

SEPTEMBER 1957 50c

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD



# Guns

HUNTING • SHOOTING • ADVENTURE

WHY NOT A  
**PRO**  
GUN LAW?

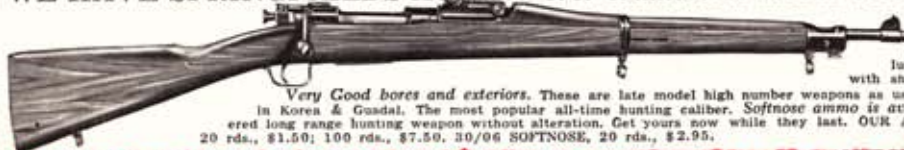
HOW TO BE A  
SMALLBORE  
RIFLE  
CHAMP

**SKEET vs PISTOL**

**WHAT GUNS WIN THE GRAND AMERICAN?**



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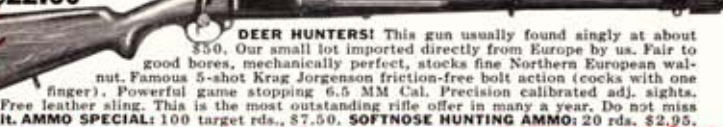


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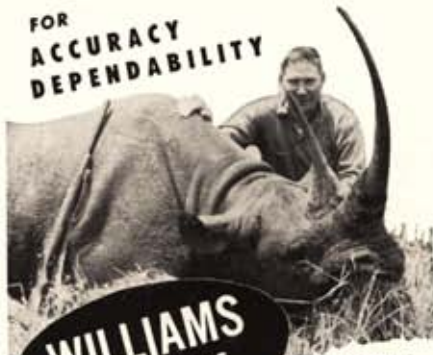
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Abels holds a Collier flint revolver.

## ROBERT ABELS

Dean of Antique Gun Dealers

I HAVE owned, sold, and traded many guns since I went into the firearms business, but my all-time favorite is one I never owned—a splendid Boutet pistol (or pair of pistols, really), owned by Charles Moses of Ashtabula, Ohio. I first saw them at the meeting of American Arms Collectors held in Chicago. They were covered with gold work in the best of Boutet's style and were given by Napoleon to some potentate. Here was a whole gun collection all by itself.

Even the Colt collectors drooled at them. I have a Colt favorite too: a pair of London Navy's presented by Colt to the Earl of Cardigan, who led the charge of the light Brigade, famed in song and story.

# MY FAVORITE GUN

## GENERAL C. T. "BUCK" LANHAM

Combat commander World War II

Chairman of the Board, Colt's

THE SPRINGFIELD '03 has always been my favorite gun. I loved it for its simplicity of operation, its ruggedness in action, its balance, accuracy, and hitting power. In time, it came to be like an extension of my own body, and this I consider to be one of the ultimate criteria for any killing weapon.

Let me add, however, that my greatest personal debt is to the Colt .45 pistol, which saved my life in a couple of kill-or-be-killed situations in World War II. If anyone thinks this is just a plug for the company for which I work, so be it; it's still the truth.

(Gen. "Buck" Lanham is well qualified to speak of combat weapons. He was commanding officer of the 272 Infantry, 69th Infantry Division, in 1943-44; commanded the 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division, in 1944; was assistant division commander of the 104th Infantry Division in 1945; won the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star with cluster, the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart, in addition to several foreign decorations.)





# TRIGGER TALK

**"WHY NOT Have A Pro-Gun Law,"** is possibly the longest article we have ever published. It may well be also the most important article we have ever published. The "call to arms" which ends the story, urging all firearms enthusiasts to write to the Director of the Alcohol & Tobacco Tax Unit, Treasury, Washington 25, D. C., to protest new revised federal regulations in the gun law field is a little like Paul Revere's "one if by land, two if by sea." Only now it isn't the "British are coming," it is the bureaucrats.

There has been some serious thought among Congressmen and Senators as to the activities of this branch of the Treasury which administers the federal gun laws. Some congressmen have been outspoken in expressing the view that the Treasury has been attempting actually to alter law, to make law, which is a privilege jealously guarded by the Congress. In "Why Not A Pro-Gun Law," the author brings up to date the present situation in anti-firearms legislation. We are now at a crossroads. For decades shooting enthusiasts have been complacent while lawmakers, directed by people who are not all well-intentioned by any means, have been chipping away at the edges of American freedom. Restrictive firearms laws are but one face of restrictive federal interference into American private affairs. We exist in a republic which is supposed to guarantee liberty under law. When laws become destructive of these liberties, it is the right and duty of the people to alter or to abolish those laws, and to institute new forms of law which shall best effect their safety and happiness. Old militiaman Tom Jefferson would doubtless applaud this paraphrasing of his immortal document, the Declaration of Independence.

Fortunately, it is not too late. The revised regulations are not yet in effect as of press-time. A public hearing on the new revised regulations is scheduled for Tuesday, August 27, 1957, at 10:00 AM, room 3313, Internal Revenue Bldg., 12th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D. C. Any protests can be made in person there, and eastern-area readers of GUNS may find their interests best served if they obtain complete copies of the regulations, read and understand their implications, and appear to register their protests in person.

In a less heated vein, we bring you an unusual essay co-authored by two top shooters in the trap world, Mrs. Iris Stowers, Florida shotgunner, and Dick Miller, Indiana gun expert and gun writer, who regularly attend the Grand American Handicap shoot at Vandalia. Their story, "What Guns Win The Grand American," has some unusual tips for the would-be custom gunsmith.

"How To Be A Smallbore Rifle Champ" is an entirely modest appraisal of the luck factor which has entered into his shooting, by Olympic champ Gerry Oulette of Canada. Oulette, cheated of an immortal world's record by short-sighted contractors on the 50-meter range at Melbourne (they made it 1½ meters too short) has a story to tell of interest to every rifleman.



## THE COVER

Last month our cover was mostly gun—beautiful in itself, symbolic of the law enforcement to which the issue was dedicated. This month, our cover is symbolic, rather, of the action, the rhythm, the poetry of motion which is inherent in the swift and accurate use of guns in sport and in the field.

# Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

SEPTEMBER, 1957

VOL. III, NO. 9-33

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GUNS magazine is published monthly at 8150 N. Central Park Avenue, Skokie, Illinois. Second class mail privileges authorized at Skokie, Illinois. SUBSCRIPTION: One year, \$5.00. Single copy 50c. CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Four weeks' notice required on all changes. Send old address as well as new. CONTRIBUTORS submitting manuscripts, photographs or drawings do so at their own risk. Material cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. PAYMENT will be made at rates current at time of acceptance and will cover reproduction in any or all GUNS magazine editions. ADVERTISING RATES furnished on request.





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**.300 SAVAGE** The 150 grain pointed soft point .300 Savage is ideal for deer and other medium game. In 180 grain this cartridge can be used for any North American trophy and is highly effective for brush shooting.

**.243 WINCHESTER** This new 99 caliber in 80 and 100 grain bullet weights gives fine accuracy and energy at extreme ranges. Excellent for varmints, deer, antelope and other medium game.

**.308 WINCHESTER** Available in three bullet weights—110 grain for varmints and small game . . . 150 grain for medium game . . . 180 grain for any North American big game.

**.358 WINCHESTER** For a hefty brush cutter, this cartridge is the answer. In 200 and 250 grain bullets it delivers solid impact that will stop any American game in its tracks.



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### HOLSTERS

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Ammo 50 Rds. .... \$4.20

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Fine High quality German Walther, World War II German automatic. Fires 9mm Luger cartridge. Original near mint condition. Extra clips \$4.70. Ammo 9mm, \$9.25 for 100 rounds.

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Ammo 100 rds. .... \$ 9.50

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Ammo Box 50 Rds. .... \$4.20

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We have a few of these genuine Belgium Military Browning Autos. Some have adjustable rear sights. Shoots standard 9mm Luger cartridge. .... \$43.50  
Ammo Box 50 Rds. .... \$4.75

# GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

□ A reporter went into the hills to interview a man who, according to growing stories, was a super marksman. And all over the region, as the reporter made his way along, on trees, fences and walls were target bull's eyes with holes in the dead center, evidence of a phenomenal skill. "You're an excellent shot all right," the reporter remarked with some awe when he came upon his man. "How do you do it?"

"Nothing to it," shrugged the man. "I got my own system. I shoot first, then draw the circles afterwards."

\*\*\*

□ Another story making the rounds: Worn and haggard, a hunter staggered into a Far North trading post. A crowd gathered around him and he was asked what happened. "My sled dogs kept dying along the trail, we'd been without food for days and finally there was only me and the dog leader left," the trapper gasped. "Well, that big brute kept eyeing me—and I kept eyeing him and I guess both our mouths were watering."

"And?" someone prompted.

"Well," said the trapper grimly, "he didn't have no gun."

\*\*\*

□ Jack Doer, a Hennessey, Okla., farmer, woke up in the middle of the night and through the moonlight thought he saw a badger looking him in the eye. He grabbed his shotgun and fired through the window, then went outside to see his bag. He found holes in his wife's washtub.

\*\*\*

□ The story is making the rounds about a hunting couple who returned unhappy from Scotland. It was the grouse season—and she did.

\*\*\*

□ Seized with a flashlight, gloves, and a bur-lap sack after he'd taken a potshot at a Cincinnati officer during the night, a man staunchly denied that he was a burglar, declaring that he was outfitted as he was merely for "hunting crickets."

\*\*\*

□ Lloyd Haggerty, a Modesto, California, deer hunter, killed two black bears and saved the life of a Los Angeles woman who had wounded one of the bears. Mrs. Vera Larson shot the bear, fainted when it charged her. Haggerty knocked the bear down with one shot from his .270 rifle, but the bear lunged up and charged again. Haggerty's second shot put the bear down for keeps. He turned then to the woman, who was just sitting up. She pointed behind him, screamed, and fainted again. A second bear was charging and Haggerty dropped this one about 40 feet from the gun muzzle. Next time Mrs. Larson faints, Haggerty hopes it's not in bear country.

\*\*\*

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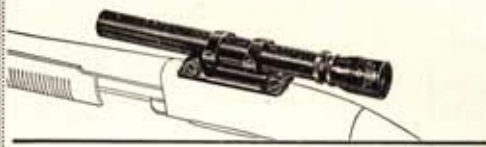


Studio City, California





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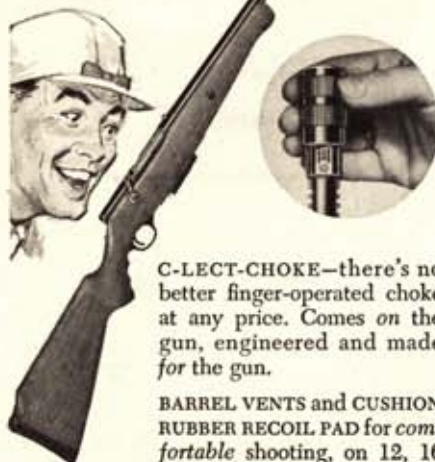
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## CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### One Man's Meat

I think GUNS is great. I look forward to reading the next issue with more anticipation than the one preceding it. Keep GUNS as interesting as it is now and I'll be a lifetime customer.

Joe H. Andrews  
Phoenix, Arizona

I read and enjoy your magazine every month and I think that the variety of articles you have each month are excellent.

However there is something missing. Why don't you describe a new gun in your Gun Rack department once in a while instead of an antique or foreign gun. I don't mean just the barrel length and price, but a short article. This might not be liked by the gun collectors but it would be appreciated by the average shooter who hasn't an opportunity to try out every new gun that comes along.

Jeff Bath  
Peoria, Ill.

### —Another Man's Poison

Received your notice that my subscription is running out. Sorry, but I do not intend to renew. Your magazine when it first came out was good. It had 50-50 new and old guns. Now it has turned to all modern guns and shooting. I am a collector of antique weapons and have no interest in modern guns.

We have over 400 members in our collector's club and I think you are going to lose a good many of them, as that is the talk going around the club.

Gerald Simon  
Pompton Plains, N. Y.

After taking GUNS for almost two years, I can only come to the conclusion that you are getting hard up for articles to print. For instance, in the June, 1957, issue, there is more space taken up with photos than with reading matter. Who would be interested in the pictures on pages 14 and 15 except the people in the photos? And what is interesting about a 10-inch-high picture of a .30-06 cartridge (page 20) that takes up half the page? Perhaps you are thinking of people who never learned to read but like to look at pretty pictures.

I have to be honest, however, and must admit that I enjoy your magazines and look forward to each issue.

N. R. Harrington  
Middleton, N. S., Canada

One of our "competitors," LIFE, has done real well with pictures. Another, READERS' DIGEST, has done real well with much type, few pix. Some people like girls all dressed up pretty; some people like . . . Well, it's a problem.—Editors.

### Where to Buy Books

In the April issue of GUNS, in the "Arms Library" section, mention is made of a book, "Fast and Fancy Revolver Shooting," by Ed McGivern. Can I obtain this book by sending order and remittance to GUNS? If not, where might I obtain it?

Sgt. C. H. Baker  
Wilmington, Ohio

Please do not order books from GUNS. Book reviews in "Arms Library" mention name of publisher. This information, supplied to your local book dealer, will enable him to get the book for you if he does not have it in stock.—Editors.

### Old Wives' Tale?

In the article in your July issue, "Is the M1 Carbine a Sporter?," by Richard Maxey, reference is made to lead cores shedding jackets in the bores of rifles. Howe's book, "Modern Gunsmithing," says that it takes more pressure than a gun can stand to accomplish this feat. Weatherby also notes his experiments at forcing cores out of jackets and has had no success in his attempts to accomplish it.

I do believe that there is a remote possibility that this might happen on an open base bullet if the forward part of the bullet jacket, including all of the tapered portion, were removed and the core swaging operation was defective. But many old wives tales exist about guns blowing up due to jackets lodging in barrels.

This subject would be meat for a fine article in your magazine if proper research and experiment were conducted to back up the truth about lead core separation from bullet jackets.

My compliments to Mr. Maxey for recognizing the carbine and commenting on its proper place in the shooting game. My experiments in handloading this little cartridge for jackrabbits and coyotes have resulted in compiling data much similar Mr. Maxey's.

Vern Duchek, T/Sgt USAF  
Omaha, Neb.

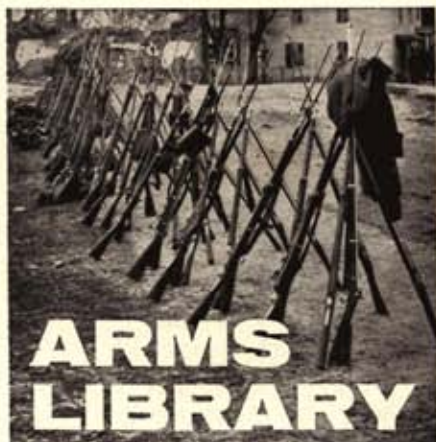
### Askins Illegal?

I have just read Col. Askins' article in the June issue. Your magazine is my absolute favorite, but I can hardly agree with the colonel's viewpoint. I use a handgun for target shooting, rifles for hunting; but in my opinion, carrying a gun in a car or on the street is absolutely ridiculous unless your job warrants it. In my state it is strictly against the law to have a loaded gun in a vehicle.

William A. Brindley  
East Liverpool, Ohio

. . . The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. (Constitution of the United States, Bill of Rights, Article 2.)  
—Editors.





## ARMS LIBRARY

### SOUND OF THE GUNS

By Fairfax Downey  
(David McKay \$5.50)

It's no pun to say that the old cannoneer's story of American artillery is a bang-up job. Downey, who served in World War I with the Artillery in France, has achieved a just reputation for interesting military writing, to which this book adds another "oak leaf cluster." This is not a technical book, but a readable, fascinating account of battles and men, through which is threaded a subdued note of the development of the U. S. Artillery from the French and Indian wars to the atomic artillery of World War III.

Throughout the book, Downey makes liberal use of vibrant quotes, anecdotes, or glowing re-writes of official report of battles which make the smoke and flame and drumming barrage roll forth from every page. A fine piece of work and not heavy reading, the book serves sometimes to place overlooked heroes of the Artillery into the pages of history. Drawings by contemporary artists, photos taken at the front showing artillery in action, and old and modern prints of the guns and the men who fired them supplement this handsome book. Reference notes are included for a scholarly touch, but some of the references are as interesting as the text.—WBE

### SNAKES AND SNAKE HUNTING

By Carl Kauffeld  
(Hanover House, Garden City, N. Y. \$3.95)

Of interest to any hunter who hunts in "snakey" country (and what country isn't, more or less) is this delightfully non-technical book by a leading herpetologist who collects snakes as specimens and also because he loves the sport and has a sincere admiration for these most feared of all creatures. Curator of Reptiles at the Staten Island Zoo where he had built up one of the world's finest collections of reptiles, Kauffeld combines unchallenged scientific knowledge with a writing skill that leads the reader with unflagging interest through trip after trip—from Florida's deeply mysterious Okeechobee swamps to the Arizona desert to New York state's "snake heavens." Surprising to many readers will be Kauffeld's statement that North America is the world's richest snake country and that the American Diamondback Rattlesnake ranks with the King Cobra, the Bushmaster, and the Fer-de-Lance for honors as the world's largest and most deadly reptiles. He may not persuade you to love snakes, but he does give you facts to replace myths about them; and to "know thine enemy" is good advice for anyone to follow. —EBM

# NEW QUICK DETACHABLE SCOPE MOUNT WITH APERTURE SIGHT



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Mount may be  
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SAVAGE 90	MARLIN 336
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# SHOOTING NEWS

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Franklin, Tennessee. Muzzle loaders take the front ranks this month with the 5th annual Tennessee Muzzle Loading Tournament being shot at the TGCA range 12 miles south of Franklin off Highway #431...Cold and windy, the cold moisture good to keep powder fouling soft, the wind bad on those big easy-drift musket balls, but some excellent scores were fired...Mrs. Ray Robinson of Auburntown took home first place honors for lasses with Miss Ruthie Robinson second and Mrs. M. H. Parks of Nashville third...Topping the offhand shooting for the men was J. O. Gilpin of Columbia, Ky., with a 46-1X, edging out Ben Hancock, also of Columbia, with a plain 46...In the rest matches Fleming Williams, Franklin, shot 47 topping Schley Howard of Decatur, Ga., who fired 46-3X...Tennessee Caplock Rifle Champ for 1957, scored on the basis of all the caplock rifle matches, is Warren Phelps of Decatur...Hancock second, Ray Robinson of Auburntown, third...

Cleveland, Ohio. The Erie lake shooters wound up the pistol season with the Cleveland Police standing first in the Cuyahoga Cy. Pistol League...The gendarmes copped 33 wins, 3 losses, with a team average of 1350...second came the East Cleveland Police team scoring 29-7, average 1338...At the bottom with 0 wins, 36 lost matches, was the Hunters of Al Koran, having a low average of only 1110...

Grand Island, Nebraska. In the midst of their centennial year, the GI shooters took time out to hold the Midstate SB Rifle Tourney with 24 shooters registering from various cities in Nebraska and L. F. Radke, Charles and Douglas Gunn, Joe Liles, M. Watts from Kansas...Winner of the 40 shot-50 meter Governors match was Alton Wheat of Hastings, 397 with 21X's...

Hot Springs, Virginia. The Homestead resort hotel hosted the 20th Virginia Skeet Shoot at their scenic mountain-top field...Rain sizzled off the skeeters' smoking guns during the two-day event...N. C. Britt, seven times champ of the Old Dominion, fought bad weather and tough competition every point of the way to bag trophies including the .410 championship, 20 gauge win, all-bore second missing one bird in the 8th 25, and all-around champ scoring 293...In the .410, Britt used a Model 42 and Rem ammo to shoot 46x50...A. D. Simpson of Rocky Mount used a Browning O/U and Western ammo to tie with 46x50 and Britt won the shoot-off...In the 28 gauge championship Judson McIvor of Lynchburg thumped his Remington automatic through 50 straight to top Major V. G. L. Roth of Fort Lee who had 49x50...Junior J. L. Houska of Norfolk scored 87 down with Remington gun and ammo all the way to win over W. B. Erskine, Jr. who fired 85 and Leslie Webb, Jr., in third place with 75x100...Navy nurse Mrs. R. S. Eason of Quantico took ladies honors for the .410, 32x50, with her Winchester scattergun gobbling up Peters ammo. Then she added a second title in the 28 gauge shoot with 38x50...

Clovis, California. Seventy shooters showed up for the four-day annual Cal State Muzzle Loaders shoot at the Fresno Rifle & Pistol Club range near Clovis...700 separate black powder matches were conducted under direction of range master Page Fisk of Long Beach...P. L. Blakesley of Santa Cruz shot a winning 46 with a .58 caliber Civil War musket with military sights in the 50 yard Off-hand Event. The gallery nearly stopped on him, trying to see what load he used to win, but learned his choice was a light duplex load and "minny" ball...Dr. J. P. Evans, Oakland, scored high in the Round Ball Course (1 rifle only) and the Off Hand Championship...Winner of the 25 yard flint rifle Off Hand shoot was Floyd A. Rammel who took home the coveted silver-bound powder horn trophy...



# "PAY-OFF" FEATURES...



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\*Patent applied for. \*\*Slightly higher west of the Rockies. Subject to change without notice.

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Camera catches dramatic action as skeet shooter pumps custom-ribbed Model 12 for second shot as birds cross in doubles. Top shooters hit pairs in one-two rhythm.

# Skeet vs. Pistol for



## EX-PISTOL CHAMPION LIKES SKEET FOR SPORT BUT SAYS THAT HANDGUN TECHNIQUES WON'T HELP WIN SKEET CHAMPIONSHIPS

By BILL TONEY

*(Former National Pistol Champion)*

**S**KEET IS ACTION-PACKED, dramatic, full of spectator appeal, and has a direct carry-over value as practice for field shooting. Pistol shooting is challenging, touched with the glamor of the duelling grounds and the Old West; and it could make the difference if you ever had to shoot in self-defense. Which should you choose as a hobby or as a competitive sport, and could you do both?

Sure, you can do both and thoroughly enjoy both types of shooting as hobbies; but if you want to be national champion with the pistols, skeet shooting won't help and may hurt your chances; and if you want to be a top gun at skeet, pistol shooting won't help, may hurt your scores on the flying targets.

Why can't a shooter be a champion with both shotgun and pistol? Well, competition being what it is today in both sports, the man who practices with both guns can't practice enough with either to beat the specialists. And there are other reasons inherent in the basic differences between the two types of shooting.

Skeet is fired with shotguns of .410 to 12 gauge, at flying targets. The gun is shoulder-braced, held with both hands, fired while the muzzle is intentionally in motion. Aim is almost entirely a matter



New National Match .45 Colt is typical of target handguns with many refinements designed for the relatively static pistol sport.

of pointing rather than of close sighting, with hitting accuracy determined more by gun fit than by sight picture. The gun fits the gunner, is cheeked the same way for each shot, shoots where the shooter "looks." It is a game of motion, of timing, of muscular coordination.

Pistol shooting is almost exactly opposite. The gun is gripped in one hand, with the shooter making every effort to hold it motionless. Exact alignment of sights is tremendously important. The gun must be fired by careful application of pressure to the trigger in such a way that no movement, no contraction of other hand muscles disturbs the sight alignment. It is a game of determined con-

## Records

Fixed rest pistol shooting by border patrolman Toney has not kept him from enjoying skeet but does not improve skeet scores.







Holding boxes of shells, Deno Burelli, midwest skeet enthusiast, waits his turn with his custom Simmons-barreled .410 Browning.

centration, and muscular control.

Scores at skeet are good or bad depending largely on the company you keep, so long as you are shooting as a hobby. If you break 15 targets and the other members of your crowd break less, you're the winner. But to be a top-flight competitive shooter you must break 25 targets with 25 shots more times than not.

The same is true of pistol shooting. As a hobbyist, if you can shoot scores that please you, that's the answer. But if you want to be in the running for top honors at a pistol tournament of national importance, you need to shoot an average of around 290 over the National Match Course. That means 30 shots, ten each at slow, timed, and rapid fire, using the Standard American Target which has a ten-ring just 3.39 inches in diameter.

For the spectator, skeet is by far the more attractive game. The skeet looker-on sees each man take his position on the shooting station and call for his target. The "bird" spins out of the trap-house and the shot is fired. The hit or miss is instantly apparent. There is speed and action which catch the eye and hold the attention.

The spectator at a pistol match sees a large group of shooters on a common firing line, firing simultaneously each



Shooter leans into gun as he takes bird thrown over his head from the high house (behind him).





Many shooters prefer auto-loading guns over doubles or manually operated weapons for fast action when birds are thrown simultaneously from opposite houses to cross in front of shooter.

at his own target. He cannot see the results without binoculars or a telescope. Even then the observer does not know how his competitor is making out comparatively until the scores are posted.

The conflict between pistol shooting and skeet exists because of differences in the fundamental techniques of each. Both games have their devotees of freakish form, but in each we can find three popular and definite variations of basic technique. Let us call them methods A, B, and C.

In pistol shooting, method A, the sights are aligned with each other and the sight picture is brought to the chosen point of aim or as near to it as possible. When the sights and aiming point are in perfect alignment the shooter steadily increases trigger pressure. When the sights wander away from the aiming point the existing trigger pressure is held, but it is not increased until the sights can be brought back to the aiming point. The shooter hopes the weapon will fire while in perfect alignment with the target.

In skeet, method A, the shooter knows in advance the path the clay pigeon will follow and the distance he must lead it to get a hit. The shooter aims, not at the target but at a point in its path and ahead of it. When he is lined up on this spot he fires without stopping his swing.

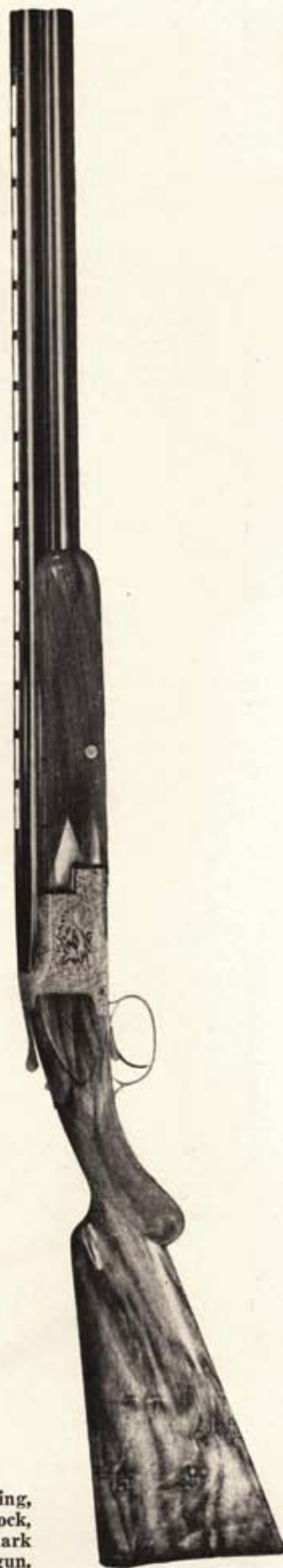
In pistol shooting, method B, the shooter aligns the sights with each

other and tries to bring them to bear on the aiming point. But believing that sight alignment is more important than perfect aim, and that he cannot hold steady long enough to squeeze the shot off without disturbing the sight alignment, he begins squeezing when he is reasonably near the aiming point. Instead of holding up when he wobbles off and squeezing when he comes back, he holds as close to the point of aim as possible and squeezes steadily until the gun fires.

In skeet, method B, the shooter swings his line of aim along the path of the flying clay target coming from behind and passing it. At the instant of passing he fires. Since he is swinging faster than the target is flying and since there will be a mental time lag after passing the target before he can fire, he will be pointing ahead of it when he gets the shot off. Variations in needed lead are provided by varying the speed of swing.

In pistol, method C, the sights are aligned with each other and moved toward the aiming point. The user of this method, not having the patience to hold and squeeze as in methods A and B, will attempt to fire exactly as he reaches the point of aim or the nearest point to it through which the sight picture passes.

In skeet, method C, the shooter will know that at each station the target will have reached a certain point along its certain (Continued on page 48)



Beautiful engraving, choice custom stock, ventilated rib mark owner's pride in gun.



**MAN WHO PUT 60 SHOTS IN DIME-SIZE**

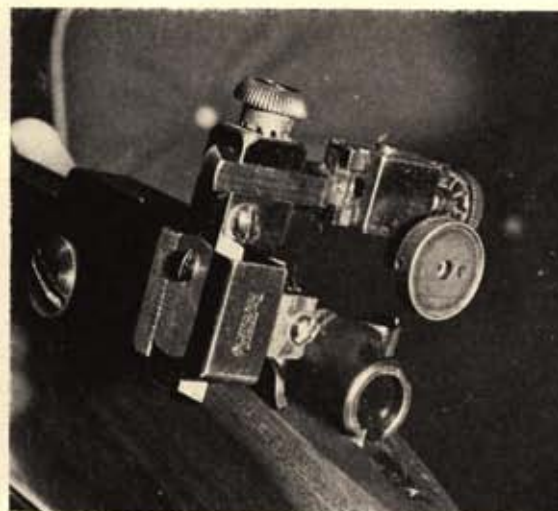
**CIRCLE TO WIN OLYMPICS SAYS**

**LUCK PLAYS BIG PART IN MATCH SHOOTING**

Fabulous perfect score fired with borrowed rifle won Canadian Gerry Oulette the Olympic Gold Medal in 50 meter Melbourne match. Rifle is his own Winchester M52 heavy barrel.







Gallery gathers behind Oulette as he finishes his Olympic record. Team-mate Gil Boa spots shots. Parker-Hale sights (above) are Oulette's choice for both small and big bore competition rifles.

# HOW TO BE A SMALL BORE RIFLE CHAMP

By GERRY OULETTE

*(Olympic Smallbore 50 meter Champion)*

**S**HOOTERS sound off a lot about luck. How much luck is needed to win in today's rifle competition? In my book, the answer is—PLENTY! And it should be spelled in real big letters, underlined.

My personal opinion is that records mean very little in competitive rifle shooting, due largely to luck. Conditions vary so much from match to match that a wonderful performance on a shooter's part may result in what appears to be a low score but which, in the light of existing conditions, may actually be a phenomenal accomplishment.

So far as my 600 x 600 at the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, Australia, was concerned, I wasn't particularly impressed. No serious shooter would be; every good

smallbore rifleman has fired dozens of 400's and more or less expects them. At Melbourne, it was just my turn to get a possible.

This may sound as though I were trying to be over-modest, but that's not actually the case. I got a pretty big charge out of winning at Melbourne—it showed in the pictures that were published. All I'm saying is that luck does play a big part in rifle shooting. The score I fired was good enough to beat the rest of the shooters that day (including the Russians), and that is plenty good enough for me. But I am sufficiently realistic to ask myself: "What if I'd fired my own rifle in the match? What if I'd fired on an earlier and windier relay? Would my score still have



been a 600 or would it have been a 590?" That's what I mean by luck taking a pretty big hand in any big-league rifle shoot. [Luck played an adverse part, too, in this instance. After the match, check measurements showed that the Olympic 50 meter range had been laid out 1½ meters short. As a result of this official error, Oulette's magnificent "perfect possible" is not accepted as a world record.]

I got a big kick out of laying sixty consecutive shots in the ten ring at Melbourne,—not because it was a possible, but because it meant that I'd succeeded in licking several factors which had been making the going pretty tough ever since arriving in Australia.

To begin with, I had very few practice sessions at the Williamstown ranges. Conditions were anything but good for practice during the two weeks previous to the competitions. During the few practicing hours I did have, I was getting very discouraging results. I was getting a lot of eights and even a few sevens on the fifty meter target. The fifty meter target, with iron sights, and in a wind of any kind, is no fun, but I knew I was holding well and wasn't showing any signs of buck fever or nervousness.

During an elimination match fired the day before the smallbore matches started, and during the prone stage of the three-position match, I fired about four eights and a seven, shooting under reasonably good conditions. Needless to say, my confidence in my own ability dropped, and it was a pretty sad shooter who woke up on the morning of the prone match.

At Gil Boa's suggestion, we decided that if time was available, we would both use his rifle. Gil's rifle had been performing consistently well in practice and, as it turned out, it continued to do its stuff.

Boa started shooting first while I coached. Conditions in the early morning were on the tricky side and the wind was pretty hard to estimate. Gil ended up with a 598 and

a sack full of rings, about 42, if I remember correctly. Gil, incidentally, was named World Champion at Caracas, Venezuela, in 1956. He and I have frequently shot together, both as teammates and as competitors.

After Gil's last shot, we picked up his equipment and hightailed it over to my shooting position and I started to bang away. In keeping with its unpredictable nature, the Melbourne wind died down in the late morning instead of increasing as we'd expected. Conditions became very good and well suited for rapid fire. I fired as fast as I could.

I had never used Gil Boa's rifle before but I had plenty of indirect experience with it—having been beaten by it on more than one occasion! The match I won consisted of sixty shots at fifty meters, fired in strings of ten shots, with ten sighters fired either before the match began or between any individual string of ten shots. My first two sighters were just out of the bull. I made a sight correction and fired the remaining eight sighters into the bull, then went on to shoot the sixty shots to win the match.

Maybe my experience in Melbourne illustrates the part that luck plays in the rifle game. In so far as shooting conditions were concerned, I was lucky. I had the edge on Gil Boa and the others shooting in his relay. If our relays had been reversed, the chances are that the end of the story would have been different. Again, my rifle was the one that went on the fritz. It might just as easily have been Gil's, or any of the other shooters'. I don't mean to say that the human element doesn't come into the picture at all; I merely mean that, assuming that the competitors can shoot, there is still a lot of pure, unadulterated luck in competitive rifle shooting.

I don't know what physical characteristics go into making the best rifle shots. I doubt if there is any one particular physical type. I myself am rather average. I'm



Luck helps, but champion Oulette leaves nothing to luck that can be insured by attention to adjustment of equipment. Concentration shows as Oulette works bolt of Enfield .303 in practice.





Squeezing fresh clip into Enfield Canadian service rifle, Olympic smallbore gold medal winner makes ready for bigbore competition which he prefers to smallbore.

five feet nine inches, weigh between 145 and 150 pounds. I'm fair skinned, and am twenty-two years old. I believe that I'm pretty easy going where shooting is concerned and I find that I enjoy 'jawing' with other shooters more than actually shooting.

I started shooting at the local high school when I was thirteen. Most high schools in Canada have Cadet Corps and rifle training is a requisite subject. Most of these schools have rifle teams. The rifles used are identical to the Canadian .303 No. 4 Service rifle in appearance, though they handle the .22 long rifle cartridge instead of the service load. Win Jennings, who is now Vice Principal at the W. D. Lowe Vocational High School, was my first and only coach and introduced me to the rifle game. When I left school, I had to coach myself and I still have no regular coach.

I'm one of five children—three girls and two boys. My brother Carl is the only other shooting enthusiast in the family. Carl was on the 1955 team of Army Cadets from Canada that competed at Bisley. He also won the Tyro Match for the Province of Ontario in 1956. Both of these events are fired with the .303 Service Rifle.

Most of my shooting is done across the border, in Detroit, Michigan. I could, if I wished, put in two or three nights a week practicing, but I don't. After shooting several

times a week during the last eighteen months or so in preparation for the Olympics, I've dropped practicing to almost nil. Most of my shooting now is done in regular matches. Now, I find that I get more actual pleasure out of 'fun' shooting—going out with a handgun and shooting holes in tin cans and stuff like that. You can get tired out with too much practicing, both physically and mentally. You get stale.

Since being lucky enough to hit the jackpot at Melbourne, I've been asked fairly frequently if it was my biggest thrill since entering the shooting game. As I said before, I was pretty pleased with the outcome of the Melbourne shoot, but my most memorable moment in shooting actually took place at Bisley, England, in July, 1956. I was competing in the Queen's Prize Match, which is the most important shooting event in the British Commonwealth. I was tied for first place after the 300, 500, 600, and 700 yard stages, with fifteen shots left to be fired at 1000 yards. We were all allowed two sighters and I missed the target with both of mine. In spite of this, I started on score with a dead center bull! By way of a gag—and also to cover up my surprise—I told everybody that I just didn't like wasting bulls on sighters!

The explanation was that, when I fired my second sighter, I managed to get to (Continued on page 36)



ANTI-GUN LAW PROPONENTS ARE NOT ALL DO-GOODERS.

LAWS THAT STRIKE AT CIVIL LIBERTIES THREATEN BUSINESS AS WELL AS OUR AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE. IF WE MUST LEGISLATE, THEN . . .

# Why Not



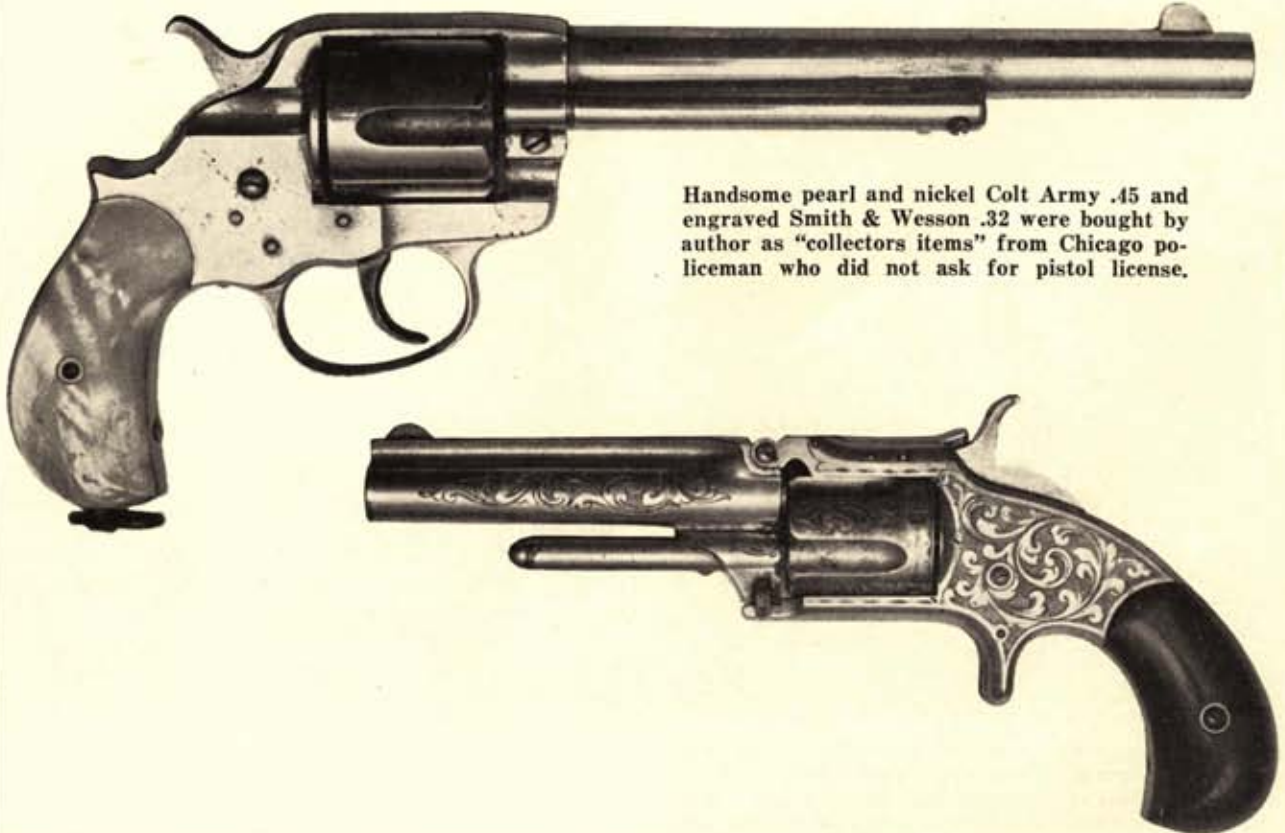
Heyday of gangsterdom culminated in 1934 crime wave when sawed-off shotguns and stolen government .45's contributed to enactment of sensational anti-gun laws. Honest citizens were disarmed but hoods neglected to obey laws.



# Have a PRO Gun Law?

**T**HE ANTI-GUN LAWMAKERS are having a brisk season for 1957. With the practical nature of Andrew Volsteads and the subtlety of Carrie Nations they have attacked the root of all evil and the ills of mankind by the simple expedient of trying to take away all guns. Recently proposed Treasury regulations came close to this ideal; they could have destroyed the firearms industry and the shooting sport. Under the guise of protecting the people, these makers of rules who push anti-gun bills such as these are forging weapons, not into ploughshares, but into an iron collar of restraint, worthy of a fascist state.

Year by year more anti-gun laws are proposed. Meanwhile, pro-gun collectors and shooters are mollified by the excuse "these laws are thought up by well-meaning, innocent do-gooders." Certainly a few anti-gun advocates may seem to be well-intentioned, but let's look at "well meaning" legislators in the forefront of anti-gun legislation.



Handsome pearl and nickel Colt Army .45 and engraved Smith & Wesson .32 were bought by author as "collectors items" from Chicago policeman who did not ask for pistol license.





Guns with numbers ground off like Colt DA .38 (left, top) were among lot of surplus Philadelphia crooks' guns sold to dealers. Number listed on tag is not serial number but assembly number taken from latch. Police broke Federal law by sale.

Most guns destroyed by police are junky top breaks. Good Colts, Smiths, are often kept or sold to officers' friends.



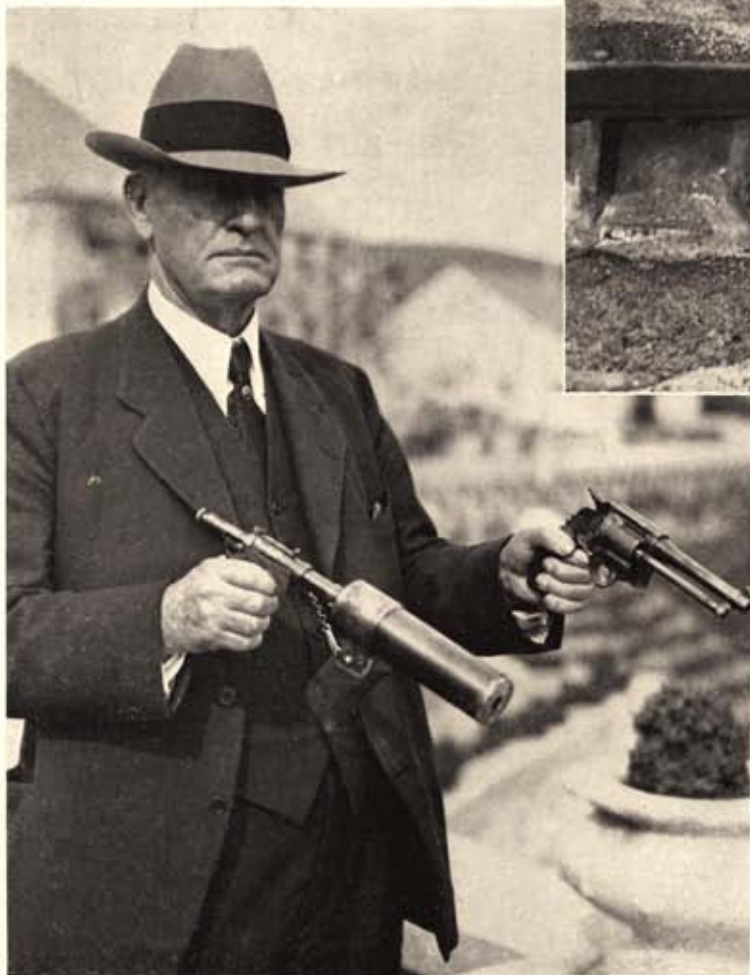
Take a good look at genial, charming, personable "Big Tim" Sullivan, who disarmed the citizens of crime-ridden New York in 1911 with the granddaddy of anti-gun laws, then went mad the following year and was confined. Says the biographical dictionary, "Vice and crime were carefully organized in his territory and paid graft to his machine, as did many lines of legitimate business, including push-cart peddlers . . . When charged with grafting, or partnership with crime and vice, he could rise in the [New York state] Assembly or on a campaign rostrum and, by telling the story of his tenement boyhood and the sacrifices of his mother, reduce even hardened political opponents to tears . . ."

"Big Tim" was of the cloth of Adolph Hitler and the spellbinders of the ages. Election fights which stimulated the public pulse in those days hampered Big Tim's grasp on politics. So he pushed through a law requiring everyone in New York state to get a police permit to buy or possess a pistol or revolver. Sullivan knew he could control the police. This meant that when Sullivan's boys went on their ballot-box stuffing sprees, they could be reasonably sure of having no opposition. Big Tim was not a "well-meaning legislator" in his pistol law ideas. The Sullivan law weakened the opposition, sweetened the Tammany kitty. Anti-gun bills are a popular stepping stone to political fame, and many in the anti-gun ranks share "Big Tim's motives.

A most ironic instance of the do-good legislator at work occurred in Connecticut last spring. A brutal murder of two people incensed the public against guns and a fantastic spate of 24 anti-firearms bills was put into the mill,



Bundle of Daisy air rifles is gaily hurled into Gary furnace by Chicago captain J. J. Walsh disposing of 2600 "hoodlum" guns. Yet crooks find guns available even under police guard, such as two pistols used in San Quentin break attempt (below).



Disproportionately large numbers of harmless air rifles and sporting shotguns are disposed of as "criminal type" weapons. Inventory of Civil War muskets and old single shot Springfields is dumped overboard by police into New York harbor.



including the demand to register every pistol or revolver in the state. This is a common form of anti-gun bill, though just what it is supposed to accomplish is not clear. According to Fred A. Roff, Jr., of the Colt's gun company, the criminal committed the murders with a *registered* revolver. And the criminal was already a convicted felon.

Outlawing guns is impossible. The police themselves are often a source of pistols to people who do not bother with licenses and permits. I bought seven revolvers including a Colt DA M1878 .45 revolver and a small engraved Smith & Wesson .32 from one Chicago policeman, who did not want to insult me by asking for a permit. Though I bought them as "collector's items," they had been confiscated by the officer in the normal course of his work. He was logical in selling the guns to me, knowing me to be a gun collector; yet "Confiscated guns must be destroyed according to law," declares Chicago police commissioner T. J. O'Connor.

Another gun which came my (Continued on page 52)





**SHE'S LITTLE, AND  
HER NERVES ARE NOT OF  
STEEL, BUT SHE SHOOTS THE  
BIG PISTOLS FOR SCORES THAT  
SMASH MEN'S WORLD RECORDS**

# **LITTLE**

By **CHARLES H. WINN**

**HAVE  
FUN  
WITH  
GUNS**

Hiding secret tension, woman pistol champ Gert Backstrom appears calm waiting for "commence fire" signal.



Custom .38 Super automatic converted to .38 Special by Florida gunsmith John Giles is handful for Gertie.



# WOMAN - BIG GUN

**O**FF THE CUFF, without looking at the pictures, how would you describe a woman pistol champion? Five feet eight? Hundred seventy pounds? Big hands? Man-nish clothes? Rock-steady nerves?

You couldn't be more wrong!

She's about 5' 3" tall and, in the fur-lined flight boots and heavy slacks, sweaters, and mackinaw of a chill match morning, she couldn't weigh over one-hundred. And nerves? When I met her she was drinking a cup of milk, and the cup rattled against her teeth with a sound like Spanish castanets. She was as calm as a Caribbean hurricane. With both hands on the cup she still spilled the milk; but a little later, with only one hand on her heavy-barrelled Ruger, she set three world records that day . . . Who is she? Oh, I thought you knew her—Women's National Pistol Champion, Mrs. Ted "Gertie" Backstrom.

Anyone who's been around shooting circles can tell you that pistol shooters are considered an "odd ball" bunch by the padded-coat-and-12x-scope crowd, the riflemen. The feeling is slightly mutual, since the pistol shooters think that it's taking undue advantage of a gun to weld it to your shoulder with iron, strap it down with leather, and sight it with a surveyor's transit. Pistol shooting, they claim, is a strictly man-versus-gun proposition: no slings, no coat-hanger stocks, no rests, no surveyor's transits. The differences go even further. Most handgunners see no reason to forego their morning coffee or other little vices just for a match. They figure "a man's a man, and is you is or is you ain't?" (The question puts Gertie on the spot, a little; because she definitely "ain't" a man; and she doesn't drink coffee. She drinks cambric tea. Which,

Steady hand and eye when chips are down has made Washington state housewife top scoring shooter with Ruger pistol.







Selection of cups and trophies includes only a few of the 12 women's and 16 open titles and 19 tournaments won by Gertrude Backstrom.

Two top woman competitors, Gertie and Lucy Chambliss often tangle at big shoots. La Backstrom currently holds woman's national title.

Giles Heavy Slide .45 with extra weight rib and custom sights is used by small west coast shooter to win big matches. Heavy slide slows recoil, reduces kick.



in case you didn't know, is tea laced with—milk!)

Most pistol shooters sleep as long as they can before a match; I've even seen them grabbing naps between relays. But, again, not Gertie. On the morning of a match she's up and busy at 4:00 A.M. What does she do at that time of morning? Who the heck knows? Maybe she has a secret recipe for getting 10's and has to get up then to get it off the stove. When asked directly, she says she's nervous, and she putters. Probably one answer is as good as the other—I'm not gonna miss my sleep at the matches to find out!

Yes, Gertie fails in many ways to conform with the general concept of a pistol champion. A TV interviewer remarked just before she went on the air, "You guys must

be kidding. How can anyone that petite and that feminine be a pistol champion? It's ridiculous, and she's wonderful, and I love her!"

She's not a "picture pistoleer" by any stretch of the imagination. She looks as if she'd be more in character batting out a cake (with an electric mixer) than batting out 10's with a .45 on the 50-yard range. Come to think of it, she's not bad at the kitchen range stuff, either.

The meteorological societies record no unusual phenomena attributable to the day of her birth, September 14th, and being feminine, the year is unimportant. She was born and raised in Aberdeen, Washington . . . is now married and living in Hoquiam, Washington . . . three miles away!



She's no wonder-kid champion. In fact, she has reached the age where her visual problems keep her optometrist very interested. Sure, she wears glasses. The fabled "perfect vision" of the shooter is another one of the myths that takes a beating from the Champ. Without her glasses she couldn't see a target at 25 feet, let alone hit one.

Gertrude has the true westerner's broad-mindedness, easy and gracious manner, and contempt for long distances. If you schedule a match, even a long way from Washington, and don't keep it a secret, hold a firing point for "Gertie." She'll quite probably be there and, if she is, she'll either win it, or scare hell out of whoever does!

Funny thing—as a child she showed no particular traits that would lead one to believe she would scale the heights of marksmanship. The boys in the neighborhood went in for shooting. About the same as 20,000,000 other Americans, they went once a year on a hunting trip, with more cans and stumps as casualties than deer or elk. Our heroine practiced diligently the mixed look of consternation and horror popularly believed to be the only expression a woman can use at the mention of a handgun, but she never managed to really believe it. It could be that Papa and Mama with their "Schutenfest" heritage, had something to do with it.

Whatever it was, her convictions weren't (Continued on page 38)



Battery of Herrett-grip Colts, Hi-Standards, is shown by Ted Backstrom (left) and his pistol totin' wife to shooter Winn.

Blackening sights with carbide lamp, lady pistol champ tunes up Heavy Slide .45 for match. "Gertie" cleans, maintains all her guns, has done so since she took up sport.







Spectators (top) throng area behind 36-field firing line at Vandalia as guns (below) crafted for fit, not beauty, compete for outsize jackpot in trapshooting.

# WHAT GUNS WIN THE GRAND AMERICAN?

By IRIS STOWERS and DICK MILLER

**W**OULD YOU LIKE to win \$10,000 in two days with your shotgun? It's not impossible. Somebody does it every year—at Vandalia, Ohio, at the Grand American Handicap Tournament of the Amateur Trapshooters' Association, held in mid-August. The competitors are strictly amateurs, so if you think you're pretty hot with a shotgun this is your chance at the big money. There's more than \$20,000 worth of silverware to be awarded, in addition to the \$10,000 in cash money, and either or both could come in right handy around the house this winter.

There are some ten million shotgunners in America, and about two out of every three of those ten million believe, secretly or openly, that they are pretty poison with the scatter loads. A lot of them are. And "the Grand" is a place where a man can prove his brags about his shotgun prowess, and reap a golden (or silver) harvest for it.

Don't think, "But there's no chance for me; that's big-time shooting." It's big time, all right. There are some 2,000 guns booming along the lines at Vandalia at each years meeting. But they're just people. Half of them probably couldn't hit a bear in the backside with a bass fiddle. There are no heroes at Vandalia until after the scores are tallied; and when they *are* tallied, nine times out of ten it's some completely unknown gunner who cops the big money. After all, at the Grand, the really "hot" guns, the boys and girls who are known to be deadly, are handicapped so severely that they seldom win. Vandalia is a place where the "little man" can get big in a hurry, and a lot of them have done it.

The Grand consists of 100 shots fired at skimming clay targets from stations ranging from 18 yards to 27 yards back of the trap house, depending on your handicap. Handicapping here works on the same general principal as does







Doeskin and tape pads may not have improved gun's accuracy, but felt good against skin of Pauline Oliver, lady trap champion.

**VANDALIA IS WHERE THE LITTLE MAN CAN BEAT THE BIG ONES  
WITH A \$10,000 "POT OF GOLD" AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW**

Pretty Mrs. Dolly Issets of Kenosha, Wisconsin, shows shooting form which helped her win the women's crown at the 1955 Grand American handicap with score of 93x100. Gun is a trap 12 Ithaca.







Shooters of all ages flock to Vandalia for the Grand. Some, like Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Jenkins, come back year after year.



Ex-model Evelyn Primm of Reno, Nevada is first woman to be given 24-yard handicap, powders targets like Annie Oakley.

This gun never won the Grand, but owner Petty claims it's a real trapgun.

Gun (opposite page) with exaggerated offset fits left-eyed right-handed gunner.



handicapping in horseracing. The racehorse handicapper attempts to weight each entry in a race so that, theoretically, all the horses will finish in a dead heat. At Vandalia, the handicap committee attempts to do the same thing, with yardage, putting the better shooters a few yards further from the targets. Of course, neither handicapper ever accomplishes the ideal of an eight-horse dead heat or 2,000 shooters with identical scores. But they try. And the fact that "unknowns" almost invariably win at Vandalia proves that the committee plays no favorites.

Grand American winners have included a barber, a preacher, a 14-year-old boy, a professor, a college student, a truck driver, an airline pilot—rarely a nationally known trapshooter. The scores needed to win are frequently lower than you would expect, too. The first Grand American Handicap, in 1900, was won by R. O. Heikes, who broke 91 targets shooting from the 22 yard line. There were 74 entries that year. Only once has the event been won by a shooter "big" enough to be handicapped back to the 25 yard line, and that was in 1933 when Walter Beaver topped a field of 597 by busting 98 birds from "away back there in center field." The guns on the 16, 17, and 18 yard lines are the most frequent winners. (Other, that is, than the ammunition makers. With something like 2,000,000 shells fired in the two days at Vandalia alone, plus the millions fired in practice for the Grand, the manufacturers are year in and year out



winners.) The Grand has been won with perfect "100 straight" scores only six times in 58 meetings. It has been won 39 times with scores of 98 or less.

In 1950, Oscar Scheske, a 48-year old Belleville, Illinois, real estate man, won the Grand, along with \$9,545.50 in coin of the realm. His score was 100 x 100; that is, he broke them all. Pilot Ray Williams in 1953 broke 98 x 100 to win his championship and the pot of gold, but he had to shoot off a tie. Williams, an ex-Air Force man, was as surprised as everyone else at the 54th Grand American. "Golly, I don't know what I'm going to do with all that money," he remarked after winning.

In 1936, Herschel Cheek, a top-notch trapshooter, took his 60-year old dad along to the Grand American. Dad Cheek was known around Clinton, Indiana, as a right good rabbit and quail shot. Just for fun, he brought along his old \$20 rabbit gun. You guessed it; Dad Cheek won

the grand prize, breaking 98 from 16 yards. The same thing happened to Rufus King, though in reverse. The fourteen year old boy went along with his dad to watch the old man shoot. Heck, this didn't look tough. You guessed it again; the boy won the Grand and took the money back home to Wichita Falls, Texas. Examples like these would fill a book.

What kind of gun do you have to have to win the Grand? The answer is—what gun have you? Or, better, what gun can you shoot? Because at Vandalia, it ain't the gun, it's the gunner. The shotgun in the hands of a Grand winner has been an automatic, a pump, a side-by side double, an over-under, even a lowly single-barrel. Some of these scatterguns have been rusty, scratched from a generation of wear and badly in need of a blue job. Others have been proud beauties of the firearms world with nary a mar to their mirror-like finishes. Grand-winning guns have gone down the line of traps at (Continued on page 41)



Much-lengthened Model 12 with built-up adjustable buttplate and extension forearm was worked over to give hopeful owner better chance of winning.



Main difference between trap guns and skeet or upland smoothbores is in choke constriction, but Grand guns evidence butt lengthening, special stocks and comb. "Etchen" pistol grip is liked by many experienced trap shooters.





# Gun OF THE MONTH



THE OLD • THE NEW • THE UNUSUAL



Union general Grant was given fine target rifle at end of Civil War.



## WORLD'S FINEST TARGET RIFLE

Reverse of rifle shows cheek plate engraved with trophies. Plate is popular standard gunmaker design.

Whitmore target rifle is put in case disassembled. Takedown wedge is pulled from gold forend plate to release barrel.

By F. TED REXER

WHEN THE CITIZENS of Providence, Rhode Island, had 27-year-old Nathaniel G. Whitmore build a gun for General Grant in 1866, they evidently asked him to spare no expense. The result was this magnificently finished picket ball gun. Loaded through a Clark-type false muzzle, it was the epitome of cap lock rifle design. The hammer completely shrouds the nipple, preventing bits of cap from spattering the shooter. The single set trigger gives fast lock time. Cased with every tool for loading, the fine target rifle signified the return of Grant, the Man of War, to Ways of Peace.

The Grant rifle, on display for years in the Smithsonian Institution, is well known to arms collectors. Now the recent discovery of an almost identical weapon leads to the surmise that Whitmore may have built a series of these guns.





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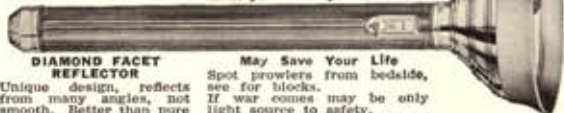
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## SMALLBORE RIFLE CHAMP

(Continued from page 21)

my spotting scope in time to see the bullet strike the sand backstop several feet to the side of the target. After making a full sight correction, I was in the bull. I think I got a bigger kick out of using my head and saving a few points than in winning any match in which I've ever competed. I didn't win this particular match—I was fourth; but I competed as well and as hard as I knew how and this is a factor which, to me at any rate, is more important even than winning.

Earlier on, I said that I preferred chewing the fat to actually getting on with the serious business of shooting. This is true. In every club, you find a hard core of gun nuts who keep turning up with new rifles, handguns, scopes, handloads, sights, etc. To me this represents a big part of the fun in shooting: seeing the new stuff, trying it out, talking about it, being sold on it—or unsold, as the case may be. In my book, that's every bit as much fun as outshooting the toughest competition—and it's a heck of a lot easier on the nerves!

While on the subject of equipment, I can't help feeling that the average American shooter—and that goes for a number of Canadians as well—when they first start shooting, hop around from gadget to gadget, rifle to rifle, pistol to pistol, ammo to ammo, trying to look for the hidden trick that will make them into top shooters. My advice to any shooter who is just starting out is to pick a good, accurate rifle or handgun, with no fancy gadgets; a good spotting scope, and then practice, practice, and keep on practicing. When he feels he is an expert shot, then he can try out the various "X ring finders", such as electric bedders, special triggers, and so on. Most Canadian shooters find these fancy gadgets too expensive, thanks to a fairly heavy duty and Federal tax, and as a result, most Canadians stick to fairly basic rifles.

I think I prefer big bore target shooting over every other type and, in big bore, my favorite is the Canadian Service Rifle matches. I also like outdoor position shooting, especially the International courses of fire, such as Olympic shooting. To me this represents the greatest challenge of all.

I HAVE just started on a handgun kick. I use a Ruger Mk 1 for .22 work and like it very much. The design seems to me to be nearly ideal for extracting the best possible accuracy out of a pistol. I shoot low Master's scores with the .22. For center fire, I shoot an old .38 Officers' Model Colt, using handloads a fellow club member 'whomps up' for members of the Ford Motors Pistol League. As there is no class below Marksman, I don't know what to call my score with the .38!

The rest of my equipment is fairly standard. I use a Bausch and Lomb 20X spot-

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ting scope for all my shooting, and a 20X Unertl rifle scope for the 'any sight' events. I don't use shooting glasses, but I think I should. This goes for ear plugs as well. Any pistol shooter or big bore man should use them. I use a 10X shooting coat and glove and, for a rifle sling, I use the ordinary G.I. leather 1 1/4" sling.

As far as sights go, any front sight in which the apertures can be changed is O. K. with me. I use as large a front aperture as I can, usually running to about three times the diameter of the bull. For rear sights, however, I doubt if there is anything to beat the British-made Parker-Hale. They are as rugged as all-get-out and have no small parts to wear out. I also find them very accurate in adjustment. A vernier scale on the rear sight is an absolute necessity for accurate work both for Big Bore and .22. I use Parker-Hale's on my small bores, on all my .303 No. 4 Service rifles, and on my sporters.

I DON'T know how things are over in the U. S., but in Canada, the biggest hindrance to the shooting game is the lack of suitable ranges. If ever we get the range bugaboo sorted out and rifle shooting gets the support and encouragement it rightly deserves, I believe that the greatest area for recruiting new shooters lies in the sporting rifle programme, such as the one already in existence here in Canada. While on that subject, I've read several articles appearing in U. S. sporting magazines which describe the setting up of such programmes, though most of these include all kinds of trick targets, such as game figures. I believe that when a sporting rifle programme is as firmly established as the one here in Canada, the U. S. clubs are missing out on a good bet by not adopting it in its entirety.

Taking a long, hard look into the future, I can't help but feel that Canada's hope in Olympic shooting is pretty slim, at least in the smallbore events. We just don't seem to be able to bring along new shooters. Most clubs seem to be made up of old timers who are more interested in winning the annual club silverware than in encouraging young shooters. Very few Canadian shooters will attend rifle matches outside of club meets. As a result, those who do show up at the big events have to carry the load and try as best they can to keep the game going.

This all ties in pretty closely with the outdoor prone end of Canadian rifle shooting. Here, in Canada, indoor gallery shooting is really pitiful. I can name only three or four clubs who have members who will climb off their bellies and shoot the other positions. If any club member has the temerity to suggest to his club president who, as likely as not, has been in office for twenty-two years; or the secretary, who has held his appointment for a like period of time, that for variety they shoot a few targets kneeling or standing, the chances are dollars to doughnuts that he would be escorted to the door and told to mind his own business. I can just about hear the indignant official wheezing: "After all, we've been shooting this way for the last thirty years, you know."

This last statement usually explains the failure of many Canadian clubs. Old fashioned ideas just don't promote young shooters. With new blood in the club offices, with new ideas, I'm confident that the shooting game would really become alive, in Canada and everywhere.

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## LITTLE WOMAN—BIG GUN

(Continued from page 29)

deeply enough seated to cause her to say "No" to that struggling young pharmacist and pistol enthusiast Ted Backstrom, when he came a-courtin'. She agreed to share his name and tolerate his pistols, and the die was cast.

TIME went on, and Gertie steadfastly refused to join in her husband's hobby, pistol shooting. Instead, she concentrated on raising their son, Alan, not to be a shooter. As Alan grew older, old enough to pursue his own hobbies, Gertrude found herself more and more forced into the company of her husband and his "eccentric" hobby of hand-gunning. During this period, Ted had become quite well-known throughout the West as a shooter. He attended matches and acquired medals and trophies and, while not shooting, he had obtained his own pharmacy.

Gertrude still would not shoot but, having nothing better to do, she went along when Ted went out to practice. Now, shooting in a gravel pit all by yourself is no particular fun, and Gertrude was available, so finally, after much cajoling, she consented to fire the .22. A few lessons in sight picture and squeeze and they began at marks for a penny a shot. Cans, rocks, bottle caps, twigs, bits of paper, and anything else that was available became a target and Gertrude improved.

When she had won \$25.00 she decided to take up shooting seriously. Match followed match. She met a shooting gunsmith, Eugene O'Dell, who became interested and helped her with pointers and balancing the guns. Steve Herrett, of Twin Falls, Idaho, designed stocks to help her hold the recoil. In one year she was a Master, and had outclassed all the women shooters of the Northwest.

In another year she was outshooting all but a few of the men. Earl Bradshaw, champion of almost everything there was to be champion of at that time in the Northwest, came to be one of her instructors and was soon the "former" champion as Gertie took over. One of the finest tributes that can be paid to this gal is the fact that the men she surpasses all rally onto her team of instructors to help her prepare to beat the next one.

Everyone wants to know about the superstitions of a Champion. In this department Gertie holds her own. She has as fine a batch of superstitions as anyone. One is, "Stick to the gun you learned on." Unless, of course, you find one you think may be better for you. She has owned and fired and won with S&W, Colt, and now Ruger guns in the .22 caliber, and she's done about the same thing with the .38 and .45. She has a .38 Super conversion to .38 special, and a Giles Heavy-Slide

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45. But the "stick to one gun" idea isn't a bad superstition, if you're short of money.

The best of Gertrude's "superstitions" is—"Never drive over 55 mph when going to or coming from a match." She got this superstition from a study of statistics of all those who didn't get to be champions because they drove faster!

Not only is Gertrude the finest woman pistol shooter in modern competition, but she is bound by a mid-Victorian conscience and code of ethics that would do any medical man proud, together with a modest reticence that is appealing. Quotable remarks from her are very, very few and far between, since she feels that, in her position, if she sounds off publicly, someone might misconstrue her opinions for conceit and condemn her for whatever she says. Particularly is this true of matches, personalities and match conditions. On the subject of match pressure, she said that she was "just as scared as anyone else, and in many cases, probably more so. When you have 'the buck' you just do the best you can, but keep on firing, anyway."

Gertrude is well known in the shooting fraternity as being a "sight adjuster," she has no compunction whatever about pulling out a screwdriver and adjusting her sights during a match. She invariably adjusts in outdoor matches between the slow fire and the timed and rapid courses. She does all the cleaning and general maintenance on her own guns, being quite proficient in tearing them down and getting them back into firing condition. She also helps her husband, Ted, at the Star reloading machine which puts together the only ammunition she fires, handloads, in the .38 and .45 calibers. And with these handloads she continues to pour in a consistent series of wins in the black, using always a six o'clock hold.

"The shooter never competes against another person," she once told me. "You are always competing against yourself and the best score you have previously fired."

SHE attributes her rapid rise in shooting to "excellent coaching from the very first," including gunsmith O'Dell who was interested in her shooting and helped her keep up her guns, and also to the opportunity to attend tournaments. In the west coast area where she lives, and also hundreds of miles from her home, are many red-hot pistol matches. They range from regular club shoots to national competitions, and Gertrude tries to attend them all. The opportunity to attend tournaments is of first importance for, logically, she says "only tournament shooting will make a tournament shooter."

Curiously, she is also enthusiastic about the accuracy and shooting qualities of defense handguns, the short-barreled "belly

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guns." With a short-barreled Colt Detective Special, bearing an honorary deputy sheriff's badge on the grip, she snuffs out candles and hits small bustable targets to demonstrate the accuracy of the short guns. Over 75 percent of the shooters she meets do not believe that a 2" barrel gun is capable of such accuracy.

This, then, is the "Inestimable Gertie," holder of 17 world records for women, co-holder of the Open .22 Slow Fire Gallery record. She is a shooter who has broken her own records 17 times, a housewife who has surpassed her husband at his own hobby, a mother who has gained national recognition in a very difficult sport, in an unbelievably short space of time. Son Alan is the hope of the male shooters in this part of the country. In 1955 he looked up from his earlier hobbies and discovered pistols. In 1956 he was a Master and shows signs of growing to stop his unbelievable mother. Waiting for her son to get married, she is keeping a scrapbook for her grandchildren entitled "Grandma Was a Heller."

She sure was—still is, in fact. Of course,

your agreement with this statement will depend on your definition of the word "heller," but to pistol shooters all over the country, there just ain't no doubt about it. Gertie is a heller with the short gun—five feet three inches of pure, unadulterated orneryness on a range.

You've heard of the Mayleigh team? The top twelve .22 caliber pistol shooters at Camp Perry are formed into this team and shoot against England and Canada. Well, "Gyratin' Gertie," the shakin' Swede from Hoquiam, managed to quiver herself into that exclusive company two years in a row. By doing this she has built a reign of terror among the male handgunners of the Northwest, and it's spreading to other shooters at Camp Perry. Watch them at any match in range of that new "Pitty-Tink" station wagon from Hoquiam, Washington. Gertie can wrestle out a pistol case that looks heavier than she is, get it to the firing line under her own power; and when she does, the boys tighten up their belts and begin squinting their eyeballs. Things are gonna get tough—real tough.

**70% DISCOUNT**  
**TARGET FRONT SIGHTS**

Amaze your friends, astound your targets—regardless of paper, cans, or game your "bits" must improve with this sight—for Hi-powers and small bores, often used on target pistols—complete with extra apertures quickly interchangeable. From discontinued Target rifle of largest U.S. rifle manufacturer—at a 70% discount! Price \$1.49 ea.—(Dealers \$12.00 per doz.)

**INSTANT GUN BLUE**

**NEW HIGH-SPEED FORMULA** gives even better results . . . takes seconds to apply . . . beautifies, protects. Used cold, nothing complicated. Deep blue permanent finish. Actually penetrates the steel. Used by gun factories and gunsmiths everywhere. Guaranteed to be the best cold blue you ever used—or your money back.

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**INDUSTRIAL GUNSMITH SIZE**  
1 pint ————— \$7.50 ppd.

**RIFLE CASE AND BRACKET.**  
**A REAL BUY AT . . . \$3.50.**

We bought these, sight unseen, thinking they were brackets alone which we could sell for \$3.50—Lucky us (and you) they came to complete with issue universal gun cases, & we are passing this lucky buy on to you. Case detachable of heavy duty canvas with rust proofed 45" zipper. Ideal for gun carrying in field, wide enough for scope mounted guns, moisture & mildew proofed! Gun bracket of steel, easily mounted to wall, car, trunk, etc. Holds gun firmly preventing scratching & wear. All surfaces gun touches protected by cloth. BOTH items—only \$3.50 ppd.

**ONE OF THE FINEST SIGHT BUYERS**  
WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OFFER FOR YEARS. For Jan. Mauser, Krag, Springfield, Enfield, Mannlicher Carrano, & many others—receiver sight fully adjustable for windage & elevation, elevation lock screw assures of same setting regardless of rough handling, side adjustment screw knurled. Design locks one mounting screw so can never rattle loose & be lost. Two sight apertures, (target & hunting) Very special price—\$2.95 ea.

**WANTED FOR CASH**  
**GUN PARTS**

ALL KINDS, TYPES, ALSO JUNK RIFLES, pistols & shotguns for breaking into parts—High prices paid—ship off for offer—check airmailed—goods returned immediately prepaid if offer not o.k.

**WE HAVE OVER 15,000,000 GUN PARTS**  
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**ORDNANCE TOOLS for U.S. Carabines**

**GAS PISTON NUT WRENCH**, essential for removing gas piston for cleaning ————— \$1.00

**BOLT ASSEMBLY & DIS-ASSEMBLY TOOL** — saves time, lost & broken parts, skinned knuckles — \$1.00 \* If both above tools purchased, trigger spring tool included Free.

**ISSUE STEEL CLEANING ROD**, new carrying case, bore reflector, container of gun grease, packet of 10 brass .30 cal. brushes. . . .

**ALL FOR \$1.95 ppd.**

**STANDARD BRASS SHOTGUN SIGHTS**, large head, regular 3x40 thread, in constant demand, usually \$1.00 installed or 50¢ ea. Special packet of 10 for only \$1.00, OH super special 10 packets (100 sights) for only \$7.50 (10¢ for above 4x40, 50¢ extra)

**STOCK BLANKS**  
of finest American Walnut, returned, shaped and through 1st sanding, note measurements which permit inletting for both high power and small bore rifles; bolt action shotguns or cut off and use on pump shotguns. 28 1/2" long, 1 1/4" through, 2 1/4" depth. Special price—\$2.35 plus 35¢ del.

**U.S. CARBINE STOCKS**  
brand new, complete with new recoil plate, butt plate, screws, front band spring, \$4.95. Name, less metal parts, \$3.95. (Very light color stock, finish sanded but not stained, same prices.) Carbine Handguards, new, \$2.50 ppd. Write wants for other carbine parts.

**U.S. ENFIELD & P-14 STOCKS**  
Brand new, complete with all metal, both handguards, swivels etc. Made of good walnut. Complete, \$4.95. Stock alone, stripped, \$2.95, either handguard, \$1.25 ea.

**THOMPSON M1A1 STOCKS**  
New with metal, slight "widering" from damp storage. Used by experimenters, model makers, as lamp bases, bookends, shoulder stocks for cameras. Very special ————— \$2.95 ea.

**JOHNSON L.M.G. STOCKS**  
Brand new, w/metal \$3.25, less metal. \$2.95 (Write wants on other Johnson parts)

**ADJUSTABLE CHOKE RECOIL REDUCER**  
Shooters! Gunsmiths! Dealer! A terrific value! Choke attachment worth \$17.95, complete and ready to silver-solder or braze in your own shop. 5 in. long, in white, complete—12, 16 or 20 ga. ————— \$4.95 PPD.

**SUPER BUY 95c**

Ramp sights as shown, ridges on ramp make it to flare—in white, .525 I.D. Note design that permits use on any rifle by turning end of barrel to 525 assuring smooth appearance. Also makes fine pistol sight.

Each 95c—Extra Special \$9.00 per doz. \$65.00 per 100



## SHOTGUNS AT THE GRAND

(Continued from page 33)

Vandalia in just the same condition as they left the great gun factories in Ithaca, Ilion, New Haven, or Liege; just store-bought guns with no special features.

But other winning guns have been sawed off, built on, scraped, bent, gouged, taped, and generally disfigured. Some guns have won the Grand by accident, like the one that arrived at Vandalia riding in the cab of its owner's truck. This gun won the shoot but not the big money—the trucker didn't trust it (or himself) enough to cough up all the entry fee. For a minimum entry, this non-de luxe pump gun brought the truck driver a \$1500 purse. The second place gun, whose owner anted up the maximum entrance fee, brought home the bacon to the tune of five thousand smackers.

Life is not just a bowl of cherries for a prize-winning shotgun. One fine Ithaca, bearing a \$500 price tag which placed it among the elite in trap gun society, went down the line at Vandalia, and smashed 95 consecutive clay targets for its owner. When the owner, not the gun, experienced a sinking spell and missed the last five targets, this aristocratic firearm suffered the ignominy of having its stock broken over an iron railing.

It's all in a day's work for a trap gun. Owners praise them, pet them, berate, cuss, and bemean them. But the guns will go right on smashing clay discs if the homo sapiens who aim them will just pull the triggers at the right instant.

Guns don't develop complexes, or suffer from feelings of insecurity, when their owners reject them. Many a trustworthy trap gun has ridden to a trap shoot ready to give its all for an owner, but has ridden away from the field the property of another master, ready to adjust uncomplainingly to the peculiarities of its new owner.

FOR YOU who are still wondering what kind of gun will latch on to all this moolah, let's say it sort of depends. It depends on whether you are short or tall, thin or chubby, right eyed or left eyed (yes, either your left eye or right eye can be the master eye, so in trapshooting parlance you are left eyed or right eyed) or on whether your neck is long, or you are built like a wrestler with your chin emerging from your chest whiskers.

If you are Mr. Average Man, run, don't walk, to the nearest gun shop, and buy the best trap gun the man has in stock. Then go out and shoot the gun just like she came out of the box. If you can shoot even nearly as well as the gun, you can win at Vandalia—or anywhere else.

If you have lost your right eye, like O. E. Cole, of Aurora, Illinois, and have to aim with your left eye but shoot from your right shoulder, you can build an offset into your gunstock. Cole hasn't won a Grand, but he's in there pitching, with a gun tailored to his needs.

Some shooters, like W. S. Golden, the sage of Columbus, Georgia, favor the cut-and-try process of gun alteration, putting a little here, taking a little there, until after twenty-five years or so they come up with something which may look a little unlovely to you but which fits perfectly and with which the owner can break a lot of targets.

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12 GA.  
6 1/4 lbs.

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### CALIBER .30 (7.35 mm) MANNLICHER MOUNTAIN CARBINES

Only \$12.95



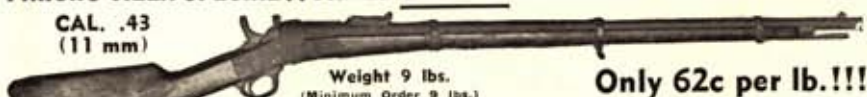
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CAL. .43 (11 mm)

Weight 9 lbs. (Minimum Order 9 lbs.)

Only 62c per lb.!!!

UNBELIEVABLE??? YES, except from Ye Old Hunter it WOULD be unbelievable, for who else would DARE to make such an offer: COMPLETE ORIGINAL REMINGTON rolling block rifles for only 62c per lb.!! The most unbelievable gun giveaway in the U.S.A.!! FANTASTIC? NO, not from Ye Old Hunter, America's greatest gun bargain house. You can't buy prime hamburgers at this price, so load up on this precedent shattering bargain NOW! Condition of all rifles is "gun crank special" which means that the outline of the rifle is clearly visible through the rust and you can see light through the bore. You will need a little of that old elbow grease to restore these to "NIRA FINE" condition, but at this price, who cares? These rifles Ye Old Hunter has no ammo or accessories for these indescribable old rifles, but we understand Winfield Arms Corp., Los Angeles 15, Calif., is loaded with them. Only rusty Remingtons in this caliber available anywhere; these cranked with Conquest in the hands of fanatical Latin herds who had smuggled them out of the U.S. to gain power and glory for their lost cause. Finest rifle bargain in America for the historical crank, decorative crank, crank, shooting crank, hunting crank, salvaging crank. Action alone worth twice our giveaway prices! Rust and all! Total price only \$5.58. Shipped pre-oiled.

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Ye Old Hunter, the machine gun king of the world, now brings you the greatest legal automatic weapon bargain ever offered—Yes, available now are beautiful legal British Sten machine guns, caliber 9mm Luger, at only \$12.95 each. The most famous 9mm SMG ever built, the Sten has been used in more battles than any other machine gun. From DUNKIRK to SUZ, still standard in over 20 armies. Complete with magazine. A superb bargain available as usual only through Ye Old Hunter. (All guns function perfectly mechanically but cannot fire since they have been legally plugged under U.S. Government supervision without interfering in any way with their external appearance.)

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Ye Old Hunter nearly impaled himself on the most terrific bayonet discovery EVER discovered on a recent secret trip to an unknown area. Truly magnificent specimens, a complete set of matchlocks, of the best in British cutlery for the P-14, or 1917, MK III and No. 4 Enfield rifles. Buy Britain's best before beaten by better! Your choice—any model—at \$1.95 each FOB Ye Old Hunter fabulous gun center in Alexandria, Virginia. Specify exact model when ordering. Biggest Best Bayonet Buy!

### AMERICA'S BEST 30-06 BARREL BUY!

U.S. GOVT. CAL. 30-06 BARRELS. You may have seen these advertised at tremendous prices elsewhere, but now buy them at prices that pay you to rebarrel—NOW! 24" BRAND NEW, 4-DROOVE, U.S. Govt. manufactured to highest Govt. specs. Will fit receivers with under 1-1/16" thread. Add 75c packing and handling charges per barrel. Why pay others fortunes for these amazing barrel buys!

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CAL. 30-06, per 100 rounds ..... \$5.50  
Unbelievably beautiful 150-gr. FP GI ball ammo in commercial type 20-round boxes. Factory loads from America's finest manufacturers. Chance of a lifetime at world's cheapest price. Even DCM can't touch this bargain!

CAL. 44-40 WINCHESTER, per 100 rds. .... \$6.00  
Sitting Bull's screams could be heard in Ft. Laramie when he first laid eyes on this fabulous original lot of UMC .44-40, and you'll scream too, when you see what you get for your money in these marvelous old cartridges for those favorite Colts and Winchester. Order Now!

CAL. 7.35MM (.300") MANNLICHER, per 96 rds ..... \$6.00  
Finest quality recent date issue ball ammo in ORIGINAL 6 rd. CLIPS at the lowest price ever offered. Others sell the clips alone for more than we sell the ammo loaded in them. 128 gr. original issue ball rounds. The first of the new "short cartridges" and still among the finest!

CAL. 7MM MAUSER, per 100 rds. .... \$3.00  
Indescribable ammo for the plinker, reloador and sal-

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World famous Czech P-38 never before available in U.S.A. Used during WWII by German SS officers as favorite side arm. Now available at this bargain price. Cal. 9mm Short. (.380), this double action superbly finished automatic is truly a masterpiece of advanced and quality workmanship. Order now while supply lasts! A few near mint at \$23.95. An unbelievable pistol bargain!



vager. FP bullets and rounds combine age with gracious mellowing for an "AS IS" bargain of the century. Some may not fire, but at this price, what can you lose???

CAL. 303 BRITISH, per 100 rds. .... \$4.00  
U. S. Manufactured Commercial Export Ammo, ball type, full patch bullets. Beautifully manufactured brass cases; American primers. Cheapest .303 Ammo Bargain in whole U.S.A. As he hits but most skill fires. Whatayawya?!

CAL. 8MM MAUSER, per 100 rds. .... \$5.00  
Beautifully original German issue—in original 15-rd. boxes from Germany's greatest factories—RWS, DWM, others. True 0.323 diameter bullets alone worth more than our give-away price for these entire rds. The Pride of the Nazi Wehrmacht! Per original 1500 rd. case ..... \$75.00

CAL. .42 COLT BERDAN per orig. pk. only ..... \$1.00  
AMAZING BUT TRUE! AMMO BUGS & SHOOTERS' DREAM! Original .42 COLT BERDAN cartridges in untouched 6 rd. packets from Tula Arsenal! Paper patched 370 gr. bullets in like new condition at this unbelievable bargain. Others list single rounds at up to \$3.75! Minimum order: 4 packets please, to save expense.



Strange reversal of custom permits trapshooting amateurs to compete for money whereas professionals are allowed to shoot only for medals.

Ladies, bless their ingenious hearts, have always been noted for their dexterity with bits of string, hair pins, doe-skin, and adhesive tape. Pauline Oliver, one of the nation's finest feminine shooters, from Lubbock, Texas, went after the pot of gold at the end of a Grand day, with a Remington over-and-under generously padded here and there, in the right spots, with doeskin and tape. Did the job prove successful? It's in the record, brother, it's in the record.

Rabbit guns are useful for purposes other than blasting bunnies. A few years ago when B. F. Cheek, a rabbit hunter from Clinton, Indiana, tagged along to the Grand American with his trap-shooting son, he was asked what gun he planned to pit against the cream of the country's trap guns. Challenged, he allowed that if he could hit Hoozier cottontails with his old automatic, he could hit them clay pigeons. He did. Ninety-eight out of a hundred, good for first place, and the jack-pot.

A COUPLE of years ago, Kelly Armstrong from Jasper, Indiana, scoffed no little at his buddies while they jammed the Ithaca tent at the Grand to have new Raybar sights installed on their pet trap guns. Kelly sa-shayed out to the trap one fine day and missed his first six birds. About that time, his gun gave up the task (probably in mortification) and Kelly borrowed another gun, resplendent with a Raybar sight. This gun mowed down the next 94 targets, earning Kelly a sizeable hunk of cash. The first gun was not to blame for the misses; neither the second gun nor the Raybar sight can be given all the credit for the hits—but you can't blame Kelly for thinking otherwise.

There are so many winning guns, it's impossible to say one gun will win, another

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won't. You can win, with almost any gun, if you can shoot it. If you can't shoot well with standard, as-is guns, then figure out the most effective alteration needed to suit your special needs. It's done every day, and especially every year in the Grand American trapshooting tournament.

It's done with bits of leather, rubber, tacks, aluminum, brass, plastic, wood, tape, and imagination. It's done with hammers, chisels, files, pocket knives, ice-picks, punches, awls, screwdrivers, and ingenuity.

Don't laugh. Take a stroll past the gun racks of the Grand, or any major trapshooting tournament, and you'll see evidence of every item I've listed, plus many more. The lure of ten grand in the hand makes a custom gun designer out of the most amateur shotgun craftsman.

Trap guns perfectly capable of winning stacks of C notes are furnished by the factories, with either a conventional pistol grip, or with straight stocks having no pistol grip. Many trapshooters, in an effort to pick up extra grocery money, go for another style of stock, identified with the great trapshooter and custom gunsmith, Fred Etchen. Etchen's stock features an exaggerated pistol grip, larger and more hand-filling than the factory variety. Could be that the gun which will earn you a year's wages in an hour needs an Etchen stock.

Not every gun barrel which gets into the picture of Grand winners owns the same choke or bore constriction it had when it left the factory. Choke specialists, like Herb Orre, once superintendent of Winchester's factory operations, can remove a little metal from gun barrels in spots calculated to throw a screen of lead pellets through which no clay target might sail unscathed. It's possible all that stands between you and getting your name in the magazines as a winner at Vandalia, is the mere formality of having a little choke judiciously removed from your pet trap gun. By someone who knows what he's doing, it should be added. Herb Orre has a shop located at Clyne Brothers Gun Club, at Troy, Ohio, just north of that Mecca for trapshooters, Vandalia.

Trapshooters are permitted to use either size 7½ or number 8 shot to break the number of clay pigeons required for the purchase price of a new mink coat, or a pair of mink as consolation prize if your reflexes are not up to par.

Some shooters shoot 8's because they like 8's. Some shooters shoot 7½'s because they like 7½'s. Some shooters don't give a hang. People like my friend Kenny Shanks pattern their guns and get 76 percent patterns with 7½'s, but only 64 percent performance from 8's. People like Kenny shoot 7½'s—



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\*Famous outdoor writer, name on request.

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## "10-POINT" Grips

For all modern Colt and S & W Revolvers and Pistols. Will not slip in moist or wet hands. Guaranteed unbreakable. Easily and quickly installed without changing or marring gun. Can be cut or shaped to fit individual hand. Fits all square and most round butt models.



## "SURE-GRIP" Rifle and Pistol Cartridge Packs

For safely and conveniently carrying cartridges of all calibers without danger of loss. Bullets are kept safe from nicks and scratches. Shells won't stick as Cartridge Packs are made of waxed rubber. Fit on any belt up to two inches wide.

Satisfaction guaranteed. See your dealer or gunsmith. Write for literature on these and other famous Merphon guaranteed shooting accessories for rifles, pistols and revolvers.

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that is, they do if they want to make money, through trapshooting. People whose pet guns pattern better with 8's shoot 8's, for the same reasons.

Many trapshooters regard their trap guns much as they do their wives. One type of shooter acquires a beautiful wife and adorns her with silver and gold ornaments, but still gets little in the way of top-flight performance.

One breed of trapshooter latches on to a plain but serviceable and trustworthy wife or gun. Not necessarily in that proportion, it must be said. A man may own a beautiful gun, and have a plain wife (a likely combination, because of the expense factor involved) or still another man may be content with a plain gun, but be favored with a gorgeous bride (also a rather plausible combination, for the same reason).

The gun with which to win an executive's yearly salary in one hour may need to have the comb raised by adding a sliver of wood to the stock, or maybe the comb should be scraped with a piece of glass, so that your cheek snugs home without the stock jabbing your chin-bone every time the trigger is pulled.

Your gun may require one of the curved recoil pads, so that the gun stock will come to your shoulder in exactly the same spot each time you mount the gun for a shot at one of those targets. If you can doctor the gun so that, for you, it will break a sufficient number of those targets—brother, head for Vandalia! The Grand can pull you out of the lower income brackets.

If somewhere along the way you have acquired that horrible malady known to

trapshooters (and others) as "finching," it's possible that all that stands between you and a lovely pile of greenbacks is a release trigger, which fires the shot when the trigger is released, instead of when pulled, as on conventional triggers. Veteran shooters, target-wise from countless Grand Americans, like the late Rock Jenkins who spent more than a million dollars shooting clay birds, and the still-great Homer Clark Sr., would buy that statement regarding release triggers. Some comparative youngsters will buy it too, but not without a struggle. Ithaca No. 4 Trap gun, single barrel, serial number 403373, bearing a name plate with the initials DM Dick Miller, has a release trigger mechanism in its innards, but is still at this point being operated as a pull trigger. This is not to say that the trigger on Ithaca 403373 will not some day be released instead of pulled. That gun will be fired by tickling or punching the trigger, or by fanning the non-existent hammer, if oodles of currency can be won in that manner.

Every year some shotgun wins big money at the Grand American, and custom dictates that it will be a gun belonging to an unknown, unsung, rank outsider not necessarily even belonging to the trapshooting fraternity.

Next year, this gun could be the one now resting in your gun cabinet, whether that gun is a standard factory model, a custom-made honey, or one which has been scraped, gouged, shaved, or doctored to suit your own peculiar style of physical peculiarity. Give it a chance. Take it to the Grand American in Vandalia come August. It could be—just could be—the winner!

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# HANDLOADING BENCH

By KENT BELLAH



TARGET SHOOTERS have made the .45 Colt automatic pistol one of the most popular guns since it first became our service arm in 1911. The loose-jointed Army mule is made for sure operation in military service, but match marksmen have it reworked to hold the accuracy of the cartridge. And make no error about it—that .45 shell is plenty accurate. The new Colt .45 National Match automatic will reveal the inherent accuracy of properly loaded .45 ammo.

Short bullets can be loaded in the runt case to give target accuracy, yet the .45 automatic is conceded to be the most difficult gun to shoot. Match shooters dread recoil like the plague, so the best load is the minimum charge that will accurately thump a light slug to the paper and operate the action. Reloading is not difficult, but the .45 is generally the most poorly reloaded of all cartridges, because it requires a slightly different technique. Let's try loading it right, either

for revolver or automatic, and see what a whale of a difference it makes.

While the revolver is gaining ground, 85 per cent of the guns in championship matches are autos. Some target revolvers have a U-shaped main spring, to give a more limber action than the flat standard springs. This caused misfires and erratic ignition in otherwise good handloads. The gun was not at fault. It's the ammo. Commercial fodder fires perfectly.

If cases are crimped on the bullet in the usual manner for revolvers, the half-moon clips serve as the headspace and cushion the firing pin blow. It isn't bad, its terrible. Hangfires or under-ignition may go undetected except for too many 7's and 8's, and you'll notice misfires. The case mouth must seat on the chamber shoulder just as they do in the automatic, and the shells should be of uniform length. Half-moon clips only help eject the cases. Autos have a strong

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Popular bullets for .45 autos are, l. to r., G.I. jacketed, Lyman 452374, Hansley & Gibbs Nos. 68, 118, 78, and Harvey Prot-X-bore which shows good target accuracy.

firing pin blow and will fire crimped cases, but it's crummy ammo in any gun. If the bullet shoulder contacts the rifling in the auto, that is good, but it should not serve as a headspace.

Target revolvers with U main springs, or those with the flat spring that has been worked down or the strain screw loosened, may misfire with G.I. ammo that has hard primers. Main spring limbering work is for a gunsmith who can make indentation tests, not an amateur. All hard-primer G.I. ammo will fire in auto pistols or service type revolvers.

Cascade Cartridge, Inc., Lewiston, Idaho, makes excellent primers especially for hand-loading. The special C.C.I. No. 300 primer was developed to give perfect ignition with target charges. They work perfectly in light spring target revolvers, that are tuned to the nth degree. Ignition is primarily by a short cone and soft flame, with incendiary particles practically eliminated.

All primers should be seated at least flush with the base, and .002" to .003" low is still better. They become more sensitive as compression is increased, but crushed primers give erratic or under ignition. The primer

arm stops on some presses don't work too well, due to variations in the dimensions of cases and primers. Better to "feel" the primer seat for accuracy loading. Sloppy hand priming is inferior to the more uniform factory work, but careful priming is superior. Perfect primers and priming will help tighten groups. The punch must be a good fit and not mark the primer.

Cases should be the same make and lot for match accuracy. Case length variation can cause inaccuracy due to erratic ignition. The maximum gauge length is .898", but they mike from about .888" to .907". The exact length isn't so important, but a uniform length certainly is, and we can do much to improve the factory product. I trim to .895", which catches most cases in a lot. Shorter ones are discarded. Using a good trimmer will hold variation to within .001".

Forster Brothers also make a dandy inside-outside case deburring tool that quickly chamfers the case mouth. This prevents shaving lead in the important bullet seating operation, which will give flyers. Bullets with nicked bases will not fly true either. Quality dies are important for all reloading,

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and especially so in .45 ACP. A separate mouth belling die can be obtained on special order from most makers.

The finest sizer die is one with a tungsten carbide insert. It will burnish cases beautifully without cleaning or lubricating; it can't scratch and will outwear 20 ordinary dies. They are made by C-H Die Company, and other firms, and the premium quality is worth the extra cost.

The correct "crimp" on the .45 ACP is really a tight friction fit of the bullet. Some people run their loaded cartridges in their sizing die to insure a tight bullet fit. It's a good idea, but unnecessary if your dies and cases are of correct dimensions.

Bullets of a hard alloy in semi-wadcutter designs, weighing 185 to 215 grains, are better for .45 target accuracy than G.I. slugs. Lyman makes moulds for some good looking numbers. The Hensley & Gibbs line is popular with match shooters, who often change from one style to another that starts making top scores. Currently the H & G No. 78 is "it." This is an improved version of their old No. 68 record setter. The 68-S has a tapered body to prevent lead shaving with sloppy seating. I prefer a straight body, seated correctly. The No. 118 was designed with a round nose to function better in some autos, but I've never had any trouble with the No. 78. An alloy of 1-1-18 tin, antimony and lead is about right.

Actual charges are best worked up for your individual gun. All the above numbers, and the No. 130, which has had a good play recently, give good accuracy at 50 yards with 3.5 grains Bullseye. Some shooters go a tenth or two higher, some like 3.2 grains for 25 yards, and some load as light as 2.7 grains.

Squib loads can be too light for accuracy, and some won't function in autos.

Target bullets are good for defense use, and these can all be loaded with as much as 7.7 grains Unique to give around 970 f.p.s. A new gadget for the Forster Trimmer is a hollow point attachment to drill a cavity in the nose of bullets in loaded ammo. This increases the bullet expansion and shock, in this and all calibers.

Harvey Prot-X-bore 190 grain in cast, home swaged, or factory, bullets have proved very accurate with 3.5 grains Bullseye. Bullets, dies and moulds are supplied by Lakeville Arms, Lakeville, Conn., and their free literature gives interesting loading data. These bullets are shot just as cast or swaged, without sizing or lubricant. . . . A zinc washer, made as an integral part of the bullet insures the perfect base necessary for accuracy. Prot-X-bores have given amazing accuracy, velocity and killing power for hunting and defense. The accuracy may cause them to invade the target field. Shooters are reluctant to change from match-winning styles, but the unorthodox Harvey design may well be the record setter of the future.

Alton S. Dinan, Jr., Caanan, Conn., the gunsmith nationally known for fine accuracy jobs on Colt Autos, and a master shooter, said Prot-X-bores were the most accurate cast .45 bullets he ever shot. Al designed a special machine rest for testing auto pistols, and another device to test the barrels. This allows a cross check on the accuracy of the gun, barrel and ammo.

If you have a yen to shoot a .45, a good gun will do what you make it do. All the .45 asks is exercise and a proper diet of ammo that suits the individual gun.

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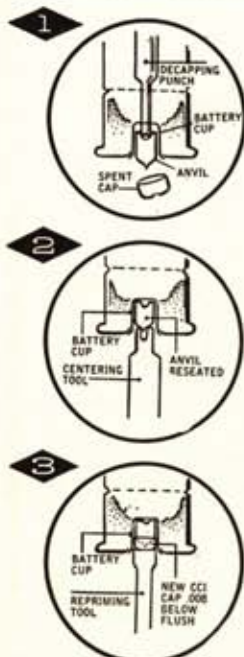
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## SKEET VERSUS PISTOLS

(Continued from Page 17)

path by the time he can fire after it is sprung and that he must shoot a certain distance ahead of it. Therefore, when it appears he does not swing from behind and overtake it or swing along in front of it maintaining proper lead. He points at a predetermined point in space, and lets go.

We see now that the skeet shooter always fires at a particular instant. The pistol shooter holds as steadily as possible and builds up the trigger pressure until the gun fires. Method C is the one with most nearly the same technique in both skeet and pistol shooting. It is also the least successful of all three methods in both types of shooting.

**I**N SKEET, you try to place a moving clay target within a moving pattern of shot up to 30 inches in diameter in a second or two. You hold the gun firmly against the shoulder with both hands, and the sudden flick of a trigger finger will not greatly affect the degree of accuracy required. In pistol shooting you try to hold a wobbly pistol still and keep it lined up with a still target while you induce it to fire without disturbing that alignment. You have an average of from two seconds per shot at rapid fire to a minute per shot at slow fire. Jerky movements of the trigger finger, the hand or the arm as you fire are ruinous. Usually a pistol shooter finds skeet so much faster than the shooting to which he is accustomed that he has difficulty aiming and firing in time. On the other hand, a skeet shooter is likely to find himself too jumpy and too prone to flinch to be successful at deliberate precision shooting.

Still, I question the premise that speed and accuracy cannot be mixed. That concept has existed for years in some countries in connection with the two international types of pistol shooting. The international slow fire (free pistol) match allows three hours for the firing of 60 record shots and up to 18 sighting shots. The international rapid fire course at one stage requires the firing of five shots at five different man-sized targets in four seconds at a range of 25 meters. The difference in time allowed and accuracy required in these two courses roughly equals those same differences as they exist in skeet and American-type pistol shooting.

At least three men have shown that these two types of shooting can be performed on a very high level by the same individual at the same time. Our own M/Sgt. Huelet L. Benner, U. S. Army, America's top pistol shot, has always been a strong contender in either event. He won the international rapid fire event in the 1952 World Shooting Championships at Oslo with a record score of 582. A couple of weeks or so later in the Olympic Games at Helsinki he won the international slow fire match with a nice 553. In the 1936 Olympic Games the slow fire match was won by Torsten Ullman of Sweden. He also placed third in the rapid fire event. Pentti Linnoosuo of Finland won the slow fire match in the 1956 Olympic Games and placed fourth in the rapid fire match.

Benner, with about 17 years of intensive pistol competition, has also shot some skeet; enough to have broken up to 25 straight. But he stated that he felt sure that his extensive pistol shooting hampered his efforts at skeet, and does not recommend mixing them.

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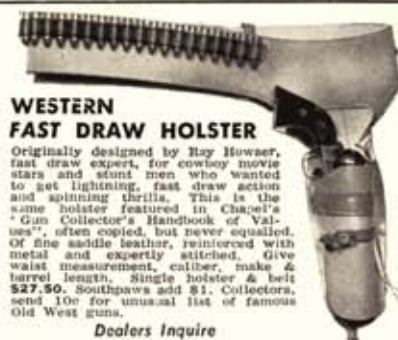
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Fred Missildine, top professional skeet shot of the country with a 1956 average of .9940 in registered competition, says he can hit anything that moves but that he has difficulty holding still for precision shooting on still targets. He shoots pistols a little, but never seriously enters pistol competition. He likes to leave the pistol entirely alone for a while before important skeet tournaments.

John Forman of the U. S. Border Patrol Pistol Team and a member of the American Team in the 1954 World Shooting Championships, the 1955 Pan-American Games, and the 1956 Olympics, has also shot skeet and broken as high as 50 targets straight. He does not think that either necessarily affects the other. It might be noted that his pistol forte is rapid fire.

Lt. Col. William Hizar of the Fourth Army Reserve Pistol Team was first a skeet shooter and had broken as high as 100 targets straight before taking up pistol shooting. He stated that for years after becoming a pistol shooter he could feel the adverse effects of his previous skeet shooting.

My own serious contact with skeet began a few months ago after a net total of about 15 years of pistol competition, with a few smallbore and bigbore rifle matches added. My shotgunning had consisted of occasional brief hunting forays in season. There had been discouraging times such as the day I shot up a box of 2 1/4-inch .410 gauge shells to hit six white-winged doves. On quail, mourning doves, and waterfowl I usually enjoyed moderate success. Of course, I did not shoot at everything that passed, and I never kept close count of the misses—just tried to get my limit.

I happened to have a 12-gauge pump gun with a solid-ribbed skeet barrel. The local skeet and trap club had a few very good skeet shots including Bill Fields and D. W. Conway who were very willing to help a beginner, and I was ready and anxious to learn. I learned, all right; learned very quickly that an ex-national pistol champion is not necessarily a first-class skeet shooter! As the elusive targets streaked across the sky I swung wildly and seldom had any accurate recollection of the pointing of the gun in relation to the target as I fired. On the doubles stations I felt tied up. To make a long, sad story short, in my first round I broke 13 out of 25 targets. Second round, another 13. I headed for home, wondering. That steaming day when I became national pistol champion seemed long ago indeed.

LATER, I broke another 13, and then went to 14. That was no great improvement, but I was now seeing some of the mistakes. I caught myself flinching, stopping, failing to lead, or firing without seeing both the gun and the target at the instant of firing. The next week, I shot up a box of shells on singles at Stations 2 through 6 where I had been having most of my trouble. The old-timer kept telling me gently and kindly to lead more—that I was shooting behind the targets. I knew what to do, but every reflex developed through 15 years of holding steadily and squeezing was working against me. However, concentration on the shots needing the most lead brought about noticeable improvement. I began to get a little of the feel of crossing shots.

It took me seven more rounds to raise my score to 18 out of 25. I slumped a little for a half dozen rounds, then broke 18 again in

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two consecutive rounds. This was followed by an experimental round of 16-yard trap singles with a borrowed gun where I broke another 18 out of 25. This made a total of 23 rounds of skeet and three rounds of trap singles in my experience. I fired four more rounds of skeet and three more of trap. Then I laid the shotgun aside to get ready for the spring pistol matches at Tampa and Miami.

During training for these matches and during the tournaments, my pistol shooting was not up to what I would have liked it to be, but I could detect no ill effects other than lack of pistol practice from the three months or so of Sunday afternoon shotgunning. If a person has eight hours a week in which he can shoot and he spends four of them on skeet, he only has four left for pistol shooting. Since the two do not assist each other, the pistol shooter is naturally not as well prepared as if he had spent the entire eight hours in pistol practice. It would work the same in the other direction.

FROM THESE simple studies of the two shooting games, the experience of others, and my own brief skeet experience the following conclusions are offered:

1. Both types of shooting may be enjoyed at the same time on a hobby or fun basis.
2. A high degree of proficiency by competition standards in both types of shooting at the same time by one individual is possible but not likely.
3. One may change from one type of shooting to the other with success, but he will notice an adverse effect for some time after the change-over.
4. The longer a person has followed one of the two types of shooting and the greater the success he has attained, the more likely he is to have difficulty in the other type.

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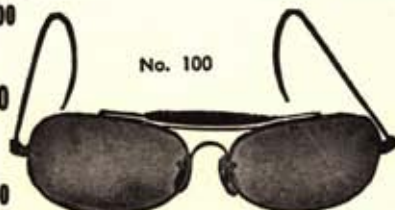
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pistol shooting. A target grade pistol may be had for about \$75.00 and up. A shotgun suitable for serious skeet shooting will cost \$150.00 or more. The more important pistol tournaments are decided by scores fired with three different calibers, and the major skeet tournaments are based on the firing of four different gauges. Therefore, a pistol competitor going all the way should have at least three guns and the skeet shooter doing the same should have four. It is possible in some cases to shoot a gun in two classes and reduce the expense. However, this is not usually done by the champions.

Three target pistols with a carrying case, spotting telescope, and necessary accessories can be had for about \$350. Four skeet grade shotguns with adequate carrying cases will cost from about \$750 up. In either game, as a competitor becomes more solidly en-

trenched, he will spend more money for accessories that supposedly help shooting, special gunsmithing, or more expensive weapons. In either the sky is the limit, if you want to go that far.

Shooting a round of skeet (25 shots) costs from \$3.00 at clubs in good financial condition to \$5.00 or \$6.00 at others with more overhead. The same amount of shooting may be obtained with pistols for from 50¢ to \$3.00 depending upon the caliber. The cost in each case includes ammunition, range fees, and targets.

A man who can afford it may shoot both skeet and pistol as a Sunday afternoon shooter performing for his own recreation and amazement. But America's top skeet and pistol shots, with only a few exceptions, advise against mixing them in serious competition.

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## WHY NOT HAVE A PRO GUN LAW?

(Continued from page 25)

way from a policeman violated state and federal law. It was a .38 Smith & Wesson with numbers ground off that once belonged to the famous kidnapper "Machine Gun" Kelly. The gun was taken from one of Kelly's gang by then-detective Charles Zimmerman, later Buffalo, New York, chief of police. When he retired to California, Zimmerman kept the gun in memory of a high point in his career. His widow sold it to me as a collector's item. According to the Penal Law, section 1899, State of New York, "firearms and other enumerated dangerous weapons (confiscated in criminal proceedings) must be either destroyed or retained by the Police Department. . . . Evidently in New York, as in other places, there are two kinds of law—one for the police, and one for civilians. Federal law was also violated by Zimmerman by retaining a gun from which a number had been erased, and by transporting it across a state line.

While cops claim they can curb crime by taking away all guns, and the pro-gun guys come back with worn-out cliches such as "with what gun did Cain slay Abel," the realities are that not even law enforcement agencies agree on what should be done with confiscated guns.

"The Los Angeles Police Department complies with law by dumping these guns into the deep waters of the Pacific ocean each year on July 1st," says A. C. Hohmann of Los Angeles. But in Boston, the Commissioner of Public Safety "may sell or destroy the same, and in case of a sale . . . shall pay

over the net proceeds to the Commonwealth." In Washington, D. C., "Pistols, machine guns, etc., are either destroyed or transferred to the regular inventories of Federal or District government agencies," reports Inspector Earl Hartmen, property clerk. Yet by stealing from government sources alone, criminals get nearly half the guns used in crime.

Philadelphia police recently made a smart, money saving move, which implicated the city government, common carriers, several gun dealers, and numerous other people, in a violation of the Federal Firearms Act. Procurement commissioner Michael Sura decided that some confiscated Philadelphia police guns were worth money. He "scooped up 2,662 weapons which technically belonged as evidence from past trials and arranged . . . with the Courts to offer them at public sale," wrote David O. Moreton in the May issue of Law & Order, the police monthly magazine. These guns were bid in by a New York gun dealer. Commissioner Sura thriftily saved Philadelphia nearly \$10,000 in trade for new police equipment, yet demonstrated strikingly the logical inconsistency of the police attitude toward firearms. And he helped many people violate the federal law.

The 1938 Federal Firearms Act states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to transport, ship, or knowingly receive in interstate or foreign commerce any firearm from which the manufacturer's serial number has been removed, obliterated, or altered, and the possession of any such firearm shall be pre-

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sumptive evidence that such firearm was transported, shipped, or received, as the case may be, by the possessor in violation of this chapter." In this lot of guns were many with numbers ground off, and everybody from Commissioner Sura, to the common carrier, to the New York dealer, to final owner may have violated federal law during their possession, transfer, shipment, or receipt of such firearms as the New Navy .38 Colt revolver illustrated, from which the serial numbers have been erased. Yet the sales and transfers in themselves were lawful transactions.

What, then, of the overall value of federal anti-firearms legislation? Has Congress any reason to make laws restricting the possession and use for lawful purposes of any kind of firearm? The answer is, no. But they are able to restrict guns by exercising a highly valued privilege of Congress, to raise and collect taxes. Congress has tried to "control" guns by excessive taxation.

Most of us agree that to provide for the common defense, to run our government, we must pay taxes. We should naturally expect to give the government considerably more in tax money than the costs of accounting and collecting this money, so there will be a little left over for housing, defense, public works, welfare and social security, veterans' compensation, and other needs. But Congress' anti-gun laws cost the people more to administer than they bring in.

The Treasury handles Congress' gun-taxing laws because Congress has prohibited itself from making gun-restricting laws by saying in the Constitution's second amendment that "A well regulated militia being necessary for the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." Contrary to what some of the more rabid pro-gun guys claim, this does

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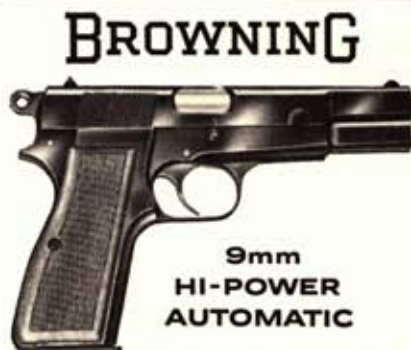
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not mean that everyone can go around carrying a gun. It does not mean that everyone cannot go around carrying a gun, either. The application of its meaning is in the expression "well regulated militia." The National Guard is not a (Constitutional) "well regulated militia;" it is part of our U. S. Army organized reserve forces. The militia ideas of the framers of the Constitution opposed the existence of a standing army. Formal expression of the militia concept was set forth in "Plan for A Militia" published in London in 1745 by a Colonel Martin. The ideas in this little book had much to do with the phrasing of the 2nd amendment.

The army cost too much, said the Colonel; militia would be cheaper. "No mercenary army [Martin's word for "professional" or "standing army"] which this nation can support without becoming bankrupt, is sufficient for its security against foreign invasion; yet a national militia is capable of defending it with great certainty, and little expense." The militia included "the military service of all men capable of bearing arms, from the age of 18 to that of 50 years; except such as may be exempted by law..."

OVER A century later, the militia term held the same meaning. In Wilhelm's Military Dictionary (1881) under "Militia" is the explanation, "The laws of the United States require the enrollment into the militia of all able-bodied males between the ages of 18 and 45 years, with certain exceptions according to law (such as judges, clergymen, doctors)." And at that time, "The organized militia of the United States numbers 125,906 men, the number of men available for military duty unorganized, is 6,598,105." Out of a population in 1881 of 50,000,000, the figure compares well today with our 18,000,000 licensed hunters with a national population of 170,000,000. Our shooters are our "militia;" our hunters, smallbore rifle shooters, target pistol marksmen, shotgunners, gun collectors, all are members of the militia of the United States.

But according to decree of the Courts, "militia" is said to mean only the "National Guard." And the pro-gun guys who smart under the edict that no anti-firearms laws have invaded the rights of citizens as embodied in the second amendment, flinch as the National Guard status is waved in their



Even enthusiastic pro-gun guys agree pistol in book is evidence of bad intent.

faces. They can flinch even more, for the term well-regulated, though not relating to the National Guard, did mean that guns were to be kept in an armory. The militia idea definitely regulated guns. When the militia companies were organized, "the government may send to every captain for each man so enrolled a good firelock (smoothbore flintlock musket) . . . and during every captain's possession of the arms, each is to be allowed an armorer to keep them clean . . . The captain, not the individual militiaman, was to keep the "firelock."

These two aspects of the much-mooted Second Amendment have caused conflict. The word "militia" does refer to everyone between 18 and 45 or 50 years of age. But secondly, the amendment does not say that "everybody ought to carry a gun." The first point, that the "militia" includes everyone, is a score for the pro-gun crowd; the second point favors the anti-gun lawmakers by proposing storage of arms in a government armory.

But there is one more point, the heart of the controversy, for the amendment does not really relate to the concept of the "militia," nor to the "security of a free state," but specifically to the "right of the citizen to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." Stress that word "right," for it applies to all citizens. It is not a limitation on the states, as many examiners of constitutional doctrine generally observe. If it were, it would have been written "the right of the states to raise citizen militia to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." The Bill of Rights refers to the citizens. Clearly, the

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Second Amendment means what it says. Court decisions which affirm that an anti-firearms law is "constitutional" because it doesn't prevent the National Guard from carrying pistols are clearly legalistic nonsense: the National Guard is not "militia."

**T**IMES CHANGE. The National Guard is indispensable to our pattern of national defense. The "militia" today consists of 20,000,000 gun owners. They face a very real problem, the present and future trend in anti-firearms legislation. Basic rights are infringed, and the national security has been placed in danger by anti-gun laws.

Instead of implementing the Second Amendment, making sure that every man of the "militia" knows how to shoot his "firelock"—or Krag, or Springfield, or M-1, or BAR, or full-auto M14 and M15 rifles—government has used excessive taxation to prohibit using modern military rifles for lawful purposes, and has killed the domestic manufacture of machine guns for defense. American soldiers are dead today because we did not have enough machine-firing weapons to give them on Bataan and Corregidor. The National Firearms Act (of 1934, amended 1954,) was to blame. Then attorney general Homer Cummings, after one world war and a dozen minor wars in his lifetime, still believed in 1934 that we would have no more war (it was outlawed by the League of Nations) and there was no need for guns. Then 1940 found us drilling recruits (who had never seen a gun) to fight a machine-gun blitzkrieg, and the army didn't even have guns to give them for drill. The concept of "pre-induction training" in marksmanship was a flame nurtured by a tiny group of shooters in the National Rifle Association, men who knew the truth. Nobody would listen, though they preached the doctrine that rifle shooting is fun, as well as a duty of the citizen.

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In a second instance, the Federal Firearms Act has been so badly written by law cranks (not gun cranks) that petty men with grand visions have seized on it as a stepping stone to power, and the abuse of the public. This mumbo-jumbo of commerce-regulating law hinders the legitimate dealer and manufacturer in guns—would, if proposed regulations went into effect, put gunmakers and dealers out of business. A house of cards, the law regulates the business of firearms making and selling, but carefully avoids the main fact, that of making a criminal's use of a gun unprofitable.

These new regulations include, for example, the requirement that records be kept permanently by the dealer or gunmaker, for the life of the business, or the duration of his successors. Records, in brief, to be kept in perpetuity. Says R. E. Train, assistant to

the secretary of the Treasury, in a June 10, 1957 letter to Senator Homer Capehart, "Section 177.51 requires each licensed manufacturer or dealer to maintain records reflecting the receipt and disposition of all firearms. These records are required to be preserved permanently until the licensee or its successor in interest discontinues business. The present regulations provide for the maintenance of such records, but only for six years. The statute itself (15 U.S.C. § 903 (d) provides that 'dealers shall maintain such permanent records of importation, shipment, or other disposal of firearms and ammunition as the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide.'

"This section of the proposed regulations which is being widely objected to as imposing a new and unreasonable burden would seem to be clearly required by the words of the statute itself," continues Mr. Train in his opinion to Senator Capehart. "Actually," says Train, "the main difference between the old regulations and the new would seem to be that at the present time these records need only be kept for six years rather than permanently."

ALTHOUGH there is no reasonable explanation offered as to the value of records of a gunmaker kept permanently, nor is it stated who will be able to afford the tremendous cost of searching these records, citizen Train is obviously at fault in his semantic logic. "Permanent records" does not nor has it ever been intended to mean "keeping records permanently, in perpetuity." A permanent record is, if we take Webster for the meaning, one "not subject to fluctuation or alteration." In the statute quoted by Train,

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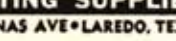
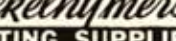
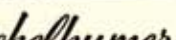
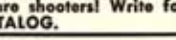
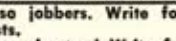
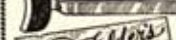
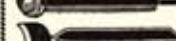
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the word "permanent" modifies "records" as an adjective. The new regulations twist it into an adverb, "permanently," which modifies the verb of "keep." Now, does the Treasury want records kept in permanent-type ledgers, available for inspection as required for normal income-tax purposes, or does it want records kept on any old scrap of paper, or in the mind of the dealer, but retained by him for all time? One or the other, but not both, is the meaning of the statute. And once "permanent records" is allowed to mean "records kept permanently," every industry in the U. S. which keeps records, every businessman, every tax payer, every citizen, who should keep records in permanent form for, say, the statutory six or seven years, will have to keep records as long as they are in business, as long as they are taxpayers, as long as they are alive. Why?

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fine of \$100, exacted no court costs, thereby apparently expressing his belief that the government's case was a waste of time. In the Southern District court in California, a Culver City dealer, harrassed by ATU agents on direct orders from Washington, spent over \$1000 fighting an action brought by the government because he sold antique curio pistols known as "Chicago Protector Palm Pistols." Firing an unobtainable .32 Extra Short Rim-fire cartridge, the gun was argued to be a violation of the National machine gun act by another one of those odd twists of meaning which the Treasury seems to enjoy. The court, however, tossed out the case.

Since the Alcohol & Tobacco Tax Unit also is supposed to catch bootleggers, and is ordered to apprehend criminals engaged in dope peddling, every minute spent on anti-gun foolishness is so much time taken away from their legitimate business. Distilling illegal alcohol is said to be the second largest illegal industry in the U. S. And in the time it takes one ATU man to "get the dope" on an otherwise honest gun-law violator (they don't prove many cases), a narcotics pusher can suborn your boy or your girl into a life-wrecking habit.

Today, right now, there exists crying need to enact constructive legislation in the field of firearms law. Repealing existing laws is a must. Reenacting some provisions of existing laws, together with a look at the "mandatory sentence," should come next. Judges and juries are reluctant to convict when stiff mandatory sentences are in sight. But let the punishment fit the crime . . . say two to five years in addition to the specific charge, if the crime was committed while carrying a gun, would be workable. Don't exempt shotguns and rifles from penalties for criminal use, but don't aim "anti-gun" laws at any gun just because of its fancied "criminal-type" nature. Yesterday's terror weapon is tomorrow's collector's prize. There should not exist any legislation prohibiting any citizen from using any type of firearm, including machine gun, muffler or silencer, or Buck Rogers ray gun, for any lawful purpose. But if anyone steps out of line with a gun, throw the book at him!

Enact legislation to put some "teeth" into the militia concept, too. Work on that "militia" idea, and while we cut defense spending by the billions, let's up it a few millions  
(Continued on page 62)

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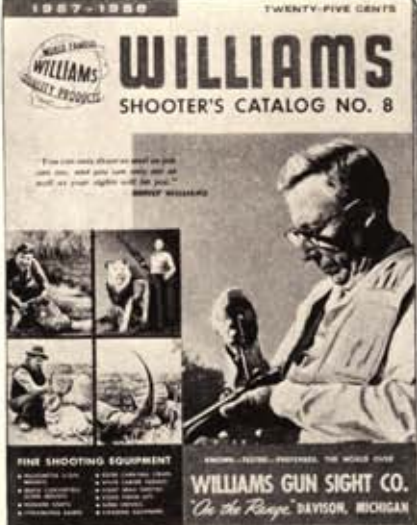
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What you can do is twofold: first, write immediately to the Director, Alcohol & Tobacco Tax Unit, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Washington 25, D. C., and give him the benefit of your views of the proposed new regulations. Copies of these regulations can be found in any public library in the May 3, 1957 Federal Register. If you are against the rules, say so. Your letter must be in duplicate.

Second, write to your Senators and Congressmen, in Washington and in your State capital. Tell them what kind of gun laws you think are needed to prevent crime, and what kind of laws you want to see enacted to make your sport of guns and shooting one that will not be taken from you. And consider also your rights, as a citizen under this Constitution. Tell your Congressman about those rights, too. He knows about them, but it is always refreshing to a legislator to have matters called to his attention anew by the people who voted for him. Send a copy of your letter to Guns Magazine for reference. We'd like to know your ideas on constructive firearms legislation. Urge the formation of a Congressional committee to recommend good gun laws.

There are plenty of advocates of anti-gun legislation. The results have been many: national weakness and disarmament, increased crime, novel forms of corruption and graft, political hysteria controlled for selfish political purposes, and manifold invasions of the rights of citizens. After all, why not have a pro-gun law?



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