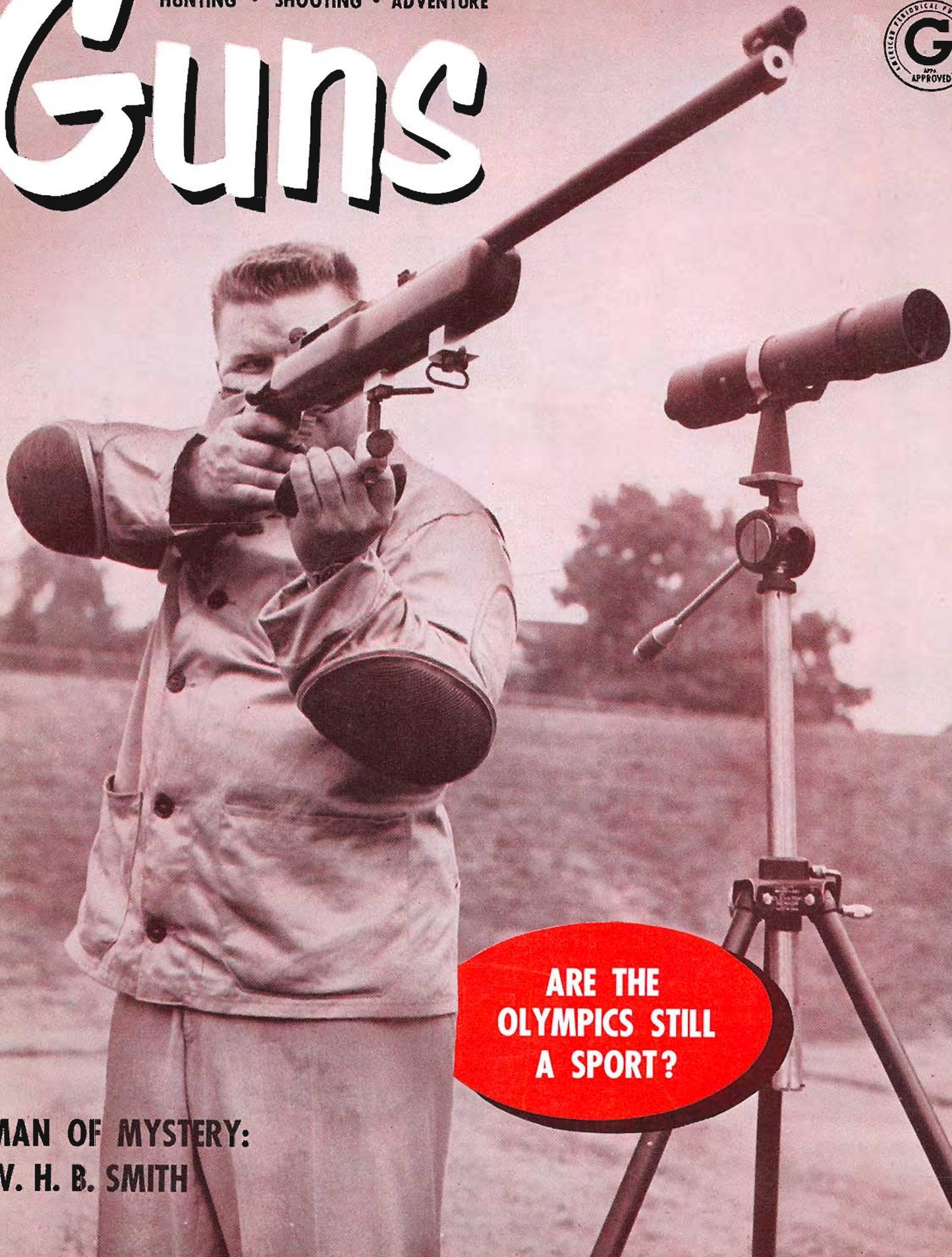


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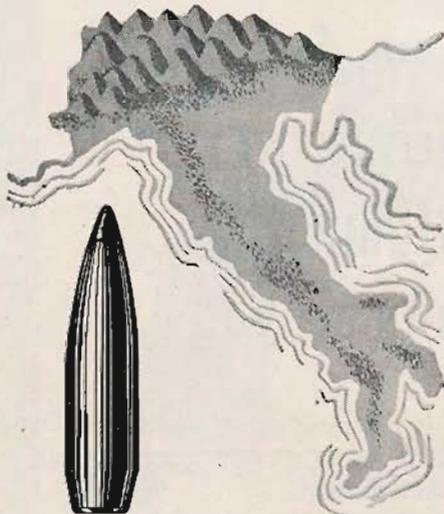
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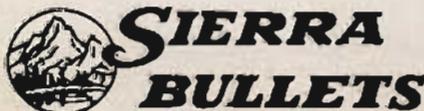
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KNOW YOUR LAWMAKERS

Congressman David S. King
Comm.: Science & Astronautics
2nd (Salt Lake City) Dist., Utah

BEING A NEW Congressman, I have not as yet had any opportunity to learn enough about the issues involved with the Second Amendment to speak with any conviction on the matter one way or the other.

Congressman William H. Meyer
Comm.: Foreign Affairs
At Large, Vermont

THE MAJOR restrictions on the ownership of guns in a state like Vermont should be in determining that the individual concerned can use one safely and responsibly and that the gun and bullets fired from it can be traced to the purchaser. From close association with the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, I know that they are concerned with "gun safety."



Congressman Cecil R. King
Comm.: Ways & Means; Internal Revenue Taxation; Foreign Trade Policy
17th Dist., California



THE POSSESSION and use of firearms for legitimate purposes has as great a significance today as it had at the time of affirmation of this right in our Constitution. Time does not detract from the essence of this fundamental concept. . . Efforts to restrict severely law-abiding citizens' rights to possess and enjoy firearms for recreation and defense . . . have ranged from the hopelessly naive to the ridiculously complex. I do not intend to say that all firearms regulation is wrong or unjustified. What I do say is that such regulation be sound and reasonable so that a balance can be struck between the liberty of the individual, on the one hand, and the necessary exercise of

authority by government, on the other. The adoption of controls which would affect only those who would obey does not conform to this balance.

Congressman Richard E. Lankford
Comm.: Armed Services
5th Dist., Maryland

THE REASONS behind the Second Amendment are as valid today as they were when the Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution. It is part of our tradition to keep as few professional soldiers on active duty as is considered safe and to depend on trained volunteers to fill out the ranks in the event of an emergency. These "minute-men" must be capable of handling firearms if they are to be effective. For this and other reasons, we should take no steps which would infringe the right to keep and bear small arms.

Congressman Fred Marshall
Comm.: Appropriations
Sixth Dist., Minnesota

THE RIGHT to private ownership of firearms is a part of our history and tradition. While changing conditions have made reasonable safety measures necessary in the public interest, the right to use should be protected as one of the essentials of freedom. The very right to ownership includes the corresponding right to proper use.



Congressman James G. O'Hara
7th (Port Huron) Dist., Michigan

HISTORY HAS largely eroded away the purpose of the Second Amendment and its significance. In yesterday's world a free people had to keep and bear arms to protect themselves from the Indians and to avoid the need for the existence of a large standing army. Like the Third Amendment forbidding the quartering of soldiers "in any house," the Second Amendment reflects the peculiar needs of the American people in a particular period of our history.

Readers Note: All *Congressmen* may be addressed as "House Office Building," and all *Senators* as "Senate Office Building," both at "Washington 25, D. C."

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

SEPTEMBER, 1960

Vol. VI, No. 9-69

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THE COVER

Biggest thing on the all-sports horizon just now is the date American athletes have with international relations in Rome—the Olympic Games. New guns, new gunners will compete in what we venture to hope will be a new spirit—not new on the part of the competitors, but new in the values we and the world place on victory. After all, it is still a game...?

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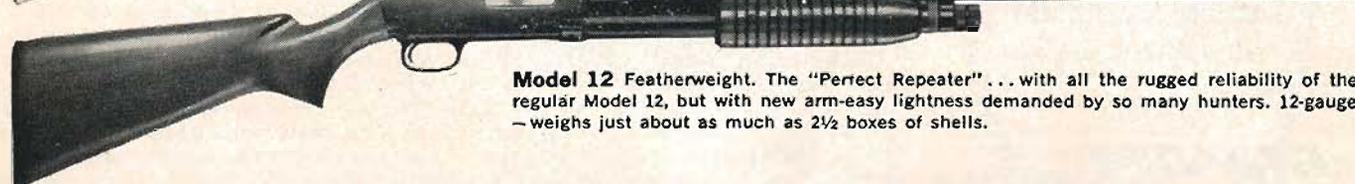
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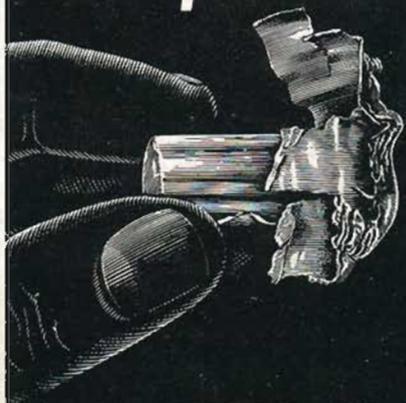


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Elmer Keith says . . .

Remington Model 742

For some time, I have been shooting Remington's latest and finest auto loading rifle, the Model 742. This comes in standard or de luxe grades, at a weight of only 7½ pounds. The foreend and action have been strengthened and improved, double action bars and improved foreend give far better accuracy.

The Standard model is plain with grooved foreend, while the de Luxe model has checkered foreend and grip, as well as engraved game scenes on the dural receiver. Remington's new power-matic gas operated action has largely eliminated recoil and anyone can shoot this rifle in .30-06 caliber in shirt sleeves with no discomfort whatever.



It is a great improvement over any Remington I have previously tested and one of the finest auto loading rifles extant.

Barrel is tapered 22" and butt stock is 13½ inches in length with standard drop of 1¾" x 2¼". Sights are very good open sights, ramp bead front and adjustable barrel sight with both elevation and windage. The receiver is tapped for scope mounting.

This extra-light rifle balances and handles perfectly, has no appreciable recoil, and is the most accurate .30-06 auto loader I have yet tested in sporting form. This one is good for 1½" to 2½" groups. I tried Remington 180 grain and also shot considerable 150 and 153 grain service ammunition in it.

The four-shot box magazine is detachable but loads easily and is a wanted item for many eastern deer hunters who hunt from a car. With this one, they can unload the rifle when they get into a car and reload quickly when they take the field.

One Cartridge dropped down the spout and the action closed then the four-shot magazine gives one five quick shots before reloading. One should carry extra magazines with all rifles using detachable magazines, and this means you can change ammunition quickly.

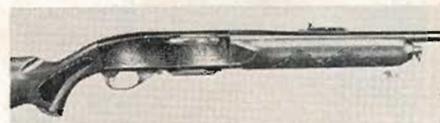
Safety is the usual Remington cross button in rear of trigger guard. Butt plate is aluminum alloy and no pad is needed on this little rifle. Iron sights are nearly the same line as scope sights on this rifle. The standard model comes without sling swivels; the de Luxe has them.

The rifle comes in three calibers: Remington .280, .30-06, and .308. I would select the .30-06 as the best of the three for general big game hunting, and I wish Remington would chamber it for the .358 Winchester or

.35 Whelen. It's high time Remington realized they need a caliber heavier than .30-06 and .300 Magnum for our larger game, and until they do realize it and bring out such a caliber, they are gravely handicapping one of the finest auto loaders in existence. For many years I have recommended nothing smaller than .33 caliber nor lighter in bullet weight than 250 grains for elk, moose, and big bear, and I see no reason to change those specifications. The .358 Winchester is the smallest load presently loaded that meets the minimum requirements. Present calibers in this fine weapon are adequate and fine for all our lighter big game up to 350 to 400 pounds in weight, but are not adequate under usual conditions for the larger species.

At present, the 220 grain .30-06 Remington Core-lokt is the best bullet and load for the new rifle for timber hunting, and the 150 grain will reach out on antelope about as well as the .280 and better than any load in the .308.

Price for the Model 742 standard grade is \$138.50; in the de luxe grade, \$154.45. If you want the lightest, trimmest, and thinnest auto loading rifle possible, with the usual Remington flowing stream-lined appearance and perfect balance, try the Model 742. It should go a long way as is and if brought out in a .35 caliber will go even further. It is one of the fastest handling big game rifles I have tested. No malfunction of any kind has occurred with the weapon tested, with either sporting or military ammunition. All told, I would say it is a great improvement over the older Model 740 and earlier Remington auto loaders.



Gun Engraving

While at the N.R.A. Convention at Washington, we watched Russ Smith of Smith & Wesson do some very fine engraving, and examined his fine display of engraving and gold inlay work. Russ is a genius with a graver. He cut my exact signature on my own .44 Magnum. Smith is one of S & W's regular engravers, and they have several very fine ones to turn out fancy guns when ordered. I particularly liked his fine scroll and fine gold line inlay work, but some of his emblems and initials in base relief gold and silver work were beyond compare. Anyone wanting a fancy Smith & Wesson in any model or caliber can have it dolled up to suit his taste at the S & W factory. Each engraver has a distinctive style of his own, and no two engrave exactly alike. The work

of each is as distinctive as his signature—another thing that makes fine engraved guns stand out as individual weapons.

Fulcrum Rifle Grease

The Fulcrum Oil Co., of Franklin, Penna., now have a new rifle grease for use on rough actions or bolts or wherever a heavy grease with maximum lubricating qualities is needed. It is a heavy grease, heavily impregnated with graphite, but is not gummy or sticky. It makes stiff rifle bolts work like a national match rifle. I use it like the old product called Gunslick, that was and is still very popular for use on bolts and other working parts. I also find it excellent on all casting reels requiring a heavy grease for their gears. This is an excellent gun grease for rifle and other gun actions and one I can heartily recommend.

S & W .22 WRFM Kit Gun

Smith & Wesson will now chamber and barrel their little 4" Kit Gun for the .22 Magnum rim fire, a much better killer for a grouse gun than the old .22 LR hollow-point High Speed. The short 4" barrel will not give standard pistol velocities of 1500 feet, but will still offer a great deal better killing power than did the old LR ammo.

The .22 Magnum ammunition is also much better for the hunter to carry, as no grease is exposed and this ammunition can be carried loose in the pockets without picking up grit and dirt, as does greased .22 LR ammo. We expect the new little Kit Gun and the powerful .22 Magnum Kit Gun to make quite a hit with hunters all over the country who want the lightest possible side arm that will do accurate work on small game. It will also do with brain shots to finish downed big game. More on this later.

.45 Auto Luger Conversion

All shooters interested in a .45 auto conversion of the Luger pistol should contact Ken Wyatt, 718 16th St., Lewiston, Idaho.

Double Action Holsters By Ojala

In addition to his well-known fast draw outfit for Single Actions, Arvo Ojala makes special fast draw outfits for all double action arms. These are drop-loop holsters, made of the best of leather over metal forms. The holsters I am testing are made for the 4" S & W .44 Special or .44 Magnum.

One holster has a fixed position with gun tilted forward for fast draw. The belt loop will take a 2½" belt and has two glove fasteners on the back so it can be unsnapped without removing the belt. I would prefer a straight, fixed belt loop myself, but some folks want a holster they can unsnap from their belt when desired. Holsters are of double leather, smooth side out and beautifully tooled, well formed to fit the gun. The metal lining between the two thickness of leather extends upward into the shank of the drop loop on one holster, and this can be bent by hand to give any desired distance of gun butt from belt. Some fast draw artists like the gun butt well out away from the belt. I like my gun to hang straight and vertical, the butt closer to the belt than most men want it. The gun then rides closer to the body and is less in the way and less conspicuous if worn under a coat. Any desired angle can be achieved with this Ojala
(Continued on page 56)



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Upper barrel of the Savage 24 handles .22 long rifle, long or short cartridges; the 24-M is chambered for .22 Magnum rimfire. Lower barrel shoots 3" and 2½" .410 gauge shells. See your sporting arms dealer.



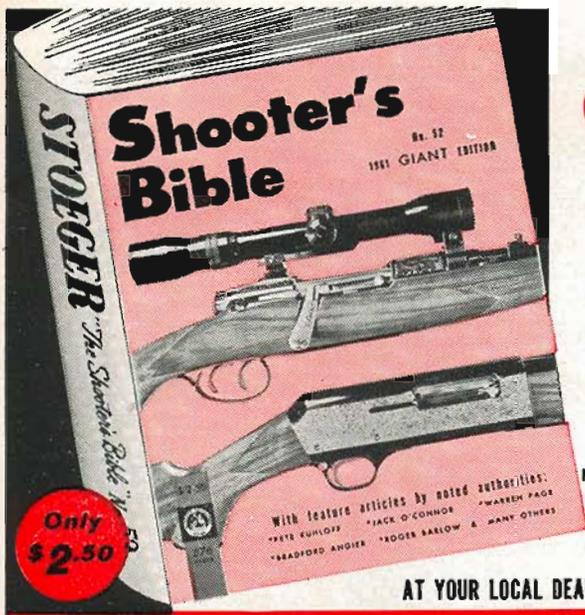
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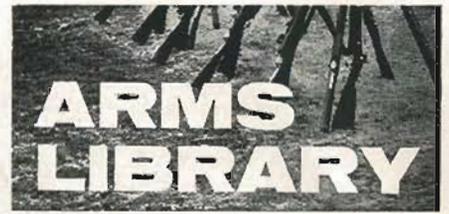
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ARMOURERS MARKS

By D. S. Hawtrey Gyngeil
(Branford, 75 Union, Newton Centre 59, Mass., \$6.75)

This compendium of marks and impressions of makers and smiths represents 30 years of study. Nearly 625 makers and approximately 3,000 marks are shown on 126 large folio pages. Where maker is unknown, Gyngeil so indicates. The sections on British and French marks will please many collectors of 18th and 19th century military arms from those countries. Like footprints in steel, armourer's marks tell who made it and when. Using this book, I have identified makers of several 1850-period British rifles in my collection otherwise enigmatically marked "Tower."—W.B.E.

FIREARMS & EDGED WEAPONS

By Capt. Bottet
(Les Editions Haussmann, 119 Bvd. Haussmann, Paris 8, France. \$6.50)

A reprint of the famous monographs by Bottet on "Armes a Feu" and "Armes Blanches," it is in French, but it is the only source available on French weapons from 1717 to about 1900. The arrangement of the book, with the model dates, calibers, and general details grouped under headings by years, makes the information easily grasped even by a person not well trained in French. There are some line drawings of French firearms and swords, and the several lockplate styles are also pictured, giving model dates and indicating changes. This is a valuable little book.—W.B.E.

A FITTING DEATH FOR BILLY THE KID

By Ramon F. Adams
(University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, April, 1960, \$4.95)

Debunking the Billy the Kid legend is not difficult, since so much of it is compounded of hearsay and sheer fiction. Many writers have pounced gleefully on parts of the legend, but no one to my knowledge has so painstakingly denounced everything ever written on the subject, from the early blood-and-thunders to and including the sober works of the current scholars. Adams debunks them all with complete self-confidence (and goodness knows, most of them are easy targets), but after 300 pages one wonders what, if anything, new has been added? Nobody knows where or when Billy was born; even his name is disputed. Nobody knows how many he killed. Serious doubts have been expressed as to when and where he died. Is it possible that he never happened?—E.B.M.



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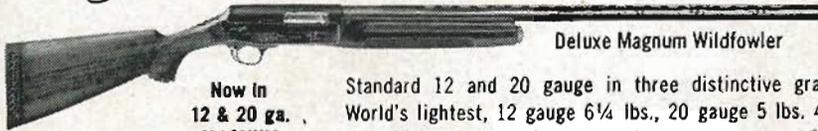
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HANDLOADING BENCH

By KENT BELLAH



Loads For Swedish Mauser

THE 6.5 X 55MM CARTRIDGE is an old but good one. The Service rifles in the hands of many shooters are darn good meat getters for deer-size game, and many people use them for considerably larger game. Norma factory ammo is top quality. The case is an excellent number for reloading. Some Norwegian Krags are in circulation, but the majority of guns are Swedish Mausers, which I think are a bit better.

A few years ago there were few 6.5 x 55mm rifles in this country. Commercial ammo was not readily available at a reasonable price, and handloaders had a tough time finding good bullets. Troubles arose when guns were chambered for hotter U. S. cartridges, or used with .25 caliber bullets. It's a different story today. Excellent factory ammo and bullets are available, along with first class loading dies. Norma cases stamped "Re" are easily reloadable with American type primers.

Some gunsmiths gave the Swedish Mauser a bad name because "it lacks a safety lug." This makes it not suitable for converting to high pressure hot-shots. There isn't anything wrong with the caliber or cartridge if you use it "as is." Why soup it up? It will cleanly bag over 90% of the game in the first 48 states that is killed every year, if you do your part. The cartridge has inherent accuracy that compares favorably with many newer U. S. types. Many shooters find they can place shots with better accuracy than with harder kicking guns. A well placed hit with the right bullet is always more important than the caliber or velocity, so long as both are within reason.

Military "bargain" rifles have had so much unfavorable publicity that many lads are afraid to shoot them. Most of the guns are used, and most are in good condition, when sold as such. A few are not. If you have any doubt about the safe mechanical condition of any rifle, commercial, military, or custom job, a good gunsmith will check it out for

a small fee. It's money well spent. Rifles do develop mechanical ills. I've seen some so-called "custom jobs" clobbered up by unskilled gunsmiths that were actually unsafe. As originally assembled, the Swedish Mauser is safe and well made.

The fast 1:7.5" twist bores handle 139 grain bullets well. Norma commercial loads rev up their boat tail pill to a real decent 2,790 feet per second, at a pressure of 46,310 psi, using a listed 39.7 grains of Norma 101 powder. At 300 yards, the mid-range trajectory is 5.6", velocity is 2320 f.p.s., and energy a pretty fair 1650 foot pounds.

This 139 grain Norma load is not excessive, but it is pretty close to running flat out. If you have any doubt whatever about the safety of your piece, you can tie it to an old automobile tire and pull the trigger with a long string. If extraction is easy, and hulls show none of the usual indications of high pressure, you can load to slightly lower pressure without fear.

For example, Norma says 45.1 grains of our 4350 powder gives identical velocity, with pressure a moderate 43,500 psi. Their figures are for the long barrel rifle. The neat little carbine has a listed barrel length of 17.7", and loses a trace more than 200 f.p.s. One carbine barrel I measured came to exactly 18" on a cleaning rod inserted in the bore.

Norma may not always use their own listed powder charge with all loads for this type bullet. Breaking down one box of cartridges, charges weighed from 42 to 42.4 grains, which is more uniform in weight than many U. S. loads. As with U. S. factory (non-canister grade) powders, the charges in this particular lot number were probably adjusted to insure uniform pressure and velocity. You cannot use any factory charge weights as loading data for any cartridge. Factory loads can be easily adjusted to the desired pressure and velocity for any lot number of powder. Handloaders must load

(Continued on page 61)

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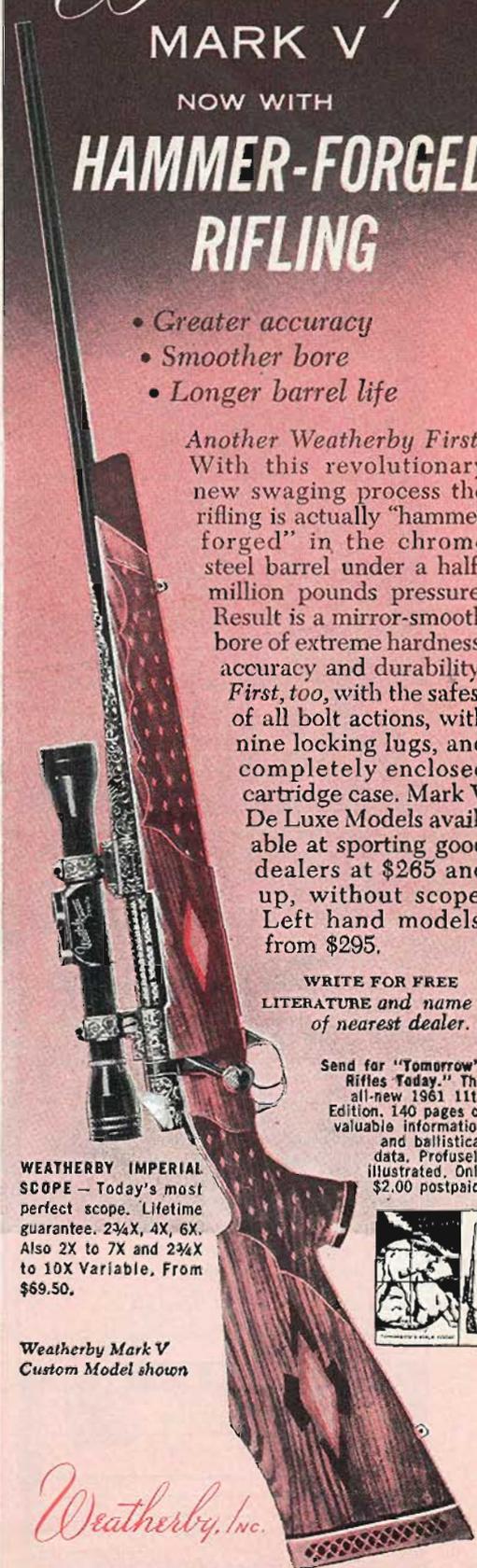
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CROSSFIRE

Index?

Your magazine, of which I am a charter subscriber, is pre-eminent in its field, not only for form but content as well. In fact, I like it so much I have kept every copy, where as with most I cut what I like and file it.

Is there any possibility it would be worth while for GUNS to prepare and sell an index, maybe to cover 5 years at a time? "American Heritage" does this, and subscribers pay \$3 for the job. It would not need to be elaborate, but would be a great help in locating a specific subject or topic or individual write-up.

Congratulations on your continued excellence.

C. Glynn Fraser
Denver, Colorado

Suggestion to Wives

I have been buying your wonderful magazine since it has been published. Last Christmas, my wife gave me a subscription.

I really enjoy Elmer Keith's and Kent Bellah's columns. I find them very informative. I liked your article on Rifleman for Civilian Defense; wish I knew of such a group in this area. I also like your articles on marksmanship and quick draw for police officers. How do you make a quick draw when you have to carry the service revolver under a coat? Maybe Mr. Keith could give some light on this from his past experience.

Keep up the good work and thank you for a very informative magazine. I think it is the best one published.

James T. Smith
Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Wisconsin Gun Law

The following is the current status of big bore rifles in Wisconsin: It is unlawful, per Wisconsin Conservation Dept. Directive 19.01, to possess, shoot, or transport any rifle larger than .22 rimfire without a special permit from the Conservation Dept. Without such a permit upon his person, anyone is subject to arrest here by a state game warden if he has such a gun in his possession in any rural area of the state except the extreme southern counties. It is even held to be illegal to use these weapons on your private land, on recognized target ranges, or to transport them in your car, even though they are in a case. This law is all-inclusive and applies to non-residents as well as residents.

The purpose of the law is said to be the prevention of deer poaching, but since .22's are excepted, I fail to see how this law in any way interferes with poachers. A .22 will kill a deer as well as any other when it

comes to poaching, and it is a lot quieter. Also, the months of January through March are excepted from the law, since this is the time when poaching is supposed to be at a low level. So, of course, is target shooting. This law has been on the books for many years, but has never been so broadly interpreted as at present.

These permits are issued at the discretion of the local game wardens and are revoked upon violation of any Conservation Dept. Directive. Since the Dept. in Wisconsin controls not only fish and game, but forests, waterways, boating, state parks, campgrounds, etc., I leave it to your imagination how many petty infractions there are that might result in the loss of our right to keep and bear arms.

I wish you would publish this résumé of this in your magazine, as I know that many of your readers drive through Wisconsin on the way west for the fall deer hunt, as well as to attend gun collectors meetings and the like, and they should be forewarned of this danger of arrest.

I have talked to Mr. James D. Peterson, state assemblyman from La Crosse, and he is going to try to introduce a bill in the legislature correcting this condition. It is highly unlikely that he will be able to get it introduced in this spring session, however, so it would be well that all Wisconsin shooters and gun collectors write their assemblymen and senators and urge that this matter be corrected.

William T. Hampe
Holmen, Wisconsin

Sources

Your magazine does an excellent job of hammering at firearms legislation. The only suggestion I can make is that in some cases your authors are not specific enough about their sources. In "The Public vs. The Sullivan Law" (July, 1960), for instance, the author says, "... and disputing this, a noted New York area gun dealer . . . etc., etc." In such discussions, it would be much better to name your sources.

We must not compromise our freedoms away. We must not give in to bureaucrats and do-gooders for, if we do, our successors, having always been restricted, will not object to "just a little more" (and a little more, and a little more) restriction.

Steve Merritt
Bamberg, South Carolina

Some sources, for easily imaginable reasons, insist upon remaining anonymous.—Editor

Gun Rights

I am enclosing an editorial from the Springfield "Union" concerning further licensing or infringements against bearing arms as an indi-

vidual. Thought you might be interested in it, as it is in sympathy with the thoughts of your exceptional magazine.

Our state law pertaining to hand guns is very stringent, as you practically have to be a saint to get an unrestricted permit, and it is valid only for one year.

More power to you in your fight against all efforts to repeal the Second Amendment or restrict the right of a law-abiding American citizen to keep arms for his personal protection.

Albert E. Culverwell
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

The editorial begins, "Since the possession of firearms by individuals is an inherent and guaranteed right, rather than a 'privilege,' of the American citizen, any modification is a dangerous procedure." Praise God for newspaper editors who still remember (and support) the Bill of Rights!—Editor.

Witness For The Defense

I am 15 years old and have been around guns all my life. I've been brought up to respect guns and they have grown to be my favorite hobby. What I can't figure out is where they get this stuff about guns causing juvenile delinquency.

I enjoy your magazine and think it's the best of its kind.

Johnny Hanson
East Point, Georgia

"Step In The Right Direction"

The enclosed clip from the column "Afield and Afloat" by Hurley L. Campbell in a local newspaper is worthy of notice. The resolution was approved and adopted by the Police Jury Association in convention two days later.

"A recent news story contained the information that the resolutions committee of the Police Jury Association would present a petition to the annual convention of the local law bodies which would place the organization on record as being against any state, federal, or local law which would require the registration of firearms in any manner.

"This is definitely a step in the right direction and one that should reflect with credit upon the Police Juries of the State. More action like this by such powerful groups would do much to deter the anti-gun cranks and do-gooders who think that stringent gun laws work against criminals."

Cecil D. Roy, Jr.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

From Down Under

As copies of your fine magazine are extremely hard to get here, it is not easy for us to learn about American game shooting and weapons. I am a very keen shooter myself and have many friends who are also. We are keen to have pen pals from anywhere in the USA with whom we could exchange interesting information about guns and hunting.

Maxwell G. Williams
81 Goderick St., Launceston,
Tasmania, Australia

Likes Index

Congratulations on the addition of the index of advertisers. This makes it very easy to find any product in your wonderful magazine. Congratulations also on your addition of the commentary on the cover.

John S. Hollister, Jr.
Trenton, N. J.

Meat-in-the-freezer favorite!



When the going's tough, this Marlin Micro-Groove Model 336 "Texan" is a favorite to bring home the bacon. In a choice of brush-cutting calibers (.30-30 and .35), it puts down deer, black bear and elk for keeps. The straight grip permits fast draw from a saddle scabbard.

Like all Marlin rifles, the "Texan" has Micro-Groove Rifling — 16 shallow grooves instead of 4 or 5 deep ones grip the bullet firmly, reduce gas leakage, give up to 25% better accuracy!

You save \$10 when you buy the Model 336 and Marlin Hunting Scope "combo." In 2½X or 4X, this quality scope has coated lenses, eye shade, positive click adjustments for windage and elevation with weatherproof caps. Receiver is drilled and tapped for easy mounting — all mounts included.

All Marlin Model 336 high-powers have these quality features: 6- or 7-shot tubular magazine; solid-top receiver with automatic side ejection to permit low scope mounting; gold-plated trigger; drilled and tapped for Marlin Hunting Scope or Lyman 66LA peep sights; barrel made of Special Analysis Ordnance Steel; stock of high-grade walnut, with special weather-resistant finish; hard rubber butt plate. Model 336 "Texan" priced at \$82.00, only \$8.00* down; with 4X scope, \$121.95, only \$12.00* down.



MARLIN MODEL 336 CARBINE
(illustrated above) and Model 336-A Rifle
in .30-30, .32 Sp. or .35 calibers. Priced at \$82.00 for Carbine,
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MARLIN MODEL 336 SPORTING CARBINE has ¾-length tubular magazine with 6-shot capacity, available in calibers .30-30, .32 Special, .35 and also in .219 Zipper for varmint-shooting. Priced same as Model 336 Carbine above.

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GUN RACK

Tingle Magnum .44 Percussion Pistol

Named the "Black Powder Magnum," this well-made .40 cap-and-ball single shot produced by Tingle Mfg. & Machine Co., 1125-G Smithland Rd., Shelbyville, Indiana, is one of the best guns we have seen for the competitive muzzle gunner. Some of the revolvers are not too good for accurate competitive shooting. Fouling from successive shots builds up and, after six or twelve balls have sped through the gradually decreasing bore without cleaning, accuracy is reduced. The Tingle pistol, being a single shot, is not subject to that hazard, since each loading wipes the bore free of fouling.



The gun is an interesting combination of Remington octagon barrel and rib with Dragoon Colt square-back guard. The in-line nipple is shrouded by the hammer when it strikes. The gun is well finished, black, with nice walnut grips that really fill the hand. Perhaps best of all are the sights—big, rugged blades unmistakable in any light. Fine shooting can be done with the Tingle Black Powder Magnum, and its appeal is supplementary, rather than competitive with, the new replica revolvers. Price starts at \$56.50 from maker for 8" barrel model; additional length at slight extra cost.

Shooting Colt's New Sheriff's Model .45

Had the distinction of being the first scribe to try out Centennial Arms Corp.'s newest item; prototype of the Sheriff's Model .45 Colt revolver. The Colt Co. is making this revolver exclusively for Centennial Arms Corp.

Prototype was (oddly) a former Buntline Special, with the 3" sample barrel Colt sent out screwed into it. At 35' the little pistol threw about 6" high and left but was not at all uncomfortable to shoot. With standard Remington .45 Colt nitro loads, the shells would often slip out of the chambers after firing with no trouble. A sharp fingernail might help, but unless extra heavy loads are used, there should not be any difficulties in extraction with smooth chambers, in spite of the absence of the ejector rod.

This strange new addition to handguns of today is a recreation of one of the rarest of

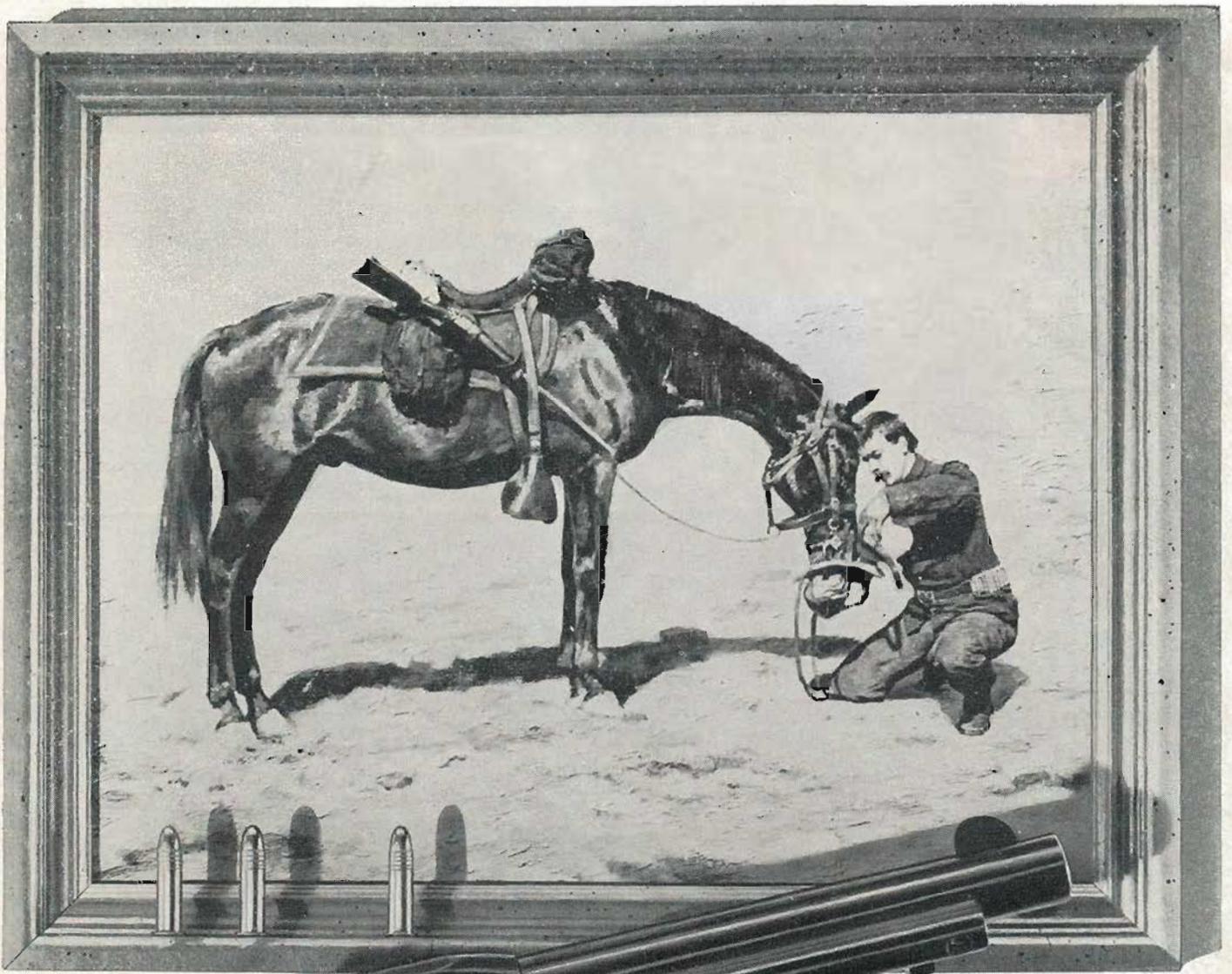
Colt Single Action pistols. The Sheriff's Model or, as it is sometimes called, Store-keeper's Model Frontier first received publicity in Haven & Belden's "A History of the Colt Revolver," published in 1940. Pages 153 and 156 of this still-valuable Colt reference book depict the Frontier and the Bisley pistols with 3" fixed-sight barrels and special frames not made with the jump for the ejector rod housing. Haven states "Appears in catalogs of 1890s and early 1900s" and comments that the frame and grips were too big for a pocket gun and very few were made.

That few were made is true enough as Colt collectors have discovered to their cost and disappointment. To enumerate them, you start out by remarking there is "one in the Metzger collection, and Phil Phillips has one, and..." the list dwindles out remarkably soon. Perhaps a dozen in all, legitimate, are known to exist. We have seen faked ones with the frame welded and reshaped, but even the fakes are rare! John E. Parsons, from his extensive collating of numbers and sales derived from Colt records books, notes in his "The Peacemaker and Its Rivals" (p. 102) that Standard barrel lengths (in the SA Army) were 7½, 5½ and 4¾ inches with ejector, and 3½ and 4 without. The short lengths were offered in the Colt catalogs from 1888 to 1898. A few pistols without ejectors but with barrels as short as 2½ inches and as long as 4½ were also recorded in the shipping books. By special order the ejector was occasionally omitted even on the longer barrels.



There seems to have been no exact length for the SAA with short barrel and no ejector. One pistol in Harry Knode's collection, caliber .45, No. 282223, was shipped to "Harris Brothers" (address unknown) August 6, 1906. It was fitted with a special heavy straight barrel 4¾" long, regular length, but without an ejector rod. A Bisley now preserved by Philip Phillips of Bartlesville is serial No. 186154, .38-40 caliber, rubber grips, 4" barrel. Both these arms have the big cornered blade front sight common to the SA series.

However, other Sheriff's Model .45s are known having a smaller rounded blade front sight, a little like that of the Lightning Model style. The prototype I fired has such a blade, but those made for Centennial Arms
(Continued on page 65)



CHARLES SCHREYVOGEL

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Cream of Smith's collection was unique set of Magnums inlaid with S & W guns and founders' portraits. Horace Smith of S&W was no kin to Walter H. B. Smith.

In 1943 . . .

When Walter Smith first came into my office he was unknown to me; I was struggling to meet a printer's deadline, and Walter was a talking man. Hours later, deadlines forgotten, Walter talked on and (to paraphrase an old quote) "still my wonder grew that one small head could carry all he knew." My wonder continued to grow throughout the following years; wonder not only at what he knew but at how he could possibly have gotten the information.

Walter was not infallible; what man is? But he was fantastic. A civilian, he knew things about enemy weapons that were unknown to the savants of the Pentagon and Navy Annex—and could produce the weapons. He was a man of mystery. I spent many hours with him, including many of those wee, small hours when men are likely to talk freely. He was my friend; yet I know nothing about his personal life. The story printed here contains much about him that I never knew, and still the story is incomplete. Asked where he got some bit of information which, if true, must have breached a number of security walls, he'd shrug and say, "Does it matter? I got it—and can prove it. Will you print it?" . . . I printed much of it; would have printed much more if Walter's last days had not prevented his writing magazine material.

Walter H. B. Smith is one of my "most unforgettable characters." I've heard the same statement made even by people who did not like him. I liked him; am proud to have known him. If there are weapons in Heaven, Walter will be happy—particularly so if there are secrets about those weapons.—E. B. Mann



A Man Named Smith



Life-work of rotund gun crank is sandwiched between Stackpole book covers. Dozen fancy guns remain of big military collection. Basic Manual helped GI trainees.



MAN OF MYSTERY AND EVER A CENTER

OF CONTROVERSY, W. H. B. SMITH SUPPLIED MUCH

NEEDED INFORMATION, WROTE THE BEST SELLING GUN BOOK EVER PRINTED

By WILLIAM C. L. THOMPSON

THE MOST COMMON NAME in the English-speaking world is Smith. The most uncommon of all Smiths, in the opinion of people who knew him, was Walter Harold Bingham-Black Smith. Born in San Francisco, July 10, 1901, this controversial figure of the gun world, better known as "Walther H. B. Smith," died in 1959, leaving behind him a trail of mystery as fascinating as any detective novel. No one knew much about him.

Smith knew thousands of people. This was one of his major talents. According to Col. G. B. Jarrett, who knew Smith as well, probably, as anybody, "He came into the Foreign Material office here at Aberdeen during the War with an MG 42. He had it days before our own Ordnance

Technical Intelligence had picked up the first one for us, and I'm damned sure none of our Ordnance boys had had their hooks on it," Jarrett told me. Smith read and wrote German, had correspondence with the German arms factories from the lean years before the war. For all anybody knew, he may have managed to keep up that correspondence even after we entered War II against the Nazis, for certainly Smith had mysterious sources of information.

My first and only contact with Smith was in the summer of 1943. As a teenager in high school, I had bought a Smith & Wesson .38 revolver from the school heating engineer, and traded it to a Merchant Marine officer for a Schmeisser MP-40 submachine gun and a drawer full of ammo. Smith,



Striking game animals in gold are features of other Magnum pair. One .357 shown contrasts with gold plated, pearl handled snub .22 Kit Gun.



Phantom lucite Walther PP is symbolic of Smith's "inside information" on world's gun factories. Other guns in collection included plated and blued M & P models, Kit Guns, Bodyguard .38s and big .44s.



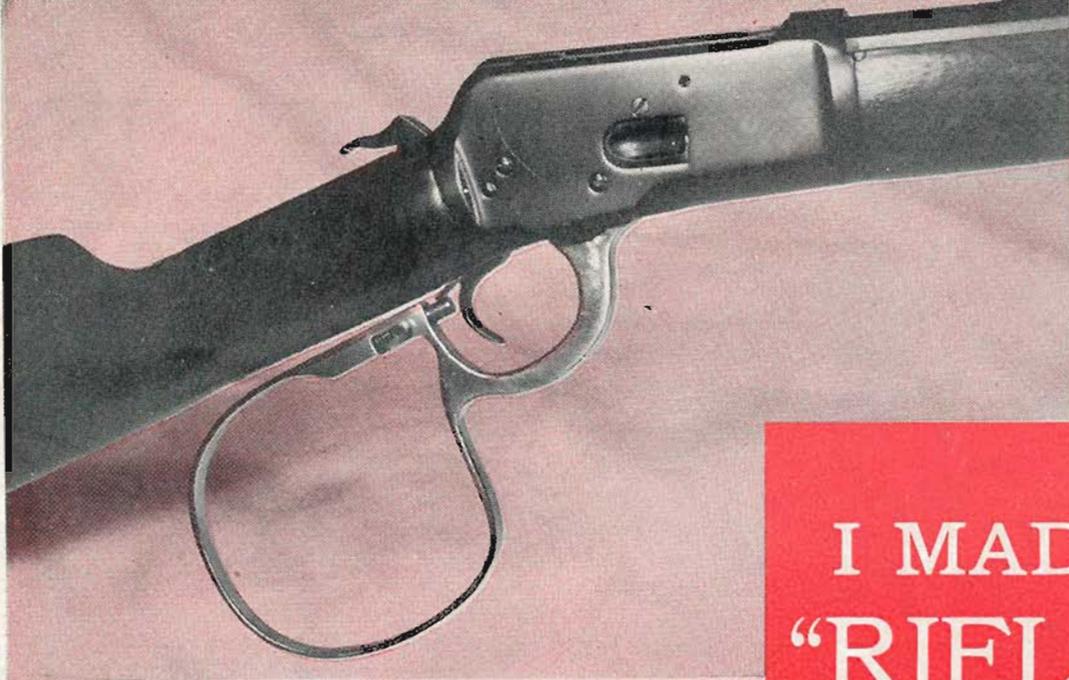
then residing in or near Detroit, was advertising in *Shotgun News* for machine guns and foreign military arms. I wrote to him and received back a fast-shuffle offer of trade. He was willing to give me a nearly new Colt Vickers aircraft gun, "complete with the 50-round belt of cartridges, just like the Government sold them at \$7.50 four years ago to Legion Posts," he wrote. The Schmeisser he said cost the German government about \$12 equivalent, so he considered it a fair swap. Maybe I should have traded, for looking back I see now that Smith was putting the finishing touches to his opus magnus, the greatest single firearms book ever written: *A Basic Manual of Military Small Arms*. And the correspondence dispels some of the mystery Jarrett felt about where Smith got things: he simply got them from people who had them before Ordnance had them. My Schmeisser, fxo 149, was one of the first in this country, traded off a British Tommy in North Africa for two loaves of bread by the mariner.

Smith did indeed have odd sources of supply. During War Two he worked closely with the National Rifle Association as a military weapons specialist. One day in a bull session, so Bev Mann (at that time editor of "The American Rifleman" and now editor of *GUNS Magazine*), reports, some self-styled expert slapped the table, flatly denounced Smith and said "There isn't any such thing."

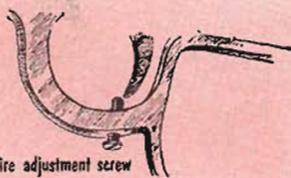
"I didn't want to do this," Walter replied, "and I'll tell you right now I won't tell you where I got it, but—" stopping to withdraw a pistol from his briefcase, "here's the gun."

Mann unfortunately doesn't remember the item—or it may still be classified, he won't say—but Smith had one. The situation was a little like an earlier story Smith did for AR on the Walther P.38.

This auto pistol was a prize for Ordnance Technical Intelligence. While a few gun collectors knew the item was listed in the 1939 and 1940 Stoeger Arms Co. catalogs, and even scheduled for production in .38 Super and .45 automatic as well as the German Service 9mm caliber, few people in Washington had seen this pistol. Our own Intelligence reports often were classified because they included information on technology and materials shortages which our technical people had deduced from studies of captured enemy equipment. Hence, when Smith's detailed article (*Continued on page 31*)



I MADE A "RIFLEMAN" RIFLE



Rapid fire adjustment screw

Guard was looped, then drilled for a plunger that hits spur in trigger to release hammer. At left, Connors' M92 alteration.

By JAMES K. KURNS

AS "THE RIFLEMAN" appeared before me on the TV screen with his fast twirling, rapid-firing Winchester, I became immediately interested in this program. As the weeks rolled by, I found my interest was as much in the gun as in the story. That amazing rifle absolutely fascinated me. I had to have one like it.

From my experience in gun trading and in fast draw, I knew I couldn't buy a rifle like the one Chuck Connors uses. It would have to be a custom-made job. Working in a tool room as a tool and die maker, I had all the equipment at my disposal, and with some experience in gunsmithing, I decided to see if I could make this gun.

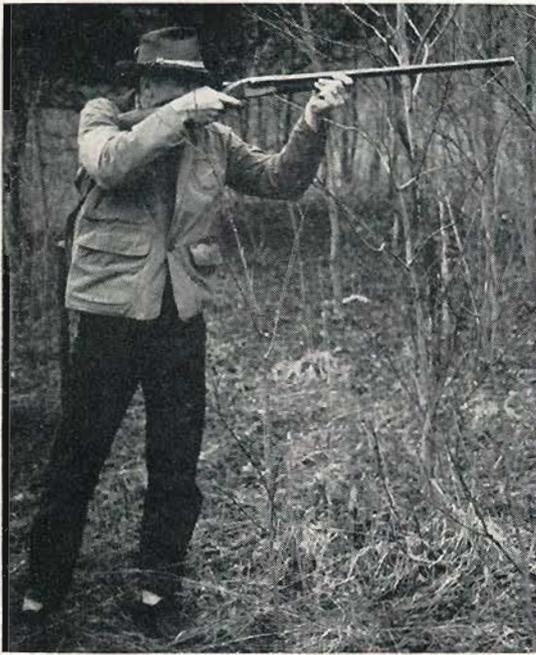
My first step was to study the rifle in action, to see exactly what model Winchester it was and how Connors had fixed it to fire by simply closing the lever. After observing the rifle for quite some time on TV and reading the small amount of information I found available, the most I could find out was that the gun was a Winchester '92 Ring Saddle Carbine, probably in the .44-40 caliber. How the lever, and the firing by closing the lever, worked on his gun, I did not know and wasn't able to find out. But this didn't discourage me too much. I went looking for a Winchester '92.

I soon found that there were not too many '92's to be had, and of all the ones I saw, there were no ringed saddle carbines. I found a '92 in the .32-20 caliber with a case hardened frame and lever, in mint condition, for \$95.00. This was more than I wanted to spend, and it would have been a crime anyway to alter that one; it was a collector's piece. I found '92's in the .25-20 and .32-20 calibers that were in fair shooting condition, priced at from \$20.00 to \$60.00 depending upon their shape. After about 3 months of intensive looking, I had to (Continued on page 36)

**REDWING TOLD HOW HE DID IT; YOU
MAY LIKE THIS METHOD EVEN BETTER**



Kurns had twirl rifle rechambered to .357 so did not fit cartridge holder; says live ammo is risky.



Swinging a favorite double, author is near "that golden moment" when a grouse tumbles.

By JAMES BASHLINE

MENTION "UPLAND GAME" and the Eastern hunter usually thinks, "Ruffed Grouse." The shotgunner who has brought even one grouse tumbling down through the hemlock branches is likely forever to consider that his golden moment in small game hunting. The hunter who is not thrilled to his bones by the rumbling roar of this king of the gamebirds as he lifts himself from the forest floor amidst a cloud of beech leaves, is just not human! . . . Maybe this is a bit poetic, but that's the way I feel about grouse.

We hear a lot about the so-called "cyclic abundance" of grouse. While it is true that there are certain peak seasons, I have always felt that grouse, like other game birds, flourish when the nesting season is favorable and food is abundant. I doubt that gunning pressure has any serious effect on grouse. The quality of the cover and the dryness of the spring season are far more important factors. A given area can support just so many grouse, and if the food supply fails, the grouse cannot survive. One bad season can do more damage than a lot of hunting.

I have often heard it said that such-and-such a place has

Buy a Short Gun for



"This," says Bashline, "is Rocky, best darn setter in Potter County or maybe the world."

typical grouse cover. I used to believe that I could spot "typical" cover. I'm not so sure any more. The first successful season which I experienced on grouse took place in a hemlock swamp which contained about 25 acres. At that time, my work schedule enabled me to hunt for an hour nearly every evening. Hunting the swamp was not easy, with sinkholes threatening every step and hemlock branches slapping your face while you attempted to keep your gun poised for action. Despite these handicaps, I managed to scare up a considerable number of birds, and occasionally to hit one.

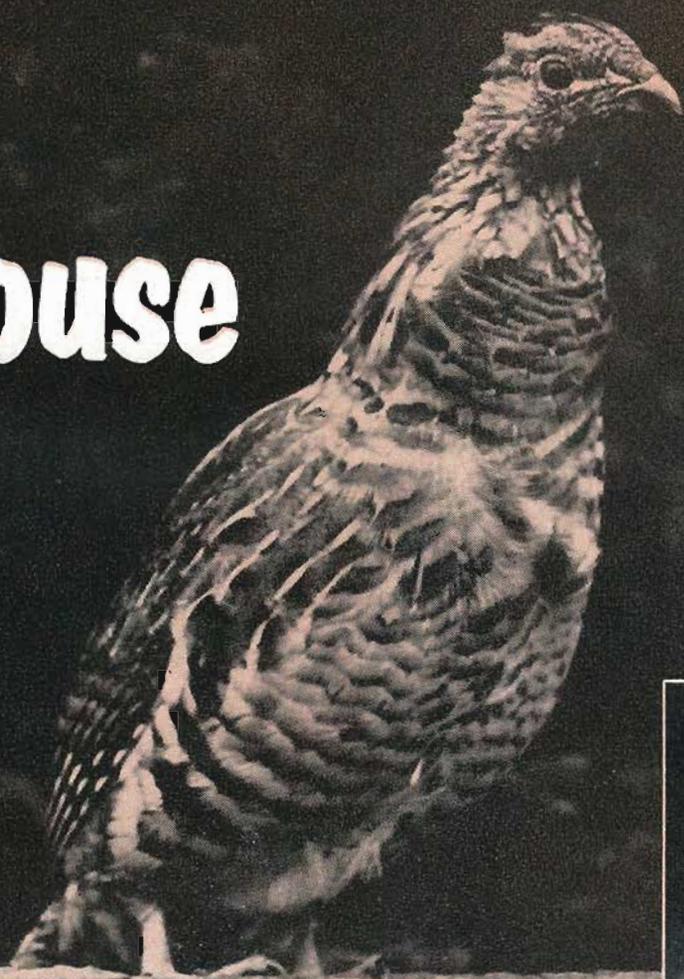
The following season, I was able to hunt on Saturdays, and I was overjoyed at the prospect of hunting this patch during the morning. But the sad story is that no grouse were taken from the swamp on any other morning that season. There were no grouse there! They used that place for a roosting area, probably because of its density; but there was little or no food there, so there was simply no reason for them to stay there during the day. Lesson 1: The type of cover grouse are likely to be found in varies with the time of day.

Lesson 2: It varies also with the *kind* of day. A gloomy day with the barometer falling, or any day late in the evening, will usually find the grouse in a protected area, like my hemlock swamp or thick brushy flats. Early morning will find them on the higher elevations, among the beech brush and beech trees, or on sunny hillsides which offer teaberries or thorn apples. These are not necessarily hard-and-fast rules, but they will serve as a general guide in locating grouse.

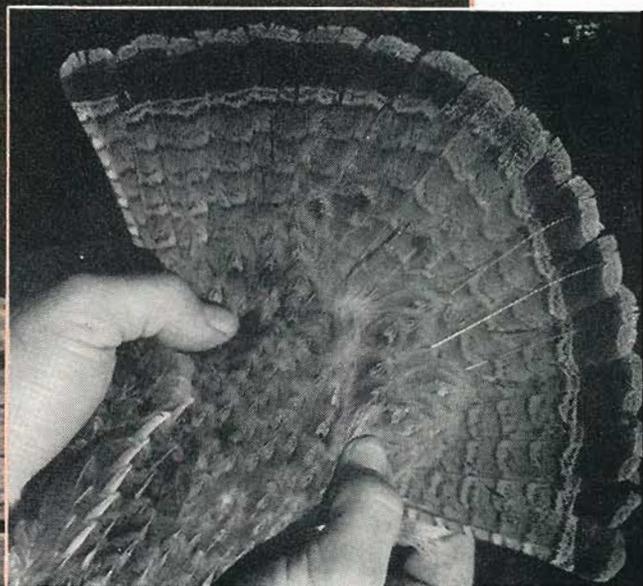
Good grouse dogs are difficult to find. (Continued on page 38)

THEY CALL HIM THE THUNDERBIRD,
AND TO MANY GUNNERS, HE'S THE TOP UPLAND
GAME TARGET, AND ONE OF THE TOUGHEST

Grouse

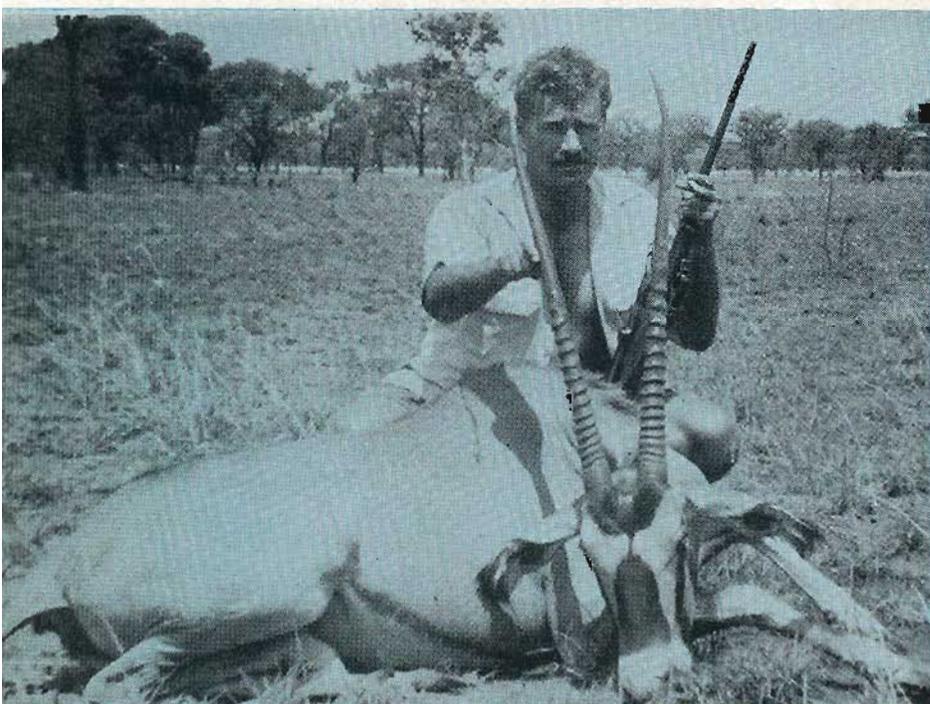


A pair (left and right) of 16 gauge Ithacas and a 20 gauge Lefever with typical "fantail" grouse trophies.



ORYX-

Pound For Pound, The Toughest...



White hunter John Lawrence holds Keith's .333 OKH rifle as he peers between 30 1/2 inch horns of his client's cow oryx trophy.

This was party's first camp site, and they returned to it for their last night as long trip ended.



By ELMER KEITH



Bullet hole high behind shoulder (see facing page) shows where killing shot entered. Bullet disintegrated on spine.

WHETHER HE IS OR IS NOT THE UNICORN OF ANCIENT LEGEND, THE ORYX IS A WORTHY FOE FOR ANY HUNTER—OR ANY BULLET

THE ORYX IS ONE of the finer and most coveted African antelope trophies. Certainly he is a bizarre looking beast, slate grey in color, with a black diagonal slash on each side, at the top of rump, and on each side of the head and jaw, plus black nose and facial markings. Combine these color variations with long fringed-ears and the great, ringed rapier-like horns, on a beast that will run from 350 to 450 pounds, and you have the oryx.

Old Egyptian frescoes show the side view of oryx, for all the world as though they had but one horn. When they are squarely broadside, all you can see is one horn, and this may well have led to the fable of the unicorn. The nose is rather blunt and square and the withers very high. The tail is long and slender, ending in a heavy fly brush of long hair. A big bunch of oryx makes a most beautiful sight as they feed on open plain or open brush.

It is well to remember too that the oryx is every inch a fighter. He will fight man or beast until his gallant heart stops.

Oryx have killed a great many natives, dogs and pre-

dators. Lion have been found dead along with oryx, with those long rapier horns driven clear through the lion, sometimes through the lions skull. When wounded, they will await the hunters approach and will charge when the time is ripe and they think they have a good chance of driving the charge home. It is well to use every precaution in approaching wounded oryx—and, for that matter, Sable, roan, and bushbuck as well, as all will fight. For their size, oryx are quite powerful animals and also very fleet of foot. Pound for pound I believe they are also the toughest animal I hunted, and the hardest to kill.

As we drove out toward Kwa Ku Chuya from Arusha, John Lawrence, of White Hunters Ltd., told me, "Oryx will be the first major antelope you will hunt, and you will probably get your's tomorrow." Although his prediction proved true, oryx were to lead us a long hard chase before I finally put one down to stay.

The boys put up our camp about noon, and after lunch John and I set out in the jeep with our little elephant trackers, Galu and Goyo, and old (Continued on page 40)



Russ smallbore champs Allan Erdman (stand) and Vasili Borisov may be among Rome Olympic riflemen.



With Free Pistol in Moscow, Umatov, Gushkin beat Nelson Lincoln, USA. New Hi Standard may help even odds.

Win, Lose, or Draw,



MU-12 smallbore rifles of Tula, Russia, make are beautifully finished for exhibition but plain ones are used for shooting. Arm is an improvement on 1891 military gun. Ross 1910 straight-pull is rebuilt for running deer. At left, "PEKOPA" .22 is novel, expensive.

THIS TIME, NEW U.S. GUNS AND SPECIALLY TRAINED U.S. SHOOTERS

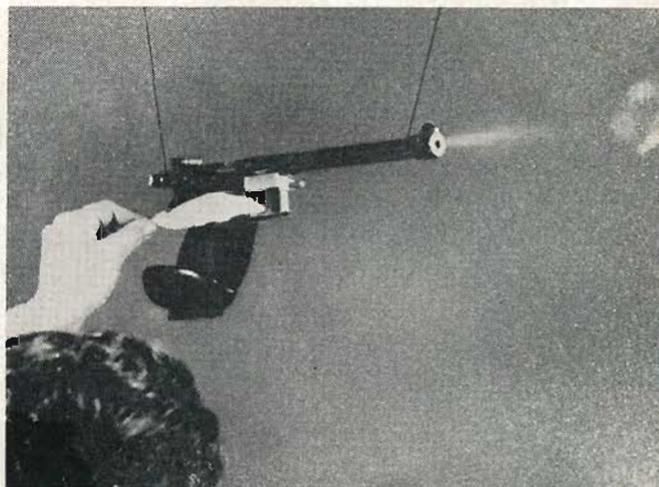
WILL COMPETE IN THE OLYMPICS. BUT LET'S NOT FORGET—



Good, but traditional new, rifle of US make nestles in I.S.U. stock built like old time Schuetzens. Hi Standard pistol can be fired with a feather.

By WILLIAM B. EDWARDS

THE ETERNAL CITY this September is the site of what many shooters think will be just one more phase of the "cold war." Battling it out with bullets against target butts instead of in battle in the Rome 1960 Olympic matches will be two groups of marksmen upon whom the eyes of the world will be fixed. Russian and United States sharpshooters have been training for four too-short years, and the sporting arms technologies of the two countries have been burning plenty of midnight oil, in the hopes of achieving "supremacy" in the International Shooting Union's position rifle matches and the hour-long free pistol and rapid fire auto pistol events. In the very shadow of St. Peters, hallowed shrine and center of that great belief that all men are brothers, as un-brotherly a conclave of athletes will be as-



It's Still a Game!

sembled as could be brought together.

American shooting writers are grinding out articles calculated to stir something more than games enthusiasm in the stay-at-home population. Abroad, doubtless the same sentiments of propaganda infuse the Soviet sports press. Assuredly, the Shooting Federation of the USSR is not planning on sending either poor guns or poor marksmen to Rome.

But in the midst of all this will to win, is it possible that we may have lost sight of the purposes of the sport shooting game? Indeed, the game's the thing. To win at all costs, or to think of these highly skilled and virtually full-time athletes as typical of the great mass of Americans, or Russians, is to forget the entire mission of the Olympic Games. For these modern Dead Eye Dicks as careful trigger squeeze sends that winning taper-heel NATO bullet or 7.62 Russ match slug on its way should echo the words which they have spoken. The oath of the Olympic Games, solemnly taken by all competitors, is: "*We swear that we will take*

part in these Olympic Games in the true spirit of sportsmanship, and that we will respect and abide by the rules which govern them, for the glory of sport and the honor of our country." Let us not forget it, at home or abroad.

Hardly a literate gun nut today has not been badgered in the magazines with stories about how the Olympics were first begun; how even the earliest modern Olympiad, in 1896, featured firearms competitions. The Running Deer, a game much liked by the German-Austrian-Swiss contingent, was introduced into the handgun, target rifle, and shotgun game group soon after. U.S. shotgunners (often paying their own way) swept many of the smoothbore races in the years since then. Sometimes U.S. handgunners won; other times honors went to the pistoleers of other nations. The fact that no single nation stands on the record as "The Nation of Shooters" is seldom realized. From our point of view, it was either "the year we won the Olympics," or the year we lost.

Much of our failure has been (Continued on page 45)



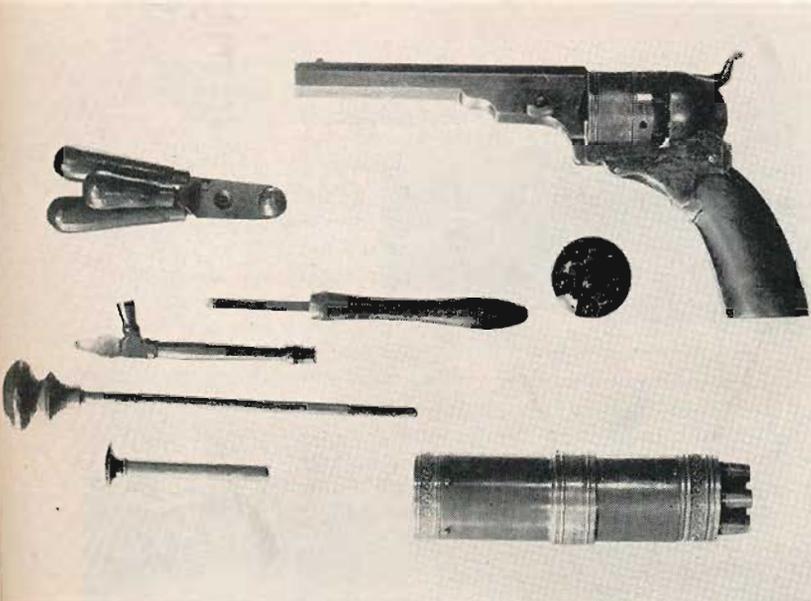
time afford \$35. In 1946, a Chicago auctioneer bought an "old gun" from a woman on a trip from his northside suburban home to his downtown auction gallery. He was buying old gold, but she also offered him "this old pistol." He met her price of \$50. This too was a Baby Paterson. He sold it for \$700—a very good price in those days. . .

These are but a few of the examples of how the two premier prize creme-de-la-creme collectors' guns of the American firearms field have first gotten into current circulation. The beginning gun collector, when he is first exposed to the fabulous prices asked by dealers and advanced collectors for the finer guns, is often too discouraged to continue his hobby. Certainly prices are a discouragement. As leading collector-dealer W. G. C. Kimball noted in his now-famous 8th Edition catalog, disposing of the Hegeman collection of Colts, "Collectors will soon look back to how inexpensively fine Patersons were sold in 1940. . ." His prices then were in line with the market, as little as \$150 taking home a "near mint" Paterson M1839 Carbine, or a fine Texas model for \$500-700. Later, Walkers sold for as little as \$800 in spite of the upswing in collecting these important relics of Americana.

Seeking stability in pricing, the collector would often turn to such books as "Gun Collecting" by Charles E. Chapel. An excellent introduction to the topic, it includes Chapel's famous anecdote of a Paterson Colt found for \$5 in a pawn-shop window. But loan brokers rapidly snapped up (Continued on page 49)

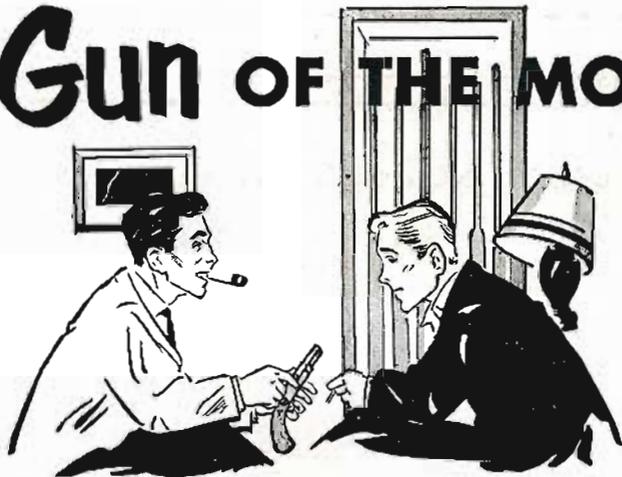


Old pistol "For over the bar" is genuine Walker Colt, B-103 and D-96 serials, with 6 1/2" barrel.



Lord Paterson No. 280 is mint shape, encased with all accessories. Wrench-screw driver tool has odd handle.

Gun of the Month



THE OLD • THE NEW • THE UNUSUAL

By C. ARTHUR LARSON

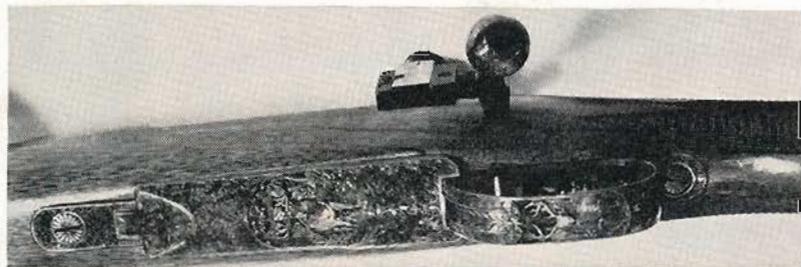
Photos by Sherman Taylor

Left-Handed Mauser

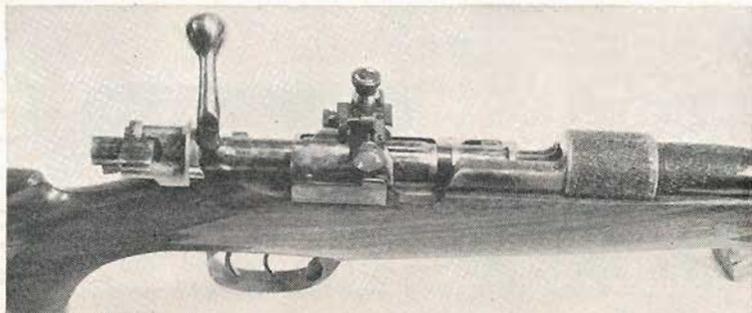
MOST ELUSIVE OF MAUSERS is the talked-about but never seen "left handed" action rifle. Fanciers of this premier name among gunmakers have often spoken of the fact, as they supposed, that Mauser made "the only left-handed actions available before the war." This leads the sportsman to question "If Mauser made left-handers, where are they?" One, at least, is at Abercrombie & Fitch in New York. And, bearing serial number 0001, it is probably the only one you will ever see.

This magnificently finished sporter is a true symmetrically reversed Mauser action. With possible exception of trigger and sear, every piece is reversed and the clip-thumb cut on the receiver wall is on the right side, not left. The pear-shaped bolt and style of the

stock suggest strongly the American pattern of .30-06 sporter built at Oberndorf in the late 1920s and early 1930s. This particular rifle is engraved forward of the thumb cut with "ESPECIALLY MADE BY HEINRICH KRIEGHOFF, SUHL, GERMANY, GUN & RIFLE MANUFACTURER" and, according to A & F's information, was built for a U.S. Army officer. The details of the design suggest that Mauser actually shaped the action including hinged magazine plate assembly, and that Krieghoff finished and barreled it. The barrel is from a Winchester 54, but is finished to harmonize with the rest of the rifle and bears Suhl proof marks. The likelihood is that the original owner preferred to use a close-chambered Winchester barrel which, merely by checking with a headspace gauge or even an unfired cartridge, could be placed on the Mauser receiver. Unusual finish detail is the case-hardening in color of the receiver and bolt: other trim and barrel finish is black. A Lyman No. 48 rear sight matches a Winchester ramp hooded front sight. The stock of finely grained French walnut is of the standard Mauser "American sporter" shape. The entire rifle is profusely engraved with a deeply incised Norwegian elk, or moose, on the floorplate, and a stag wiggling his big ears suspiciously on the trigger guard. Not knowing of any other similar rifle, we are willing to believe, as Abercrombie & Fitch claims, that this is the only true left-handed Mauser in the world. 



Unique Mauser 98 sporter by Krieghoff is engraved in Teutonic relief style with Norway elk — or a moose. Letters on Lyman sight knobs show this is real lefty in photographs.



THESE PLASTICS CAN TAKE IT

REMINGTON'S NEW SHOTSHELLS STAND RELOADING,
SHOOT THROUGH TOUGHEST TESTS

By HARVEY BRANDT



Tougher than duck blind handling, new Rem-Pete shells went through washer, fired okay. plastic shell has high base, reloadable crimp.

REMINGTON is making a plastic shotshell. For five years the project rambled on until Research & Development was satisfied the product was okay. A good many dollars were poured into the pot; Don Foote of Remington-Bridgeport told me, just say it was "millions." To get these millions back again, Remington is tacking half a buck onto the list price of the plastics. 12 gauge field and duck loads only, in the new Premium Grade "SP" loads.

Let's look at that half-buck premium for a moment. Remington will get only about 30¢ of that. If Don Foote's "millions" means as little as three million dollars in tools, research, materials, and increased product costs, Remington will have to sell *ten million boxes* of the new shells to just break even. So this is no get rich quick scheme.

We could have opened this story with a real peppy blast on how this is "the hottest ammo development in years"; but the plastic shotshell simply isn't that kind of a development. It is development for the long haul, a change that isn't a change, an innovation that yet lacks novelty. The thing about it that is amazing to the wise boys in the shotgun field who know of the European plastics is, it is durable and tough to an amazing degree, and it can be reloaded!

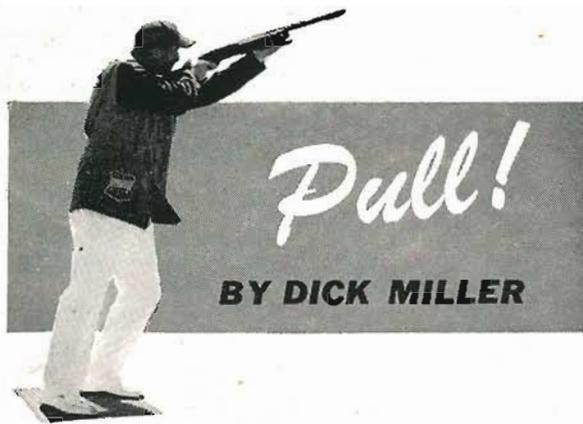
By going to plastics in a shotshell, Remington is not hoping to obsolete paper and brass. Instead, the new translucent green and blue tubes are the premium-priced leaders of a long and distinguished line. Since the old Union Metallic Cartridge Company of Marcy Hartley's turned out their first brass shotshell that wouldn't fall apart in the water; since the 1920s when stable, rustless Kleanbore priming was developed;

since the 1950s when that polyethylene "H" wad over the powder did away with most greased-wad seepage on hot days, there has never been a shotshell so stable and so unyielding to the elements, abuse, mistreatment, and neglect as this truly—but quietly, in a refined sort of way—amazing Remington plastic shell. (Continued on page 65)



Italian pioneer Pintos shot well, downed birds, but rims were cut by auto shotgun ejectors causing a jam. French Carplast shows shot clearly but cannot be reloaded. Rem. can.





Gun clubs and shooters can zero in on a very real service to shooting in general, and to their communities as well, by supporting the national "Teen Hunters Clubs" program. Hosting of Teen Hunter programs is not limited to any one of the shooting sports. Trap clubs, skeet clubs, rifle clubs, and law enforcement agencies owning shooting facilities may serve equally well to host the Teen Hunter program.

Teen Hunters Clubs need only a sponsor, a shooting facility, manpower—and boys and girls. The community will provide the boys and girls, so that item can be checked off at once. Teen Hunter clubs are new. Youngsters need an activity for their leisure hours, and they like to join clubs. The interest is there. All that remains is for adults to channel it in the right direction.

Gun clubs have the facilities, so we can check off another item on the agenda. Manpower comes from interested shooters, NRA Hunter Safety instructors, Sportsmen's Clubs, law enforcement agencies, state conservation agencies, municipal recreation agencies, and others. Sponsorship is varied. Two of the nation's largest department stores have sponsored, and are continuing to sponsor Teen Hunters Clubs.

Abraham & Straus, in Hempstead, Long Island, sponsored a pilot Teen Hunters Club in September of 1959, and are repeating the program, doubled in scale, for 1960. The pilot program was limited to 250 boys and girls, was held at the Hempstead Municipal Police Training Center. 500 youngsters will join the 1960 repeat performance. Jennings Dennis, Director of Special Events for Abraham & Straus, described his firm's sponsorship of the Teen Hunters Club as the most satisfactory public service program in the history of the store.

The J. L. Hudson Company in Detroit, Michigan, is sponsoring a Teen Hunters Club program at Oakland County Sportsmen's Club, Waterford, Mich., on September 17. Hudson officials are extremely enthusiastic about the upcoming activity. Manpower will come from local NRA instructors, and members of Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

Other sponsors of Teen Hunters Clubs have been such divergent interests as TV stations, radio stations, newspapers, a steel company, schools, Boys Clubs, conservation club councils, and others.

Principal advantage of the Teen Hunters Club format over one-day clinics held in many areas is continuity. Youngsters attending a Teen Hunters function are handed mimeographed sheets listing other organizations where they may follow up the in-

struction they are about to receive. Of the 250 boys and girls who attended the 1959 Abraham & Straus pilot program, 167 had signed for a continuing program operated in the area by Roy Tintle, before the day was over.

Teen Hunter programs may be tailored to local conditions. The usual format calls for pre-registration of boys and girls (usually ages 12-18) at a spot indicated by the sponsor. On the day of the activity, youngsters accompanied by one or more parents (who observe, but do not enter the program) gather at the range. After introduction of personnel, greeting from local authorities or personages, and orientation, the boys and girls are divided into squads, designated by such names as Hawk, Wolf, Bear, etc. While all are assembled, instruction is given in firearms handling, hunting procedures, game laws, local ordinances, etc. This segment of the program usually consumes the morning. After a snack lunch, the squads take turns on fifty-foot rifle targets, firing ten shots each. In some instances, five clay targets are added to the agenda. In all cases, demonstrations with high power rifle and shotgun are given by qualified instructors.

NRA Ranger targets are used in most cases, so that youngsters may qualify for the colorful NRA Ranger emblem. Free NRA targets are given the boys and girls by the sponsor, after the program, so that continuity is further assured. This may be varied by using game silhouette targets or other targets for the initial program, and using the NRA Ranger targets as a further incentive.

A complete step-by-step description of the Abraham & Straus Teen Hunter Club program in Hempstead may be had by writing Sportsmen's Service Bureau, 250 East 43rd Street, New York 17, New York. Sportsmen's Service Bureau will also arrange to provide hand-out instructional materials for your Teen Hunters program, if notified 30 days in advance of the date.

Here's a chance for all gun clubs and all shooters to have fun and render community service at the same time. If enough Teen Hunters Clubs can be sponsored, bugaboos like teen-age delinquency, adverse firearms legislation, firearms accidents, and gun clubs dried up of new shooters can be eliminated.

Now you have the blueprint. If I can help, write me, care GUNS. In some areas, field men of the Sportsmen's Service Bureau will be available to coordinate and advise you on your Teen Hunters Club. Have fun!

Vic Reinders of Milwaukee, and Herschel Cheek of Clinton, Indiana, paced 29 would-

be Olympic trapshooters in a try-out held at Maywood Sportsmen's Club, Elmhurst, Illinois. Vic smashed 189 of 200 targets, topping Hoosier Cheek by three targets.

Sixteen yard winners in the Maywood Club Championships held in connection with the Olympic try-outs were:

Class A—Tony Biagi, Highland Park, 100x100

Class B—Frank Bancr, Jr., Berwyn, 99x100

Class C—Duane Buchholz, Milwaukee, 97x100

Class D—Fred Metzger, Aurora, 95x100

Ladies—Ruth Winterrowd, Chicago, 95x100

Junior—Tom Dunn, Joliet, 94x100

The five total high scores at each of five regional tryouts will qualify the shooters to enter the Olympic final tryouts at Ft. Benning, Georgia, July 29-31. Finalists shoot for three days under International Shooting Union rules at 100 targets each day. Two high scorers over 300 targets will represent the United States, and the third high gun will serve as an alternate. Pull! hopes that good luck and good shooting go with our trapshooting Yanks to the Olympics. We need a victory here.

I recently had a go at International Skeet targets, in company with Jim Dee, Director of Shooting Development for SAAMI's Sportsmen's Service Bureau, at Doug Prevost's Maple Grove Shooting Ranges, near Mount Clemens, Michigan. My first impression of the lay-out is that it will separate the men from the boys. At this writing, I'm with the boys, and Jim is up with the men. When I break a straight at this game, I think I'll rack up my guns for good. Of course, at the rate I'm going, I'll be around on the shooting scene for a long time.

If you have a shooting buddy you want to cut down to size, or deflate, take him to Doug Prevost's and introduce him to the new skeet field. Chances are your buddy will be talking to himself and/or not talking to you after one round.

When those clay targets come zooming out at unknown and variable angles, and cross as much as sixteen yards from station eight (instead of the customary six yards), you'll have fun. And, if you want to be sneaky, let your buddy use his skeet gun. He will need a modified barrel to reach many of the new targets.

If by chance he beats you at the game, take him over to Prevost's duck tower set-up. That's what I had to do so that I could quit talking to myself and start speaking to Jim Dee. Doug's duck towers are wired for sound, and when the button is pressed to release an all-angle target or targets, hi-fi duck calls go into action. Your imagination will put feathers on every flying clay target, and you will even imagine that you hear the wings and raucous voices of shot-startled ducks.

Doubles are very spotty in this game. Doug will have you face the high, and visible tower. When the target emerges from that tower, you must mark its flight path, but then pivot and locate and shoot the target from the low, or concealed tower. After you have done this (?) you return to the first target, and break it (??). Fun??? I'll say it is!

A MAN NAMED SMITH

(Continued from page 18)

on the famous and then-new P-38 double action auto pistol appeared in public, it was like a junior atom bomb in Intelligence. There were many questions in official Washington as to how the security leak came about. Smith, of course, had gathered the information before the war.

The P-38 was rather a pet of Smith's, though he had conflicting opinions about its safety. Unlike most auto pistols, the P-38 has a safety latch that drops the hammer at the same time it is being put on safe. One of the first wartime P-38s in the country fell into the hands of Winchester's Research & Development team rather oddly, and led to Smith's revising his opinions.

Harry Sefried, then of Winchester's design department, and his buddy George Larson, were chewing the fat at gun dealer Robbins Ritter's home when he pulled out a P-38. A great novelty at the time, it was the first Harry had examined, though he knew a little of its workings. To show how safe it was, Robbins slipped a round into the chamber, and set it on safe.

Ka-pow, the slug spat through the ceiling and in the bedroom upstairs just missed Mrs. Ritter's head by about a foot. She came storming downstairs, "Ninety pounds of the maddest woman you ever saw," Sefried recalls, and so the duo left Robbins to calm his frau and took the P-38 off to Winchester. There they demonstrated the gun to R & D head Ed Pugsley, and then prepared a letter to the National Rifle Association over Pugs-

ley's signature, passing on the interesting information that these safeties could fail and that gunners ought to know about it.

Back came a blistering note from Walter Smith, blasting the Winchester men for being anti-foreign and unwilling to give foreign designers due credit. Pugsley called Sefried and Larson in, asked if they "were sure of their ground?" Shown the thin section that could be brittle if improperly hardened, or struck with a file to weaken it deliberately as in sabotage, he composed a letter of his own in return. The apologetic reply, Sefried told me, was "Beautiful, just beautiful." But important clue to the character of Smith was that he did learn from the incident. On P-38s he ever after spoke of this danger, recommended checking the pistols with a "competent gunsmith" before shooting.

Smith was a man of many talents. He was, first and foremost, a writer. His output was—is—prodigious. His books are all still in print and even after his death his classic "Basic Manual," grown from a cheap pulp \$2 volume designed to help the G.I. understand enemy weapons, into a huge \$12.50 tome that is a fundamental reference of its type, is going through its seventh or eighth revision. It is larger, more correct, with today's experts adding to the Smith volume that may have started them on the way to becoming experts years ago!

As an adult, Smith was a round little man, nondescript in appearance. You'd lose him in a crowd. Somehow, no picture seems to exist

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of him, though he may have appeared as an "unidentified figure" in a *Winchester Life* factory magazine published during War Two. Smith shunned personal publicity and personal photos. Only in his intense curiosity about arms did Smith stand out from the crowd.

When he was a small boy, a guest at his father's house left a gun in the hall. Mischievous young Walter, while the two men were in the library, took the gun apart to see what made it work. When he put it back together again, he had some parts left over. "He had a very worrisome time getting all those parts back," his friend, long time confidante and unofficial "aunt," Mrs. W. E. Groves of New York, remembers. "But he succeeded in doing so before the conference in the library was over," she remarks.

Smith's confidence of doing things on his own ability kept with him through the years. He made mistakes, some of them bad ones. But of his writing, General Sweet of the Military Service-Stackpole Publishing group who put out Smith's books noted that he "Kept most of his books in his head."

"Smith had an amazing memory for guns," the General said. "He'd look at a picture and say what it was." Bev Mann found this to be true, also. Smith would say something and there could be found no one to contradict him or correct him, for the fields in which Smith worked then were untouched by anyone else. His original research was the bane of the technical editor, for nowhere could be found substantiation for many of Smith's facts—he was usually the first to put them into print. On the other hand, he was far from infallible. A photo in his book that amused many gun guys for years, that Smith apparently did not see was off-key, was a picture showing a Beretta submachine gun with the magazine stuck into the ejection port. I learned from a photographer at Aberdeen that "We did that as a joke, and he used it."

While Smith relied heavily on government pix for his writings, some of them from sources not entirely approved ("General Barnes, chief of ordnance, raised hell when Smith's book came out," one informant said), he also obtained many catalogs and data files from private collectors.

"He got an awful lot of treasured material

from many people, and never returned it," stated one weapons expert who declines to be named for obvious reasons. "In fact, many copies loaned to him in good faith were later bought by others from book sellers. None of us ever knew what Smith did with matters of that character. I believe that he was simply irresponsible and, once he had squeezed what he could from something, it was of no matter to him what happened to it. He simply forgot any agreements."

Somewhat the same is the opinion of a gun engineer and designer in a firm which had a lot to do with Smith. Though he was no kin to Horace Smith who founded Smith & Wesson, he did have close ties with the great old Springfield firm. As a consequence of this "in" he was responsible for making Company X one of the largest Smith & Wesson jobbers. "But one year we tallied up the books and learned an interesting fact," the design chief of this company told me. "We found we netted fifty grand off S & W sales that year, but it was costing us \$52,000 to keep Smith running around the world. We called it quits."

Over the years this firm had "many contacts with Smith, all of them unfortunate." One involved the gun designing side of Smith's many-faceted character.

According to Fred Hall, Washington attorney who was Smith's long time friend, this remarkable man had the ability to see simpler ways of doing things. A company would struggle for six months on a problem; then call in Walter H. B. Smith as a consultant and, sometimes in a day, he would have shown the path of solution.

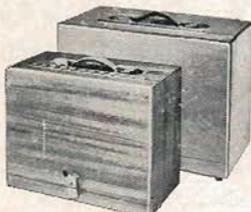
He visualized many easier and cheaper ways to do things, making guns by improved processes. As consultant for this Smith & Wesson jobber, he worked to develop an inexpensive single shot .22 pistol. Resembling the Luger but straight pull action, smaller, it finally was rejected by the firm which had paid out \$40,000 to back him. Tooling had even been made to produce the arm, but it was written off as a loss. "It was not what we had wanted at all," the engineer reported to me.

Not all of Smith's designs are junk—or so I have concluded after studying several of them. The baby Luger, for example, may

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have been badly built. Certainly, when Smith in conjunction with Syd Manson, a field representative of the Ithaca Gun Co., tried to market it, they failed. The S-M Company went under, is in liquidation.

But the rifle Smith made for Ithaca is no junker. It is a logical and clever design of self-loading .22. Smith, for all his fame as a military weapons expert, basically had an aversion to the man-killing stuff, and was principally a sporting gun enthusiast. The little X-5 Ithaca .22 shows his good sense along those lines.



Smith's Cody .22 pistol was flop but design had many interesting features.

The X-5 is a simple block of square bar stock, bored for the bolt and tapped on the faced-off bottom for screws that hold on the sheet metal trigger package and the magazine well. The clip latch is a sheet metal spring, cheap and effective.

The screw that holds it, and the magazine well, onto the receiver, also puts a tension on the catch. In the trigger-hammer package, a long but simply-made torsion spring actuated hammer, trigger, and works. The design in principle is the rocking back sear with fixed front sear, like the Browning, Johnson, M-1 and Carbine sear. But Smith's simplification of it is novel, cheap, good. And the bolt cocking handle on the Ithaca X-5, as we have said many times before, is the best handle on any autoloader in the market. You can actually grab ahold of it to actuate the bolt: it is a true handle, not a tiny stub or some part of the bolt locking gear.

Unlike the highly successful Ithaca X-5, Smith's Cody double action low priced .22 revolver was a dud. Launched several years ago by national advertising by a new company in Springfield, Mass., it sailed right out to sea and sank. This was a good thing.

for the gun incorporates no automatic safety device, such as the good Iver Johnson hammer-the-hammer safety, the Smith & Wesson non-moving lug that jams the hammer if it is dropped, or the Colt Positive Lock trigger bar. Smith's Cody pistol instead had a sliding button safety on the sideplate, a takeoff on some obsolete and fortunately not common European revolvers. Painful experience has shown that a loaded revolver without a positive hammer-blocking safety automatically set if the gun is accidentally dropped, is a dangerous article to the user or bystanders. The Cody was rightly a failure.

But the guts of this pistol show considerable talent for using cast parts, cheaply and accurately made. The sideplate construction is also easy to work with, uncritical in outline and easily worked with by semi-skilled assemblers. The barrel is cast, the bore itself a rifled sleeve. The Cody pistol scores high on basic engineering, but poor on safety and styling. With revamping, it might even be worth reviving, if the break-open market can stand another low-priced plinker.

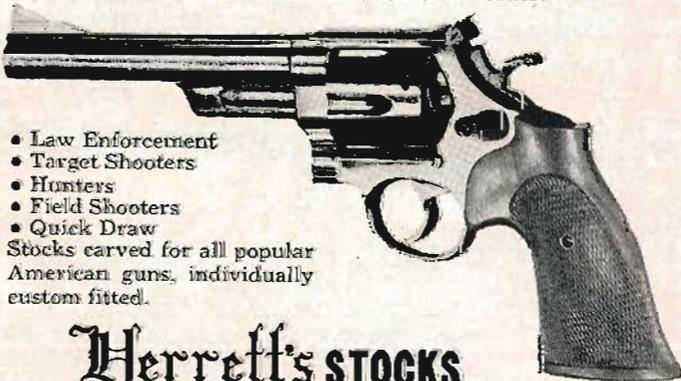
Smith without doubt was an odd fish. He kept close to himself, seldom spoke of his personal life. He died unmarried, after a years-long engagement, apparently unwilling to risk the tempests of the sea of matrimony. Financially, he had family resources that made him relatively wealthy until the crash of '29. These had permitted him to travel extensively as a young man. During 1928-1932, he was "Investigator and author of official reports on European armaments," says the Smith-prepared biographical sketch in *Who's Who*. But the sketch uses long words and lengthy book titles to fill in an otherwise singularly uninformative block of type. And nobody seems to know what kind of reports Smith wrote, and for whom. He refused lucrative offers from foreign governments to work as a civilian arms expert for them, saying he didn't like the military business.

Sporting arms and, toward the last, luxury arms as lavishly decorated as any ever created, were Smith's pride. He was instrumental in setting up Rex Firearms, one of New York's leading stores and also a leader in the Smith & Wesson jobbing line. Rex specializes in gold plated, inlaid and en-

(Continued on page 36)

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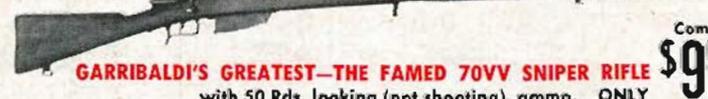
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(Continued from page 33)

graved, ivory and rare-wood stocked Smith & Wesson revolvers. Of these, Smith possessed a choice collection of some dozen pieces. The cream of the group was a pair of 8 3/8" Magnums, full blue, engraved in fine scroll by a master hand and inlaid in gold. Ordinarily, the matching pair with the gold arabesque and lining and gold animals would be considered by any connoisseur as quite sufficient to be the choicest pieces in any handgun collection. Smith went a step farther than these lavish but—by comparison—inferior Magnums. The really deluxe set he had bore illustrations in pure gold of Smith & Wesson firearms. Around the cylinder and inlaid down the barrels were pictures of fourteen different Smith & Wesson handguns, from the No. 1 tip-up of 1857, the American .44 of 1869, the early hammerless and side-swing revolvers to the .35 automatic and the latest 9mm double action autoloader. Not content with a history of the company sketched in gold, he had the S & W monograms replaced on one pistol with a bas-relief of Daniel Wesson and on the other, a perfect cameo in gold metal, a likeness of Horace Smith. These treasures he fitted up in a leather luggage case with a combination lock on it. Perhaps whimsically, he had the combination lock set at 0-0-0!

Smith died as he had lived, quietly. Few knew of his youth at Phillips Andover Academy, at Winchester, at Harvard. He studied at Oxford, got his doctorate at the University

of Milan. He was an international figure who knew everybody, but whom nobody knew. If you asked him about a pistol he'd give a three-hour lecture on the history of the company and wind up with the answer you wanted. But, of himself, he spoke nothing. He was, apparently, modest—at least that is the side General Sweet saw: "I was impressed by his ability, his knowledge, and his lack of conceit." It is not enough to point out, as one reviser has done, that his "Weapons of the World" contained "thousands of errors." It also contains many pages. A good light of criticism is thrown by Kent Bellah, GUNS handloading columnist, who revised Smith's "Textbook of Pistols and Revolvers" for its new edition: "Walter Smith knew more about guns than I do. Any idiot can find errors in such a work, and I found 28 in Walter's text, and no doubt there were others. That was damn few for a work of that type and there will probably be more in my new supplement."

Perhaps that is, finally, the proper way to sum up Smith's lifework of contributing to gunners' knowledge. He translated basic works from the German, added to our store of knowledge. He was a trail blazer, a pioneer, a pathfinder. His place in history was to put a blaze on the tree. It is for later writers to hew the planks true, from the trail that Smith axed out. The pioneer is not expected to lay a macadam highway through the jungle, and no one should condemn him because this was his failing. 

I MADE A "RIFLEMAN" RIFLE

(Continued from page 19)

settle for a '92 rifle, .25-20 caliber, with an octagon barrel.

After purchasing the gun, my next step was to make a loop lever and fix it to shoot like the one used by "The Rifleman." Working at home, I drew a sketch and made a templet of the lever. Not knowing the exact size of the loop on Connors' gun, I designed mine in accordance with my own ideas and so that it would be in proper proportion to the gun itself. I also decided that there would have to be a pin in the lever that would hit the trigger for rapid-firing and also be capable of being moved out of the way for normal shooting. With this, I went to work in the tool room.

Using the front part of the old lever, the part that goes in the action and around the trigger, I cut off the old loop. Taking a piece of 3/8" cold rolled steel, I started the new loop, cutting it out from the templet I had made. At the top of the loop, I left a section 5/16"x3/8"x1 1/2" into which to put the pin to rapid-fire the gun. In this section, I drilled a 3/16" hole about 1/4" deep. In the side of the lever, I milled a 3/32" slot 1/2" long into the hole, and also from the back end of the slot milled down under the lever. Then I inserted a 3/16" pin 3/4" long with a spring behind it.

A 5/40" screw is placed through the slot milled in the lever and into the side of this pin. This screw holds the pin in, allowing it to only go forward so far. As the screw is pulled back in the slot, it can be pushed down under the pin, thus locking it and holding the pin back for normal shooting.

After getting this made, I clamped the front part of the lever and the new loop lever together on a piece of steel, using the

templet to make sure that the relationship of the new loop with the front part of the lever was the same in the old lever. I then arc welded the two together. This could also be done by silver brazing.

There is a small piece of steel silver-brazed to the back of the trigger close to the action. As the pin in the lever is released, it stretches out just far enough to catch the piece of steel brazed to the trigger. When the lever is about 3/4" from being closed, the pin and the piece of steel come together and, as the lever is closed the rest of the way, it pulls the trigger.

Next came the job of filing and shaping the new loop and, of course, polishing it. Finally, it was ready to try.

I couldn't wait to go to our Sportsmen's Club Range; I had to try it in my basement where I have a steel bullet trap I use for pistol shooting. I found that in rapid-firing, the pin, when it was all the way out, would hit the back of the trigger. Consequently, the trigger had to be bent slightly forward so the pin would miss it. After this was done, the rifle performed perfectly, both at rapid-fire and in normal firing.

The following Sunday, I took the gun to the range, but was not at all satisfied with it. The lever and action worked fine, but that .25-20 just don't have it. Previously, I had read that the '92 could be made into a .357 or .44 Magnum. I called the Chicago Gun Center on Armitage to inquire about this type of job. Since I already have a .357 Colt and all the loading tools for this caliber, I decided to use it. They told me at the Gun Center that it would cost approximately \$45.00 to have the gun re-chambered, the original barrel re-rifled, and the action re-

worked to handle the .357. I had also discovered by this time that I couldn't twirl the gun; its 23 inch barrel was too long.

The Gun Center did the job for the .357 caliber, cut the barrel to 20 inches, and reloaded the gun. While they had the gun, I completely refinished the stocks and had the lever, butt plate, and forend tip chrome plated. I also made a hand-tooled leather scabbard for the rifle.

With the shortened barrel, I resumed practice in spinning the rifle—empty, of course. This was not too difficult, though the action of the lever does produce a sort of double rhythm in the movement that needs to be learned. Finally, I set the trip lever back so that the rifle would fire only normally, not from the closing action of the lever, and tried a twirl or two with cartridges. Here I ran into the problem of cartridges dropping out when the rifle was upside-down.

I know now, from Rodd Redwing's article about the Connors rifle (GUNS, May 1960) that they had the same trouble. I didn't know this then, but I did arrive at the conclusion that the problem could be solved by drilling into the end of the barrel and attaching a plate or flat spring to control the feeding of the cartridge. My mental picture of the contrivance was quite similar to the alteration Redwing performed on the Connors rifle; but—it wouldn't work on my rifle. After rechambering to .357 caliber, I felt that the necessary drilling in the reduced thickness of metal remaining might weaken the barrel too much for safety with heavy .357 Magnum loads.

Call it sour grapes if you like, but by the time I had figured out how the problem could be solved I decided that, for me, it was no problem. Why should I ever twirl the rifle, loaded? I had a rifle that looks like "The Rifleman's" rifle, that will shoot like it, and that I can twirl more or less as he twirls his. It will twirl just as well empty as loaded—and it's a lot safer. For story purposes, Connors must sometimes spin and fire the rifle in one continuous movement. I don't have to do that.

I am very pleased with the gun and its performance. It was well worth all the time, energy, and expense put in it. I can twirl it. I can shoot 11 shots, its capacity, from empty to empty, in about 3 seconds. I have shot some 5 shot groups of 3 inches at 100 yards with a gas checked Thompson Bullet and 15 grains of 2400. This was done with open sights. I am now trying to locate a tang site to put on it, and hope to get even better groups. By hand loading, it is inexpensive to shoot.

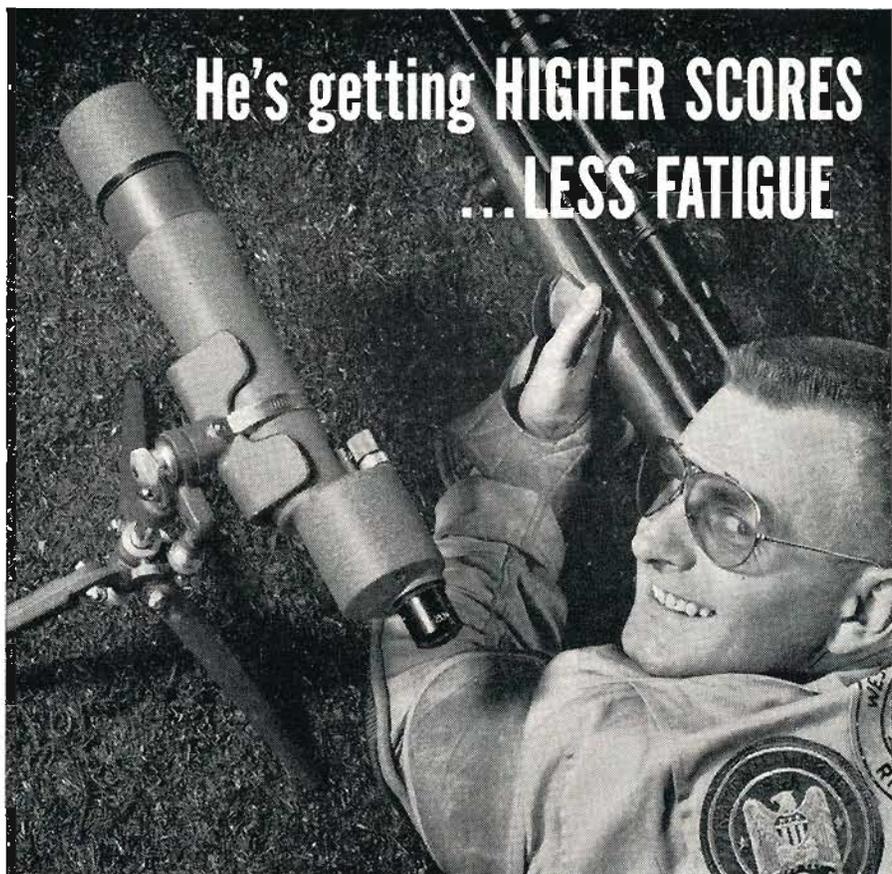
In fact, I like this rifle best of all the guns I've ever owned. Perhaps this is because this one represents so many hours of thought and work. This one is *mine*, and I'm looking forward to many happy hours with it.

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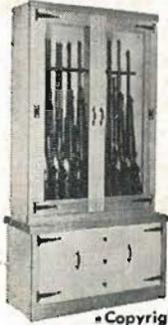


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BUY A SHORT GUN FOR GROUSE

(Continued from page 20)

They are not made; they just seem to happen. Many wonderful quail and pheasant dogs do not seem to possess the nose for grouse. Experienced bird dog handlers claim that grouse do not have the strong scent that ringnecks and quail do. If you do ever find a pointer or setter that points grouse with regularity, guard him with your life, for he is indeed a precious asset. On the other hand, many Cockers, Brittanys, and Springers have been trained to be wonderful flush dogs for grouse. The important thing to remember when training a flush dog for grouse is keeping him close to the hunter. Do not let him range more than thirty yards from you. Birds which are put up beyond that range will seldom offer a shot in most grouse cover. Of course, a dog is invaluable in retrieving cripples which otherwise would be lost.

When hunting alone for grouse, walk slowly and pause often for twenty seconds or so. These pauses in your normal walking gait seem to upset the grouse and prompts them to fly. This technique often puts grouse in the bag, which otherwise would have stayed sitting tight until you had passed them up.

When hunting with one or two companions, space yourselves at about fifteen yard intervals and walk slowly, paralleling each other. Always try to remain within sight of each other so your positions are known. If there is the slightest chance that a grouse may be in line with one of your hunting companions, don't shoot! There is always the chance that you will put up that same bird again if you do not get a shot at him this time. When hunting with a small group of two or three persons, it is highly possible that you may put up the same bird several times. If not shot at, grouse seldom fly over one hundred yards.

Because of the nature of a grouse's flight, the ideal weapon for them should, first of all, be light. The double is the classic grouse gun, and rightly so, for no other shotgun except a single shot can be made so light. The other big advantage in favor of the double is short overall length, when compared with a pump or auto loader having the same length barrel. This is best appreciated after you have experienced having a grouse explode from almost between your legs and jet-propel itself out of sight between two hemlocks or through the wild grapevines. If you are armed with a gun having a tube longer than 28 inches, it seems like trying to bring a forty-foot joint of pipe into action.

Of course, if you do not care for the double, great things are being done with pumps and autos that weren't done when I started shooting. Winchester makes a lightweight number in their Model 50, as does Remington with their Model 58. The Browning Double-Automatic is also made in a lightweight model. And there are many fine imported lightweights with the self-loading action, notably the Franchi. Among the pump guns, the Ithaca Featherweight has long been a favorite with many grouse hunters.

The only doubles made in this country today are the extra-fine Winchester Model 21, and the moderately priced Fox and Stevens models. Many fine handling upland guns are being imported from Italy and Spain and, for the prices asked, they are for the most part good values.

The Browning and Marlin over-unders are also good grouse guns when fitted with the shorter barrels.

Regardless of the action or type of shotgun, the barrels should be short. A double or over-under should be 26" or under, and a pump or auto should not be over 25"—including choke device if the gun is so equipped. With these shorter barrels, any loss in velocity is unimportant because of the close range at which most shots at grouse occur. In most cases, the grouse is flushed close to the hunter, and the shot must be made before he travels more than 25 yards.

With the double and over-under users, name any choke combination and some one will declare that it is the best one. My three grouse hunting companions, all of whom are double users, recommend three different combinations. No. 1 uses a Marlin over-under 20 gauge, bored modified and improved cylinder. No. 2 has a 12 gauge Fox Sterlingworth (a discontinued model), with 25" barrels choked Modified and Modified. No. 3 has a Berretta 12 gauge with 26" tubes, both of which are improved cylinder. My own favorite grouse "duster" is a 16 gauge L. C. Smith, with 26" barrels bored Modified and Improved cylinder (also a discontinued model).

If you are concerned about my mentioning guns which are discontinued, remember that many fine second-hand guns are gathering dust on dealers' shelves, just waiting for a bird hunter to put them back into action. The 1920's and '30's produced some of the finest shotguns ever made in the world. Among these were the fine Ithaca doubles, the Fox line of shotguns, the L. C. Smiths, the Parkers, and those good Depend-

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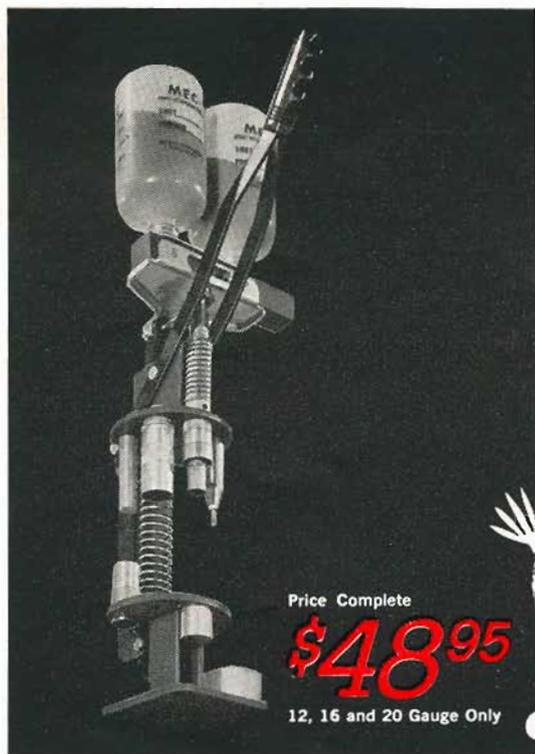
able Lefevers. None of these are made now and that is a pity, for these were among the best upland game guns ever made in this country. In good used condition, they still command a good price. By making yourself a pest at the gun dealing establishments, it should not be too difficult to locate one of these good doubles. If the action is tight and the hammers still have plenty of "bounce" left in them, the gun will probably last for many years of grouse hunting.

When buying a new or used gun for grouse hunting, regardless of its action, the most important things to look for are fit and point-ability. These are rather hazy terms and no mathematical formula can be used in discovering them. The quickness involved in hitting a grouse on the wing demands that a gun be shouldered with the utmost speed and ease. I know of no type of shooting which requires a faster handling weapon. Finding out if a shotgun has these features when applied to you can be done in only one way, and that is by shooting it. Sometimes this is possible before buying a used gun, but usually not when a new gun is considered.

With a new gun, pick out a spot on the wall and, holding the gun in a natural carrying position, try bringing the gun to bear on the spot as fast as you can. If it seems to point naturally and quickly, take a chance on it. (Someone will swap you if it doesn't work out.) Before you do decide on a gun for grouse, try as many shotguns as you can. This is lots of fun and might save you making an expensive mistake. Good grouse guns are very much like women: one is a pleasure, another is poison. They are as individual as fingerprints, and only you can decide which is right for you.

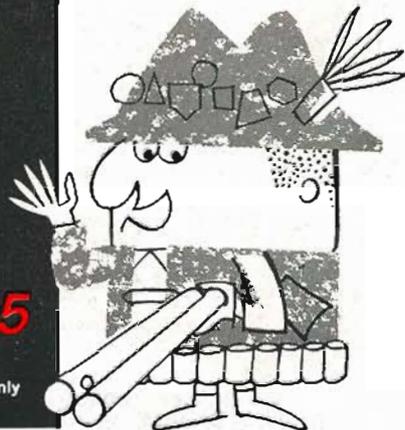
As a general rule, a good grouse gun will have more drop than one used for other types of shooting. It is true that the more drop a stock has the greater effect the recoil seems to have. In grouse hunting, this rarely affects the shooter, because the action happens so fast that recoil is scarcely noticed. A quick-dropping shotgun stock may be brought up much faster than a straight one, simply because you have a shorter distance to lift it to your shoulder. Straight stocked shotguns belong mainly in the duck blinds, where a long lead may be taken at the game. Recoil is more apparent under these conditions, and the straight stock minimizes this handicap.

High velocity shells are really not necessary for grouse hunting. The first reason is, of course, the relatively short range at which the majority of shots are taken. A second consideration is the amount of destruction the high-base shells have on the birds. For most conditions, the "target" or low-base



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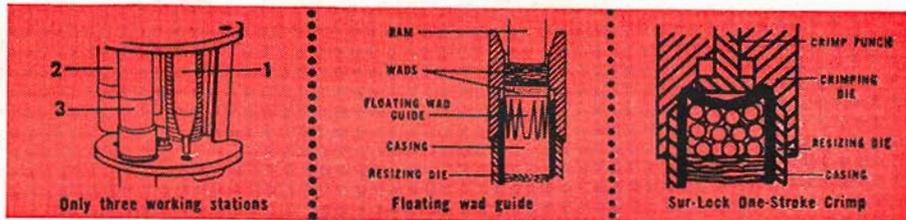
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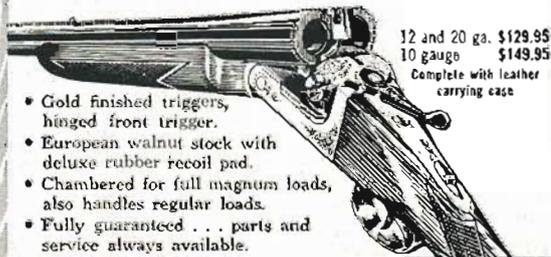
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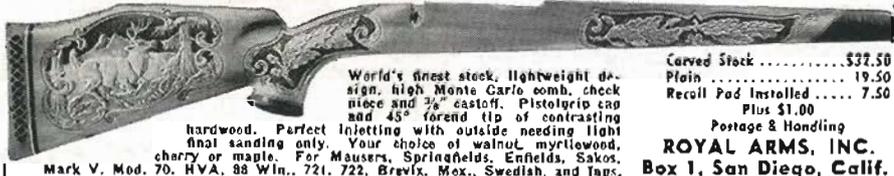
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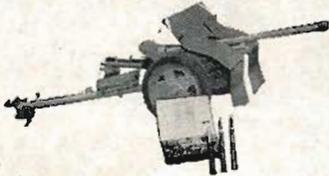
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shells are entirely adequate.

The proper shot size for grouse is a controversial subject, too. In extra heavy cover, some very good bird hunters use the No. 9 skeet loads with fine results. A good compromise for all grouse would be the 7 1/2. But many 12 gauge guns do not handle this size shot well, and No. 6 may give much better results.

Hunters should pattern their shot guns at 25 yards or so to check on the distribution of the shot. An easy way of doing this is to shoot at a 36" square of paper and then cut a circle of paper 5" in diameter (about the size of a grouse's body). Try sliding the paper around on the target and see if you can find an escape hole that your bird could have slipped through. If you can, try other loads until you find one that gives you fairly uniform coverage. This is a simple but quite revealing test, and it often explains those misses when you knew your hold was good.

One word of caution! Don't expect to hit the majority of grouse you shoot at. No experienced grouse hunter does. In fact, a 50 per cent record is considered phenomenal. The excitement of merely shooting at that speeding spot of brown is a major thrill... But when you do see that puff of chestnut feathers and watch your bird tumble onto the leaves—another grouse hunter has been born.

ORYX

(Continued from page 23)

Songi, a plainsman living near the place, to secure lion bait. We sighted a small herd of zebra and John and I stalked to what I thought was 250 yards before I gave one a broadside lung shot with the .333 O.K.H. (300 grain Kynoch steel jacket soft nose backed by 58 grains of 4350). We heard the long slug strike home, and having shot from prone position, I knew I had placed it exactly behind the right shoulder. The zebra all took off in a hard run, the wounded one along with the rest; and because they changed positions while running, no chance was offered for a second shot. We trailed them for a couple of miles, finding that my wounded beast was bleeding very heavily, but only on the side I had hit him. Later, we found that my British steel jacket 300 grain .333 slugs were blowing up badly and not penetrating as they should have done.

We had agreed that this zebra could not go much farther, when John spotted an old bull oryx. John told me to crawl to the top of a rise and try for the oryx while the boys trailed up the zebra. I managed to get within what I thought was 350 yards, but I could not see the intervening ground as it was cut up with small gullies and ravines. The bull stood quartering toward me and facing down a very steep slope. With my rifle perfectly sighted for 200 yards, I held well up at the top of the junction of neck and shoulder and squeezed off the shot from a good steady prone position. We heard the heavy plunk of the long slug striking home, and the oryx left that place in high gear, horns laid back along his back, nose straight out in front, and his tail going like a windmill. Songi and John and I trailed that oryx until dark, but lost him. He bled freely for the first half mile, then stopped bleeding entirely. His legs seemed unimpaired in their movement, and just before dark we lost his

trail entirely in a maze of other game tracks and had to give him up.

I was very disheartened. I was sure that I had placed my shot correctly, but those bullets were letting me down. We proved this later when one blew up in a 40-50 pound Tommy. Similar Kynoch 300 grain steel-jacket soft-nose I had used on elk and Alaskan black and brown bear had worked perfectly, but they had been made before World War Two, while this lot had been made just after the war and were a different jacket entirely. Too, the hot African sun had no doubt added at least 100 feet to their velocity, even though I had cut down the powder charge from 60 to 58 grains for that reason. My bullets were simply exploding after a few inches penetration.

Just before daylight the morning of the 13th of November, I joined John at the mess tent. As daylight came, we spotted a bunch of yellow-neck francolin feeding some 300 yards from camp and John remarked, "Let's get a mess for the table." We took the shot-guns and soon had chicken for our evening dinner.

After breakfast, we jumped in the jeep along with M'corro, Galu, and Songi, and headed out into the rolling sparsely timbered bush for oryx. Some two miles from camp, while driving along an open ridge, we spotted a bunch of Grants gazelles below us some half a mile away. One fine buck showed through the glasses, but I elected to pass him up and go on for oryx.

After driving another mile and dropping down off the ridge to a wide flat plain, we spotted a kill marked by circling buzzards. Leaving the jeep, we approached cautiously on foot. Lions had killed and eaten a kongoni. Only the bare skull, horns, and paunch remained after the lions had fed and the buzzards had polished off the scraps. Pug marks were of a lioness with grown cubs.

Again we boarded the jeep and drove a couple miles deeper into this vast plain covered with scattered patches of long yellow grass, interspersed with bare plain and scattered acacia trees. Old Songi, our bearded native plainsman, has wonderful eye sight and soon spotted five oryx feeding out in the open beyond a small group of palm trees.

We started the stalk with John bent well over and Songi holding onto his belt with one hand and I clutching Songi's belt, so that we formed a chain. This maneuver I have often used in the states while stalking antelope and, on one occasion with Dr. DuComb, big horn sheep. Moving very slowly, we managed to gain the cover of a big palm and an ant hill. From there, we crawled ahead to the cover of a couple more palms and another ant hill. I perched on top the ant hill in a perfect sitting position, with tight gun sling and a rest for my left shoulder against the palm tree.

John studied the five oryx with the glasses for some time and finally told me to take the third one from the right, as it carried the longer horns. We estimated the range at over 300 yards and, remembering how deceiving the distance was from my experience of the evening before, I decided to hold just over the back at the shoulder as the oryx fed along broadside. With the cross wire laying flat on top of the oryx's back, I took a long breath and squeezed off the shot. The rifle recoiled, came down, and then we heard the dull sodden plunk of the heavy slug.

Again, the oryx jumped into a very hard

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run, with the rest following. His head was held straight out in front of the body, the horns laying back along the back, and the tail wringing round and round like a propeller. Knowing my rifle and the fact that I had given many elk similar shots with always certain results, I made no attempt to shoot again, but pocketed my empty case and waited for that oryx to roll. He continued to run for a quarter mile broadside on and then turned squarely away from us into scattered bush. Both John and I still expected to find a dead oryx within a few hundred yards of where we last saw him, but again we were disappointed. The oryx bled some for the first quarter mile after entering the scattered bush, but then all blood drops vanished.

I began to wonder if oryx were composed of living flesh or just old truck tires. I had never before seen animals of any sort shed so little blood from lung shots. I wished I had used my .476 Westley Richards instead of the .333 O.K.H. But there was nothing to do but keep trying.

After another mile of tracking, we again spotted the five oryx a half mile ahead of us. We waited in the cover of some tall grass while they fed across an open patch of plain, then took the track. After some five miles of tracking, with the jeep driven by M'corro following along a half mile behind us, we again caught up with the band; but they had mixed in with a great herd of other game. I saw zebra, eland, kongoni, and wildebeast.

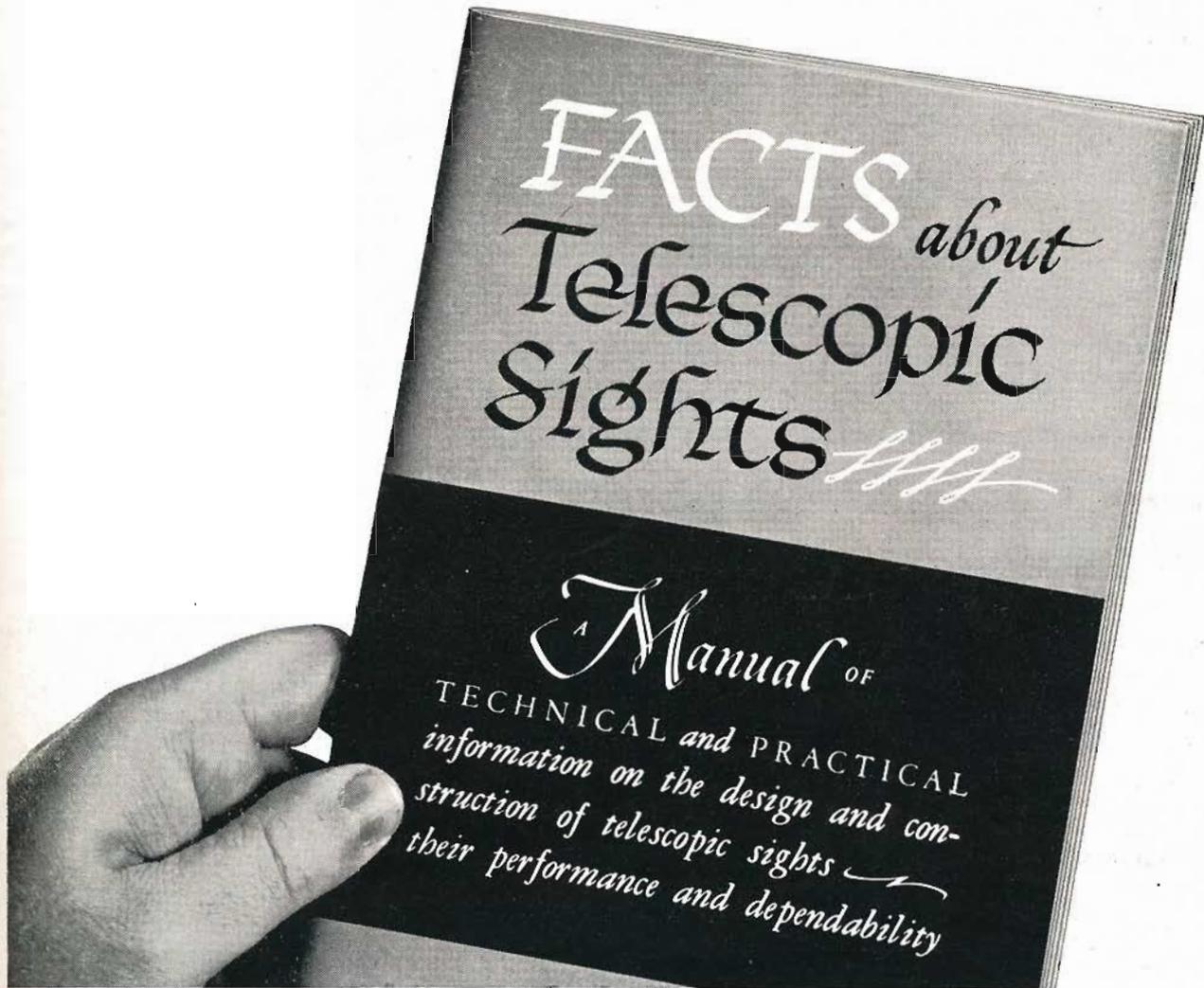
We stopped again behind a huge ant hill. Just as John, Gallu, and Songi reached the ant hill, with me plugging along behind them in the intense heat, we jumped a wart hog from the tall grass. He took off with a snort, the crazy pencil-sized tail sticking straight up and the tuft of hair on the end waving, with the hog swinging its head from side to side to keep sight of us as he ran. It carried small tusks and we never bothered it, but watched it into a clump of heavy thorn.

John finally made out our five oryx through the glasses, fully 500 yards away and with so much other game between us that he knew we could not approach closer. I climbed to the top of the ant hill and assumed a good prone position with sling. John picked out the wounded animal, which had its rump turned toward us. A kongoni was standing right in line and covering all but the top of the oryx. John said, "Elmer, use your bottom cross wire and hold just over the withers with it. Range 500 to 600 yards." I held that bottom cross wire on his neck and squeezed the trigger, but the slug struck an anthill beyond and just over the top of the withers. Again the oryx were off in a hard run, with all the other game running with them. The zebra ran in circles. It was a sight to see—but we wanted that wounded oryx.

As some tall eland flashed past openings in the trees to the left of a large patch of tall yellow grass, I saw a great round yellow head come out of the grass, fully 500 yards away. The zebra and kongoni all spooked and ran away from this patch of tall grass that would have covered five acres. Then I saw that great yellow head rise again, and again disappear. I asked John to put the glasses on it, which he did; but the head never appeared again. It could only have

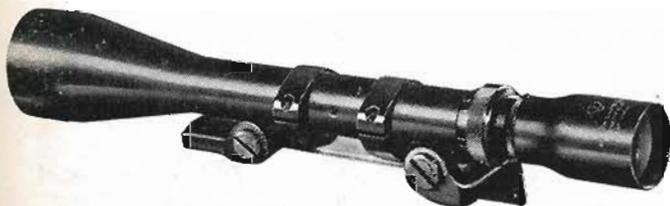
(Continued on page 44)

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(Continued from page 42)

been a maned lion, but lion were protected there.

We broaded the jeep and followed that great mixed herd of game for two miles through scattered thorn trees, the zebras ever increasing in number and running back and forth across our front, making it very hard to catch even a glimpse of our five oryx. When the game finally quieted down, we again left the jeep and stalked on foot.

After a long stalk from the cover of some acacias and a huge ant hill, we again got sight of our five oryx. A herd of zebras milled around between us and the oryx. Even from my vantage point, with rifle rested over the top of the ant hill, I could only see the very tops of their backs and horns over the sea of zebra heads and bodies. Again the oryx ran, and John whispered for me to shoot the second one from the right, as that was our wounded beast. There was no chance of estimating the range accurately through all the dust kicked up by the zebra, but it looked like 300 yards and I held just over the top of the withers and squeezed, determined to hit the spine or miss. I was dis-

gusted to see the heavy slug throw up dust right over the oryx's back. When the dust and game cleared out, we could see that they had not been over 200 yards away, which accounted for the over-shot.

This was my first day afield in Africa, and the heat was telling on me. I was hard put to keep up with John and the boys. We boarded the jeep again, and slowly followed along in the direction of the course taken by the oryx. We saw even more game; in fact, I saw more game this day than any other day of the whole 40-day safari. After topping a low rise, we entered more open thorn timber and with a flat level plain and very short grass. Here the five oryx joined some 30 more of their species, and the zebra herd increased still more. But each time we attempted a stalk on foot, some 50 to 75 zebra and some kongoni would get between us and run back and forth across our front, seemingly trying their level best to keep us from getting a shot at that wounded oryx. But finally, after fully seven miles from where I had first hit that oryx, the zebra ran to one side and we slid out of the jeep and started our stalk again. For a wonder,

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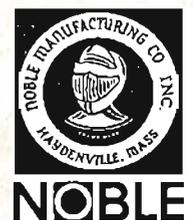
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the zebra stood still and watched us; or maybe they were winded from so much running. At any rate, we made the cover of an ant hill just as the original five took off in a hard run to our right. Oryx milled and ran everywhere, and how John could keep track of the right animal I will never know. But he said, "Bust the third one from the front." I thought, "200 yards," and swung the cross hairs right out in front of the outstretched head and horns, on a level with the spine, and squeezed. With the plunk of the long bullet, my oryx dropped and rolled over and over, making several somersaults in a big cloud of dust. Reloading, I watched for any sign of life as the dust cloud rose; but that oryx was finally down for the count.

We went forward then, and found the proof of what we had suspected about bullet performance. The first slug had expanded too soon, making only a shallow lung wound. The last one had hit and disintegrated on the spine, just behind the shoulders, killing instantly.

Both sexes have horns, in oryx, the cow usually the longer. This one was an old cow with 30 1/2" horns and a beautiful head and cape. My 200 shilling oryx special license was filled.

We took some pictures and then loaded the whole animal in the back of the jeep and drove slowly back to camp. There the

old skinner removed the cape and cleaned the skull, while the boys butchered the oryx for a good supply of fresh meat. That evening, we dined on Francolin; but the next evening it was Swiss steak of oryx, and it proved very fine eating.

I noticed that both John and the boys approached this dead oryx very carefully, John with his old .416 at the ready in case the animal showed any sign of life. I have never seen any animal shed so little blood. My last 300 grain slug went into and shattered the spine, but also broke up until we could not find a piece larger than a match head. From then on during all the rest of the hunt, I tried wherever possible to break the spine with the little rifle. Col. Chas. Askins, who arrived in Africa just after I left, reported he shot three oryx with the new .338 Winchester Magnum, and lost one of them wounded. He claimed they were the toughest game he shot on his entire trip.

This country adjacent to Lake Manyarra was fabulous game country and, after getting a few more trophies including a fine tom leopard, John said, "I have seen you shoot enough now; let's break camp and head for elephant country."

We broke camp next morning and headed south, through Babiti to Singida, through Manyoni, south and further south to "the land of the elephant."

WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW, IT'S STILL A GAME

(Continued from page 25)

laid to "the system." What this means can best be understood by looking at the sporting arms we use and the courses fired. Olympic shooting is according to the rules set up by the International Shooting Union. Although our National Rifle Association and the United States Revolver Association have representation in this group, most American shooting is done with different guns, on different targets, at different ranges, and with different time restrictions from the ISU shooting schedules. Our handgun game uses firearms of predominantly service type, modified, with adjustable sights, but nothing out of the ordinary save for the weights and grips. We shoot .22, .38 revolvers, auto pistols, and our service .45 automatic. There are times which are called "rapid fire" but which still give enough time for any normal shooter to fire all shots before the target flips away. With our rifle matches, there is equally a blending of service events with slow, methodical firing at long ranges from .22 to .30 caliber. M-1 Garand automatic rifles are now on the line, but there is no match so rapid that even a good bolt-action antique can't be used with success.

The ISU matches have some differences, but they are mostly differences in technical training, not in basic principle. Instead of the bulls-eye target in the rapid fire, a silhouette of angular form is used. The inner scoring rings have higher values, are oval in shape; hence the "sight picture" is unfamiliar. Obviously, even a highly skilled bulls-eye shooter would have a transition period in familiarizing himself with the Olympic silhouette. Instead of one bulls-eye target, five of the silhouettes are exposed to the shooter at 25 meters. Times for five shots, one at each target, are eight seconds, six seconds, and four seconds. Traditionally,

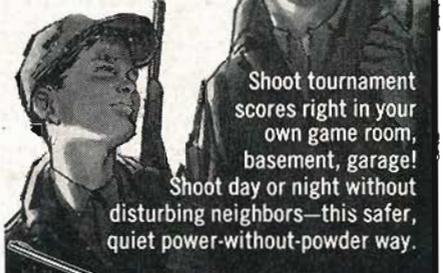
semi-automatic pistols have been used for this course of fire.

But there is nothing radically difficult in shooting this course; some U.S. handgun experts have even gone so far as to consider using a common .22 revolver double action in this event. The late Ed McGivern years ago astonished the shooting game with proof that ordinary American service revolvers could be triggered five times and hit targets in under one second. Obviously, a rhythm could be worked out to permit a trained pistolman to fire five shots well-timed in four seconds. So far, nobody has done this; the .22 game has been swept by the automatic pistol. Maybe the new crop of quick draw and combat double action fans will bring forth a new revolver champion of Olympic Rapid Fire.

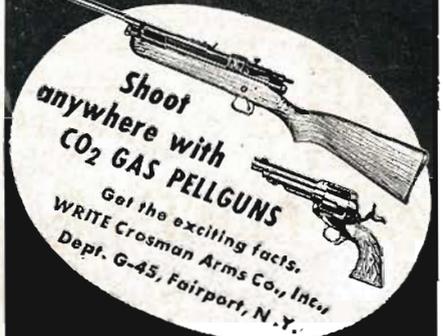
The last 1956 Olympics brought forth a ruckus over the Margolin MTs-Z-1 "upside-down" pistol. To resist the sudden muscle tension when the pistol seems to "lift" in recoil, Russian designer Mikhail Margolin built a pistol with the slide and barrel below the support of the hand. The appearance of the five-shot .22 Short caliber auto pistol was that of a gun built upside down. When this dream was unveiled at Melbourne Olympics in 1956, the Western World was shocked. "Outlaw it!" screamed the shooting savants; and the I.S.U. solemnly ruled that no pistol could be used which did not fit into a box 15 centimeters wide, 10 centimeters deep and 30 cms. long. The existing Margolin pistols would not fit, though there is now a short barreled model. Just what a box of any dimensions has to do with the specifications of a pistol was not stated.

But the Russian pistol, while novel, was not fundamentally a radical contribution to target shooting. Scores were not higher be-

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cause of it; and Sorokine and Tcherkassov, who fired this pistol, kept Walther "Olympic" model pistols at hand in case of failures.

Russian guns in the Olympics will be of much interest, even colorful. The full-fluted barrels may impress some Stateside shooters, though the older Swiss competitors may remember the old Hammerli & Hausch Martini offhand rifle, with as many as a dozen or more individual flutes down the length of the barrel. Radiation of heat, stiffness without weight, are just as desirable today as they were 70 or 170 years ago when such novelties first appeared.

The Running Deer event is not ordinarily shot over American target courses. It requires two quick shots at a crossing deer silhouette. Swedes have used Ljungman semi-auto rifles to get off two shots fast, at this target. Hungarian shooters for a half century and more have found the Mannlicher military straight-pull rifles ideal, or nearly so, much customized from military form. In Russia, since the demand for such a rifle is so specialized, the master gunsmiths of the U.S.S.R.'s ancient gunmaking center, Tula Arsenal, have taken the easy way. They slick up and hone and polish their relic World War I Canadian Ross rifles, fit them with new barrels, dignify them with lavish engraving and gold inlay for display purposes, and put them on the firing line. Nobody seems to know where the Russians acquired these rifles, unless it be a supply purchased before 1917 and before quantities of the Remington and New England Westinghouse contract Nagant rifles could be turned out. But this old war horse in dress parade is a "secret weapon" in the Soviet sports arsenal. The fact is that it doesn't take that much novelty in arms engineering to shoot a deer twice. Thousands of sometime hunters have been perforating deer with lever action Winchester without difficulty, so what is the fuss all about?

One of the biggest storms to be brewed in many an Olympiad may break over Rome when the High Standard electric pistol is brought into competition. Pessimistically, M/Sgt. Jim Wade, U.S. Army Retired, who for years has been a wheel horse of the Benning AMU set-up and who has shaped up marksmanship programs in many Army tours, thinks the electric pistol will be "outlawed."

"They did that to the Russian pistol last time," says Sergeant Wade, who presently operates the only public range in the U.S. originally designed to shoot the I.S.U. courses.

"I think there'll be quite a holler about this one, too, especially if we should win."

High Standard's pistol is, as arms go, a

novelty. Its greatest novelty is that it is the first American-built pistol designed especially for the I.S.U. slow fire "free pistol" course. A single shot with sliding breech bolt, internally its trigger and sear design is identical to the release of "Mittel-European" crossbows centuries old, activated by an electromagnet. This is not surprising; its designer is Austrian-born Gary Wilhelm, now Hi Standard's pistol engineer.

Actually, nothing in Olympic armaments is new except the fact that America is now doing it. America is now making Olympic rifles—Winchester and Remington both have good ones. The Remington rifle is really a series of arms, including those with semi-finished stocks. By saving the handwork of stock finishing (all custom work, anyway) you can buy an almost-completed and ready-to-shoot Free rifle, of U.S. fabrication, at a reasonable price. Remington and Winchester have not previously made such rifles, and a dozen or more American top gunsmiths have made such rifles, mainly because the two big firms are too big. Overhead on such a project for a big factory is fantastic, while custom gunmakers can turn out top-notch free rifles at a fraction of the cost, and have been doing so for years.

But the problem of an American-built battery for free rifle shooting is neither new nor revolutionary. Oldsters of the I.S.U. set will recall the days of 1920 when Springfield Armory built up some Martini-action .30-06 rifles for our boys on the firing line. The Martini actions were purchased from Switzerland, possibly from Hammerli. The gun mechanisms imported to the U.S. were doing little more than coming home again—the basic mechanism was invented by Peabody and 600,000 rifles of the same dropping block system were sold to the Ottoman Empire after the Civil War. The Martini (Peabody-Martini as some call them) was no stranger to Americans.

What, then, is new? A look at the U.S. pistol shooting sport reveals some new things; new in that the scores are getting higher all the time. SFC Bill Blankenship, naturally of the Advanced Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, won the 1960 Army Pistol Championship with a record-smashing 2650-123X, last June 7. The old record was 2603, established 1956. Blankenship dropped only 50 points out of a maximum 2700; a 2% error. For years, the elusive 2600 Club has had but a few members. Now, thanks to the A.M.U.'s intensive training programs, you need 2600 to win a major match!

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(Continued on page 49)

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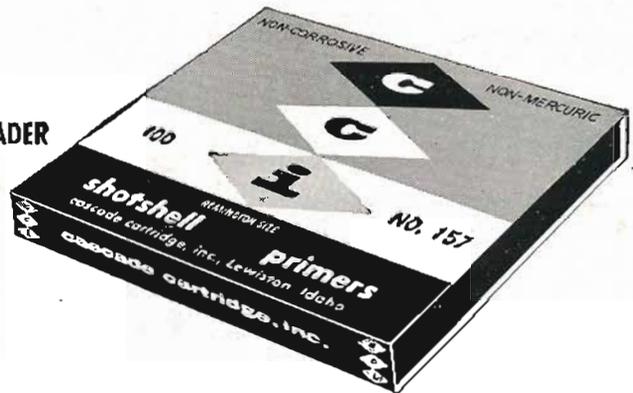
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of 50 years ago. Handloaders have weighed their charges to a tenth grain for decades, but have not broken the 2600 barrier the way the modern crop of A.M.U. shooters can do. The change must be in the shooters, and shooter-training; and the U.S. and Russia are in a great race for shooter selection. By means of national shooting matches and try-outs all over the globe, servicemen of the U.S. Forces are brought together to become better competitive marksmen. There is nothing bad about this—far from it. But it is highly artificial, an attempt to “beat the Russians at their own game.” Only, it is no longer a game. No full-time employee whose sole job is to shoot better can be called an amateur. “We have a game with amateur rules, but professionals are playing it,” says Wade, who has coached some of those top professionals in his Army career.

We're up against some tough competition when we venture abroad to play the International Shooting Union's games. Guns will not make any difference in the final analysis. If past performances are any indication, neither will ammunition. Many shooters—probably the Russians among them—in the smallbore classes will shoot Western Super Match Mark III. It seems to group well. But no ammunition loaded by any nation will exceed in uniformity the fodder you can put together with your little handloading kit. In fact, much Winchester match ammunition is “handloaded for extreme accuracy” as it says on the package. The rifles, even the freshest and newest, may give an industrial stylist the shakes when he sees the thumb hole stocks, but they won't be a bit more accurate than a hundred Stevens-Pope

.32-40s hanging in the homes of gun collectors. There isn't a barrel maker alive today who will surpass Harry Pope's barrel-making skill, though a few can equal it.

But we will need a new weapon for our Olympic success. Among the new pistols we can find rapid fire guns that may add to the confidence of the shooter, but they will hardly shoot any better. On the Russian side, we find what should be a dynamic test model for a military auto rifle. On the Yankee side, we find a 15th century crossbow lock in a single-shot Free pistol.

The weapon we will need to use most carefully in Rome this September is a moral one. It is the confidence and dignity which comes to each man who does a job well, whether it be shooting for the record, changing a tire, or mowing a lawn. Perhaps, at last, we will fire a set of Olympic matches where the athletes' oath has meaning. Perhaps these games may be entered into in exactly that spirit—the true spirit of sportsmanship, “for the glory of sport and the honor of our country.”

This will be a highly personal matter: it may be that the only one who will recognize in full the meaning of a job well done is the individual sportsman himself. This is true if we lose the matches; even more so if we win. There is a responsibility to winning that is greater than the necessity to lose gracefully. The team which makes political hay out of the outcome of these Olympic Games will dishonor its country. Our marksmen are first and foremost American shooters. They will conduct themselves well. May we do as well at home, in our acceptance and appraisal of the outcome, win or lose. It's still a game!

WORLD'S CHEAPEST COLLECTORS' PRIZES

(Continued from page 27)

the first edition of Chapel's book, and general price consciousness has been diffused throughout the trade; so much so that often fairly good old Colts are held at ridiculous prices... and the fatuous owners ultimately have the satisfaction of making a sale as the rise in prices and devaluation of the dollar reaches the peak they established ten years before!

Kicking around the gun world, I have had my chances to pick up fine Colts at bargain basement prices, and muffed them! The famous “Morgan Memorial Paterson” is a good example...

In Cambridge, Mass., during 1945, I lived with my cousins while working at Watertown Arsenal. One weekend as I prepared to hop on my motorcycle and tear off for a wild weekend visiting down-Cape, my cousin

asked if I wanted to “help move furniture.” She was associated with a charitable organization, the Morgan Memorial, which among other activities sold furniture which had been given to it. My answer was, alas, negative, and I spent the weekend basking on the sands of Cape Cod. Meanwhile, they moved furniture...

One piece of furniture they moved was a bureau. In a drawer was a large mahogany chest with the edge fluted in that profile which makes every Colt-o-maniac's heart beat faster; the outline of a cased Paterson pistol. A lady came into the retail store and sought a “sewing box.” Dumping out the pistol and accessories, the store keeper sold her the case for \$5... Presumably, the lady's son or husband assisted the desecration by unscrewing the little brass wires in the bot-



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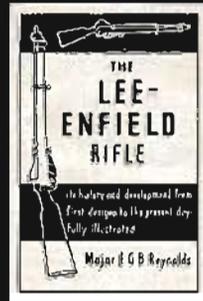
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tom of the chest which held the pistol in place...

The gun and its accessories rattled around in the old bureau for a while—certainly would have been found by me in "moving"—and at last the manager decided to "get rid of this old gun." He took it to a gunsmith. The gunsmith, recognizing the gun as valuable, did not make an offer but said, "I'll see what I can get you for it."

He then called up Charles T. "Jim" Haven (deceased, co-author of "A History of the Colt Revolver") at Haven's office, and told him to "come on over." Together, they sold the gun for \$800, giving \$600 to the Morgan Memorial, who were dumfounded at the unexpected influx of riches. The pistol is now in a famous collection, has an extra 12" barrel, and is one of the finest of its kind in existence... If only I had not been so selfish, but had moved furniture that day at the Morgan Memorial!

One of the finest Pocket Patersons (cased, complete with accessories and extra cylinder) was found by its present owner, Robert E. Lord, who is curator of guns at Fort William Henry, N. Y.

Lord had just taken a new job in a strange town and made the collector's routine first move of scouring the antique shops for old guns. Unable to find a certain shop, Lord knocked on a door to ask directions. Conversation with the home owner led to an invitation to "take a look at a few old guns in the attic." To his amazement, he found a veritable arsenal under the eaves, including some 40 long guns and 25 pistols. After a few minutes of bargaining, the guns and equipment were loaded into Lord's car.

Just before driving away, completely satisfied that he had made a "real killing," Lord was called back into the house and informed that he had missed a gun in a dresser drawer. "When it was brought to me, I opened the case," Lord reports, "and was amazed to see a Paterson Colt. My additional offer was promptly refused. I was informed that our deal had already been made and the very odd "gun without a trigger" was part of the original deal!

"So you see," Lord philosophizes, "if you are just starting a collection, do not be impatient. Someone may give you a Paterson or Walker in the near future..."

This did happen last year to a young couple in California who work in the aircraft industry. The story is related by the wife, who has since become as much interested in Colt collecting as her husband...

Two men, long time friends, one old, the other young, sit before the fire in a small study stacked with books, old boxes, chests. The two are enjoying their Cutty-Sark and a discussion of old books, music, rare orchestral scores and such things.

The old man rises, starts to search for a particular book, an early Shakespeare edition. He opens several boxes and chests...

"Hey, what's that?" asks the young man as a heavy pistol is hauled from the depths of a trunk and tossed aside.

"An old gun, just a piece of junk," says the old man. "I don't think it will even fire... Just hold on a minute, and I'll locate the book..."

"After the book has been examined and talked about, the young man asks to see the old iron. 'I've always liked old guns,' he (Continued on page 52)

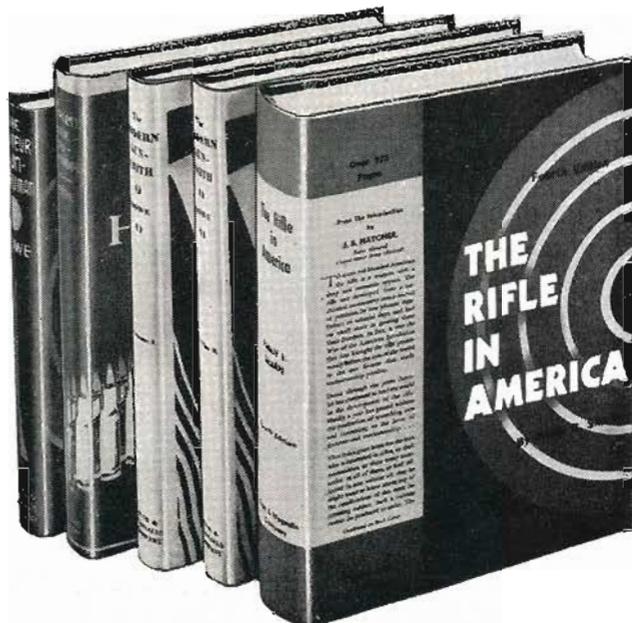
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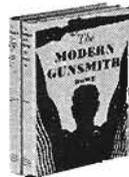
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(Continued from page 50)

says. 'If you don't want this, would you consider selling it to me?'

"But the old man, not anxious to part with anything, declines, though not because of any consideration of price. The young man's explanation that he'd like to have an old Colt to go over the rumpus room bar at home is accepted, but no deal.

"Five or six meetings and a year later, the old man says, 'Remember that gun you liked? I'm getting rid of some things and I'd like you to have it. I got it from an old lady I worked for as a handyman for many years. She said it belonged to her grandfather. Since you like it, I want to give it to you...'

Knowing nothing of guns, the young man took it home and hung it over the bar. Some time later, Harry E. Jones, who had forsaken his first love of Colt collecting to gather and classify Luger pistols ("Luger Variations," 1960) was called upon to clean up the old pistol. Needless to say, the discovery that it was a Walker Colt had disconcerted the whole California gun-collecting fraternity.

But all the gold is not in "them thar hills" out west; not by a long shot. Paterson Pistol No. 1 was located in New Jersey some years ago at a modest fee; and some collectors boast of finding unmarked Patersons, sold cheap because a dealer who was not a specialist did not realize what he had.

A year ago—1959 was a good year for gun discoveries, it seems—a small country auction was held in upstate New York. Locally advertised, the notice said there were a few lots comprising old guns. One of the nation's foremost gun dealer experts, doing business not far away, knew of the sale but did not feel it was worth his time to appear.

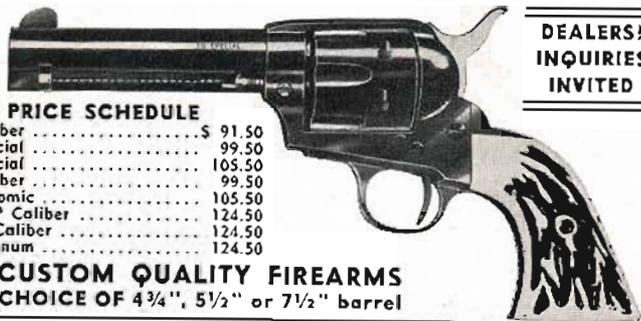
As I got the story in some detail shortly after the incident, a New York policeman (Sullivan Law conscious as always) was directing traffic in the road near by when the auctioneer's helper, going through the carelessly inventoried items, produced a large polished box, locked. A chisel was hastily applied to the hinges and the lid lifted enough to see a pair of pistols. The auctioneer was worried because they were "revolvers," so he started them off as a "Pair Antique Duelling Pistols," to avoid alerting the policeman. A sometime gun dealer in the audience knew a little of the value of such items and, peering through the crack, saw he could go a trifle higher than the worth of a set of duellers. The bid jumped rapidly to \$2800; at which point, the auctioneer, afraid he'd go to jail for selling "revolvers," knocked them down.

The dealer later dropped by the shop of a New York gun-collector dealer, but found the door locked. The cased pistol buyer left a scribbled note: "Blank, I got a couple pistols you ought to buy." The note was found later that night, but the collector dealer waited three or four days before he figured he "really ought to see what Joe Doakes has for sale." He did, and the deal was quickly made. A rumored \$3800 gave the original purchaser a handsome profit.

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(Continued on page 55)

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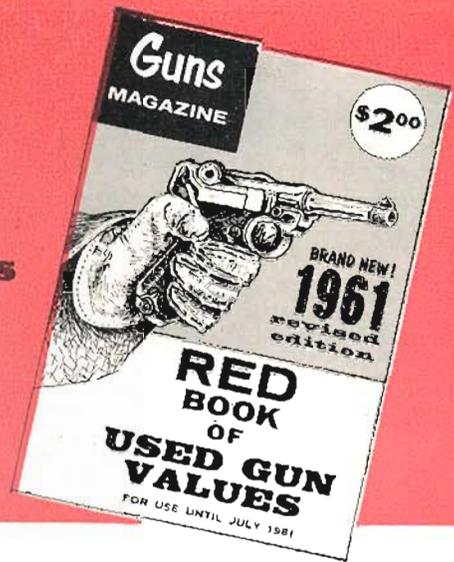
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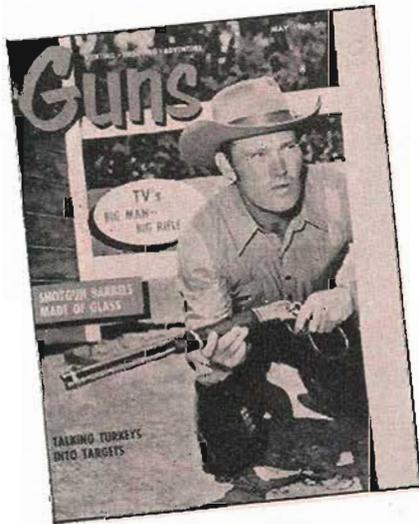
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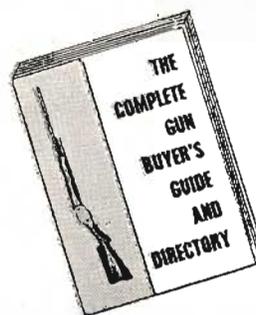
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(Continued from page 52)

never fired! The bid has jumped to \$18,000 the set, but we hear he is holding out for \$21,000. Without question, the pair cannot be duplicated in this world—maybe in the next.

Somewhat anticlimactic is the story of a collector in Baltimore a dozen years ago. an employee of the Kirk silver company, who fell into conversation with a fellow workman. He was asked if he wanted some "old pistols." Maybe he would be willing to trade a shotgun for them?

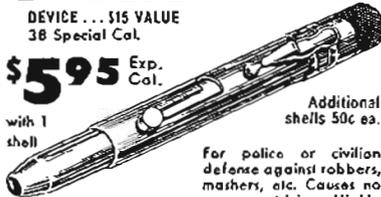
A tentative yes brought forth a gunnysack weighing rather heavily, which the Kirk gun collector had to leave beneath his bench for several days before he could get a look at its contents. One box contained just an ordinary pair of Navy Colts, nicely engraved but not really rare. The other box contained a brand new Texas pistol, serial No. 201.

Colt records indicate the first batch of No. 5 or Texas pistols assembled was a lot of 201 guns, indicating probably this arm was the last of the first batch. Naturally, a pretty good shotgun was rapidly forthcoming in trade for the sets.

So far, nobody has donated any fine old Colts to me in honor of my book on Colt. I have made a few contacts—one unsung lad found a Shawk & McLanghan St. Louis revolver marked No. 2 and "William Tegethoff." He did not know what it was, asked me as editor if I could help him. I dallied with various alternative thoughts, as I would naturally have liked to own the gun. But I replied, giving the name of the model, and let him take it from there. He did indeed. Though such a gun may be worth as much as a thousand on today's much-inflated market (do you know anybody who collects St. Louis arms? I don't) the owner now has an asking price of \$6,000 on it.

Who knows? Maybe the economy will deteriorate until he gets that price... If so, I hope somebody gives me one little small old Pocket Paterson to fill that blank space on my wall before it happens!

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ELMER KEITH SAYS

(Continued from page 9)

holster. This holster hangs a trifle lower than I like for plain clothes wear, but it can be made to suit the buyer.

The other outfit is designed for unconcealed belt wear, by hunters or peace officers. The belt is 2 1/2" wide, double leather, and is a combination money and gun belt, very well made and practical. The portion where the holster rides is dropped a little, making for a perfect comfortable fit. This holster is also a drop loop design, with snap on loop for quick removal and for interchangeable use on any of Ojala's wide Buscadero-type belts.

This holster is also metal lined, with very stiff metal between the two layers of leather. The top of the holster is hung from the belt loop by a swivel. Back of the swivel is a tab of leather with a glove fastener to snap on the holster and hold it at correct angle of gun to body. When seated in a chair or car, one can simply unsnap this glove fastener and the gun butt will swing forward or back, allowing the gun to ride horizontal with the seat and thus not push the belt upward. It is a very fine practical outfit for the peace officer and the most comfortable outfit I have ever used for a long hung gun.

Show Me The Way To Go Home

For the hunter working fairly level, densely timbered country, especially in cloudy or foggy weather, when the best of us can easily get turned around, Poly Choke has a tiny little compass that can be fitted into the rifle or gunstock so that it can't get lost, to show you the way home. It seems to be a very accurate little compass and will tell you which way is North at a glance. It weighs practically nothing and is furnished complete with a drill for proper seating flush with the top of the gunstock. A very handy little gadget that could help you find camp in bad weather. Address Poly Choke, Box 296, Hartford 1, Conn.

300 Grain Nosler .375 Magnum

Nosler's new semi-pointed 300 grain bullet in their time-tried and excellent design should prove the best of all big game bullets in this weight in the .375 Magnum. Samples sent me for test are very uniform and accurate. The front half expands and the rear half remains in one solid piece, insuring certain and deep penetration.

Over the years, the Nosler bullet has proven one of the most deadly ever produced for all ultra-high velocity rifles, and good also at moderate velocities. A rather soft exposed tip, and the thin jacket near the point, insure expansion even to long range. The heavy solid web in the center of the bullet insures the rear half remaining intact for certain deep penetration. The Nosler Bullet Co., Bend, Ore., promises .35, .338, and .333 OKH bullets next.

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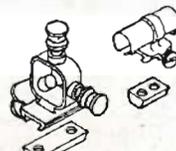
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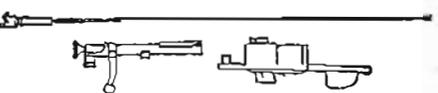


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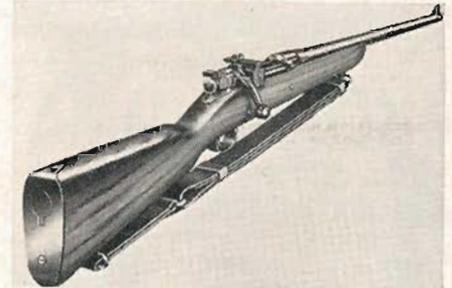
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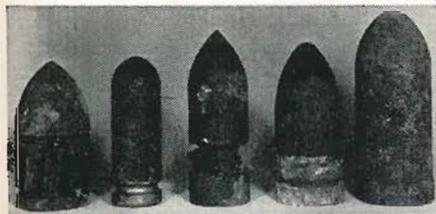
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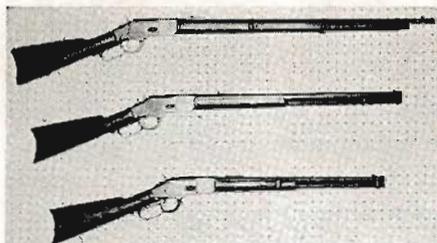


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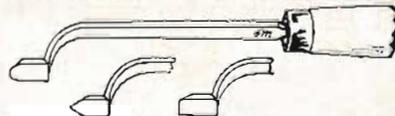


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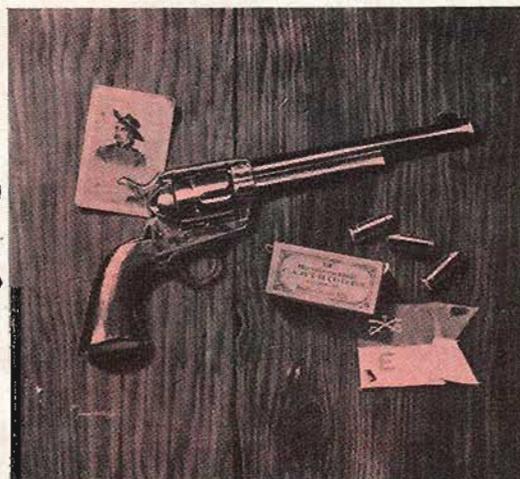
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HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 11)

by weight, so that pressure and velocity depend entirely on the uniformity of the powder. Canister grades are quite uniform, but different lots certainly have some variation.

There are many reasons why your own production loads may run much higher individual pressure than the average of your test loads. Warm weather might cause it. So can individual shells, even in the same make and lot number. Large flash holes. Different primers, bullets, and so on and on. Soft case heads may blow primers and expand the pockets. Cases stretch with firing and become too long for the chamber. Necks thicken. Add it all up and you'll do well to carefully work up loads for your particular rifle, and back the final shooting charge off to less than what we call "Max." Accuracy is generally better below Max.

If you need that last grain or two of powder, the best deal is to go to a bigger bore or a higher velocity cartridge. I like fodder hot and fast, but I'm not silly enough to overload a rifle to get it. Increasing a nearly full charge in second hand cases is the idiots' method of obtaining better ballistics. There is no safer hobby than handloading if we use a little common sense. I've fired hundreds of thousands of rounds without having even a minor accident.

The Swedish Service load starts a 139 grain full jacket boat tail at 2625 f.p.s. in the long tube, or about 2400 f.p.s. in the carbine. You can duplicate it with 43.5 grains 4350 with the Norma pill. You are apt to get best accuracy with this charge, and perhaps with this bullet. Speer lists a top load of 47 grains with their 140 grain bullet at 2580 f.p.s. in the carbine. Both makes of bullets are good.

Norma bullets are made with a coated steel jacket that you can detect with a magnet. Some shooters have the idea that they will wear out a bore in a hurry. It isn't true. Bore wear depends on many factors besides the jackets. The Army calls 5,000 rounds "normal life" for the Colt .45 Automatic pistol. This is sometimes pointed out as a horrible example of fast bore wear. Pistol barrels can be replaced quickly at low cost, so I don't see that their life is much problem. Many owners get longer life.

Probably much of the trouble was in the old corrosive primers. More trouble is probably caused by the hard core, jacketed bullets that often fail to bottom in the grooves fully, due to low pressure. I'm not positive, but I do not believe Norma bullets cause any faster bore wear than our gilding metal jackets. The mild steel takes the rifling perfectly, without direct contact. Any noticeable difference in bore wear is apt to be in the individual barrel, the type of primers, the powder, etc. I'd say a barrel would shoot \$400 or \$500 worth of ammunition, or more, and that's a whale of a lot of fodder.

Before the fine Norma ammo, bullets, and cases, were available to U. S. shooters, you had to make cases out of .30-06 hulls, or use Berdan primers in foreign cases, such as the D.W.M.-431C ammo that Stoeger used to import. There is nothing very bad about making hulls with .30-06 brass, if you know how, have good brass, and time has no value to you. You have to trim cases to 2.157", size to the proper depth, use a .263"

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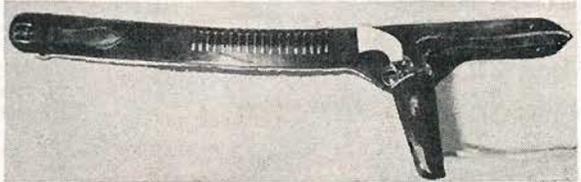
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mouth expander, anneal the necks carefully, and chamber form. It generally takes two firings to fully form cases, using about 9 grains Unique. Figure the price of two bullets, primers, charges, and all your work, and you'll decide it's cheaper, and certainly better to buy Norma brass or loads.

Berdan primers, as used in foreign factory loads, are perfectly okay. Digging the fired primers out for reloading is a slow, individual operation. Norma brass designed for reloading with American type primers is a much better deal. Handloading by individuals is more popular than in any other country, and we have a larger variety of quality tools, designed to perform all operations in a safe, simple and fast routine.

Two of our major die makers have different ideas about 6.5 x 55 shell holders. C-H makes one especially for this cartridge. RCBS recommends their No. 2 (.30/30) holder. The .30/30 rim is some .026" larger in diameter, and .024" thicker. I checked Norma cases in a No. 2 C-H shell holder, and if you already own this size you can use it. However, a sloppy shell holder may make it appear that the dies are a bit out of alignment. If you want the accuracy obtained by the Scandinavian shooters, your tools and dies should be top quality and, of course, a perfect fit, and in alignment.

Jacketed bullets .263" or .264" are correct diameter. Norma loads a light 77 grain listed at 3120 f.p.s. in a 29" tube. This will be exactly what some shooters want, backed with 40 grains 4064 for identical velocity. I consider it inferior to the 139 grain pill. Norma's 156 grain round nose load starts at 2490 f.p.s., duplicated with 42.7 grains 4350, at a moderate 38,000 psi. These have great penetration. If I had to use this caliber on larger game this would be my choice of pills, or perhaps the 140 grain Nosler.

Nosler Partition Bullets are made in 125 and 140 grain. I've tried only the lighter one. It shot well with the only load tested, 46 grains 4350 with CCI primers. While not chronographed, it makes around 2800 f.p.s. in a rifle.

Nosler bullets have an excellent reputation for accuracy, and clean kills on larger game at Hi-V. They hold together for smashing penetration through large bones at Hi-V, with positive nose expansion. The bullet body holds together at the highest velocity I've driven one in a Weatherby Magnum.

Speer's Manual lists 72 tested loads for the 6.5 x 55, using the excellent Speer bullets. Velocities are for the 18" carbine. You can add 200 f.p.s. for the long tubes. Speer's top charges are nearly full throtle, and may be too hot in some guns with some components. Start with their lighter loads and work up if desired.

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GUN SPECIALTIES
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College Park, Georgia

GUN RACK

(Continued from page 14)

will have a standard blade with the rounded back corner.

Perhaps finest of the old Sheriff's Models extent is in the Metzger collection, presented to Texas A & M College by the Metzger estate. It, too, is .45 caliber, factory "C" grade engraving, silver plated and pearl grips. The number is high, 329925, and it has one of the approximately 1500 "long fluted" double action army cylinders.

According to Centennial Arms, all pistols they supply will come with the fine walnut grips Colt is now putting on the higher priced Single Actions. The barrel bears a new two-line stamping made specially for these short 3" barrels, while the left side of the barrel is marked SHERIFF'S MODEL .45. Serial numbers, since this is a special frame unlike the Single Action Army and cannot be fitted up as a regular SAA pistol, will be numbered from "1" up. Only a limited number are to be made.

This gun is billed as the "world's biggest pocket pistol." Without a doubt, that it is! You'd swear the frame is 20% bigger than the regular gun, due to the odd appearance of the very distinctive super-squared short barrel. But in spite of its bulk, it can be carried fairly easily in the side pants pocket. From the tote-test to the firing line, this novel handgun seems to check out okay. From Centennial Arms Corp., 3318 W. Devon, Chicago 45; \$139.95 list.

PLASTIC SHOTSHELLS

(Continued from page 29)

Plastics are no novelty to me—I remember when Robijn, the Dutch brand, put forth their first advertising brochures in 1952. Of course, plastics of a combustible sort had been used militarily in War Two, but these were plastic replacements for paper and metal in shotshells. A few years later, I bought the good Pinto shotshells, made in Como, Italy. Got three pheasants with five shots one February with them; good stuff. Gave me quite a thrill to shoot fodder that the collectors were paying a buck a piece to gather up, too.

But the Pintos, and the French Carplants, were for double guns. Their bases were plastic, and sometimes when worked through my Remington 58 autoloader, the ejector would simply punch a hole in the rim, though most of the time they did eject. I preferred to use those plastics in my single Greener GP field gun. They could have been reloaded for single shots again but, generally, the caps seated in plastic, and the ends usually lost the crimp.

Remington knew of these weaknesses; but they also knew that the plastics were water proof, stood up well in storage, and had a snappy eye-appeal. How to combine advantages of the plastics without taking along the disadvantages was the main point of the five year research program.

The end result is a tube of linear polyethylene, re-processed by Remington to become enormously strong. Untreated plastic of the identical composition can be torn easily; will separate at the wad and fly out the muzzle, when used in a shell case.

By contrast, I took up a 1/4" wide strip of the new treated plastic, clamped it in a vise, and was completely unable to break it

Durable Gun Cases

Have got some dope on the American Safety Gun Case and it looks good. Shooters peeved at getting scope sights knocked out of kilter, or shotgunners made unhappy by scratches in fine stock woods, should check with the offerings of American Safety Gun Case Co., 82 East 8th St., Holland, Michigan. Using molded fiberglass, tough as steel and lighter than aluminum, A.S.G.C.C. has turned out a rugged, handsome profile-fitting case design for many types of long arms. These are shipping as well as carrying cases, and will protect fine arms in aircraft holds when flying to hunting areas.

Red Book Hot Off Press

Long awaited third edition of the standard GUNS Red Book Of Used Gun Values is at last available. Now 100 pages, new guns have been added, prices somewhat revised though current slightly slow market has slowed some advances in collectors' arms which seemed likely a year ago. At \$2.00 postpaid (special deals for subscribers and renewals to GUNS), this is a mighty handy hip-pocket counsellor. At the gun shows or auctions, if in doubt, check your enthusiasm by a look at the conservative listings in the Red Book of Used Gun Values. Note: This is not a catalog of guns for sale as some folks have supposed. Write to our advertisers, don't write to us at GUNS Magazine to buy guns!

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with parallel-jaw pliers. The regular stuff separated like putty. The tube is fitted to a plated steel hi-base cup.

Remington put on quite a show in introducing this new shotshell. Gun scribes had been arriving and departing at Bridgeport for weeks when I drove in. Low pressured but impressive were the tricks Public Relations chief Ted McCawley and research manager Don Foote put on for us.

To show the resistance to scuffing of the new ammo, plastics were dumped into water-filled pockets of a hunting coat, which was mechanically agitated to equal a hard day's hike. The plastics came through okay; paper shells were badly damaged. A handful of assorted plastic and paper shells was stuffed into a Bendix washer along with a pair of overall. The work clothes came out clean; the paper shells were "cleaned," too—of all their shot; plastics were okay. Frost-covered plastics were taken from the deep freeze and fired; oil-slimy paper shells were taken from an oven on which plastics had been baking at 130° F. for hours also. The plastics shot okay in the proof gun, a Model 870 pump. But we made sure of safety by standing behind a bullet proof glass and pulling the trigger with a lanyard. Heat does raise pressures some in any ammo, but the plastic "H" wads and plastic case without any grease or oil guarantees stability of powder and primer. . . Finally, no hunter can claim that

"they forgot to put in the shot." for he can see the pellets, can almost make out the size, through the walls of the shell.

Handloaders will like the new tubes. Though more costly than paper, they can, according to Don Foote, be reloaded up to ten times. This without doubt is new in plastics; none of the European types can be so handled. The Remington bases are stronger, too, made of steel overlaid with



Paper shells in sun may leak grease weakening powder (note smear on paper). Inert plastics are more stable.

copper plating and then brass.

I asked Foote if higher velocities could be handloaded. "The limit," Don explained, "is not the limit of the case or base, but the limit of the lead shot. Lead simply won't take the acceleration of super dooper loads without deforming, and lead is limited in hardenability." Adding antimony will work only so far and then any more addition just cuts down the weight of a given pellet. So the new shells do not offer any great plus for super powerful handloads but rather they will work longer without damage in the battering automatic shotgun actions.

Ted McCawley and I took a couple of turns at skeet with the new shells. Since loads in only the heavier shot sizes will be made—2, 4, 5, 6, and 7½—we had a little "handicap" in shotcharge. Firing 6s, it seemed the loads kicked a trifle more than some target loads we used on the second round. But the patterns broke birds.

Remington's new shells are for the field, for taking a beating and staying in shooting trim. They stay in good shape under adverse storage conditions better and longer than any other shells made in America. This means a lot to the ammo jobber and the dealer, who may finish the season with a big carry-over inventory of shells. The Remington plastics won't change from heat or cold, even if "stored" in the trunk of your car.

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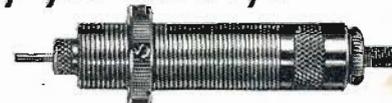
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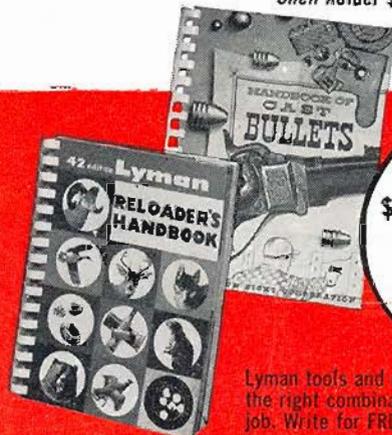
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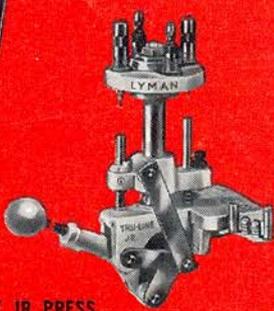
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