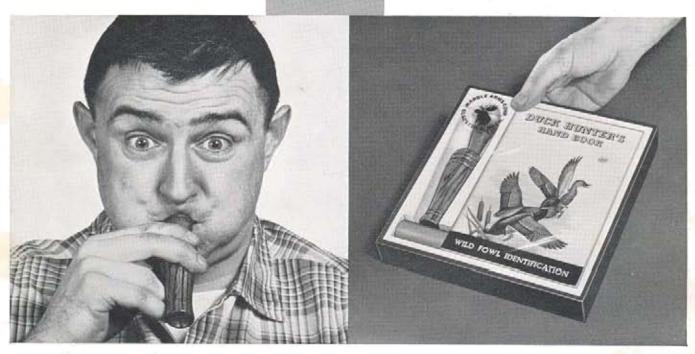


WAYS There are TO CALL GAME TO LEARN



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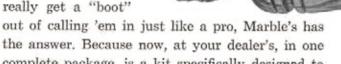
make one of these calls really sing. If you aren't one of them, and would really get a "boot"

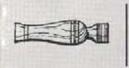
complete package, is a kit specifically designed to

make a pro out of you . . . and with very little effort. Here's what you get: 1) a new, extremely highquality game call (duck, goose or crow); 2) a beautiful 28-page full color book on ducks . . . how to identify them, their habits and habitat, etc., and, most important, 3) a "down-to-earth" L.P. record

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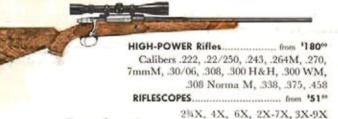
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A Special Issue:

THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF GETTYSBURG



OUGHT one hundred years ago this month, the battle of Gettysburg was the turning point of the Civil War. It marked peaks of human courage that have seldom been equaled, and depths of tragedy too bleak for words. It saved the Union, and it wrecked a Cause. It wasn't planned; it just happened . . .

Robert E. Lee, commanding the Army of Northern Virginia, had planned to concentrate his strength at Cashtown, northwest of Gettysburg. Meade, commanding the Federal Army of the Potomac, had hoped to fight at a picked position on Pipe Creek, southeast of Gettysburg. But on June 30th, a Confederate force, sent into Gettysburg to look for shoes, found the place occupied by Federal cavalry. The fight was brisk; so brisk that both sides began to move supporting units into action. The Federal forces, driven back through Gettysburg, took up strong positions along the ridge of Cemetery Hill, and Lee called up all his strength to move against them.

Longstreet's division was a major factor in Lee's planning. Properly timed, before Meade was ready, an all-out attack by Longstreet might crumple the Union wing and decide the battle...But Longstreet was late.

Why was he late? Different answers have been given, including misunderstanding of plan, misunderstanding of orders. One of the reasons offered (not proved), and the reason dearest to the hearts of all who love the legend of American rifle marksmanship, is the possibility that Longstreet's mighty movement was delayed by a tiny force of specially armed and specially trained riflemen known as Berdan's Sharpshooters.

Colonel Hiram Berdan believed in rifle marksmanship. With stubborn persistence against the weight of military opinion, Berdan had succeeded in arming a small unit, perhaps only a few more than 100 men, with Sharps breech-loading rifles. Trained as superior marksmen, this unit became known as "Sharpshooters." The story is that Berdan's Sharpshooters waylaid the Longstreet column, fired upon it, and—because the rapid fire of their breech-loaders convinced Longstreet that he was under an attack in force—forced Longstreet to deploy and move slowly and cautiously against the riflemen's position. The Sharpshooters (if they were there at all) fell back before Longstreet's vastly superior forces. But by the time Longstreet had exposed their ambush, reformed, and continued his encirclement, he was too late to carry the now-strengthened Union position.

The rest is history. The magnificent, tragic, nearly successful charge of Pickett's Virginians is an epic of human heroism. Of Pickett's own division of 4,800 men, 3,393 were left in the wake of that single charge. It was a bath of blood from which neither Lee's great army nor the South itself would ever recover.

On November 19th of that same year, Abraham Lincoln said, "...we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

This month, one hundred years later, untold thousands visit Gettysburg again, in token of remembrance. And millions more, in the North and in the South, remember too.

689-G Bergen Blvd., Ridgefield, N. J.

Vol. IX, No. 8-104

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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THE COVER

This beautifully engraved First Model Dragoon Colt, serial number 466-8, is a prized item in the collection of Mr. Gordon Kibby, Grand Rapids, Michigan. The epaulet is from the uniform of an unknown Confederate officer. Gun and epaulet are both in mint condition. A second-in-a-row cover by Bob Johnson, also of Grand Rapids. Exposure f/22, 1/5th sec. on Ektachrome Type B in a Graphic View 4x5, Schneider 210mm lens.

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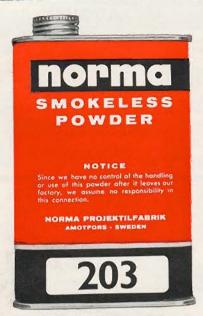


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QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

By GRAHAM BURNSIDE

Questions submitted must carry a Shooters Club of America number or must be accompanied by one dollar. Questions lacking either number or dollar will be returned.

The Tokarev Semi-Auto Rifle

I would like to get some information on the Tokarev Semi-Auto rifle—its weight, length, and what kind of a sporter do you think could be made from one of them?

Dick Harmon Salt Lake City, Utah

There are several models of the Russian Tokarev semi-auto rifle, but the one usually encountered is the model of 1940. It is as follows:

Weight (without bayonet) 8.8 lbs. Length (without bayonet) 47.8 inches Barrel length 24.4 inches Bore diameter .301

My opinion is that the Tokarev is a poor choice for a sporting arm. By the time one invests what would be necessary to sporterize it, it would have been better to use a more conventional arm. On top of this, the 7.62 mm Russian cartridge is not easily obtainable these days.—GB

Those Perrin Revolvers

I would like to express my appreciation of your article on the Perrin revolvers and ammunition, and also to raise a couple of points about them.

It is unfortunate that there is so little interest in the field of cartridges in Britain, and that the law is so restrictive. Most of our information comes from the States, and your articles are amongst those appreciated. Were the Perrin round and the French 12 mm Thick Rim interchangeable, as is claimed? I have two Perrin rounds, and also two 12 mm TR BCPs. There is an obvious discrepancy in general size, the former being the smaller. This is borne out by micrometer readings. If these were interchangeable, it seems that there must have been a dangerous tolerance, also considering the various loads and bullet weights.

Only a month or so ago, I acquired the specimen with the Perrin headstamp, although mine has a very slightly flat point. Can you give me details of who produced this particular round? Presumably Perrin himself, but perhaps you have an original box with address and details of the load?

So far no Perrin weapons have appeared over here, but I narrowly missed a 12 mm Raphael a couple of years ago.

For what it is worth, I notice a Perrin in the handgun display illustrated on the Shooters Club of America page.

Again, my thanks for your good work in this field. Anthony Fraser

Dundee, Scotland

As to the Perrin cartridge being interchangeable with the 12 mm French Thick Rim revolver cartridge—I have checked my fourteen specimens and have come to the conclusion that they are, and they are not. Generally speaking, my specimens of the 12 mm Thick Rim will interchange, but some are far enough off that, like you, I wonder. Although they vary greatly, I wonld not doubt that they were intended for the same arm. The large caliber and low power of both rounds is such that there would not be the danger factor that there might be.

The cartridge stamped "Perrin" was probably made by such an outfit; but I can find nothing on any man or company by that

I also noticed the Perrin revolver in the picture used for the Shooters Club of America, but do not know where the photo came from.

I would guess that, in actuality, the revolver chambers of the various 12 mm Thick Rim revolvers varied from manufacturer to manufacturer, and it could be that not all ammo was useable in all arms. This would mean that the so-called 12 mm Thick Rim is more of a series of rounds than a single specimen.—GB

I certainly enjoyed your Gun of the Month (Perrin Revolver) article in the May issue especially in view of the circumstances in which I read it.

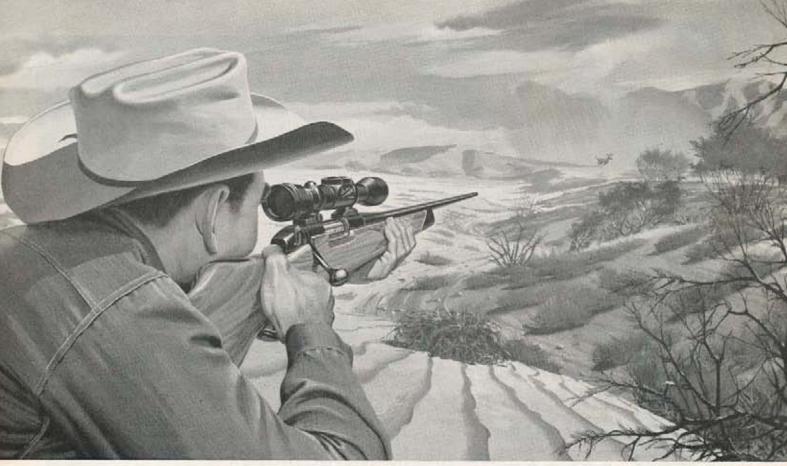
About a month ago, I traded for an old revolver and was about to sell or trade it for another when I stopped at the store and picked up a copy of the current issue of Guns. There I noticed a picture of my old revolver, and read your article. My gun bears serial number 2292, and is in good condition but needs cleaning.

Could you give me any idea of what it is worth? It has the Perrin name and "Paris" and what looks like Chinese symbols on the barrel.

I traded for this gun at an old mining town (almost a ghost town) here in New Mexico, and gave a Navajo rug for it. After I read your article, I bought the magazine and took it and my gun home again, deciding not to part with it until I could find out what it is really worth. I am going to try to trace the past history of it if it is possible. Any information you can give me will be appreciated.

Edward Maher Albuquerque, N. M.

I recently saw a very clean specimen of the Perrin revolver for sale at a gun show. The dealer involved wanted \$90 for it, and I had the feeling that he would have taken less. The Perrin will be more valued as it is more appreciated, but no one can tell for sure how rapidly appreciation will grow.—GB (Continued on page 61)



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ness. Tube is hermetically sealed, nitrogen filled, fog-free and weatherproof. Always centered reticle of special, shock-resistant alloy. Light, sturdy duralumin tube is rust-proof, has a handsome, durable finish. See your sporting arms dealer and take a look soon. And take a look at the low price tag, too.

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FREE! Illustrated 32-page catalog of Savage, Stevens, Fox firearms and scopes. Write Savage Arms, Westfield 59, Massachusetts, Prices subject to change. Slightly higher in Canada.





Herrett Holsters

No, this is not a printer's error! Steve Herrett, the handgun stocker, has added leather goods to his line. We had a chance to inspect some of Steve's wares in Washington at the NRA meeting, and put one of his slings through its paces on our Remington Model 700 6 mm rifle. The sling opens easily, is not bulky, and pushing it back into parade position takes but a second. Although primarily designed as a carrying sling. Steve's sling can, of course, be used as a hasty shooting sling. There is also a new and ingenious belt design and combat holsters for many commonly carried guns. You can get a catalog by writing to Steve at Box 741G, Twin Falls, Idaho.

Parker-Hale Products

Parker-Hale gun equipment is now being imported by International Guns Inc., Dept. G. 67 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, N.Y. We ordered some of this equipment for our own use, and want to tell other shooters about it. Those Parker-Hale rifle cleaning rods with their plastic covers and the special tips, are really fine rods, and the shotgun cleaning rods have all the custom features a shooter can expect. International Guns also imports the very nice Hussar sporting rifle. This gun is made in the famed Bisley Works of Parker-Hale, and is available in .243, .270, .30-06, .308, and .308 Norma Magnum. A bolt-action gun with custom features, the gun handles extremely well and should perform to the satisfaction of the most discriminating shooter. As of this writing, our test gun has not arrived, but as soon as it gets here, we shall give it a good going over and report in detail.

Sierra Bullets

That new 6 mm, 85 grain, hollow point, boat-tail bullet from Sierra Bullets, Inc., loaded into any of the 6 mm's, is a potent pill. We loaded a bunch of them with 65.5 grains of Hodgdon's 4831 for our Musketeer in caliber .243 and shot MOA without trouble. Then we loaded some brass for Remington's new baby, the 6 mm that we have for tests. We fired 20 rounds through the Model 742 semi-auto, and 20 rounds through the Model 700. While the autoloader produced groups a fraction bigger than the Model 700, no woodchuck would ever know the difference. Tests in the sandbox for bullet recovery settled matters as far as a varmint load was concerned. To knock off a chuck or two, that Sierra bullet will do the trick very nicely, thank you; the chucks would never know what hit them. Try a box of these new sluggers; you'll like them.

Remington's 6 mm Rifles

The .244 is dead-long live the new 6 mm! Ted McCawley, the genial trap addict who is our contact man at Remington, shipped us two rifles for this sweet little caliber. One was the above-mentioned Model 742 autoloader, the other that dandy little Model 700. Gun specs are very similar to those of the other guns in the series of models, and once again, we are ready, willing, and able to start the never-ending argument: Can an autoloader rifle be accurate? Our personal answer: Heck, yes. With factory ammo, the autoloader fired from the usual 100 yards and from a solid rest, grouped 1.25 inches five times. Firing was done at 30 second intervals, approximately as long as it takes to eject and load with a bolt-action rifle. After shooting five virtually identical 5-shot groups, we put the Model 742 aside and picked up the Model 700. Shot under the same conditions, groups measured barely 1/16th of an inch over the MOA. A friend who was hanging around and watching, then repeated the performances. His groups were a bit bigger, but the relationship between those fired by the autoloader and the bolt-action rifle were almost identical,

The Model 742 was equipped with Buehler mounts and carried Ed Hilliard's new 2X-7X Variable. The Model 700 also had Buehler mounts and was topped with Stoeger's fine Kahles 2.3X-7X Variable scope. To test functioning, we loaded three rounds of hot loads and put them through the Model 700—she behaved and performed like a lady. Our only trouble was encountered when we tried to strip the Model 742. The man who put on the barrel nut on our test gun must have used pneumatic equipment. We could not budge the nut and, short of rather drastic measures, we were unable to get that nut off to strip the gun.

If you have been eyeing a 6 mm rifle—take a look at these, These Remington's will do the job, and we are particularly partial to the handling qualities of the Model 700. This gun, by the way, came to us with a trigger pull of 8 pounds, but as you probably know, adjusting the pull on those triggers is done easily and speedily. If everything works out, we plan to take that 700 on one or two major hunting forays and let's hope we see worthwhile game while carrying this little beauty.

Lyman Spartan Press

With this press, the Lyman Gun Sight Corp., Dept. G. Middlefield, Conn., makes it easy for the beginner to take up the fascinating hobby of handloading metallic ammo. The Spartan press is of the "C" (Continued on page 66) America's most reliable pump shotgun now has a handsome new look...





Look what's happened to "Old Reliable"—Remington's popular Model 870 pump shotgun. Now it's made in one de luxe grade and it's a better value ... a better gun. It has a rich, new stock finish that looks great, lasts longer, too. Plus new, custom-grade fine-lined checkering to enhance the American walnut stock and fore-end. Topped off by a sporty, decorated grip cap. These extra good looks make it a standout over other shotguns.

Frankly, the newness ends there. We didn't do a thing to the *inside* of the

870. (No need to...it's the most reliable pump action made!) Look what you get: Double action bars (most pumps have just one) that prevent twisting and binding, insure smooth-gliding action. A receiver machined from solid steel. A breech block that locks into a hardened barrel extension for longer life...constant head space. And extra barrels you can change in seconds... in the field...without tools.

If you are among the nearly 1,000,000 satisfied Model 870 owners, you don't need a new pump shotgun... If you're

not—see the new de luxe Model 870 "Wingmaster" today. You can't find better performance and better looks at a better price. 5 shots. From \$94.95*.

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CROSSFIRE

Lost Trophies

I am attempting to contact persons who lost trophies in the Rowland Ward fire in London on August 9th, 1961. I am anxious to hear from those clients who, like myself, were not satisified with the amounts offered by way of compensation.

I would greatly appreciate your publishing my request in your "Letter to the Editor" column at your earliest convenience.

> Charles E. Hebert Suite 133, 17 Queen St. East Toronto, Canada

Hawken Rifles

I was very much interested in the article on the Hawken rifles in the February issue. (Hawken: Hallmark of Quality, by James E. Serven.) My ancestors came here out of the Nebraska-Dakota country around the turn of the century, and I can still remember my grandfather praising the Hawken rifle he owned in the 1880s, which he used in preference to the breechloaders available at that time. The gun was destroyed in a fire many years ago, and I would give a great deal to have it now. My congratulations to Mr. Serven on a fine article.

A. R. Warner Tofield, Alberta

Shooters Club of America

Thank you for the article (April 1963). "New Guns for the New Army." I enjoyed it very much. In the Sept. 1961 issue, you carried my letter in Crossfire asking for an article on M 79 Grenade Launcher. This article by Joseph Goodyear covered it quite thoroughly, and I thank you again. I have been a subscriber to Guns Magazine for several years. My present subscription does not expire for several months, but I wish to join the Shooters Club of America, so enclosed find check for \$7.50.

Keep up the good work.

Marion Royce Thomure Ste. Genevieve, Mo.

A personal friend of mine has been invited to join your Shooters Club as a Charter Member. Since we are both interested in our American freedom and our right to keep arms I am also interested in becoming a Charter Member. I am also a member of American Ordance Assn. and a member of AOPA of Washington D. C., also of American Legion Post 93, Trenton, N. J.

Kenneth E. Neisner Newportville, Penna.

I would like to show my appreciation for that new organization: The Shooter's Club of America. I think that this is the greatest program since the National Rifle Association was begun. I am a life member of the NRA and feel that this new thought will be of a tremendous help in the fight to stop the disarmament of this country.

I was brought up around guns and was fortunate to have one of the top Rifle and Pistol Shots in this country at one time for my personal coach. My grandfather was a member of the World Record-holding Navy Rifle Team before the National Match Course was changed to its present form. He is also Distinguished in both rifle and pistol. His last trip to the Nationals was in 1932, so you can see that he has seen many years of shooting and many changes in it. He is not or was not only a top target marksman. but was one of the inventor's of the Berns-Martin Speed Holster, considered by many as the fastest holster in the world for the modern revolver.

I am a security officer here in San Diego, and carry many different weapons in the course of a year, so from a practical point I appreciate the right to bear arms. If this country doesn't wake up the people to what guns are for and the pleasure that can be had through their use, we will soon be in the same boat as the English people, without any arms. Please keep up the good work. You now have two more people behind you, as both my wife and I enjoy handguns, rifles, and shotguns too.

Please enroll me as a Charter Member in Shooter's Club of America.

John C. Jensen San Diego, California

Worth Remembering

My feelings are that any person or persons even considering an anti-gun law should be closely checked by the F.B.I. for possibility of having something to do with the Communist Party!

Secretary McNamara's quote, "It is impossible for an unarmed people to revolt against Communism," contains a great deal of meaning.

Please, everyone, stop and give that quote a very serious thought.

Keep up the good work.

Dave Hall Warwick, R. I.

Oops!

The other night, the sportscaster for WISN-TV in Milwaukee was reporting the Pan-Am games. He said the American baseball team was defeated by the Cuban team. Then: "In other competition, the American rifle team won a gold medal . . . they shot the Cuban baseball team."

Raymond A. Olinger Wauwatosa, Wis.

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In many cases, one fast shot is all that the hunter gets at a deer. Here's how to make your first shot quicker and more accurate.

THE 9.3X72R Here is proof that, although a cartridge may be outdated, it can still hold its own with some modern loads.

HALL RIFLE AND CARBINE ACCOUTREMENTS

A detailed coverage of the various accessories that were issued with the Hall breech-loading rifle between 1825 and 1840.

PRACTICE FOR POINTBLANK PRECISION

by Ken Warner
Practice for those close-in shots is as important
as long range sighting in.

Ever wonder why your long range shots some-times go astray for no apparent reason? Here are some reasons for those misses and good pointern for their correction.

CONFEDERATE POWDER WORKS

Details of the trials and tribulations of the South in its efforts to obtain gunpowder to carry on the Civil War. You can almost smell the guesmoke in this exciling feature.

THE MOST VERSATILE GUN

by Larry Mueller The Savage 22/20 over-under is put through its varied and many paces by a father and son.

PEABODY SIDE HAMMER

SPORTING RIFLES by Cleves Howell The complete and fascinating story of these rare and famous American-made single-shots.

FORTY ROD GUN by Lucian Cary A warm and exciting story of two early gun-makers whose rivalry at the long range shooting bench crupts into a match you'll never forget,

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by John Madson The ringneck pheasant, scorned by expert wing shots, finds a staunch supporter in this author,

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FIRST BIG GAME RIFLE

by Clyde Ormand The transition from a rimfire to a centerfire rifle is a big step in a youngster's life. Here are some hints on making the transition.

REMINGTON'S BIG SEVEN

by Rob Hagel
Remington earlridge and the M700 rife. If
you are planning to go after the "big" ones—
read this first!

THE 7MM IN AFRICA

Remington's new 7mm is the star in this account of a recent African safari. The author tells you exactly why!

SHOOTING AND THE POPULATION EXPLOSION

by Henry Stebbias many inroads into hunting and shooting areas. The author tells you why those remaining must be preserved if you want to keep on hunting and shooting.

THE XP-100 PISTOL CARBINE

Remington's amazingly accurate new gun and its cartridge, the 221 Fireball, are put through their paces in game-filled Wyoming. The author gives you a complete shooting report, plus plenty of reloading data.

THE HIGH VELOCITY PISTOL

by Jeff Cooper The hunting handgun is gaining in popularity daily. The author gives you the essentials of guns, shooting, ammo, sights and accessories.

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A thorough study of the history and modern uses of gunpowder, including a comparison of the burning rate of popular powders.



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by Major J. H. Woolnough Come along as Major Woolnough takes you on a fascinating tour through the shop of Harmada and Son, Tokyo gunmakers and engravers.

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and how you'll enjoy shooting them too.

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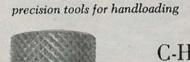
In "Milliary Handguns for Sporting Use." Frank C. Barnes tells you what is the sporting potential of military handguns available today. He evaluates and illustrates over 40 basic models and the cartridges they use. Each basic model is illustrated and those that perform best in the field are selected. The author's field tested handloads are also fully covered in this voluminous report.

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Rare long out-of-print 32 page Sears Gun catalog of 1908 is reprinted in the Gun Dégest to give you a look at the guns offered by turn-of-the-century stores and mail order houses at prices from \$1.98 up to the staggering sum of \$35.59. The guns and accessories are shown for their historical interest only. The illustrations are faithfully reproduced, the descriptions are fascinating and fully detailed—and the prices will whet your wishes for a return to "the good old days." A "must" for the Collector! Free in the Gun Digest!







C-H DIE COMPANY

P. O. Box 3284, Terminal Annex, Los Angeles 54

HANDLOADING BENCH

By KENT BELLAH

NEW C-H PRODUCTS

The C-H Die Co. hit the market with more new reloading equipment items than any firm ever brought out at one time before. Their record may stand forever. New ideas are generally put in production one or two at a time. The C-H (Roddy) people had to be doers, as well as thinkers, to put some 16 ideas in formal production simultaneously. Your dealer will show or demonstrate all new C-H equipment, or you can write for details to C-H. Box 3284G, Terminal Annex, Los Angeles 54, Calif.

Let's take a look-see at their best and most versatile new press for metallic ammo.



Called the C-H Universal 3 Station "H" Press, it's a modification of the popular old heavy-duty C-H Magnum. The standard 7/8" x 14 thread center hole is retained for heavyduty sizing or other work, and priming. Two more holes have been added in front of the upright guide posts. The three stations hold both rifle dies and a powder measure, or 3 pistol dies. A complete round is loaded with one complete stroke of the handle. This speeds production of short or long runs, and eliminates screwing dies in or out.

Many handgunners will use the new \$18.95 C-H Micrometer powder measure on the sturdy \$3.50 C-H Bench Stand. A new \$2.50 C-H Thread Insert (adapter) holds the measure in the tool for rifle shells. Some riflemen will use the bench stand, which is about as fast as feeding shells to the shell holder for charging. However, the insert doesn't require any bench space, if you are crowded. The measure is held firmly to aid accuracy and you can charge cases without feeding them to the shell holder, if desired.

A new C-H Universal Primer Arm features



punches for large or small, flat or round primers, at only \$4.00. The change requires about two minutes. Adjustments regulate the primer seating depth, which should be about .003 below the case head face, or more.

Debris from decapped primers may fall in the primer arm cup. It makes tiny marks on new primers. Eliminate it by loading the arm before decapping, or by catching fired primers in your hand. Directions fail to mention this. Old Magnum press arms also

The new "H" press takes the familiar shell holders for the old Magnum, or the new Universal type. New ones use a \$1.50 ram, slotted for inexpensive \$2.50 heads, held by a horseshoe spring clip. Shell holders or heads work equally well. They can be turned to the most convenient feeding position. Heads are blued steel.

C-H's Universal "H" press is a modest \$42.00, stripped. Base and both drilled bars are in red crackle finish aluminum alloy. Other parts are steel, with hardened, chrome plated guide rods. All pins and bearing surfaces are hardened. All 3 stations are in perfect alignment. Thrust is directly under the center hole for straight line sizing. The M.A. (mechanical advantage) is ample for all case work, or bullet swaging with the new C-H \$19.95 Swaging Dies.

Half-jacketed bullets are beautifully swaged (cold formed) with a "clean" side bleed-off for extremely uniform weight, and are ejected by pressing the top lever. You can swage 350 perfect bullets per hour, and \$10.95 buys an extra die body, punch and ejector for another caliber bullet, a bargain for the 2 or 3 gun man.

You can cut several thousand lead wire cores per hour in the C-H Universal Core Cutter. It takes all sizes of lead wire. Use an extra nut on the adjustment screw to lock it for desired core weight. Use extra screws with lock nuts for different weights. This eliminates wasting lead to switch core weights "by guess and by gosh," and you can always return to a pre-set weight.

If time isn't important, you can cast slugs in Lyman's adjustable core mould, at the rate of about 250 per hour after you get fired up. Put an extra nut on the adjustment screw to lock it for the lightest desired core. Then make horse shoe shims to slip under the locked nuts for each heavier core wanted. This insures uniform weight cores in any weight desired, without casting and weighing samples each time you switch. Lyman and C-H should put these tips in their directions.

C-H's name and fame, and the very low (Continued on page 14)

FEDERAL HI-POWER GIVES YOU HARD SHOT

...for high percentage patterns and

greater penetrating power!





HARD ROUND SHOT flys straighter — cuts down the strays for better patterns — provides more penetrating power.

SOFT LEAD SHOT suffers serious deformation in firing — flys erratically —weakens your pattern.

FEDERAL Hi-Power game loads use special shot with more antimony (for extra hardness) than any other shells on the market.

This extra hardness does three things to improve your hunting "bag":

- Resists pellet-deformation in shot column when shell is fired — thus producing truer pellet flight and fewer "strays."
- Provides more uniform patterns and more pellets in the pattern.
- Gives you better long range penetration on large game birds.

This special hard hitting Hard Shot is available in FEDERAL Hi-Power shot shells—Maximum and Magnum loads.



Federal Cartridge Corporation, Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

progressive speed single stage

...and this new MEC Shotshell Reloader "thinks" for itself

> The Programmed Measure: Depress Handle . . . and it



Releases Charging Bar



Drops Powder



Drops Shot



Re-cycles

versatility

You are looking at the totally new MEC 310 . . . the single stage tool that performs with the speed of a progressive type. It boasts features no other reloader can . . . regardless of price. First, there's the new Programmed Charging Mechanism that not only meters powder and shot more accurately . . . but does it automatically. Its built-in "memory" device causes powder and shot to be dropped only at the proper points in the reloading cycle. And because it's mechanical . . . this positively eliminates any chance of human error.

Another progressive feature is the new Direct Reading Pressure Gauge with graduated face and pointer which always indicates exactly the wad pressure being applied. The new wad height indicator assures improved crimping by disclosing improper wadding or other evidence of a defective reload. Then there's the new Reconditioning Station which, with one stroke of the handle, deprimes, completely resizes case head, restores head space and irons out the case mouth. Add to this the fact that the entire shell is reloaded, from deprime to final crimp, in only four strokes of the handle, all ending on positive stop, and you have the most efficient, accurate, mistake-proof shotshell reloader in the industry . . . bar none! And it's completely safe. Oh yes! It'll process up to 310 hulls per hour.

Price? \$69.95 complete. All assembled, tested and ready to go.



See it at your dealer's or write Mayville Engineering, Mayville, Wisconsin for MEC's complete catalog.

MAYVILLE ENGINEERING COMPANY, INC.

(Continued from page 12)

price for a three position press will cause many to add this versatile, semi-production tool to their equipment, or "trade up" for it. My friend, R. B. Smith, solved the major fault of no primer catcher very easily. In a square cake pan he cut an opening the size of the press base. It slips over the tool, and holds a couple of thousand fired primers. Neatest idea I've seen.

A top .357 load is a 127 grain C-H semiwadcutter half-jacketed bullet backed with 18.0 grains of 2400 and a CCl No. 550 Magnum primer. In an unvented pressure barrel it averages 1915 fps at 39,900 psi.

A top .44 Magnum load is a 220 grain C-H semi-wadcutter half-jacketed bullet backed with 25.0 grains 2400 and a CCI No. 350 Magnum primer. In an unvented pressure barrel it averages 1744 fps at 38,600 psi.

Both loads were test fired with 0.5 grain more powder in Smith & Wesson Magnum revolvers. This was for testing, not shooting. You'll find that 0.5 grain less powder is a more practical shooting load in either caliber. They are very powerful hunting or defense loads with fine accuracy. Bullet expansion is extremely fast, in a classic mushroom for maximum shock with deep penetration for large game. C-H hollow point pills expand even faster on varmints for maximum tissue destruction. Actual velocity in a revolver will be less than pressure barrel figures, due to the gas escape between cylinder and barrel.

I strongly recommend using new cases for all hot loads, and fire them no more than 5 times. After that, the good hulls can be used for light loads until failures begin showing up. The first case failures will be cracked mouths, due to the rather heavy crimp that is desirable for revolver loads, and necessary for hot loads, to keep bullets from driving forward from recoil. C-H bullets swaged of soft lead wire should be seated in one operation and crimped in another. An extra crimp die speeds the work, and can be left adjusted for uniformity in loads.

Seating and crimping in separate operations is a good policy with any bullet that has no crimp groove, or a shallow one, and especially with any soft bullet.

Ruger's .44 Carbine doesn't shoot soft half-jacketed or cast pills very well. For best accuracy use 215 to 240 grain bullets with long jackets. Good ones are the Speer, Norma and Shooters Service "Newline," with 23.0 grains 2400 and CCI No. 350 Magnum primers. Chaps who want a light, fast-handling rifle for deer at moderate range will find this one a dandy. The very fast second, third or fifth shot will bag many deer that would be lost with some guns.

John Zemanek, Wilmington, Calif., has good results with a 133 grain C-H swaged wadcutter in a K-38. He uses 3.8 grains 5066 and CCI No. 500 primers. We found a 139 or 145 grain C-H cup nose backed with 3.6 grains 5066 and the same primer works well in a K-38, loaded with the base forward. Bullets are seated flush in the case and lightly crimped.

Monroe Thomas was one of several area men who bagged a nice deer with a .222 this past season. Monroe took the buck at about 50 yards, placing the bullet one inch behind his eye for an instant kill. His load was my

(Continued on page 63)

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fast short throw lever action, Tubular magazine holds 7

mounts. 20' base open rear sight, receiver drilled tapped for all popular scope
mounts. 20' base open rear sight, receiver drilled tapped for all popular scope
sling swivels and old 81/2' overall, 7 lbs. Included PREf. factory fitted root pad,
sling swivels and old eather sling with brass-fittings. State choice of 30/20 or 26

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C20-T1484. Certified S94.95 Mir's List. State 30/30 or .35 cal.

MARLIN 336C WITH 4X SCOPE—Mounted . Ready to shoot! Famed Tasco fine
quality 1' diameter 4X Scope with hard coated magnesium fluoride lenses, click stops
of windage and elevation adjustments. Tip-off mounts for quick, simple scope removal. Scope is nitrogen filled
MARLIN 336C, 4X SCOPE, MOUNTS, RECOIL PAD, CARRYING STRAP, SWIYELS. Compare at \$139.70 \$94.88

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MARLIN 336C WITH 2½X to 8X SCOPE, Mounted . . Ready to Shoot! Tasco fine quality variable power scope
changes power from 2½ all the way up to 8 instantly, Nitrogen filled, magnesium fluoride coated lenses, crosshair reticule, leather lens caps. Tip-off mounts. State caliber choice.

C20-T11951. MARLIN 336C, 2½X-8X SCOPE, MOUNTS, RECOIL PAD, CARRYING STRAP, SWIVELS. S104.88

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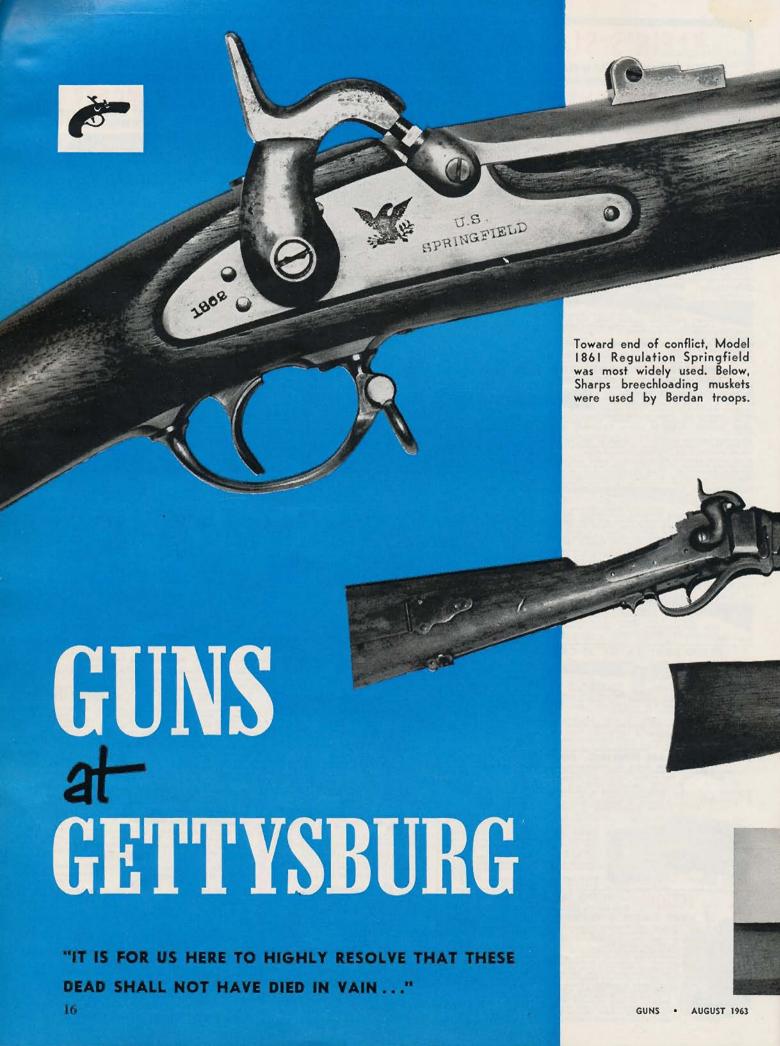
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Belgian r safety, also an overall with a	World famous "Police Model" of the original "M1910-Pocket Model" which was made by the famous "Fabrique Nationale" in Be et the personal supervision of John M. Browning himself. This genuin and Browning offers a grip type safety plus the usual thumboperate and the supervision of the magazine is a proper of the magazine is a proper of the proper of the magazine is a proper of the proper of the proper of the magazine is a proper of the proper of th
E20-T1410. Excellent Con E20-141132ACP 71 gr.	ondition (NRA)
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.38 S&W WEBLEY	ESTABLISHED KLEIN'S CREDIT CUSTOMERS: No down payment required. Your order will be shipped at once.
Holster!	NEW CREDIT CUSTOMERS: 10% Down Payment Required on 1st order only. To speed your order, send name and address of your Employer and names and addresses of 2 or more firms with whom you have (or have had) credit accounts. Also your age, occupation, number of dependents, date present job began and present salary. Information will be kept confidential.
Commonwealth during World War II. Strong rugged design, double action. 6-shot, auto ejection, Parkerized finish. Very	RUSH ITEM NOS.
Good Condition—mechanically perfect.	ENCLOSED is \$ Check Money Order
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RUSH ITEM NOS.			
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By GRAHAM BURNSIDE



BACK IN Civil War days, when a military report used the word "guns", they meant cannon. Small arms were called small arms, and pistols and revolvers were sidearms. Today, the term "guns" enjoys a more general use and is used here to mean small arms and sidearms.

The battle of Gettysburg was fought one hundred years ago, on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 1863. It was one of the greatest decisive battles of all American history and undoubtedly the most important battle of the Civil War. Gettysburg was the high point of the Confederate effort, and from that point on the Southern military power declined slowly but steadily.

Gettysburg was a massive battle that employed about 83,000 Union men and about 75,000 Confederates. It was a hard fought contest that resulted in 51,000 casualties. It was a Union victory, as the Union won the field and forced the Confederates to retreat. The victory could have been more complete had the Union quickly followed their advantage. If the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia had been destroyed, the Civil War would not have lasted until April of 1865.

Small arms and sidearms used in the Civil War are innumerable. Everything practical that could be found on the world market was used, and many thousands of impractical arms were purchased just to keep them away from the clutches of the enemy. To know all Civil War arms would take a life-long study.

Many arms employed were of a sporting type particularly among the Confederate troops. The list would include flintlock arms converted to percussion, hunting rifles, target rifles, shotguns, and a host of different pistols and revolvers.

In some cases — usually Confederate — men were armed with abberations made from sundry parts. Having few real factories, the South resorted to the questionable products of small workshops. As one can guess, this plethora of small arms was an ordnance headache of some magnitude.

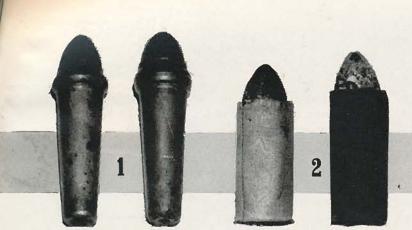
Considering the job to be done, one must give credit to both the North and the South for their ability to provide their troops with proper cartridges and other ordnance necessities.

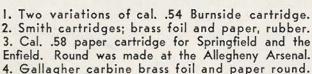
In studying the texts covering the subject, it is obvious that just cartridges for the various arms used were more than a nominal problem. As an example one order called for the following:

100,000 Enfield cartridges, calibre .577 100,000 blank cartridges

3,000 friction primers (for cannon)





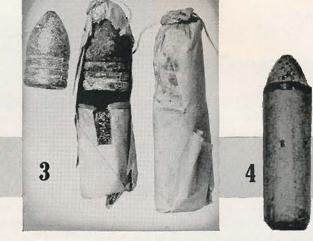








Many Civil War soldiers used foreign made guns such as the above shown Belgian pinfire revolver.



100,000 percussion caps
40,000 Mississippi rifle cartridges
400,000 elongated ball cartridges, calibre .69
40,000 Burnside cartridges
100,000 elongated ball cartridges, calibre .75
And another order (May, 1862):
921 rifle cartridges, elongated ball, with caps, cal. 69
908,000 rifle cartridges, cal. .577
221,000 rifle cartridges cal. .54
21,000 buck and ball, with caps, cal. .69
63,000 buck (shot) cartridges, no caps, cal. .69
52,000 Colts rifle cartridges, with caps, cal. .54
159,000 Mississippi rifle cartridges, no caps, cal. .54
57,000 Colts rifle cartridges, no caps, cal. .54

It is interesting to note that the above two orders do not ask for any .58 caliber musket cartridges, which was eventually what the Union army used most heavily. It may well be that both of the orders were made before the bulk of the troops had the .58 Springfield rifled musket in their possession.

Most troops were issued .69 caliber percussion muskets when they were mustered into the service. Most such organizations were later re-equipped with other more effective arms.

To give the reader some idea of the problems of the Civil War ordnance people, here is a listing of how many different small arms were purchased by the U.S. Government for Civil War use:

22 different carbines

28 kinds of muskets and rifles

19 distinctive pistols and revolvers

30,000 Sharps carbine cartridges 601,000 musket round balls, cal. .69

This listing may not be complete. We can safely say that "at least" these many types were purchased. When one ponders the problems of spare parts, repair, ammunition, and accurate and speedy supply—only then does one realize the magnitude of the problem. To further complicate the picture, many of the arms came from foreign countries and, in the case of some of the revolvers, the ammunition was not made anywhere except in that particular foreign land. In one instance (pinfire revolvers), the manufacture of pinfire cartridges was undertaken in this country.

At the beginning of the war, the U.S. was generally illequipped. In time, arms started to pour in from domestic factories and foreign ports. (Continued on page 48)





Eye-catching and handsome replica of a Harpers Ferry Model 1800 flintlock is displayed on wall of buffet car of Northern Pacific. The theme is the Lewis and Clark expedition.



Historic Gun In Modern Guise

By ROBERT J. KINDLEY

Dick Hicks, of Albuquerque, makes these fine replicas completely by hand, including rifling the barrel.

HANGING ON one wall of each of the Northern Pacific's new "Traveler's Rest" buffet cars is a rifle that would make a gun collector take a good, hard, second look. It appears to be a Harpers Ferry Model 1800 flintlock, in mint condition! Closer examination, however, will reveal the name "Dick Hicks" etched in the barrel, identifying the rifle as the excellent work of the Albuquerque gunsmith who specializes in building muzzle-loading rifles and pistols.

When the Northern Pacific decided to remodel their crack Northern Coast Limited, one of the last cars to be

redesigned was the buffet car. These cars were to be remodeled during the sesquicentennial of the historic Lewis and Clark expedition. This, plus the fact that the Northern Pacific's tracks parallel the old Lewis and Clark trail for many miles, caused the railroad to adopt a Lewis and Clark theme for the design and decoration of the cars.

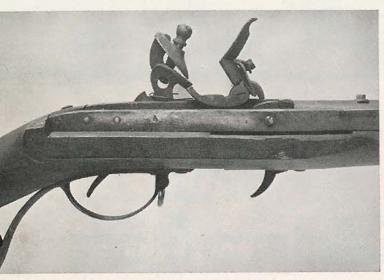
The rifles carried by the Lewis and Clark expedition were, of course, among its most important items of equipment. It was on these that the explorer's depended to furnish the vast amount of meat needed during the three year trek. Hunting was a necessity, and good rifles contributed much to the success of the expedition. Actually, hunting was such a common-place chore that it took the grizzlies of the Montana Rockies to add spice to it. The ball from a single rifle merely angered the big bears, and members of the expedition had several narrow escapes until they learned to gang up on them. On two occasions, Capt. Lewis almost lost his britches to wounded grizzlies, escaping only by some speedy footwork. To quote him, he decided that it would be easier "to fight two Indians than one bear."

In spite of all that has been (Continued on page 36)

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GUNMAKERS of the

CONFEDERACY



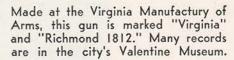
Lock detail on rifle marked "J.H.Hall H. Ferry U.S. 1826." Adopted by U.S. Army in 1817, it was the first breech loading rifle adopted by any government. Right, the view of the Virginia Manufactury from the river.

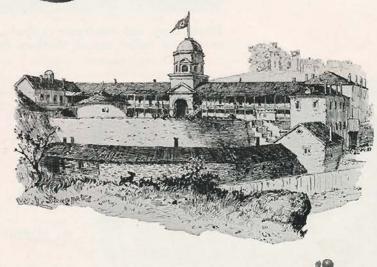


By GEORGE McKENNA

In FEBRUARY of 1798, the Governor of Virginia selected a citizen of that State named John Clarke to supply "a plan for a complete manufactury of arms to be erected in the vicinity of Richmond, capable of the annual manufacture of 4,000 stands of arms." The plan was approved by the State Legislature in 1800, and from 1802 until it was turned over to the Confederacy in 1861, the Manufactury was in continuous operation, first as a state owned factory in which military arms were made, and then as a state arsenal in which they were repaired and stored.

The arms made there are now choice collector's items, commanding a premium on the market for antique firearms. And the records, most of which are still on file in the State Archives in Richmond, are an excellent source of information about the firearms industry during the early years of U.S. history.





One point these records make very clear is that, at the end of the Eighteenth Century, the manufacturing of firearms in America was centered in the Middle Atlantic and lower New England States. According to his reports to the Governor, before Clarke drew up his plan, he travelled extensively through these areas, visiting all the major foundries and arms factories in the then young United States, to obtain information.

Philadelphia was an important arms manufacturing center at that time, and one where Clarke spent several weeks. But the two factories he seems to have studied with the greatest attention were the Eli Whitney arms plant in New Haven, Conn., where the principle of interchangeable parts was then developed to a high degree in gun making; and the infant Federal Armory at Springfield, Mass., where the division of labor on an "assembly line" basis was already



well established. Both of these ideas were incorporated into the plan he drew for the Virginia Manufactury of Arms.

The site Clarke selected for the plant was a six acre tract on the north bank of the James River, between the river and the James River Canal. This site combined low cost transportation for raw materials by means of both canal and river boats with an ample supply of power from water drawn out of the canal to operate a huge waterwheel built inside the Manufactury.

The plan called for a large two-story brick building facing on the canal, with two brick wings in the back enclosing a courtyard that was about an acre in extent. Clarke supervised its construction, hired the men who were to begin work, and was named first Superintendent after the plant was put into operation.

The first Master Armorer was a Virginian, George

Williamson; but the first labor force consisted of 68 "artificers" recruited from northern states, half of them men who had served their apprenticeship at Springfield Armory. The original plans called for the production of 16 muskets, 6 pistols, and 7 swords a day. To achieve this, Clarke made out a work sheet which was included in a letter he wrote June 12, 1301, to James Monroe, the Governor of Virginia at that time. This work sheet called for some 132 men, specifying the number needed for each of more than a dozen different operations.

Actually, during the first few years the Manufactury was in operation, it never reached this elaborate scale Clarke had planned, and during the years 1803 to 1805 it operated on a very reduced scale because of an economy move in the State Government. In 1805, more money was made available, and on Oct. 1, (Continued on page 43)



By JAMES E SERVEN

PART TWO OF THE PICTURESQUE HISTORICAL SAGA OF GUNS IN THE HANDS
OF BRAVE MEN ON FAST HORSES, BLAZING A TRAIL WESTWARD

BY MARCH OF 1861, Civil War between the northern and the southern states seemed inevitable. The election of Abraham Lincoln of Illinois, on a platform of protective tariff and the exclusion of slavery from the Territories, left little hope of settlement by arbitration. South Carolina and half a dozen other southern states had already passed their "ordinances of secession." Vital history was being made daily east of the Mississippi, and news of those happenings was vital to those who lived and planned futures on our western borders.

Lincoln's inaugural address might be a decisive factor in a life-and-death gamble for the far west as well as for the eastern states. At the Pony Express remount station at Smith's Creek, "Pony Bob" Haslam strode up and down impatiently as he waited for the sound of hoof-beats from the east—the hoof-beats of a rider in whose mochila would be a copy of that inaugural address. The west was waiting for that message, and Pony Bob had a long way to go—all the way to Fort Churchill near Carson City, Nevada, 117 miles distant.

Faint at first, but growing rapidly louder, those hoof-beats came. A lathered pony slid to a stop. The leather mochila with its four pockets of precious mail was tossed across the saddle of Haslam's waiting pony, and Pony Bob "forked leather." The exchange took only a matter of seconds. But the ride would be terribly, terribly long . . .

This was a particularly dangerous stretch of country that Haslam had to cover. The Pah Utes were in ugly mood; their treacherous attacks had already taken the lives of numerous settlers, soldiers, Pony Express station attendants, and miners.

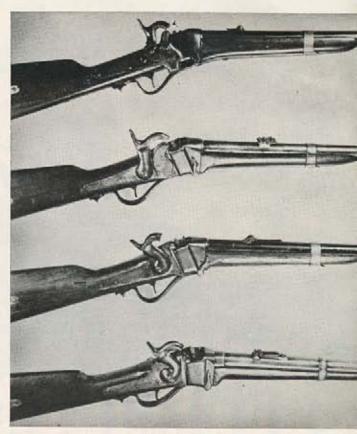
The trail passed through several mountain passes and a place often frequented by Indians known as Quaking Aspen Bottom. No Indians were sighted at these places in the run to Cold Spring station, but Indian-wise Bob Haslam knew this kind of luck would not last. At Cold Spring, he selected not his speediest mount but a very smart horse named Old Buck. This animal was said to be able to smell an Indian a mile away.

Farther and farther along the westward trail sped horse and rider, passing several likely places for ambush. Then Old Buck suddenly shot his ears forward and snorted. Bob Haslam knew what to expect; he knotted his reins, dropped them over the horse's neck, drew his two Colt pistols, dug his heels into Old Buck, and the race was on. Bursting from cover came a horde of howling Pah Utes. A flight of arrows and scattered shots whistled in Bob's direction.

The poorly-fed Indian ponies were no match for the fast grain-fed horses of the Pony Express, but in this band there were a few Indians mounted on fine horses recently stolen from Pony Express relay stations. Old Buck could not outrun all of these. Resourceful Bob Haslam, though reluctant to shoot good horses, knew there was but one course left to him. Taking careful aim, he dropped the horses of several of his most persistent pursuers.

A sudden shock and scaring pain, and there was an Indian arrow embedded to the bone in Bob's left arm. He holstered his right-hand Colt pistol and yanked out the arrow. Then, taking the pistol from his useless left hand, he watched his chance as he rode down a narrow ravine, closely pursued by three Indians who now must ride in single file. Twisting in the saddle, Bob fired three shots into the leading pony. In the ensuing pile-up, the second pony also went down.

That left but one pursuer. Bob turned again and fired point blank at the oncoming Indian. As he did so, an arrow from the Pah Ute's bow pierced Bob's cheek, knocking out several teeth and fracturing his jaw. Bob's recollection of the ride to the Middle Gate relay station a few (Continued on page 52)



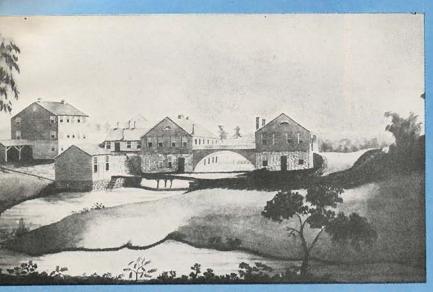
Popular throughout the West, the Sharps carbine was often carried by Pony Express men in areas where Indian trouble could be encountered. Here are four different models of caplock carbines.



Spencer carbines became popular after the Pony Express shut down, were never carried by riders.

In the plainer version and with walnut stocks, many Pony Express riders and others in the West carried and used Colt's Model 1851 Navy pistol.





Above, the Upper Water Shops at the Springfield Armory 1830. At the right, the ruins of the Hall Rifle Works. Above right, the U.S. Rifle Carbine, Model 1855, made at Springfield plant.



GUNMAKERS for the MEN IN BLUE

By PHILIP R. SMITH, JR.

THE FEDERAL ARSENAL

SYSTEM, BEGUN IN 1777 BY

WASHINGTON, WAS READY TO

SUPPLY THE NORTH

WHEN THE UNION WAS IN

DIRE DANGER

This was the Harpers Ferry Armory before outbreak of the "War Between The States."



THE National Armory system in the U. S. dates back to 1777, when the Journals of the Continental Congress recorded on February 20, 1777: "Agreed to report to Congress that General Washington's establishment of an elaboratory and Cannon Foundry at Springfield, in Massachusetts, be approved of by Congress."

Springfield was chosen as the site for an armory because of its abundant water power, its distance from the coast, and its supply of skilled gunsmiths. The arms and ammunition from the more exposed coastal areas were sent to Springfield for safe keeping from the British.

In 1777, an officer of General Burgoyne's captured army now on its march to southern prisons and camped near the town, wrote about Springfield.

"This place is a veritable magazine for storage of weapons for the Americans and it also has a small but very well-built armory of arsenal. We saw here various parks of artillery with their trains, and among other things twelve entirely new 4-pounders of French make. The store or magazine houses were filled from top to bottom..."

Following the Revolution, all manufacture and repair work at Springfield was stopped, but the armory was retained as a storage area for the New England section. Washington visited the city shortly after his inauguration and, convinced of its potentialities, recommended it as a site for a northern armory when Congress, in April, 1794, enacted that the President was empowered to establish one or more places for the manufacture of arms.

The Springfield Armory in 1795 employed 40 people and turned out 245 muskets. Its expenditures were \$4,495.75.

The Springfield Armory was made up of two plants known as the Hill Shops and the Water Shops, about one mile apart. The former shops occupied the site of the Springfield Training Field, where the militia drilled during the French and Indian Wars. The Water Shops were erected along the Mill River.

The Water Shops comprised three separate power sites and plants known as the Upper, Middle, and Lower Water Shops, and up to 1844 all power was supplied by the water wheels. At

one time as many as 23 small water wheels were utilized. In 1857, the Lower Plant was sold and the Middle and Upper Plants were consolidated by lowering the bed of the stream between the two plants so that the upper plant had their combined head.

In 1844, a steam engine was installed in the Hill Plant, and machine operations were undertaken for the first time.

The site selected by Washington for a southern armory was at Harpers Ferry, at the junction of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, in what was then Virginia, Washington was well acquainted with the area, and felt that the site was a good one with its unlimited water power available from the two rivers, and its easily defensible location.

There was a large settlement at Springfield in 1794, but Harpers Ferry was still a wilderness. Major construction at the Ferry was not begun until 1799. Prior to this time, the emphasis had been on the construction of houses for the workmen. There was such a shortage of housing that armorers were lodged in factory buildings, a practice that was, the Paymaster pointed out, a definite fire hazard. Churches were set up in incompleted factory buildings; schools were nonexistent.



the John Brown engine house in left foreground.

The armory shops were constructed along the banks of the Shenandoah River. A canal supplied by the waters of the Shenandoah furnished the water power necessary for the shops.

The arsenals were located on the Potomac River, The small arsenal was constructed between April, 1806, and April, 1807. The large arsenal was among the first buildings constructed in 1799-1800. Space was at a premium, with the armory buildings squeezed between the canal and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, constructed in the middle 1830's.

The inaccessibility of the armory at Harpers Ferry accounted in part for the higher cost of arms production there. Even after the construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad across the river from the armory, the cost of manufacturing arms at the southern armory was higher than in Springfield. Another factor in the higher cost of arms manufactured at the Ferry was the periodic floods that swept down the river valleys, causing damage to the buildings and machinery. Even the construction of costly dams and breakwaters was unable to stop the destruction wrought by the rampaging rivers. On the other hand, the operation of the armory was sometimes halted by the lack of water for power.

The French Charlesville Musket, Model 1763, served as the model for the first muskets manufactured at both armories. This weapon became known as the U.S. Musket, Model 1795.

For the first decade, the two armories operated more or less independently of each other. The Ordnance Department was often hard pressed to coordinate production between them. Lt. Colonel Bomford of the Ordnance Department wrote to Superintendent Lee of the Springfield Armory on September 21, 1821, "With a view to introducing greater uniformity in the pattern of muskets hereafter to be manufactured for the United States, including those made at the National Armories, as well as those made by Contractors, it is determined to have thirty muskets made at each of the National Armories. The muskets, when finished, are to be forwarded to this Office, where they will undergo a rigid examination and that parcel, from either armory which is found most uniform, will be adopted, and distributed to each of the armories and Contractors as a model to be hereafter followed. To insure uniformity in the fabrication of our Arms hereafter, is an object of the first importance. . . .

In 1816 or 1817, a gunsmith, John H. Hall, came to Harpers Ferry with a contract to manufacture 1,000 of his new patent rifles. Hall was to revolutionize gun making in the National Armories with his principles of mass production and interchangeability of parts. Setting up the necessary machinery and producing the rifles took several years, and the original 1,000 rifles were not completed until 1824, when another contract was made for a second thousand rifles.

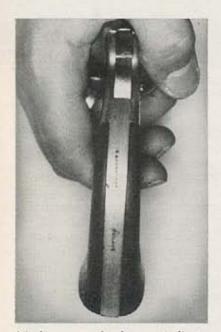
The Hall Rifle Works were set up in old Armory buildings on an island in the (Continued on page 40)

Made at Harpers Ferry Armory, the U.S. Pistol, Model 1805, is brass mounted and has a smoothbore barrel of .54 caliber.



Paging G.& J. Chapman

By GRAHAM BURNSIDE



Markings on backstrap indicate that gun was production piece.

BACK IN the 1860's, there were probably two fellows by the name of Chapman who lived in or about Philadelphia, Pa. Maybe they were brothers; and they may have been named George and John.

I know practically nothing about these two men. I do know that there were two Chapmans who were very handy gentlemen, and they made a gun—maybe more than one.

Last year I was questioned by Joseph H. Parris, Sr., of Upland, Pennsylvania. Mr. Parris had found an unusual revolving pistol, and he wished to know more about it. He described the piece, and seemed to do a good job of it; but the more I read the letter, the more it seemed that Mr. Parris had something very unusual. I asked Mr. Parris to send the revolver for examination—which he courteously did.

This brass framed .32 rim-fire is of better than good quality and considering the years that have flown by, it is in excellent condition. Originally, the brass frame was silver plated, as is evidenced by the fact that some silver plating is found underneath the side plate on the right side of the revolver.

On the left side of the frame is stamped "Pat. App'd For" and "1861." This would lead us to assume that the Chapmans attempted to have their pistol patented; but I doubt it. The statement "patent applied for" is in no way a binding statement. If a person is just thinking that they may someday apply for a patent, then the phrase is legally useable. An exhaustive and careful check of the U. S. patents does not show a Chapman patent for a revolver or for any other type of firearm.

(Continued on page 61)

All-Around Game Gun?

TEXAN'S ANSWER TO THE ALL-PURPOSE-GUN PROBLEM
IS A SHOTGUN RIFLE OVER-UNDER IN LEVER ACTION

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

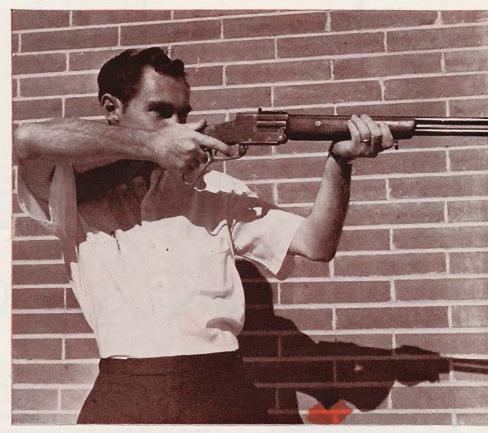
A TEXAS inventor, Harold E. Johnston believes that he has developed the ultimate in an all-purpose gun. This may or may not be true. The theory of an all-purpose firearm has been batted around inconclusively for almost as long as the shooting sports have existed, and it has prompted many conflicting views and opinions.

Is Johnston's invention indeed a solution to the time-honored question? We'll give you the lowdown on his revolutionary brainchild, and let you decide for yourself.

Perhaps this story of a gun should start with Johnston himself, a resident of Austin, Texas. He's an inquisitive little man with big ideas, a machinist by trade, about five feet, five inches tall and weighing maybe 120 pounds when he is on his feed. A hunter and gun nut for longer than he can recall, the 31-year-old Johnston bagged his first bear when he was 15 years old, and since then has accounted for something like 30 to 35 bruins. In addition, he is a hunter of wide and varied experience, from big game like deer and elk, to varmints, rabbits, squirrels, and various game birds.

To him a gun is not just a tool of the hunter. It is a way of life. He has spent many hours over a period of many years in his home workshop, tinkering with guns and ammunition. His assiduous search has led him to his "big" invention, the all-purpose gun.

The seed of the idea was planted when he was still a youngster. He was given a hand-me-down over-under gun, a rifle and shotgun combination, made in Europe. This gun accompanied him on untold trips afield, and it intrigued him. But it didn't quite have the "feel"



Inventor Johnston demonstrates the carbine. Gun is lightweight, handles well. The lever breaks the action, ejects the shells, and cocks hammers.

he preferred in a weapon.

There was no gun like this on the American market, he noted as he grew older. True, they were available from Europe, but the price tag made one nothing more than a dream for most sportsmen.

What was needed, Johnston believed, was a combination gun, a center-fire rifle and shotgun, simply designed for mass production in America at a price the average hunter could afford to pay. Thus the idea was planted. Johnston started to work on it in 1956 in his spare time, and it began to grow. But there were many obstacles to overcome,

parts to carve by hand and mold snugly in place. Finally, six years later, the gun was finished and ready to go.

Johnston's experimental gun has the look of a traditional carbine, sleek and compact, with the popular lever action. This is the look he wished to achieve. All of the European combination guns, the over-under and the drilling guns with double barrels with a rifle barrel slung underneath, are made to look like shotguns rather than rifles. This is fine for scattergunning, but it handicaps the rifle shooter. Anyway, there is a certain feel and balance about the carbine that no other gun has quite



achieved as yet.

The prototype is chambered for the .410 shotgun in the top barrel, the .32 Special in the under barrel. Convenience dictated these two choices. Johnston obtained a pair of 8 mm barrels from which to build his experimental gun. The 8 mm was easiest rechambered for the .32 Special. With a reamer, he bored the other barrel smooth for the .410 shotshell. This should in no way reflect on the future project, he quickly added, since there are no limits within reason on the various combinations.

The action has a streamlined look and hammers are hidden. Takedown is simple, a single locking screw holds barrels securely in place.

"Probably the ideal gun would be a 20 gauge shotgun and a .30-30," he reasoned. "The .30-30 is a popular cartridge that is legal on deer and elk in all states, and the 20 gauge is a good all-around load, fine for bird shooting and it does well with slugs."

Johnston's gun is a picture of simplicity. It has only seven moving parts. In all, it carries only 48 parts, including screws in the butt plate. This compares to 105 parts in the Sauer, a gun made in Europe of similar design and about the closest thing to Johnston's model.

"There really is no comparison between my gun and the European-made products like the Ferlach and Sauer over-under and drilling guns," he went on. "These weapons from Europe are beautiful, all sleek and fancy designs. But the pricetag isn't so beautiful. The cheapest one available is about \$400. My gun, I figure, can be manufactured for less than \$100, the maximum being about \$99.50. My gun is more compact, more foolproof, and cheaper."

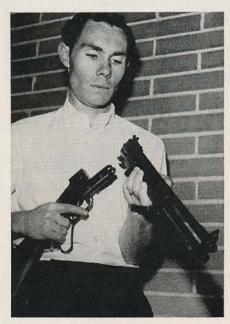
Up to now, the gun has passed all its tests wonderfully well. Johnston has fired more than 500 rounds through both barrels without a malfunction. I test-fired it on the range, and found it both well balanced and very accurate.

Johnston knew what the gun would do on the range, but he was curious as to how it would perform in the field. There was only one sure way to find out: take it hunting. It was the fall of 1962, about a month after the gun was completed. He recalls that he was catfooting along an old logging road on the Olympic Penninsula of Washington State when he came up on an unsuspecting 350-pound black bear. One shot from the .32 Special put him down on the spot, the slug nicking the heart and puncturing the lungs.

"I figure that bear lived maybe a minute, at the most," Johnston remembered soberly.

The only gun of American manufacture that even compares with Johnston's model is the Model 24 Savage in its various forms. But Johnston is quick to point out that the Savage is a rimfire rifle-shotgun combination, designed (Continued on page 38)

The prototype is designed for the .32 Special and .410 shell, holds one round of each. Guns will have open sights and barrels in various calibers will be available, can be installed by owner without any tools.







SAGA

THEY SAID NINETY-YARD DUCKS WERE MEAT FOR THE TEN GAUGE MAGNUM...BUT — ARE THEY?

but I had the impression that the ducks were flying faster than they formerly did. Or else I was swinging slower. But doubtless the added range packed into that extralength hull more than made up for this handicap. However, I still wasn't getting those 80 yard kills. Obviously, the 12 Magnum just wasn't enough gun. My heart longed for a mighty 10; but very few were being imported in those days.

One glorious morning I walked into the friendly neighborhood gun shop, and there, standing in the rack, was a veritable giant of a gun. Unbelieving, with a catch in my voice, I asked the merchant if it were one of the fabled 10 Magnums.

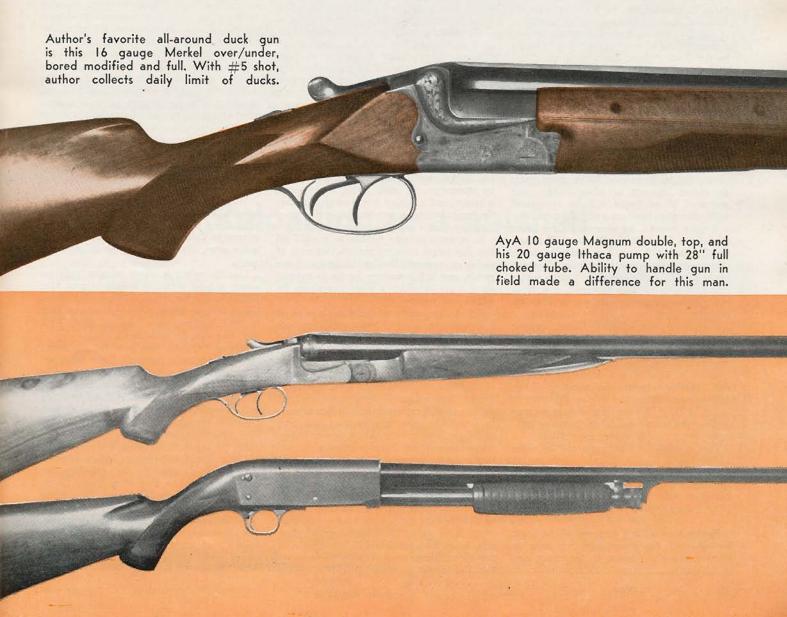
He nodded, flexed his muscles, and handed the brute to me. I almost dropped it. Heavy? Plenty! But I could already see myself picking off those 90 yard mallards.

It was a beautifully made AyA double, tastefully engraved, and in excellent condition. Fearfully, I asked the dealer his price. It was not exorbitant, and I suggested a trade involving my magnum pump. We struck a bargain, and I hurried from the store with my prize.

Several days later, I had a heavy box of 10 gauge Magnum ammunition and a lighter pocket book by more than \$7.00. The few shells I fired convinced me that, although the AyA was heavy, I would not care to have it weigh less—the recoil was definitely there!

Waiting for the coming duck season was almost unbearable, but at last it arrived, and I was free to unleash the full fury of my 10 Magnum on the unsuspecting fowl.

Dawn of opening day found (Continued on page 58)





Pull!

BY DICK MILLER

T IS SAID that virture is it's own reward. But I observe that most virtuous people enjoy having their virtue recognized.

It can also be said that shooting at flying clay targets in the games of trap and skeet is it's own reward. But I further observe that shooters, being humans and owning such inner drives as the desire for recognition, like to be recognized as shooters.

It seems to me that all shooters enjoy being recognized as devotees of their various games, and that good shooters are not averse to some means of drawing attention to the fact that they are good, short of buttonholing bystanders and conveying this information verbally. For this reason, "Pull!" salutes the National Skeet Shooting Association, and the NSSA Shotgun Awards Committee for the announcement of some new shooting awards, in the April "Skeet Shooting Review."

The new program, to be handled personally by long-time skeet great and skeet-shooting booster, Henry Alcus, in New Orleans, gives recognition in the form of bras-sards and medals for three degrees of proficiency in each of the four skeet gauge divisions. For example, in the twelve gauge division, a shooter with a score of 85 or better earns a novice brassard or bronze novice badge. A score of 92 or above gains an expert brassard or silver badge; and scores of 97 or better will be recognized with champion brassard and gold medal.

Similar awards, for proportionately lower scores, can be earned in 20 gauge, 28 gauge, and 2½ inch 410 bore. For example, on the other end of the skeet scale from 12 gauge, in the 410 division a score of 70 earns novice rating, 30 scorers move to expert, and 89 or more broken targets permit you to wear the champion's insignia.

Members of the National Skeet Shooting Association who read their association magazine (and who doesn't) already know of this program. My purpose in selecting it for an accolade in "Pull!" is to bring the news to skeet gunners who are not members of the national association, and to pass the word to would-be skeet shooters that this game may be the vehicle that will fill their recreational needs along with desire for recognition.

The program is now restricted to clubs affiliated with the NSSA, and is only one of many reasons why all clubs offering skeet shooting should be so affiliated. Further information may be had from Henry Alcus, 1470 Urania Street, New Orleans 13, La.

Having thus quickly disposed of the basic human need for recognition, we turn to another primary concern in the space age of the sixties. Most of us are highly "image" conscious these days. Somewhere along the line, it behoves all of us who are clay target fans to give some thought to our public image, or how we look to our communities. Art Cone, outdoor columnist of the Long Branch Daily Record, Little Silver, New Jersey, writing under the heading of "Public Image Of The Sportsman" in "Outdoors Unlimited," official organ of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, says, in part...

"I don't like to say so in this column, but the public image of a hunter is basically that of a mean, avaricious, murderous, unshaven, and uncouth male with a taste for strong drink, the morals of a Tom-cat, and the desire to exterminate by gun-fire as many as God's other creatures as he can without regard for seasons, bag limits, or decency..."

Now, before a Guns reader throws down the magazine in disgust, let me explain that I am fully aware of the danger inherent in quoting from context, and hasten to explain that Art Cone devotes several hundred more words to refute the unpleasant image described.

But he does hit uncomfortably close to the image that far too many people have of the hunter. Which brings us to another peril of the sixties, and of the ages—that of guilt by association. In other words, a shooter is a hunter, and a hunter is a shooter. Whether the target is clay or game is lost on too many bleeding hearts and do-gooders.

It is not necessary for me to remind all our clay target shooting readers that each of us has a responsibility for the image of our games, nor is it necessary for me to suggest many ways in which a good image can be gained and maintained.

But it does seem to me that there is at least one area in which many gun clubs can help improve their community image, and that is in the field of cooperation with local law enforcement agencies. I have just finished reading a clipping from a newspaper of a good-sized Midwestern city, describing the problems of providing adequate training in the use of firearms for local police officers. In describing some progress that had been made, the story relates that a former hodge-podge arsenal had been standardized, and that one of the guns in general use is the shotgun.

From previous experience in assisting with firearms training for law enforcement officers, I know that many of the high-ranking experts on this subject flatly state that a riot gun, which is no more than a short-barreled shotgun, is an invaluable tool in the hands of the officer. These authorities further contend that it is easier to train the officer, old or

new, in the use of the shotgun than it is for any of the other firearms at his command.

And what is the training device most favored by these experts? Skeet, of course. After a few rounds of skeet, the officer knows his gun, and can use it effectively. Lacking skeet ranges, a police department can use regulation trap fields, by posting the shooters at about 10 yards instead of 16.

Bringing this kind of training, or any kind of firearms training, to law enforcement officers, meets the old bugaboo of expense. Few hard-pressed city budgets can stand the cost of a skeet or trap field, and justify it to screaming taxpayers. But there is a trap or skeet field near every one of those cities that need to give it's law enforcement officers better firearms training, and most of those clay target facilities are not used every day of each week.

What gun clubs can do to better their public image does not need to be spelled out here. It needs only implementing on a national scale, and the time is now.

Somewhat removed from the area of gun club image, and in a sense putting the shoe on the other foot, there is another solution for city problems that involves clay target facilities.

A few far-sighted city fathers have approached the problem just described in reverse. Lacking adequate firearms training facilities for their law enforcement departments, and also cognizant of the onrushing need for more and better community recreation facilities, these cities have reversed the process and built shooting facilities that are used to train officers, and are open to the public when not in use for official business. In this way, some of these cities have been able to obtain revenue from their training facilities to offset the cost of providing superior training for law enforcement agencies. "Pull!" salutes the city or gun club that utilizes either method for better image -and more fun!

What is news? The old classic says that when a man bites a dog, that's news. Somewhat along the man-bites-dog theory, a skeet gunner in California is making news, or will make news, depending on your definition of news.

Usually, when a skeet gunner puts together a long string of broken targets, that makes news. Peter Candy, of Los Angeles, began a long string of broken targets back in 1961, racking up a total of 1357. With that long run, he made news.

During 1962, he shot just 100 registered targets, and broke them all. Early this year, he entered a select field of skeet gunners in the William T. Sesnon, Jr. Invitational shoot at Golden Valley Gun Club, and was the only shooter of 185 entries to break one hundred straight. At this point, he has 1557 targets without a miss.

By the usual standards of news reporting, his long run of 1557 targets broken is news. But we now come to the man-bites-dog approach, which is that when Peter Candy of Los Angeles misses a target, that's going to be news of the biggest sort!

Fellow shooters, ask yourselves this question. How would you feel if it was noised around that when you miss just one little target, it will be news?

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HISTORIC GUN IN MODERN GUISE

(Continued from page 19)

written about this famous exploration, the history of the particular rifle Harpers Ferry made for Capt. Lewis is rather obscure. Army records show that Lewis requisitioned 15 rifles, to be equipped with molds, ball screws, and repair parts. Israel Whelen, purveyor of public supplies for the Army, failed to supply these rifles. Lewis then placed an order with the Harpers Ferry Arsenal to build them for him.

This fact may be the key to the historical haze that surrounds the Model 1800 Harpers Ferry flintlock, Having a government arsenal build weapons for an expedition into a friendly foreign territory could hardly be classed as a gesture of friendship! Hence records concerning these fifteen rifles may have been "lost" for political reasons,

The 15 prototype flintlocks built for Capt. Lewis were half-stock weapons of a rather unique design. The stock followed the deepcurved pattern of the Kentucky. The long, slender forearm, always subject to damage in "Kentuckys," was reduced by half its length for practical reasons. A steel rih soldered to the underside of the barrel carried two iron or steel ramrod pipes. The heavy .52 to .54 caliber octagonal barrel was turned round for all but 11 to 13 inches of its length to reduce weight, A plain brass patch box, a brass pistol grip type trigger guard, and brass stock thimbles completed the rather plain weapon.

These rifles are probably the forerunners of what is known as the Model 1803 Harpers Ferry rifle. In May, 1803, Secretary of War Dearborn ordered 4000 of these flintlocks. However, in April, Lewis told President Jefferson that his rifles were almost ready at the arsenal. Furthermore, Dearborn, in the fall of 1803, suggested that the front ramrod thimble be made funnel-shaped, and that a strip of brass be added at the tip of the forearm to prevent the wood from splitting. This leads one to believe that the rifles made for Capt. Lewis had cylindrical thimbles and did not have a brass reinforcing strip on the

Having determined to make the rifles part of the decorating theme of their buffet cars, and since it would certainly be impossible to find six of the original 15 rifles made for Capt, Lewis, Dick Hicks was given the job of making six copies. The results of his work do justice to his skill.

In building these six copies, Hicks used as a model a Harpers Ferry Model 1814 flintlock, supplied by Bill Edwards, then Technical Editor of Guns. This rifle, plus a photo from the West Point Museum Collection, helped Dick produce the desired results. The replica follows the general pattern of the 1803-1814 models of Harpers Ferry flintlocks. The stock is American walnut, stained and finished with a linseed oil and shellac mixture. The polished brass patch box is very plain, and opens by pressing a spring-loaded eatch button on the top of the stock heel. The lock copies the Harpers Ferry lock right down to the date 1803 on the left lock plate and the "U.S." stamped under an eagle between the frizzen spring and the hammer. It is equipped with a polished steel ramrod, with a swelled brass tip, cupped to prevent ball distortion, the same as 'the originals.

The .52 caliber bore on these replicas extends only 5 or 6 inches into the barrel. The completed rifle, therefore, is very heavy. Even so, the balance is excellent, indicating that an operating model of this rifle would make a nice handling shooter.

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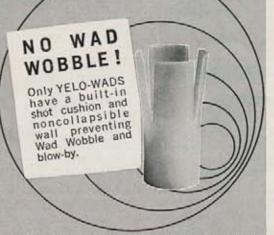
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La Salle receivers are highly polished, strong, light weight forged alloy. All interior parts of both pump and automatic actions are phosphatized for resistance to corrosion, and bolt and cartridge carrier are chrome plated. Safeties are oversized crossbolt type.

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THE ALL-AROUND GAME GUN?

(Continued from page 29)

primarily for small game. His is a big-game weapon.

"It was made as a brush gun, to be used at ranges less than one-hundred yards, the ranges where most of the deer are killed," he added, "One shot is all the hunter really needs. That first shot is the opportunity onc. If it is missed, the second, third, and maybe fourth are usually desperation tries at a fleeing animal."

Johnston's gun is light and compact, weighing a mere 61/4 pounds with twentyinch barrels. Everything on it is functional. The lever, for example, performs three distinct jobs: breaks the action, ejects both cartridges simultaneously, and cocks the hidden hammers. This makes for fast shooting, Johnston explained, because there is no need to cock the hammer just prior to firing.

The ejectors on the European-made guns work on springs. Johnston's, however, is made on a cam. This is sturdy to the point of being almost foolproof. The ejector is one of two outstanding safety features in the gun. The other one is the safety. Unlike most safeties which work on the trigger, this one wedges the sears, making it impossible to fire the gun. When the safety is secure, the mechanism is jammed.

Another feature that Johnston is proud of is the quick-change firing pin. It can be replaced in less than a minute. The firing pin is held in place by a single screw. When this is loosened, the firing pin falls out.

"What if you were armed with your regular gun, and you were back in the mountains, on a week-long hunting trip, and the first day out your firing pin crystalized and broke?" Johnston asked. "I'll tell you what you'd do; you'd have to take it to the nearest town to a gunsmith and wait maybe several days for him to get it repaired. My gun, all you got to do is remove this one

screw and put in a new firing pin. Simple."

Self-tightening screws are utilized throughout the rifle, and when the gun is fired, the screws tighten rather than loosen, making for a more sturdy action. Since the chambers are in a re-enforced breech rather than in the barrels, Johnston's gun easily can take the pressures of even the ,30-06 and 12 gauge shotshell, it this should be the combination preferred.

In fact, a hunter could purchase one action and any combination of barrels available. This then would give him many guns in one. A single locking screw securely holds the barrels in place. One set of barrels can be removed and another substituted almost quicker than I can tell about it.

There are unlimited possibilities: different rifle-shotgun combinations, over-and-under center-fire rifles of different calibers, or maybe an over-under shotgun. The only limitation is that calibers of center-fire design, either rifle or shotgun, must be used. But with a few minor changes it could be made into a rim-fire rifle and shotgun combo, A major advantage of this interchangeability

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would be that once the hunter got accustomed to the one gun, he would never have to change. By simply switching barrels, he could adapt the gun to his current needs.

The barrels are joined with a clamp. This is an improvement over solder, the widely accepted method, because the solder tends to melt whenever the gun is heated to be

The weapon will accept any type sight. Johnston's prototype carries open sights of conventional design. He also has designed a tang sight for it. But he explained that either a receiver sight or scope can be used. And since the sights are fixed on the barrel section, whenever a new set of barrels goes on the action, sight alignment already is taken care of.

"At my own cost estimates, I figure a man could obtain a second set of barrels for no more than \$40, maybe less," said Johnston. "This means that, for about \$150, a man could have a gun taking two different rifle calibers and two different shotgun sizes,'

Basically, the experimental model is almost completely handmade. Other than the barrels, sights, screws, and springs, everything has been improvised, including the entire action and the stock. Probably the outstanding feature of the gun, other than its adaptability to almost any circumstance, is its simplicity. This makes for cheap mass production, the most important consideration in keeping the finished product within the reach of the average pocketbook.

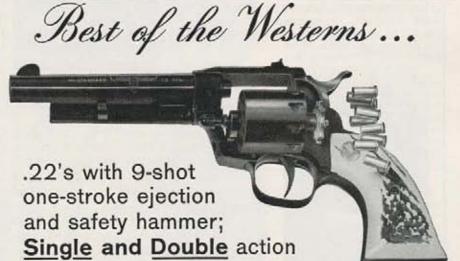
"This would be an ideal weapon for the man who can afford but one gun," Johnston emphasized. "It won't be fancy like those European-made guns, but it will be dependable and cheap, which is more important when you're aiming at a mass market."

Johnston visualizes a varied demand for his weapon. It would be suited, for instance, to the rancher who carries a gun around with him in his pickup or Jeep, or who rides horseback. One gun would take care of all his needs. In states where the deer and wild turkey seasons run concurrently, like Texas and Pennsylvania, the gun would put the hunter in business on both species, the rifle for deer, the shotgun for turkey. Or in states where the big-game and upland bird seasons overlap, the gun could perform two separate jobs at once. It also would be a sensible choice for a father buying his son that first all-important gun, since it would eliminate the need of purchasing two guns, shotgun and rifle, and it would be safer than a repeater.

Johnston is confident that the gun soon will be in production. He is so confident, in fact, that he is accepting advance orders for delivery. He is currently exploring several possibilities. One company already has offered him a five-figure sum to purchase the gun outright, but Johnston said no. He seeks a royalty purchase contract or none at all. He plans either to manufacture the gun himself, sub-letting different components to contractors and assembling it himself, or to have one of the name manufacturers pro-, duce it for him and distribute it through his brand name. A patent is pending, and Johnston is anxious to get into production, cocksure that his brainchild will be a bestseller. "After all," he said seriously, "where else

can you get so much gun for so little money?"





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FOR THE MEN IN BLUE

(Continued from page 26)

Shenandoah River, hereafter known as Hall's Island. Until the Rifle Works were reconstructed during the 1850's and 1860's, they consisted of a collection of dilapidated old stone and frame buildings scattered over the island. These shops were then torn down and incorporated into several large stone water shops lining the canal.

The United States Rifle, Model 1819, was the first breech-loading rifle adopted into the government service. In 1827, these rifles were given extensive tests by the Ordnance Department and passed with flying colors. On April 22, 1828, a third contract was entered into for 6,000 rifles. Although the Hall breech-loading rifle was not popular with the troops in the field because of its complexity and the flash-back from its breech, the principles of mass production that he used were incorporated into the armory system.

For a decade or more from 1810, the proponents of a western armory attempted to push a bill through Congress to establish another armory somewhere in the west. They pointed out the high cost of transporting arms from the armories in the east to the western territory. In the preceding years, from 1818 to 1836, 174,000 stands of arms had been transported at a cost of 70 cents for each rifle. The total cost of transportation was \$121,000, or one-third the cost of the proposed western armory. Other arguments advanced for such an establishment were the accessibility of raw materials and cheap labor. Although sites were actually surveyed, the armory never materialized, possibly because of the opposition of southern interests who feared the loss of revenue for the Harpers Ferry Armory, the main supplier of arms to the west.

In the early 1840's, the Ordnance Department replaced the civilian superintendents of the armories with military men in order to lower costs by correcting malpractices prevailing at Springfield and Harpers Ferry. This measure met with widespread disapproval from the workers of the armories. Major James W. Ripley, the new superintendent at Springfield, inaugurated reforms that provoked the people of Springfield to such an extent that several fires of undetermined origin broke out in the shops. The townspeople refused to help extinguish these blazes. The Major then erected a high fence around the works, made from Revolutionary and early 19th century cannon, to protect the shops.

It was about this time that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow inspired after a tour of the armory wrote "The Springfield Arsenal,"

"This is the Arsenal from Floor to Ceiling Like a huge organ rise the burnished arms But from their silent pipes the anthem pealing Startles the villages with stray alarms."

The appointment of Major Henry Craig to head the Harpers Ferry Armory in April, 1841, also provoked a reaction from the citizens of Harpers Ferry that took the form of less violent opposition. In 1842, a number of Harpers Ferry Armory employees chartered a canal boat and went to Washington to present a protest to President Tyler. They

(Continued on page 42)



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Dept. G-8, Rural Route One Grayling, Michigan (Continued from page 46)

received the advice to go home and hammer out their own salvation.

The reign of military superintendents lasted until 1854, when a bill was introduced into the House of Representatives restoring civilian control over the armory at Harpers Ferry. There is no doubt that arms production and the physical plants at both armories were improved under the military superintendents. The buildings of the Harpers Ferry Armory were completely modernized.

These were the buildings that John Brown found when he captured the armory, arsenals, and rifle works in October of 1859.



Brown's raid on the Harpers Ferry Armory was more successful than one led by Daniel Shays during Shays Rebellion in Massachusetts, when he attempted to capture the arms stored in the arsenal at Springfield in 1787.

On January 25, 1787, Shay and his men marched on Springfield with the intention of raiding the armory. Upon approaching the buildings artillery fire from its defenders under the command of General Shephard killed and wounded several and the attacking force was broken up.

Brown held the armory engine house at Harpers Ferry until it was rushed by a company of Marines under the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee.

Less than two years later, in April, 1861, Confederate forces marched on the Harpers Ferry Armory, only to find the arsenals and shops in flames. The small Union garrison had set the fires before retreating. The arsenals were a total loss, together with the 15,000 stand of rifles stored in them. The shops were saved by workmen sympathetic to the South. It is ironic that the Confederates expected to find many more arms, but they had already been sent to southern arsenals.

While the Confederates were in control of the Harpers Ferry Armory, most of the machinery in the shops was dismantled and shipped to the South where it was set up to manufacture arms for the Confederates. When the southern forces withdrew, they set fire to the armory buildings. On June 20, 1861, after the withdrawal of southern troops in the face of a Union advance, a raiding party of Confederates descended on Harpers Ferry and set fire to the rifle factory. The Southern Armory was left in ruins, never to be rebuilt.

Although production was expanded at Springfield—in 1864, 276,000 rifles were produced—great quantities of arms were supplied by contractors or imported from Europe to arm the growing Union Army.

After the war, the ruined Armory at Harpers Ferry was never restored. Modern machinery had supplanted water-driven machinery, and the water power available at Harpers Ferry was now no longer needed. The armory lands were sold at public auction in 1870.

In the years following the Civil War, much of the work at the Springfield Armory was in the conversion of muzzle-loading rifles to breech-loaders. With the demobilization of the huge Union Army, there were tens of thousands of rifles to be converted. The Chief of Ordnance wrote in his report in 1865, "A plan for altering the muzzle loading muskets into efficient breech loaders has been devised by the Master Armorer at the Springfield Armory which appears to be superior to any other that I have seen. I have taken measures to have five thousand muskets altered to it and will have some of them issued to the troops for trial as soon as the alterations can be made."

The National Armory at Springfield continued to set a high standard in arms production, with the result that the Springfield rifles were formerly adopted by the U. S. Army in 1903, a testimonial to those early pioneers that established the National Armory system.



GUNMAKERS FOR THE CONFEDERACY

(Continued from page 21)

3.343.64.8

1807, a list of the total number of arms manufactured up to that date, with the costs worked out in some instances to the final mil, included-

9,725 muskets with bayonets \$109,397,60 274 rifles with bullet moulds, wipers, and some bayonets 7.264.82 100 powder horns 76.00 2,884 cavalry swords 15,915,42,4 1,133 large pistols for carrying a musket ball .. 8,664.64.2 1,153 polished iron

scabbards for cavalry swords 575 sets of tips of

leather scabbards 484.66.8 260 grenadier and artillery swords 1.185.72408 sets of tips for artillery sword scabbards 272 87 84 long bayonets for

rifles 86.85 380 old muskets repaired ... 1,615.69 187 old brass hilted swords

repaired

Nothing in this list, or in any other record that I could find, gave the actual specifications of the arms being manufactured. The best description of the muskets wanted by the Virginia Government, and probably similar to those later produced by the Manufactury of Arms, is contained in a letter written by a gun maker named John Strode, and dated March 18, 1796.

In this letter, Strode offered to supply the State with muskets that fired balls weighing eighteen to the pound, the barrels being 3 feet 8 inches long and the bayonets 1 foot 5 inches long, at a cost of \$20 a stand. Each musket would have a "double bridle Lock of best construction, neat Brass mountings, Steel Ram rod, neatly stocked of Black Walnut."

A recommendation made by a Committee of the House of Delegates on Feb. 4, 1808, that the "Superintendent should be directed hereafter in proving fire arms to use 3 inches of the best Brandy Wine FF powder and 2 balls of 18 to the pound," shows that the muskets were still of the same caliber or bore as those described in Strode's letter.

The report made by John Staples, second Superintendent of the Manufactury, to the Governor on Feb. 4, 1811, states that the muskets made during the previous year were proved with "1/18 pound of Brandy Wine FF powder and a ball weighing 14 to the pound." This indicates that, between 1808 and 1810, the musket bore was increased from 18 gauge to 14 gauge, in terms of today's shotguns. But I found nothing in the records to pin down the date for the change any closer than this.

The same report mentions improvements in making musket locks, with no details given. In 1819, a Joint Committee of the House of Delegates and the State Senate recommended that between 2,000 and 3,000 of the "new" breech-loaders be manufac-



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tured, but I found no records of any such arm being made. And on Jan. 2, 1820, the Superintendent's report mentions an improved brass pan, again with no details.

But in spite of the lack of details regarding specifications of the arms made at the Manufactury, the records do provide a great deal of other information. This is particularly true where costs are concerned. Although pistols remained stable at \$8 each, and rifles at \$17.50, the cost of the muskets varied. In 1810, it was \$12.28% apiece; in 1812, \$11.35; in 1814, \$10.11; and in 1820, \$10.86.

Cannon were also being made through part of this time, with the first piece, a six pounder, cast on July 4, 1809. Ninety-two 6 pounders were made in 1810, at a cost of \$45 apiece, and were proved with 4 pounds of powder and 2 six-pound iron balls. Nineteen 12 pounders were made the same year. at a cost of \$120 apiece, and until 1815 the Manufactury continued to turn out both brass and iron cannon ranging in size from 4 pounders to 24 pounders.

Cannon were no longer being made in 1816, but 4,104 new muskets and 204 new rifles were manufactured that year. In addition, 4,300 old muskets were repaired, as well as 361 old rifles and 113 old pistols.

The total number of arms stored in the building included 22,432 muskets "in order for service," 3,993 cavalry swords, 783 artillery swords, 243 cutlasses, 861 rifles, 785 pistols, 6 twenty-four pound cannon, 6 twelvepound cannon, 14 four-pound cannon, one 13 inch brass mortar, and one 16 inch brass mortar. By December first of that year, 21,198 muskets and bayonets had been manufactured, at a total cost of \$1,024,146, including the cost of the ground, buildings, and all equipment.

In the case of all the small arms produced by the Manufactury, the raw material was purchased by the State and turned over to the workman, or "artificer," who was credited in the accounts for each piece of work he completed successfully. In the lists of purchases are many items which can be expected, such as bar iron, brass, bar lead, and gun powder. But there are many other items that seem strange today.

Among these are "whail oil," at \$28 a barrel, Char coal at 8 cents a bushel, grindstones at 10 cents an inch, and isinglass sand at \$1 a cart load. And even stranger are such things as "old shoes" at 10 cents a bushel, with nothing to indicate whether they were old horseshoes or worn out leather shoes; and Osnaburg, a strong cotton cloth used for making the artificers' aprons, at a

cost of 181/2 cents a yard.

These same account books, on the lines where the artificers are credited for the work they have performed, present what may be the most sharply detailed picture available today of exactly how small arms were made 150 years ago, Here are some samples-August 31, 1809:

Hugh Mullin, for forging-		
1,073 cocks for musket locks	at 7c	\$75.11
1,039 Main springs	3c	41.82
1,022 Bridles	11/2c	15.33
230 Tumbler pins	1c	2.30
250 seer springs	1c	2.50
104 Tumbler pins	½c	.52

ANYONE SMART ENOUGH TO READ THE FINE PRINT KNOWS CCI MAGNUM PRIMERS ARE HIS BEST BUY.

475 small pins	le	4.75
	le	.30
August 31, 1809:		
George Ingles for filing 188 mu	sket	
locks at \$1.60	- 5	300.80
Thomas Hume for filing 1 rifle le	ock	2.25
for filing 1 pistol lock		1.50
for filing 1 pair bullet moulds		1.00
In" R. Callow for stocking 140		
pistols at \$1.25		175.00
Arch Williamson for Welding		
280 Musket Barrels at \$1.25		350,00
Arch Williamson charged for 35	barr	rels
that burst in proving at \$2.40		84.00
Sept. 3, 1811:		
John Hall for stocking 8 muskets	5	
at \$1.25		10.00
Reuben Pickel for grinding		
50 barrels at 9½c		4.75
Sept. 4, 1811:		
Christopher Bates for rough and		
smooth boring 50 barrels at 23	1/2°C	11.75
Wm. Snyder, for forging-		
357 Cocks at 7c		24.99
439 Hammers 7c		30.73
531 Side pins 1c		5.31
145 Tumblers 4c		2.00
38 cock pins 1c		.38
By going on through the rece		
possible to ascertain the exact cos	t fo	r each

operation performed in manufacturing either a musket or a pistol. Some of these costs are as follows:

For forging and tempering

ramrods	50c	for 20
filing a set of musket	swivels	.08
filing a musket lock		1.60
filing a cock		.14
case hardening and s	tamping a	
musket or pistol lo	ck .	.21
Breaching and Sighti		
barrel	The state of the s	.20
grinding a rifle barre	1	.75
grinding a musket ba	rrel	.09
Forging a Rifle Lock	plate	.10
proving old musket		.04
finishing a musket		.58
forging a Heel plate		.04
forging a Breech pin		.04
forging a hammer sp	oring	.03
filing and cutting a	Heel screw	.02
filing and cutting a	guard screw	3/20
filing and cutting a si	de pin	.02
filing and cutting a to		.01
filing a hammer	ATT THE	.10
filing a guard		.121/2
filing a Heel-plate		.04
filing a Trigger plate		.02
filing a trigger		.011/2
filing a set of band s	prings	.031/2
drawing Bar iron	per pound	.011/2
drawing Scrap iron	per pound	.03
drawing steel	per pound	.02
drawing old files	per pound	.03
drawing a scalp	N 2011	.08
Other Stems that we	at into the or	and the

Other items that went into the arms included "Musket stocks" at .25 apiece, and "maple Rifle stocks" at .40. The rifles evidently were still fitted entirely by hand labor, because frequently the credit accounts include "Making a rifle-\$7.15."

After 1820, the manufacturing of arms was discontinued and the accounts are limited to such items as "19 days work cleaning and repairing old Swords, Muskets, etc., at \$1.25," or, "I day's work repairing old rifles at \$2."

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of Arms," was not used. Instead, the building was called "The Armory." Parts of it were rented during the next 40 years, for such uses as a cotton gin, warehouse, or iron foundry. But throughout this entire period, other parts of the huge building were used to store arms belonging to the state. Arms allotted to Virginia by the Federal Government were also handled through use of the building as a receiving depot, and the major repair work on all state owned military arms was carried on there.

The number of arms stored in the building was large throughout this period. An inventory dated December 1, 1824, lists "22,500 muskets in good order, cleaned and packed in boxes," as well as "270 muskets of French manufacture, worthy to be repaired."

The inventory dated Nov. 30, 1830, shows 17,000 Virginia muskets and 10,145 U. S. muskets, all in "good order for service," as well as 3,623 muskets in "good order" but of a smaller caliber; 126 carbines with bayonets; 900 rifles "in good order;" 651 pistols of Virginia manufacture that were cleaned and packed in boxes; and 624 pistols received in "good order" from the United States.

In late May, 1831, artificers were hired to clean and repair all the arms in the building worth repairing, and also to manufacture such items as bayonets and ramrods. The number of arms repaired and repacked during the years after this ranged from 1,000 to 5,000 or more annually, but it is the yearly inventories that are of most interest today because they show the gradual development of small arms during this time.

The inventory dated Nov. 30, 1840, shows that 680 muskets, "complete bronzed," were received from the U. S. during the previous year, the first mention of bronzed muskets. The same inventory also lists 100 "Hall's patent carbines" issued to Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, and 900 more "Hall's patent carbines" in storage. In the lists of pistols there were 883 of Virginia manufacture, described as "large and unhandy," and 3,607 from the United States. The total value of all the arms in the building was estimated by a Committee of the State Senate at \$1,000,000, twice the yearly revenue of the State Government.

On Nov. 30, 1844, the inventory shows "4,600 U. S. muskets, browned," and "3,460 U.S. muskets, bright," as well as 20,553 Virginia "bright" muskets, 922 carbines, 1,695 pistols, 750 "Hall's patent" rifles, and 1,400 "common" rifles.

In 1849, 100 percussion muskets were received from the "General Government," in addition to 1,454 percussion rifles and 1,454 extra percussion cones.

The inventory for Oct. 31, 1850, lists these 100 percussion muskets, U. S. It also lists 5,616 flint muskets, browned, U. S.; 13,578

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flint muskets, bright, U. S.; and 10,621 Virginia flint muskets, bright. In addition, there were 465 U. S. cavalry pistols, 1,374 percussion rifles, 950 Hall's patent rifles, 1,503 common rifles, and 777 Hall's patent carbines.

The inventory dated Dec. 5, 1853, lists 392 pistols "N. M., percussion," and 392 "cones, extra." Capt. Sheppard's Company of Cavalry, 1st Regiment of Virginia Volunteers, was issued 11 of these "N. M. percussion" pistols on Oct. 7, 1852. And on June 20, 1853, Capt. Richardson's infantry company of the 1st Regiment of Volunteers was issued 60 U. S. muskets, "percussion, altered."

The first mention of the Colt revolver that I found was dated Sept. 30, 1856, when 10 revolvers, "Colt's patent," and 300 musketoons were received from the "General Government."

On December 7, 1857, Henry Wise, the then Governor of Virginia, recommended in a message to the House of Delegates and the State Senate concerning the flintlock muskets of the State Militia, "Every consideration demands that they should be altered to percussion, and threaded in the barrel so as to shoot the conical ball, and be made self-priming."

The work of altering the locks to the percussion system was begun in 1858, at a cost of \$1 a lock. It was speeded up the following year, after John Brown made his famous raid on the Federal Armory at Harpers Ferry, Va.; and in January, 1860, the Virginia Legislature voted to install new equipment in the old State Armory at Richmond, to enable it to turn out military arms again after a break of 40 years.

The new plans called for the annual manufacture of 5,000 stands of arms, and to put them into effect the State ordered \$156,590.40 worth of machinery from the Tredegar Works in Richmond on August 23, 1860.

On April 17, 1861, before the new machinery could be built and installed, Virginia seceded from the Union and seized the machinery and equipment from the Federal Armory at Harpers Ferry. The machinery for making rifles was shipped to Fayettesville, N. C., but that for making muskets was installed in the Virginia State Armory in Richmond.

On August 31, 1861, the building and equipment was turned over to the Confederate Government and the history of the Virginia Manufactury of Arms as a state enterprise was ended.

On April 3, 1865, the building was set afire by the Confederate Government, to prevent its use by the Union Army. For several years after the close of the Civil War, the ruined brick walls remained to mark the site. In the latter part of the 19th century, the Tredegar Company bought the land, and in 1904 erected a steel rolling mill.

This rolling mill went out of operation about 25 years ago, and is now an ugly pile of rusted metal. The only things that remain of the Manufactury of Arms are an old brick foundation wall near the present end of the James River Canal, and the remnants of a flume that carried water from the canal to the waterwheel that powered the machinery of the arms plant. The site is now owned by the Albemarle Paper Manufacturing Co., and will be used for future expansion of their plant.

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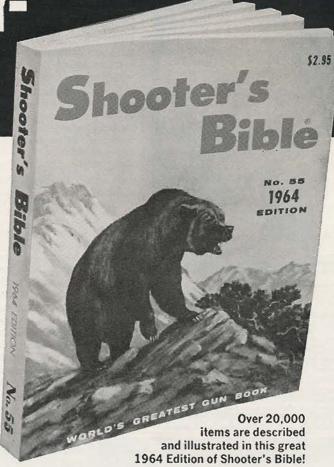
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GUNS AT GETTYSBURG

(Continued from page 18)

Through the year 1862, the best infantry rifled musket was the British Enfield calibre .577. At that time our official arm was the regulation Springfield rifled musket of 1861, calibre. 58. Fortunately, our .58 paper cartridge could be used in the .577 Enfield, but both the Enfield and the Springfield were in very short supply.

To rectify the matter, the U.S. Government contracted with a goodly number of concerns in this country to manufacture the Model 1861 Springfield, and as the factory wheels turned, the North became better and better equipped.

Conversely, as the naval blockade tightened around the South, the Southern armies relied more and more upon captured Union arms and their ability to repair and impro-

By the time of the Gettysburg battle, most of the Union infantry had the regulation .58 calibre Springfield, and many other troops, such as cavalry, had breechloading arms such as the Sharps, Burnside, and Spencer.

Somewhere in the Battle of Gettysburg, there was a group of Colonel Berdan's Sharpshooters who were armed with Sharps breechloading rifled muskets. These Sharps rifles used a cartridge that had a combustible linen case and a Sharps disc primer mechanism. When things got hot, one such Sharp rifle was worth a half-dozen Springfield muzzleloaders.

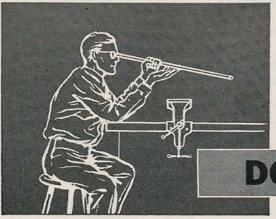
There is a story that Berdan's Sharpshooters were in position to repel a Confederate

cavalry drive that might have flanked the Union left on the third day of the battle. Such an attempt was made by the Confederate cavalry, and the attempt did not succeed. Had it succeeded the Confederates would have been able to attack the Union lines at their rear on Cemetery Ridge. I cannot prove that the units which stopped this drive included Colonel Hiram Berdan's men. The Berdan Sharpshooters were carefully picked. They were men who were quite adept at rifle markmanship, and their Sharps rifles were quick firing and accurate. If the Sharpshooters were at that point, they would have made the Confederates think there was another larger force against them.

Some people think that the term "Sharp-shooter" came from Berdan's unit—that they were so-called because they used Sharps rifles. The truth is that the "Sharpshooter" word was long in use before the Civil War, and its association with the arms invented by Christian Sharps is merely coincidental.

There were Spencer carbines at Gettsyburg. The Spencer was the most important repeating cartridge arm of the Civil War.

At 8 a.m. of July 1st, the Confederate brigades of Archer and Davis charged across Willoughby Run (a branch of Marsh Creek, to the west of Gettysburg) and encountered the Union cavalry under Buford. The cavalrymen were armed with recently issued Spencer carbines. Buford's men dismounted and fought as infantry. Although they were heavily outnumbered and the Confederate at-



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tacks were spirited and in earnest, they held their ground. Undoubtedly the firepower of the Spencers was a deciding factor. The tubular magazine held seven .56 calibre rimfire cartridges, and the arm could be fired as fast as the man could work the lever and aim.

As stated before, the bulk of the troops on both sides were equipped with percussion muzzleloading rifles and, when over 160,000 troops are employed a few hundred or even a couple of thousand more advanced



Original box of paper cartridges.

shoulder weapons are not going to make a big difference. Far more important would be the deployment of artillery and troop masses, the lay of the ground, and the strategy of the leaders.

Sidearms or handguns always have played a very minor role in military actions. There have been times in American military history when mounted troops with sidearms have begged for a good sabre, as they claimed that they could have inflicted more damage upon the enemy with a blade than they could with a pistol. One good thing about a sabre—it doesn't run out of ammunition, and in a tight spot you don't have time to reload.

The general choice of both the South and the North when it came to a revolver, was the standard Colt and Remington issues. There were those who had foreign metallic cartridge revolvers and the lesser made American products like the Starr, Savage, Whitney, and others,

Stonewall Jackson carried a fancy engraved pinfire revolver. Robert E. Lee carried a .36 calibre 1851 Colt. Many men had no sidearm, and often the ones that did had a commercial product that they had brought from home. In these last cases, the ammunition problem was up to the individual and pistol fodder was carefully hoarded.

Union purchases of revolvers and pistols for Civil War use show that, out of the 19 types, there were two and a half times as many Colts and Remingtons bought as all the other kinds combined. The fact that there were slightly more Colts purchased than Remingtons does not necessarily establish a preference for the Colt product. It may mean that there were more Colts available, or that Colt could turn out their product with greater dispatch.

At the end of the war, many revolvers were sold to the men going home. The Remington sold for slightly more than the Colt, yet more veterans picked the Remington. Possibly those men could see the advantage of a solid frame revolver over the open top design of the Colt. Colt had clung to the



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open top pattern since the 1830's, but even Colt in time went to the solid frame.

For one to get an idea of the immensity of the battle of Gettysburg, a few pertinent facts can be related.

After the battle the hospital trains of the Confederate forces were seventeen miles long as they moved south back to Virginia.

The Union Army used 1,100 ambulances and, so good was the medical operation, all the wounded were picked up from the battlefield within twelve hours after the battle was over. This may sound like a long time by modern standards, but at some Civil War battles the wounded were left in the field and untended for as long as three or four days.

The ferocity of the battle can be best understood when one realizes that the 26th North Carolina Regiment lost 708 men or approximately 85 per cent of its complement. In one particular company of that regiment composed of 84 men, every man and officer was hit and wounded or dead. The orderly sergeant who made out the battle report was wounded through both legs.

The Civil War in general was a gigantic test of arms and equipment That war came along at about the time in history when the industrial revolution was really gaining speed. The war helped tremendously to add even greater speed. Although the vast bulk of the soldiers carried muzzleloading arms, the many diverse breechloading arms were generally favored by the individual fighting man. The high command of the Union Army was not sold on breechloaders for all troops. They thought the expenditure of ammo

would be prohibitive, and they found it hard to sever themselves from the "tried and true" muzzleloading rifle.

In effect, the Battle of Gettysburg changed the minds of the military men who still favored the muzzleloading rifle. It happened this way. . . . After the Gettysburg fight, approximately 25,000 muzzleloading arms were picked up on the battlefield. These arms were sent to the Washington Arsenal, where they were examined and overhauled. Nearly all of them were found to be in a loaded condition. In unloading the pieces, it was found that many, many of them had more than one loading. There were rifles with two, three, four, six, and even as many as twenty charges.

One can imagine a fear-struck boy in the heat of battle, loading his musket over and over again. We don't know if he tried to fire the piece, but we do know that under such circumstances his being there was a waste of time, life, and material.

Even the most ardent lovers of the muzzleloading arm could not ignore the obvious fact that the breechloading rifle was far better suited to military purposes. Thus it was on the field at Gettysburg that the death knell of the military muzzleloader was sounded.

A lot has happened in the last hundred years. Many good things have come and gone, Our Federal Union has endured-and prospered. We've learned a lot since Gettysburg-and maybe we have been so favored, at least in part, because of those boys that gave their all on that bloody ground.

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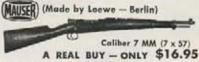


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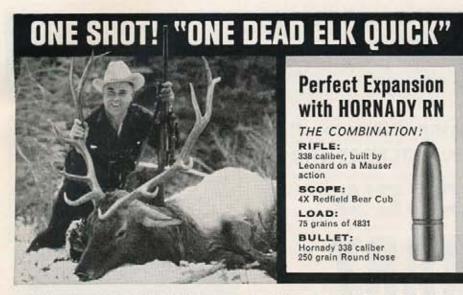
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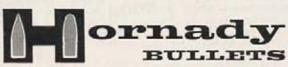
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GUNS OF THE PONY EXPRESS

(Continued from page 23)

miles ahead was confused, but Old Buck carried him there safely.

Despite fatigue and pain, after his wounds had been cared for, Pony Bob insisted on finishing his run to Fort Churchill: He reached there safely, having traveled 117 hard miles in 8 hours and 10 minutes.

The leathern mochila was tossed to another rider and sped on its way toward Sacramento. President Lincoln's address was carried by the Pony Express riders the 1966 miles westward from St. Joseph in 7 days and 17 hours, the fastest trip ever made by the mounted mailmen. Pony Bob Haslam had certainly ridden the most exciting leg of that journey.

Pony Bob's brush with the Pah Utes was not an every-day incident along the Pony route, but it is representative of the danger that lurked along the western portion of that lonely trail Pony Express riders must follow. It illustrates the importance of good horses and dependable weapons.

Reminiscences of old Pony Express riders provide some clues as to their armament, and the summation of their comments points to a preference for the six-shot Colt .36 Navy caplock pistol and the Sharps carbine.

Pony Express rider J. G. Kelley recalled on occasion when he was forced to follow a trail running through thick woods in Pah Ute country: "I expected to have trouble and prepared for it by dropping my bridle reins on the neck of the horse, put my Sharps rifle at full cock, kept both spurs into the flanks, and went through that forest like a streak of greased lightning."

The London Illustrated News sent a reporter and an artist to capture the dramatic story of America's Pony Express. Concerning the riders, their issue of Oct. 12, 1861, had this to say: "The Pony courier dashes along at the rate of 12 miles an hour, his revolver in his belt, his hand on the trigger of his rifle, his eye intently watching for Redskins so that he may have the first shot."

It is true that during the Pah Ute War the riders were bristling with weapons, usually two Colt pistols, a rifle, and always a bowie knife. Later, and especially in the less dangerous runs, the armament was reduced to the bowie knife and one pistol, though frequently the rider would carry an extra loaded cylinder. At the stations, the attendants, in addition to Mississippi rifles and Colt pistols, often had their favorite caplock sporting rifles, and some had double barrel shotguns, deadly for close-up work.

Of course, one of the best weapons of the Pony Express was the speed of their fine horses. A dramatic description of the swift flight of a Pony rider will be found in Mark Twain's Roughing It. Twain was a philosopher as well as a reporter and humorist. He wrote: "The only difference between truth and fiction is that fiction has to stick to what seems to be the truth." This saying has some application to the fiction that Spencer repeating rifles were used by Pony Express people in 1860-61, I am sure that this untruth "seemed to be the truth" to those who spread the story, but a little investigation will indicate that the Spencer

P. O. BOX 226

Repeating Rifle Co. was not organized until 1862. The Federal government had high priority on Spencer arms, and they did not get deliveries until 1862 and after.

One of the reasons the Spencer rifle has been placed on the western scene before its actual introduction there was an interview given by the famous Pony Bob Haslam a number of years after he was a Pony Express rider. Haslam had continued as a rider and driver on other mail routes after his Pony Express days, and doubtlessly owned a Spencer rifle or carbine in that period. It is very probable that Pony Bob confused this later period of Spencer rifle ownership with his Pony Express days when he told a reporter in connection with one of his dangerous 1860 rides, "when I had adjusted my Spencer rifle, which was a seven-shooter; and my Colt's revolver, with two cylinders ready in case of emergency, I started."

In 1921, a writer for one of our foremost outdoor magazines carried along this fiction. Other authors unfamiliar with the facts have erroneously placed a Spencer in the hands of the young mail-men of 1860-61.

What about these young men? Well, for the most part they were in their teens or early 20's. W. F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody was only 15 when he was signed on. They were usually small and sinewy; they must be excellent horsemen, and they must have integrity, courage, and stamina. Alexander Majors thought they should have religion, too, and he furnished all his employees with a calfbound Bible. Each man was required to take an oath in which he promised he would not use profane language, drink intoxicating liquors, abuse his horses, or quarrel with other employees. Not all Pony Express riders were shining knights in armor, of course, and one or two later ended up hanging from the tight end of a rope. But for the most part they were trustworthy, tough, and ready for anything; theirs was the courage of youth.

The image of a lone Pony Express rider dashing through Indian-infested country stirred the American imagination. Riders became a symbol, a mythical picture of daring and excitement. Young men all over America aspired to the life of a dashing carrier of the "mochila mail." That life in reality was not as glamorous as the public image.

In dress, the Pony riders might be seen in a red flannel or buckskin shirt, cloth or buckskin trousers tucked into a pair of high leather boots, a big-brimmed slouch hat protecting the head from sun and rain. They rode lightweight saddles, saddle and bridle weighing only about 13 pounds, Many of these saddles were made by Israel Landis of St. Louis, The Pony Express "mailbag" was different from any other. It was called a mochila (from the Spanish) and was a sort of detachable cowhide saddle skirt with slits for the horn and cantle of the saddle. To the four corners of this leathern skirt were attached pockets of hard leather called cantinas. These were lined with oil-skin and fitted with hardware for attachments of padlocks. Into these locked pockets went the oil-skin wrapped letters entrusted to the fast pony mail.

As the galloping rider approached a station he would either let out the "coyote yell" or sound a horn provided by the company to alert the attendants. The mochila would be lifted from the saddle, slung over the saddle of a waiting horse, and well within the two minutes allowed for changes, the mail would be continued on its way.

Ordinarily, each rider would ride three horses on the 40 or more miles of the route assigned to him. Conditions often called for longer runs. Some of the rides recorded indicate the unusual stamina Pony Express riders possessed. Bill Cody is reported to have ridden 320 miles in 21 hours and 40 minutes. Pony Bob Haslam once rode 380





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miles in 36 hours. Jim Moore, finishing a ride of 140 miles, finding his relief too ill to get in the saddle, rested up for ten minutes and then headed back over those same 140 miles. Jack Keetley rode 300 miles in under 24 hours. Billy Fisher galloped 300 miles without rest to bring word to Salt Lake of the Pah Ute uprising. There were many hard, gruelling miles ridden by these and other young men in daylight and dark, in burning sun and freezing blizzard. I doubt that it all seemed glamorous to them.

Somehow I think some of the Pony Express riders must have let out a sigh of relief when Edward Creighton's men, stringing telegraph wire westward, met the crew of James Gamble's California Telegraph Co., working east. On Oct. 24, 1861, the first

transcontinental message went over these new singing wires. The following day, the activities of the Pony Express came to an end. The Sacramento Union published an obituary to the Pony Express, declaring, "It is with regret we part with the Pony, but it seems considered by those who established the express that it has accomplished its mission."

Just what was the mission the Pony Express accomplished? They had struggled through 18 months of existence with weekly and semi-weekly deliveries, first at \$5 per one-half ounce, later reducing the fee to \$1. Financial troubles plagued the management continually. After the Overland Mail bill of March 2, 1861, the western terminus was moved to Placerville and, soon afterwards, Wells Fargo & Co. were appointed western agents. Indian depredations had completely disrupted service for a time, and always were a threat to the employees, despite some military protection occasionally provided along the route.

The idea of a courier on horseback was surely nothing new, nor was the Pony Express the horse-couriers longest in service. California Volunteer Vedettes carried Uncle Sam's dispatches across difficult and dangerous terrain between Tucson and Los Angeles for twice as long as the life of the Pony Express. Actually, the Pony Express was an undertaking of relatively limited scope—yet it loomed big on the American scene.

There were over 400,000 people on the Pacific slope; all were potential users of a fast mail. California had become very important in resources and geographic location; a closer link with the rest of the country was essential. As the clouds of war gathered, there was talk about the establishment of a "Republic of the Pacific," and this talk worried the Federal government.

Perhaps the Pony Express must go down in history not as an end in itself but as a means to an end. It did help to bring residents of the Pacific slope and the Rocky Mountain region closer to the rest of the country, lessening their feeling of isolation, giving them closer identity with nationwide matters of vital importance. This link, so uniquely devised, did much to hold the west coast to the cause of the Union.

The dogged adherence to prescribed schedules demonstrated the practicability of an all-year central route. Government explorations and surveys for a railroad route from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean had been undertaken in 1853-54, but no spikes had been driven west of the Missouri River. Less than eight years later—after the Pony Express had shown that a route could be maintained—East and West were linked by a transcontinental railroad.

In its major accomplishments of binding together the Union and in giving impetus to progress in nationwide communications, the Pony Express has a worthy claim to historic immortality. Overshadowing this, Americans will always fondly think of the Pony Express as one of the most spectacular and daring episodes in our great western drama. We shall think of business men who put principle and national need above personal profit—we shall hold to the image of Pony Bob Haslam and his mates in their heroic role as dashing Paul Reveres of the frontier.



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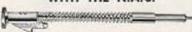
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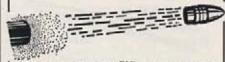
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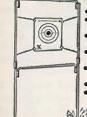
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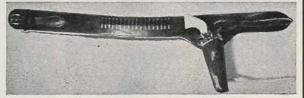
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A SHOTGUN SAGA

(Continued from page 31)

me slipping along the edge of a pet slough which had proven productive in prior duck seasons. Suddenly, two mallards exploded from the still, murky water 40 yards away. They seemed to be flying unbelievably fast as I struggled to bring the 10 into shooting position. Finally, in desperation, I fired the first barrel, then the second, but to no avail. I never caught up with the rapidly departing ducks.

This was the story for the remainder of that season—I was literally shooting more, but killing less than I would had I been using my old Ithaca 20. I wasn't getting those kills at the yardage those experts had outlined for the big 10. In fact, I wasn't getting kills at any yardage. Gunning trouble —I had it.

My experience convinced me that ducks at 60 yards were practically impossible to kill with anything, and while ducks at 40 yards were comparatively easy to drop with even a 20, it was almost impossible for me to obtain a shot at that range with the 10. I was simply unable to shoulder and swing the AyA rapidly enough to take advantage of such a close target.

Despite this, I was pleased with the 10. I knew that if I could ever develop my skill sufficiently, I too would be able to kill ducks at 90 yards—just like the experts. I'd just have to keep shooting—and missing—until I learned.

Another season passed and I still wasn't connecting. But undoubtedly this was my fault, not the gun's.

One day, I noticed an article by Francis E. Sell, who claimed that the effective range of his 20 gauge Magnum was almost as great as that of a 10 Magnum. I chuckled to myself. How could anyone be so blind to the readily apparent advantages of the super Magnum? I wrote a letter, asking if he had ever used a 10, and if not, why not? Didn't ducks fly high in Oregon?

He replied that he had indeed tried a 10 Magnum, but he still used a 20 gauge for ducks. My feeling of gunning superiority was tempered by the thought that I had once had similar delusions regarding my Ithaca 20 gauge.

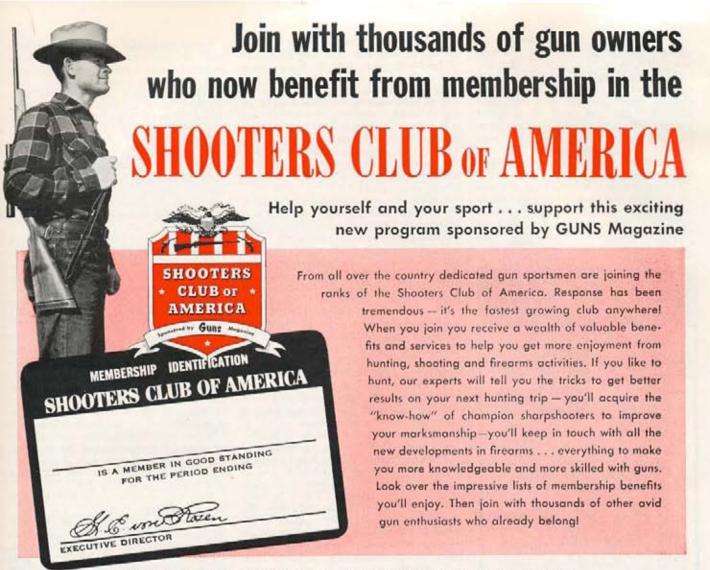
Still, I re-read his article. Sitting in my duck blind, I did some thinking. It seemed reasonable that if he could get onto a duck 10 yards sooner with a 20, it would cut down on the difference in effective range between the 10 and 20 gauges.

Next morning, I got my patterning board and paid a visit to the range. With maximum 10 gauge Magnum loads of number 4 shot, the AyA averaged a solid 82 per cent at 40 yards—but I could not produce a killing pattern on a duck-sized silhouette at an inch over 68 yards!

Straightaway, I picked up my little Merkel 16 gauge over-under, bored modified and full, and a box of 1½ ounces of number 5 shot, and headed for a nearby swamp.

Hunkered down in natural cover near Big Creek, only a few miles from Stuttgart, Arkansas—fabled Mecca of the waterfowler —it was but a short wait until a flight of

(Continued on page 60)



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(Continued from page 58)

mallards came whizzing over the same trees where I had shot with my 10 gauge Magnum I flipped up the Merkel and was astonished at how slowly the ducks were flying! At the crack of the 16 the lead duck folded and plummeted into the dark, swamp-stained water. Another mallard came-a repeat performance by the light Merkel. Those were the days of four duck limits, but I had seen enough. Now I needed time to consider a few things.

Perhaps the extra weight of the AyA was the reason behind those jet-propelled ducks of the past two years. Certainly the two mallards in my game bag had flown no faster than those of a few years back when I had used the 20 gauge pump. This busi-



ness of 90 yard 10 gauge Magnum kills was not my gunning dish; but that proposition of having 10 yards more of effective range with a smaller gun because of its faster handling qualities made shooting sense.

If 68 yards were the effective range of my big 10, which delivered good solid patterns, a long shot could occasionally be brought off; but pick your duck and what do you find? One or two pellets, usually in the head. Yet, shots at 50 yards with 11/8 ounces of number 5 shot in a good 16 gauge put plenty of shot on a mallard.

Consider the actual difference in range, If I could get on target while the duck was traveling 10 yards less than it would have traveled under the same conditions if I were using a heavier gun, it would add 10 yards to the 50 already conceded to the 16 gauge. Over eleven pounds of gun, 65 pounds of recoil, and an outrageous price for ammunition-all for a range increase of eight yards!

Those extra eight yards of range-I'll take it closer to my decoys. Pass shooting? The Merkel shocked me into recognition of the fact that most of the so-called long range shooting, or at least killing, is actually done at under 60 yards. At this distance, one certainly does not need an eleven pound magnum. It is only at ranges exceeding 60 yards that the 10 Magnum commands any gunning advantage, and its effectiveness is lost at 70 yards, Range? About 10 yards, 30 feet, between 60 and 70 yards-not too impressive!

A good 16 gauge double bored modified and full is acceptable for shots as close as 25 yards by using medium loads in the more open barrel, and as far as 55 yards by using suitable ammunition in the tight tube. Its effective range is 30 yards: the distance between 25 and 55 yards; a 20 yard advantage over the 10 Magnum. The same case can be made for a good light 12 gauge double similarly choked.

I used my Merkel on several other hunts that year, and at no time did I feel handicapped by using a smaller gauge and lighter shot charge. My take-home pay in ducks convinced me. Later, I purchased a lightweight 12 gauge autoloader with a modified barrel. With 11/4 ounces of number 5 shot, it is a reliable executioner out to approximately 50 yards, and a real pleasure to carry and shoot.

Next, I took the old Ithaca 20 gauge pump from its case and found that it would still dump a cruising mallard at 45 yards with the standard 1 ounce load of 6's, Duck hunting once again became a pleasure instead of

My daily ratio of shells per duck killed is definitely improved of late. The ducks fly at a more leisurely pace than when I used the 10 Magnum. I am not nearly so tired at the end of a hunt, nor is my shoulder as sore. I also find my bank statement much more pleasing to view since I stopped buying those 10 Magnum hulls.

You go ahead and kill your ducks at 75-80 yards with a big magnum. I'll take mine this side of 60 yards, and get more ducks. Maybe not more than you get, but more than I'd get with the big gun. I have discovered that I'm not a magnum gunner.

Today, the AyA stands in my rack, where it has remained for the past two seasons. It is a ponderous looking giant, surrounded by slim-barreled Brownings and the trim Merkel and Ithaca. Occasionally, a guest will exclaim, "Boy, I'll bet you could kill a duck

at a hundred yards with that!"

Knowingly, I smile, return it to the rack, and say nothing.

I have come full cycle. For me, the magnum years are behind me. I am happy to be back once more on familiar shooting ground, I'll leave 100 yard duck killing to others.

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ROUTE 463

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PAGING G. & J. CHAPMAN

(Continued from page 27)

It might be added that a check was made of dozens of arms books that encompass the history of arms companies, lists of gunmakers, and catalogs or arms collections—and the Chapman name was never noted.

Here is an arm that was probably made in Philadelphia, probably in 1861, that has gone unnoticed all these years. Maybe its a prototype and the gunmaking activities of the Chapman boys never got off the ground.

the Chapman boys never got off the ground. The markings on the backstrap, "G. & J. Chapman" and "Philad'A," were made with single die stamps—not hacked out by assembling assorted letters. This last would indicate that the revolver was something of a production piece and not a basement product however well-made.

As can be seen in the profile photograph, the cylinder of the Chapman revolver is knurled. It is this way because the cylinder does not turn automatically. It must be rotated by hand after each shot.

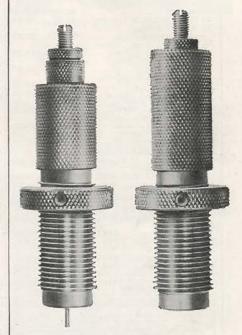
Internal examination discloses that, sometime after the manufacture of the piece, someone attempted to alter the revolver so that the cylinder would turn when the hammer was cocked. The workmanship of this alteration is crude and incomplete. It is this writer's opinion that the Chapman boys would have done a much neater job, had it been their work.

Modern .32 short rim-fire cartridges are too long for the cylinder in this revolver. They go in fine—but they go in too far, and when the cylinder is turned, the bullet tips will not pass the rear of the barrel. The .32 rim-fire rounds that were made back in the 1860's and 1870's were tried, and many of them fit fine. I guess the Chapman boys didn't figure that the overall specifications of the .32 short rim-fire cartridge would change!

This Chapman piece is a very, very rare American firearm, and undoubtedly very valuable. If there are any more of them kicking around in collections, this writer would like to know about them. In the meantime, if you should see such a revolver hanging on a peg in an old second-hand store with a five dollar price tag—don't hesitate!

Buy it!

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Continued from page 6)

Shotshells With .210 Primers

In one of your competitive magazines, a writer states, and I quote, "It is our understanding that Remington offers American handloaders their complete line of brass cases which take .210 size large rifle and pistol primers." I wrote the Remington people in Bridgeport. In reply, the Remington people stated "Remington has discontinued manufacture of all brass shotshells. These shells are no longer available, as the supply has been completely exhausted. Perhaps you may be able to secure some from local wholesalers." As far as I can determine, there are none in the Texas area. My question is: Where can I purchase Brass Shotshells (any brand) that will take .210 size large rifle primers?

Col. Robert G. Springer San Antonio, Texas Once in a while I see some 12 and 16 gauge brass shotshells (Remington), that use the large rifle primer, at gun shows. These shells, available from individual dealers, are not to be found in the stocks of wholesalers, to my knowledge.

You might try placing an ad in the classified section of this magazine, as certainly there are persons who have the shells and who may wish to part with them.—GB

Victor Shotgun

I have a Victor 12 gauge shotgun, made by Crescent Fire Arms Co., Norwich, Connecticut. Do you know if they still make them? If not, how long ago did they stop? Could you tell me anything about the gun?

> Richard Hastings Napa, California

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and 6" barrels		42.95	34.88
22 L.R. Hi Std. Super Ci 6", 8" and 10" barr 30-30 or .35 Marlin 336	els	89.95	73.06
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K4 Weaver Rifle Scope		45.00	27.75
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The Victor shotgun was a brand-name gun sold by Savage Arms Co. and, as you say, manufactured by the Crescent Fire Arms Co. of Norwich, Conn. Crescent Arms was owned by the H. & D. Folsom Arms Co. of New York. The Crescent Company was merged with the Davis-Warner Arms Corp. in 1932, and became known as the Crescent-Davis Arms Corp. In 1932, the firm became part of the Stevens Arms Co., that is now owned by Savage.

The gun you have is no longer made, and the actual manufacture ceased before 1930; but the name "Victor" could appear again, possibly in the Savage Arms line .- GB

Made In Denmark

I would appreciate any information you can give me concerning the history, value, etc., of a gun I own. It is a rifle, 4 feet 3 inches long, with a huge knife on the end. It is in excellent condition. Every piece has a little crown stamped on it, and there are numbers all over it. On top, behind the trigger, is written "KJ06cN HAUNS toihuus 1875." Below the trigger on the side of the gun is a crown and an emblem (drawing enclosed), and below that "M-1867." On the barrel of the gun, "46314." It shoots .45-70s.

This gun was found buried down by Globe. It had black grease all over it, and gunny sacks tied around it.

> Vivian Birch Winslow, Arizona

Without knowing for sure, I would say your rifle is one of the Remington rolling block rifles as made in Denmark for the 11.7 mm Danish cartridge. Although they will shoot .45-70 cartridges, they were not chambered for them. The 11.7 mm Danish round is a mite fatter at the base, and .45-70's will swell when fired.

Yours is the Model of 1867 that was actually manufactured in 1875.

Many of these rifles were sold in this country by import dealers for as low as \$10. Right now, one such arm in top condition may be worth about \$18.

The use of .45-70 ammo is not recommended, but if you successfully fire form some cases and reload these same cases, you may have a going outfit.-GB







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HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 14)

favorite, a 50 grain Speer pill backed with 20.0 grains 4198 and a CCI No. 450 Magnum primer. A .222 is not a recommended cartridge for deer, but varmint hunters who can place the little bullet dead center in a vital spot, without bucking any brush, can make clean kills.

The .222 cartridge, and most guns for it, have inherent accuracy. The .243 may have a shade less accuracy for bench rest groups, but actually performs better in the field. This is due to much less wind drift and flatter trajectory at unknown ranges, something many shooters haven't considered. I believe 4064 is the best powder for 90 grain and lighter bullets, with fairly heavy charges. Speer's charge of 38.0 grains with their 90 grain pill is nearly flat out, and it shoots beautifully. I like 40.0 grains 4350 with their 105 grain pill, that is a fine medium-game load.

I've owned a good many 243 rifles of various makes, and have grouped many others. All shot good or better. It seems everyone who has a .243 loves it. At present I own a M70 Featherweight and a Sako Forester. Both are sweet shooters. Reloads are not tempermental. I could list at least 25 that have shot well. Early W-W 100 grain loads shot completely through deer with little bullet expansion. The factory corrected this fault promptly with a better bullet.

Inertia bullet pullers have good and bad features. A nasty habit is loosening cores in some jacketed soft point bullets. Such pills are best discarded, as accuracy is poor. Inertia pullers are the only type suitable for breaking down some lead bullet handgun ammo. Watch out for gas checks being left in the case. Adding another charge of powder can ruin a good gun with one shot. If a new puller has a tight fitting plastic cap, a bit of glycerine is a good lube to make it slip off and on easier. After some use the cap gets too loose. Loop a heavy rubber band on the handle and over the cap, to hold it in place. Some of the washers for holding rim cases are a bit tight. You can ream the holes larger. Mark your most used washers with a color code, using nail polish.

(Continued on page 65)



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IMPORTANT: READ the book, Notes on Guerrilla War, Principles and Practices, by Colonel Virgil Ney. \$3.50 ppd. Command Publications, Box 6303, N.W. Station, Washing-ton 15, D. C.

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(Continued from page 63)

If bullets are lacquered in the case, such as GI ammo, and W-W .44 Magnum, it's best to break the seal before using an inertia puller. Simply seat bullets a shade deeper with your seating die in your press. Otherwise, you'll break an inertia puller.

Lacking a bench rest, you can sight-in a pifle from a car. If you are right handed, sit near the center of the front seat to fire at an angle from the right window. Adjust the seat so the rifle butt settles against the seat back. Rest the forearm on a coat or pad over the door glass. Raise or lower the glass to adjust elevation. Turn a bit to the right in the seat, and spend a few minutes to find the most comfortable and steady angle of fire, Lightly press the butt stock into the seat back, with your left hand under the forearm pressed against the padding on the door glass. Return the rifle to the same position as nearly as possible after each shot.

Black gummed target pasters make dandy sighting-in targets for varmint rifles with scopes of about 8 power at 100 yards. Paste em in the white of targets that have been shot, or on a page from a pocket notebook. NRA 50 foot Ranger targets are also good, You can fire two groups on the same target by turning it upside down.

Remember my article on Father O. T. McGinn, "The Shooting Priest of Texas," in the Feb., 1957, GUNS? We had a pleasant visit with this good man and skilled shooter who will be 85 next Christmas day. He had just returned to San Antonio, Texas, from British Columbia, This remarkable man still does fast and fancy shooting with a rifle or revolver, with guns upside down, backwards, or in any position. He takes off two days each week to keep his shooting eye sharp, and his mind and body alert.

Thousands of people have seen his shooting demonstrations. Top shooters have marveled at the way he can place slugs with speed and accuracy. Father McGinn has truly found the secret of the art of living, and Ponce de Leon's elusive fountain of youth. He looks to the future, not the past, and gets around better than some men half his age. He still smokes big cigars, and is as full of wit and humor as ever. This man of the cloth doesn't get old. He has set a good example for all of us. It's too bad the antigun element won't listen to the wisdom of this man.







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GUN RACK

(Continued from page 8)

type, and is complete, with toggle, link, and handle, adjustable for either up or down stroke. It sells for only \$12. But make no mistake, this is a hefty tool that can even swage bullets and will appeal to experienced loaders as a second tool.

The complete kit includes a shell holder and a set of dies in one of the more popular calibers, and is a real buy at \$29.50. The Lyman name is highly respected in handloading circles and thus is a guarantee for the beginner. With this Spartan kit, a box of primers, some bullets, and a can or two of powder, you can make quality ammo to your heart's content.

Swaged Wadcutters

The Crown Cartridge Co., P.O. Box 7076G, Wilmington Dela., recently submitted 100 of their swaged wadcutters for tests. These bullets were .38 caliber, weighed 146 grains right on the nose, and had a bevel base design. CCC uses a specially designed lubricant and 100 per cent virgin metals, and the bullets are sized .357. Bullets are made with a cold swaging process with 26,000 lbs.

We loaded 50 of them with a standard load of Bullseye, the other 50 with an experimental load and bullets seated flush with the case mouth, for testing in our S&W Model 52. We fired 25 rounds with the S&W and gave the rest of the loads to one of our friends to check them out in his Model 52. We arrived at the same conclusion: These pills are much better than the cast stuff we had been using.

The 50 rounds loaded the conventional way were fired in a Colt Python, in a much used S&W Military & Police, and in a BSA Martini rechambered for .357 Magnum. In all guns, and we fired five rounds of the new bullets and five rounds of our standard .38 loads, the swaged CCC wadcutters did very well indeed. Bullets will be available through your retail store, and in quantities directly from CCC.

Mannlicher-Schonauer Rifle

For years we have been addicted to the now-dead .257 Roberts caliber, and recently we had a chance to buy a used Mannlicher-Schonauer rifle in this caliber. The gun, in excellent condition, had only open sights, and since it is the 1950 Model, it looked like that scope mounting would be a real headache. Fitting scope mounts were not to be found until we contacted Stoeger Arms Corp., 55 Ruta Court, Dept. G, S. Hackensack, N. J. Yes, they did have mounts for '50 M-S and what scope would I be using?

Since this was an open question, we gave them the green light there, and when we got the gun back from their gunsmithing shop. we had a very pleasant surprise. The Steyr Swing Mount holds the Kahles 2.3X to 7X rigidly, yet is easily detached when iron sight shooting is desired or the scope is used on another gun. The light-gathering power of the Kahles scope is quite outstanding, and this gun-scope combination has been our steady companion on several local hunting trips this past season.

BOB FRIELICH63

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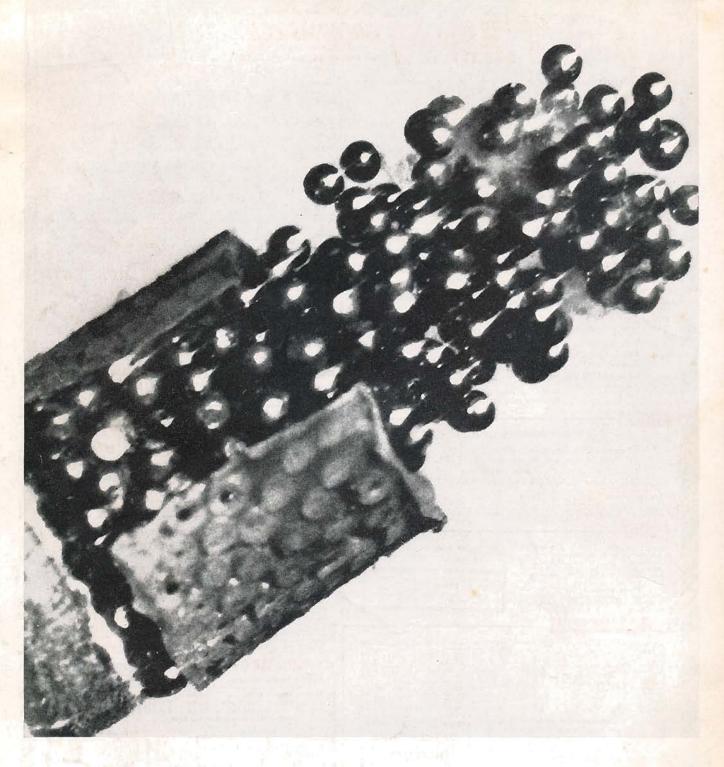
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