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# MY FAVORITE GUN

By **GARY COOPER**, noted Hollywood movie star featured in the new picture, "Vera Cruz."

I have a collection of some twenty shotguns and rifles in my den workshop. My favorite guns for hunting are a 12-gauge shotgun, a Merkle-16 over and under and a Browning 12-gauge over and under. My favorite form of hunting is bird shooting.

I'm not a perfect marksman by any means, but I certainly do have fun trying. My wife Rocky and I look forward to our expeditions in the Imperial Valley and north towards Bishop, hunting quail, duck and dove; we enjoy the outdoors, and somehow we usually manage to bag our limit.



By **WALTER SLEZAK**, currently featured in a starring role in the hit Broadway musical, "Fanny."

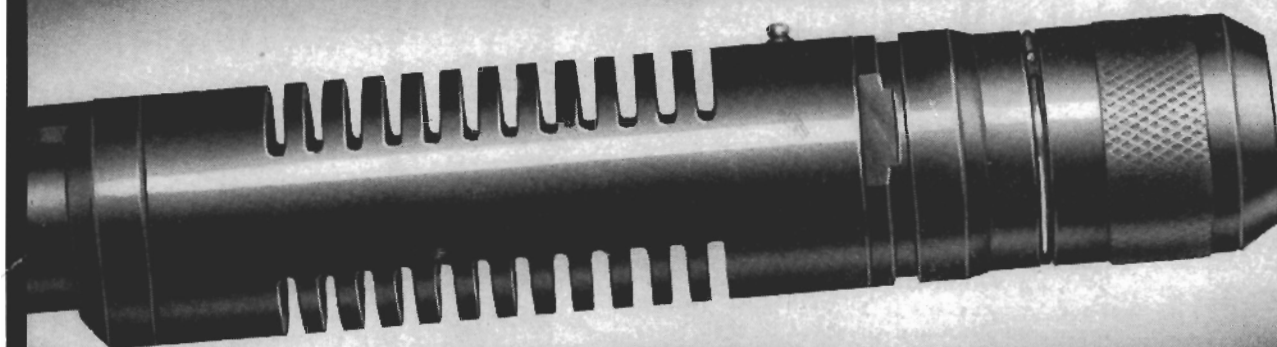
My favorite gun is the Mannlicher-Schoenaur 30-06, with a 4-power Zeiss scope, hair trigger and cheek recoil pad. In my opinion it is one of the best big game weapons made and, for my purposes, just about perfect.

Since I prefer still shooting to moving around in search of game, a portable shooting stick and a pair of good binoculars are standard equipment for me. It's more comfortable, safer, and you don't scare your target away.

Incidentally, I never hunt in country with which I am not thoroughly acquainted.

Next month: *Duncan Renaldo, the Cisco Kid, tells what his favorite gun is.*

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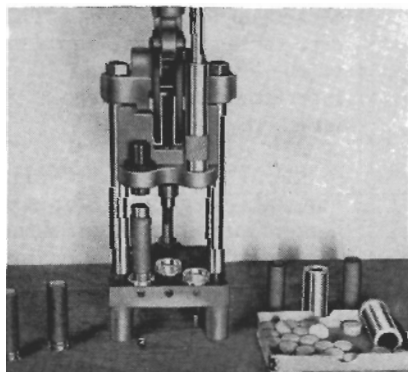
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## GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

□ To get a gun license in Amballa, India, one has to pay a fee of five monkey or jackal tails.

□ It is no longer illegal to go hunting on Sunday in Iowa. The State Senate has voted to repeal the law which forbade not only any shooting but even the carrying of firearms.

□ Vern Grimsley, of Garden City, Kans., won the Missouri-Kansas trapshoot. He broke 97 out of 100 targets, defeating 172 veteran shooters, including his instructor. Oh, yes, one more thing: Vern is only 13.

□ Paul Nisbett of Clovis, N. Mex., was asked by the judge why he was a day late for a trial in which he was a witness. He explained he had gone on a hunting trip. After the judge gave him a 10-day sentence, Nisbett had only one request to make: could he please bring his outdoor sleeping bag into his cell to sleep in?

□ After dropping a deer squarely, Ronnie Abe, of Walsenburg, Colo., walked up to the animal. The "dead" deer sprang up, gave him a hefty kick on the left foot and ran 40 yards before biting the dust again, this time for good.

□ Sheriff Roy Taylor of Mount Vernon, Ill., is gunning for some duck hunters who shot his four sitting ducks. The sheriff kept the four clipped-wing mallards on a pond near his home. Shotgun blasts killed all of them.

□ At Omaha, a proud hunter was somewhat taken aback when he opened the luggage compartment of his car to show friends the gaudy pheasant he had bagged. The bird—apparently only stunned by the shot and revived on the trip home—hopped out of the compartment and went winging down an alley.

□ A prize cow, Marie I, which held the French milk production record was killed in Rouen by a near-sighted hunter, who mistook the bovine for a partridge. The owner sued for \$17,000.

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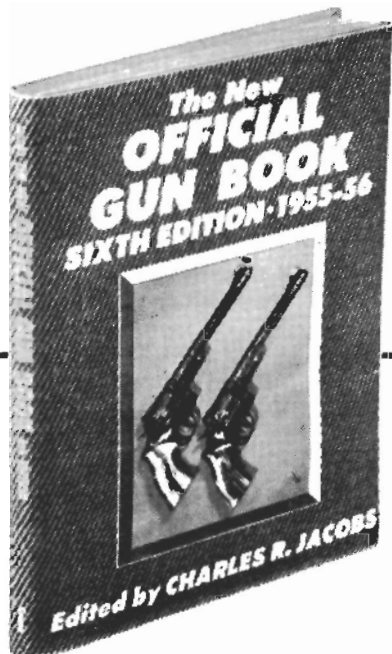
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**AUGUST, 1955**  
**Vol. I**  
**No. 8-8**

# Guns



**MAGAZINE**

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#### COVER

Chester Gould, creator of famed cartoon detective Dick Tracy, enjoys sniping at marauding crows at his palatial estate in Woodstock, Ill. He uses a Remington clip-loading .22 rifle, a weapon rarely handled by Dick Tracy who favors pistols and Tommy guns on his job. Photo by George Kufrin.

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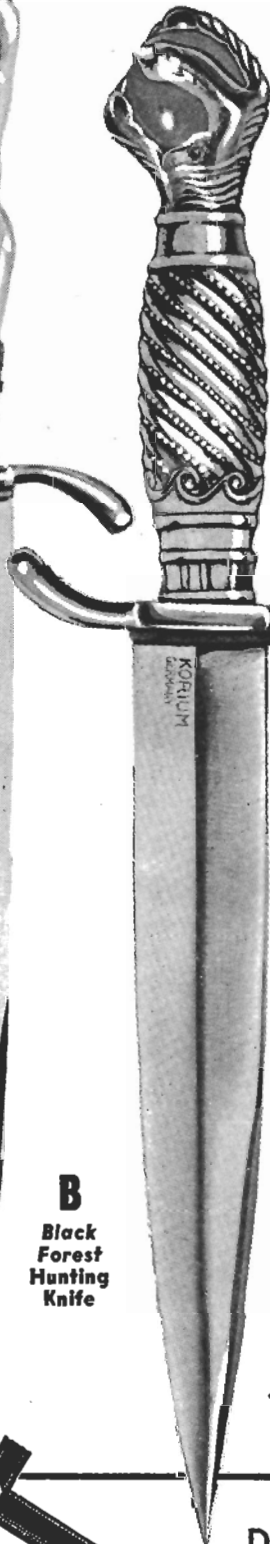
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# WHY COPS GET KILLED



Los Angeles has one of best gun-training programs for police at Elysium Park range, where officers line up in regular matches featured in academy course.

# BECAUSE FIREARMS TRAINING IS SCANDALOUSLY INADEQUATE IN MANY BIG-CITY POLICE DEPARTMENTS, SOME OFFICERS PAY WITH LIVES

By STERLING WALKER

**T**HE ONE out of every 1,000 Americans who is a policeman handles guns more than any other segment of the population. Yet it is a sorry fact that these men, whose lives as well as the lives of others often depend on their skill with a pistol, are among the saddest marksmen among U. S. gunners.

Why are police such bad shots, generally speaking?

Why do so few police ever turn up as crack marksmen on America's pistol teams at the Olympics?

Why do robbers so often outshoot cops?

The answer is simple: in too many cities police do not get a chance to shoot except in the line of duty. Gun training is scandalously inadequate in most police departments.

I recently got an opportunity to see first hand how bad that training is and to see how terrible a policeman's aim could get without practice. I was on a Chicago YMCA shooting range and watched as a policeman drew his Smith & Wesson .38 and slowly took aim at a target. Slowly he thumbed the hammer and took aim. Five times he fired and five times he completely missed the well-lighted Standard American 20-yard target paper.

Sympathetically, one of the club members gave him a .45 S&W loaded with wadcutter bullets, which punch nice visible holes in the target. Then he cranked the target frame up to within five yards of the policeman. That gave the officer more confidence and he was able to hit the target, if not the bullseye.

But to see a policeman armed with one of the finest fitted .38 Smith and Wesson M & P's completely miss a target unnerved me. Watching this exhibition of the world's worst shooting, it dawned on me that this man was hired by the city to protect me and other citizens. This was sorry protection indeed.

For driving a car, walking down the street and maybe even some light boxing, this officer was in good form. But with a revolver in his hands, he was a tragic specimen. He had little idea of how to use a gun. If he had gone from the range to the street that night and seen someone breaking into a jewelry store, he probably would have started shooting. But what or whom would he have hit?

Looking further into police training, I discovered that with the finest guns and ammunition available for training, too many police officers do not know how to shoot . . . and some are dead cops because of it. The sobering fact is that firearms training for police in many cities is not what it should be. From city to city training methods differ, ranging from the best in Detroit and Los Angeles to the worst—in New York City of all places.

The police force of America's biggest city has for years been called "New York's Finest" but its shooting program is anything but that. It is a horrible example of too little firearms training. Inspector Michael Murphy and Lt. Herman Hunter agree that recruit and annual "refresher" programs are inadequate. New York is still



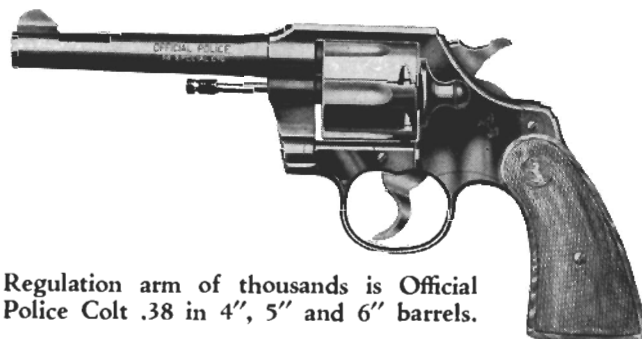
S & W's 34/44 Heavy Duty is favorite of many state police who fire .38 Spl. HV.



K-Masterpiece revolvers in .22 are good for practice and S & W .38 Spl. is for service.



Colt Trooper combines target accuracy with service-length barrel in new .38.



Regulation arm of thousands is Official Police Colt .38 in 4", 5" and 6" barrels.





Practice with riot guns at silhouette targets simulates actual conditions of street fighting and properly trains recruit Los Angeles officers in using weapons effectively and accurately in fight against crime.

sending recruits into the ranks of "the Finest" after only 120 shots of range firing and *no* combat shooting training. Other communities of all sizes are improving their shooting instruction, but New York continues to get by with what can charitably be described as a bare minimum.

The city's program is so deficient that the men who supervise it are very embarrassed when they are called on to discuss it. Both Inspector Murphy, brilliant young commander of the Police Academy, and Lt. Hunter of the firearms course are technically qualified men with fine backgrounds. They know what is needed for a gun training program second to none in the nation.

Two basic reasons lie behind the New York department's training deficiencies. The first is lack of money. In New York City, richest port in the world and financial center of the U. S., the city fathers simply seem unable to find enough cash to set up an adequate program. In addition to the academic work, each Police Academy recruit makes 13 four-hour appearances on the firing range. During his 52 hours on the range, the recruit fires a minimum of 120 rounds—80 on the .22 caliber gun and 40 on the .38 caliber Colt or Smith & Wesson Special. All firing is done from the 20-yard firing line on indoor ranges, only two of which are owned by the police department. Bull's eye targets are used for slow fire practice and the No. 2 Colt

silhouette target for all other firing. Weapons safety and nomenclature, cleaning and care of the revolver, .38 caliber ballistics, the revolver manual, sighting, and dry firing are stressed throughout the 13-weeks course.

The recruit's first exposure to the .38 caliber revolver comes on his fifth appearance on the range, and it is not until his 11th appearance that he is introduced to left-hand shooting.

Since all firing is done on indoor ranges, actual shooting conditions cannot be duplicated as they are, for example, on the Toledo, O., eight-acre combat course with its "running man" targets. Such items as left-hand shooting while operating a vehicle and firing from behind barricades, as taught in the FBI combat course, are only simulated on the indoor targets. Motion pictures and slides are among visual aids used in the classroom to help in the teaching of gun sighting and cleaning, positions for combat shooting, and how to draw, present, load and unload and carry guns.

A new part of the academy training within the past year is instruction on the use of the Spooner heavy-armored vest and the heavy shield, which will protect a policeman from both lead and jacketed .357 Magnum bullets.

All guns and ammunition used by recruits are provided by the academy, but they must purchase their own re-



New York police academy instructor explains tommy gun fundamentals before taking recruits onto range. Gun instruction is inadequate for police recruits, who receive far less hours on range than needed.

Reising .45 submachine gun is fired by Detroit officer during refresher course, demonstrating with tracers that machine gun fire can be accurate. Detroit has one of best firearms training programs for its police.



volvers before they report for duty as probationers. All New York police officers, except members of the emergency unit armed with special weapons, are restricted to the use of lead bullets of standard velocity. Jacketed bullets are taboo because of the fancied danger of ricochets.

The academy's staff of 28 instructors also supervises the department's cyclic firearms training program, which requires each police officer to make three appearances annually at one of the 12 ranges. Each man must fire at least 10 rounds at each range visit, or as many rounds as he needs to qualify. He must buy his own ammunition for his cyclic training and he can purchase it through the academy at 5 cents a round.

In the absence of a combat range, cyclic training in New York calls only for qualification on a four-inch bull's eye target at 20 yards with a .38 Special Colt or Smith & Wesson.

Since the work of a policeman requires that he may be called on at any time to use his service revolver, it appears doubtful that a firearms training program providing for such a low volume of shooting is adequate to maintain handgun proficiency. The FBI believes that the most desirable basic training program for law enforcement officers requires about 1,000 rounds of ammunition per shooter.

*(Continued on page 57)*



AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS DETECTIVE IS QUITE A MAN WITH A GUN, DRAWING HIS SHOOTING TECHNIQUES FROM REAL-LIFE POLICE WHO GIVE CREATOR CHESTER GOULD RESEARCH MATERIAL

# DICK TRACY

## GETS HIS MAN

By WILLIAM B. EDWARDS

ASK AN ENGLISHMAN to name the most famous sleuth in Britain and he would unhesitatingly reply: "Why, Sherlock Holmes, of course." But an American asked to choose America's most noted detective would hesitate and then have a difficult time thinking of anyone better than

With a Colt "357" revolver before him, cartoonist Gould checks a Dick Tracy drawing for detail in new panel.



Dick Tracy. Creation of cartoonist Chester Gould, the comic strip cop is personification for most Americans of the uncorruptible, straight-shooting, patient and persistent champion of law and order.

He is the nation's No. 1 crime-stopper and the criminals whose careers he has ended—characters with such names as Pruneface, Flattop, Open Mind and Rughead—have become as well known as Dillinger and Capone. While Dick Tracy has displayed a remarkable ability to ferret out killers by brilliant detective work, he is also quite a man with a gun.

Since the cartoon cop began chasing crooks back in 1931, he has fired thousands of shots from a variety of weapons in the performance of his duty. He has shot it out with criminals who used ice pellets fired from dry-ice chilled blank pistols. He has shot down wildcats kept as door watchers to a crook's underground hideout. He has carried a .38 wrapped up in his bandaged hand to eliminate a killer, who thought he was about ready to write "finis" to Tracy's career.

Using advances in weapons to keep up with the crooks, Tracy has stopped a fugitive's automobile by cracking the motor block with the impact of the powerful .357 Magnum revolver cartridge. In tight corners, Tracy has bounced ricochet bullets around corners to nail crooks.

Dick Tracy's guns are something of a problem to mild-tempered artist Chester Gould. He admittedly knows very little about firearms from a professional aspect. When he needs research for his cartoon strip, he visits the police department and gets assistance from officers who aid him in working actual criminal cases into Tracy's adventures.

Gould does not like to show guns for the sake of showing





Plywood gravestones were once erected by Gould at his estate for villains "eliminated" by Dick Tracy.

them sensationally. He tries to draw a moral into his story whenever he does, knowing that guns must be in his strip because they are the tools of trade of a policeman.

Because of the style which Gould has developed, detailed drawing of firearms is seldom done. It takes lots of work to draw a revolver correctly and there is too little appreciation of this work in a daily comic strip. Most Dick Tracy readers would not know the difference.

Revolvers have a preference over automatics in police circles, yet Dick has often used an automatic pistol.

There is no special reason. Gould just happened to draw automatics in the strip and has continued the practice. One gun easily recognized, which Tracy uses sometimes, is the old reliable Thompson submachine gun. He doesn't always have one ready, but in special situations he draws one from the police armory when needed.

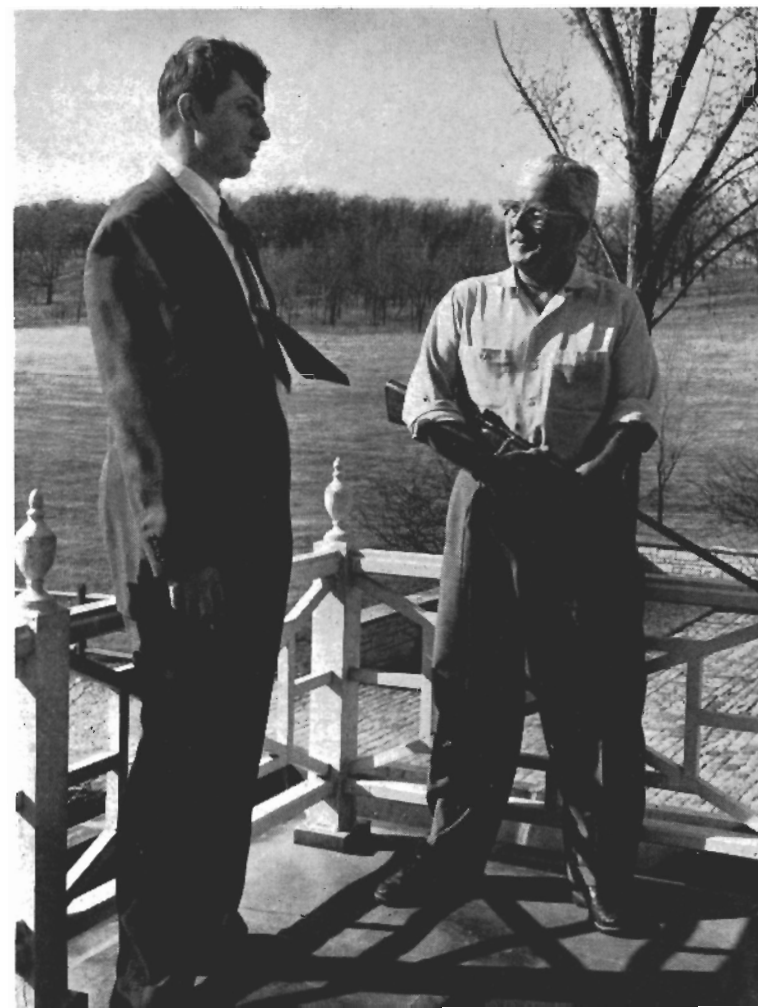
Tracy isn't an infallible marksman, but he does hit pretty often. The sort of shooting he does is drawn from real-life training techniques. No shooting from the hip if he can avoid it. Rather Tracy makes a clean draw and a full-arm aim before firing. One of the few times Tracy did not shoot a revolver in the most approved method was when he went after Rughead's friends in the recent series. Then Tracy had to appear "harmless" to a hood, yet still have the "drop" on him. This was accomplished by hiding a hammerless Smith & Wesson inside a phony bandage, and carrying his arm in a sling. Seeming to be only a common workman in rough clothes, Tracy kept the criminal covered with his concealed revolver, and eventually had to shoot him.

For holding the distinction of America's best known detective, Tracy has had a rather irregular background.



Wary of guns, Mrs. Gould handles loaded "Cobra" .38 Special Colt gingerly while cleaning husband's desk.

Talking about guns with writer William B. Edwards, Gould holds Remington rifle he uses on crows occasionally.



Monday, October 12, 1931

# DICK TRACY—IT SEEMS TO BE IN THE AIR



First appearance of Dick Tracy in 1931 issue of New York Daily News was as visiting boy friend of Tess Trueheart.

Friday, October 16, 1931

# DICK TRACY—CROSSING THE COBRA'S PATH



First cartoon character ever killed by gunfire was storekeeper Trueheart with Tracy as witness to the shooting.

Wednesday, October 21, 1931

# DICK TRACY—A SOLEMN VOW



Dramatic vow of Dick Tracy leading to his appointment as policeman voiced Chester Gould's own hate for crime.

His sudden appointment to the police force was back in 1931. Then Tracy was just another young man, calling on his girl friend. Tess Truehart was her name (after about twenty years of courtship, Tracy finally married her).

At the beginning, Tracy appeared talking with Mr. Trueheart, a storekeeper. Trueheart had the bad habit of keeping his money in the shop, not trusting banks. In 1931 he had some reason to be wary of banks, and Trueheart was the cartoon representation of a hundred thousand small mer-

chants who kept their funds at home and became prey to petty crooks and burglars. A few days after the beginning of the cartoon series, Truehart was killed by a burglar. Tess was abducted by the crooks to cover their getaway. Of course, Dick Tracy came to the scene, and then and there swore to find the criminals, avenge the death of Tess' father and save her.

Chief Brandon, who overheard Tracy's oath, swore young Dick into the force on the spot, and ever since Dick Tracy

has been on the job tracking down desperate outlaws.

Dick had the distinction of being among the first cartoon characters ever to fire a gun—the first being a robber in Gould's story whom Tracy swore he would track down.

Gould has been too busy to learn much about the history or details of firearms, but he likes guns and has all the makings of a fine shooter. His work schedule leaves him too little time to indulge more than casually in the sport. He has owned a variety of guns, including a "B" model High Standard .22 pistol and several shotguns. At present his collection contains a .22 Remington rifle, two antique double-barreled shotguns of French and German make, a Springfield Model 1873 45-70 rifle, and a U.S. Model 1842 Aston holster pistol. But he owns two other guns which do not exactly rate as "collectors items," for they are both kept loaded.

One is a Colt Target Woodsman .22 automatic. The other is one of the new Colt "Cobra" .38 Special hideaway revolvers, such as Dick Tracy often carries. Living in a secluded area of the country, he likes to keep a house gun handy. Mrs. Gould is somewhat reluctant to handle these two loaded guns. Yet every day she lightly dusts around them, then picks them up and dusts beneath. Apparently timid, there was one night she was far from being scared by guns.

Gould raises cattle—his farm is partly his hobby now. One rainy night a cattle buyer arrived late at Gould's home to pay for some stock he had bought earlier that day. A large sum of money was involved, but Chester Gould unconcernedly walked out into the rain "for just



Tracy with hammerless .38 hidden in sling brought trick of President McKinley's assassin to comics.

Plinking at tin can, artist Gould aims High Standard "B" .22 automatic pistol with both eyes open.



a minute" to talk to the man in his car.

One hour passed. Alone in the big house Mrs. Gould passed from worry to fright. Had someone jumped them for the money? The Goulds laugh about it now, thinking back. Then it was no laughing matter when Mrs. Gould appeared at the barn door with a flashlight in one hand and the loaded and cocked Colt in the other. Of course, Gould was perfectly safe; he and the buyer had gone into the barn to look at some calves.

Gould occasionally gets to use a gun when he is busy at his drawing board. On his 130-acre place northwest of Chicago, he finds plenty of crows to occupy his attention. "They hop over the stone fence near the front door and make a racket," says Gould. "I guess they're hunting for field mice." Drafting his cartoon strips near the second story porch windows, Gould is never too busy to drop his pen and pick up his .22 Remington rifle. Cautiously opening the porch door, he pokes the barrel of the rifle through the crack and takes aim. The distance is about 150 feet. At last report, the crows are still alive.

Pen-and-ink guns in the hands of Dick Tracy have been Gould's own personal gun battle with crime. In the process, Gould has also risen to the status of one of America's top comic strip artists. Now read by more than 100,000,000 Americans in 500 newspapers, Dick Tracy was the expression of Gould's own revulsion at the open crime of the 20's. "I didn't like the way things were run," he explained. "The courts were fixed and redhanded killers would be out on bail the next day. Their cases would be dismissed on technicalities within the week."

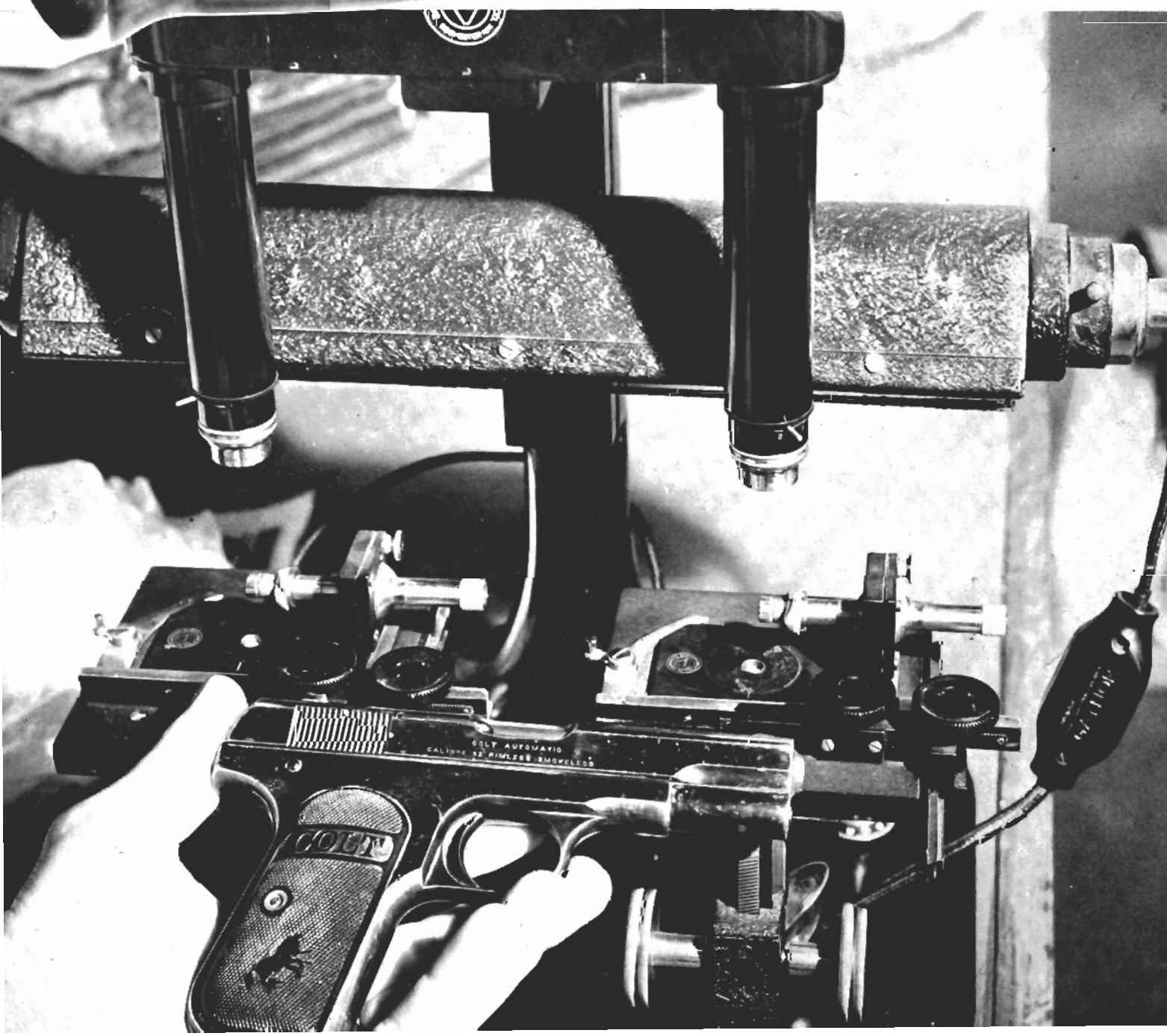
Against such a background, young Gould worked as a commercial artist. Drawing shapeless ladies' garments or oriental rugs for "This Saturday Only" advertising was Gould's six-day life. And like (Continued on page 54)



# HOW WHODUNITS ARE SOLVED

SCIENCE OF FIREARMS  
IDENTIFICATION MADE  
NABBING OF MURDERERS  
POSSIBLE BY CHECKING  
'FINGERPRINTS' INSIDE  
WEAPONS OF CRIMINALS

By WILLIAM C. L. THOMPSON





**M**OVIE DETECTIVES spend their time looking for fingerprints on the outside of the gun. Real detectives spend their time checking the fingerprints inside the gun—the telltale bullet markings.

Of all the police methods which have been invented since Cain slew Abel, among the most modern is the science of firearms identification. Today this has been lifted from long-haired obscurity to recognition as one of civilization's most effective ways of combatting the gun-carrying criminal.

This scientific method of identifying a "death" bullet with a particular firearm basically lies in the character of a few little scratches. These are the marks made on the surface of a bullet by the rifling as the bullet is fired.

One of the earliest cases in which fired cartridges identified the shooters was a riot in Brownsville, Texas, in 1907. A number of soldiers from an infantry regiment stationed there were involved. Thirty-nine empty rifle shells were recovered and sent to Frankford Arsenal for examination by ammunition experts.

Eleven of these were positively linked with one rifle, eight were fired in a second rifle, eleven in a third, and three more from another rifle. The official report did not mention exactly how identification was made. Probably it occurred as a result of the similarities in marks found on the case heads, where the soft brass under the pressure of firing took the print of the tool marks on the front of the rifle bolts.

Problems of gun identification baffled police experts for years. The fact that bullets might have individual marks on them was long suspected, but a system of proving it regularly was lacking. Some experts rolled bullets on sheets of wax or tinfoil, hoping to transfer an impression which could then be studied by a microscope. Others cut the metal jackets from some bullet specimens "so that they might study the marks on the lead core underneath."

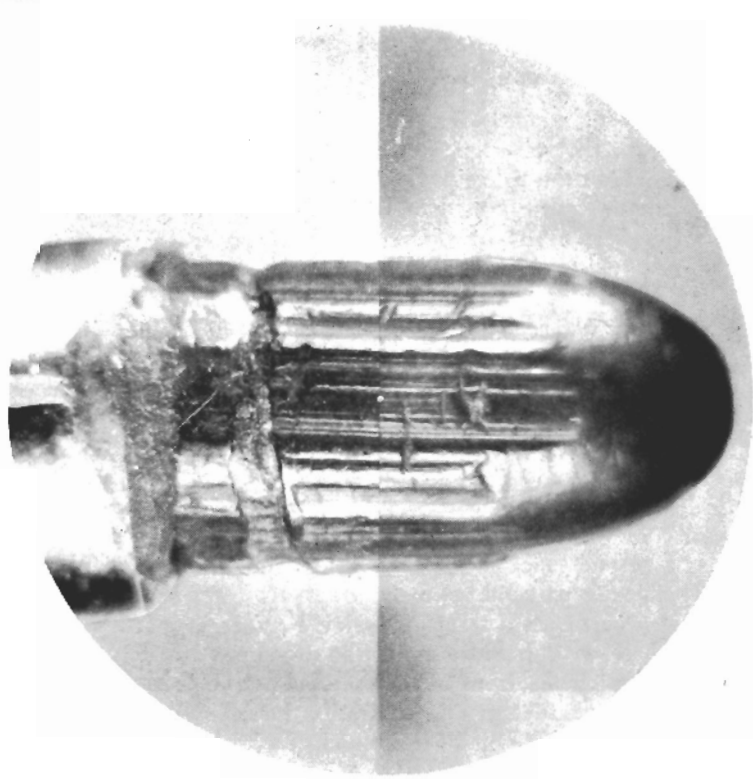
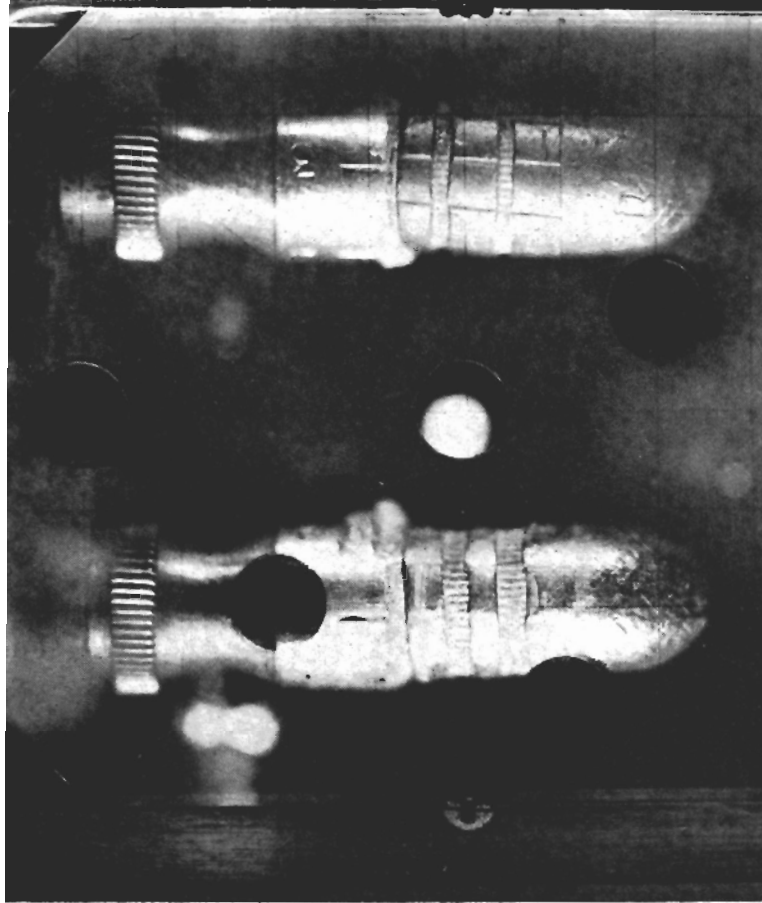
During this period the late Calvin Goddard became actively interested in firearms identification work. A physician in the Army reserve corps, Colonel Goddard is justly credited with having "founded" the modern science of firearms identification.

Microscopic examination of bullets is made by police officials at Northwestern University crime detection laboratory. Microscope is used either singly (below) or in comparison setup (opposite page) to test murder bullets.



Test bullet from evidence Colt .45 is fired into basket of cotton waste at Chicago crime laboratory to get bullet undamaged.





Views of .38 caliber crime bullet and test bullet separately (left) and superimposed (above) show comparisons.

Goddard was an intense young man who liked nothing better for a weekend than to take a box full of 20 or 30 pistols and ammunition out into the country, shoot bullets into a bag of cotton waste and then recover them undamaged. Later in his laboratory

he would see if he could match up the bullets with the guns. He hoped to establish some way of "fingerprinting" bullets.

His research probed in the direction of finding some way of identifying bullets fired from the same *make* of

gun. At that time he did not realize that every individual gun, even of the same make, has different markings. Without knowing it he had narrowed the field of his research.

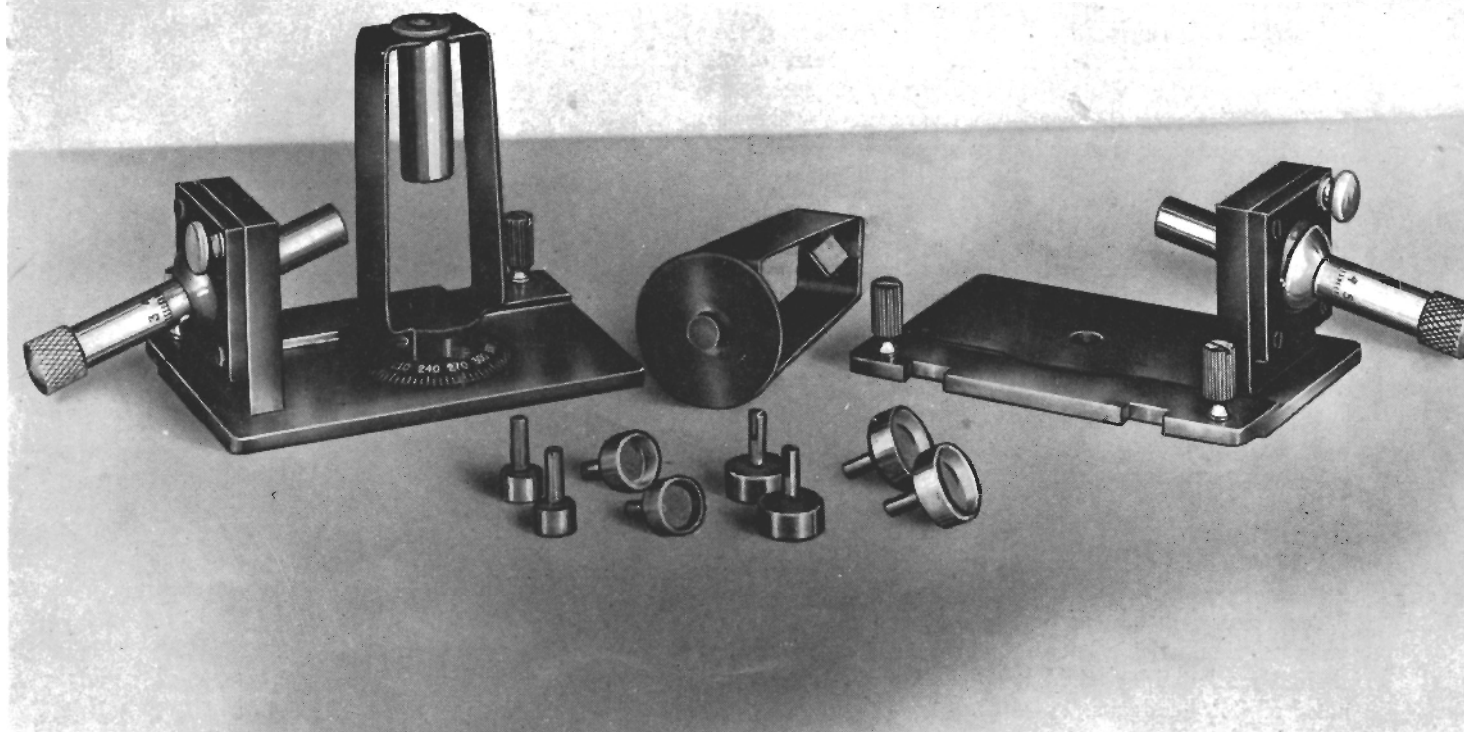
In 1924 Goddard teamed up with "Judge" C. W. Waite, Philip O. Gravelle and John H. Fisher to further his investigation of firearms markings. Waite was a special investigator who had been curious about firearms identification since 1922. Gravelle was a photographer and microscopist. Fisher had been an expert tool designer with the bureau of standards.

Waite was of little value except as a promoter. He managed to persuade the *Saturday Evening Post* that a story on his gun lab would be a good story, and he also persuaded them to pay him for the privilege of writing it—\$2,000 which came in very useful in those lean days! As a firearms expert, he couldn't tell the difference between a Mauser .32 bullet (six grooves but right twist) and a .32 Colt bullet (six grooves but left twist). He did serve as a front man for his little laboratory group, and kept the three competent technical people working smoothly together.

The problem which Gravelle, Fisher and Goddard attacked was brief to

St. Valentine's Day massacre was reenacted by Chicago police and first gave wide publicity to firearms identification science as valuable police technique.





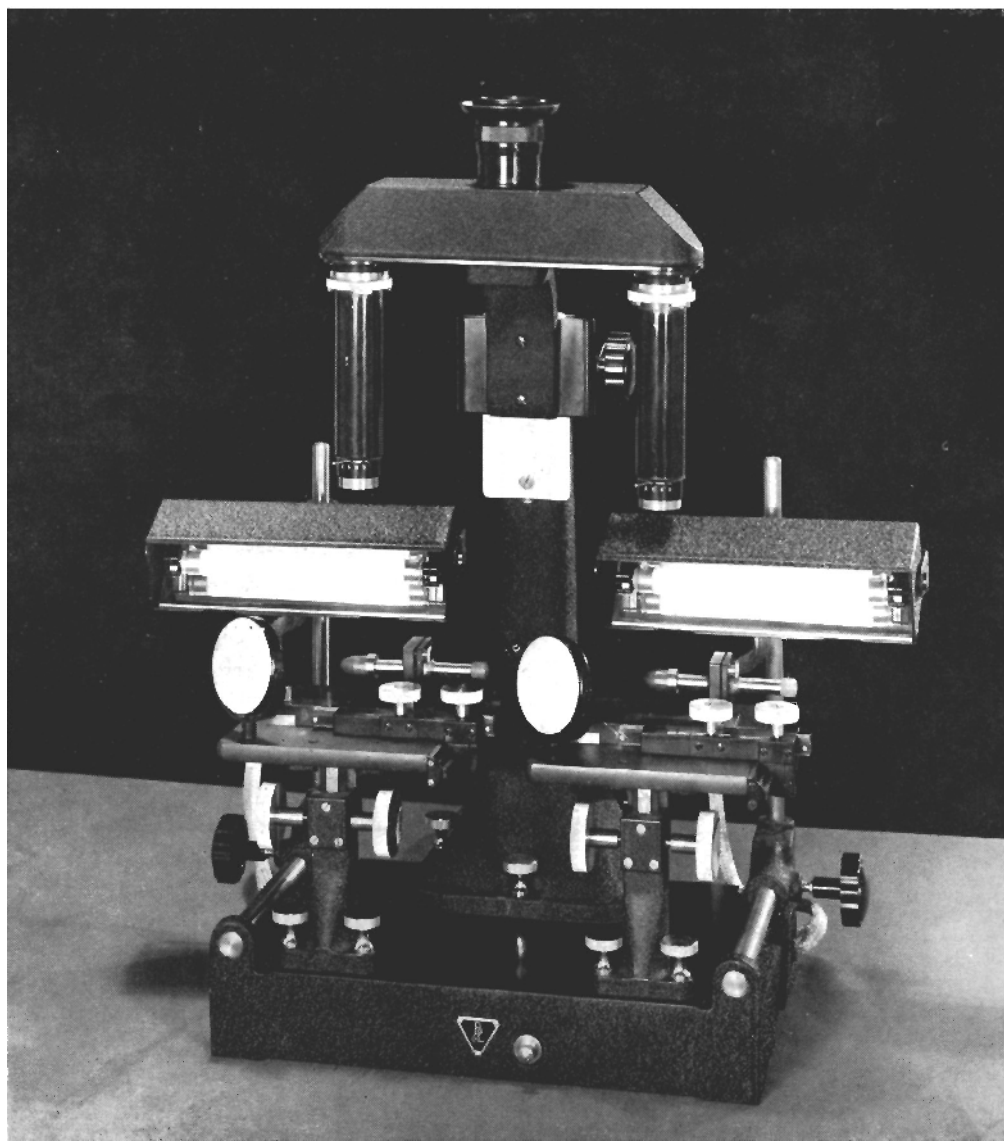
Ball-socket bullet rods with four bullet chucks and detachable split spring cartridge holder for case head examination are accessories of Bausch & Lomb comparison microscope (below) used in police firearms work.

state but long to accomplish: the positive identification of a fired bullet with a particular gun. Once this could be settled, a conviction would usually follow.

To learn the facts, Gravelle suggested using the then-new comparison microscope to study bullet samples. This was two separate complete microscopes with a comparison bridge which would bring one half of the field of each microscope into a single field for the viewer. Judge Waite obtained a special pair of bullet mounts built to his order at Remington Arms Co. Each bullet was rotated independently until any similarity between the two showed up. Since the minute scratches and ridges scraped into the surface of any rifle barrel by the cutter during manufacture became impressed onto the surface of the bullet, these marks could be easily seen in the microscope.

In the view as seen through the comparison bridge, part of the "murder" bullet would appear, and the remainder of the view be filled by the "test" bullet from a suspect gun. If these marks did not line up, this would indicate that the two bullets were fired from different guns.

This set-up was tested in 1925. With two bullets fired from the same weapon,



the fact that both had passed through the same bore could be established in 100 per cent of the cases under ideal conditions.

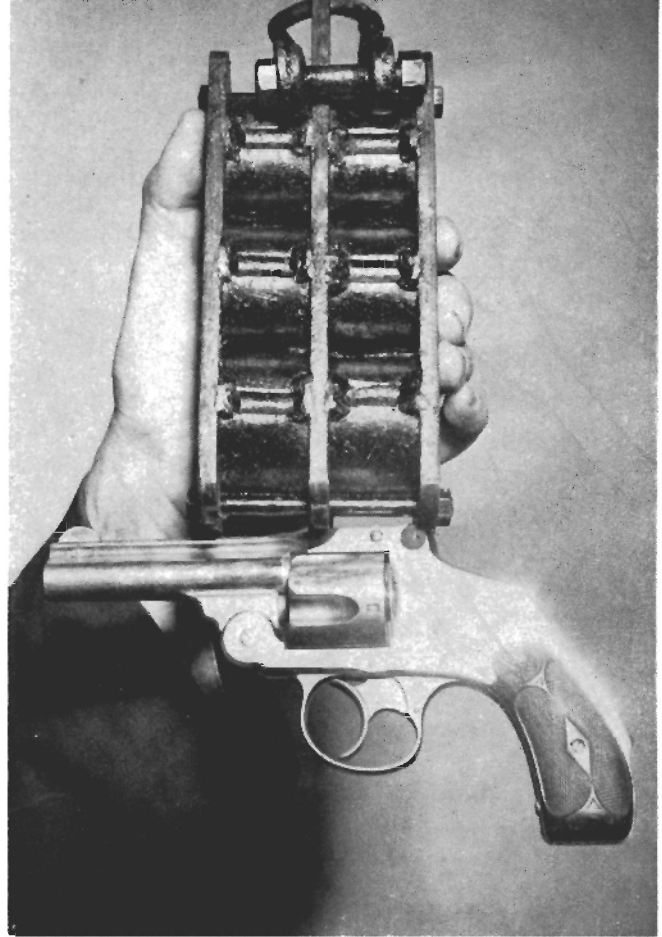
The St. Valentine's Day Massacre in 1929 was one of the most spectacular cases in which the firearms identification expert featured. In this killing six gangsters and a friend were mowed down by a rival gang in Chicago. The crime was very sensational and received considerable publicity. Colonel Goddard was invited to Chicago from New York to analyze the firearms evidence.

This included 70 fired bullets of .45 automatic pistol caliber, many of them whole, the rest more or less fragmented. These had been recovered from the bodies of the victims.

At the time there were five relatively common weapons chambered for this cartridge. They were the Colt .45 automatic pistol, the Savage experimental .45 automatic, the Colt and Smith & Wesson M1917 .45 ACP revolvers, and the Thompson submachine gun.

Each of these arms had its own individual rifling characteristics, except that the Colt M1911 pistols and M1917 revolvers were supposed to be rifled according to the same specifications. However Colt revolver .45 bullets differ from Colt automatic .45 bullets. Also the Colt guns are rifled with a left twist, while all the fired bullets showed marks with a right hand inclination. This eliminated all Colt handguns.

While the other three guns all had six groove rifling, right twist, the shape of the grooves, pitch and width differed. The Savage automatic, being practically a unique gun, was hardly considered. The S & W revolver was also struck out, as the bullets did not show the tell-tale marks which indicate "fired from a revolver." Thus all that



Alnico permanent magnet is often used by police in dragging streams to recover guns discarded by criminals.



Col. Calvin Goddard founded modern firearms identification in 1930, here holds a Single Action Colt.

was left was the submachine gun. Confirmed by the arc-shaped print on the case rim, left by the Tommy Gun bolt as it slams forward chambering the cartridge, two of the guns were believed to have been used. Magazines for this gun came in 50-shot and 20-shot capacities. Fifty of the shells showed identical case marks, while the other 20 showed different patterns of marks. Obviously guns using these two kinds of magazine had been employed. These guns have never been found.

The detailed report Colonel Goddard submitted to the Chicago police department got to the ears of the press. A feature story in the Chicago Tribune attracted wide publicity. This spectacular case was the turning point in the struggle for recognition of the firearms identification science.

Goddard established a school of police science at Northwestern University soon after. The publication of Major (now Major General) J. S. Hatcher's book on firearms identification and evidence in 1935 presented the first public handbook for the police officer on this subject. Now revised by Jac Weller and Lt. Frank Jury of the New Jersey state police, Hatcher's standard book is scheduled for publication in a new edition soon. An English authority, Major Sir Gerald Burrard, has also published a firearms identification book which is available through American stores.

Figuring in all these books is the basic tool of the modern crime lab—the comparison microscope. This instrument consists of two microscope tubes with a comparison eyepiece, built as a single unit for comparing objects held on two completely (Continued on page 62)



# THE MYTH OF THE QUICK DRAW

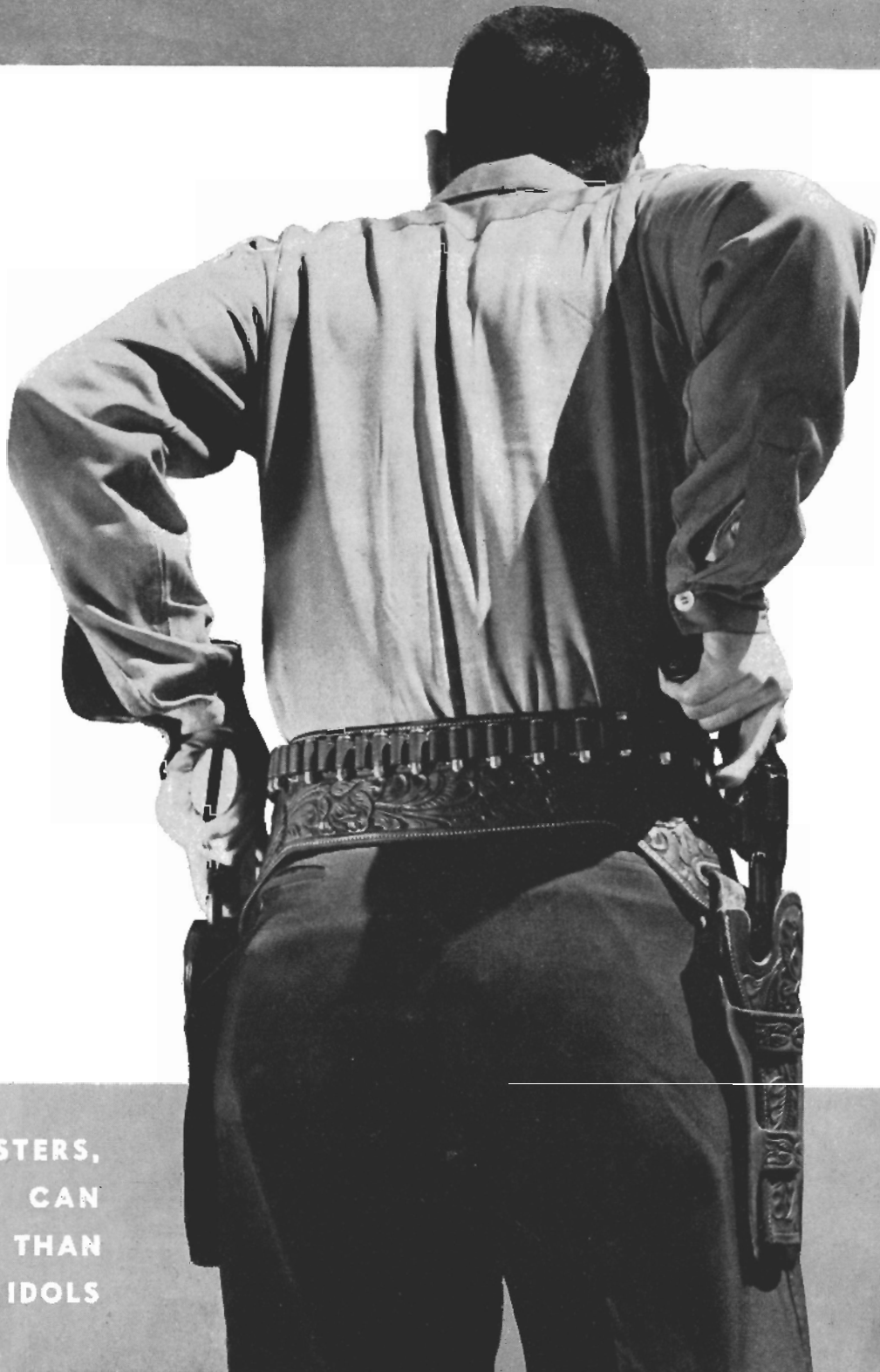
By WILLIAM C. L. THOMPSON

PERHAPS NO chapter of the Wild West's history has been more dramatized by Hollywood than the quick draw. From the earliest cowboy movies to the most recent cowtown epics, quick drawing by boots-and-saddle heroes has been a standard item. Every sodbuster, every sheep rancher, every fence rider in cowboy stories becomes a Wild Bill Hickok when he straps on his guns. Low-slung holsters tripping over his ankles, the hero slaps leather in a five-seconds gun duel with the local hard case.

Under careful scrutiny the legend of the quick draw becomes more fiction than fact. Modern-day holsters as well as improvement in firearms design have made the modern policeman better set for quick draw than the Western idols of yesteryear. Tests made to equal the fabulous feats of the past show that the modern shooter is far better off on the "quick draw" than his cow puncher predecessor. Scores that would have turned a Western gun fighter green with envy were set up in fractions of a second, at killing ranges of 15 to 18 feet.

Along with the modern double action revolver has come the development of the holster.

WITH MODERN HOLSTERS,  
TODAY'S SHOOTERS CAN  
DRAW MUCH FASTER THAN  
FABULOUS WESTERN IDOLS





Basket weave stamped revolver holster (left) is called the "Tom Threepersons" after Southwest Indian who popularized it. Hip pocket holster (center) is still used by some. "Border Patrol" (right) is designed for mounted officers.

Sam Colt's equalizer of the 1850's was not designed for fast shooting and a quick-draw holster would have been pointless in those days. During this period the common belt holster or "scabbard" was used. Military types, a carryover from the flap saddle holsters, had a fold of leather completely covering the handle of the gun and protecting it from rain and dust. Commercial holsters including those sold in the gold fields were much the same.

Open top holsters as a class came from south of the border and are even listed in old catalogs as "Mexican" styles. These holsters completely and snugly covered the trigger guard of the old cap-and-ball guns, Navy or 1860 Army Colts. Impossible to draw quickly, these guns were not suitable for fast work for another reason—their mechanical design.

The quickest way to get off shots from the single action type of revolver was by fanning. In this the heel of the palm of the hand struck the spur of the hammer and flipped it back, cocking the gun and rotating the cylinder. Then the hammer fell firing the shot. Fast work was done this way, accurate at short distances, but old percussion cap guns were dangerous for that sort of work. In fanning the forearm is held tightly against the body. This puts the revolver right under the shooter's nose . . . and eyes. Bits of brass from the busted caps fly around and a lucky shooter might make one shot but never two. Blinded by brass chips, he would be out of action.

Most of the fights in Wild West days were drunken brawling. A pistol stuck

into the piece of rope that held the pants was the most common carrier for social occasions. The man who got his gun smoking first had the edge. Muzzle blast could set his opponent's clothes on fire. At worst, he could always retreat behind the smoke screen if he didn't hit anything. But hip shooting and slapping leather when the guns were cap and ball was a quick way to the grave.

Holsters worn by sensible, long-lived men during that period reflect the facts of life. A cowboy carried a gun to shoot snakes and coyotes with, seldom to fight other men.

Some oldtimers whose names are famed today didn't use ordinary holsters. A sling of elastic tied to a revolver and allowing it to hang inside



Berns-Martin "Lightning" shoulder holster offers quick cross draw access to S. & W. Chief's Special.

a loose sleeve was a common trick. When someone got the drop on a desperado so armed, the bandit had only to snap to "hands up" briskly and the revolver would fly into his palm.

Another rig avoided use of holsters at all. It was an eastern outfit which would have amused the dandified target shooters at Walnut Hill but it served such old timers as Ranger Captain James B. Gillett well. Maybe he bought it from one of those mail order houses, like Hartley & Graham of New York whose catalog in the 80's and 90's listed it. The idea was simple: carry a gun on a swivel attached directly to the belt. With the topstrap cartridge Colts it was practical. A T slot in a plate riveted to the belt carried a stud which was an extension of the Colt hammer screw. Just tipping the pistol back and thumbing the hammer was enough to get it going.

To draw, all you had to do was pull it straight forward from the plate . . . fast as lightning. Gillett is said to have got this idea after he had been presented with a calfskin vest holding two fancy Colts, like gun fighter John Wesley Hardin used to use. Try as he might, Gillett could never get those guns out without clashing them together. Rather than be buried in the vest, he got the T-slot belt.

The swivel holster was like this special belt, but held the gun completely inside a leather holster. Holes near the cylinder front let the smoke out in firing, and the hammer and trigger were exposed. Guns could be shot either attached to the belt, or pulled free like the T-slot affair.

There were a few real quick draw artists in the old days, and only a few. Their names have come down to us: Wild Bill Hickok, Ben Thompson, Butch Cassidy, John Wesley Hardin for example. Hardin killed men who were mechanically his equals, men whose speed on the draw was as amazing as his own. He killed them because even if covered by the other fellow's gun, he didn't panic. Instead of thinking about being killed, he thought of killing the man who had the drop on him. And he had one other advantage . . . he was always ready to shoot.

The peace officer always has that moment of decision, whether shooting is justified or whether he should try to take his man alive. The gunfighter was always ready to go. Far more important than the gun rig was the gunfighter's positive way of thinking and ability to make a decision in the face of heavy odds. But there were mighty few gunfighters, and their one secret was practice constantly. They cut their teeth on a "Colt" and lived and died with a gun in their hand. And even in their day, "quick draw" was rare.

One of the best tricks to speed up the draw is the poker chip test. With a poker chip or a coin on the back of your hand, extend it straight out from the shoulder. Make sure that your gun is solidly in the holster, on a wide belt securely strapped so the holster will not pull up with the gun, slowing the draw. The gun handle should be so placed that with your hand at your side, the gun is convenient if you bend your arm a little. All ready? Then fill your hand!

Follow through and trigger a shot towards the target, or dry fire, and see if you can beat the drop of the coin to



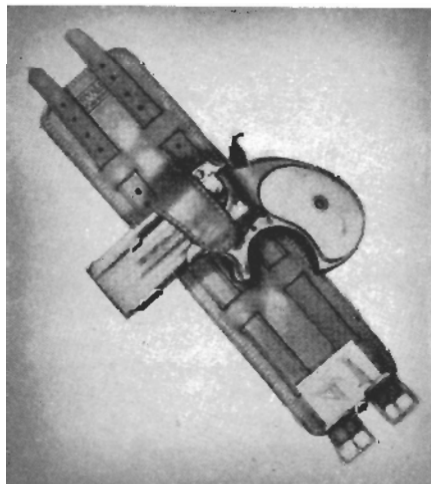
Contrasts in holsters is seen in varying styles: (1) flap model for long barreled, single action revolver; (2) standard tuck-away with lambs' wool lining; (3) hand-made model for U. S. New Service Colt .45; (4) Western-style Mexican skirted of type popular in early 1900's; (5) U. S. service model for Colt .38's around 1890 to 1917; (6) for automatic.

the floor. It takes practice but it will work.

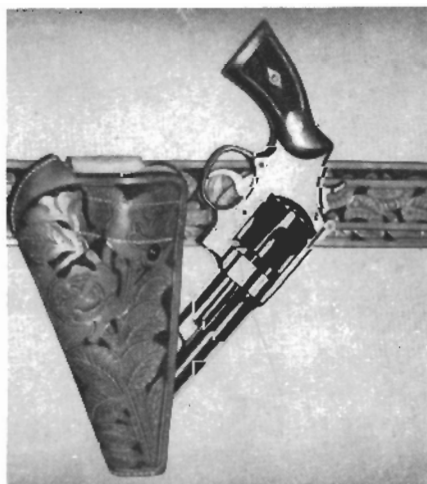
When you are tired from practice, it is a good time to check whether the gun belt you're wearing would have been practical 70 years ago. Imagine you're sitting on a horse. What happens to the position of your guns? They ride up, the belt becomes loose, and if you didn't have the guns tied in they would flop out while riding. In the Hollywood production "Viva Zapata," hero Marlon Brando actually lost his

gun while wearing a "typical" western outfit. He leaped on his horse; and rode off and lost his gun in a swirl of dust as the loose holster flapped against his leg, all plainly visible on the screen. Quick draw holsters were not practical.

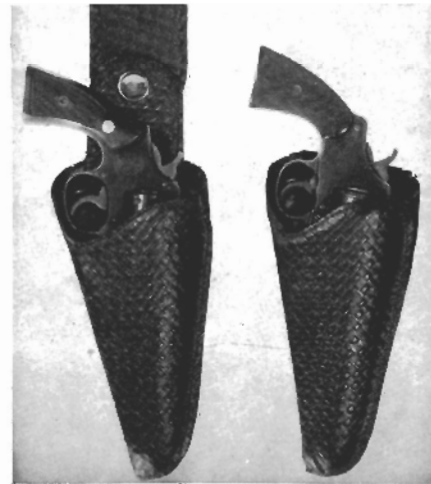
Probably the main reason for the open holster was the Mexican love for beauty. Most of the holsters are fancy, fiesta costume decorations. Ivory and pearl handled pistols were extremely popular in Mexico since the 1850's. Mexican open (Continued on page 45)



Cuff holster still being made for .41 Remington double derringer by Sam Myres Saddlery Co. of El Paso, Texas.



"Speed" holster and belt by Berns-Martin is of hand-carved leather. Gun is S. & W. 1950 .44 Special.



"Clam-Shell" holsters are made of metal halves that spring open when button is touched by trigger finger.



# What's Wrong

PISTOL LEGISLATION SEEMS  
TO HELP CRIMINALS AND  
KEEP JOHN Q. PUBLIC  
FROM DEFENDING  
HIMSELF, SAYS  
CHICAGO COP



Right to "keep and bear arms" is written into Constitution in 2nd Amendment, a vital part of the Bill of Rights, but police regularly seize firearms, picked up thousands of battle souvenirs from servicemen on return to U.S. New York police department has display of seized weapons (right).



# With Gun Laws

By POLICEMAN "X"

**I'M A COP.** My name isn't "Joe Friday." I can't tell my real name in this article—I have a job to look out for and two kids and a wife to feed.

Last month I was shot by a crook. Two boys ran out of a currency exchange. I called to them to halt. One of them fired at me. I drew my Official Police .38 and stopped them both. But the hip wound I received gave me time to think over things . . . like "Where did those fellows get their guns?" Didn't we have laws which kept hoodlums from possessing guns?

When I looked into the laws about pistol permits, I learned a strange thing. The laws all seemed geared to take guns away from the ordinary public, from a person who might need a gun to defend himself against a crook. And these same laws make it relatively easy for any two-bit hoodlum to get a gun anywhere, any time he wants one.

Because I found this out, I'm afraid to sign my name to this article. You see, the state senator in my district is pumping for an anti-gun law and he wouldn't exactly like a police officer from his ward to talk about the real facts on anti-gun legislation.

There's a lot of talk in these days of teen-age hoodlumism

about New York's state pistol law, the Sullivan Law. People always compare newer laws with this one. "Like the Sullivan Law," they say.

The Sullivan Law was written 45 years ago. The meat of the law is in Section 1897 of the Penal Laws of New York. It states: "Any person . . . who shall have in his possession in any city, village or town of this state, any pistol, revolver or other firearm of a size which may be concealed upon the person, *without a written license therefor* . . . shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and if he has been previously convicted of any crime he shall be guilty of a felony." This also applies to the carrying of such a weapon, concealed and loaded or unloaded with ammunition available on the person.

By the terms of this law, you must get a permit in order to buy or possess a pistol. Fingerprints and pictures of all applicants are required to get a permit, except for a householder upon his application to have a pistol in his home. These permits are good only for a definite period, usually one year. They must be renewed, and there is a fee, about 50 cents to \$1.50 per license.

This law has been the model for other laws since then.

Seized weapons are assembled by New York police for dumping into ocean. Total of 13 tons were in this load.



Confiscated pistols, rifles and shotguns are dumped into Lake Michigan by Chicago police as part of anti-gun drive.



The feature which brings complaints from many people is the license part. This, they claim, is contrary to the 2nd Amendment of the Federal Constitution which says: "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." An almost identical clause is in the civil rights law of the state of New York.

But I learned that the Sullivan Law has been declared constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court despite the 2nd Amendment. And as a result gun laws requiring ordinary citizens to be fingerprinted and mugged like common criminals have been pushed in more and more states—including my own.

But I'm not as worried about the "right" of a person to carry a gun as I am interested in gun laws from the viewpoint of the cop of the beat.

Why should a cop argue for John Q. Public's right to carry a gun without fingerprinting and mugging? Why should anyone want a gun in the first place?

The answer is as simple as the question: it's written in the reports from J. Edgar Hoover's Federal Bureau of Investigation, which show that there are more crimes committed in America than ever before in our history. And the facts are that the policemen of our country could use the help of John Q. Public in stopping the hoods.

Hire as many cops as you want and it won't stop the crooks because it's physically impossible to cover all the beats in a big city all the time. But give the average citizen the right to carry a weapon in self-defense and you'll put the muggers on the defensive. When the crooks don't know whether the man they're trying to heist has a gun or not, there won't be as many "stick-em-up" shouts.

Despite stringent gun laws, Dallas police collected 500 "shootin' irons" from criminals in single year in Texas city.



Typical of gun law sponsors is Chicago politician State Sen. William "Botchy" Connors, Democratic ward boss.

One thing is sure—the Sullivan Law just doesn't work when it comes to stopping criminals.

Officials claim that the law works okay in New York, but that weak laws in other states like New Jersey or Connecticut make it easy for crooks to get guns. But what really is the truth?

Remember the bank robbery that was pulled in Queens a few months ago? Four men were in it. Three had pistols: they could have bought them outside of New York state and smuggled them in. But the fourth man had a sub-machine gun, and possession of an unregistered sub-machine gun has been prohibited by Federal law in *every* state since 1934!

So the black market in guns already flourishes and the kind of laws we're working with now don't do a bit of good in stamping it out.

At this point some people ask: "What do you want to do, give everybody a gun?" The answer of course is "No" but that doesn't mean that there isn't any other workable plan.

Certainly everyone in this nation is worried about crime and how to stop it. Organized crime makes taxes higher, drains off business profits, burdens everyone with higher costs of living, is a threat to our security, and fills the lawbooks with all kinds of laws that curb our liberties. Yet

outlawing guns in the few places where these laws are in effect has not helped the police officer at work.

In the *Peace Officer*, the journal of the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police, editor Clifford Montague says: "Many authorities, experts in law enforcement, believe that the system of licensing to purchase and licensing to possess have done more to aid the cause of organized crime than any other feature of laws relating to firearms." They disarm the law-abiding citizen and place him at the mercy of the crooks. Gun prohibition laws have been as ineffective as liquor prohibition was. But a constructive plan to teach interested people the facts of safe gun handling would pay off.

Our problem with crime begins with our youngsters, with the unorganized petty hoodlums. It starts with somebody tipping off that Mr. Doaks goes home from his store with the day's receipts, and so he gets hit for his wallet. Sometimes he gets killed. Sometimes some young punk who gets tired of working takes a gun in his hand and starts in purse-snatching or with one or two pals starts up his own little gang. He's the kind that makes a cop's life a tough one . . . they've got fancy names, "juvenile delinquents," and so all we do is put them away till they grow up, learn all about crime from experts, and come out "rehabilitated" and ready for big league organized crime.

These little guys are the fingers on the hand of organized crime. There is a way to combat them. It is fight fire with fire. Every storekeeper, every currency exchange clerk should be required to own a gun such as a standard .38 Special revolver, and know how to shoot it without putting a hole in himself or somebody standing innocently by. Most of the time the threat of a (Continued on page 55)



Legitimate sporting goods stores find pistol laws curb guns sales to sportsmen, but do not hinder criminals at all.

Gun club training of beginning shooters and control of target shooter's license is advocated by many. Club secretary would certify skill of shooter and issue card like auto driver's license to assure safety. Training would begin in teens.





# WHY POCKET AUTOMATICS DISAPPEARED

**THERE USED TO BE MANY  
DIFFERENT U. S. MAKES  
BUT NOW AMERICAN  
AUTOMATICS CANNOT  
BE BOUGHT**

By DON SIMMONS, JR.



Colt .32 pistol designed by John M. Browning and Remington M51 (bottom) of J. D. Pedersen's were once-popular automatics which were widely sold, but are not now being made.

**T**HE AMERICAN-MADE pocket automatic is about as extinct as the dodo bird. This is strange, considering that pocket auto pistols generally stem from the original designs of American-born John M. Browning. Most of the world still refers to a pocket automatic as a "browning."

But after a good beginning at the turn of the century, and years of struggle through many designs to reach "adulthood," the final blow to the pocket automatic came with World War II. During that period several distinctive forms of automatic pistols were made or sold predominantly in the United States and they could be bought under many trade names in any gun store. Although they filled a special need all their own, pocket automatics in America have nevertheless entirely disappeared from manufacturer's lines. The current brisk business in imported pocket automatic pistols shows that the



need and interest in these guns still exists.

Used American pocket automatics, when offered for sale, are always in demand. Yet many dealers and shooters today, because they became active in the gun field after the "death" of the pocket automatics, know little about these guns.

Pocket automatics were small to medium sized semi-automatic pistols kept for defense and protection. With fixed sights, they generally weighed between 15 and 25 ounces, with barrel lengths of 3 to 4 inches. Magazine capacity was 6 to 10 rounds, the average being 7 or 8. The caliber was usually .32 ACP or .380 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol cartridges), which in Europe are called "7.65 mm Browning" or "9 mm Browning Short" respectively.

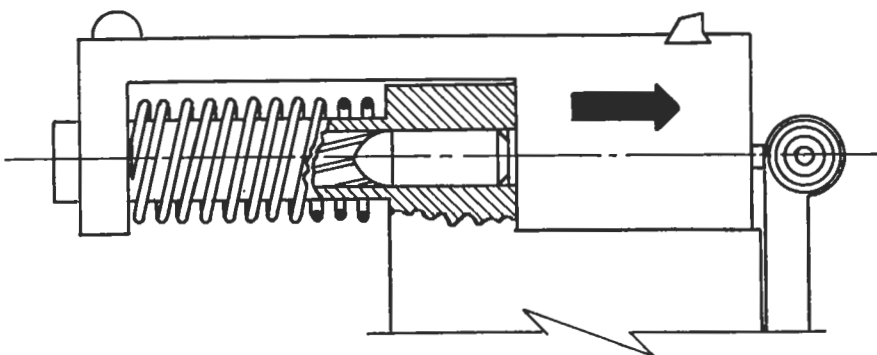
Usually pocket automatics are straight blowback in design, but a locked breech type (the Frommer) was made abroad and two delayed blowback pocket automatics were made in the U. S. These were the Savage and the Remington pistols of the 1920's. A blow-forward pocket automatic, the Schwarzlose, was also made abroad and imported here, but was not commercially successful even in the heyday of pocket autos.

Both hammer and hammerless types of pistols were made, American manufacturers favoring the latter design. These can be subdivided into concealed hammer designs, and true "hammerless" guns using a striker or spring-pushed firing pin. Most of the American pocket automatics were of the concealed "hammerless" type, though the Savage M1910 and 1917 pistols are a sort of crossbreed. In these there is an exposed thumbcocking piece which actually cocks the striker, instead of a separate hammer.

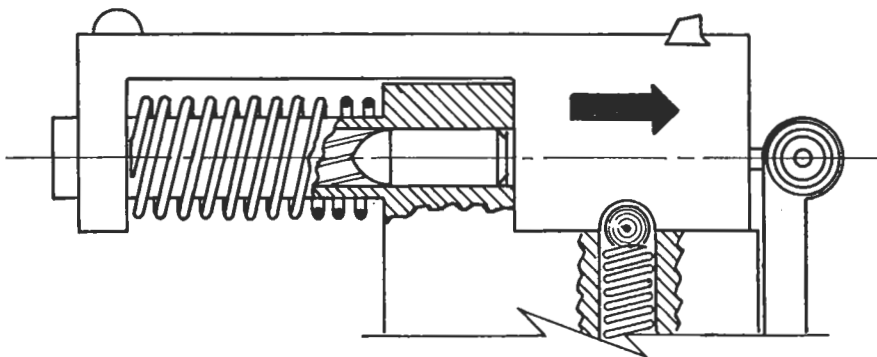
The first American pocket automatic was Colt's model 1905, a Browning blowback patent. Savage was next with their models, followed by Smith & Wesson, Remington, and Harrington & Richardson. Mossberg once made a .22 pistol resembling an automatic. Actually it was a four-barreled gun with the barrel group resembling an automatic pistol slide.

Three other companies sometimes heard of also sold pistols: the Davis Warner Arms Co., the Phoenix Arms Co., and the Union Arms Co.

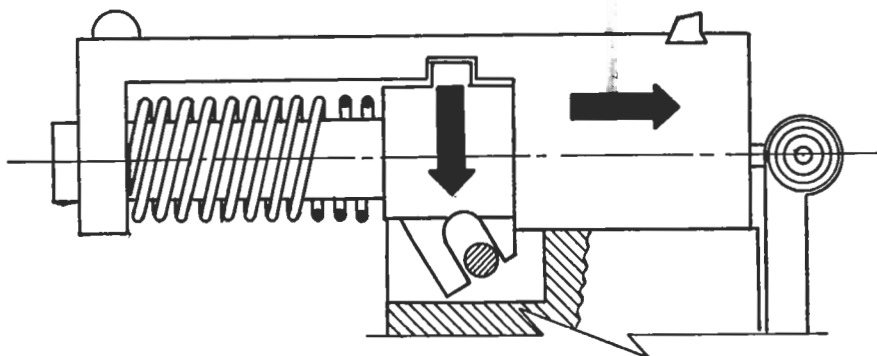
Most of the business done by these companies was just before and after the first World (Continued on page 60)



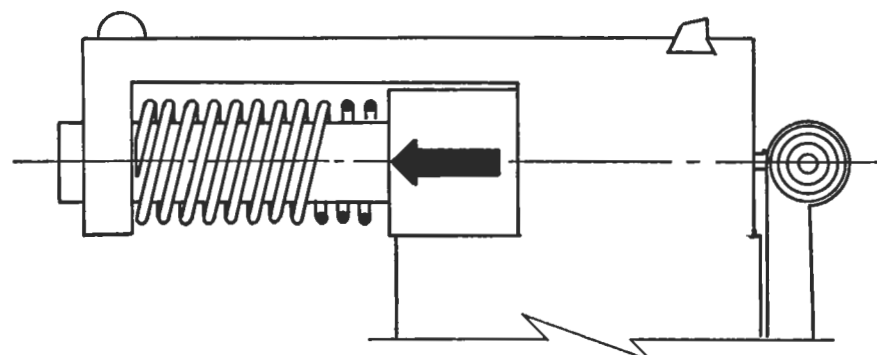
Straight blow back type of action common to pocket automatics relies on breechblock weight and spring to hold gun closed at moment of firing. This is the cheapest design to make and most pocket pistols are this kind.



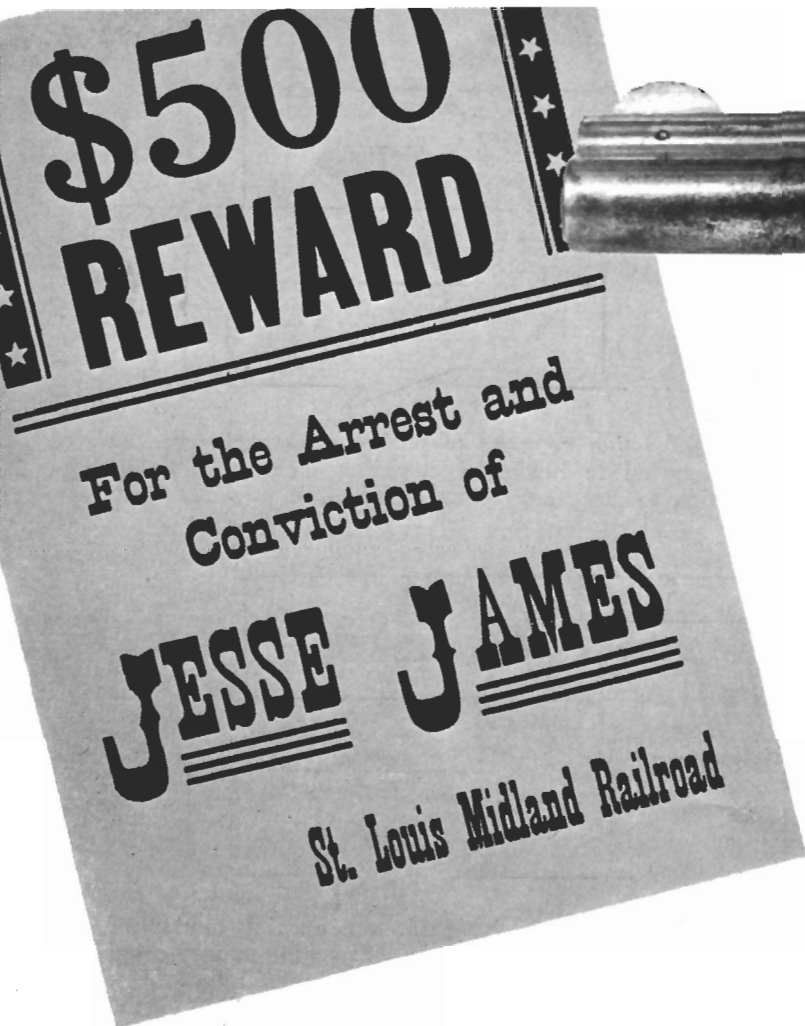
Delayed blowback mechanism sets up hesitation in the opening motion of slide and is often used in larger caliber pistols or in submachine guns. Spring ball prevents abrupt opening of breech, delays it until bullet leaves bore.



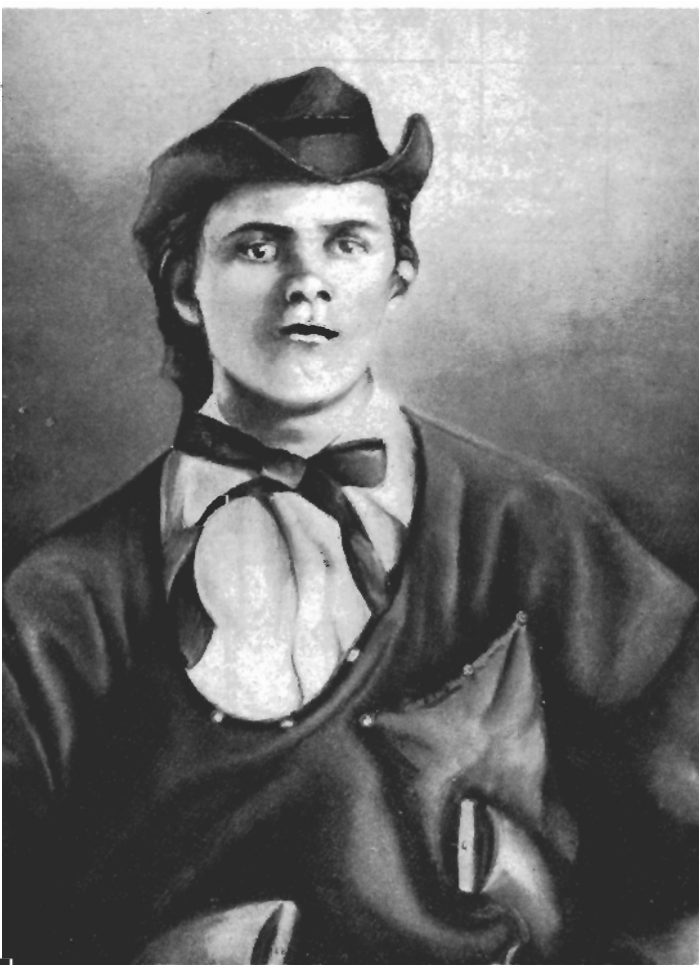
Recoil operated pistols with locked breech had block and barrel solidly held together during firing, and used barrel inertia to throw open slide. Fixed frame bar contacts barrel stud and cams barrel lug down from slide.



Blow forward is variant, freak design. Found on only two or three automatics, the barrel blows forward from a standing solid breech. Having theoretical advantages, this design produces heavy recoil and is not too practical.



Young Jesse James looked innocent but carried as many as four revolvers riding with Quantrill.



# THE 20,000 GUNS OF JESSE

**NOTORIOUS OUTLAW'S CAREER GAVE  
TO THOUSANDS OF 'JESSE JAMES GUNS'**

By CARL

THE AMERICAN Robin Hood" they called him, but he might have been more correctly called "America's No. 1 Gun Collector." If all the guns now attributed to Jesse James were tallied up, the total would probably run over 20,000. If their original retail values were tallied, Jesse's descendants would probably still be paying for them. Jesse's whole burglarious career would have been devoted to buying guns. As it was, America's most famous outlaw made less than a fair living wage.

There are pros and cons about every gun that came within sight of Jesse James, let alone the few which he actually had and used. Of them all—hundreds legitimate and thousands illegitimate—none has stirred more question recently than the one with which he was shot.

Certainly the gun which shot Jesse James should rank as a highly important historic firearm. The Lincoln Deringer in U. S. museum custody is priceless, but the gun that shot poor Jesse is in private hands. Two hands, to be exact, for two men on strong but conflicting evidence claim to own the gun.

Andy Palmer of Dearborn, Michigan, claims to have that gun. At his "Military Inn," his famous gun collection decorates the walls, and among the important exhibits is "the gun that killed Jesse James." It is a Colt.

The second "gun that killed Jesse James" is owned by Henry G. Lingenfelder of Baltimore, Md. For variety, this



# JAMES

## RISE TO MYTHS AND LEGENDS AND FOR COLLECTORS TO ARGUE ABOUT BREIHAN

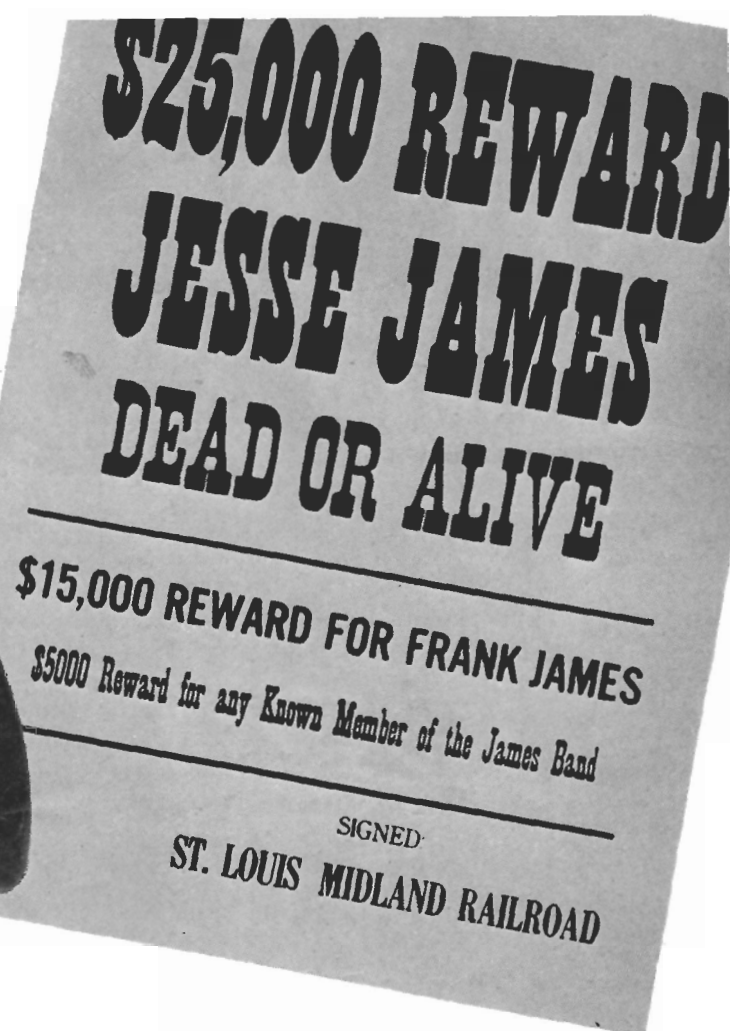
gun is a Smith & Wesson. Each owner claims his gun is the one with which "the dirty little coward shot Mr. Howard," the phony name used for a time by Jesse James. A final answer to this claim would be worth much money, verifying that one gun is *the* historical gun.

The ballad about the killing of Jesse James paints killer Bob Ford as a pretty lowdown character. To millions of Americans who read of his exploits, Jesse came to represent the courage, boldness, ingenuity and manliness associated in the popular mind with the settlement of the Mississippi valley and the West.

Jesse really possessed these attributes, as well as a sense of humor and justice. But the famed bandit could also be mean and resentful, and in some ways treacherous. He would brood over fancied wrongs and never fully trusted anyone. Perhaps his moody nature was not unjustified. When he trusted a friend, he was killed.

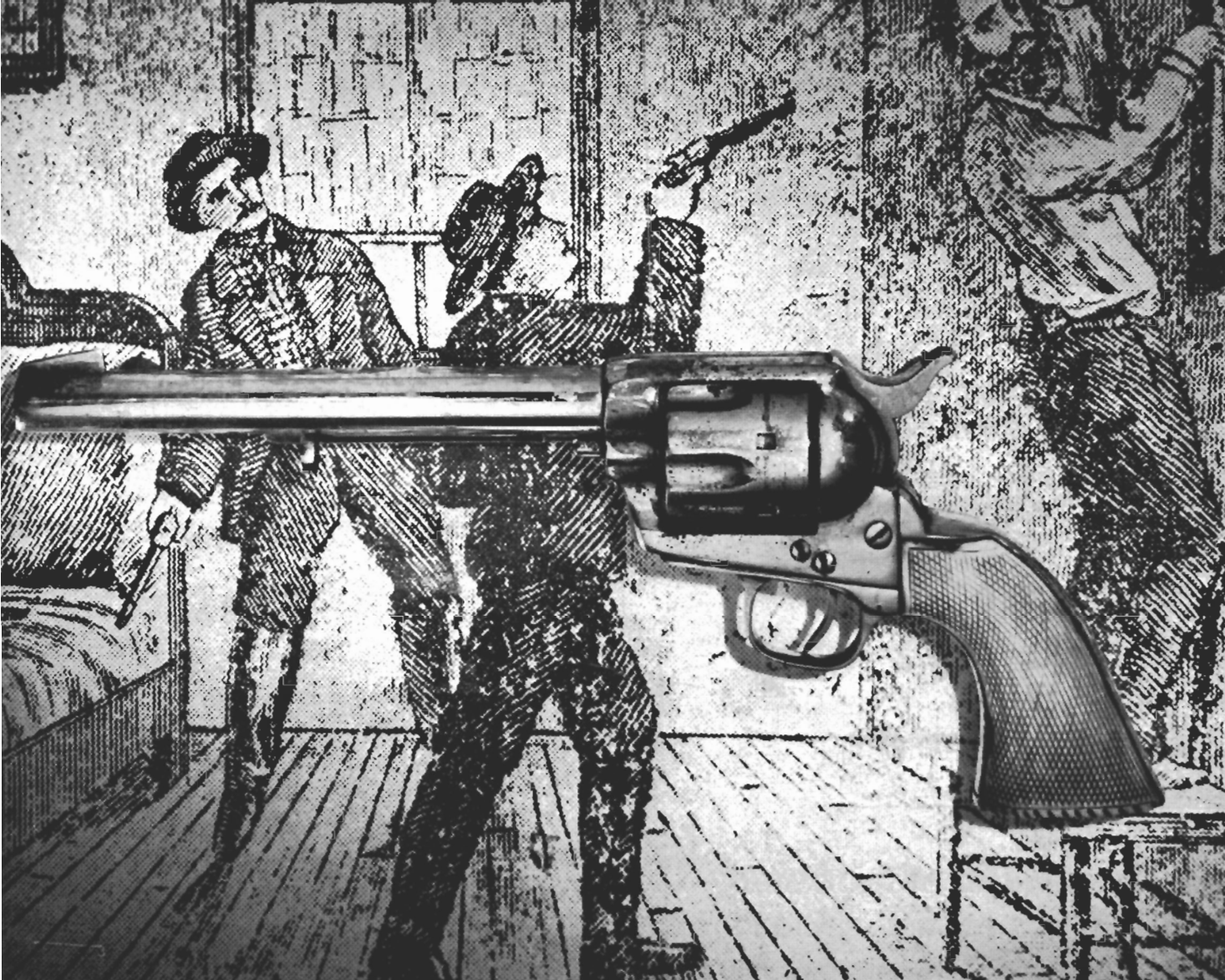
Jesse had come up the hard way, from the wild days of the Civil War. He had spent about 15 years of his life in armed robbery, with great success so far as escaping the law was concerned.

Born September 5, 1847 in Clay County, Missouri, Jesse Woodson James was a lad when the Civil War began. His father was pro-South and early in 1862 brother Frank James joined William Clark Quantrill's guerillas, drawing his whole family into the orbit of passionate feeling. Prior

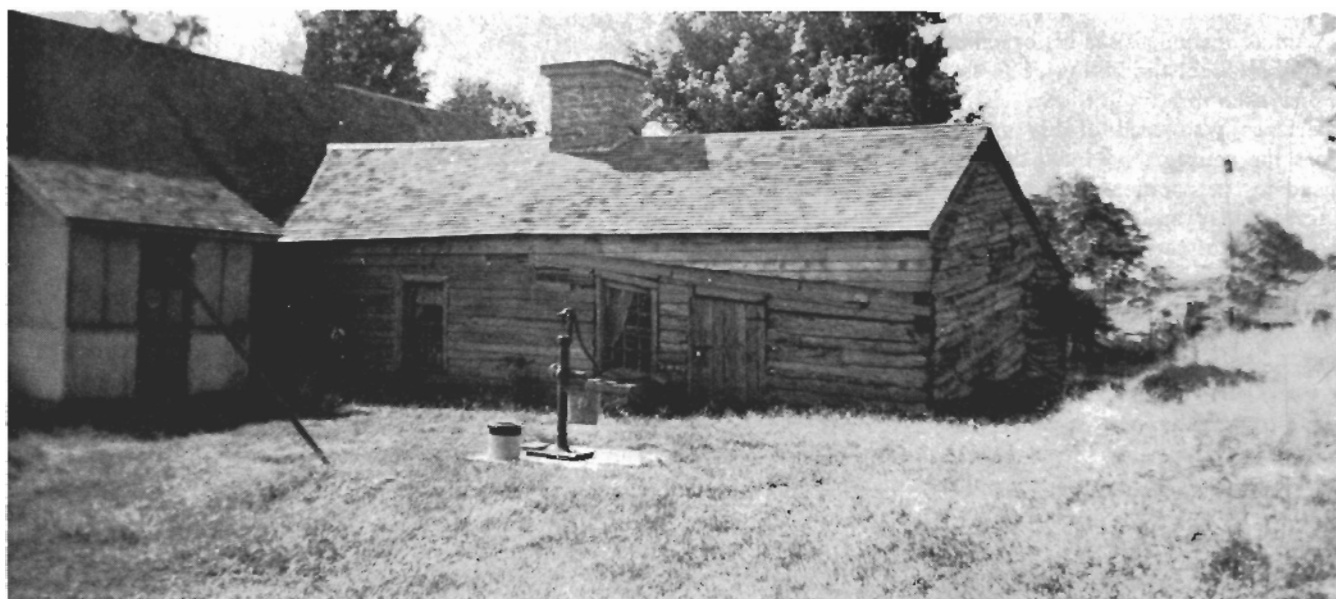


Jesse's young friend Bob Ford, with whom he planned robbery, shot him when he turned his back.



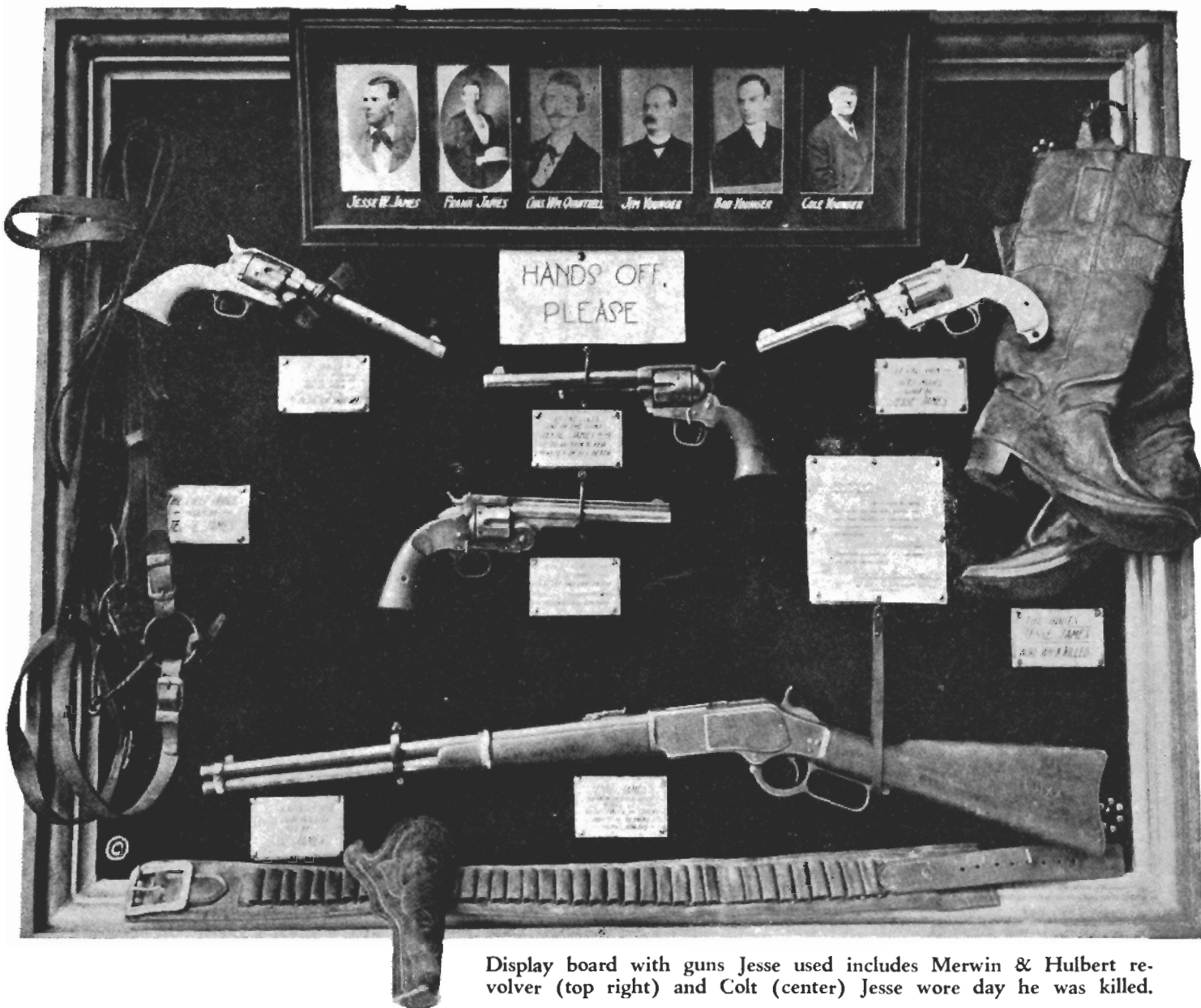


Colt .45 with 19 notches in butt is said to be one with which Bob Ford killed Jesse James but claim is questioned. Gun is placed over old artist's version of shooting by Fords which shows Jesse on chair at right dusting picture frame.



Jesse's home in Kearney, Mo., shows the window opposite pump through which Pinkertons threw bomb, killing half-brother and blowing off his mother's arm. Jesse returned to home in death, was buried in yard.





Display board with guns Jesse used includes Merwin & Hulbert revolver (top right) and Colt (center) Jesse wore day he was killed.

to this, Frank had fought with regular Missouri Confederate troops, but there is no record of his family being molested until after Frank joined Quantrill, that mixture of patriot and brigand whom the Federals tried to destroy.

Then the Union troopers called on the James house to find Frank. Whips backed up their questions and Jesse's mother and sister Susan were put into a filthy jail where Susan almost died from fever. Jesse escaped, and with Frank and Quantrill became accustomed to the sound of shots in the dark, ambushes along forest-bordered roads in the Missouri country, and the sight of violent death. Jesse received an almost fatal lung wound in a skirmish at Flat Rock Ford in August of 1864, but was nursed back to health by a family who lived nearby.

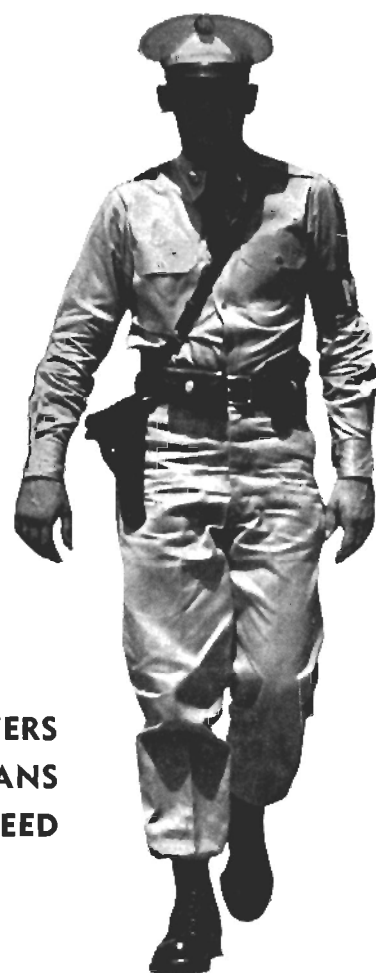
After Lee's surrender Jesse led a



band of guerillas under a flag of truce to Lexington, Missouri, to surrender to Union troops. There a soldier fired at him, wounding him through the same lung so severely that he was given up for dead. This time he was cared for by a cousin, Zerelda Mimms, whom he later married.

It seemed as if they would not let Jesse surrender. Under terms of the Drake Constitution of 1865 as adopted by the state of Missouri, all Confederate soldiers or sympathizers were strictly forbidden to practice any professions or act as deacons of any church under heavy penalty. For ten years this situation existed, during which Jesse could not have studied for any advanced kind of work, nor have become an active member of the community in ordinary fashion. By then, it was too late. Jesse James was (Continued on page 49)

# WHAT PISTOL FOR POLICE?



**U. S. OFFICERS PARTIAL TO REVOLVERS  
FOR THEIR RELIABILITY BUT EUROPEANS  
INSIST ON AUTOMATICS FOR THEIR SPEED**

By HARVEY BRANDT

**T**HERE is perhaps no single question of firearms so positively settled as what gun is the best for police—and the Atlantic Ocean seems to be the dividing line as far as the answer. In Europe the answer is automatics; they are carried by uniformed and plainclothes officers, by forest rangers and secret agents. But on this side of the water, Canadian and U. S. officers invariably carry revolvers.

The crux of the argument lies in the mechanical difference between automatics and revolvers.

Revolvers carry five or six cartridges in the revolving cylinder, corresponding to the clip magazine of an automatic. But in an automatic, where a platform is pushed up under the cartridges by a spring to feed the shots to the barrel, the revolver cylinder has a never-failing mechanical link direct to the trigger. When the trigger is pulled, the cylinder must rotate a fresh cartridge in line with the barrel, whether it fires or not.

In an automatic, sand or dirt can slow up the movement of the cartridge platform or "follower" and so cause a hesitation in loading, sometimes getting the cartridge cocked sideways and jamming the gun. To clear a jam the slide must be pulled back with the other hand—something an officer cannot always do when handcuffed to a criminal or injured. A revolver even if a misfire occurs, need only be clicked again and the next cartridge will come up.

The substance of the American police argument against automatics boils down to one of "reliability." Automatics are faster than revolvers in the hands of an unskilled or semi-skilled police shooter. But their drawback is their "unreliability."

Exponents of the revolver wage an almost constant verbal battle with the auto pistol advocates. Yet which type of weapon is carried seems to be decided not only by the current function of the officer in society, but also by history.

Modern American police departments began about the middle of the last century. The "watches" which walked the streets at night gradually were organized into city "armies" which retained their civilian character. The officers worked an ordinary day and then went home to their families. Their guns were mainly civilian type weapons.

In Europe on the other hand police have a national character. The gendarmes of France are typical. Administered by the army, the French gendarmes serve as combined state and military police, going anywhere in the country. They are on call of the national government.

Living in barracks along military lines, the gendarmes are recruited from former soldiers whose peace-time compulsory enlistments have expired. Because these national police serve as models for city police in most European countries, the equipment of the city police has taken on a military character. Rifles are kept at most police barracks, while often police on routine duty before the city hall will carry submachine guns, more for "show" than to actually use.

The European policeman is more a soldier, while the American policeman is primarily a civilian. Through the years this separation between European and American police departments has become more extreme.

American police have used revolvers from the earliest

days. Reliability was more important to an early police officer than the shocking power of the bullet fired. The biggest handgun was no use if it didn't shoot, and American police used the guns they found were most reliable for the times—the Colt and Remington revolvers from pre-Civil War times. In the post-war boom, peace officers used the army revolvers once issued to them—.36 or .44 Colt, Starr, or Remington percussion revolvers.

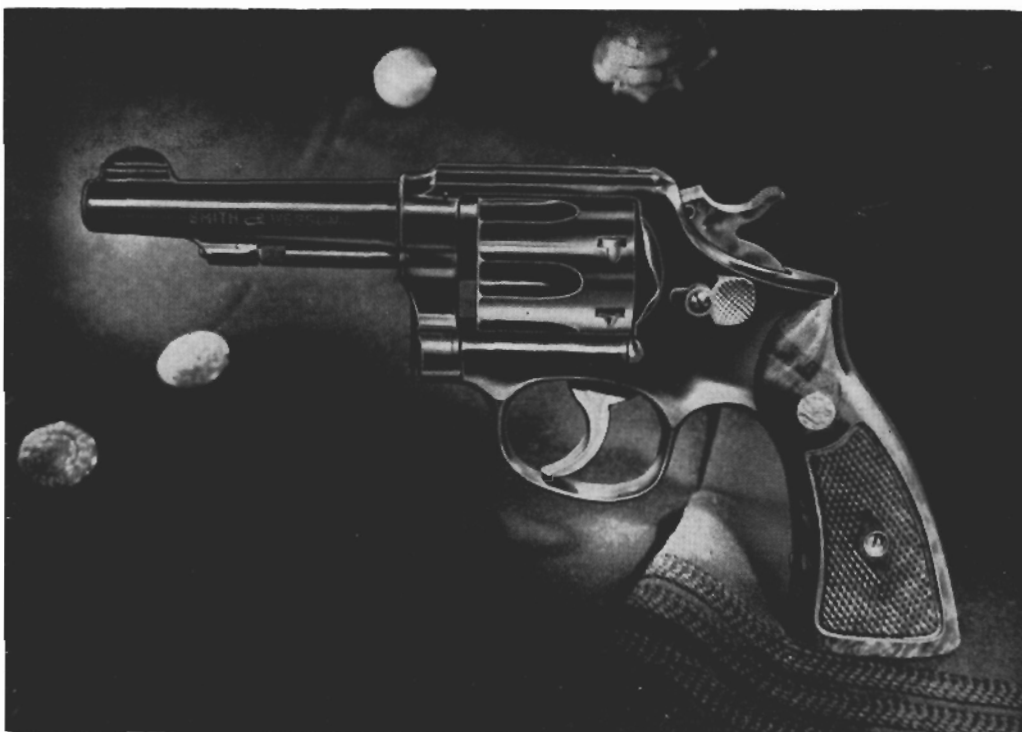
But in Europe, police preferred automatics and still do. The French, along with many other Continental departments, find the .32 automatic satisfactory for their needs. Partly this is because running gun battles between cops and robbers along open country roads are particularly unknown. Cheap automatics of the Browning-Spanish types from southern France, the "RUBY" and others were is-

sued. At the Manufrance arms factory of St. Etienne, the "Le Francais" line of pistols is made. Smallest of these in .25 caliber is "Le Policeman," reflecting its vest-pocket use by plainclothes officers.

English police relied more on "police statism" than on actual combat with the criminal. The small areas and large police forces worked against the criminal more effectively than guns. England has nearly three times as many policemen per capita as the United States. After World War I, Webley & Scott made a "Metropolitan Police" 9 mm automatic pistol, but few were used. Firearms are kept at the station houses and not issued except in great emergency. This "tacit agreement" among crooks and police is almost legendary; the crooks don't carry guns, and neither do the police. The reason is simple. The criminal, once the seaports and borders are closed, cannot get off the island. Geography works better than guns, and neither automatics nor revolvers ever reached much perfection in design in England.

In Europe the rugged conditions of the "frontier" never existed. While an American owner of a sidearm might carry it for months through rain and hail, dust and snow, and need it in a second to save his life, the European pistol man led a much more secluded life and automatics saw relatively easy service. Chemical advances in ammunition manufacture also helped keep European automatics "reliable." Improved primers in German ammo were less likely to deteriorate than older American stuff.

Revolvers have been made in Europe. From the English Deane-Adams through a whole variety of "Bulldog" and "Ordnance" designs, revolvers



For fifty years Smith & Wesson .38 Military & Police revolver has been a police standard everywhere.



Aluminum alloy frames of Colt "Commander" and other modern features are attracting police to use automatics.



Bull Dog revolvers of cheap construction and outmoded design are still being made in Europe for police use.



Odd Nagant revolvers used by Czarist Russia are still issued, but are tricky, not as reliable as U. S. types.



Reliable Browning Model 1922 automatic pistol in .32 caliber was designed by maker especially for police.



Double action Czech CZ .25 auto pistol is typical of trend to revolver features in automatic designs.

have long had a place in the European gun scene. Yet with a very few exceptions, revolvers of European make are poorly designed and some are dangerous by American standards.

The British service revolvers for example are hinged-frame guns using a stirrup latch over the top strap to hold the gun together. They were originally designed in the 1880's almost immediately after Smith & Wesson introduced the basic idea. These Webley revolvers are strong guns, but there they stop. Suitable for ordinary black powder or low-powered nitro loads, they would be entirely unsuitable for firing modern American heavy-duty .38, .44 Special handloads, or .357 Magnum cartridges commonly used in police work.

Webley & Scott's persistence with this type of gun is dictated partly by the notion that if they changed over to the much superior solid frame like an American gun, they would be accused of "copying."

Continental revolvers are no better. One of the finest made is a solid-frame French "Modele d'Ordonnance" 1892 gun, but being an obsolete military gun in a caliber about as powerful as the .38 Colt, it has never been accepted by police departments. There are no commercial French revolvers, except cheap hideaway guns of small caliber and poor workmanship.

Germany had the Luger and after World War I the main field for development lay with the auto pistols. Thousands

of Lugers were issued to German police. It is easy to understand why. In 1930 the price FOB Hamburg of a Smith & Wesson Regulation Police model .32 revolver was more than twice the cost of a German-made police .32 automatic. German makers concentrated on improving auto pistols, and so in Germany the commercial double-action automatic was born. This design seems to be the strongest hope to reconcile the reliability of the revolver with the greater firepower, larger ammunition capacity, and flat concealability of the automatic.

Walther in Zella-Mehlis was the first successful maker of double action pistols. The Walther company recognized its potential market. The name of their most important pistol was the "PP" or Police Pistol. "Zuiverlassiger kamerad" it was called—"everfaithful comrade," for sport, for target shooting, and for police work.

For police work, Walther recognized a better reason for a double action feature-safety. With most automatics you either have to thumb back the outside hammer, or carry it at full cock, ready for the job. When the Colt Super .38 was first brought out in the 30's, the police of Frontenac, Mo., obtained some for use in their patrol cars. The high velocity metal-jacketed slug was as close to metal piercing as any handgun ammo then available. But when they had to cover a prisoner, accidents would happen. One officer recounts:

"They issued a few Super (Continued on page 64)





By STUART MILLER

### *Centennial Commemorative Stamp*

A MOST interesting part of the ordnance department's display at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876 was their cartridge production line. This line consisted of 19 arsenal machines and showed the visitors the various steps necessary to convert the raw materials into 45-70 Springfield cartridges. The line was run by operators from nearby Frankford Arsenal, and had the capacity of 14,000 cartridges per day.

There were to be 500,000 blank cartridges made at the exposition, and the line was slowed down to 5,000 rounds per day so that they could continue operating during the entire summer. Because of the danger involved in handling



the powder, the actual loading of the cartridges was not done at the exposition, but at the arsenal instead. Loading machines at the exhibit were run upon application by visitors, but mustard seed was used instead of gun powder.

The cartridges were the standard copper-cased 45-70 inside primed shells, but they bore a special "commemorative" head stamp. (see photo). There are two schools of thought as to the meaning of the "C" in the headstamp. One says the "C" stands for "carbine," while the other claims that it stands for "centennial."

The cases were shipped to Frankford Arsenal where they were loaded, packed, and disposed of through regular military channels. The blanks were loaded with 70 grains of musket powder, pressed hard in the loading machines, and varnished at the mouth of the case. No wad was used.

No doubt many of the empty cases and the mustard seed loaded ball cartridges were passed out as souvenirs to the taxpayers at the fair—just what else could the army do with cartridges which had mustard seed for a propelling charge? They are very seldom seen in cartridge collections today.

### *Krag Ammunition*

While on the subject of military cartridges, I was most interested to learn that during the Spanish-American War, our army bought quite a quantity of Krag ammunition from Kynoch, Ltd., of Birmingham, England. The army did not have the 30-40 Krag Jorgensen rifle for too many years, and in the war emergency, needed far more ammunition than could be supplied by Frankford Arsenal. They contracted for cartridges from Winchester, Union Metallic Cartridge Co., and from Kynoch to insure a sufficient supply.

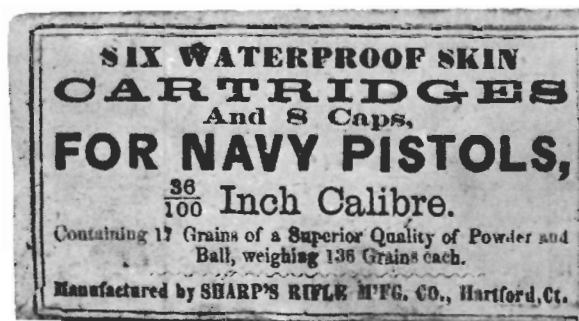
This Kynoch ammunition was loaded with the traditional amber-colored stick cordite powder, and was equipped with a large-sized copper specially adapted for use with cordite. The size of the copper primer and the headstamp—either "KC 98" or "KC 99"—were the only identification of this unusual round. In all other features

it resembles the usual arsenal-made Krag rounds. The ammunition was packed in U.S. army-style labeled boxes. The performance was the same as the U.S.-made rounds, the box I have stating the velocity was 1964 feet per second at 53 feet.

### *Unusual Sharps Packet*

I have seen a packet of skin cartridges from the Winge collection that is unusual for several reasons. First off, it represents one of the very few instances when the Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Co. of Hartford made cartridges that were not intended for use in their own weapons. The company's best known cartridges were, of course, the .52 Sharps linen cartridges for their breech-loading percussion carbines and rifles of the Civil War. Later, after the company had reorganized as the Sharps Rifle Co., they made a few sizes of metallic cartridges such as the 50-90-2½" Sharps straight, but very few.

Second, it is the only packet that I have ever seen that gives the bullet weight in addition to the powder charge. This is the heavier powder charge, as most of the com-



panies were content with a 15 grain load for the .36 navy revolvers. This is but one grain lighter powder charge than was employed in many of the .44 caliber army revolver cartridges of the time.

Add to this the fact that it is one of the few packets that included percussion caps in with the cartridges, and you will agree with me that it is a mighty desirable item.

### *Hayes Patent Skin Cartridge*

For a number of years I have liked the looks of the specimen of the Hayes patent skin cartridge that I have in my collection. This was of the usual style with the skin cartridge being enclosed in a paper envelope, leaving the round-nosed conical bullet exposed, and with a black tape for tearing the envelope. This differed in that it had a blue label reading: "Capt. M. Hayes, R.N. Patent Skin Cartridge, Manufactured by Broux & Moll, London."

I had always wondered just how these skin cartridges were supposed to be used, so was happy when I got an original can from this type cartridge—(unfortunately it was empty)—giving the following directions.

"By Royal Letter of Patent. Capt. Montagu Hayes' R.N. Skin Cartridges. Warranted to (Continued on page 44)

REG. TRADE MARK



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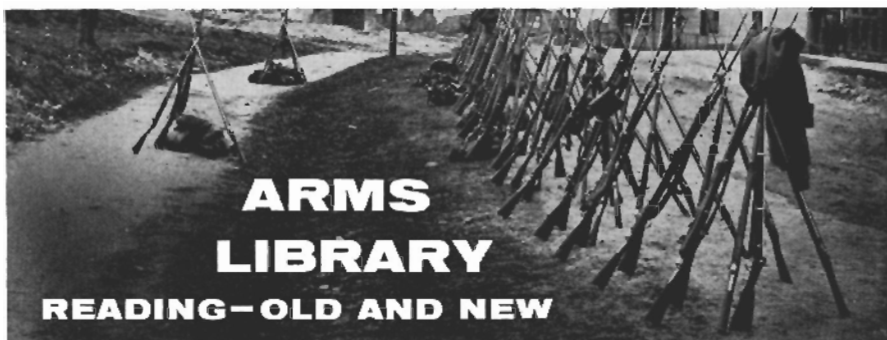
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BUCKSKIN AND SATIN by Herschel Logan (Stackpole \$3.95).

Noted for his books, "Handcannon to Automatic" and "Cartridges," Logan has wandered afield here with fine results. One or two of his famous ink line drawings are used in this story of Texas Jack Omohundro and his wife, Mlle. Morlacchi, who introduced the "can-can" to the American stage. Other illustrations are photos of men famous on the scene of the American West, like General Custer, Buffalo Bill, and dozens of others.

Texas Jack was a legitimate cowboy who later turned to the bright lights for his career. Eclipsed by Buffalo Bill, who was boomed to fame by Ned Buntline, Texas Jack was one of many whose actions made them immortal, but whose names have been lost to the modern reader. Logan, through obtaining an early S. & W. revolver, with the words "Texas Jack, Cotton Wood Spring, 1872," engraved thereon, began his intensive search into the life of this frontiersman. The gun owned by Texas Jack, though serving merely as the springboard to his adventurous career, is a "US" stamped Smith & Wesson .44, of the rare nickel-plated variation. While 1,000 of this model revolver were ordered by the Army for field trial, only 997 were received. Of this number, 200 were subsequently refinished, from blue to nickel plate, to test whether one type of finish was superior to the other. Texas Jack's gun is one of this last batch, possibly given to him in recognition of his scouting duties. Logan's book at last recognizes him for his other accomplishments as plainsman and showman.

ANTIQUE GUNS by H. W. Bowman, edited by Lucian Cary (Arco \$2).

This little book is designed to cover everything in the gun field from soup to nuts, being a general treatise on firearms for the layman. But it is full of errors. The photos, many of them taken by Hank Bowman, are unfortunately of an inferior quality of reproduction. Lavish use of retouching has in some instances destroyed the original appearance of the gun.

THE BUFFALO HUNTERS by Mari Sandoz (Hastings House \$4.50).

Miss Sandoz' biography of the buffalo begins in those times beyond the memory of men when bison roamed the Great Plains from horizon to horizon and extends to the death of Sitting Bull and the last great Indian hunts. Today the shaggy animals are curios; hunting is controlled and permitted only to keep herds on game preserves from increasing beyond the limits of the land to support them. A buffalo robe, once the

article of commerce which caused the slaughter of millions of animals, is today almost unknown, an antique.

Throughout the pages of "The Buffalo Hunters" sweeps a pageant of American history, vital to the western lore enthusiast and arms collector, as well of curious interest to the modern hunter. Statistics are there for the student, but palatably presented for casual reading. Famous characters from the Old West come alive again where the orbits of their careers touched with the great circle of the buffalo.

Gun experts may be annoyed with Mari Sandoz' seeming preoccupation with the "Big Fifty" Sharps, or her description of a plain sporting rifle as "an elegant weapon with fine buckhorn sights," but these are details which should not cloud the accuracy of her other basic research, or the fluidity of her writing.

GUN COLLECTORS' GUIDE by Martin Rywell (Pioneer \$2.50).

Martin Rywell is known among gun fans as one whose accuracy as to fact is frequently open to question, and who is careless about his sources. A pleasant surprise is his new book setting forth principles of gun collecting. While it is the usual Rywell potpourri, it nevertheless has considerable merit in it to make it easily worth the price and more. The book is valuable to the novice collector or to the antique shop owner who is not a specialist but who still desires to learn a little more about guns than the encyclopedia offers.

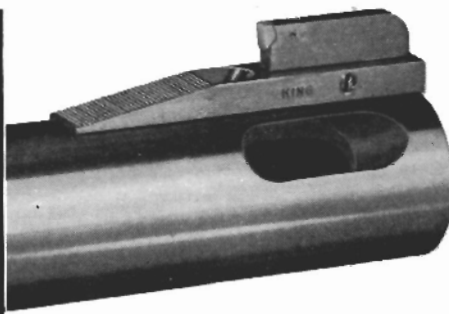
BEYOND THE CROSS TIMBERS by W. Eugene Hollon (University of Oklahoma Press \$4).

General Randolph B. Marcy, by the time of the Civil War, had piled up an enviable and significant reputation as a trail-blazer, serving in the Corps of Topographical Engineers. Acclaimed in his own time, author of "The Prairie Traveller," and other works on western America, Marcy lapsed into obscurity. Now Hollon's scholarly but readable biographical narrative of Marcy's career again brings to the attention of western fans the adventurous life of one of America's greatest pioneers.

Of special interest to Colt collectors is Marcy's career. He was one of the officers in whose commands early Colt rifles were field tested, and his accounts of the use of Colt's arms during the Seminole War gave Colt strong persuasion in his later appeals for contracts with the government. Perhaps in token of Marcy's explorations of the west, Colonel Colt presented to him a Navy Colt M1861, serial number 1803.



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## CARTRIDGES

(Continued from page 41)

stand all climates for any length of time and not leave any residue or to deteriorate the barrel. Manufactured for G. H. Daw's Revolvers by H. Gladstone & Co., London. Instructions for Use—First explode cap on each nipple to clean them from oil or dust. Strip the white case off the cartridge by holding the bullet end and tearing it down with the tape. Place the cartridge in the mouth of the chamber of the cylinder, with the pointed end of the bullet uppermost one at a time, and turn them under the rammer forcing them down with the lever below the surface of the cylinder. Henry C. Gladstone & Co., 22 Lawrence Pountney Land, London W.C."

The container was not dated, but great emphasis was placed on the medal won at the Exposition in 1862. Hayes patents on the skin cartridges were taken out in September of 1856, and included mention of tread reinforcing for the skin or gut used for the cartridge case.

### Question Marks

"A friend coming out of the army brought me a package of '5 cartridges, Grenade Auxiliary M7' made by Frankfort Arsenal. They seem to be some sort of blank, about 45 caliber steel case, red top wad. While there is a small hole in the center of the head, there is no sign of primer, nor connecting flash hole. What kind of a primer did these take, and how do they work?" M. A., Detroit.

This is an odd one. First off, there isn't any primer nor was there supposed to be. This is actually an auxiliary powder charge for use in firing the rifle grenade from the 30-06 or 30 M1 carbine. This cartridge is placed in the front end of the grenade launching attachment, with the paper wad pointing toward the weapons chamber, the regular grenade launching blank slipped into the chamber of the gun, and the grenade placed on the launcher. The flash from the firing of the blank ignites the auxiliary cartridge, through the paper wad. Acting like a rocket, it gives the grenade a boost. In the 30-06, this would add up to 100 yards to the range of the grenade.

"What are some other good books on cartridges? I already have Logans 'Cartridges' and the two volumes by White Munball on 'Cartridge Identification'."—M. H., Tucson, Ariz.

You already have the best on collectors cartridges. Others are Johnson & Haven's "Ammunition, Its History, Development and Use," published by William Morrow & Co. in 1943. This has quite a bit of good material reprinted from books and catalogs. John Amber's "Ten Rare Old Gun Catalogs" put out by Greenberg in 1952 has 1875 and 1885 Winchester catalogs. Dunlap's "Ordnance Went Up Front" published by Samworth in 1948 gives interesting coverage of WW 2 cartridges. Simmon's "Wild Cat Cartridges" printed by Morrow in 1947 is good if you go for that field. Phil Sharpe's "Complete Guide To Hand Loading" gives much useable collector data in addition to vast quantities of data for hand-loaders. All the above are either in print, or should be easy to obtain through your gun book dealer. ●

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## THE MYTH OF THE QUICK DRAW

(Continued from page 27)

top holsters fit carefully around the trigger guard, but expose the fancy handle of the gun.

Commercial holsters followed the pattern, either tight and "Mexican" or with a flap covering the gun to protect it in frontier service. A gun was valuable; it had to be guarded from weather.

First "modern" holster is actually one popularly believed to have been of the "old west." It is the "buscudero" or drop loop holster, often used as a pair, and slung low on the hips. Tie thongs sometimes strap around the thigh and hold the holster tips down. Stiff leather in drop loops and holsters is relied on to keep the holsters from "riding up" with the guns in drawing. One of these outfits was made for Captain A. H. Hardy, then U. S. Border Patrol, by Tio Sam Myres of El Paso back in 1910.

*Buscudero* literally means "outlaw" from the spanish verb *buscar*—"to hunt." Careless magazine cover artists for the nickel novels of Ned Buntline and other myth makers are as responsible as anyone for the popular notion that western outlaws wore their guns on loose belts, slung low and bumping against their knees. Cowboys in town on a spree would often turn up at the local photographic salon for a group portrait. Their own guns had been put away, as practically every cow town had and enforced ordinances against wearing pistols on the street. But the photographer always kept a good variety to borrow. With "prop" revolvers and holster belts worn in sloppy devil-may-care fashion,

they would glower fiercely at the camera and be recorded for posterity. Some of these western characters simply bristle with guns, so much iron that they would have had difficulty in walking.

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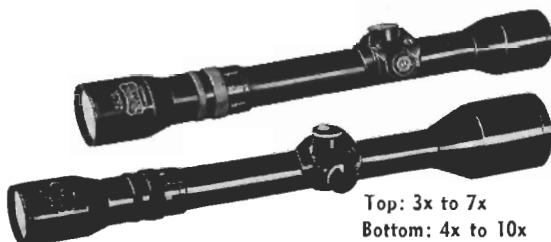
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These men would have been surprised at the skill of modern shooters with the quick draw, all due to better guns and holsters. Since the last of the Wild West's greats passed into the great beyond, holsters have developed more than in the century preceding. The advances have been in many directions and styles, all aimed at placing a gun in a man's hand in the quickest possible time.

One of the first sensible ideas on improving the holster was the "Berns Martin," made at Calhoun City, Mo. This design has the back of the trigger guard protected so that an officer could not be disarmed by a crook from behind by jerking up on the gun handle. The revolver is instantly ready for use by grasping the grip and sweeping it forward in a smooth motion, placing the finger on the trigger as it clears the holster. The holster front is split for its entire length and a spring inside the leather holds the gun in place.

A variation of this is the "Lightning" Berns Martin holster, worn inverted under the coat. Designed for "shoulder holster" work, this carries the revolver upside down with the revolver butt exposed. A pull down and out, and the gun comes free, ready for instant use.

One type which has never achieved the popularity it deserves is called the "Clam-shell." Made from two leather-covered pressed metal half shells, hinged at the back edge, the "Clam Shell" opens when a spring is touched as the trigger finger is inserted into the guard. This holster also prevents the criminal from disarming an officer. With the half shell sprung open, the gun comes out and is ready for use. A drawback to the design is in the re-holstering: the halfshell must be closed first. Sometimes this is not easy to do, and then there is no place to put the gun.

The standard shoulder holster can be worn by many people, especially larger men. Round butt revolvers bulk less than square butt guns, and a little expert tailoring to the suit coat should be done to keep the bulge from being too noticeable. Even with the coat buttoned, this holds the gun handy for use and it can be drawn easily.

The left hand can also help with pants-belt holster in the cross draw. By pulling the jacket open with it, the right hand can get at the gun butt faster.

One fashion in holsters that enjoyed a lot of popularity for years is the hip pocket holster. Some of these were made of rubber, while others were of leather stitched onto a slab of leather the size of the pocket, to hold it solidly. About the only situation where it had any use would be if a fellow was not wearing a coat and was walking. On horseback, the gun would be lost at the first step, and with a coat over it, the thing was suicide.

The standard belt holster is worn by most foot officers today. It is belted on fairly high at the top of the trousers. Coats are slit at the sides to allow access to the gun butts, but "quick draws" are difficult or impossible. The wise, living officer gets his 4" barreled .38 out *before* he gets into a tight situation, or else is likely to wind up a dead hero.

There are often instances where a policeman, say a plainclothesman, cannot draw a gun before he comes up to the people he wants to talk to. Mere suspicion alone is

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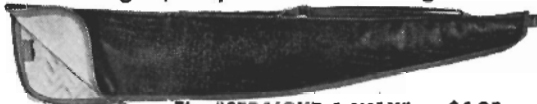


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not enough to warrant drawing a gun on a citizen. Also is it not wise to tip off observers that plainclothesmen are walking around, by having men in business suits with guns in their hands on view.

One of the best modern holsters for the detective is a simple device dreamed up by Ken Medley of Sherman Oaks, California. Medley has been a courier for top-secret material for a number of years, and was familiar with outmoded types of holsters. Carrying a 2" barreled S&W was to him a problem, for if an ordinary holster were cut low enough to make the gun handy, the short 2" barrel wouldn't have enough grip to hold the gun in the holster at all and he would lose it.

Medley's holster improvement on which he is getting patents uses a bristle brush inside the holster to keep the gun in. Passing entirely through the cylinder, where one chamber has been left empty, this brush folds its bristles to resist pulling the gun out. If a firm hold on the grip is followed by a good yank to the gun, it comes free but otherwise it is entirely secure. The brush stays in the holster. In returning the gun to the holster, the muzzle easily slips over the brush. No top strap, springs, or other fancy work is needed, but the gun is held ready in an instant.

Since the brush can be kept lightly oiled, it even cleans the gun while you carry it. In the course of time the brush will wear and need replacing. Outside the holster looks like any other. The popular makes of holster by Myres, Heiser, Lawrence and other saddlery companies can be fitted with Medley's design at the factory.

While gun designs continue to improve, holster designs change, too. Medley's idea is one of the newest. Another is even more simple, doing away with the leather covering entirely. Designed for an automatic, it includes a plug to go into the muzzle and a spring washer which pushes up on the muzzle when the gun is holstered. At the back of the grip a small hook catches the handle of the gun. Drawing a pistol is a simple motion of pushing down and forward on the gun, as simple as swinging your arm.

The ideal in pistol shooting is "to make the gun seem like an extension of your hand." In holsters, that too would be a logical evolution. But to find this we have to go back a few years, to assassins and murderers who actually carried their guns wrapped up in a bandage, really "an extension of the hand." Nothing beats having your gun ready in your hand when you need it. The quick draw is a poor substitute for foresight.

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## JESSE JAMES

(Continued from page 37)

well on his way to a life of crime.

On St. Valentine's Day of 1866 Jesse James pulled his first bank robbery. It was marked by a take of nearly \$75,000—and the death of an innocent boy named Wymore killed by the bandits as he walked to school. His family received a note expressing sympathy and regret, stating it was an accident. The note was signed with the names of Jesse and Frank James.

Half a year later, in October, four bandits took \$2,000 from the Alexander Mitchell & Company office, in Lexington, Mo. On March 2, 1867, the private bank of Judge William McLain of Savannah, Mo., was invaded by bandits. Judge McLain was severely wounded but recovered.

Other holdups occurred throughout the middle west done by the James gang and his associates, the Youngers. But Jesse first made history by robbing a train. On July 21, 1954, the citizens of Adair, Iowa, commemorated this incident by erecting a plaque on the scene of the crime, bearing these words:

Site of the first Train Robbery in the west, committed by the notorious Jesse James and his gang of outlaws, July 21, 1873.

Jesse had learned that the train was carrying \$100,000 in gold. Too tempting to let go by, the novelty of a train robbery excited his imagination. The site picked was on a slight grade of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific road a mile and a half west of Adair. The bandits loosened a rail and tied a rope to it. As the engine neared the loosened track, the robbers pulled the rope, spreading the rails. The engine toppled over, killing the engineer and injuring the fireman. The outlaws broke into the express car and learned that the train carrying the gold was not due until the next morning: Jesse had robbed the wrong train!

While officials everywhere were roused against them, ordinary citizens cared little. The James boys robbed banks and railroads, not people—who cared? Thus did Jesse begin to acquire the mantle of "Robin Hood," although there is no evidence that he made any practice of helping the poor. Bank robberies and stage holdups varied by train robberies continued for years. The Pinkerton agency in Chicago sent several men after him. Rewards started at \$500 "for the arrest and conviction of Jesse James." Pretty soon they were \$25,000, dead or alive. Jesse James was wanted by the law in a dozen states.

By 1880, Jesse's adventures were punctuated with periods of quiet, while he lived under an assumed name, moving from town to town when they began to suspect who he was.

In Kansas City, where he assumed the name "T. J. Jackson," Jesse became worried that his identity would be given away by talkative Ed Miller. A one-time member of his gang, Miller knew too much. But suddenly Miller could talk no more. Killed in Saline county, it was rumored that Jesse James personally had acted as executioner.

With Miller dead, another gang associate became a threat. This was Jim Cummins, who was never proved to have been a mem-

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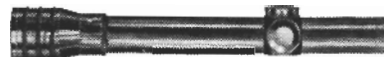
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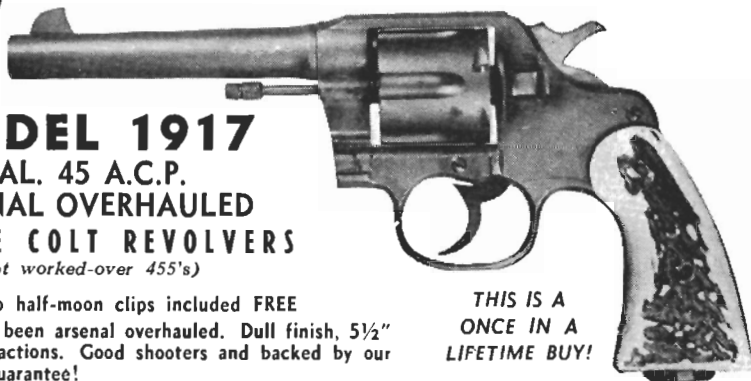
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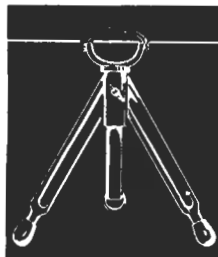
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ber of Jesse's select company, but knew a lot about its operations. When Jesse learned that Jim was too noisy, he and Dick Liddil chased Cummins into Arkansas, trying to shoot him.

Jim dodged back into Missouri, and hid out at the home of Bill Ford, an uncle of Bob Ford. A wise hunch that Jesse might be catching up to him scared Cummins away. Just as he had ridden off, Jesse and Liddil rounded a bend leading to the Ford home. Bill's wife, Artella (who was Cummin's sister), and her 15-year-old son were at home alone. Jesse and Liddil took the boy into the woods and tortured him almost to death, trying to force some information about Cummins from him.

Apparently the Fords' active hatred for Jesse began at this time. On December 4, 1881, Jesse's favorite cousin Wood Hite was killed in argument over division of the take after the Blue Cut, Missouri, train robbery. This "accident" occurred at the home of J. T. Ford, father of Bob Ford.

After the unsuccessful chase of Jim Cummins, Jesse decided to move again—his final move—to St. Joseph, Mo. There he appeared as "Thomas Howard," who rented a house at Lafayette and 21st Streets. Shortly after he moved to another rented house at 1381 Lafayette.

Jesse tried to live anonymously, but his purpose was not to go straight. Rather, he was biding his time and trying to recruit a new gang. Not recognizing that the Ford brothers hated him for his inhuman treatment of Bill Ford's son, and feared him because of the killing of Wood Hite, Jesse tried to enlist them in his gang. Jesse and Charley Ford met at St. Joseph to plan a robbery in Platte City, Mo. And while Charley Ford and Jesse were planning robbery, Bob Ford was in Kansas City planning murder.

Charley had been living in Jesse's home as a "relative," along with Jesse's mother, Mrs. Samuel, and his wife Zerelda. Bob Ford was added to the group, house guest of the man he was determined to murder.

April 3, 1882 was a bright warm spring day on the hill where Jesse lived with his family and entertained his two friends. Jesse's wife was not feeling well, so he pitched in and helped to do the household chores. At about nine o'clock in the morning Jesse and Charley went into the living room, where Bob was sitting.

Alert, ever mindful of his enemies outside searching for him, Jesse wore his gunbelt. The day was growing warmer and Jesse took off his coat. Lest pedestrians on the street look into his window and see the innocuous "Mr. Howard" walking around the house wearing pistols, he unstrapped his guns and laid them on a bed.

Jesse then took up a dusting brush and stepped on a chair to clean a picture and straighten the frame. While the world's most renowned outlaw was engaged in this bit of spring cleaning, Bob Ford drew his revolver and sent a slug crashing through Jesse's head.

Most accounts of the shooting say that the bullet entered the base of Jesse's skull at the back of the head and emerged over the left eye. This is plain inference that Jesse was shot in the back, but this is not exactly true. Re-examination of the testimony given

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at the inquest indicates that the hole in Jesse's forehead was a clean wound. The hole in the back of his head was ragged. The entrance hole of a gunshot wound is generally clean, but the exit hole, after the bullet has become battered and deformed, is usually irregular. This tends to substantiate Bob Ford's testimony that Jesse had started to turn around and face him when the shot was fired.

What probably happened was that Jesse, familiar with the click of a revolver hammer being cocked, heard that last click, started to face the Fords . . . and heard no more. Ford's gun must have blasted him right in his face. At the inquest Bob Ford said: "I was about eight feet from him when he heard my pistol cock. He turned his head like lightning. I fired, the ball hitting over the left eye and coming out behind the right ear at an upward angle."

The remains of the great outlaw were identified by an impressive list of names. There was no doubt that the dead man was Jesse James. On Wednesday, April 5, two days after his murder, the law released Jesse's body to his family. At sunset a special funeral train in charge of Marshal Enos Craig left St. Joseph for Cameron. At Cameron the casket was transferred to another special train and taken to Jesse's old home town of Kearney. Jesse lay in state in the front room of the Kearney Hotel from 6 o'clock in the evening until 10 o'clock where several thousand friends and curious strangers filed past the bier. It was the largest crowd Kearney had ever seen, this mob coming to see a dead bandit. Over muddy trails men rode from afar on horseback. Regular trains altered their schedules and stopped at the town so that passengers could view the remains of the outlaw, or walk the streets where he had walked.

They put Jesse beneath the ground the afternoon of the 6th, in the corner of the yard at his old homestead four miles from town. Twenty years later the remains were moved to the family plot in Kearney.

The house in St. Joseph where Jesse was killed has been moved to the outskirts of the city. It is now a museum, with a strongly commercial history. After Jesse's death the owner of the house sold for 25 cents bloody splinters from the boards where Jesse had fallen. When he had chopped up all the boards, he got others and spilled ox blood on them and continued the sale of splinters. Jesse's mother, Mrs. Samuel, who profited less than Jesse did from his life of banditry, also turned commercial. Each day she sold "the last handful" of gravel from poor Jesse's grave.

The legend of Jesse James, already born in his lifetime, flourished after his death. The bloody splinter business was so good that others imitated it. Everyone with a worn-out cap-and-ball revolver of doubtful antecedents would claim it had "been given me by Jesse James himself, yesseree."

Today in Dearborn, Michigan, in the vast gun collection of Andy Palmer, reposes a Colt .45 revolver, serial number 23960, made during 1876 according to Colt factory records. It is a "Peacemaker" with 7½ inch barrel and 19 notches cut into its worn, checkered ivory grips. Andy bought this gun from the widow of a Dr. Cornelius, a Detroit suburban resident. With it he got a deposition by one Edward G. W. Smyth, who stated that in 1899 he personally saw this gun presented to Dr. Cornelius by Frank James on the stage at the Standard Theatre in St. Louis, with Frank stating it was the identical gun which killed his brother, Jesse James. However, Dr. Cornelius in future affidavits stated that he became acquainted with Frank James after James had served time in jail. This is odd as Frank James never served time anywhere.

I checked with the James family about the notches on this gun. I was told that Jesse never carved notches in his revolver handle and certainly not 19. There is no record of his having killed that many men after the Civil War, and he certainly could not have used this Model 1873 Colt during the war.

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More to the point, he did not kill 19 men between 1876 when the gun was new and six years later when he met his death.

The Smith & Wesson revolver owned by Baltimorean Lingenfelder has a different history... one which begins in the jail where Bob and Charley Ford were incarcerated by St. Jo marshal Enos Craig. Warrants were sworn out by Zerelda James right after the killing, and Craig acted on them. While awaiting trial, the Fords were often visited in the St. Jo jail by the marshal's son, Corydon F. Craig. The Fords were found guilty of murder, and were sentenced to be hanged. But Governor Crittenden pardoned them.

While they were in jail, Corydon Craig had brought them cigarettes and things to eat, for they were a little different from the ordinary run of St. Jo jailbirds. Eventually Bob gave young Craig the gun with which he had shot Jesse James. This was a Smith & Wesson No. 3 or "American" model, nickel plated, 6½" barrel, .44 caliber, serial number 3766.

Said Bob Ford at the inquest: "I saw that all was done for with Jesse when I saw that heavy Smith & Wesson slug hit him in the head." Some might argue that Bob was talking about a gun chambered for a Smith & Wesson cartridge. Charley Ford furnished the clincher: "Bob had a Smith & Wesson revolver and it was easier for him to get it out of his pocket, so he got in the first shot." Substantially this is true, for the S&W "American" No. 3 is not a pocket revolver, but the low hammer spur and small grip would make it easier to draw than other styles of gun.

Some years later Corydon F. Craig was in Baltimore. He knew James A. Gary, who was postmaster general under President McKinley. In Gary's office Craig asked for a small loan. Gary asked if he had any collateral, and Craig said "Yes, I have the revolver that Bob Ford used to kill Jesse James."

Mr. Gary replied "I wouldn't have it as a gift."

E. Stanley Gary shared his father's office, and became interested in the gun. He bought it from Craig and at that time learned its history. In Springfield, Mass., Gary took the gun to Smith & Wesson who obligingly engraved on it: "Bob Ford killed Jesse James with this revolver at St. Joseph, Mo., 1882."

The gun now is owned by Henry Lingenfelder. He has sworn affidavits from Corydon Craig relating the gun's history. Together with the court records, this should settle the "Jesse James death gun" question.

But the question of the gun is almost unimportant beside the larger fact of Jesse James. His ghost will never be settled, for Jesse James is kept alive by songs, murals, movies and the "20,000 guns" circulating around as firearms he once used. Old guns of little value but scratched "JJ" are naturals for conversion to Jesse James guns by unscrupulous dealers. Without any documentation, it is difficult to prove that any belonged to Jesse... or didn't belong to him. Most of them are worn-out Navy Colts or busted-up Single Actions that verge on junk condition. Normally they might be worth \$30 to \$50 but with the legend of Jesse James on the price tag, the sky is the limit.

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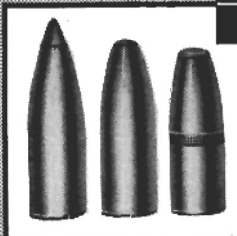
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## DICK TRACY

(Continued from page 19)

every pencil pusher in the advertising trade, Gould harbored a desire really to be an artist, to create something. It didn't have to be "great art" but it had to be all his own.

For some time he had toyed with the idea of a comic strip, but never got anywhere. With the echoes of the St. Valentine's Day massacre still in the ears of honest Chicagoans, Gould got his inspiration. His strip would be about a real-life detective character named "Dick Tracy."

He sketched out a couple of panels, roughed out his idea, and sent them off to Joseph M. Patterson, New York News publisher. Patterson, a cousin of the Chicago Tribune's Colonel Robert R. McCormick, had gone to New York to start something new, a paper modeled after the British tabloids. One of Patterson's remarkable abilities which boomed his paper to No. 1 in circulation in the U.S. was his ability to "get the feel of the people" and put into his paper what the people wanted.

"Dick Tracy is to be a modern Sherlock Holmes," wrote Gould to Patterson, "and even his looks will show that. He has a strong, square jaw, and a beaked nose, just like the 'typical' image of a detective. And he's the kind of cop who shoots first and asks questions afterwards, because he knows he's in the right... none of this business of letting the crooked courts release a prisoner for no reason at all."

Gould was fired with a crusading zeal. Actually, the police officer who "shot first and asked questions later" would not last long in any department nowadays. Gould saw things a little differently.

"I tried to present Dick Tracy as a real cop," Gould told me, "an everyday type detective doing his job honestly and efficiently, and with a zeal which would keep him always on the right side of the law. I wanted Dick Tracy to offer both entertainment and information. If people realized more about the workings of a big city police department, things might get a little easier for the good guys and tougher for the bad ones. Dick Tracy was to reveal the problems of law enforcement as they really were, and present the police officer in a sympathetic light, just a plain guy trying to do his job right, against the pressures of crooks from one side and the need to make a living from the other." ©

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## WHAT'S WRONG WITH GUN LAWS

(Continued from page 31)

gun on the premises would be enough to slow down the usual heist man.

When the storekeeper does get a gun, things pop. That happened in a Chicago delicatessen a while ago. After being held up twice in a row, the owner got riled and decided to wait up for the third time—with a .45 automatic! Sure enough, a third hold-up attempt occurred as the store owner was waiting in the back room. He got the holdup man in the arm with one shot and held him until the police arrived. On the South Side, another groceryman waited until the robber had left his store, then ran to the street and dropped him in the middle of the road.

Unfortunately the papers don't give much space to incidents like this, where honest citizens use guns to protect themselves, but it happens every day. When law enforcement breaks down, honest citizens are bound to take steps to defend themselves against criminals.

For my money, that's the way it should be. As I do my duty, whether it be detective work, or policing a beat, I'd like to have a chance of finding help almost anywhere if I need it. I'd like to know that there were people willing and able to fight crime along with the duly-appointed law-enforcement officers.

Actually, the anti-gun people and the pro-gun crowd, which includes the organized sport shooters of the country, are working toward one common goal—the suppression of crime. It is pretty stupid to work apart the way things are so far. The people behind the anti-gun laws include many with good intentions. There are police catpains I know, men who have worked themselves up from the ranks and really know the score. But they deal with crooks so long and so much that sometimes they lose sight of the fact that most of the people who own guns are not crooks . . . not by a long shot. These lawmen are pushed up against the wall by do-good civic groups, "crime commissions," and other types of active but misinformed associations. These people only need to know the complete facts to make the wise choice independently. But there are some other people behind anti-gun legislation that you can't talk to.

In California several years back a bill was put up in the legislature to require registration of all firearms. The man who stood up in the committee meeting and talked about how good this law was and how it would cut down crime was the local Communist Party chairman!

Some of the anti-gun people aren't even as "honest" as the Communist backers. Their attitude borders close on the crackpot and I'm sorry to say a few are policemen. I was on duty in City Hall when one of the sergeants stopped by. We were talking when a fellow came up and asked the way to the detective bureau. The sergeant asked him "Why" and the fellow said he wanted to see about a permit to carry a gun. The sergeant really blew his cork then. "What do you want to carry a gun for, you got no right to carry a gun, no right at all." Wisely, the man said nothing but went away while the sergeant turned to me and gave me a long lecture on the evils of guns. The point of

his lecture was: "If there were no more guns, there wouldn't be any more crooks." Reasonable?

Yeah, I found out how reasonable it was one night on plainclothes duty. I was in a tavern and went into the john. A fellow in an overcoat followed me in and opened his coat. "Wanta buy a gun?" he asked.

His coat was lined with ten or twelve pistols in little pockets, including a nearly new .38 Smith & Wesson M&P revolver—a real nice one. I know—I sometimes carry it alternate with my Colt.

The judge tossed the rest of the guns into the lake. That boy's still serving time and if I had my way he'd never get out!

But what about the law? Well, we have the Federal law. He could be convicted on at least two counts, dealing in firearms at retail without a \$1 federal dealers license, and failing to keep proper records. Since it is a sure bet that his guns were stolen, and probably that at least one was transported across a state line, there would be two more. Consecutive sentences would have run up into many years. But what happened? All he got was six months to a year for selling a gun without a license. And I'm just a policeman. I don't make up the court charges or sentence them, all I do is give evidence.

There is a kind of law which would work. It is the kind of law which would put some action into J. Edgar Hoover's remark about bank robbing: "By making the offense more hazardous to the criminal, we can reverse the trend of this vicious crime." But is bank robbing any more vicious a crime than slugging and robbing someone on a dark street? How much more then should Mr. Hoover's remark apply to the ordinary guy protecting himself against attack or burglary? A whole lot more.

This new law would satisfy the fellows who are against gun licenses and registration, and it would also be a real law which would work for the police instead of actually against them like the Sullivan Laws today.

This law would permit an ordinary citizen to own as many guns as he wanted—there would be no restriction at all, except sub-machine guns and machine guns would be registered for a \$1 fee. Some people will claim this is really radical. Even the pro-gun crowd think this is too big a bite to chew.

But what really happens? You can own an operating machine gun today, if you register it and the \$200 transfer tax is paid on it. The idea in 1934 when the law was first passed was to discourage crooks from buying them because of the tax. But we all know what happens today. Some ex-GI, not wanting to go through the investigation that the federal boys will give him if he turns it in, simply dumps his German "souvenir" somewhere for fifteen or twenty bucks. We traced one such gun through the hands of a bartender, who sold it for \$175. The man we got it from was simply a "businessman," waiting around the corner from a county bank in his car till just before closing time. He wanted to get a profit on his investment just like the bank robber in Queens.

There are a few people who work with machine guns legally. One is the man who

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supplies guns to the movies, thinks that the tax and red tape has driven thousands of submachine guns "underground," because ordinary people are afraid to turn them in—it's too much trouble. If this was done away with, we'd get a lot of submachine guns on the books, and we could keep track of them. Not one of the groups that argue against gun registration has ever claimed that machine guns shouldn't be registered. Crooks would go on as before, but this way, there'd be less chance for the guns to be used for unlawful purposes.

Finally, there should be a section in the new law to provide for "target shooter's license," or permit to purchase firearms.

The target shooter's license would be issued by the secretary or chief range officer of a local gun club. It would certify that the holder of the license had successfully passed approved tests in safe gun handling and marksmanship skill. The standard U.S. army course of fire could be used, except it could be with any revolver or pistol that the shooter happened to own, instead of requiring it to be a .45 automatic.

In Chicago alone there are 60 shooting clubs, with at least fifteen junior clubs for young people. The chief range officer or other responsible person of each one of these clubs could be sworn in as a special officer like a notary public, and I bet he would be glad to serve in this capacity without pay. He would have the authority to administer these tests to the shooter, to determine if he can shoot a gun well enough to make him a safe bet to handle a gun. This license should then be a permanent card held by the licensee on a lifetime basis.

Aside from making sure that people who had guns could shoot them safely, without endangering others through carelessness and "horse play," this license card would serve to identify people who might legally buy and sell modern guns. All firearms dealers are licensed under the Federal Firearms Act of 1938. Their license is annual, with a \$1 fee. Each dealer must keep records of the name of the buyer, address, type of firearm, caliber, serial number, and so on. A license holder need only identify himself to the dealer and present his signature card, to buy over the counter at that time a pistol or revolver and ammunition for it.

Writing a good firearms law would be accomplished when local gun dealers, shooting club representatives, police and law officers, city recreation and education people got together and coordinated their efforts to produce a workable firearms law that would do something positive.

Automobiles annually kill or maim about 35,000 people. We do something constructive about that, with high school driving instruction and licenses which say that a person has passed tests and is skillful enough to drive a car without hurting somebody. We have as many guns in America as there are cars—we can't confiscate them all. What we can do is help people to realize the dangers of gunplay wrongly directed, like a car run by a bad driver. Maybe then, with the honest citizen armed and able to defend himself, we of the police departments may find our jobs a little easier, because we have a million new "recruits" able to help on the job.



## WHY COPS GET KILLED

(Continued from page 15)

The future for New York's finest looks considerably brighter than their present, if hopes of both Inspector Murphy and Lt. Hunter materialize into plans. Commissioner Francis Adams, a non-career appointee, has promised that the minimum 120 rounds will be doubled when the new four-months academy course becomes effective. He also has recommended that the minimum of 10 qualifying shots be increased to 20.

The contrast of these hopeful plans with programs existing for years in some other cities is a study in extremes. With the "improved" courses, six boxes of ammo per man per year will be fired for the probationer, but after that officers will get all of 60 shots required each year. If 60 x 100 is the score required for qualifying, most of New York's officers will remain indifferent shooters, about as dangerous to a crook with combat training as a clay pigeon is to a shotgunner.

In contrast to New York's short-sighted program is Detroit, which has long recognized the value of effective marksmen on its force. Detroit's instructor, Lt. Harry Reeves, has been listed among the top shooters since well before World War II.

In Los Angeles the outdoor Elysium Hills police academy range is a showplace in the police world. More than 40 firing points appear in the lineup, with covered shooter area and modern automatic target carriers. Brick and concrete barriers protect students from accidents, where they learn and practice combat firing, quick draw, shooting from the hip in the standard crouch, and other tricks. Minimum shots fired, contrasted with New York's 300, is 2,000 per recruit. These are mid-range reloads in .38 Special. Either the Colt Officer's Model Special, or Smith & Wesson K-38 or Combat Masterpiece are used by the men.

Officers qualifying in shooting receive higher pay. At 25 yards, the minimum slow fire is 70 x 100, 50 x 100 rapid fire, and 60 x 100 on the silhouette. Nobody flunks this test. Cadets receive instruction until they do pass. It is cheaper to pay an officer wages and get work out of him, than to pension his widow.

Marksmen (300 x 400) receive \$2 extra, sharpshooters (340 x 400) get \$4, experts (380 x 400) get \$8, and distinguished experts (385 x 400) are paid \$16 more each month as long as they remain in these qualifications. There are nearly 2,000 marksmen and sharpshooters, and about 75 experts and distinguished experts, drawing bonus pay. This is a pretty good proportion of shooters out of a department totalling 4,200 men.

Maybe it's the heritage of the wild west, but in Montana of all places there has been one of the finest police training programs ever established. Set up under the direction of famed pistol-shooter Ed McGivern, the Lewistown police department has had a model course of combat training. In this special course no shooting is done at ranges greater than 45 feet, but those ranges are the ones to be expected in actual street fighting or gunning from a speeding automobile. Shooting while running, and two-gun work at separate targets is only a part of the intensive training. Because of the un-

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usual course of fire, it is quoted here from McGivern's "Fast and Fancy Revolver Shooting:"

- 1) Shoot double action, slow, 35 feet, five shots.
- 2) Shoot double action, both hands, alternate, five shots from each gun, 35 feet.
- 3) Stand with back to target, turn and shoot five shots double action, 25 feet.
- 4) Draw and step forward away from target, turn and shoot one shot each time. Keep back turned to target while stepping away from it. Draw for each shot, 18 to 25 feet.
- 5) Room dark, shoot double action at target lighted by flashlight with left hand away from body for safety from opponent's shots—shoot five shots, 35 feet.
- 6) DA shoot with flashlights held on shooter's face, simulating automobile lights. Room dark, distance 25 to 35 feet, hold flashlight as No. 5 to locate target.
- 7) Shoot DA, room dark, one flash of light only to locate target, other four shots to be fired in darkness. Use bulls-eye on Langrish Colt target.
- 8) Draw and shoot DA one shot only each time, total five shots, 35 feet. Draw for each shot and use head-sized target only.
- 9) Quick draw DA and fire five shots each time, distance 25 to 35 feet, using head-sized targets.
- 10) Five-position shooting, rolling over with head facing the target. Shoot DA, falling to prone position, five shots, 35 feet at head-sized targets. Change position of body for each shot.
- 11) Run and shoot DA while running towards target, five shots, starting at 45 feet and ending 15 feet from target. Use bulls-eye on chest of upper man-sized limbless Langrish targets.
- 12) DA shooting while running toward man from 45 feet, shoot five shots with left hand while running. If normally left-handed, reverse and shoot using right hand.
- 13) DA shooting, running crossways firing at man target in doorway running from right to left at distance of 20 to 35 feet or more from doorway. Five shots.
- 14) Same as No. 13, but reverse direction, running from left to right. Five shots.
- 15) Run or walk rapidly from 45 feet distance toward Langrish target supporting "wounded officer" with left arm. Shoot five shots DA with free hand.
- 16) Two officers starting at 45 feet run or walk rapidly toward Langrish man target supporting each other with arms locked, each officer shooting five shots DA with gun held in free hand.
- 17) Shooting five shots from each of two guns DA simultaneously, total 10 shots, distance 25 to 35 feet, at targets placed 5 to 10 feet apart.
- 18) Start at 15 feet, take brother officer's gun (two guns) shoot five shots DA alternately from each gun while retreating backwards one step between each shot fired, covering wounded officer's retreat.

19) When instructor fires blank cartridge for signal, officer draws and fires one shot DA at head-sized bull-eye on chest of Langrish target. Object of this is to develop speed on draw and first shot. Try for sure hits and split-second draws.

20) Draw gun five times and fire one shot each time DA in response to various unexpected or surprise signals. Use head-sized Langrish chest bulls-eye, 20 to 35 feet distance.

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Even in crowded metropolitan areas, where City Hall has too tight a grip on the budget, ways can be found to increase the marksmanship proficiency of the officers. Plenty of practice is the answer. Practice can be interesting. Solidly plinking away at a target can be very dull. Long periods of dry firing without sufficient range shooting make the average officer pretty "stale." Only through using imagination and relating the courses of fire to the job at hand, like Los Angeles trains its officers, can the battle against crime be evened up and police everywhere gain the upper edge. A prominent police shooting instructor has repeatedly stated that a crew of one hundred officers, without politics but with plenty of ammunition and sure, positive training in combat shooting, could clean out all the bold, bad bandits in any of the big cities in a very short time. ©

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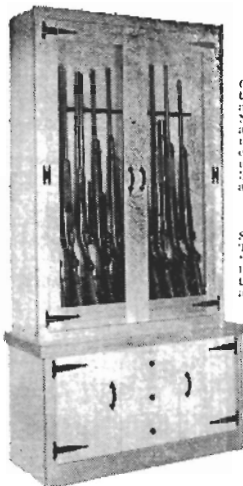
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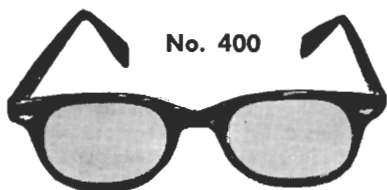


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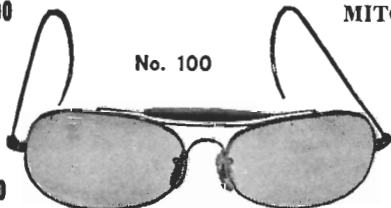
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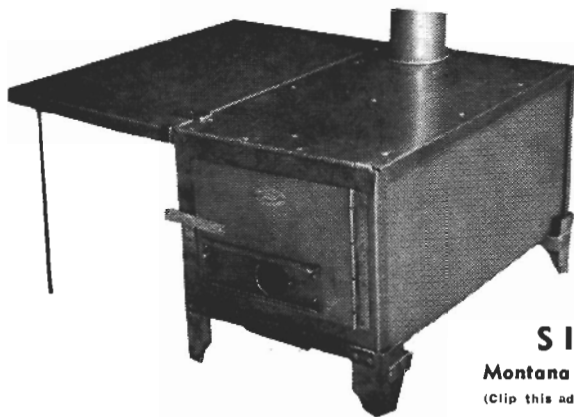
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## POCKET AUTOMATICS

(Continued from page 33)

War. By the middle 1930's all had discontinued pocket pistols except Colt which made them for only a decade more. During that period hundreds of thousands of these pistols were made . . . yet they failed. Why?

They failed because gun companies couldn't sell pocket automatics to the American public. There were three basic reasons for this lack of sales. First and foremost to my mind was—and still is, for that matter—a mistrust of the whole "automatic pistol principle" by Americans.

Recently an article on guns compared our .45 Model 1911 Colt with several foreign pistols. At the end of the article the author said that actually he would rather have a revolver than an automatic pistol of any type. Undoubtedly he would also prefer a Stutz "Bearcat" to a Jaguar, but is he right? I don't think so. In the early days automatic pistol ammunition was not reliable or clean to shoot. Jams were frequent, misfires common, and the guns got a bad name. But today an automatic is just as reliable, accurate and quick as a revolver.

The next thing to hit the pocket automatics was a flood of cheap foreign guns dumped on the U. S. market after World War I. Spain lead the way as chief grave digger for the American-made guns. Tons of cheap, soft steel auto pistols were peddled by mail order, where the buyer couldn't see or test the gun he was buying until it was too late. These guns sold for five to ten dollars, less than our own makes of pistols but externally they looked pretty similar and "just as good."

Germany, forbidden to make large-caliber military pistols after World War I, turned her shops to the production of pocket guns. Sauer, Mauser, Ortgie, and Walther pistols among many others were imported. Far better made than the Spanish junk, they were produced in an inflation-ridden economy. Prices on these well-made guns were often ridiculously low. American guns could not take the price competition.

The last reason for the pocket automatics' discontinuance among American guns was the wave of crime which swept the country in the early days of the cheap automobile. In the 1920's, the fast car made the "get-away" possible, but legislation in counteract crime was directed against pistols. Many states and cities passed laws regulating the sale of firearms. Posterity will judge the effectiveness of these laws in crime prevention, but the discontinuance of the pocket automatics shows the effect they had on manufacturer and public alike.

In America there is no producer of a pocket automatic. The target .22's and the military .38's and .45's continue, largely through government sponsorship. After a span of less than four decades, an original American idea is dead where it was born. The pocket automatic is now made only abroad—here it is relegated to an oddity or collector's item, and shooters turn to foreign products for pocket automatics to use. ©

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BY EDWARD A. JOSEPH

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**MUSKET** AND  
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THE FIRST  
**STEEL PIPE**  
WAS MADE IN  
1815 BY SCREWING OLD  
**MUSKET**

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TOGETHER



## HOW WHODUNITS ARE SOLVED

(Continued from page 24)

adjustable stages. The microscope may be used with a photomicrograph attachment, for taking pictures at high magnification. Iris diaphragms are provided at the ends of the microscope tubes for use in increasing the depth of focus or balancing the illumination when the two objects being examined do not reflect light equally. Visually, the images are right side up in their proper position, while on the camera ground glass they are inverted and reversed.

Two independent stages which hold the bullets for examination are the most unusual part of the instrument. Formerly plasticine or wax was used to hold the bullets, base against the end of the rotating rod. This is sometimes used now if the bullet is battered and identifying marks appear too close to the base to use the improved B & L bullet chucks. These chucks work like a lathe chuck and come in sizes from .22 to .45 caliber. The chucks have a ball and socket joint in their design, permitting the bullets to be moved universally as may be required to get good comparison.

Separate 4-watt fluorescent lamps light each specimen evenly. They are cool and provide enough light to make fairly short photographic exposures, with dull, non-reflecting bullets.

Photomicrographs made through the comparison microscope have proved very convincing in trials. The famous Sacco-Vanzetti

trial, in which a gun firing the .32 Colt automatic cartridge was used, was among the earliest prominent cases involving identification of firearms. Colonel Goddard furnished evidence photos of the primer areas of several cartridge cases found at the scene of the killing. Taking an enlarged photo of the evidence cartridge primer, which had pressed back against the breech face of the automatic pistol when fired, he pasted over it an irregular cutout of the test case primer fired in what was suspected to have been the same gun which fired the evidence cartridge case. The imprint of the distinctive breech marks on the test primer matched exactly the evidence prints, and established that both had been fired from the same gun. The enlarged photos easily convinced the jury.

The FBI has been active in firearms work for many years. While almost everyone knows of their extensive fingerprint files, the FBI is also maintained an ammunition file. This reference file consists of a sample of every type of ammunition manufactured in the United States and in most foreign countries. Bullets can be sent there from law enforcement agencies for comparison.

Fingerprints on the outside of the murder gun are of little value. It is the fingerprints inside the gun—bullet and cartridge identification—which lead through today's modern scientific methods to catching and convicting the man who uses guns, wrongly. ©

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SHOOTERS—GUNSMITHS—dealers target supplies, guns, scopes, reloading tools, components, parts, write wants. Jack McPhee, 617 Poppy, Corona Del Mar, Calif.

## WHAT PISTOL FOR POLICE?

(Continued from page 40)

Thirty-Eights for use in the cars, but the boys found that they were too liable to go off when you didn't want them to. Mostly the officers left them in the cars and used revolvers."

With the Walther .32 such an accident couldn't happen as the gun could be carried with the hammer down on a live cartridge, and a straight pull on the trigger would fire it as easily as a double action revolver. But the design was strange to America before the war, and revolvers were preferred.

In Austin, Texas, until recently the distinguishing feature between motorcycle and car patrolmen seemed to be their pistols. The cycle men carried Colt .45 or .38 automatics, usually nickel-plated with fancy grips, while prowl-car guys used .38 Special revolvers. In 1952 a uniform requirement was set up, and all officers now carry revolvers. About automatics Chief of Police R. D. Thorpe said:

"All weapons are now issued by the department and are all standard .38 caliber, all being revolvers, no automatics being used at all. It has been found by this department that revolvers require less maintenance and are less apt to misfire or have jams. Our uniform division is issued a .38 caliber on a .44 caliber frame. Plain clothes division is issued a .38 caliber on a .38 frame, military and police. We have found, too, that it is beneficial to have all members of the department carrying weapons using the same caliber ammunition."

Chief Thorpe's not-so-oblique reference to Smith & Wesson police-type revolvers in .38 Special caliber is reflected by American departments elsewhere. Ever since Teddy Roosevelt as police commissioner of New York City introduced a Colt revolver into service, revolvers of both Smith & Wesson and Colt make have been standard. Yet in foreign cities—Paris, Vienna, Munich, Hamburg, Berlin—automatic pistols were issued.

Our domestic gun manufacturers do not seem to share the fears about automatics which the police express. There are many problems in design to be overcome, but the European double-action pistols point the way. High Standard in New Haven has never quite given up on the project of an automatic pistol for police. They have a .38 Special caliber automatic pistol which has

tried to solve one of the commercial objections, the need for different ammunition. Most automatics use special ammunition of rimless design.

An automatic firing the rimmed .38 Special revolver shell would have a foot in the door with police departments, especially those which have large shooting programs and reloading facilities. The .38 Special is more accurate than most auto shells, and has a reputation of effectiveness in police work. High Standard has had double action pistols "up in the air" since at least 1946, and at one time considered the American rights to the Walther double action patents. High Standard's hat has been in the army test ring, too, with a double action automatic.

Smith & Wesson's new 9mm pistol is double action, with a very smooth, crisp pull. While the army is considering the pistol, Smith & Wesson has been stockpiling them, planning on the army's needs for field testing. A price on this gun is not yet released, but whether the army agrees on the new Smith & Wesson or not, it will probably be on the market as soon as the project is no longer classified. Then you will see a real novelty, as Smith & Wesson revolver salesmen start to push a 9mm police-type automatic.

Up at Colt's they are not asleep, either. Some time ago I asked their sales manager why they didn't produce a .380 automatic like the ones before the war, but dressed up for plainclothes use. He smiled, "Well, it would have to be a double action, don't you think?" Colt's is also waiting for the army to make a move, but many policemen who are not issued guns carry the light-weight .38 Super, even though the Frontenac police couldn't keep their itchy trigger fingers off their Supers. If Colt's would put a double action on their lightweight automatics, they would have a lot of police objections to auto pistols licked. They know this but they are waiting.

Reliability is one thing the modern auto pistol owner does not need to worry about. Ammunition is sealed, water and oil proof. Over-oiling can not harm the cartridges. The only possible danger is with the magazine, a failure to feed the fresh cartridge straight. Damage to the clip feed lips is the primary cause of this, together with dirt in the magazine. Oldtime designs offer some interesting solutions. The Steyr M1911 pistol adopted by the Austrians in 1911 used a long clip like a Springfield rifle clip, to strip the cartridges down into a permanent magazine in the grip. No damaged magazines were possible with that design.

Whatever the future pistols may be, the trend now is certain: revolvers may have a lead for firing extremely high intensity ammunition, like the .357 Magnum, but automatics are steadily closing in. With a background of 50 years of police use behind them in Europe, automatics are far from being "unreliable" or "unsafe." Changes are due to fit the needs of the American patrolman, but with the Walther pocket pistols being imported, the police-automatic is already on the scene. ©

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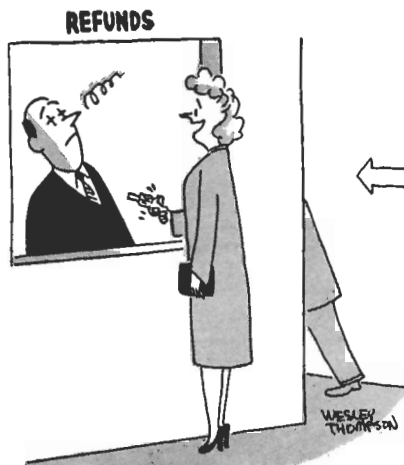
## PARTING SHOTS



"No, I'm not being bothered by outlaws . . . my trouble is in-laws!"

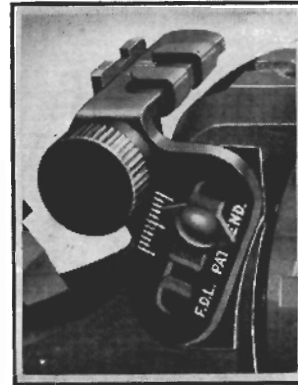


"Her father met him with open arms . . . a shotgun and a Colt .45!"



"See, it doesn't work!"

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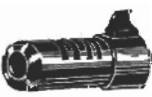
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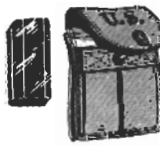


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