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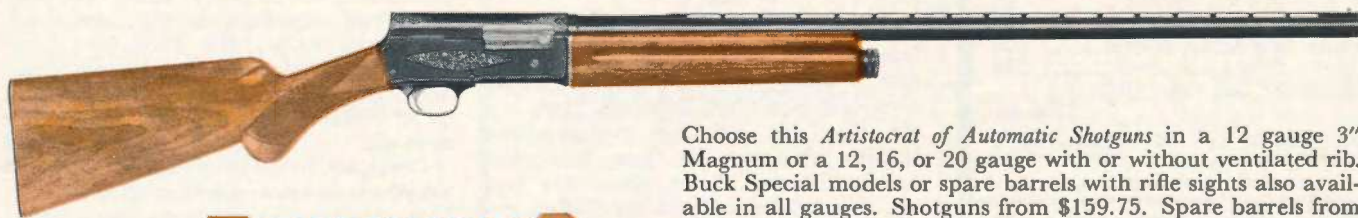


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Pull!

BY DICK MILLER

THERE IS STILL a lot of tournament skeet shooting on tap after the NSSA World Championships at Forest City Gun Club, Savannah, Georgia, from July 31 through August 7. This was the big one, and the one for which all prior tournaments were excellent proving grounds, but there are a lot of targets still to be broken, and a lot of important trophies to be won. And those shooters who were off the pace at Savannah can prove that it was all an accident when they dropped too many targets there. Labor Day will find skeet gunners across the nation laboring to break targets and add to the trophy cabinet.

Some of the big Labor Day week-end events are: September 4-6, Morgan County Gun Club, Tennessee Valley Labor Day Open, four guns, 300 targets, Decatur, Alabama. I can personally attest to the fine hospitality for visiting shooters at this active North Alabama club. National Capital Gun Club's Fall Open, a four-gun 400 target set-to, at Darnestown, Maryland, is also set for September 4-6.

For many shooters, the skeet trail will lead back to Georgia just one month after the Nationals, for the Flint Skeet and Trap Club's 3rd Annual Labor Day Open, a four-gun, 400 target affair at Albany, Georgia, Sept. 4-6. My native Hoosier state offers Hoosier hospitality and targets at Indianapolis' Crooked Creek Conservation & Gun Club at a Labor Day Open on the same dates.

Other shoots on the same dates, but not billed as Labor Day events are, Governor's Invitational Championships, New Pioneer Gun Club, Des Moines, Iowa; Eastern Zone Championships, Minute Man Sportsman's Club, Billerica, Massachusetts; Ilion Open, Ilion Fish & Game Club, Ilion, New York; Rebel Open, Wateree Gun Club, Columbia, South Carolina.

Some one-day tournaments scheduled for September 5 include: Smokey Hill Gun Club, Salina, Kansas, September Open; Shreveport Gun Club, Louisiana, Open trophy shoot and club .410 championships; Michigan, Indiana, Ohio Open, Winchester Toledo Fennwood, Berky, Ohio. The two-day spread of September 5 and 6 offers several chances to get on the winning track at: Cowhouse Open, four guns, 300 targets, Ft. Hood Rod & Gun Club, Texas; Northern New England Open, four guns, 250 targets, Sportsman's Club of Franklin County, St. Albans, Vermont; West Virginia State and Open, four guns 300 targets, Coonskin Skeet Club, Charleston.

And, there's more. After the Labor Day

week-end there are several big ones, especially one of New England's classics, the Eastern States Open & George Docherty Memorial, September 11 and 12, a four-gun, 300 target lively contest, with big names and Nationals caliber competition, at Ludlow Fish & Game Club, Ludlow, Massachusetts. More than one All-American will lay his reputation on the skeet line at Ludlow, and it's a safe prediction to say that it will take better than average shooting to get a trophy in any gauge, but especially in .410. I have declared this club the most active small gauge club in the United States, and they will have to stand so designated until some other club can offer evidence to the contrary.

September 11 and 12 also offers the Harvest Open, at Rural Sportsmen Association gun club, Trexlertown, Pennsylvania, with four guns and 300 targets on the program. The same September dates find one of the venerable skeet events of the nation on tap at Izaak Walton Park Gun Club, Richmond, Virginia, in the form of the 17th Old Dominion Open, sporting four guns and 300 total targets.

Speaking of the small guns, there is a real small gun outing scheduled for September 11 and 12; the appropriately named Pop-Gun Open, at Oconomowoc Gun Club Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, which is limited to 100 targets each in .410 and 28 gauges. This could be another hotbed of small gun plinking, to challenge the Ludlow idiot stick fans. In any case, the idea is good, and the shoot committee shows imagination. They rate a Pull salute (with a small gun, of course).

Jimmy Robinson has done it again! Jimmy has made a career of seeing what needed to be done record-wise in the twin target sports of trap and skeet, then doing it. Now he plans to bring out a book on the All-American teams in the two sports. The trap teams will date back to 1927, and skeet teams pick up in 1935. There have been some mighty colorful and copyworthy characters on those teams during the last quarter of a century or more, and Jimmy knew them all.

Compiling the information will be a monumental task, but so was keeping records for both sports over many of the years when such record keeping as was done fell to Jimmy's lot, by choice, it should be added.

Jimmy has asked that any person named to one of his All-America teams in either trap or skeet contact him at 2924 Boone Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The book in its finished form will be sold only in block orders, and will be must reading for all aficionados of the games.



Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

SEPTEMBER, 1965

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THE COVER

This Colt revolver is one of the highlights of the gun collections on display at the Montana exhibit at the New York World's Fair. The engraving, by Elwood Averill, depicts the work and life of C. M. Russell, "The Cowboy Artist." More than 900 pieces of precious metal inlays and countless hours of painstaking work went into this Colt. Photo by Frank Eck.

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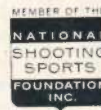
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CROSSFIRE

Dear Kent Bellah

I am a steady reader of GUNS Magazine, and have enjoyed your very interesting and instructive articles in the Handloading Bench department, and your article, "Handgun Bullet Swaging" in the April issue is most interesting.

On page 14 of the April issue, you mention Ed McGivern, the greatest handgunner of all time. Ed was my step-father and some years ago I took some shooting instruction from him by mail. I am sorry to say that later on I gave up my shooting. I am enclosing a copy of one of Ed's letters, which I thought you might like to read and keep.

In one of his letters, he says, "I receive about 100 letters a year now (1929) and try to answer them all." He further says, "In 1918-19-20 I used to get about 400 letters a year from all parts of the country, Russia, Japan, Australia, England, and France". He also includes, "I like to help anyone interested in the shooting game." These are some of the words of a Great Master in the Shooting Profession, who has passed on, but his contributions to the lore and science of handgun shooting are not forgotten.

It is a pleasure to be a GUNS subscriber; I enjoy that close contact with the great shooting profession of America.

Freeman K. Teague
Portland, Ore.

It's a pleasure to receive a good letter from the step-son of the "greatest handgunner of all time." My friends who knew Ed McGivern feel his record of firing 5 accurate shots in 2/5ths second with the old long action S&W will stand for all time. It would be impossible with the new short, stiff S&W actions standard since 1950.

Ed McGivern's contributions to handgunning were many. The one of greatest current value is his hollow base wadcutter design, copied by all factories for .38 Match ammo, and recently improved by Speer.

Thank you for the copy of his interesting letter. I'll keep it, stored in his classic "Fast & Fancy Revolver Shooting" book.—Kent Bellah

Three Cheers

Three cheers for your team. You have added a department to your magazine that more than doubles its value. I am referring to Shelley Braverman's "An Inside Look."

Circumstances and interests have led many of us to collecting semi-automatic pis-

tols, military and commercial. Your magazine is the first to recognize this fact and give us collectors something of our own. Would articles about semi-automatic pistols receive any consideration if submitted to your office?

William Mattson
Royersford, Pa.

We welcome any manuscripts on guns of all types, and if you or any of our readers has good material on semi-automatic pistols, we would be happy to consider it for publication.—Editor.

Canadian Guns

Congratulations for the article "Guns of the Canadian Hunter," by Elwood Epps. It is packed with meat, and all of it is accurate.

Mr. Epps is one of those rare shooters who is familiar with all types of rifles, from popguns to magnums, all types of sights from open to scope, and can see the good points of each without going overboard for his own particular favorite.

If you could obtain more articles from him, and tap his large store of practical knowledge on moose hunting, clothing and equipment for the hunter, the pros and cons of spitzer bullets, etc., it would be of tremendous value to the readers of your excellent magazine.

H. V. Stent
Summerland, B.C.

Saw your magazine GUNS on the newsstand today for the first time. I bought one, and enjoyed it very much. Enjoyed your articles on Canadian hunting, as we are planning a hunting trip to Alberta, mainly for sheep and elk.

Raymond Stocke
Paradise, Calif.

Good Idea?

A bill introduced in the 1965 Texas Legislature by Representative Tom Bass would create a law authorizing women to carry certain tear gas ejecting devices for the purpose of self defense. A pen gun such as the Penguin is not a firearm. The U. S. Treasury Department has ruled that this tear gas pen is not subject to the provisions of either the National or Federal Firearms Act.

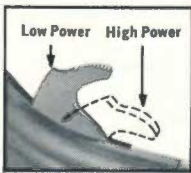
J. David Narbeth
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GUN RACK

Federal Cartridge News

Federal primers have undergone some changes, and since these changes were of a major kind, we decided not merely to report them but to put some of the new primers to work and see if powder charges needed adjusting. Federal primers for years had round cups and a great many reloaders shied away from them. Round primer seater cups were needed and this entailed extra expenses and changing of primer cups and subsequent adjusting of the cup with each change. Federal primers now use the 3 leg anvil instead of the 2 leg anvil, and brisance appears to be identical. We loaded some rounds for an '06 with the old primers and some with the new primers, then checked the load for accuracy and velocity. Accuracy was virtually identical, and the differences in the fps readings on our chronograph were so minor that they are statistically insignificant. The primer code numbers have not been changed, but Federal now color codes the primers. This list, pasted up over your loading bench, will be a big help.

Federal Number	Type	Nominal Diameter	Color Coding
100	Small Pistol	.175	Red
150	Large Pistol	.210	Green
200	Small Rifle	.175	Green
210	Large Rifle	.210	Red
215	Large Magnum Rifle	.210	Purple

Of special interest to the shotshell loader is the new, and highly effective Champion shotshell wad. The Champion wad basically consists of the plastic shot sleeve that gives

tightly into the base of the collar. This makes a handy wad since only one unit has to be handled, and in extensive loading and shooting tests, we found that the Champion wad column works fine, gives excellent patterns, and good ballistics.

In 12 ga. loads and using 1½ oz. of shot, 18 gr. of Red Dot give about 1150 fps, 19 gr. of the same powder give about 1200 fps. Using 18 gr. of Hi-Skor 700X also gives around 1150 fps, and the 19 gr. load duplicates the ballistics of the same load of Red Dot. Wad pressure is not critical, and Federal suggests from 0-20 lbs. with paper hulls. We tried 0, 5, 10, 15, and 20 lbs. of pressure, and wad pressure variations did not appear to affect the performance of our handloads.

Hornady Bullets

Joyce Hornady is now shipping his new 175 gr. SO spire point 7 mm bullet. Joyce claims that expansion of the new bullet is even better than that obtained with other bullets, and for the long range shooter who uses the 7 mm, especially that hot Remington 7 mm Magnum, this bullet should hold special appeal.

Decoys for Crows

Kurt Evers, Jr., of Evers Industries, Inc., Honesdale, Pa., 18431, sent us a set of his crow decoys and a horned owl that looks more like an owl than the one that lives in our front yard. Best of all, these Evers decoys are tough, weatherproof, and unbreakable. Made of Vinyl, with the exception of the eyes which are glass, the set we have used on a number of crow shoots was so realistic and superior to our old set that the improved difference in our kill to shotshells expended ratio must be due to these decoys. The great horned owl stands 24 inches high, while the crows are 17 inches long. A set of crow decoys and one horned owl decoy retails for \$12.95, and extra crows are available for \$6.00 the pair. If your local sporting goods store does not carry them as yet, write to Evers Industries at the above address.



Buehler Mounts

Maynard Buehler, 17 Orinda Highway, Orinda, Cal., now has one piece bases for the new Remington 600 Magnum rifle. The mount we tried mounts in the rear position, while a new mount, designed for the Leu-

(Continued on page 10)

better patterns and less shot distortion and damage. The base of the collar provides an enclosed air-cushion pocket and the over-powder flange with its male counter part, fits

SO YOU WANT TO BE A GUNSMITH

by B. Fritz Samuels

You're a young fellow interested in guns. Perhaps you've thought of making your living in gun work. But do you really know what the business is like? If not, read this.

PUT AND TAKE CHOKE

by Francis E. Sell

Different shotgunning situations require different patterns, and different patterns require different chokes—unless, as this veteran reloader does, you put your choke in your shells.

PIPE IN YOUR CROWS

by Don Shiner

Here's a graphic picture piece on making an elevated decoy setup, one that really brings in the black rascals.

FUSIL ELECTRIQUE

by Roger Barlow

Matchlock, wheel-lock, flintlock, percussion—from firearms' beginnings, hunters have clamored for ever-faster ignition time, knowing it was one aid to a full game bag. Never were they satisfied, but perhaps now . . .

FORENSIC BALLISTIC

ERRORS

by Shelley Braverman

If you should be accused of murder, your own life could depend on the accuracy and thoroughness of the investigation conducted by a ballistic expert—and on the beliefs of jurors subconsciously based on careless fiction and television writers. Both often are wrong, as this international authority points out.

THE LUGER MYTH

by R. A. Burmeister

For generations shooters have spoken of the Luger pistol in hushed and reverent tones, over-awed by its deadly appearance, its world-wide reputation. Is this idolatry justified or . . .

THE WILD ONES!

by A. B. Kazan

In the past half-century, bolt action stock design has moved from the military through the classic sporter to extreme California style. Now, from Florida, come the way-way-out WINSLOW RIFLES.

WHY THE MAGNUM?

Sure, the magnums recoil and roar, they erode barrels faster than smaller cartridges. But, when success or failure depends on one shot, and your trophy is a mountain away, the magnums have that extra punch!

A GENEALOGY OF COLT

LONGARMS

by James E. Triggs

A picture history of Colt shoulder arms, from the rare and valuable Paterson revolvers to the rifles made at Hartford, the Civil War percussion rifles, the later lever and slide action rifles and ending with the famed double rifles.

BALLISTICS MUMBO JUMBO

by Eric Jamieson, III

Many hunters have little knowledge of factory ballistic tables; others derive an inordinate confidence from a superficial examination of them. The latter are often no better off than the first group, the author points out.

BEAUTIFUL BROWNING'S

by Pete Kuhlhoff

All Browning arms carry some engraving, the full custom guns being masterpieces of the art of metal embellishment. Surprisingly, some 150 artists work at Liege, nearly two dozen of them women!

DAN LEFEVER—Inventor of

America's First Hammerless

Shotgun

by Wallace Labisky

Dan Lefever was a rifle-maker for 25 years, but his lasting claim to fame is his compensated hammerless double gun.

GUNNING THE GAME

PRESERVES

by Jack Lawrence

Preserve shooting is growing at a great rate, and deservedly so—the clubs are nearby, they do have the game, and the cost-per-bird is reasonable on any fair-comparison basis.

SMOOTHBORES For Deer

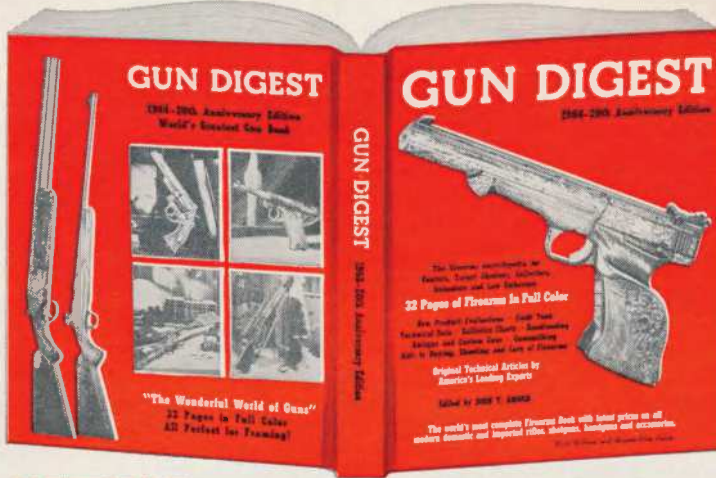
by Chapman J. Milling, M.D.

Buckshot or rifled slugs, here's valuable information on choosing a gun and gauge, use of a pattern board, and more.

ED SHILEN—RIFLESMITH

by John T. Amber

This New York gunmaker supplies the world's most accurate shooters—and he shoots with them on their own terms, too. He forges and files his own-design actions, button-rifles his own barrels, fits his own stocks.



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Great Western Gun Catalog—32 fascinating pages from a gun dealer's catalog published in 1888-1889. A nostalgic glimpse into the glamorous past when prices were low—and wages were lower.

ONE AND ONLY PISTOL

by Henry M. Stebbins

Gunranks are likely to have a different handgun for every specialty, but the average home owner—who should have a gun if he doesn't—uses the same one for everything. His primary purpose is usually defense. Here a top authority discusses the best choices.

TELL ME, ELMER

by Dan Frost

For decades, to the delight of editors and the consternation of readers, Jack, Warren and Elmer have waged their Herculean battles on the printed page. Each had his viewpoint, each clung to it with the tenacity of a burr, each was ready to do battle, if necessary, to strengthen his stand. They'd still rather fight than switch, but . . .

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THE 41 MAGNUM—A TEST-

FIRE REPORT

by Dean Grennell

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CHRONOGRAPHS TODAY

by Edward M. Yard

A critical and technical survey of the crystal controlled decade counter chronograph available at moderate prices.

EXPLODED DRAWINGS

by James M. Triggs

Four isometric gun views, done in the artist's inimitable fashion. See the special Colt long gun drawings also.

SCOPES AND MOUNTS

REVIEW 1965-66

by Bob Bell and the technical staff

This new feature—an evaluation of all the new glassware—is by our new Associate Editor, Bob Bell, whose specialty this field is.

U.S. HANDGUNS 1965-66

by the technical staff

A searching review and a commentary on all of the new and interesting pistols and revolvers.

U. S. RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS

1965-66

by Pete Kuhlhoff

Long time Arms & Ammunition Editor of Argosy magazine, Pete has done a great job of evaluating all that's new and exciting in shoulder arms for this season, especially the glamor guns.

FOREIGN FIREARMS 1965-66

by George C. Nonte, Jr.

No one is, perhaps better qualified than the author to explore, evaluate and comment on foreign arms. George spent many years in the Army on foreign shores, becoming familiar to a high degree with all types of overseas arms.

TESTFIRE

by Ken Waters

A critical, field test review of ten new rifled long arms. Full specifications, good load information, much more.

(Continued from page 8)

pold M82X scope, mounts in the forward position. The prototype of this mount has been changed somewhat so that mounting is more secure and gives the best possible scope mounting when the scope is located forward of the action. Maynard is shipping the rear-mounting bases now, is in production with his front mounts and hopes to ship them shortly.

RDH Ammo

RDH Ammunition, Inc., Dept. G, 1401 South Lipan, Denver, Colo., 80223, now offers reloaded GI brass in calibers .30-36, .308 Win. (7.62 NATO), and .270 Win. Brass is inspected, full length sized, deprimed and decrimped, and then polished and cleaned. Primers are CCI primers, and ballistics of the loaded cartridges are checked by the H. P. White Laboratory, Speer Inc., while powder charges are determined in conjunction with Bruce Hodgdon. The .30-06 and the .308 Win. ammo is loaded with either the 150 gr. or the 180 gr. bullet, while the .270 Win. is supplied with the 130 gr. and the 150 gr. bullet.

RDH supplies ammo in new brass, in reconstituted brass, and also offers unprimed cases. Ammo and cases are available through dealers, and if your dealer does not carry this line, RDH will supply the address of the dealer nearest you.

Production facilities and quality control are excellent, and only the best equipment and the best components are used in making

RDH ammo. We tested unprimed brass and compared it with unprimed factory brass in .30-06 and .270, and found that unfired and fired brass was well within tolerances. A batch of .270 brass was neck-sized, while another was full length sized after firing hot loads in a custom .270. The brass did not show undue stretching, and miking RDH brass showed that expansion was of the same order as that obtained with two brands of factory brass.

Accuracy of the loaded ammunition is on a par with factory ammo, and velocities—only 20 rounds were chronographed—are almost the same as those produced by equivalent factory loaded ammunition. Unprimed brass is sold under the "Hunter" label, while loaded ammo comes in attractive boxes with the RDH label.

MEC Tools

Mayville Engineering Co., Mayville, Wisconsin, has two new shotshell loaders. While visiting Ted Bachhuber, prexy of MEC, last year, we had a chance to give the Model 600 loader a good going over. Ted now offers the Model 600 Jr., a single stage loader that has been especially designed to handle the plastic hulls. One station reforms the shell mouth and resizes the brass base, decaps and ejects the resized hull. Seating of primer, and throwing the powder charge is identical to that of the Model 600, and the Ad-justa-Guide wad feed allows rapid seating of the wad. The Sur-Cone plastic crimp starter is self-indexing, and the final station crimps the case mouth so that you cannot tell the

reloaded hull from the factory loaded shell. This is a fine tool and turns out perfect loads easily and without fussing with adjustments. As a matter of fact, when Ted showed us the prototype of this tool, he loaded a wide assortment of hulls, and all of them came out as perfectly loaded shells.

For the production handloader or for club use, Ted developed the "hydra-MEC 600." This is a 6 station reloader where all press operations are performed by a hydraulic



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pump, and six shells go through the tool simultaneously. Your present Super 600 tool can easily be converted to the hydraMEC 600, and Ted can crank out 800 rounds per hour on this tool.

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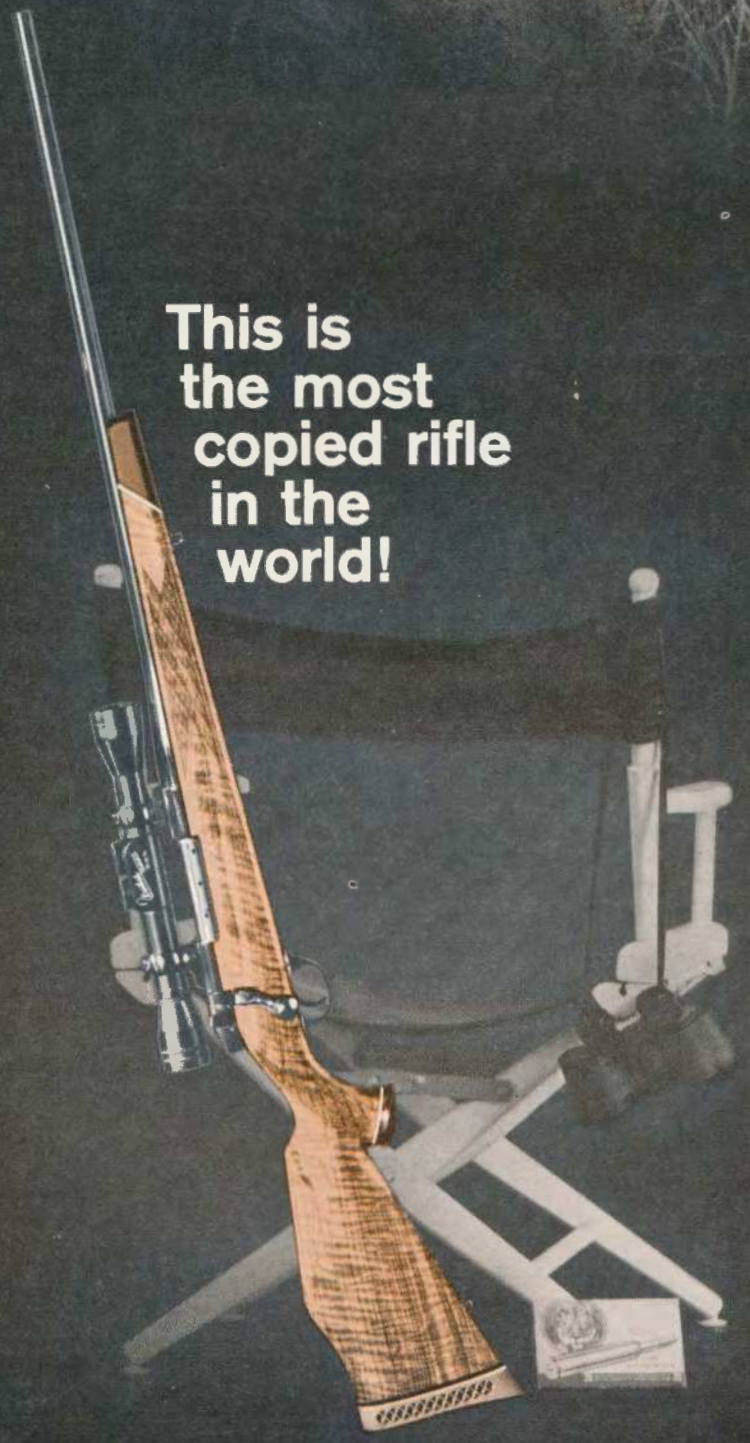

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NEWS from the SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

S.C.A. ESTABLISHES PRO-GUN PRESS INFORMATION SERVICE

Of all the groups aligned against your right to own firearms, it is fair to say that the press has been the most harmful. Large numbers of the nation's daily newspapers seem to have deemed it their sacred obligation to bring damaging anti-gun information and slanted editorial comment to the attention of the general public. Dissemination of pro-gun information, which might have countered the impression left by this type of coverage, has been generally restricted to the publications read and supported by firearms devotees.

It is obvious that this situation has been partially fostered by the fact that shooting sportsmen have not been represented by an effective "Press Information Service." Those who would restrict our rights are apparently well organized in this regard, while we have not made use of this most effective weapon. To fill this deep need, to bring our side of the story to the general public, we have established a new pro-gun weapon -- the S.C.A. PRESS INFORMATION SERVICE.

We have a nucleus of editors, outdoor writers and newspapers known to be favorably disposed to our side of the story, or at least "on the fence" and willing to be convinced. To this group, we have instituted a regular flow of pro-gun material: S.C.A. Newsletters; legislative information; reports and warnings; copies of the proposed Pro-Gun Law; reprints from GUNS and other sources. This action has put the S.C.A. PRESS INFORMATION SERVICE into operation. Now we must make it truly effective, on a nation-wide basis, and this is where you can be of great service!

We are asking S.C.A. members to supply us with the names of editors, outdoor writers and newspapers which might be interested in receiving pro-gun information. All you have to do is provide us with additional names; we will see that they get the material, without charge.

It is undoubtedly true that little good can come from providing many major metropolitan dailies with this information. Such papers are too deeply committed to anti-gun attitudes to change their editorial position now. However, many of the smaller daily and weekly newspapers are on our side -- or at least uncommitted. Unlike some of the major metropolitan publications, these papers still reflect the views of the population they serve, and state lawmakers are well aware of this fact! The S.C.A. PRESS INFORMATION SERVICE will fill a gaping hole in the fight against restrictive anti-gun legislation. It will be equally as important in paving the way for pro-gun legislation on both state and national levels. Help us to help you by making this important new weapon a success. Join the S.C.A. today, and supply us with the information which will help influence the non-shooting general public in your area!

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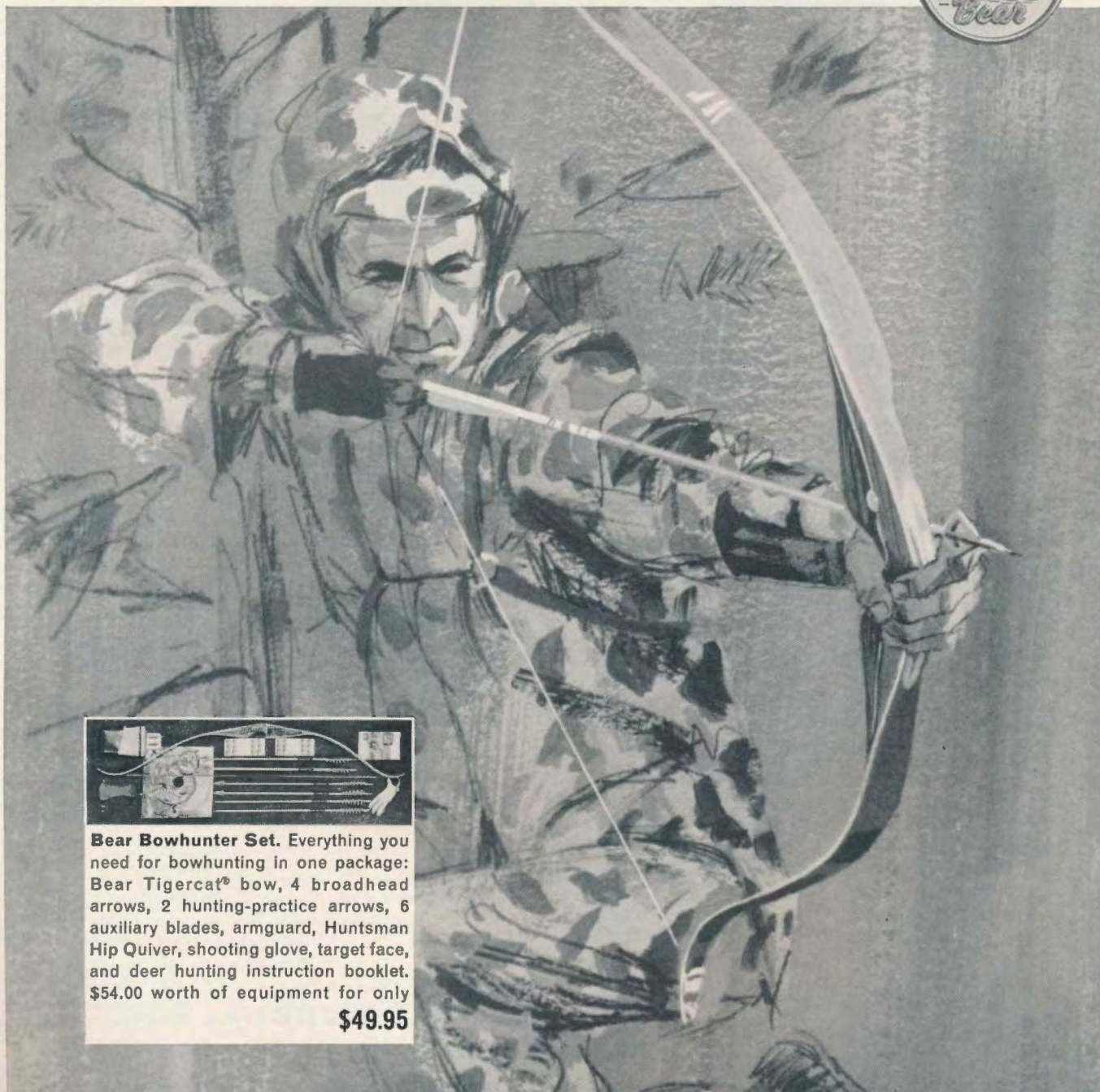
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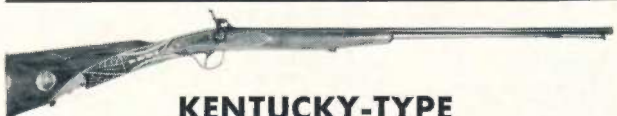


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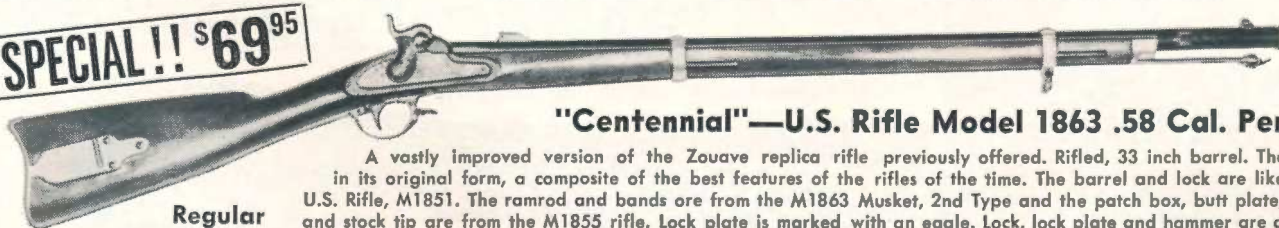
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Gunsmithing

Panel of Experts

Because of the heavy influx of questions, it has become necessary to limit the number of questions submitted in one letter to two. Your questions must be submitted on separate sheets of paper, must carry full name and address, and your Shooters Club of America membership number. If you are not a member of the Shooters Club of America, send a dollar bill with each question. Questions lacking either number or money cannot be answered. If you want a personal answer, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for each question.

1912 Mauser

I have a 1912 Mauser Military Pistol. Can it be disassembled according to the drawing in the February issue of GUNS? How good is this gun as a target pistol?

John Allen
Manhattan Beach, Calif.

The 1912 Mauser safety and firing pin differ somewhat; the safety is on when up and the pin is retained by milled lugs—otherwise the February drawing can be used to understand your model. The take-down instructions apply to your model; follow each in order, but first be sure to empty the magazine and the chamber of the gun.

I do not advise this gun for target use. The grip is awkward, the sights are for military use, and the ammo expensive.—S.B.

Loads For .45 ACP

I have been using 2400 powder in a .45 ACP which seems to give good speed, smoother action, and less pressure than commercial loads. I use CCI Magnum primers, 14 grains of 2400, and 185 grain Remington WC jacketed bullet. Have you ever worked up loads or checked the velocity of 2400 in a .45 ACP? I would like any information on the above loads or the use of 2400 in this cartridge.

Donald Hersrud
Black Hawk, S.D.

2400 will fire and function in a .45 ACP, but is greatly inferior in the big runt case to Unique, 5066, or Bullseye. I recommend all the loads in Speer's new #6 Manual. 2400 is really a small rifle powder, but it is

superb for Hi-V Magnum handgun loads, in barrels 4" or longer, and is unexcelled in Magnums with 6" and longer barrels. One writer claimed it "worked well in reduced loads," but it does not. Even in near full charges it doesn't burn completely, although CCI Magnum primers burn it more completely than standard types, and the amount that does burn is uniform from shot to shot in fairly heavy Magnum loads. I'd use Unique, in a .45 ACP.—K.B.

Rogers and Brothers

I would appreciate any information you could give me on a pistol I have. It is marked ROGERS BROTHERS & CO. on the left side of the barrel, and on the right side is No. 52 MARKET ST. PHILADA. The serial number is 657. Proof marks on the bottom left side are proof and view marks of the Birmingham Co. The Gun Barrel Proof Act of 1855.

Theodore West
Mobile, Ala.

Rogers and Brothers of Philadelphia may not have been pistol-smiths. It is known that they made locks and retailed European items. They operated from about 1820 until at least into the 1830's. Your piece may have been made by them, using an English barrel—or they may have simply retailed an English pistol. A study of the wood employed and the thread sizes used would determine the true origin.

I could not give you an evaluation without studying the piece, but such items are usually well-liked by collectors.—C.B.

340 Accuracy

I am shooting a Model 340 Savage rifle in .222 Rem. caliber. Several years ago I restocked it with a Bishop monte carlo type stock. Just recently I have been having trouble and cannot understand it. When the barrel is cold the point of bullet impact is 3" high. As the barrel heats up the point of impact lowers until after between 12 to 15 rounds it is centering in the 10 circle. Have you an explanation for this?

Wm. S. Lindsay
Greenville, S.C.

The Model 340 Savage rifle is a hard rifle to bed in order to secure target accuracy. I
(Continued on page 54)

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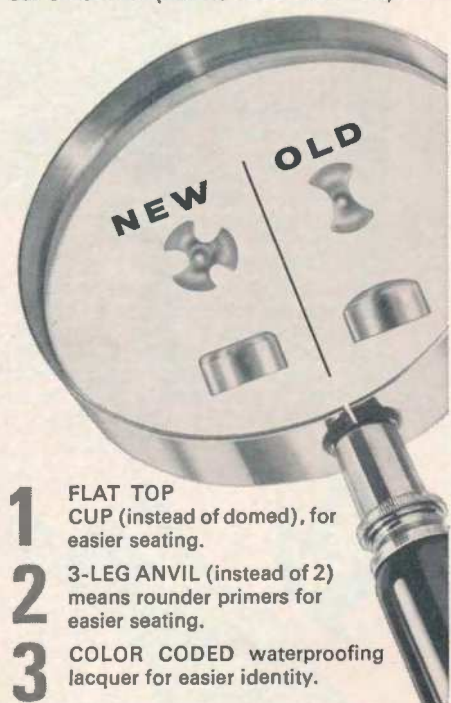
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HANDLOADING BENCH

By KENT BELLAH



MOST BUCKBUSTERS enjoyed a fine season and expect the next one to be even better. Reports we received indicate hunters made a higher percentage of clean, one-shot kills than ever before, including rank beginners. No doubt it was due to more people keeping their shooting eyes sharp with more practice and plinking, and to better handloads. Our hobby is paying excellent dividends. Better handloads are due to better data, components, and equipment. A rank novice can load quality ammo at a tremendous saving, assemble the type loads he wants, and have a lot of fun doing it. No wonder this creative hobby has made such progress.

Sometimes a hunter just can't win. A Texas novice got a nice buck in his sights. His .30-06 cracked and the buck folded like a wet rag. Our hunter found him thrashing around a bit. Rather than shoot the handsome trophy again he whammed him in the head with a big tree limb. The buck jumped up and took off like a scalded cat, never to be seen again. The moral is, keep your weapon ready until you are sure your game is dead. An unneeded second shot is better than a lost animal.

My friend, Royal Carpenter, and his good wife Virginia, Kerrville, Texas, have done a fine job starting their youngsters in a healthy, wholesome hobby—shooting and handloading. Royal has handloaded for 20 years. Scott, their 11 year old son, has done it under supervision for 3 years. Jan, age 6, is helping. Virginia says, "I like to shoot and hunt, but I leave reloading to Royal and Scott because they enjoy it so much. I always shoot their reloads. My last deer was cleanly bagged with Scott's reload in my .244 M740 Rem. with a V-8 Weaver."

Scott has clobbered a nice whitetail every year for the past 3 years with an identical rig! He backs a 90 gr. Speer bullet with 34.0 gr. 3031 and CCI 200 primers. It serves him and his mother well for all deer and varmints. This past season he got a dandy eleven pointer at near 250 yards with excellent bullet expansion. Jan's "rifle" is a .221 Rem. Fire Ball pistol, fine for a little girl. A 52 gr. Speer H.P. with 16.4 gr. 4198 and CCI 400 primers give it plenty of Whoosh! for varmints.

Mrs. C. L. Hart, of Dallas, 74 years young, has hunted most of her life, feeding her family everything from squirrels to venison. She gets one or more deer every year, camping near the hunting tower stand, and dressing her deer in camp. Her favorite load in her .30-30 M94 is Speer's 150 gr. F.P. with

35.0 gr. 4064 and CCI 200 primers. It's potent in the Texas brush on close shots.

My shooting buddy, K. M. Shackelford, agrees that "too much" power is better than not enough. Our favorite hot-shot load in the .300 Win. M70 is 77.0 gr. 4350 and CCI 250 Magnums behind Speer's 150 gr. Spitzer. It's fine for coyotes way across the prairie where the wild winds blow. Shack made a clean kill on a 250 yard goat. The bullet broke both shoulders, with fast, violent expansion.

I asked Shack to drop a 50 yard whitetail to see what 3550 fps would do. The pill blasted a huge entrance hole 5" above the heart and blew the right shoulder to pieces, pulping a huge wound channel through the right flank, yet the buck turned and ran 30 yards before he fell! A .38 handgun slug in the brain or neck would have dropped that buck in his tracks. The "well placed hit" always counts more than power on man or beast. Some hunters saw the deer and kidded Shack about "too much power." He said, "Well mine didn't get away like the one you guys wounded with a .300 Savage." He had a point, but of course a .300 Savage is adequate with a good hit and decent bullet at reasonable range.

D. J. Rater was tree sitting with a .243 M70 and K-4 Weaver, loaded with a 85 gr. Sierra with 44.0 gr. 4350 and CCI 200 primers. The first shot at 200 yards made a 14" long hide burn on a deer. The buck ran towards the gun, and a chest hit at 70 yards stopped him cold, making a one inch exit hole. It was his first deer.

Buster Duck got two nice Colorado mule bucks in one afternoon, with his .243. Buster used a 100 gr. Norma with 36.0 gr. 4064 and CCI 200 primers. One dropped at 100 yards with a slug in the back of his head, the other at over 200 with a spine hit. A cannon can't kill any faster with hits like those.

A beginner in shooting and reloading got two whitetails with my recommended .30-06 reloads, a 165 gr. Speer with 59.0 gr. 4350 and CCI 250 Magnums. It's nearly flat out, and hard to beat for all-around big game hunting at 2900 fps. A shoulder hit at about 275 yards, a mighty long shot for a beginner, stopped a buck like a bomb, making a 3" exit hole. This chap is tickled pink with this load in his M700 Remington with a K-4 Weaver. You can cut the charge one or two grains with little velocity loss and fine accuracy.

A "long shooter" dropped a big deer at about 400 yards with a 7mm Remington Magnum, holding his Weaver K16 bottom Range Finder cross. (Continued on page 51)



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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



CARL WOLFF

EDITOR'S NOTE

In keeping with GUNS Magazine's policy of bringing its readers the most comprehensive, up-to-date coverage of available gun news, we are pleased to announce the addition to our staff of Washington newsman Carl Wolff. As our Washington correspondent, Mr. Wolff will contribute a regular monthly column, based on his on-the-spot observations—with emphasis on legislative matters. In this, the first of his regular monthly columns, he presents an eye-witness account of the gun hearings of Senator Dodd's Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency. With continuous coverage of the Washington scene, and our articles on gun legislation (see "The Voice of The People" by E. B. Mann on page 38), GUNS Magazine continues to offer the most complete coverage of firearms legislation in the field.

INSIDE THE GUN HEARINGS

Opposition to the Administration's Firearms Bill, S. 1592, before Senate hearings by the Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee, attacked the measure with facts and logic. But the ground rules under which the exhibition progressed favored additional controls as did most of the testimony.

Part of the unfavorable atmosphere to gun owners and the firearms business was intentional. Consisting of histrionics at times, for the benefit of the attending press, pro-gun protest was obscured behind favorable headlines. The rest of the hearings proceeded similar to others where most witnesses disagreed with an Administration bill that is backed by the Chairman of the reviewing committee.

Witnesses at the gun hearings were required to submit testimony in writing over 48 hours in advance. Before being called to testify, it could be subjected to a microscopic treatment. If the chairman of the proceedings agreed with a witness' testimony, then little or nothing was said to discredit it and its strong points were reviewed. The disagreeing witness as an outsider had to defend his position against the Chairman with a staff which had the resources of the Federal Government behind it. But that was not the complete extent of the handicap.



Sen. Thomas Dodd (D., Conn.), Chairman, controlled the affair much as a judge directs a courtroom, and he is an experienced prosecutor skilled in turning words and thoughts. One traditional way of avoiding this type of treatment is to have a Senator or Congressman accompany or present the witness to the committee. The atmosphere is always more friendly then.

When the witness was not that important politically, he had to know his subject thoroughly and have the ability to exchange words with some of the most talkative men in the world. This was particularly true when different associations' representatives testified.

Often such witnesses were jumped on small points of question in the testimony, interrupting their train of thought and making their delivery less effective.

Sen. Dodd pulled out all the stops. This became clear when Congressman John D. Dingell appeared to testify in opposition to the bill. His reputation as a friend to the gun owner and the industry is widespread.

CONGRESSMAN DINGELL WAITS

Protocol or Congressional courtesy requires a lawmaker to recognize another lawmaker quickly when attending hearings as a witness. The Congressman, who was scheduled to take the witness chair, arrived shortly before the hearings were timed to start. Sen. Dodd entered the room some 30 minutes later and called his first supporting witness of the day, a man from the Department of Public Safety, Boston, Mass. Next he recalled a previous witness who had not completed his presentation. The recalled witness opposed the bill, though his remaining testimony was of a technical nature.

Congressman John P. Saylor, (Continued on page 46)



L to R: F. B. Smith, General Counsel of Treasury Department; H. H. Fowler, Secretary of the Treasury; Attorney General, Katzenbach.

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THE .444 MARLIN AS CARBINE



By WILLIAM SCHUMAKER

NOT MANY YEARS AGO, almost any factory rifle could be lightened, shortened and re-worked to conform to modern lightweight trends. When the work of the custom gunsmiths gained general public acceptance, manufacturers fell in line, and today very few arms lend themselves beneficially to further compacting.

Barrel shortening has been the number one item in the gun alteration craze. To the average gun owner, who is unfamiliar with ballistics and powder burning rates, a rifle that is easier to carry gets first consideration. When cut back within reason, velocity and accuracy changes are seldom extreme enough to give concern. Those who questioned barrel shortening have been calmed by reams of publicity, concentrating on excuses such as, "the deer couldn't care less," and "I'm not that good a shot, so it doesn't matter if my hunting rifle groups a bit sloppy."

Actually, beneficial barrel shortening and weight reduction are a very scientific phase of gusmithing, and the

thought that invariably some sacrifice must be tolerated, isn't altogether true. The larger bore rifles such as Marlin's new .444, and in general those having rather straight cases, can in part be listed as exceptions when modern powder performance is known.

One of the first things mentioned to me by Bob Steindler, managing editor of GUNS Magazine, was "Let's cut this 24" .444 barrel back to 20", one inch at a time, chronograph it at each length, and see if we need a barrel that long. It's designed as a fast, powerful brush gun, and a shorter barrel would handle faster."

Shortening the .444 barrel would not have been undertaken had we not been quite aware of a possible negligible velocity loss. The Marlin people, of course, also know this. But the rifle, as manufactured, is put up to accommodate the average hunter. Being the most powerful of commercial lever actions, there is some recoil. The big bore, requiring a rather large outside barrel diameter, is nicely proportioned at its original 24" barrel length, and

this combines into a weight which eliminates objectionable recoil while increasing sales appeal.

The first step toward barrel shortening was the removal of the two screws which hold the front sight ramp to the barrel. A hack saw was used to cut off one inch between each test, and the muzzle was smoothed and de-burred after each cut-back, with the hand type crowning tools. This was critical, as an accuracy test, at each barrel length, was also to be conducted.

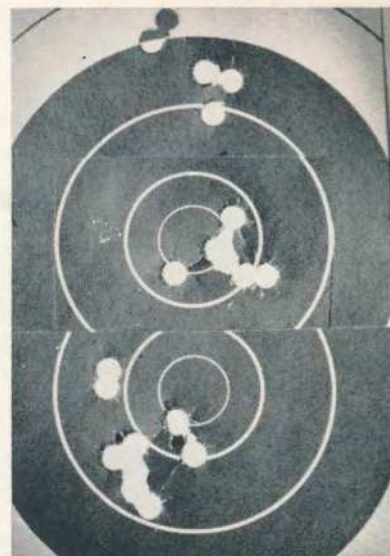
Barrel Length	Velocity		Extreme Variation	Temperature
	5-shot Average			
24"....	2396	.... 35	.... 40 degrees	
23"....	2397	.... 18	.... 58 degrees	
22"....	2369	.... 5	.... 35 degrees	
21"....	2341	.... 45	.... 40 degrees	
20"....	2339	.... 22	.... 40 degrees	

Total velocity loss from 24" to 20"—a mere 57fps.

Using an Avtron T-33A chronograph, the 23" barrel actually showed a gain of one foot from the original 24" length. This, of course, is a zero



Accuracy tests of Marlin at each barrel length resulted in targets at right. Top target shows two 5-shot groups with 24" barrel; bottom is 8 shots at 20".



Original .444 is well proportioned, but the author considers it too long for a fast brush rifle. His 20" barrel version shoots as hard, handles better.

factor when actual shot to shot variations are taken into consideration, but was also indicative of the final results. Remington factory ammunition was used throughout the 25 shots of velocity testing.

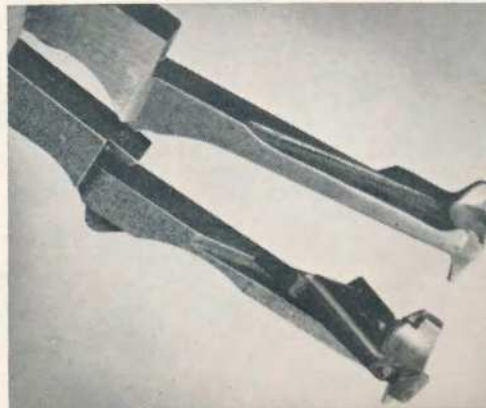
Targeting at each barrel length was done with handloads, consisting of 49 grains of 4198, CCI No. 250 Magnum primers, and 240 grain Norma bullets. Accuracy was perhaps very slightly reduced, but ran so close to the original accuracy that after taking human and assorted weather factors into consideration, it can be said there is no practical difference. This load, by the way, gives velocities identical with factory rounds.

A peculiarity of shooting higher as each one inch was removed, required the scope adjustment to be lowered in order to keep groups on the 14" 100 yard paper. This again proves that the last few inches of a barrel "points" the bullets, and that any rifle subjected to barrel surgery should be re-zeroed.

Now, if the .444 Marlin can be cut back to 20" with a mere 57fps velocity loss, then why (Continued on page 42)



Removal of four inches of barrel from Marlin .444 scarcely changed the velocity readings, although muzzle blast was slightly increased.

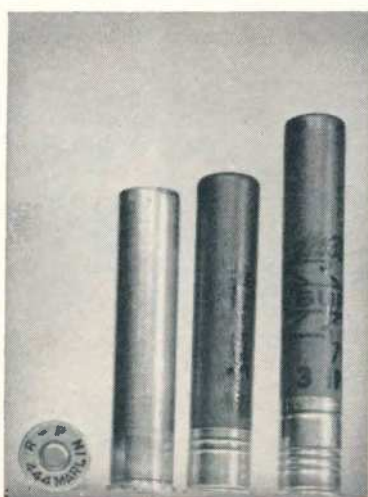


Left: The .444 has added grip safety. Right: Cartridge carrier has a spring loaded gadget (bottom) to aid feeding; 336 carrier shown above.

THE .444 MARLIN AS SHOTGUN



Items needed for shot-loading the .444, left to right: punch and base set; primers; wad cutter and ram; shot; material for the shot sleeve, empty cases, and powder. With these, the Marlin becomes a close range shotgun.



Left: Some .410 shotguns will chamber the .444 Marlin case, and this is dangerous. Right: The .444 case compared to .410 shells.

Experimentation showed 15 grains of 2400 to be adequate for the .444 shotshell loading.

By WILLIAM SCHUMAKER

FEW, IF ANY, currently used centerfire rifle cases lend themselves as nicely to shotshell loading as the straight-sided .444 Marlin case. Being approximately the same size as a 2½" .410 shell, but with brass walls which are stronger and thinner, its capacity permits loadings equal to the 3" .410 when a minimum wad column is used.

Since modern plastic sleeves or containers prevent shot from deforming pellets as they pass through a shotgun barrel—and therefore deliver better patterns—we can use a similar arrangement to prevent shot from riding over and damaging the rifling of .444 rifled barrels. This system has been used successfully in making short range snake and bird loads for use in the large caliber revolvers.

Rifled guns, of course, have no choke or constriction at their muzzles, and patterns from these are nearly worthless, except at near point-blank range, unless the shot spread is controlled by using some type of sleeve or shot wrapper. With this in mind, it only took a minimum of experimenting before we were able to deliver kill patterns out to 25 yards with the .444 Marlin. And, the sleeves kept the barrel free from leading which might otherwise interfere with the accuracy of conventional rifle ammunition.

For the owner who already handloads, a homemade wad-cutter, a wooden dowel ram, and decapping punch are the only additional tools re-

quired. My wad cutter was built from a section of shot-out .44 barrel, but a saddler's leather punch can be purchased instead. Large Rifle primers, No. 8 shot, and a can of 2400 or Unique powder gets you started on building grouse loads.

To take full advantage of the case capacity, and to make wad seating easier, the unsized fired rifle cases can be decapped with a Wilson punch and base set or any small drift punch with a long point that is small enough not to damage or enlarge the flash hole. Seating the primers is done next on the loading press. The powder charge, in relation to shot weight, must always be considered with caution. Checking the Speer handloading manual for .410 gauge data showed that 16 grains of 2400 powder drives ¾ ounce of shot at 1050 fps at the muzzle, from a 3" shell. We loaded our first test shell with 15 grains of 2400 and only ½ ounce of shot. It appeared mild, and provided a safety margin that later enabled our increasing the shot weight to ¾ of an ounce.

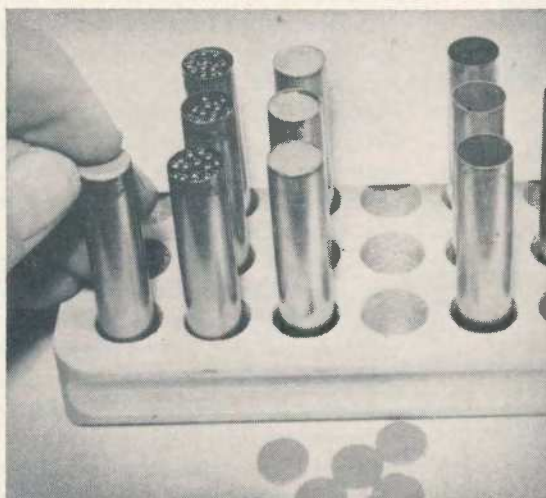
Gas checks in .44 caliber make suitable over-powder "wads" when seated skirt toward the powder, and have been used extensively in revolver shotshells. However, due to the .444 case tapering to increased thickness toward its base, .44 caliber gas checks can't be seated deeply enough without excessive pressure and ultimate deforming. This leaves some doubt whether or not



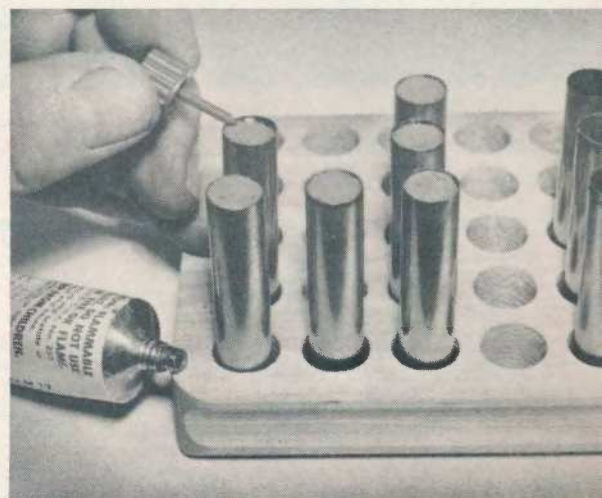
Small piece of glass sheeting (left foreground) which protected the shot, was key to shotshell's performance.

the "sized down" gas check achieves a proper seal.

The shot protecting sleeve also takes up a portion of the case volume. Therefore, leaving room for an ample shot charge requires that an effective, yet small and hard wad column be used. Over-powder wads were cut from hard, glossy-finished cardboard of about .050" thickness; two were used, the second as a filler, applying approximately 50 (Continued on page 52)



Left: Sleeve is rolled 2½ turns opposite the rifling twist. Right: Over-shot wad installed.



The over-shot wad is held in place by small dab of non-rubberized, waterproof cement.

Let's NOT

Outlaw Buckshot



Shot at 25 yards with a load of No. 1 buckshot, this buck dropped in his tracks. Note evidence of pellets which hit neck.



Author contends that in a properly managed deer hunt, the standers are better off with shotguns.

EDITOR'S NOTE

In the June issue of GUNS Magazine, we published an article by B. R. Hughes, titled, "Let's Outlaw Buckshot." While we expected to get some letters on this article, we were pleasantly surprised when Dr. Chapman J. Milling submitted this article in rebuttal. GUNS readers now have both sides of the argument, and we leave it to them to say which side is right.—Editor

BY CHAPMAN J. MILLING

HAVING JUST READ B. R. Hughes' article, "Let's Outlaw Buckshot," I would like to cite two examples, selected from dozens in my personal experience, in defense of the time-honored method of hunting which he attacks.

Above my desk is the mounted head and neck of a trophy buck from the Congaree River valley in central South Carolina, killed at 54 yards with a load of No. 1 buckshot. The shell was the old style blue paper, high brass by Victor Peters; the gun was a de Salle of French manufacture, both barrels full choke. Admittedly, the spread of buckshot at that distance is considerable, but one pellet, in the right place, was all it took.

On my office wall is another fine head and neck mount, this one taken on the Pee Dee at 25 yards. On the right side of the neck are eight holes, where as many pellets entered; most of the remaining shot struck the vital chest cavity, dropping him in his tracks. The same shell was used in a Fox Sterlingworth, barrels modified and full.

For some forty odd years I have hunted deer in the traditional manner, as practiced in the South Atlantic States, which is now becoming popular in other areas as well. I find it wise to offer a guest hunter a spare shotgun to re-



Almost every conceivable make and style of shotgun is used for deer. This hunter found that his autoloader, with Cutts Comp, gave him best pattern.

place his rifle, but I have never heard this offer put quite so bluntly as in Mr. Hughes' experience.

There is a good deal of fact in Mr. Hughes' article, but I must take issue with his conclusions. To begin with, buckshot do have a somewhat erratic spread if they are of the wrong size fired from the wrong gun, by the wrong person. Mr. Hughes is correct in saying that the larger sizes are, generally speaking, bad. No. 00 has only nine pellets, No. 0, twelve and No. 1, sixteen. He is mistaken when he allows only 15 for No. 1. Naturally, there is a much better chance for three or more pellets to enter the vital area from a No. 1 shell.

I also agree with him concerning the superiority of the newer shells, especially the Mark V. It is when he tries to get scientific that Hughes gets out on a limb. He reduces buckshot energy to foot pounds, and then equates it with handgun ballistics. Sounds good on paper, but a No. 1 pellet is just as deadly as a No. 00, and more of them will get there. I am sure that more deer in my area are killed with No. 1's than with all the other sizes together. Generally speaking, it is the neophyte who loads his gun with either 00's on one end of the scale or No. 3's or 4's on the

other. Unfortunately, some states specify 00's for deer.

Now for the gun. Every experienced deer hunter has sense enough to pattern his gun many times before making it his special "Old Betsy." He tries out on cardboard several guns and loads until he finds what is, for him, just exactly the right combination. It may be a fine old Smith or Parker double, an Ithaca, Browning, Winchester, Remington, or a Fox. I have seen every one of these on the same hunt. It may even be a heavy old clunker made in 1910 with 32" barrels, or even a single shot Long Tom. In almost every instance, however, it is 12 gauge. Sixteens are tolerated by most clubs, but 20's are frowned upon, even though I have seen deer killed with them. In fact I know one fellow who uses nothing but a .410 loaded with his own shells—not that I approve.

Among deer hunters using buckshot, the argument is endless as to which choke is best. There are those of the full choke, long barrel school, and there is the full cylinder, short barrel crowd. Both have excellent hunters among their ranks. The answer is really quite simple. The best gun for you is the one which will consistently put the greatest number of pellets in an (Continued on page 65)

1864

1964


**MONTANA
Centennial**

Guns of the Treasure State

By JEROME RAKUSAN



A general view of the display cases of Montana exhibit. The guns housed in the various cases are surrounded by photographs, drawings, and other mementos of the West, making the exhibits entertaining as well as educational.



Smith & Wesson (opposite page), owned by Calamity Jane. Above; another owned by Bill Hickock.

GUN TREASURES OF THE WEST, FROM FAMOUS MONTANA COLLECTIONS

WHEN THE STATE OF MONTANA celebrated its 100th Anniversary as a Territory and 75th year as a State, in 1964, the people of the state really went all out in their celebrations. They sent a special train to New York, which became the focal point of the Montana exhibit at the city's World's Fair. In addition, many local events were held which depicted the history of Montana in song, story, and in colorful exhibits.

As can be expected of this frontier state, guns played an important part in its anniversary celebration—just as they played an important role in its history.

Two models were made especially for the 1964 anniversary; they were sold throughout the state and to many people from other states. Remington Arms made up a Model 600 Carbine, in 6 mm caliber, that had the following engraved on the barrel: "Montana Centennial 1864-1964—75th Anniversary of Statehood." The serial numbers of this "limited edition" carbine ran consecutively through 3000, and were preceded by "MC" (Montana Centennial). The buttstock had an Official Centennial Silver Dollar inlaid, and the carbine came with a parchment certificate, signed by the Governor and Centennial Commission officials.

And, of course, there were special single action revolvers made up for the occasion. On request of the Centennial Commission, Colt made up a .22 Frontier Scout which sported a gold backstrap, trigger guard, trigger, cylinder pin, and ejector knob. The revolver was appropriately engraved



Guns of Western lawmen, shown above, are displayed along with relics of their trade, such as brass knuckles, etc.



The guns, and other mementos, shown on these two pages are from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Don C. Foote. Above is the Buffalo Bill case, with items from his Wild West show.

MONTANA GUNS

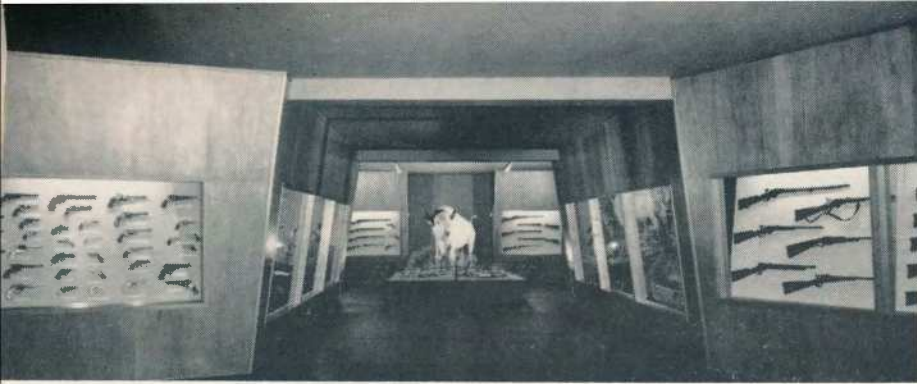
in gold: "1864—Montana Centennial—1964," and "1889—Diamond Jubilee—1964." The revolver is cased in a rosewood box, lined with red satin, and the lid carries the Centennial coin.

A matching Colt Single Action, in .45 Colt caliber, was also available, and a set of the .22 and .45 with matching serial numbers could be obtained. Special guns, such as these, are certain to become valuable collector's items, and will be welcome additions to any collection.

Perhaps the most enterprising endeavor of the Montana Centennial Commission is the World's Fair Train. This was originally leased, and scheduled only as a touring exhibit, but it was ultimately purchased, and installed at the Montana exhibit at the World's Fair. In the three cars of this train are some of the finest examples of Western Americana to be found in this country. Displays of placer gold and mining equipment and some of the finest Western art, including many works by Charles Russell, vie for attention with the gun collections.

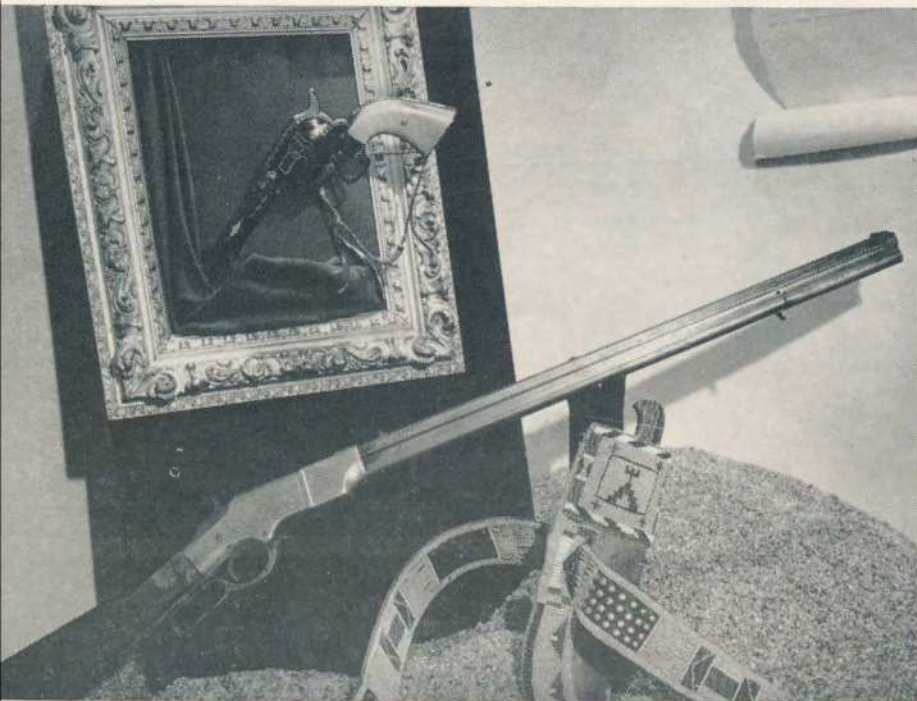
In the first car of this train, is a part of the fabulous collection of "Treasures of The West," assembled by Mr. and Mrs. Don C. Foote of Billings, Montana. The various guns in this collection are housed in cases which generally categorize the original ownership of the guns displayed. There is, for example, a Custer case which holds many Army and Indian guns found on the battlefield, including Custer's own Model 1850 Colt, serial No. 131770.

The guns of Calamity Jane include a Smith & Wesson (*Continued on page 44*)



Courtesy Montana Historical Society

The Johns gun collection at the Montana Historical Society.



Our cover gun, the Averill engraved Colt Single Action, along with a brass frame Henry rifle; from the World's Fair exhibit.



Courtesy Montana Historical Society

Above: A Savage revolver, from Custer battlefield.
Bottom: Hawken rifle, owned by scout Jim Bridger.

Sniper Guns of WW1

British Enfield

Canadian Ross

American Springfield

>
German
Gew. 98

By LT. WILLIAM H. TANTUM, IV, USAR

AMONG THE relics of the trenches of Vimy Ridge and the fields of Flanders—talked about in books by Captain McBride and Major Prichard—are the sniper rifles of World War 1; those specialized rifles for long range shooting.

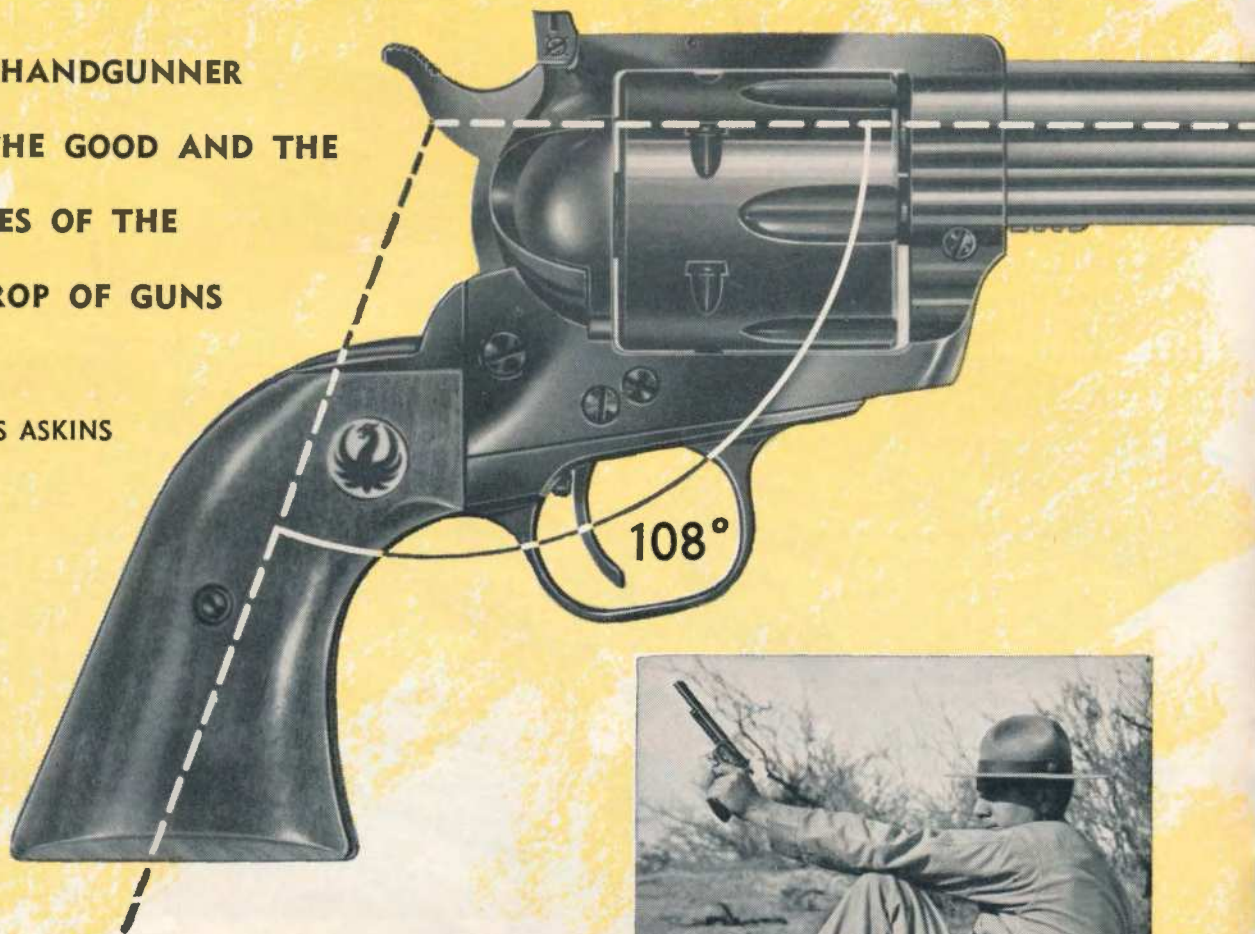
The Huns were proficient long-range snipers in the first war, and they had several fine sniper rifles. These weapons were variations of the standard Gew. Model 98. They had 29" barrels and a special turned down bolt handle with a recess cut out of the stock for the head of the bolt handle.

These weapons were fitted with two types of scope bases. One type attached to the top of the rifle with bridge type mounts and was quickly detachable; the other type had side bracket mounts, using a single type claw mount. The scopes used on the early rifles were mostly of Zeiss or Gerard make, and 4X mag- (Continued on page 40)

SIXGUNS vs.

AN EXPERT HANDGUNNER
LOOKS AT THE GOOD AND THE
BAD FEATURES OF THE
CURRENT CROP OF GUNS

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS



THE FELLOW WHO IS about to buy a new handgun must be in a quandary these days, especially with all the ballyhoo for the super .44 Magnum. Unless he is a pretty *sabe hombre*, it must seem to him that the only modern one-hand gun is the revolver.

It is a fact that this is a six-shooter country. We've had six guns since 1836, and have always put together the best of them, and today we manufacture the finest to be found anywhere. The few revolvers made outside the United States today are copies of our better known models.

The cops of the country won't have anything else. Almost to a man the law enforcement Joes all pack some breed of cylinder arm. "The automatic may be alright, but I don't want any part of it," a cop told me the other day. "Too new-fangled." And this seems to sum up the attitude of the gendarmes from Laredo to Buffalo.

Those who go hunting with handguns seem, almost to a man, to hunt with revolvers. For one thing they can get bigger and harder-hitting loads into the cylinder gun, and this has a lot to do with convincing them the choice is a sound one. Every big game animal in North America has been downed with a six gun. Some of them had to be hit with quite a bit of lead, but all succumbed.

The pattern these days is to mount a scope on the



Author, shown firing a .357 Single action, contends that revolvers point abominably.

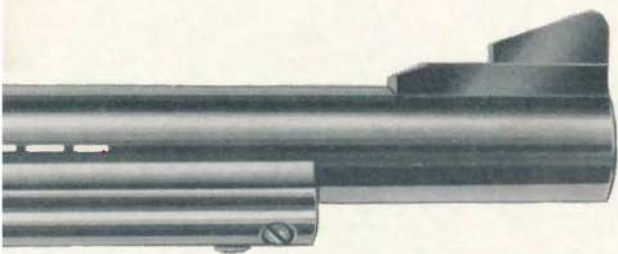
revolver and then the gunner can reach out to hundreds of yards and bang over distant targets like sheep, mountain goat, elk, and caribou. The auto pistol does not get a look-see in this new sport. In the first place, none of the current crop handle very powerful cartridges; secondly, there is a limited choice of barrel lengths, mostly running to tubes that are shortened for belt carry. Lastly, the self-loader does not offer too much surface for the firm mounting of the telescopic sight.

The gent who reads of these super stunts is bound to be impressed. If he happens to be in the market for a new handgun, he will probably hie him right down to the local sporting goods emporium and order up the latest 4 lb. six gun in .44 Magnum caliber. With a 1.3X scope and mount to go with it, he is fixed. Or is he?

Let's look at the other side of the sheet.

The most famous automatic pistol in the world today is the .45 ACP Model 1911. (Continued on page 58)

AUTOMATICS



Measurement of barrel-to-stock angle is author's criteria for pointability, and he claims that handgun will shoot closer to mark if this angle measures somewhere between 112 and 118 degrees.



The Army prefers the automatic pistol, and has kept it as their official sidearm through three major conflicts.



Author's tests of revolvers and autos, on machine rest, proved to him that autoloaders outshoot the revolvers.



We kept rifles handy during lunch in hopes of seeing a meandering grizzly.



We saw sheep tracks at the base of needle at right (above) and saw two rams from mountain top (below).



The Moo

By R. A. STEINDLER

MY GUIDE, Dave Simpson, and his assistant guides Wenzel and Heinz, got the packtrain moving toward Akamina Creek and Grizzly Gulch. My quest for a grizzly (see GUNS, February, 1965) had resulted in a goat, and snow had forced us off the high ridges. The year before, two of Dave's parties had killed big grizzlies on the path to the old loggers camp, and this was our destination. Riding through a bad washout, Dave's horse bucked and shied, and my mount tried his best to dump me. The rest of the string, herded along by Wenzel and Heinz, also broke. We had stumbled across a small grizzly that had been asleep behind a boulder and Dave's horse had almost stepped on him. Dave and I saw him



Photos taken from horseback with cow alone, and second picture a cow with bull. Seconds later, bull charged us.

se of Grizzly Gulch

disappear through the brush, but being on the small side, Dave waved me off. "That's only a small one, maybe two or three years old. We'll find bigger and better ones, don't you worry," he said. Later on in the hunt, we both Dave and I would rue those words.

I had bought a pocketful of permits, everything but sheep, and our party had been scouting for grizzlies for the better part of four days. The British Columbia winter had started earlier than expected, and with the snow covering the tops of the mountains, we had hoped that the game would join us in the valleys.

Grizzly was first on my list; that nine inch goat was a lucky coincident, and Dave had warned me about the

moose. They grow big in body, but lack of minerals precludes those giant picturebook racks usually associated with moose. I would only take a better than six point elk, and Dave had written about sheep—it would take at least 2 weeks to get a good one, and I had but a 10 day vacation. Consequently I had not bothered to buy a sheep permit. Dave, Wenzel, and Heinz had told one bear story after another and some of their experiences with under-gunned hunters, with guns gone sour and scopes knocked out of kilter did make their jobs somewhat less than romantic. Just to be on the safe side, I checked the zero of my M70 .300 Winchester Magnum rifle once more, and found that I was still *(Continued on page 55)*

HOW TO *SEE YOUR DEER!*



New hunters should train themselves to see deer such as these, looking for a tell-tale shadow, or a spot of white.



The big buck, on the left, lowered his head, and almost vanished as he began to sneak toward safety. The doe was more in the open, but by merely lowering her head, she, too, had melted into the long grass.



There are two deer in the photograph above, and they can be spotted easily, if you know what to look for. Right: Watching for movement will pay off in venison.



By COL. DAVE HARBOUR

EVERYONE KNOWS that you must see your buck before you can shoot him—but it's amazing how many new hunters don't know *how* to see a deer! Strange? Not at all. The deer photographs most hunters have seen are misleading, for they are stunning pictures of big bucks standing in the clear or leaping across open clearings—usually as visible as elephants against a snowbank at 20 yards! Naturally this is the picture most new deer hunters look for when they hit the woods. But not the old timer who gets his buck every year! He has learned to look for shadowy “ghosts in the brush,” rather than waste his time searching for those calendar-picture bucks out in the open!

I've trained my own boys and several others to hunt deer, spending a lot of hours teaching them how to select their guns, how to sight them in, and how to use them effectively and safely when the big moment arrives and the chips are down. But the most difficult part of the job was teaching them *how to see deer*! On many of their initial hunts in choice deer areas, those eager boys would never see a deer, while every oldtimer hunting with us usually saw several deer and shot the one he wanted. Then I began pounding into the boys the fact that few deer are spotted and shot in the open; that the successful deer hunter looks for those shadowy “ghosts in the brush.” I took pictures showing just how “ghostly” deer usually are, and I made the boys study them. Then, knowing what to look for, and training their eyes through actual practice, those boys began seeing and killing deer, too.

A typical example of how hard most deer are to see is illustrated by a whitetail hunt I enjoyed a few years ago on a misty afternoon in Virginia. I had been absolutely still for a couple of hours on a stand at the edge of a grassy clearing surrounded by honeysuckle and oak brush. Then the face of a buck just gradually materialized in the brush across the clearing. My eyes were trained to look for just such a “ghost in the brush” or I would never have seen that fat, young forked-horn, which I easily downed with a load of #4 buckshot in the neck.

Last season I was hunting trophy mulies out of Cedarcrest Ranch near Grande Mesa, Colorado. It was just cracking daylight and I was overlooking two big clearings. That day I was armed with a .300 H&H Magnum. As the growing light made objects barely visible in the clearings surrounded by thick pine and oak covered mountains, I sat very still. I knew that any movement on my part would be likely to make my trophy “ghost”—if he were in the vicinity—fade far back into the thick trees and brush before I could spot him. I made out a slight movement under the trees at the far edge of the most distant clearing—a movement I would never have noticed before I learned how to see deer! I eased up my rifle and put the scope on the “ghost.” It was my trophy buck—600 yards away! I held two feet high, then squeezed

(Continued on page 50)



To shoot or not to shoot? This deer almost came into the blind, yet I had to wait him out before I shot.

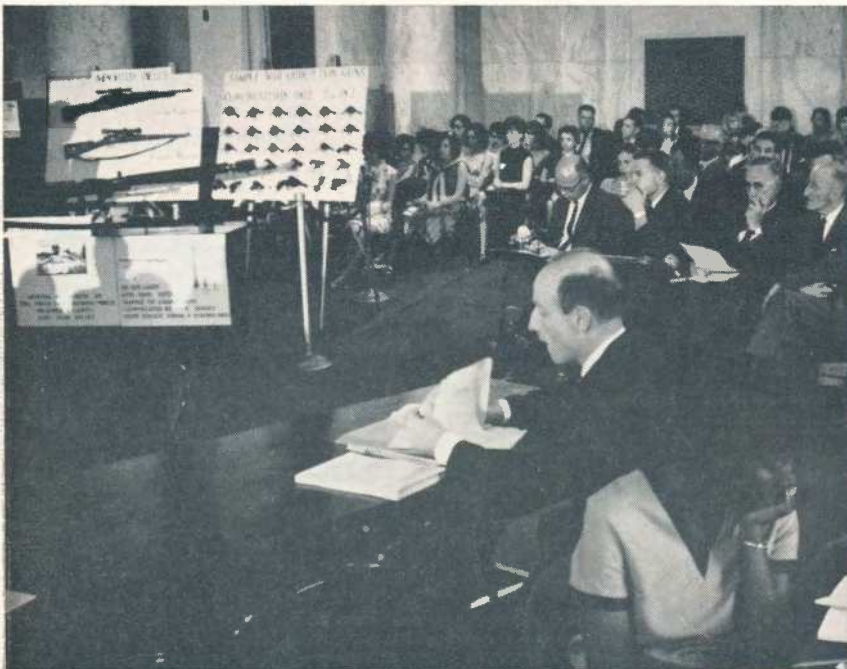
The Voice of the People

By E. B. MANN



Orth of NRA

**THE LETTERS YOU WRITE TODAY TO YOUR
LEGISLATORS CAN AND WILL INFLUENCE
GUN OWNERSHIP AND GUN USE TOMORROW!**



The early sessions of the Dodd hearings looked like this to the many TV cameras. Note scoped rifles and "mail order type" guns displayed.

FORTY PER CENT of all mail addressed to U. S. Senators and Representatives in recent weeks has been composed of letters from voters back home urging their elected representatives to oppose the Administration's anti-gun bill introduced by Senator Thomas Dodd. The Bill, S-1592, would limit gun buying to over-the-counter purchases by prohibiting mail-order sale of firearms. Handguns could be sold only to state residents.

The estimate of mail volume opposing the measure comes from informed sources in the nation's capitol, who add that many lawmakers hitherto favoring or undecided about the proposal are much impressed and are giving the matter much more serious consideration. One prominent Senator is quoted as saying, "If I voted for that bill now, I wouldn't dare go back and face my constituents!"

This does not mean that the war is won. We would be fools if we were to underestimate the weight that Administration support has added to the anti-gun effort. It is quite within the realm of possibility that the bill could pass the Senate between the time this copy goes to the printer and the time you read this magazine. But we would be unduly pessimistic if we failed to weigh also, and to be grateful for, the strength of the pro-gun effort that Senator Dodd himself has seen fit to refer to as "the most powerful and best organized lobby ever seen in Washington."

Senator Dodd definitely did not intend that comment to be a compliment, but he could hardly have said anything (short of actual withdrawal of the bill) that would have been more gratifying to pro-gun forces. For four years now, a dedicated group of lawmakers has tried, by fair means and foul, to persuade both Houses of Congress to pass anti-gun legislation, with little success. Over 50 anti-gun bills, many co-sponsored by a number of lawmakers, have been presented since the assassination of President Kennedy and none of them has got past first base—public hearings. The fact is that, as the assassination-inspired hysteria subsides, as time gives rise to sober second-thinking, more and more people realize that laws against an inanimate tool will not limit or eliminate crime.

Moreover, Congress was busy with Civil-Rights and other administration-sponsored bills.

Lately gratifying victories have been won at state levels. On May 12th, just a few days before the beginning of the public hearings on the proposal, the New Hampshire State Senate voted unanimously for a resolution that the New Hampshire delegation in Washington be urged to oppose the proposal. Said State Senator Stewart Lamprey in support of this resolution:

"This bill, if passed, could seriously impair the recreational economy of the state and nation; could infringe on the constitutional rights of U. S. citizens, damage essential wildlife conservation programs, and intrude further federal authority on powers reserved to the states. It could give the Secretary of Treasury or his agents virtually unlimited authority to regulate the sale of firearms by dealers. It could lead to administrative decisions imposing such a burden on the sale, possession, and use of firearms for legitimate purposes as to completely discourage and eventually exclude the private ownership of all guns, thereby crippling the multi-million-dollars-a-year business associated with the recreational use of firearms."

Months earlier, the New Mexico state legislature adopted a "memorial" urging the United States Congress not to enact laws restricting mail-order sale of firearms. Representative Fred Foster, of Grant County, sponsor of the memorial, said, "Halting the sale of firearms by mail would not stop gangsters from getting guns. It would only inflict hardship on hunters and other legitimate gun owners." More than five states have passed similar measures at this writing.

In Colorado, A. J. Christiansen, President of the Colorado Wildlife Federation, labeled the Federal bill as, "plainly ridiculous." Said Christiansen, "This bill would needlessly regulate forty million of the nation's gun owners to get at a few criminals! It would require that dealers in guns and ammunition must buy a \$100 special permit. This would be extremely harmful to Colorado where, especially during hunting season, crossroad grocery stores, filling stations, restaurants, and motels stock ammunition as a conven-

ience to hunters. The bill would drive these people out of business and seriously inconvenience our hunters.

"Sportsmen spend more than \$4,000,000 annually on hunting licenses alone in Colorado, and another \$110,000,000 on goods and services. This is very important to the state's economy."

False and misleading statements continue to flow from official, quasi-official, and other anti-gun sources. Among the most weasel-worded of all the statements circulated to date is a seven-page mimeographed "Statement of U. S. Treasury Department: Analysis of the National Rifle Association Letter to NRA Members Dated April 9, 1965, Concerning Senate Bill 1592."



Thomas L. Kimball, Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation, at Dodd hearing.

With typical tax-payer dollar-mindedness, we wonder how much this mailing cost, and how that cost can be justified in view of the "Voice of the People" now being so clearly heard in Washington!

Treasury denies the NRA statement that its bill introduced by Dodd would prohibit mail-order sales of firearms to individuals by saying that "a mail-order firm which maintained a retail store or catalogue order store in a state could consummate sales through its local outlet." That sets an all-time record as the most infinitesimal of magnanimous concessions! Treasury should read page one of the bill! The definition of "interstate or foreign commerce" in which it outlaws gun shipments includes "between points within the same State . . ."

Treasury objects to the NRA statement (made with even greater emphasis by many others) that the bill

would give the Secretary of the Treasury (or his agents) "unlimited power to surround all sales of guns by dealers with arbitrary and burdensome regulations and restrictions." Treasury claims that "The most casual review of the present regulations with respect to the Interstate Traffic in Arms and Ammunition demonstrates clearly that each provision clearly reflects and is reasonably necessary in the enforcement of a corresponding statutory provision."

It would be difficult to devise muddier wording, but the intent would seem to be to assert that Treasury's exemplary enforcement of present federal firearms statutes guarantees their reasonable, equitable, and efficient enforcement of this one.

But it is the very unreasonable, inequitable, and inefficient enforcement of present federal firearms statutes by Treasury that makes knowledgeable gun people most skeptical!

A major part of the very sensational incidents most publicized by anti-gun propagandists (possession of bazooka's, anti-tank rifles, full-automatic weapons by criminals and unauthorized persons) would have been prevented had existing federal firearms statutes been enforced. If enforcement of existing laws is impossible, will new laws be enforced better?

And how can we trust Treasury to administer, with reason and equity, a statute which, if passed, would specifically give them the power to write their own rules for enforcement, when they have not, in many cases, used reason or equity in administering the present statutes which do not give them such powers?

With some exceptions, the general attitude of Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division in its enforcement of federal firearms laws has been anti-gun. Immediately after World War II agents either picked up or rendered harmless vast numbers of highly dangerous "war souvenirs" brought home by returning GIs. Some of the A&TTD agents seized this opportunity to confiscate semi-automatic pistols—on the obviously false premise that they were "automatic weapons" and hence vulnerable under the Federal Firearms Act. With incidents like this on the (Continued on page 48)

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SNIPER GUNS OF WWII

(Continued from page 31)

nification. Most were non-standard sporting types, and many were obtained as a war expedient from sporting goods firms or individual hunters. The scopes had adjustments for elevation, but windage was adjusted in the rear mount. These scopes were mounted high to provide clearance for the bolt lever and the safety. The side mounted and scoped rifle could be clip loaded while others were loaded singly.

The third type of special sniper rifle was again the Gew. 98, equipped with a special "bifocal" sight. These were made by Zeiss and were designed for shooting in the poor light of early morning or at dusk.



Mauser Gew.98 with special Zeiss "bifocal" sight.

A peculiar "bifocal" sight, which consisted of a short metal tube containing a bifocal lens—not unlike that used in spectacles—was fitted over the rear sight of the rifle and was used in conjunction with a special attachment fastened over the front sight. This attachment had a white pyramid-shaped device on its rear face which appeared in the lower half of the bifocal lens during sighting. During use, the sniper aligned the top of the white pyramid image on the target. This variation was sometimes equipped with a sliding breech cover—a development of trench warfare—since it was designed to keep snow and mud on the trench parapet from sliding into the action of the rifle. The bolt cover moved back and forth with the bolt and was attached to the rifle by a large spring clip

just forward of the action. Most of the sniper rifles were equipped with a special 20-round magazine, which was fastened on the bottom of the rifle after the regular floor plate, magazine spring, and follower were removed.

The two early sniper variations were sometimes equipped with small night sights. One such sight had luminous lines on each side of an aperture which attached to the back of the rear sight leaf. The front night sight had a luminous disc at the top, positioned slightly below the front rifle sight. In sighting, the front bead is brought down between the two lines of the rear sight to

the disc in the front.

The Austrians had a standard sniper rifle in service. The rifle was the standard Austrian Mannlicher, Model 1895 rifle, in caliber 8X50. This was a straight pull, bolt-action rifle with a 30" barrel. The rifles were fitted with a side bracket, pin type base, using a 4X German scope, offset to the left side of the rifle. These could be clip loaded, and the standard rear and front rifle sights were usable.

The French had only one very poor sniper rifle in service in 1917, which offers little of interest to a rifleman. The scope was the old French Model 1915 sniper telescope, mounted on the left side of the French 8 mm Lebel rifle, Model 1886-93. The scope had an etched reticle, and had no adjustment for elevation or windage.

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The United States used the Springfield Model 1903 fitted with the U. S. Telescopic Musket Sight Model of 1913. The scope was made by the Warner and Swasey Company of Cleveland, Ohio, and was mounted on selected star gauged 1903 rifles. The scope was mounted offset to the left on a side bracket, permitting clip loading and the alternate use of iron sights. The scope itself was poor; it was a 6X scope with a very short eye relief. The reticle was etched on the glass. The outfit was equipped for elevation and windage adjustments. Many of these rifles were also fitted with Maxim silencers, Model 15. The United States also issued a 20-round extension magazine.

Near the end of the war, a second sniper rifle was in the mill. This was the U. S. Telescopic-Sight Rifle, caliber 30, Model of 1918, with the Musket Sight of M1918. This sight was somewhat like the Winchester A5, and the scopes and mounts were made at Winchester. The scope was mounted on the M1917 rifle (Enfield) with the "ears" milled off the receiver bridge. The rifle had a short fore-end, there was no front sight, and the scope mounts were attached to the barrel and to the modified receiver bridge. The scope had a magnification of 2.6X, and was mounted in sliding mounts, like a target scope. Because of the Armistice only a few of these rifles were made for issue.

The sniper rifle of the Canadian forces was the Ross Service Rifle, Model 1905, caliber .303, fitted with the Warner and Swasey Telescopic sight, Model 1908. The Ross was also a straight pull bolt-action rifle, and was later pulled out of active service because of action troubles during combat. The scope was an early model, earlier than the one used by the United States, and was offset mounted on the left side. The Ross could be clip loaded with the scope mounted.

The standard British service rifles were Pattern 1914 Enfields, caliber .303. These were far superior in accuracy at short range as compared with the issue SMLE Mark III, type service rifles. The first sniper model was the Sniping Rifle No. 3, Mark I (T). This was the Pattern 14 Rifle fitted with the 3X Pattern 1918 Scope. The telescopic sight is mounted by two pins, which hook on to a base on the front of the receiver, and to the left on the rear sight bracket. This model could not be clip loaded though the iron sights could be used.

The second model was the Sniping Rifle No. 3, Mark I (T) A. This was the Pattern 1914 rifle fitted with an Aldis offset telescopic sight. The scope was permanently mounted on the rifle, which had rear "ears" milled off. The scope is maintained in place at the rear end of the receiver by means of a screw which allows movement from side to side. The mount and bases are one fixed unit. A fixed peep sight in the rear of the mount can be used with the front iron sight on this rifle. This rifle was also fitted with a special wooden cheek rest, to bring the sniper's eyes in line with the scope.

These were the major sniper rifles carried through the Meuse-Argonne, and kept out of the mud at Chateau Thierry by the men who took pride in being "King of Riflemen."



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THE .444 MARLIN AS A CARBINE

(Continued from page 23)

can't we cut 7mm Magnums, .264 and .300 Winchester's, and Weatherby's to 20" and retain most of the velocity? The answer is simple to men familiar with bore diameters, powder burning rates, and handloading in general, but confusing to others.

The simplest explanation is that the slow burning powders *must* be used in the large capacity necked-down cases that accommodate a smaller bore. Burning must be progressive, and gases formed at a rate that will continue pushing the bullet throughout the 24" to 26" barrel—yet will not increase breech pressure beyond safety limits. Due to the smaller bores providing less space for powder gases, the burning must be of slightly longer duration. Hence, a longer barrel is required to keep in confinement and burn the slower powders utilized by the large necked-down cases.

Fast powders, such as used in straight, short pistol cartridges, becomes practically an explosive instead of a "pushing" type propellant when applied to necked-down cases. Therefore, they can not be used safely in necked-down cases; except in very small amounts, which in turn would deliver only relative pistol velocities. Speed of the 22" barrel .264 is something around 2900 fps with the factory 140 grain load, yet it is rated at approximately 3200 fps from a 26" barrel. It wouldn't be a magnum at all, performance-wise, with a 20" barrel, simply because the slow-burning powder wouldn't be confined long enough to burn the powder completely and achieve maximum push on the bullet.

The Marlin .444 is on the other side of the fence. It takes a powder capable of producing a lot of gas quite rapidly to build up pressure in the big bore and keep pushing the bullet. The cut-back experiment on the .444 rifle has proved quite conclusively that powder burning is nearly complete within 20", and is complete at 23". Longer barrels for this cartridge offer no ballistic advantage.

Slower powders, such as 4895, 3031, and C type ball are inefficient. They gave much lower pressures and incomplete burning, to the extent that the barrel had to be wiped out between shots—even in the 24" length. The .444 case lacks capacity to increase the charge of 60 grains of C type ball powder, which gave a five-shot velocity average of only 2227, or 169fps behind factory ammunition. The slightly faster 4227 powder increased pressure but gave less velocity.

Upon completion of tests with the shortened Marlin .444, the barrel was removed from the action and properly crowned in the lathe. Care had to be taken in drilling holes for the original front ramp, which is held by two 6-48 screws. The barrel walls are only about ⅛" thick, and shallow holes are required. This was accomplished by locking the muzzle in V-blocks held in a compound drill press vise, and setting the drill depth stop to prevent drilling close to the bore.

To assure a rigid, trustworthy installation, the under part of the ramp, and the barrel surface to which it was attached, were tinned with solder, and heat applied to sweat the ramp into place as the screws were tightened. The front bead sight was driven back into its dovetail, using a soft copper drift.

While the Marlin .444 was taken apart, several changes from the .30-30 class 336's were noted. The first was a large pod, or enlargement of the magazine tube, just in front of its junction with the action. This is necessary to allow loading of the rounds into the magazine. In disassembling the .444 Marlin, you should remember that the magazine tube will not pull out toward the muzzle after taking out the band screws. The entire wood forestock must be carefully loosened and moved forward with the tube. Forcing this will result in damage.

The barrel of the smooth-feeding .444 has an extension milled behind the chamber. This positions into the top of receiver and acts as feeding guide for the blunt nosed, stubby cartridges. The cartridge carrier has a spring-energized "flipper" type guide near its front. Another very good feature is the grip type safety mechanism, which prevents possible accidental tripping of the hammer before the action is fully closed, at which point the lever depresses a small plunger on the lower tang.

Slight additional muzzle blast and recoil can be expected from the 20" .444; it's a bit more jumpy but not disagreeably so. The rifle appears almost oddly stubby when scope mounted, but regains the neat "carbine" look with a peep or open sight.

So, if the well-proportioned appearance of the original Marlin .444 isn't important to the owner, and he prefers a shorter, faster swinging, slightly lighter woods rifle, he can keep in mind there is absolutely no velocity or performance loss at 23" and an almost negligible 57fps at the sweet handling 20" barrel length.



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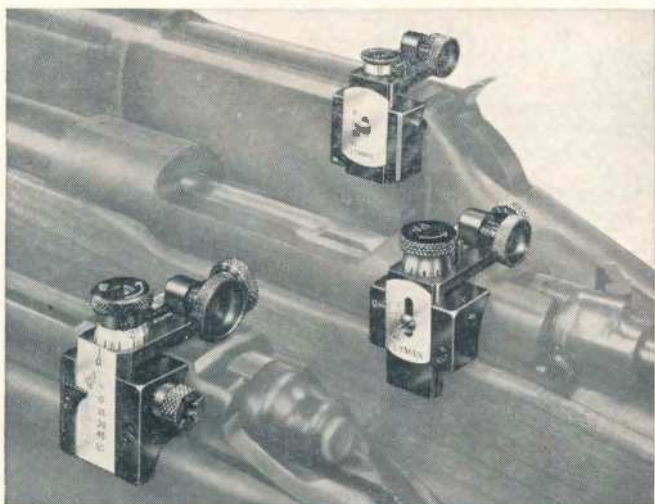
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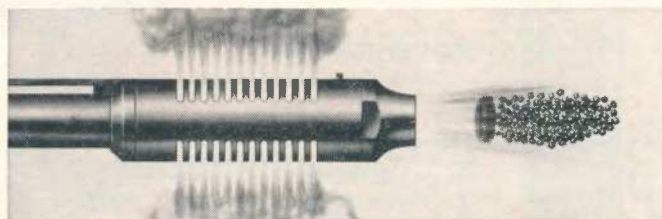


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GUNS OF THE TREASURE STATE

(Continued from page 30)

revolver which is engraved: "1892-93 Chicago World's Exposition Martha Jane Canary." This was presumably given to Calamity by Bill Cody when she was with his show. In the same case is another S&W revolver which has the initials "W B" engraved on the butt and carries eight notches. This is said to have belonged to Calamity's husband, good friend, or what have you, Wild Bill Hickock.

The Buffalo Bill cases have many mementoes of his days with the wild west show, including a Westley Richards double barrel shotgun which is inscribed: "Westley Richards, New Bond Street, London, made for the Hon. William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) Nebraska."

These are but a few of the guns displayed in the Foote Collection. Other guns and mementoes bring to life the days of the pioneers, the outlaws and lawmen, the cowboys and the Indians.

In another car of the train, the Montana Historical Society has done a magnificent job of displaying items from their collections which bring the true flavor of the West to the World's Fair. Surrounded by the world-famous paintings of Charles Russell and the equally famous sculptures of Fredrick Remington, the museum collection houses many fine examples of the guns of the West, from the plains rifles brought to Montana by the early settlers, to the buffalo rifles which pro-

vided meat and hides.

Perhaps the most striking gun in the entire collection, shown on our cover in full color, is the Colt Single Action Army revolver, caliber .38-40, engraved by Elwood Averill. The theme of the engraving and gold inlays of this Colt is "Charley Russell and His Indian Friends," and engraver Averill has literally covered the gun with relief scenes taken from paintings and drawings of the "Cowboy Artist." The extent of the engraving and inlay work must be seen to be appreciated, especially the renderings of the famous Russell art, such as "The Last of the Buffalo," and "Lewis and Clark Meeting the Flatheads." The original of the latter drawing is 25 feet long, and engraver Averill has distilled this into a three inch space! The cylinder has portraits of six of Russell's Indian friends; the grips are of mountain sheep horn, and the butt cap is engraved with a portrait of Russell, an Indian medicine lodge, and friendship bag—all in solid 24 carat gold. It is little wonder that this gun alone is valued at \$14,000.00. And, this is only half of it, for this gun is the first of a pair to be completed—Averill is working on the second gun now.


These are some of the guns of the "Treasure State" which can be seen at the Montana exhibit of the New York World's Fair, but these guns are only a sample of those that have, in their background, stories of

Montana and the West. If your travels take you into the Big Sky Country, be sure to stop in at the Montana Historical Society, in Helena. One of the major attractions of the Society's collection of Western Americana is the Johns Gun Collection, housed in the Pioneer Museum.

Not only is the variety of guns outstanding, but many visitors are surprised at the fine condition of many of the rare guns displayed. Of particular interest to visitors are the many guns in this collection that were carried by Western outlaws—and in spite of the movies and TV, they are not all Colt's. A .38 Webley revolver in the display was dropped by Cole Younger as he rode away from the hold-up of the Northfield, Minn., Bank in 1876; a double barrel shotgun in the collection is said to be the gun with which Bob Ford "the dirty little coward," shot Thomas Howard, "and laid Jesse James in his grave."

While the collection contains some non-Western guns, such as French, English, and Italian flintlocks, most visitors gravitate to the firearms related to the winning of the West—the Springfield 1873 used in the Custer battle; the long flintlock carried on the Lewis and Clark expedition; a .50 caliber Springfield used by Joseph Herman, barricaded in the Bitterroot when the Nez Perce made their sweep across Montana in 1877.

Also in the Museum's collection is a .50 caliber Hawken rifle which was sold at Fort Smith by that famous frontiersman and scout, Jim Bridger. It is said that he sold his rifle for \$65, and as almost every collector knows, any Hawken rifle is worth many times this amount today—and one that belonged to Jim Bridger should be almost priceless.

The Montana gun displays—both at the World's Fair and at the Montana Historical Society—combined with the sometimes cruel and harsh, but always authentic renditions by the artists of the West which are housed in these exhibits, offer a real insight to life in the old West. As it really happened, and without the gaudy unrealism perpetrated by modern entertainment media. 

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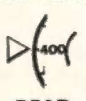
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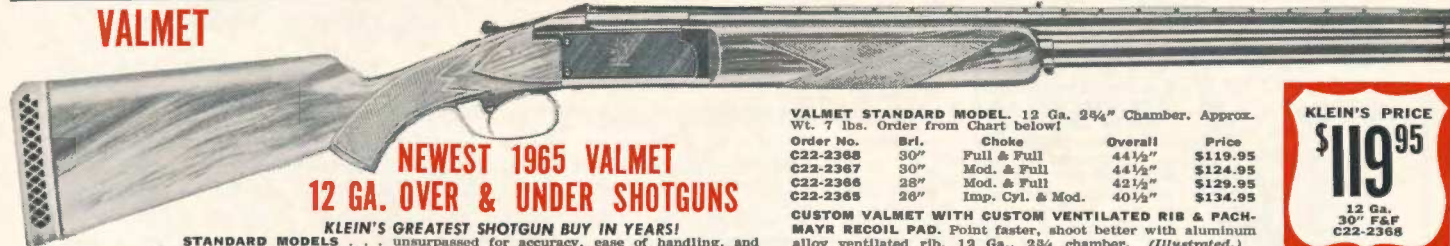
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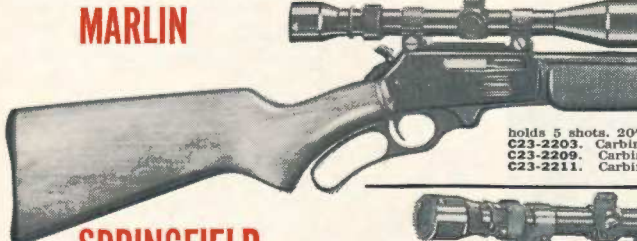
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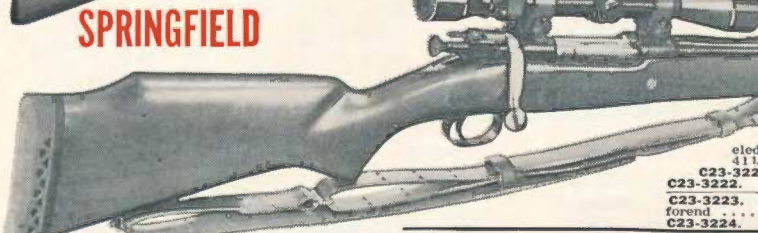
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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON

(Continued from page 21)

another pro-gun legislator and also slated to testify, had entered the room and spoke to the Chief of the subcommittee staff after being passed over. Still, Sen. Dodd proceeded to call a third witness from the Department of Law & Public Safety from New Jersey. Congressman Dingell rose from his seat behind the witness chair and turned toward the door.

In five years of covering Capitol Hill, this reporter had never seen a lawmaker wait so long or he passed over three times for relatively minor figures. The staff head, possibly noting the movement of Rep. Dingell, spoke to Dodd. The senator then asked the third witness to wait, and called Dingell to the witness chair. Obviously the congressman was moved by the lack of courtesy, and he reported to the Chairman that he had left a House hearing over which he presided. Then sparingly, he thanked Dodd for the opportunity to at last testify. The situation was particularly noticeable because Dodd, as a freshman congressman, served with Dingell's late father in the House. The strategy seemed to be to hold up the pro-gun headliner until the press left to make noon deadlines, and a large part of the press corps had left.

What followed were some of the best fireworks of the hearings. Dingell exhibited a shopping bag of zip-guns and other makeshift weapons collected by the local police.

The theme of his testimony was that criminals could always find or make their arms.

Next Congressman Saylor reported how he had been the victim of over-enforcement of the police's gun control authority in the Nation's Capital. A shotgun, sent off to be repaired, he said, was not returned to him until he threatened to sue the REA for unlawfully retaining his property. He refused to fill out a form, he said, whereby his gun would be registered with the police.

In this connection, it was disclosed, the police, post office, and REA had worked out an "arrangement" with the aid of the Dodd committee whereby the receiver must register a long gun and get police clearance before delivery of a handgun. The arrangement, said Rep. Saylor, was without legal authority. The theme of his testimony asked why it was that criminals were expected to obey the law when the police did not.

The histrionics on the part of the subcommittee centered around a changing display of implements of war weapons, and ammunition for the benefit of the TV, wire services, and the daily press. It started with a rifle and scope like the one which killed President Kennedy and other firearms, the misuse of which had figured prominently in the news. It also consisted of cheap imported pistols. Featured, however, was a Swiss antitank rifle along with a photographic enlargement of an advertisement listing the weapon at under \$100.00.

As this attraction waned, a display of bazookas and mortars with an assortment of projectiles, said to have been purchased by an undercover agent through contact with a so-called "Minutemen organization," took its place. Part of the latter display was U. S. Army surplus. How and by what authority these weapons got into the hands of the Minutemen supply house was not probed, although the Army appeared at the hearings.

The display became known as "Dodd's chamber of horrors" even among some favoring the bill. It was simply overdone and the regulars attending the hearing grew tired of it. Interesting to note, however, according to testimony, the State Department and military could have prevented the availability of such war weapons. Both supported the bill.

How did the hearings get so one-sided? It was accomplished because there were, most of the time, no pro-gun senators as members of the subcommittee to balance the anti- and pro-factors. Dodd simply had a free hand, and he was trying to build the strongest possible case, both for the record and for the press. Through the use of his authority, he simply outmaneuvered the opposition.

The testimony of the National Rifle Association is one example. Dodd put their representative under fire for some debatable information in a newsletter to its members. He projected that this non-profit organization was lobbying with misinformation, in violation of its tax-exempt charter. He then projected the possibility of NRA's supplying

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surplus weapons to members (the Army, it was disclosed, is having a survey made on this) and free rifles and ammunition to affiliated clubs through the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice as being unjustified.

The result of the exchange, was hesitancy on the part of NRA officials to attack the measure with hardcore opposition. While they opposed the bill, their stand lacked the conviction or gusto it may have had otherwise.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation took a more militant stand, and they, too, found themselves under fire for lobbying against the bill with misinformation. The NSSF records were commandeered through the use of a congressional summons.

The other extreme was when Treasury, Justice, and other departmental heads of the administration appeared in support of the measure. Continuously they stated that only "interstate and foreign shipments" of firearms to individuals would be curtailed and that mail order houses could continue to ship to individuals, provided outlets were open within the state in which the buyer lived.

The bill reads differently. It does stop sales in interstate and foreign commerce. But the bill defines "interstate or foreign commerce" to mean "commerce between any State or possession . . . or between points within the same State or possession . . ." (italics supplied by author.)

It is difficult to understand the administration's interpretation of its own bill since this definition appears on the first page. But this was not pointed out.

Why were the hearings so one-sided? This is a most important question. Sen. Dodd is sincere in his belief that the availability of guns contributes to their misuse. It was pointed out by the Wildlife Management Institute that this was an argument for the confiscation of weapons, but Dodd does not see it that way. He believes that criminals, juveniles, and mental incompetents can be prevented from having easy access to weapons and that the sportsmen of the nation should be willing to put up with the inconvenience in order to try to accomplish this objective.

He watched this bill in the last congress where it sank into the never, never-land following public hearings, and he had little hope for his re-introduced bill (S. 14) this Congress. The Administration's bill (S.

1592) has the support of the Executive Branch of the Government, and thus was more likely to move forward. Now he sees support from the White House and fellow members of Congress declining, while opposition is building.

The senator finds himself again with his back to the wall and he should be more familiar with the sport he is trying to legislate. For instance, he was surprised when the head of the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Association informed him handguns were used in hunting. He was reluctant to accept the idea of a big-game hunter needing a side-arm. And, the Senator has never been hunting where pistols are used to bag game, and even raccoon hunters frequently use handguns.

The first big test for firearms legislation will come when it reaches the floor of the Senate for debate and vote. Before then, however, it will need to be approved by the majority of two committees. Dodd's Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency, and the Senate Commerce Committee. The latter committee will only critique the bill, but an unfavorable report would put the bill in disfavor when presented to the Senate.

In short, look for a compromise. If it is not forthcoming, and the bill does manage to pass the Senate with little change, The House Ways and Means Committee (the committee to review it there) will probably sit on the measure until Congress adjourns. The House Committee Chairman, Wilber Mills, did not introduce the identical bill in the House when requested to do so by the Administration.



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	Muzzle		200 Yards		400 Yards	
222 Remington	fps	ft. lbs.	fps	ft. lbs.	fps	ft. lbs.
50 gr.	3200	1137	2380	629	1725	330
60 gr.	3000	1199	2310	711	1740	403
243 Winchester	fps	ft. lbs.	fps	ft. lbs.	fps	ft. lbs.
70 gr.	3500	1904	2675	1112	1975	606
87 gr.	3200	1978	2620	1326	2120	868
30-06 Springfield	fps	ft. lbs.	fps	ft. lbs.	fps	ft. lbs.
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130 gr.	3300	3144	2590	1936	1980	1131

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THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

(Continued from page 39)

record, it is no wonder that firearms people object to giving Treasury a blank check to write their own rules of enforcement!

If any federal agency deserves a hearing on matters of firearms regulations it would seem to be the FBI; yet J. Edgar Hoover, himself a leader in the campaigns to reduce the availability of firearms, says flatly, "The numerous ramifications of gun control are so varied and complex that regulatory measures must be at state and local (not national) levels." Wonder why Dodd has not called in the FBI Director as witness?

Worth reading is "National Wildlife" magazine, April-May, 1965 issue:

"Is firearms control the answer to our crime problem? Or does the real answer lie in stricter law enforcement with formidable penalties for armed crimes? Here are two votes for the latter course:

"Surprisingly, one is the much-condemned British Firearms Acts. In addition to limiting gun ownership, the Acts specify harsh and certain punishment for crimes committed while armed. These laws are enforced by able police, backed up by no-nonsense courts and juries. As a result, the criminal leaves his gun at home, the police go unarmed, and the citizen thinks twice before trying to settle his arguments with a gun. There is every indication that the British criminal has been more surely disarmed by his own hand, out of fear of punishment, than by any law controlling the availability of firearms.

"Another example: In an experiment called 'Operation 25,' New York City police selected the tough 25th Precinct in Manhattan, and raised the strength of its force from 244 to 613 for a four-month period, with all additional policemen on foot patrol. By the end of the test period, felonies were down 55 per cent, robberies down 70 per cent, burglaries down 65 per cent, street 'muggings' down 90 per cent. The heat went on, and the bottom fell out of the crime rate."

New York's viciously strict Sullivan Law hadn't curtailed crimes of violence in the 25th Precinct, but strict law enforcement produced results. The article concludes:

"Out of all the arguments on firearms problems and rights, these truths appear to us, and are our policy:

"We believe laws should prohibit sale of firearms to felons, drug addicts, habitual drunkards, juveniles, and mental incompetents. We believe laws should invoke strict penalties against the possession of firearms by criminals and irresponsible persons. We believe laws should permit responsible, law-

abiding adults to own and use firearms for legal purposes. We believe laws should not require law-abiding adult citizens to register shotguns and rifles (Federal statutes already require manufacturers and dealers to keep records on the sale of handguns, rifles, and shotguns). We believe laws should not grant authority to any jurisdiction, police or otherwise, at any government level, to prohibit the purchase or ownership of firearms by law-abiding and responsible citizens."

This is a good credo. With minor editing, it is one to which most gun people could subscribe. Following the word "juvenile" in the first statement, we would insert the words "without parental consent," in order to prevent damage to the thousands of youngsters enrolled in juvenile marksmanship and hunter training programs. And in the fourth statement, we would drop the words "shotguns and rifles" and state our opposition to any registration of "any firearm except full-automatic weapons and sawed-offs as presently defined in the Federal Firearms Act."

Spokesmen for the firearms industry and the shooting sports have always been for measures to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and incompetents, for severe mandatory punishments of those who use guns in crime. We have always been *against* registration, and *against* conveyance to any government authority the police-state power to prevent the purchase or possession of firearms by law-abiding, responsible citizens.

We are against politicians who make and then forsake agreements with consultants who donated their time and travel expenses to assist in the development of reasonable legislation, only to see that legislation forsaken and unreasonable, unworkable legislation presented amidst a fanfare of sensation-mongering propaganda.

We are against writers and broadcasters who seize upon that sensation-mongering propaganda to slant news stories, magazine articles, columns, and editorials, to conclusions contrary to the facts—facts of which they are totally ignorant.

And we are proud to have been and to be a part of the "lobby," spoken of in such bitter terms by the Senator from Connecticut, to prevent the kind of legislation which is aimed at the innocent instead of the guilty, at the tool instead of the crime.

If you haven't written your Senators and Congressmen, write them now. If you have written, write them again! Write them courteously, briefly—but write. Let's not let the Voice of the People, as represented by the volume of pro-gun mail flowing into Washington, diminish!



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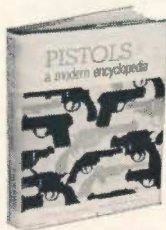
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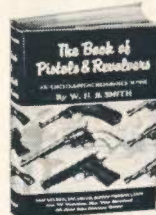
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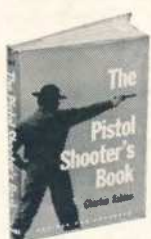
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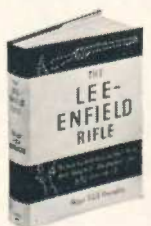
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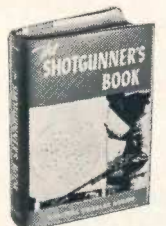
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HOW TO SEE YOUR DEER

(Continued from page 37)

off three shots. The buck disappeared into the trees showing no sign of being hit.

I marked the spot where the buck had disappeared and made my way to it. There was no blood or hair where the buck had been when I fired or where he disappeared into the trees. There was no snow, the ground was rocky, and I couldn't track the buck more than a few yards into the forest. I began to search the forest in arcs, but picked up no blood trail. I went back to the trees at the edge of the clearing where I had last seen the buck and sat down on a big rock to plan a new strategy for the rest of the day. Suddenly, I saw that monster buck lying not ten yards from where I sat! Two of my three shots had hit him—one in the heart! I had almost stumbled over all 300 pounds of that big buck.

I have killed many whitetails and mule deer in my twenty-odd years of hunting, and I can remember spotting and killing only a few in the open. Most of my old hunting cronies, when they stop and think about it, tell me this has also been their experience. It's, of course, easiest to spot wiley deer in the brush when you are very still and on a good stand. But when it gets too cold to sit still, or the middle of the day rolls around and you want to try to jump a bedded-down buck, it can be done only if you really hunt.

I learned the art of sneaking up on elusive deer from an oldtimer in northwest Florida. "Walk three steps like a pussy cat," he used to say. "Then listen and look for three minutes. Do this over and over again. Watch for legs of a standing deer in the brush—that's about all you'll usually see. If you hear a thump against the ground or the crack of a twig, be still and listen and

look for ten minutes! A bedded-down deer has probably jumped up near you. You've got a good chance of seeing him try to sneak away if you wait that ten minutes. If you move too quickly, he'll bounce off through the brush and you'll never get a shot!"

I learned from experience that this system of "ghost" hunting works! One crisp autumn day I was easing through the greens and golds of the pine and oak covered sand hills of Florida's big, wild Eglin Air Force Base Reservation. I was employing that "pussy foot for three steps and listen for three minutes" routine. Suddenly I heard a loud "thump" in the thick scrub oaks ahead of me. I stood still for at least ten minutes, hardly breathing. Then I heard a twig crack and briefly spotted the legs of a sneaking deer about 30 yards ahead. They were moving toward a little opening. I crossed my fingers mentally and waited. In a few minutes the head and neck of a big buck appeared and I dropped the biggest whitetail of my career with a charge of 00 buckshot! I would probably have never seen that "ghost" if I had not employed the sound tactics recommended by the oldtimer. Every oldtimer with lots of deer hunting mileage on him has heard a lot of deer depart in the thick brush ahead of him without even seeing a tail! I have, and still do, but employing the "ghost" hunting tactics have helped me see lots of deer—deer I would have missed using conventional tactics.

If you have sons or friends just beginning to enjoy the great sport of deer hunting, teach them how to select, sight-in, and use their guns effectively and safely when the chips are down. But don't forget to show them what to look for when they go deer hunting.

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HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 18)

hair on target. His hot-shot was packed with a CCI 250 Magnum that kicked off 73.0 gr. 4831 to put Speer's 145 gr. pill in the boiler room. Even at this range expansion was excellent. This lad plinks paper with the bottom crosshair dead center at a measured 400 yards. He wasn't a bit surprised when the buck collapsed almost with the report. Being familiar with your gun and load is the secret of good shooting.

Stray dogs ran a deer in a rancher's shed. The deer, in panic, broke both forelegs in jumping through a window. The rancher, with a 4" S&W .357, ended his misery with a neck hit at 30 yards. He used a H&G No. 51 cast bullet with a H.P. drilled in the Forster Case Trimmer. In a .38 Spl. case 12.3 gr. 2400 and CCI 550 Magnums gave .357 Magnum ballistics, 1138 fps at 30,000 psi pressure. Max pressure is 32,500 psi, minimum 28,500. It won't ruin a good .38 Spl. revolver if fired accidentally or in an emergency, but is *not* recommended in such guns.

The new VARCO Powder Dispenser, distributed by Wisler Western Arms, 205 Second St., San Francisco, Calif., is the handiest thing I've seen for quickly weighing charges. It eliminates a measure, and there is nothing to adjust. Set your scales and count the turns of the dispenser knob until the powder pouring in the pan balances. For the next charges give the knob one less turn and oscillate it to drop the last few kernels of powder. You can do it faster than I tell it.

For my favorite .243 varmint load, a 80 gr. Speer with 40.0 gr. of the new Hercules Reloder No. 21 and CCI 200 primers, we rotate the handle 10 turns, then "jiggle" it to balance the scales. With a Lyman-Ohaus scale we can weigh charges in under 10 seconds! Switching charges is instantaneous, of course, with nothing to adjust. It's a bargain at \$18.50. Dealers have it or can get it.

Speer's new jacketed .41 Magnum bullets shoot better than our cast or swaged types, or factory loads, in S&W or Ruger guns that have equal accuracy. My best heavy load with the 220 gr. S.P. is 18.0 gr. 2400, or 8.5 gr. Unique for a lighter load. I prefer Speer's 200 gr. H. P. with 19.0 gr. 2400 for more tissue destruction. This explodes a can of beans tossed in the air. Of course you can do this with a .357 Magnum, that is more than adequate for any handgun hunting, and should have more appeal to handloaders. Back the H.P. bullet with 9.0 gr. Unique for any normal handgun hunting.

Bitterroot Bullet Co., Box 412, Lewiston, Idaho, has 200 gr. .30 cal. "Bonded Core" bullets at \$20 per 100. Jackets are very heavy, with no lead exposed at the small flat nose, made for deep penetration on very large game. With 71.0 gr. 4831 in a .308 Norma at around 2800 fps they indicate deep penetration and delayed expansion at 100 yards in moist sand. They are made in Ted Smith's SAS dies.

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THE .444 MARLIN AS A SHOTGUN

(Continued from page 25)

pounds of pressure. After considerable experimenting with the wad column, including the addition of a .135 nitro card cut from 12 gauge material to bring the thickness to a full $\frac{1}{4}$ ", I discovered that a height beyond $\frac{1}{4}$ " seemed to serve no useful purpose, only took up room required for shot.

Pattern results were about equal with a variety of wad material and combinations tried, but had a tendency to "blow" thinner when less than two hard .050" cards were used, or when a softer cardboard was substituted. Killing density of the pattern is of course the most important item, and if wad depth and strength is sacrificed for the sake of greater shot volume and a resulting thinner pattern, then efficiency is actually reduced, despite the fact that more lead is put into the air. Two .050" "hard" cardboard wads over the powder leaves a case depth of 1-7/16" for the sleeve and shot (varying slightly with individual cases and the seating pressure used).

Materials tried for shot sleeves included: aluminum foil; .005" and .010" storm window plastic; upholstery plastic; and finally varnished electrical fiber type glass sheeting of .015" thickness. The aluminum foil proved hopeless, showing small sections of pellets lumped together, excessive shredding, slight barrel fouling, and poor patterns. The plastics, while going together nicely, were only slightly better than foil, but some kill patterns were achieved.

A real breakthrough was reached when a fiber type varnished glass sheeting was picked up from a motor re-winding firm. A thickness of about .010", which I suspected might be sufficient, yet would not rob the shot capacity, was unavailable. The .015" glass sheeting is tough, yet semi-limp, and it

cuts and rolls easily for the approximately $2\frac{1}{4}$ turns required. For the .444 load, the glass sheet can be cut 2-11/16" long and 1-7/16" wide. Variations will be encountered due to seated wads flanging slightly and thickness of sleeve material, so it should be trimmed accordingly.

It doesn't matter which way you roll the sleeve, but insert it into the case as you face its opening, so the outside trailing edge points from right to left, or in the opposite direction of rifling twist. This enables the sleeve edge to trail during the temporary rotation of the unit, prevents it from unfolding in the barrel, and allows it to shed more slowly once it has left the muzzle.

The secret of rifled barrel shot patterns seems to hinge quite delicately on the nature of the sleeve material variations. The individual handloader can conduct some experiments of his own, and adjust his procedures accordingly.

Our load accepts 220 grains of No. 8 shot, and since each No. 8 pellet weighs almost exactly one grain, it can be assumed we have about 220 pellets. This duplicates the $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", $\frac{1}{2}$ -ounce .410 load which weighs 218.75 grains.

For shot charging, a dipper type measure can be made by soldering a wire handle to a cut-down .444 case, but because variations in the thickness of the shot sleeve may alter shot capacity, a teaspoon works nicely. Jog the cases slightly as shot is poured through the powder funnel. When case is nearly full, work the shot into a more compact state with the eraser end of a pencil or wooden ram. Fill to top of sleeve and work shot down again. Now, a few pellets may need to be added or removed to level and provide room for the overshot card. Shot should be capped with a thin hard card, treated around the edges with a waterproof, non-rubberized cement. A .44 caliber gas check will also work as an over-shot wad, seated flange outward. Reverse seating of a gas check will sometimes contain a small amount of shot momentarily and cause these pellets to veer out of the pattern, and also retard shedding of the gas check over-shot "card." Using a gas check for the over-shot "card" also requires that the case mouth be crimped in the rifle seating die. Loads fired from crimped cases left a lead smear on the inside of the case mouth, and it was assumed that a number of pellets were deformed, and that crimping the brass cases is not advisable.

When the length of the glass sleeves was reduced to allow only one and a quarter turns inside the case, shot weight could be increased to approximately 325 grains (3" .410 gauge, $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce equivalent). Pattern diameter was increased, but density seemed comparable, perhaps averaging slightly less. Obviously, there is nothing to be gained by increasing shot capacity at the expense of that extra turn of sleeve.

When working with various height wad columns and shot sleeves, which in turn change shot capacity and weight, the need for a well below maximum powder charge can be understood. The very poor ballistic

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coefficient of shot pellets results in their rapid loss of velocity, and there is no advantage in trying to achieve maximum velocity. A powder charge well within safe limits prevents the possibility of dangerous pressures should a thinner sleeve allow a heavier shot charge in the finished shell. Much loading time can thus be saved, once a "safe" load with the maximum possible shot capacity has been developed. You can then merely fill the case with shot to accept the over-shot card.

In order to increase shot capacity to the $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce 3" .410 gauge shell, it was necessary to change to a faster powder, reduce sleeve roll to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ turns, using the same material, and use only the two "hard" over-powder wads. We might keep in mind that wad pressure is less critical on small gauges and faster powders. While I had no means of chronographing the $7\frac{1}{2}$ grain charge of Unique powder behind 325 grains of shot, indications were that it was below the 2400 loads. Pattern density again remained about the same, despite the increased pellet number.

Obviously, a number of other powders, such as Herco, ranging between the burning speeds of Unique and 2400, could be used to work out suitable shot loads for the .444 Marlin; but be certain you start out well within safe limits. Remember, the entire wad column, shot charge, sleeve and over-shot card comprise the weight to which the powder charge is relative. Differences in wad pressure, friction characteristics of the wads, and shot wrapping material are also pertinent pressure factors.

Still another consideration is that your shot loads for the strong action of the Model 336 Marlin .444 might not be safe in any and every old .410 gauge shotgun—always work up loads for the individual gun.

It was discovered quite early during our work with the .444 Marlin ammunition, that it would chamber in some .410 gauge shotguns. The rim of the .444 brass cases is thicker than .410 rims, and while a Savage 24H .22-.410 over and under would not accept the .444 cases, a Stevens 940 single shot took them easily. However, excellent brass cases for .410 shotgun loading can be made by turning off a bit of metal from the rim's front side.

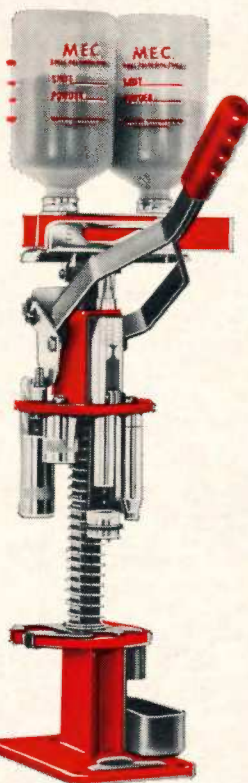
Never, under any circumstances should the action of any .410 gauge shotgun be closed on a .444 Marlin rifle round. The 240 grain jacketed bullet is about .020" larger than most .410 bores, and is larger than the choked muzzle of all .410's.

Shotgunning and big game hunting, of course, can't be combined to complete advantage, but the .444 Marlin brings it close enough so that the extra weight of a side-arm for grouse shooting can be foregone for the carrying of a handful of easily assembled shotshells.

It may be sporting and an exhibition of skill to bring in a limit of head-clipped rabbits or grouse with your favorite deer rifle, but near misses leave the skillet empty. Shotshells fill it much easier, especially when you consider that rabbits often hop and grouse often stroll through brush, bobbing, swerving, and making head shots difficult. The .444 shot loads also make it possible to take advantage of close range wing shooting.



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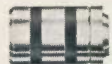
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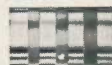
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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Continued from page 17)

would recommend that you glass bed the tang of the receiver behind the trigger assembly and at the recoil lug, leaving the barrel free floating. Now while you are firing, try different pressures with the forearm screw with shim stock holding the barrel at the screw. If this doesn't do it, try cutting a half inch from the muzzle.—P.T.H.

First Model S&W

I have a First Model, 2nd Issue, S&W in .22 R.F., stamped "Smith & Wesson, Springfield, Mass." on top of the barrel and the number 102916 on the butt. I have another one almost like it, but with a solid frame and stamped "Made for Smith & Wesson by Rollin White Arms Co., Lowell, Mass." The number 5513 appears on the butt. Can you tell me something about these guns, and what they would be worth to a collector?

Earl W. De Weese
Decatur, Ind.

The S&W First Model, Second Issue is worth about \$30 in average but original condition. Rollin White revolvers are worth about the same unless you have one of the few rarer variations. The S&W 1st Model 2nd Issue was made from 1860 to 1868.

The various S&W Models are gaining in popularity and are liked by collectors. Your model is rather common however.—C.B.

GEHA Shotgun

I have a German 77 Mauser-action shotgun in fine shape. I have a strong belief that this gun was handmade in Germany sometime before World War II. There is a flat metal plate with letters GEHA on the stock. Is this gun worth anything as a collector's item?

George Romero
Sacramento, Calif.

Just after World War I some very strange guns were beaten together in Germany; probably the worst was the GEHA shotgun you describe. Leftover or otherwise unsaleable Mausers were barreled with shotgun tubes and peddled for a few dollars; most (but not all) were marked GEHA. If you will examine the action, you will note that por-

tions of the forward locking lugs of the bolt and the forward interior of the receiver have been milled away to make room for the 12 gauge shell—which is considerably bulkier than the 8 mm rifle cartridge.

A Mauser collector might go as high as \$25-35.00 for it as a curiosity, but this gun should not be fired.—S.B.

7 mm To .280 Remington

I have a 7 mm rifle in new condition, and it is of the large ring receiver type. Would it be possible to rechamber this for the .280 Remington cartridge? Would it be wise to rechamber for a 7 mm Magnum cartridge?

Foster P. Basso
Mingo Junction, Ohio

It is possible to change your 7 mm to .280 Remington, but I suggest that you have your gunsmith check the gun for soundness before starting work. If the action is not sound or in good condition, I advise against any alterations, and if it is not safe, I suggest scrapping it.—P.T.H.

Ortgies Pistol

I have an Ortgies pistol in fair condition, caliber 6.35 mm. Can you tell me if it is safe to shoot, and if so, where I can get ammo for it?

Chester Dera
Charleroi, Pa.

The Ortgies pistols were of clever design and very well made; if yours is in good condition it should function quite well with American 25 ACP ammunition. Incidentally, there isn't a single screw (not even in the grips) included in the design.

An "Inside Look" is scheduled for GUNS, featuring the Ortgies;
watch for it.—S.B.



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THE MOOSE OF GRIZZLY GULCH

(Continued from page 35)

dead-on at 200 yards. I was most anxious to see how the 180 gr. Speer bullet would perform on game. I had used the 165 gr. Speer bullet a number of times on big game hunts, and although I had checked the performance of the 180 gr. bullet in the recovery box, I never had had a chance to use it on game. My gun was topped off with a BALvar 5 scope and Kuharsky mount, and at 200 yards, my groups averaged between 2.5 and 3.0 inches from the bench. The 80.0 gr. of H 4831 with a CCI 250 primer gave a muzzle velocity of slightly better than 3,150 fps and I was confident that, given a fairly decent shot, I'd get my bear.

A cold wind whistled around the tents the next morning when Dave, Wenzel and I dug into stacks of hotcakes. Heinz was out rounding up the stock and joined us with cheerful news—one mule, his pet Francis, was missing. The general guess was that a grizzly was dining somewhere on mule steaks when all hell broke loose at the rope corral. Grabbing rifles and lanterns, we dashed outside. There was Francis, badly lathered and frightened, and bleeding from a long gash along one flank. We finally got things quieted down, but nobody could offer any suggestions as to what critter might have scared Francis that badly.

Heading east with Dave and an empty pack horse, we crossed a game trail that we had checked the previous evening. There were moose tracks, pug marks of a mountain lion, deer tracks, and there were even signs of a couple of black bears. Turning in the saddle for one more glimpse, I spotted a pair of long ears sticking out of a bush. I whistled to Dave and pointed. "Looks like the other..." Dave started to say when the whole animal became visible—a full-grown cow moose. As we sat watching her, she was joined by a second cow, and they were joined shortly by still another girlfriend. Alternately they watched us and fed, and I was taking a few pictures with the Robot camera I had dug out of the saddle bags. The peaceful setting was disrupted by a ruckus in the bush, and on the other side of the creek, a young bull moose took off in high gear. Blood was streaming down his side, and he was getting out of there, but fast. When we looked back to the cows, there was a bull, his antlers bloody from his recent battle with his competitor and, in all likelihood, also from the encounters with our mule.

With the changing light conditions, I dug out my light meter while Dave was keeping an eye on the bull, who obviously was in rut. He nosed around the cows and began working nearer and nearer to us. Suddenly he tossed his head, stomped the ground a couple of times and decided that my horse was going to become a member of his harem. My horse had different ideas about this and took off through brush and timber, Dave yelled a couple of times, and the next few seconds were somewhat confused. I clutched my camera, tried to dodge trees and bushes, and somehow managed to stay in the saddle. The experience shook us enough to call for a five minute rest—and all this within a few

hundred yards of camp!

The climb to Lost Cabin Plateau was rugged, but once there, the trip was worth it—elk signs all over the place, we even spotted a few of them but none of them had a big enough rack to warrant shooting—besides we were still looking for grizzly. We left the horses and hiked up to Broken Castle Mountain, enjoyed the view, watched game trails, and saw sheep tracks. The tracks were within 150 yards of us, and I began to rue the lack of a sheep permit. If one of them would come over the ridge, it would be "look, but don't touch." But that temptation did not come along that day.

On the way back to camp, we stopped to glass the area of the moose encounter. Dave guessed that the bull's antlers would go about 30 inches, which for that corner of B.C. was pretty good. A moose with a 40 inch antler spread would make local news, and I took time to measure the distance that separated that cantankerous bull moose and me—15 feet!

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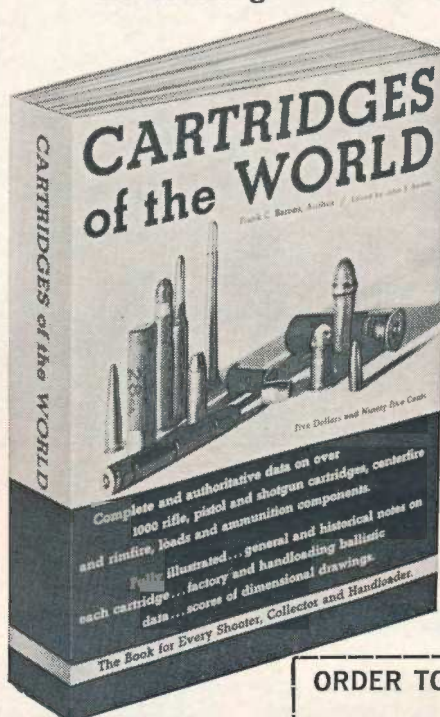
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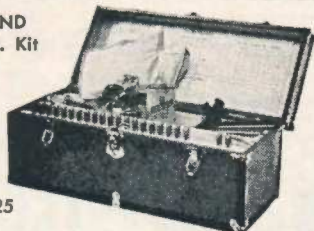
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Over a pot of coffee, Dave, Wenzel, and Heinz plotted the next day's hunt. Heinz had scouted the western part of the valley while Dave and I had ridden to Lost Cabin Plateau. Although he had not seen any grizzly, he had located a herd of elk and several moose.

Dave and I saw several good elk, but none of them much bigger than the one I had killed three years ago, and I passed them up. The moose had wandered off some place and I was not too anxious for one—a grizzly still was my prime target. Topping out on a nameless and windswept plateau, we crawled around glassing the valleys and ridges. Looking down the one slope I saw movement—yup, there was temptation in capital letters: two full curl rams bedded down within 200 yards of the summit. Not only did I not have a sheep tag, but recovery of the critter would have been almost impossible. Wenzel, who knows every square inch of the country, figured that it would take about two or three days of riding to get to the other side of the mountain. So I just sat there and suffered, getting the shivers worse and worse every minute. By editing and reading too many sheep articles, I had contracted a bad case of sheep fever.

Time was running out and my bear on-the-hoof was still just that. Dave was beginning to talk to himself, Wenzel spent hours glassing one slope after the other, while Heinz rode miles and miles in the hopes of finding a grizzly for me. We discussed and cursed the fact that I did not shoot that smallish bear we had seen on our ride into the area. I had one more day, then it was back to work for me. Dave was determined not to let me out of the country skunked, and even insisted on checking a couple of areas in the late afternoon, getting us back to camp after 10 P.M. Game was plentiful, and we saw whitetail deer, moose, and crossed the black bear tracks, but grizzly signs were sadly lacking in the scenery. One more hunt, and then breaking camp would take care of me for this year. The next morning we were out early, and on riding back to camp for breakfast, we passed the moose area again. This time we left the horses and finished our stalk on foot. Three cows were grazing peacefully, and a whitetail doe was feeding within 50 feet, but no sign of the bull or the black bear. If I could not take home a grizzly, I'd take a black bear or even a moose. If I could locate the

bull that had given us such a bad time, I had hopes of socking him with the 180 gr. Speer bullet.

Dave and I stood quietly for about 20 minutes, and I could hear our stomachs grumble for food. On the far side of the woods I could see some movement and hissed Dave a warning just as he was beginning to move. Sure enough, it was our friend the bull, complete with a hunk of velvet still hanging from his right antler and the blood dried on the tines of his antlers. As he crossed the open glade in front of us, Dave muttered: "Take him, Bob." I had the M70 at my shoulder. At this distance, a shot placed directly into the heart should be fatal within seconds. I watched the bull closely to locate my target, and when the crosshairs settled slightly above and behind his shoulder, I completed the trigger squeeze. At the sound of the gun the cows and the doe took to their heels. The bull, however, simply kept walking, neither faster nor slower. I had ejected the case, shoved a fresh round in the chamber, and stood ready to shoot once more. Dave darned near scared me out of my boots when he suddenly and loudly announced: "Hold your fire, Bob. That bull is dead, but he doesn't know it yet, eh?" The range had been 26 yards, and the bull was crossing from the left to the right. After walking 15 yards, the bull stopped, then leisurely turned around and began to retrace his steps. After walking three yards, he keeled over—the 180 gr. Speer bullet had not let me down.

The rack had a 32.5 inch spread which Dave declared as somewhat better than average for this area. Wenzel, Dave, and Heinz played the usual guessing game about the live weight of my moose, and they finally settled on 900-1,000 pounds. We attempted to recover the bullet, but failed to find more than a few tiny pieces of jacket metal. The bullet had missed two ribs, had gone into the heart, and the exit hole in this muscular organ was the size of my fist. The bull had simply bled to death and never knew what hit him. With three of us working, skinning and taking care of the meat was not much of a chore, and although the bull had begun to rut, the meat was sweet and tender, thanks to rapid cleaning and hanging. That afternoon we packed up camp and headed back to Waterton Park where Dave, at that time, had his headquarters. On the long ride out, Dave and I talked about the lack of grizzlies. "In over ten years of hunting this general area, this is the first time that we did not even see a good bear. The weather was bad on the mountains, and this should have pushed them down. They were not up there, and they sure were not down below. Tell you what, Bob. Come back either in the spring or next fall and take enough time—I'll find a bear for you."

Winter had come to the mountains, but when my Air Canada jet landed in Chicago, I found that a heat wave and draught had been plaguing the area for over a week. Two days after I got back to work, I received a letter from Dave. The next party—and with them grizzlies were incidental—had taken two big grizzlies. Both were killed within yards of the camps, the same camps we had used. Looks like those grizzlies knew what I had in mind for them and they outsmarted all of us.

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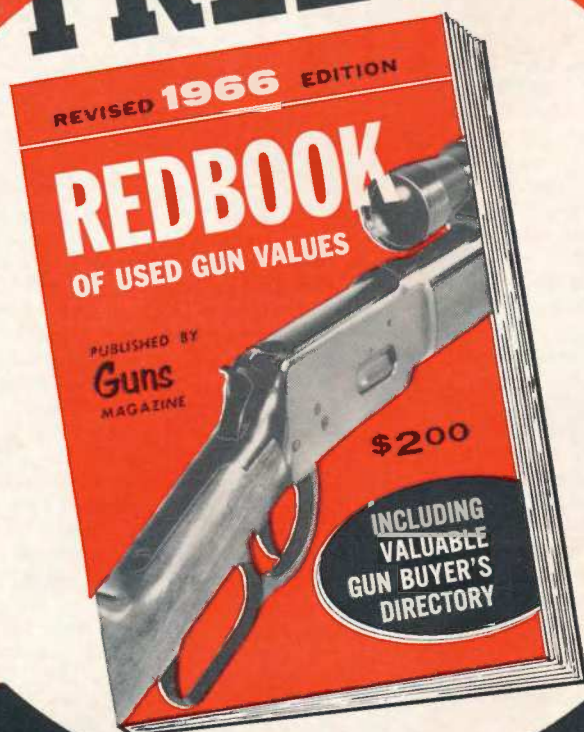
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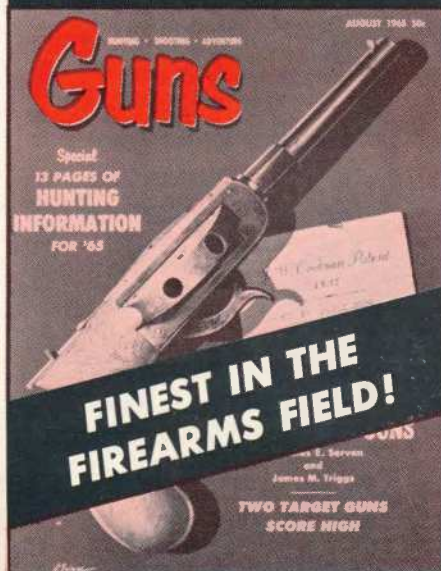
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SIXGUNS VS. AUTOMATICS

(Continued from page 33)

It is the best known for the fact that it has now survived three major wars and is deeply involved in the fourth. And, it came through with the most shining reputation of any weapon in the U.S. Arsenal. And I mean by that, in comparison with our rifles, the older Springfield and the Garand, in comparison to the BAR, the machine guns, the mortars and our light and heavy artillery. The .45 M1911 has outlasted the lot. And why, you may ask? Simply because the gruelling usage of the battlefield, a proving ground so undeniably brutal as to be impossible to duplicate in laboratory or field test, has indicated this pistol is the best of all our weapons. Today the .45 is seeing its fourth holocaust—the Vietnamese war.

Why, if the six-gun is such a gee-whiz sort of weapon, has the military clung to an auto pistol? Why don't they wise up like the cops, and these game-shooting hom-bres who kill bears and mountain lions with a scope-sighted .44 Magnum? The facts are that we used to have revolvers in the army. Good ones. Big, heavy guns. First in the single action and later double action models. We entered WWI with a pair of revolvers, one of them an S&W, the other a Colt. At the start of WWII, our troopers were armed in part with a revolver. The English still use one.

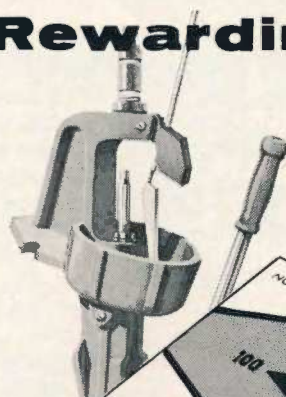
Why did the military abandon the six-gun

since it had been in steady usage since the Civil War? The plain unvarnished facts are that the six-shooter just can't take it. When the going really gets tough, when your soldier has got to have a sidearm that always shoots, the cylinder arm fails. The Model 1911 auto does not. It functions, and it functions invariably.

What happens to the revolver in war is that it fills with mud. During a campaign the troops get into the mud. They wallow in it, eat and sleep and move and fight in the stuff. The revolver shortly fills every chamber with the goo. The mud enters between the cylinder crane and the frame of the gun; it fills the gaping space between the head of the cartridge and the face of the receiver. It works into the cylinder ratchet and plugs the cylinder hand so that it cannot move. It fills the cuts for the cylinder bolt and the latter cannot lock into place for firing. It finally fills the hammer opening—and it is jammed.

Writers like to say that sheriffs and the Texas Rangers give a six-gun a hard beating. Too, some of them like to make big medicine over the slamming around a belt gun gets when it is toted by a cowpuncher, or a real backwoods hunter. This is kid stuff compared to the licking a shooting iron gets when it goes to war. The local city

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marshal, or the cop in his prowler car, or the cow waddie following a dusty herd from the north pasture to the wintering grounds may give his artillery quite a dusting off for a whole day, or maybe a couple of hard days; but right after that he gets an unlimited opportunity to clean the arm.

Not so your combat infantryman. He may be in a steady fight for as long as 30 days without any relief whatsoever—with no time to clean anything, not even his mess kit. When night comes, he doesn't retire to the comfort and security of a snug set of quarters where he can knock the mud out of his shooting irons. Instead, he buttons up in a foxhole he has dug hastily and he doesn't have the time, inclination, nor tools to disassemble the old .45 service gun, clean and oil it. And yet, if he is jumped that night and all the many nights that follow, he expects that pistol to fire. And it does.

The .45 automatic is not a popular gun. Neither with the civilian contingent nor with the military. "No one can shoot the old crutch," is the plaint. And this is true; it is the most difficult of all the automatics to master. And yet, all the major championships in the country are won with this pistol. It used to be that targetmen fired the .38 revolver in the bullseye competitions, but that was yesterday. In the Nationals at Camp Perry, in the mid-winter matches in Florida, in the big regional bangfests, go look at the firing line. For every revolver you see, I'll show you 50 automatics. The reason is that the automatic garners more points. Not only is it a better shooting gun, but it's more accurate. So the bellyache that "I can't shoot the .45," is based on lack of practice and not any fault of the auto.

There are other auto pistols beside the Model 1911. Pistols of .38 and 9 mm calibers. And on down the line there's a handsome coterie of .22 models. Regardless of caliber, these guns cannot hold a candle to the big .44 Magnum and the newer .41 Magnum for power. The super revolvers are kingpin from this standpoint. For the feller who is looking for a one-hand job with lots of oomph, the six gun is right in there with the Sunday punch. It sort of works both ways, that Sunday punch.

The .44 Magnum has as much recoil as the .30-06 rifle. That is, 18.5 pounds. The .41 Magnum is only a half-jump behind. The .45 auto recoils 4.5 ft. lbs., and the 9 mm S&W auto has a recoil of 3.1 ft. lbs.

It used to be that in the .22 pistol matches there was an even division between users of the fine .22 revolvers and those who tried the light, flimsy .22 automatics. Scores were about even. This just ain't so today. Go to a .22 pistol match and look around. Take in a half-dozen of these affairs, trot up and down the firing line at the Nationals, ask your amigos who follow the handgunning wars. You won't see a six gun. What has happened? The .22 six gun these days is just as finely made as it was 30 years ago, and ammo has improved. Surely the gun that garnered its share of the prizes back in the 30's can still do it today? Or can it?

The facts are that the new crop of .22 target auto pistols simply shoot rings around the obsolescent cylinder jobs. The self-loaders have been constantly improved; the revolvers have stood still. Not only will the automatics shoot closer groups and higher

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scores but the pistol fits the gunner much better. This gets us down to the matter of pointability.

In a shotgun, we don't call it pointability, we call it balance. It is an inherent something in the gun which makes it handle cleanly and swing true. A something which sees the gun sweep through the bird, coming on from behind and, swinging effortlessly, permits the marksman to kill with certainty. Balance—or pointability if you will—is a combination of the fit of the stock, the easy position of the hands, the weight of the piece, the center of balance, and the goodness of the triggers. Altogether it makes the scattergun alive and responsive in the shooter's hands.

The handgun, whether revolver or pistol,

to be worth its salt, must also have good pointability. While the shotgun has an intangible something difficult to measure, in its score for good pointability the handgun is different. We can take the measure of the barrel-to-stock angle on a revolver or auto pistol and say, unhesitatingly, that "here is a good pointing gun," and over there, "a poor one, that." It is a matter of the angle formed between the axis of the bore and the center of support as provided by the stock. A handgun with a barrel-to-stock angle close to 90 degrees will point atrociously. On the other hand a gun with a barrel-to-stock angle close to 112 degrees will point very well indeed. However, the shooting iron with the barrel-stock relationship at any angle of 115-118 degrees is well nigh perfect!

The M1911 .45 auto points abominably. The stock-to-barrel angle is 107 degrees. The Browning M1935 9 mm auto is even worse; it has an angle of but 103 degrees! The single action .45, the "Old Peacemaker," thought to be tops as a natural pointer, has 108 degrees; this is poor. Most of our modern crop of revolvers, the .38's, the .44's, and the .45's run from 104 to 108 degrees.

The best pointing handguns today, this in consideration of both six guns and automatics, are the new crop of .22 self-loaders. Most especially, the High Standard Supermatic series and the Browning Medalist. Barrel-to-stock angle runs 118 degrees. Smith and Wesson, in their new 9 mm Model 39 auto pistol, and with their even newer Model 52 automatic for the .38 wadcutter, have achieved a tenstrike with a barrel-stock angle in both guns of 113 degrees. Among older guns, the Luger is a striking example of the proper design between bore-axis and grip; it has an angle of 118 degrees.

A handgun—just any handgun, pistol or revolver—will shoot closer to the mark if the barrel-to-stock angle ranges from 112 to 118 degrees. And, it does not matter whether the marksman takes deliberate aim and squeezes slowly or whether he points flashily and bangs away instinctively. This manner of handgun will hold steadier and place less strain and fatigue on the gunner over a long series of shots. This is precisely the reason from the .22 automatics have pulled away from the .22 revolvers these past several decades.

For all this, revolvers remain in high favor among a majority of our fraternity. This is especially true among the center-fire six gun aficionados. The sport of quick-draw is almost universally followed by those *hombres* who swear by the cylinder arm; and for good reason, I think. The revolver lends itself to a faster first shot than the self-



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loader. The fact that most all our auto-matics are single action, badly handicaps the user who wants to get off a fast first shot. It takes a long time to haul the hammer back after the pistol is free of the leather.

The six gun man can bang off that first shot double action, and if he is a single action artist, he slaps the big upstanding hammer spur back for his first round.

With the exception of the S&W 9 mm, all our auto pistols are obsolescent from the standpoint of the double action mechanism. The modern center-fire self-operating pistol ought to have the double action mechanism. The M1911 .45 auto is 'way behind the times in this failure to be modernized. The German designers long before WWII recognized this need, and the German army went into the scrap with the P-38, a double action 9 mm which is a jim dandy. Now, 20 years later, we are still plodding along with our old .45, unaltered and unimproved.

In summation: which is the best handgun, the revolver or the auto? In popularity, certainly the six gun wins hands down. And this is among all ranks. Whether the rank-and-file, the cops, the hunting fraternity, the quick-draw sharks. You name 'em and you'll find the cylinder gun is tops. Only the military and the target shooting clan show a decided preference for the auto.

The six gun has a lot of tradition behind it. It has remained essentially unchanged in design for the past 129 years; it is the gun that won the West; it is as typically American as the Winchester lever carbine. It can be gotten into action faster than the automatic; it shoots bigger and more powerful cartridges; it kicks harder, and is available in more models, barrel lengths, weights and differences, than the semi-auto.

When you have said that, you have summed up the best that can be said for the gun. It is not as reliable as the automatic pistol. In the tight spots, where the going really gets rough and the gun must function and function reliably, as in war, it cannot measure up to the auto. It is not as accurate, and it does not point as well as the self-loader; neither when aimed deliberately after the fashion of the targetman, nor when pointed from below the level of the eyes. The stock-to-barrel angle on the cylinder model is poor and this accounts for its mediocrity in this regard.

Despite the shortcomings of this most typical of all American shooting irons, I expect to see it around for quite a while. Like the prodigal son, we acknowledge its shortcomings only privately.



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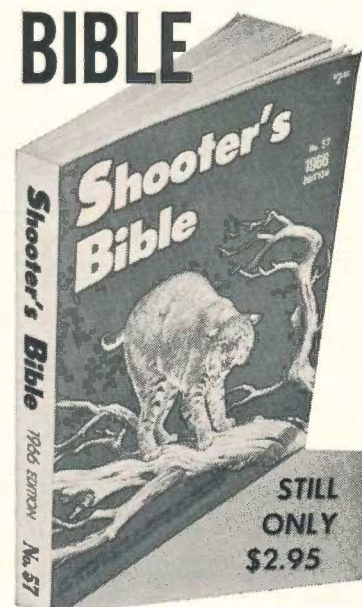
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LET'S NOT OUTLAW BUCKSHOT

(Continued from page 27)

area the size of a buck's chest cavity. Guns, even of the same make and model—even the same choke—are subject to wide variation. An occasional exceptional gun will pattern 00's well, and a good many old doubles will handle 0's almost as well as No. 1's. When you find a gun that is right for you, hold on to it as if it were the treasure of a Maharajah. It is a pearl beyond price.

Now for the man behind the gun. Mr. Hughes observes that buckshot are notoriously inaccurate at 100 yards. But how many shots are made at running deer, usually in heavy timber, at more than half that distance? Most important factor of all, not excepting either the bore of the gun or the size of the shot, is the stander himself. Unless he is trigger-happy, he will not risk the impossible shot. The true sportsman remains on his stand, keeps quiet, and shoots only when he knows he has an excellent chance of a humane kill. And let's face it, under average conditions everywhere except in the far West, and perhaps in certain sections of the mountains, few chances of a shot at more than 40 yards occur. If we deal in averages, 30 yards would be nearer the truth. In fishing stories, it is expected that the size and weight of the lunker bass is likely to be exaggerated. In deer hunting the same principle applies to the distance between the stander and the dead buck on the ground. Measure a 100 yard shot with

a surveyor's tape, and it will most likely shrink to 75. A 75 yard shot will become 60. (Yes, Mr. Hughes, my 54 yard shot was measured by "stepping off," and I am not exceptionally long-legged.)

Now let's talk about Mr. Hughes' rifle. No, I don't want to outlaw it, as he does my shotgun. I'm not in favor of outlawing any gun, especially today, when our very ownership of guns is at stake. I even possess a rifle myself, a Browning .243, and hunt with it when alone. The rifle certainly has its legitimate place as a stalker's weapon, or with a scope sight in open country. But a line of standers is *not* its place. Under the usual conditions of a deer drive the standers are placed at deer crossings along a lumber road, the edge of a field, the top of an old plantation dike, or some sort of woodland trail. Often the standers are scarcely more than 100 yards apart. In spite of any claim to the contrary, a rifle bullet can travel much farther than that, even in the woods. A .243 might disintegrate on striking a twig, but how about the old reliable work horse such as the .30-30 or the other brush-buckers, the kind generally used by the stalker? They will ricochet on contact with anything other than a full grown tree hit dead on. And should the shot be made in the direction of the next stander, he's as likely to be on the receiving end as is the deer.

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True, there are more buckshot flying around than the one rifle bullet, but according to Hughes' own thesis, they rapidly lose their effectiveness. I would take my chances any time with the next stander using buckshot rather than any sort of rifle, even a .22. In fact, I'd be so nervous, just knowing that a rifle was up the line, I'd miss any deer that came along.

Every year, a dozen or more hunters are killed by firearms, most of them in the states where rifles are employed to the exclusion of shotguns. In the states where the deer drive is conducted along the lines Mr. Hughes deplors, the only ones ever killed with buckshot are those who wander from their stands. I have never, personally, known of a hunter being killed while on his stand where he had business to stay. Buckshot, even if fired in the direction of a fellow stander—which seldom happens—would be so spent by the time it reached him that a fatal wound would be most unlikely.

Regional customs evolve as they do, not without sound reason behind them. If a group of deer hunters, who conduct their sport with buckshot and hounds in the traditional manner, offer a guest the use of a shotgun while prohibiting his rifle, they are acting with sound horse sense as well as with courtesy.



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