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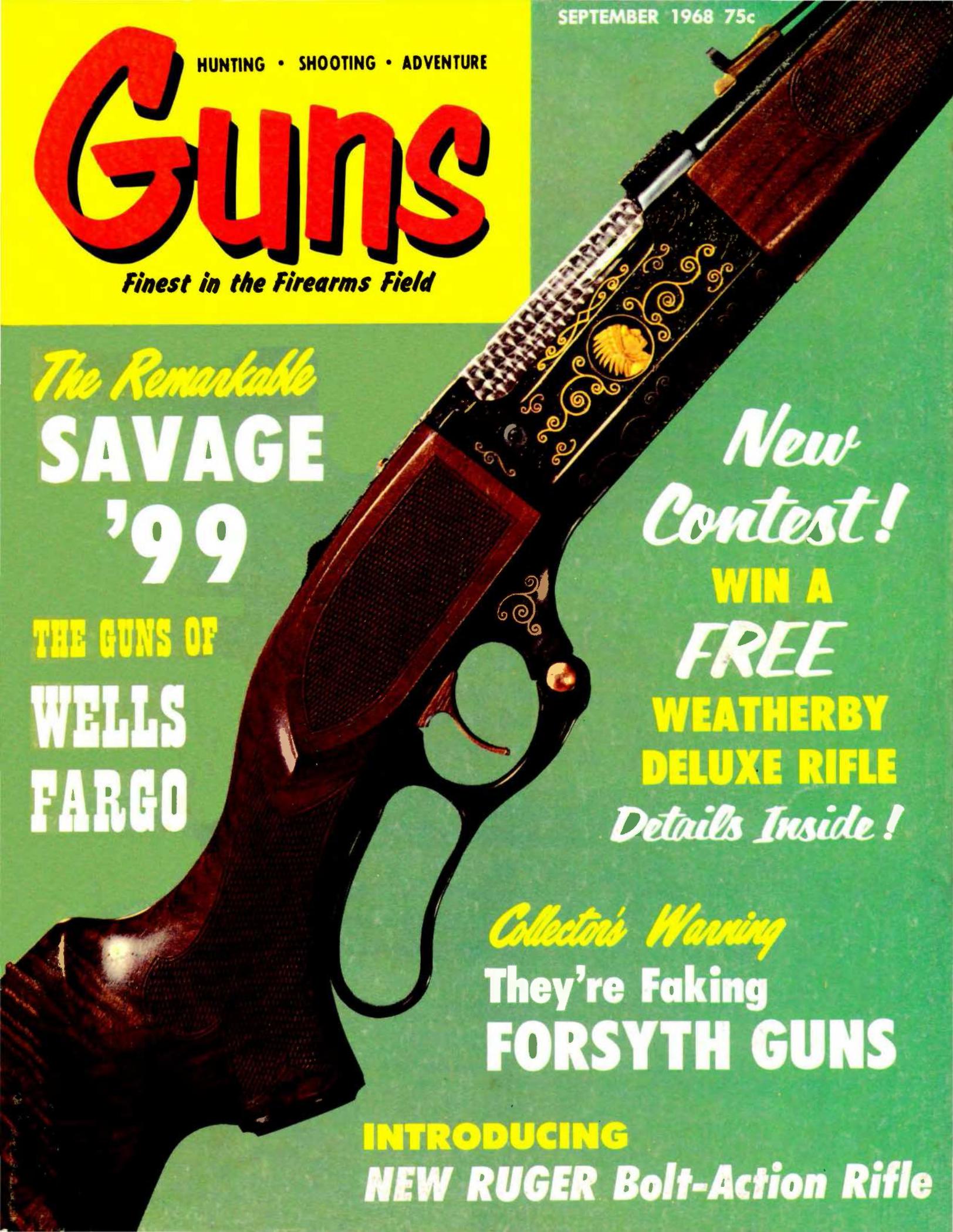
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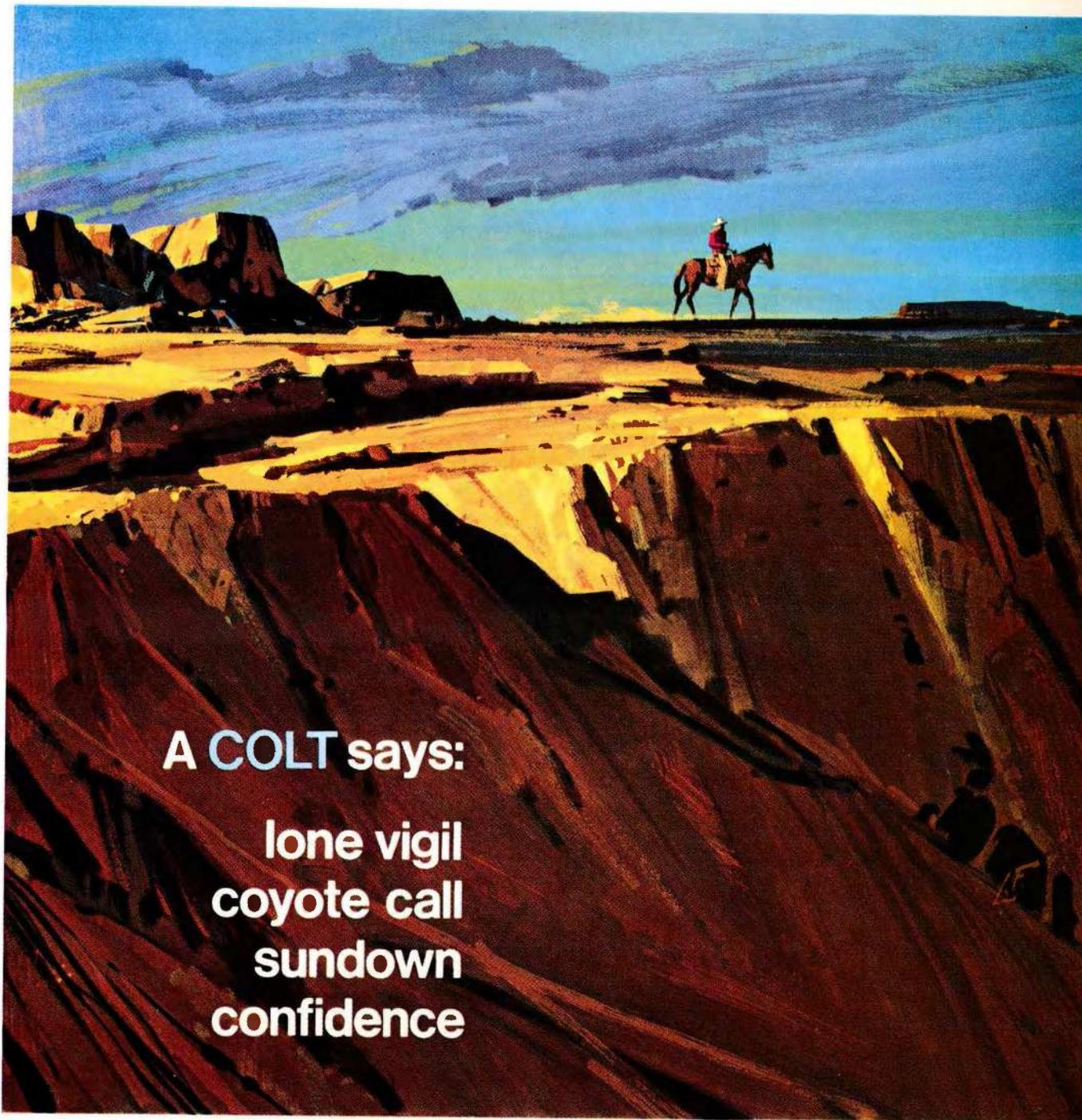
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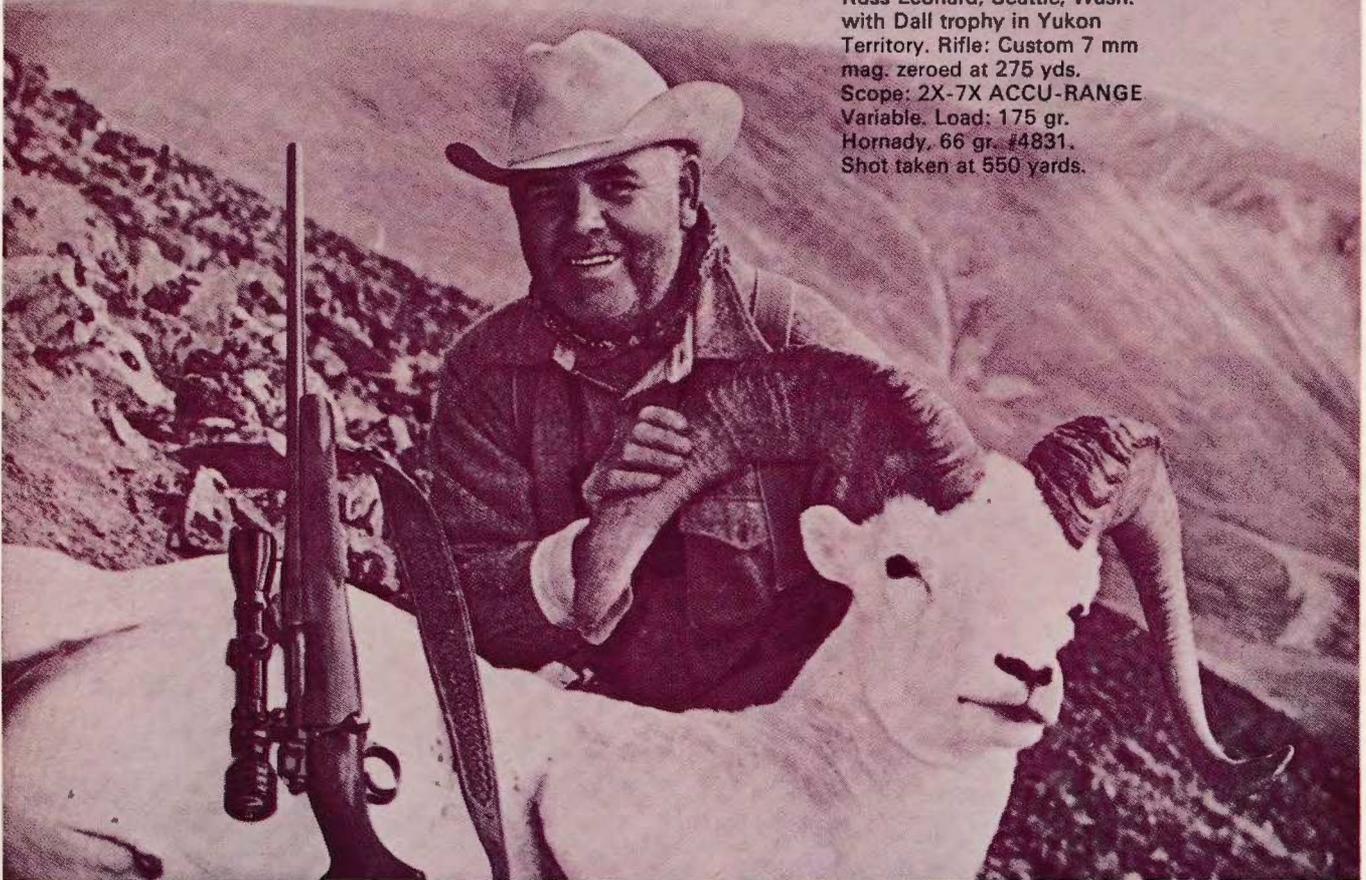
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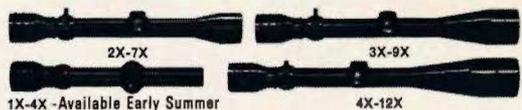
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AS THIS IS WRITTEN (June, 1968), this nation is once again caught in the hysteria which follows the assassination of any well-known figure. The idiotic murder of Senator Robert Kennedy has brought forth renewed efforts for all kinds of firearms legislation; some of it reasonable, but most of it bordering on the panic call of "We must do something" even if it's wrong.

These are times when shooters, hunters, and gun collectors must remain calm, but unswerving. While it is difficult to predict what the outlook is for federal gun legislation, few will deny that the odds are in favor of some sort of regulations. In the legislative hoppers are bills which call for the banning of all mail-order gun sales; federal registration of all firearms; and various other forms of regulations.

It is impossible, because of the long lead time between writing and sale of this magazine, to give our readers up-to the minute results of legislative action. It is therefore imperative that each and every gun owner keep informed by reading his newspaper and tuning to the news on radio and TV. And, it is also imperative that each of us react—at once—to this news. Answer radio and TV editorials which support anti-gun legislation; keep writing to the editors of newspapers; contact your local representatives in congress. In short, you must become more active now than ever before.

THE COVER

This handsome presentation Savage Model 99 bears serial number 1,000,000, and represents a proud moment for the workers and executives of Savage Arms. This rifle was presented to the National Rifle Association, and is on exhibit in their museum. Photo courtesy Savage Arms. See the full story of the Savage 99 on page 40.

SEPTEMBER, 1968

Vol. XIV, No. 8-09

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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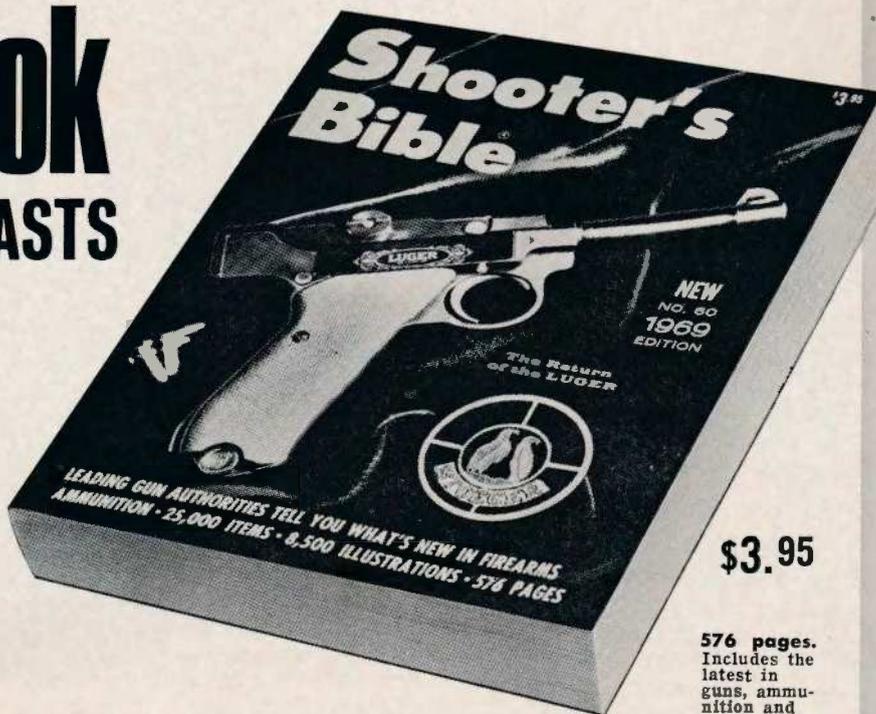


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GM-9



CROSSFIRE

AK-47, M-16 Evaluated

I read with interest the pros and cons concerning the M-16 in the letter section of your March issue. While in Vietnam last year I was attached to units that used both the M-16 and the AK-47 in combat. This is what I observed: the AK-47 is a very reliable and rugged weapon. You can drop it in the mud, stomp on it, pick it up and it will still (most of the time) shoot. It has a 30 round clip—a big advantage over the M-16. On the minus side, the AK-47 weighs about four pounds more than the Colt rifle and after all day on the trail that's a lot of iron to lug around. And, patrol members had to carry about 20 per



cent less ammo when out in the field, also because of weight. One last comment concerning the AK: it has a peculiar cracking sound when fired on full automatic that has a great psychological effect and actually strikes terror into the ranks of some of the indigenous troops.

As for the M-16, we never had much trouble with jamming of the action. I always carried a full clip of 20 rounds and one in the chamber on top of that. I never personally had a misfire with it. All in all, the M-16 was a slight favorite over the AK-47

and this was in units which had both rifles available for use. By the way, I'm obviously not talking about regular U.S. units, but I won't go into that. If we could have obtained 30 shot clips for the M-16's this weapon would have been way out ahead as the preferred rifle.

Lastly, we keep hearing the old song about the troops going into combat with their cleaning rods taped to the stocks of their M-16's in order to clear the supposedly frequent jams. Of course we are the only ones with such inferior weapons that this would be necessary. It's not a bad idea with *any* weapon to have a cleaning rod handy in combat. As anyone familiar with the AK-47 would know, it has its own cleaning rod carrier and attached rod located under the barrel. The photo clearly shows this, particularly on the number two man's weapon. This controversy will no doubt continue for a long time to come but I hope that my opinion, as I saw it, will add another person's view on the subject.

G. Garcia
North Pole, Alaska

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We are printing the names and addresses of fast draw clubs as we receive them. If the address of your club doesn't appear, give your club secretary a nudge.—ed.

We Stand Corrected

On page 37 of your June 1968 issue you cite "Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man." You mistakenly credit this quotation to John Ruskin when it should be attributed to Francis Bacon. I refer you to page 121 of "Familiar Quotation" by John Bartlett for confirmation.

Joseph R. Little
English Teacher
and Rifle Coach
Sellersville, Pa.

No star on our June report card—but at least we didn't credit the quotation to Col. Askins!—ed.

Colt's And Replica's

As a recently revived gun aficionado I have enjoyed the last three issues of GUNS immensely.

The articles on Colt's multi-shot weapons have been exceptionally fine (or have been tickling an already sensitive interest).

The May issue covered the new engraved Replica Arms' Colt's before we had price lists in this area. (Promptly corrected after the May issue, I might add.) This was timely as I now have a stock (carbine breech) .36 cal. Navy Colt Model 1861 by Replica Arms. It's a fine shooter. Even with using Kentucky sighting I get four to six inch groups at 75 yds. (this is a *black powder* pistol too!)

James J. Acton
Clinton, Iowa

Decorative Centerfolds

Your color centerfolds are excellent. There are several of us collecting them and we intend to decorate panels in our clubhouse with them.

Ronald Howden
St. Louis, Mo.

Caseless Ammo

In your June issue the article entitled "Caseless Ammunition" was of great interest to me. This study is mentioned by Phil Sharpe in his "Complete Guide To Handloading" as something started by the Germans during WWII. This was the last I heard of it for some 15 or 20 years until this article.

Personally I hope this caseless work with electrical firing gets going as it will answer many problems—as your Jan Stevenson points out. An advantage in war would be the absence of brass, either on the ground or flying in the air, which might otherwise reveal your position.

Jim Ederer
Kettering, Ohio



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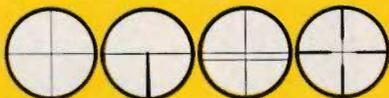
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Panel of Experts

Erma .22 Luger Troubles

I bought an Erma .22 Luger as a first gun instead of taking your advice from Chapter 3 in your "Pistol & Revolver Guide." After several months of use and several books and magazines I found this gun could be better so I write to you for assistance.

The trigger release is about twelve pounds and the only two gunsmiths in town will not touch the job so I want to do it myself, if possible, or have the job done elsewhere if I have to.

The action is supposed to stay open after the last shot but mine does not. I tried some shorts once and it worked right about every third time so I think it is the recoil spring.

After using a borrowed target revolver I dislike the rear sights of my Luger because they are fixed and 1/16" wide. In Chapter 12 of your "P&RG" you advocate Micro sights as replacements and it seems to me that the revolver type would be better suited for my gun's toggle bolt.

I am going to all this trouble because I like this Luger imitator and I doubt if I will have much trouble getting my money out of it.

I like the S&W model 17 and the H&R Sportsman 999. Ignoring the price difference, having been told S&W's are hard to get and knowing that no store around here carries either model, how could I obtain one when I want it?

John Moulton
Danville, Ill.

I have never attempted a trigger improvement job on the Erma .22 Rimfire Luger. The only recommendation I have to make is that you carefully polish the engaging surfaces without changing either the angles or depth of engagement. In addition, make certain all pivoting parts move freely on their pins without excessive play. Regarding the failure of the

breech bolt to stay open, check the bolt stop or hold-open device for burrs or any other thing that might be interfering with its free movement as the last round is stripped from the magazine. I would recommend that you use the rear micro sight that can be soldered or screwed in place on the toggle, rather than the one which requires a dovetail to be cut. Smith & Wesson revolvers of many models are in extremely short supply due to excessive demand. I've discussed this with Smith & Wesson authorities and the only suggestion I have to make is that you place a bona fide order with a well-established S&W dealer and make a substantial deposit. This will insure that you get a gun as quickly as possible.—G.N.

Marlin .44 Mag. to .444?

Can you please tell me how I can change my 336 T Marlin .44 Mag. over to .444. I feel I would rather pay the price than buy a .444. The barrel is too long for heavy brush and it's only a five shot. The 336 should give me seven shots.

Marlin will not make it up for me and will not sell me a .444 action but they will sell me parts if I have the numbers. Please send me the names and numbers of all parts that will be needed to make the change, also what parts will have to be altered.

Finally, can you tell me about Marlin history and who invented the lever action Marlin 336 and 339.

Gary W. Deik
South San Francisco, Calif.

Unfortunately, I've never had the opportunity to strip both a Marlin .44 Magnum and .444 Marlin side by side. While apparently this conversion is possible, I would think it would be more practical to trade in your .44

(Continued on page 14)



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HANDLOADING BENCH

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

HANDGUNS DON'T SEEM to have been as widely wildcatted as longarms, yet, if we look around a bit, we find quite a bit has gone on over the years. In fact, I'm not so sure that back in the 1920's and 30's, there wasn't almost as much handgun 'catting as rifle.

Of course, everything the boys turned out was purely a handloading proposition. If you wanted high velocity you had to make it yourself. Remember, that in those days, the .45 Colt and .44-40 were the most powerful cartridges available, but they lacked the high velocity demanded today. People like Fred Adolph and Charles Newton liked the idea of small, light bullets and high velocity. How does 2000 fps sound for the year 1913 or 14? Newton shortened the .28-30 Stevens rifle case to 1.78" and necked it down to take the .227" 70-grain .22 Savage High Power bullet. In an Adolph single-shot pistol, it produced 2000 fps with 17 grains of old du Pont Lightning powder. Barrel length was 10". They called it ".22 Adolph Long-Range Pistol" cartridge. Know anything that will beat it today?

Then there was a fellow named Hankins, of Buffalo, Wyoming, who shortened and necked down .30-06 brass to .22 caliber for use in a converted Colt M1917 revolver. We don't know what performance he got, but the case certainly held more powder than the current .22 Jet, so it must have been pretty zippy.

In the 1930's, Louis Lowenstein had some highly unusual Luger pistols made to his order, complete with ribbed barrels and target sights. At least one of them was chambered for the ".22 Lowenstein Luger," the 7.65mm Parabellum (.30 Luger) case necked down for 45- and 46-grain .22 Hornet bullets. Hercules 2400 powder was used but, to the best of our

knowledge, velocities obtained were never reported. This development has been revived a couple of times recently, but seems not to have caught on.

The main proponent of high velocity revolver wildcats was one Pop Eimer. He evidently knew or guessed what we've learned lately—that sharply tapered and bottle necked cases don't work out well at high pressures in revolvers. If he did any work with such cases, he didn't talk about it. For the ".25 Eimer Colt," the .25-25 Stevens case was shortened to 1.25" and loaded with an 86-grain lubricated hard lead bullet. The powder charge was du Pont #80 filling the case completely to the base of the seated bullet. There weren't any chronographs in Boise, Idaho, in 1928 where this case was born, so no velocity claims were made. Eimer did tell me in a letter that he figured it shot as flat as the .30-30 carbine out to 200 yards. That would put it in the same league as the .357 Magnum.

Nearly 20 years later, attempts were made to duplicate .25 Eimer Colt performance by using the .22 Hornet case necked up to .25 caliber. This one was called the ".25 Hornet." It was described in detail in "The American Rifleman" for January, 1947, by Fred Ness.

Today's .41 Magnum no doubt had its real beginning in ".400 Eimer Special" of about 1926. In the early 1950's, Eimer built me one of these on a Single-Action Colt, using a new .38-40 barrel and a .38 Special cylinder bored out to take .403" bullets and the .401 Winchester Self-Loading case shortened to 1.25". The gun is gone now, but I still have several boxes of ammunition left. Eimer described the development of this cartridge in the October 1926 "American Rifleman," stating that with 200-grain bullets and

(Continued on page 12)

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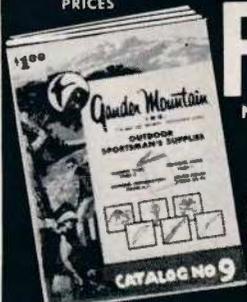
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(Continued from page 12)

9 grains of du Pont No. 3, it produced higher velocity than .38-40 smokeless powder loads. When I got mine, I started at 14 grains of 2400 and worked up to 19 grains with both 200- and 210-grain bullets. There was no chronograph then, but from work done since with the .41 Magnum, I'd say they were getting over 1300 fps, maybe almost 1400 with the top load. Incidentally, when my first .41 Magnum was received, no ammo was to be had. A box of old .400 Eimer cases was pulled off the shelf, loaded, and used to test the new "hot one." They worked fine even though about .010" undersized at the head. Incidentally, Gordon Bosier also developed a round quite similar to the .400 Eimer.

Eimer apparently was never quite satisfied with factory offerings in any caliber and, in 1924, he made up his ".43 Eimer Colt." The .30-06 case was shortened to 1.34" and the neck reamed to accept .44-40 or .44 Special bullets. It was for use in M1917 .45 revolvers fitted with new .44-40 or .44 Special barrels. The .44 Special or .44-40 cylinders were fitted and the chambers were reamed out for the longer case. Half-moon clips were used as with the .45ACP. Eimer never told me what he used to load this case with except that flat-nosed 200-grain bullets were used at "... better than .44-40 velocity." Today this case could be loaded with the .44 Mag.

None of these wildcat handgun rounds are very plentiful today and of the lot, only the .400 Eimer may be seen living in the .41 Magnum. Dimensionally, they differ, but only slightly. The others are only distant memories. If cases were available, the .25 Eimer might be liked by today's high-velocity fans.

Of more recent years (post WW II, that is), first in line is the late Jim Harvey's .22 Kay-Chuck based on the .22 Hornet case. Not much is heard of it today, but its modest success in the 1950's probably prompted development of the .22 Remington Jet. The Hornet case was trimmed to 1.34"

length and expanded at the shoulder. Standard S & W (Colt, too, I presume) target grade, heavy-frame .22 rimfire revolvers were rechambered for it. Typical loading data developed is shown in Table One.

Loads 1 and 2 are plenty hot and should never be used as starters. The 37-grain bullet was developed by the late Kent Bellah, one of the Kay-Chuck's most ardent boosters. It gave fine varmint kills.

In 1964, the .44-357 Davis appeared; the .44 Magnum case necked to use .357 Magnum bullets. Touted highly by some, it does produce somewhat higher velocities than the .357 Magnum but with much more powder. Loading data we've seen seems to be annotated "max" on every entry, leading us to believe that pressures are 'way up there. No pressure data has been published so far as we know. The loads shown in Table Two appear in "Cartridges of the World."

Several other necked-down versions of the .44 Magnum exist, including one to .30 caliber, but no specific data is available on them. Most are probably one-of-a-kind jobs that haven't received enough publicity to stir up general interest in them.

Another example of recent wildcatting is the .45-38 Auto Pistol introduced in 1963 by the Armory Gunshop. In this case, the stubby .45ACP is necked down to take .38ACP (.357") bullets. It was intended to reduce feeding problems with lead and semi-wadcutter bullets as much as to produce high velocity. In fact, most loads recommended for it are within the capabilities of the .38 Colt Super round. All .38 Super loading data can be used in it safely. Armory C.H. Inc., 1600 W. 166th St., Box 431, Gardena, California 90247, has offered .45-38 conversion kits for .45 Automatic pistols and may still have some for sale.

No doubt there are dozens of other handgun wildcats not mentioned here. All we're trying to do is show that beltgun calibers were being wildcatted well over 50 years ago. And, we don't expect the practice to stop now.

.22 Kay-Chuck Table One

1. 40 gr. Spear	— 9.5 gr. 2400	—1652 fps	254 fp.
2. 37 gr. Sisk	—11.0 gr. 2400	—1903 fps	308 fp.
3. 40 gr. Sierra	— 5.0 gr. Unique	—1650 fps	242 fp.

.44-357 Davis Table Two

1. 140 gr. swaged	—12.0 gr. Unique	—1460 fps
*2. 148 gr. jacketed	—21.0 gr. 2400	—1742 fps
*3. 158 gr. Rem. S.P.	—22.0 gr. 4227	—1490 fps
*4. 158 gr. Rem. S.P.	—20.0 gr. 2400	—1483 fps

*Max!



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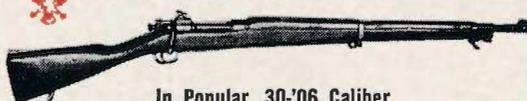
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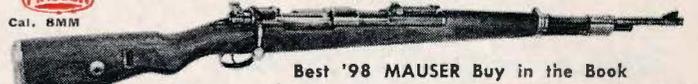
Cal. .30-30

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GERMAN G-43 SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLES



Cal. 8MM

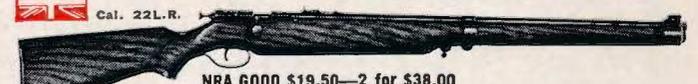
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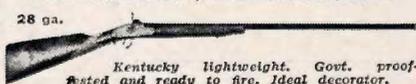
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PANEL OF EXPERTS

(Continued from page 8)

against a .444. Then all you would need is the longer magazine tube and barrel shortening. Aside from this you would be assured of excellent feeding, etc., without extra gunsmithing. The Sept. 1965 issue of Guns Magazine carried an article on the .444 Marlin as a 20" carbine. The original 24" barrel was shortened 1" at a time and chronographed at each length. A mere 57 fps was lost at the 20" length. This is negligible and I found handling was faster and accuracy not impaired. However, if you wish to go ahead with the .44 Mag. conversion I'd suggest turning it over to your gunsmith. I'm sure he could determine what is needed and order it for you. I understand, via the Marlin Company, that a writer is now working on a book which will cover the Marlin history in detail.—W.S.

Suhl Single-Action Revolver

I have recently come by a pistol that has me and everyone else stumped.

It is .44 caliber with a seven inch round barrel. The first inch of the barrel is octagon and the muzzle is crowned out similar to a cannon.

On the left side is stamped the date 1883 and the serial number 4213. On the left side, just behind the cylinder of this single action revolver, is a half-round safety which pushes down manually for safety. All screws have the last two numbers of the serial number stamped on the head and the only manufacturer stamp bears in part the word "Suhl."

The handle is shaped similar to a muzzle loading "pirate gun." It has wooden handles with the serial number stamped inside them. On the butt is a metal ring about an inch in diameter and the markings "B.A.1. 80."

The pistol is original in every way and in extremely good shape.

Tony Marsh
Amarillo, Tex.

Your Suhl Revolver was made at the Suhl Plant in Germany near Frankfurt. This revolver was made for a very short period, from about 1880-1885, in an attempt to cut into some of the Colt's and Smith & Wesson single-action sales abroad. It is a well made pistol but seems a bit uncomfortable with its odd grip and long action. For awhile, I had seen a few of

this model around but of late have not seen any. It fits well into a collection and is good representative firearm of its period.—R.M.

J. Stevens .22 Pistol

I have enclosed photos of a single shot .22 caliber pistol which I recently acquired. The gun was manufactured by J. Stevens A&T Company and bears the serial number 23434. The barrel measures 10" and the frame



is nickel plated. This pistol is in fine firing condition. I would appreciate any information you could give me regarding the date of manufacture and current value.

George Hartley
Portland, Oregon

The J. Stevens Company was started in 1864 and in 1886 it was incorporated under the name of the J. Stevens Arms and Tool Company. Your 10" barrel model was called the New Model Pocket Rifle and made with removable skeleton stock in .22 RF and .32 RF. The collectors value in fine condition should be about \$85.—R.M.

Cased .32 Auto Colt

I recently purchased a .32 auto Colt, serial number 116717. The weapon is in new condition and has never been fired. I also received the original factory box and instruction sheets.

The pistol was supposedly bought in 1914 and passed down.

I paid \$75 for the pistol—did I win, lose or draw?

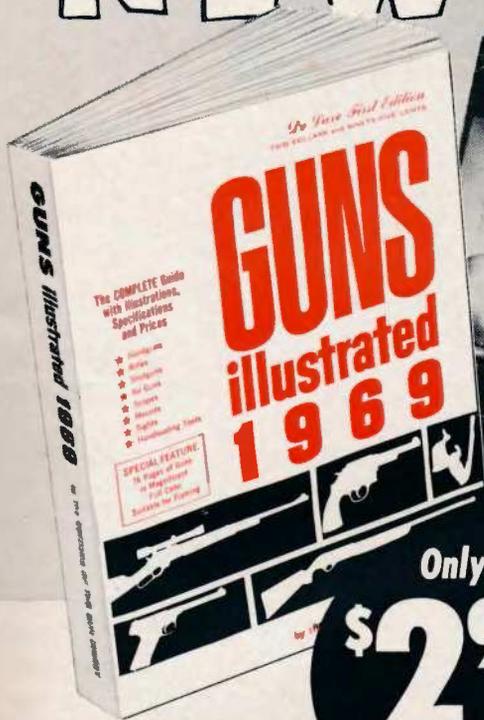
Otis James
Oak Park, Ill.

An unfired, in-the-box, Colt 32 Pocket Model Auto, new condition, is worth about \$100-115.00 in the market place. I'd be surprised if there were a dozen such in the world. You won!—S.B.



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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

LEGISLATIVE ROULETTE

The anti-gun forces have for some five years been playing legislative roulette with human lives. Here are the facts. For five years "stop mail order murder" has been the cry of those who would legislate against the gun and firearms ownership.

As Senator Dodd recently told the Senate, "Testimony before the subcommittee in 1965 proved that of 4,069 Chicago mail order gun consignees from just two dealers, 948 had prior criminal records which would have precluded them from purchasing weapons in that city. Thus, a significant number of criminals, one quarter of the total number of mail order consignees, received mail order guns. The criminal careers of these consignees run the gamut of serious crimes, including murder.

"Additional testimony by witnesses from Philadelphia, New York, Atlanta, St. Louis, Los Angeles, and the State of California, attested to the circumvention of their laws by the interstate traffic in mail order guns.

"In addition to the testimony of witnesses, the subcommittee obtained further documentation of this problem through independent investigation and inquiries. We found that 25 per cent of the mail order gun recipients in the District of Columbia had criminal records prior to the time of ordering and receiving mail order guns.

"In Indiana, 10 per cent of the consignees had prior criminal records. In Connecticut 13 per cent of them had such records. And so it goes across the Nation.

"The statistics, in themselves, may be

cold and undramatic. It might help to inject a bit more meaning into them if we pause to visualize a few of the cases in this category of death by mail order—the killing of a 14-year-old in Virginia, the slaughter of an entire family in suburban Baltimore, double murder of a mother and son in Massachusetts, or a slain President, all prematurely and brutally cut down with mail order guns."

Why was not the existing law used? Section 902 -c- of the Federal Firearms Act reads, "It shall be unlawful for any licensed manufacturer or dealer to transport or ship any firearm in interstate or foreign commerce to any person other than a licensed manufacturer or dealer in any State the laws of which require that a license be obtained for the purchase of such firearm, unless such license is exhibited to such manufacturer or dealer by the respective purchaser." There is no public record of any effort to prosecute. Meanwhile, the anti-gunners kept calling for more law.

Section 902 -d- reads, "It shall be unlawful for any person to ship, transport or cause to be shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce any firearm or ammunition to any person knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such person is under indictment or has been convicted in any court of the United States, the several States, Territories, possessions, or the District of Columbia of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year or is a fugitive from justice." There is no public record of any effort to prosecute. Meanwhile, the anti-gunners kept calling for more law.

Section 902 -o- reads, "It shall be unlawful for anyone (Continued on page 49)

A QUORUM OF EXPERTS AGREE ON FRANCHI



A FRED STURGES: *Editor & Shooting Instructor*
 B BOB STEINDLER: *Editor & Author*
 C PETE BROWN: *Arms Editor Sports Afield*
 D COL. CHARLES ASKINS: *Noted Firearms Authority*

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But, Galef is not just a better gun on paper. Heft it. A gun never felt so good, so strong, so solid.

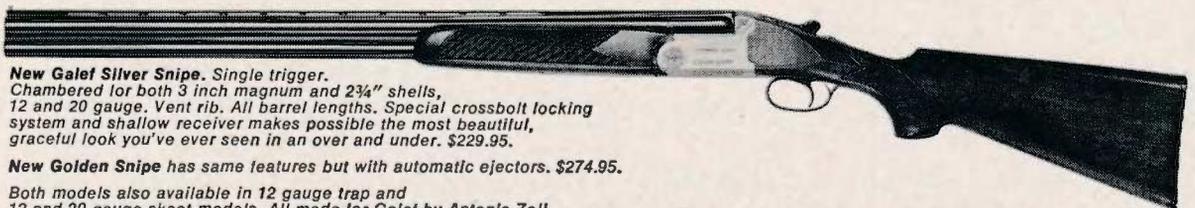
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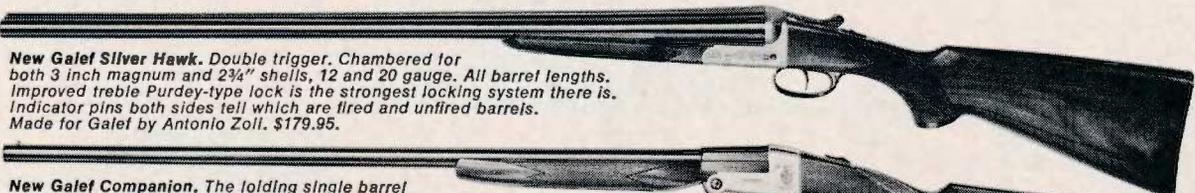
Just go by whatever the papers say.



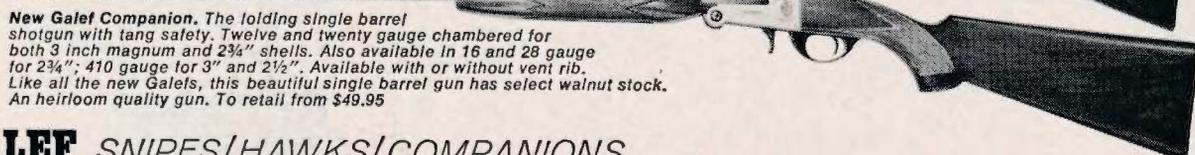
New Galef Silver Snipe. Single trigger. Chambered for both 3 inch magnum and 2¾" shells, 12 and 20 gauge. Vent rib. All barrel lengths. Special crossbolt locking system and shallow receiver makes possible the most beautiful, graceful look you've ever seen in an over and under. \$229.95.

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Both models also available in 12 gauge trap and 12 and 20 gauge skeet models. All made for Galef by Antonio Zoll.



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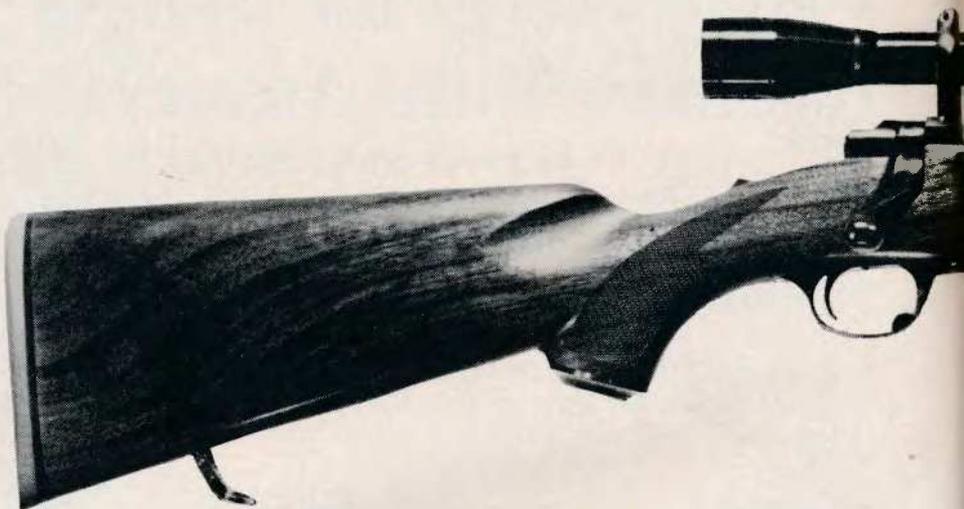
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A heavy mounting screw, which passes through the stock at the front of the magazine floorplate and attaches to the bottom of the receiver, is angled to the rear; it's simple and effective.



OVER THE YEARS, the American shooter has come to expect that any new firearm design by Sturm, Ruger would be of high quality; thoroughly pre-tested; and a better than average value. This was true of the first Ruger auto pistol, the trend-setting Single Six, the series of centerfire single action revolvers, the .44 Magnum autoloading rifle, and the Ruger single shot rifle. And it is also true of the newest creation from Sturm, Ruger & Company—a finely crafted bolt action centerfire rifle.

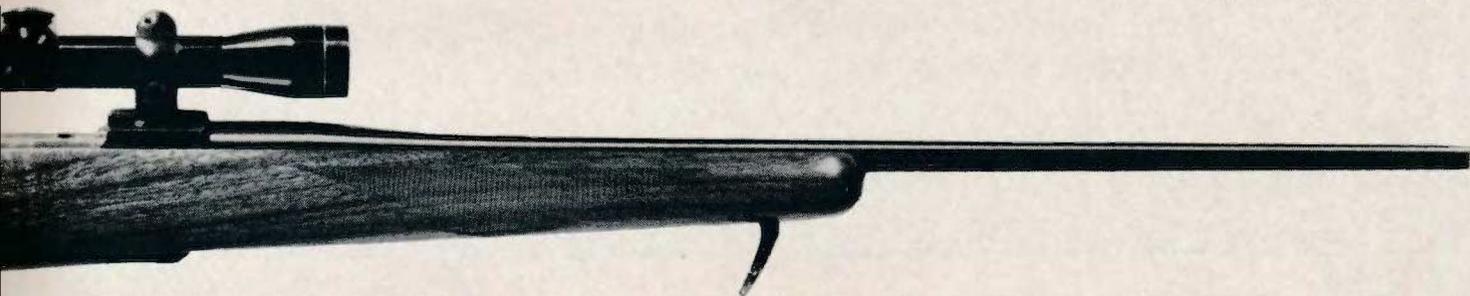
The new Ruger M/77, as it is called, is a classic rifle in outward design. The stock has lines which appear to have come from a composite of designs from our nation's finest stock-makers; there is no yard-wide butt with a grotesque growth for a comb; no 21st Century flaring pistol grip; no abstract slash on the fore-end tip. There is, however, a quiet elegance, and a reflection of pride reminiscent of the pre-war custom

**NEW FROM
STURM, RUGER**

M/77

BOLT ACTION RIFLE

By DAN WINTERS



The handsome classic lines of the M77 are complemented by reliability and strength.

stocks of Griffen & Howe, Alvin Linden, and others.

The metal work, too, while utilizing the best of modern day technology, reflects old world craftsmanship. The receiver, bolt, and other working parts of the M/77 are investment cast of chrome-molybdenum alloy steel, with an ultimate tensile strength of 175,000 pounds. The strength of this alloy, combined with the know-how Ruger has accumulated in the manufacture of investment casting, should convince everyone that this rifle is strong. During pre-production testing, the Ruger engineers found that a static load of at least 40,000 pound was required to damage the locking lug of the M/77 bolt. And when the lugs did yield, they did not shear off completely, but only a segment was broken away. Under a load of 19,000 to 29,000 pounds military

Springfield and Mauser-type bolts sheared their locking lugs off completely.

One of the great fears of shooters is that escaping gas from a ruptured cartridge case would come back toward the face. In the Ruger M/77, there is the usual vent on the right side of the receiver, and the gas flow along the locking lug channel on the left side is blocked by the rugged bolt stop and vented through a special opening.

As anyone who has owned any Ruger firearm knows, the byword of these products is reliability. The Ruger technicians will work hard and long to develop new designs to improve the long life of a firearm; or they will utilize the best of what has been developed before. Such is the case with the M/77. The extractor is of the (Continued on page 73)

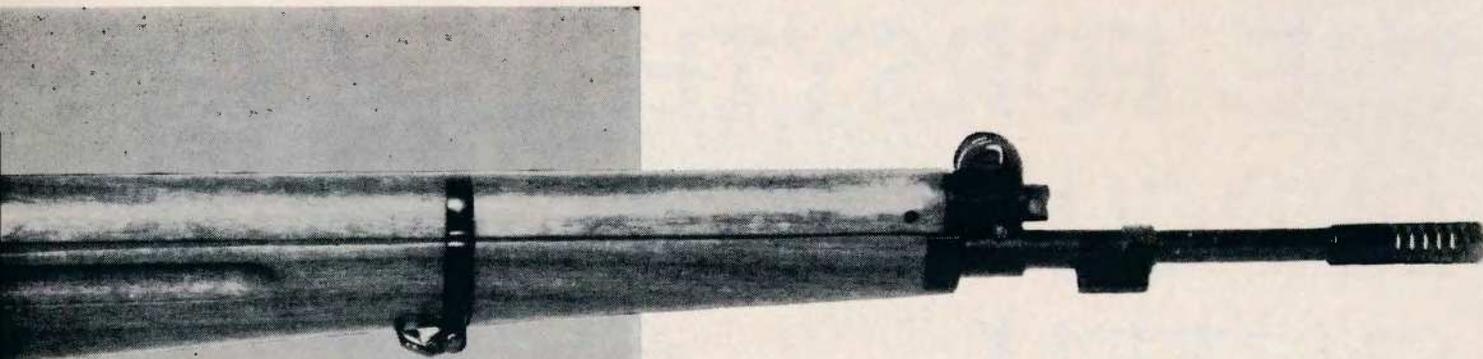
*A high quality military rifle now available
to both shooters and collectors.*



THE FN SELF-LOADING RIFLE



The FN M1949 is field-stripped easily and quickly.



Cartridges for the M1949 rifle (left to right): .30-06, 8x57mm, 7x57mm and the 7.65x53mm.

By GEORGE C. NONTE

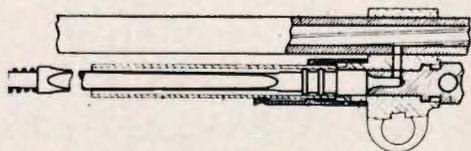
AMONG THE SEMI-AUTOMATIC military rifles used in or growing out of World War II, the FN M1949 is second in popularity and utility only to the U.S. M1 rifle and M1 carbine. Product of the genius of Dieudonne Saive, this design was actually developed to replace the Belgian Army's bolt-action Mausers prior to World War II. Unfortunately, Hitler's legions interfered with production plans at the great FN plant near Liege. While the FN works was not damaged by the Germans, they determined that it should continue to produce existing designs for the Wehrmacht, rather than undertake an as-yet unproven design.

The rifle, sometimes also called "ABL" (Armee Belgique) or "SAFN" (Semi-Automatic FN) was developed in 7.65mm Mauser caliber, then the Belgian standard. However, it was designed so that minor production changes would allow it to be chambered for other military cartridges of the .30-06/8mm Mauser class. Eventually, it was produced in quantity in 7.65mm, 8X57mm (7.92mm), and 7X57mm Mauser, and .30 (.30-06.) At one time, Great Britain and the U.S. tested this model in 7.92mm, and .30-06 respectively.

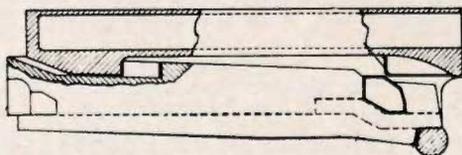
Basically, the M1949 is a fixed-magazine, gas-operated, locked-breech, semi-automatic military rifle utilizing a massive bolt carrier and a rear-locked, tipping-bolt mechanism. The hammer mechanism is an adaptation of the familiar John Browning hook system as used originally in his automatic shotgun. Many variations of this design are found in various arms today, including a minor variant used in the U.S. M1 rifle. It is not unusual that a modification of it should be encountered in this Belgian rifle since its designer, Saive, was closely associated with John Browning during the period of that great inventor's years at the FN establishment.

The hammer hook system is so designed that during cocking, the upper rear hook is automatically engaged to hold the hammer rearward and function as a disconnecter. When the trigger is released, its upper hook (or sear) releases, the hammer is forced forward by its spring but is caught again by the forward holding sear, engaging in the lower hammer hook. This holds the hammer cocked, and the next trigger pull will release it to fire the cartridge. One feature of the design that has appeared on other European rifles is that the hammer spring guide protrudes slightly below the line of the trigger guard when the hammer is cocked. This design permits the carrier to tell by sight or touch if his weapon is cocked, as evidenced by the protruding main-spring guide.

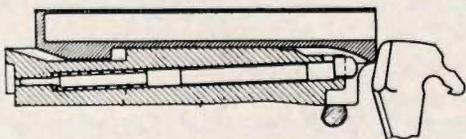
Being gas operated, this arm is de- (Continued on page 66)



The gas bleed rate can be altered as needed by the turning of a nut.



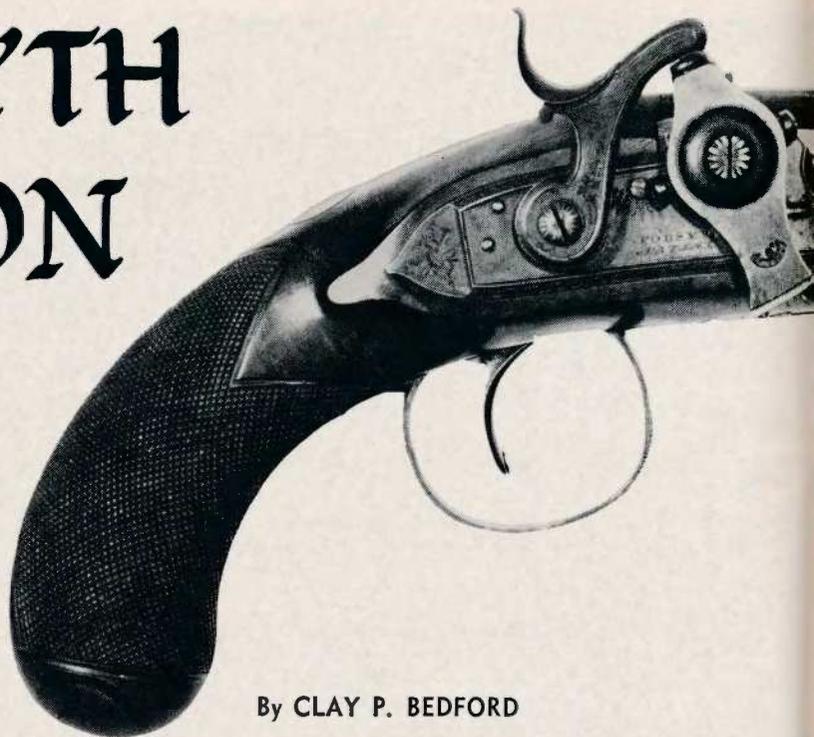
The cams on the carrier raise the bolt out of receiver engagement.



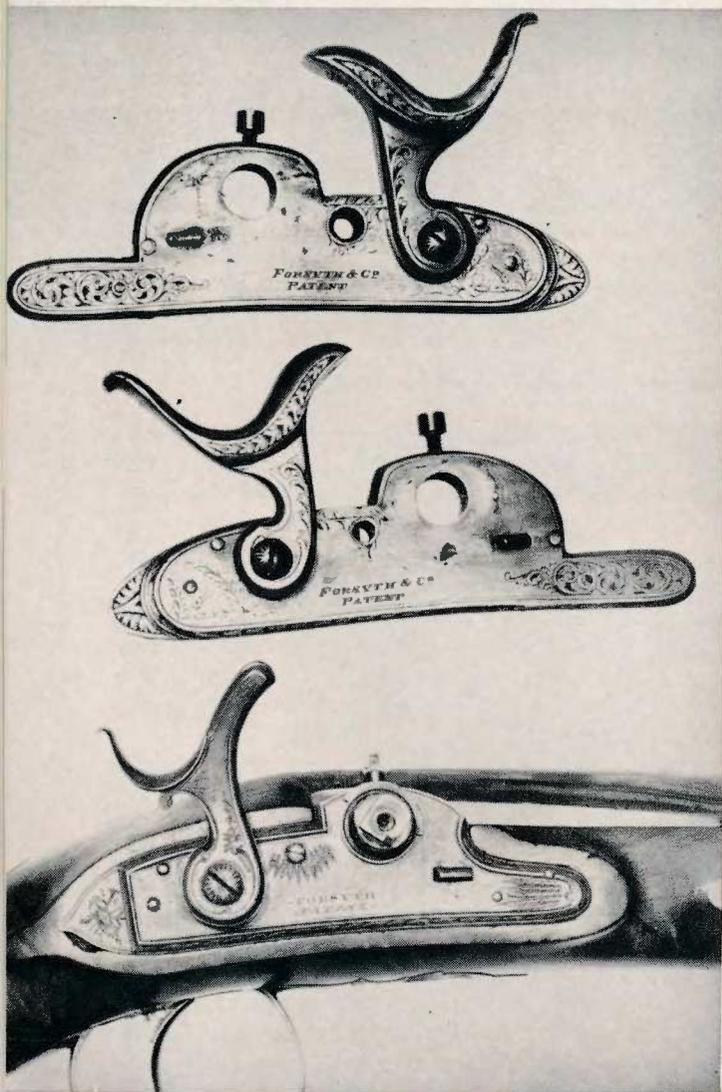
When the action is not locked the hammer can not hit the firing pin.

THE FORSYTH PERCUSSION SYSTEM...

*and the story of
Mr. "Swindel," producer
of fake Forsyth locks*



By CLAY P. BEDFORD



The genuine Forsyth lock plate (bottom) offers a contrast in quality over two reworked forgeries.

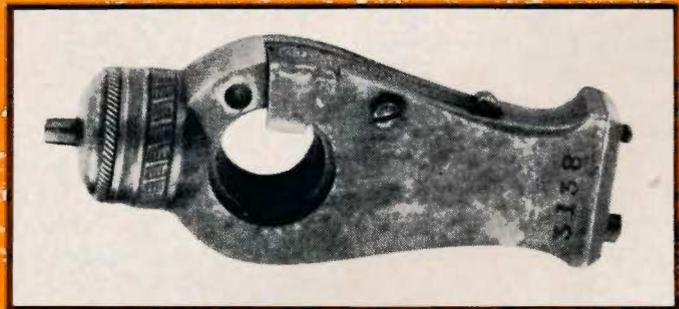
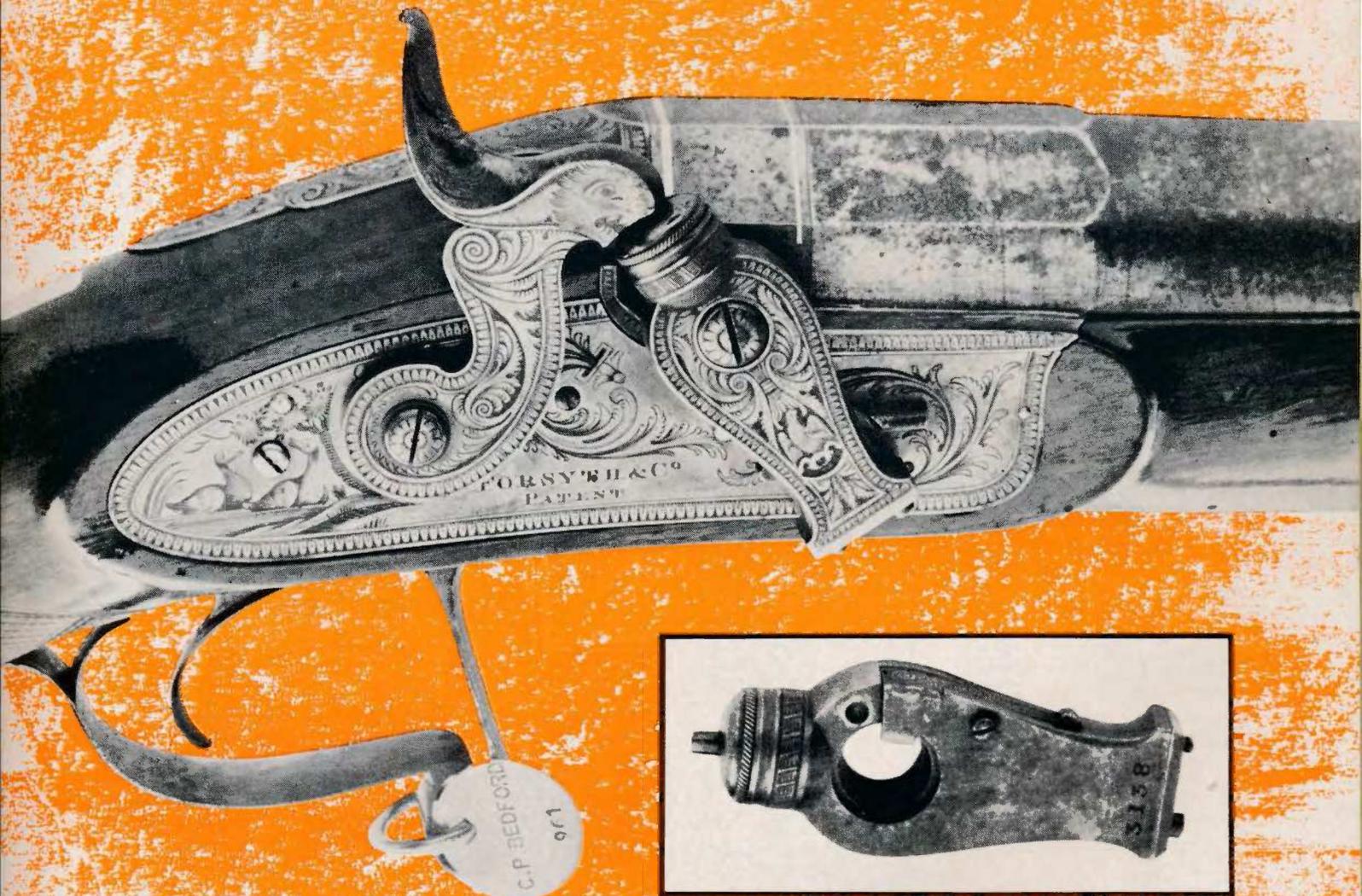
"THE ONLY MAN in the world in whose honor a salute was fired every day in the year." Such was the tribute paid to the Reverend Alexander John Forsyth by the president of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain in 1930, explaining that every time the sportsman or the soldier fired his gun he unknowingly paid a tribute to the modest Scottish minister who invented the percussion lock.

Forsyth gunlocks, employing a loose detonating compound, were the big initial step from the old sparking flintlocks to the caplock in its best-known form. Further, his invention of a detonating compound opened the way to the development of primers such as are used in today's cartridges. This was quite a history-making accomplishment for the young Presbyterian minister of Belhelvie Parish, a short distance north of Aberdeen. And it was accomplished in a field with which a minister (whose father and maternal grandfather were both men of the cloth) might not be thought to show a dedicated interest. But, in addition to his pastoral duties, Alexander Forsyth, M.A., L.L.D., had a great interest in mechanics and chemistry; he loved to hunt the wild fowl which were to be found in the lochs and marshes near the manse where he lived. He had what the parishoners called a "Smiddy" (smithy) in his garden where he conducted chemical and mechanical experiments.

It is not the purpose here to recite extensive events of the Reverend Alexander Forsyth's life or detail his endeavors. This will be capably done in a forthcoming book by the noted English arms experts W. Keith Neal and David H. L. Back, authors of "The Mantons—Gunmakers" and other respected works. We shall deal here primarily with the development of Forsyth's gunlock and shall endeavor not only to acquaint the reader with an outline of this great step in firearms evolution but also to provide information which will aid in identifying the many forgeries of Forsyth locks which, from the 1920s, have been offered to unsuspecting dealers and collectors at high prices.

In 1805, then 37 years old, Forsyth produced his first

Pistol bearing the true Forsyth lock.



This Forsyth lock (No. 3138) is a fine example of his craftsmanship and is fitted to a four-gauge goose gun.

successful percussion lock, using a chemical compound on which he had spent many long hours in experiment. Early the next year he took his novel gunlock down to London where it came to the notice of Lord Moira, Master-General of Ordnance. Lord Moira was impressed and arrangements were made by which Dr. Forsyth might obtain a leave of absence from his parish. He was given quarters in the Tower of London workshops and proceeded to the task of perfecting his gunlock.

As with any drastic firearms innovation of those days, workmen were prejudiced and not especially cooperative. The attitude generally was that, "the flintlock has been a

good gun for 200 years and is good enough for me." The detonating compounds were sensitive and of varying, dangerous strength; few persons liked to work with them. Despite these difficulties, Forsyth made fair progress. Then Lord Moira was succeeded by the Earl of Chatham as Master-General of Ordnance. A champion of the flintlock, the Earl of Chatham ordered Forsyth to remove his "rubbish" forthwith from the Tower of London.

Although Forsyth's dismissal was seemingly very discourteous, freedom from official ties favored Forsyth's fortunes. In April, 1807, he was granted a very broad patent on his invention. Forsyth's chief claims to novelty



Left, a late Forsyth scent-bottle magazine beside the crude forgery. Below is the reverse side of the scent-bottle magazine contrasted with an obviously crude imitation.

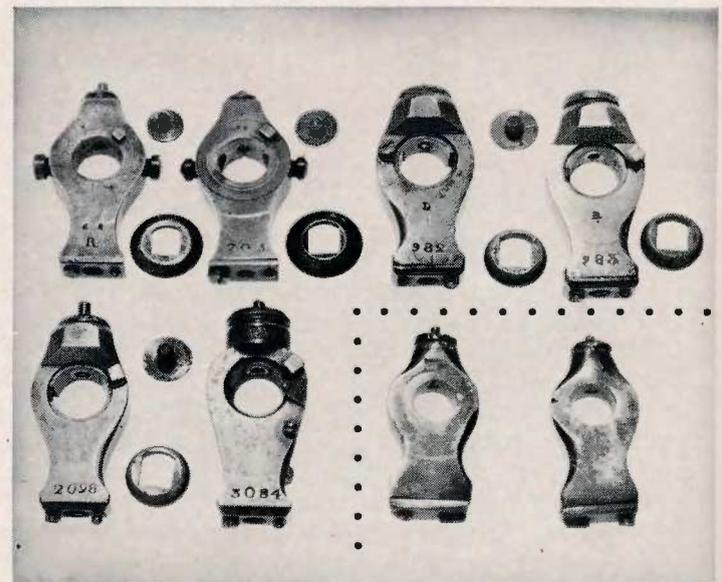


were that he closed the firing vent to damp and the open air, prevented escape of explosive gas outward and, by a new system of creating the ignition with a fulminate rather than loose powder and flint, contained the fire and sent it directly to the main charge without waste into the air. What this meant is that a shooter, no longer limited by the fire of a burning wick as in the primitive matchlock or flying sparks as in the wheel lock or flintlock, now had sure and instantaneous ignition response from the simple blow of a hammer—from *percussion*.

Obtaining sufficient financial support and an excellent group of workmen under the master gunmaker James Purdey, Forsyth established a gunmaking firm under the name Forsyth & Co., an event recorded in the December 23, 1808 issue of London's "Morning Post" in this manner: "To Sportsmen, The Patent Gun-lock invented by Mr. Forsythe (sic) is to be had at No. 10, Piccadilly, near Haymarket. Those who may be unacquainted with the excellence of this invention are informed that the inflammation is produced without the assistance of flint, and is much more rapid than in the common way. The Lock is so constructed as to render it completely impervious to water, or damp of any kind, and may in fact be fired under water."

Several lock styles were produced on the Forsyth premises at 10 Piccadilly and at 8 Leicester Street where the business was moved about 1817 (various sources give the address change as 1817, 1818, 1819). Not only were these arms of original designs but the quality of workmanship was superb. Our major concern here is with the novel Forsyth lock designed to employ a rotating magazine of flask-like shape resembling a scent-bottle—and thus it has come to be known as "The Forsyth Scent-bottle Lock." This is the rather glamorous mechanism which, because of its historic interest and relatively high value, became the target of an English mechanic who proceeded to go into the business of antique gun forgery about 1925.

FORSYTH & Co.



No present advantage could be had by naming this ambitious entrepreneur, although his true name is well known to some of the older English collectors. For our purposes here, and to save embarrassment to innocent persons of the same name, we shall use the fictitious name "John Swindel."

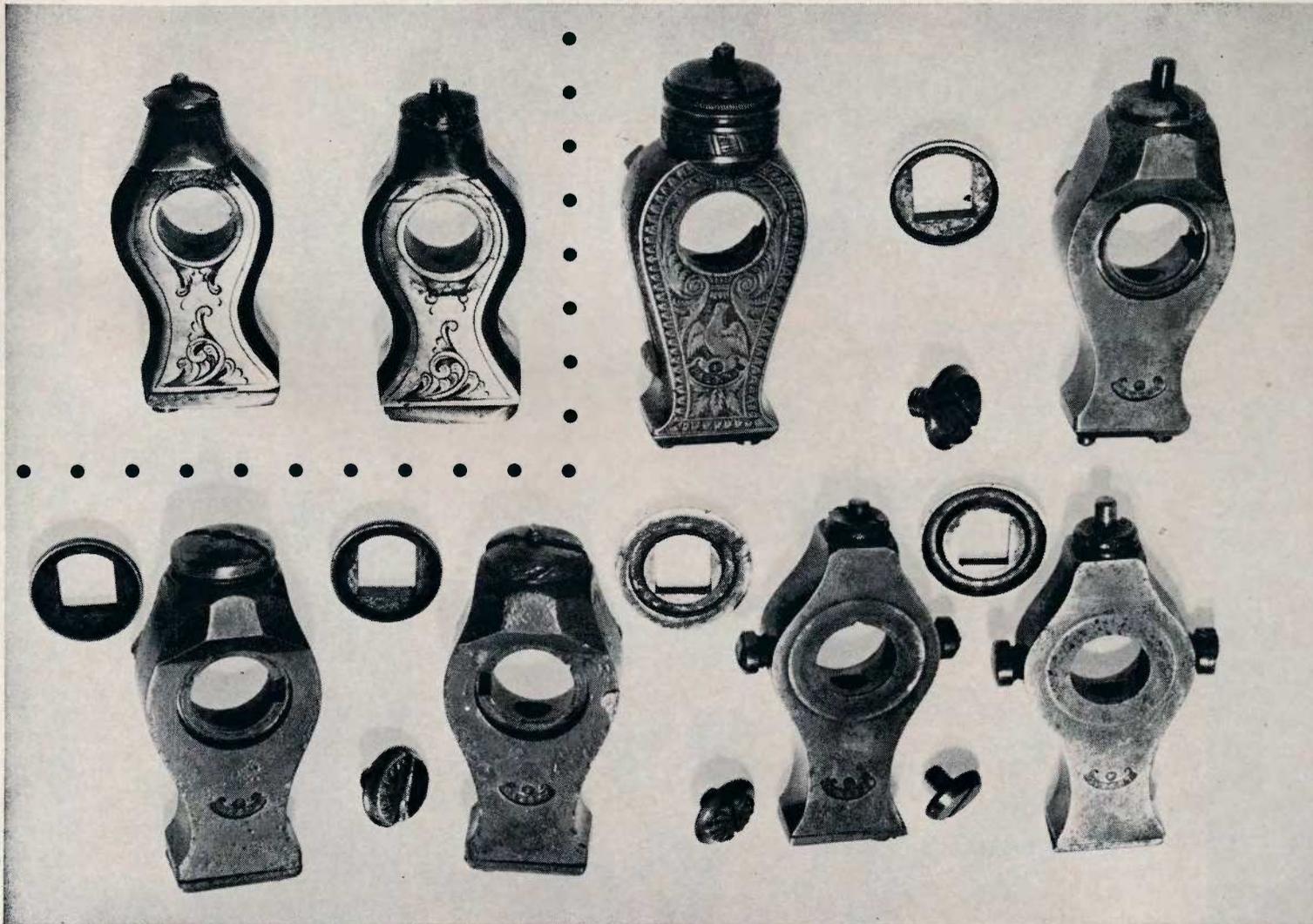
It is said that Swindel inherited from his father a collection of antique weapons in which there was a genuine Forsyth pistol. This piece excited such interest and was given such a high value that Swindel had visions of a steady flow of pounds sterling through manufacture of "old" scent-bottle arms for collectors at home and abroad.

Swindel soon got his enterprise under way on a grand scale. A London collector who chanced into his shop spied a poorly-concealed keg of scent-bottle castings! Either by obtaining the original plate or by having a copy made, Swindel reproduced Forsyth's original label, thus giving to cased arms an additional appearance of genuineness.

Unlike replicas of today, which are usually new throughout, Swindel did not have a major manufacturing problem. He could take genuinely old flintlocks, polish off the markings, grind off the pan, replace the flintlock cock with a

new hammer, screw a Forsyth-type shaft into the barrel area formerly used for the vent and attach a new scent-bottle magazine. It was then a simple matter to apply "Forsyth & Co. Patent" markings. The fact that Forsyth & Co. themselves had, upon request, converted many arms from flintlock to their patented new percussion system may have given Swindel greater confidence that his forgeries would go undetected. It is apparent that he did fool a lot of people for, in a modest amount of research, at least twenty of these faked "Forsyths" are known to us.

About 4000 genuine Forsyth & Co. arms were produced, and a characteristic of all was high quality workmanship. There are major differences between the original arms and Swindel's forgeries as the illustrations will demonstrate, and just as one person's handwriting differs from another. The Forsyth foreman, James Purdey, having learned his trade with the famous Joseph Manton, would countenance nothing less than top quality work. After leaving Forsyth & Co. about 1814, he went on to establish a firm that maintains the Purdey tradition for quality to this day. Those workmen who carried on at the Forsyth shop after Purdey's departure continued (Continued on page 74)



Above: The upper left hand corner shows two spurious scent-bottle magazines. The remainder are the real thing. Note that the genuine magazines have an F centered above a curved PATENT. Left: The reverse side of the forgeries, in the right hand corner, have no corked hole in the bottom loading gate, and no stop on rear face.

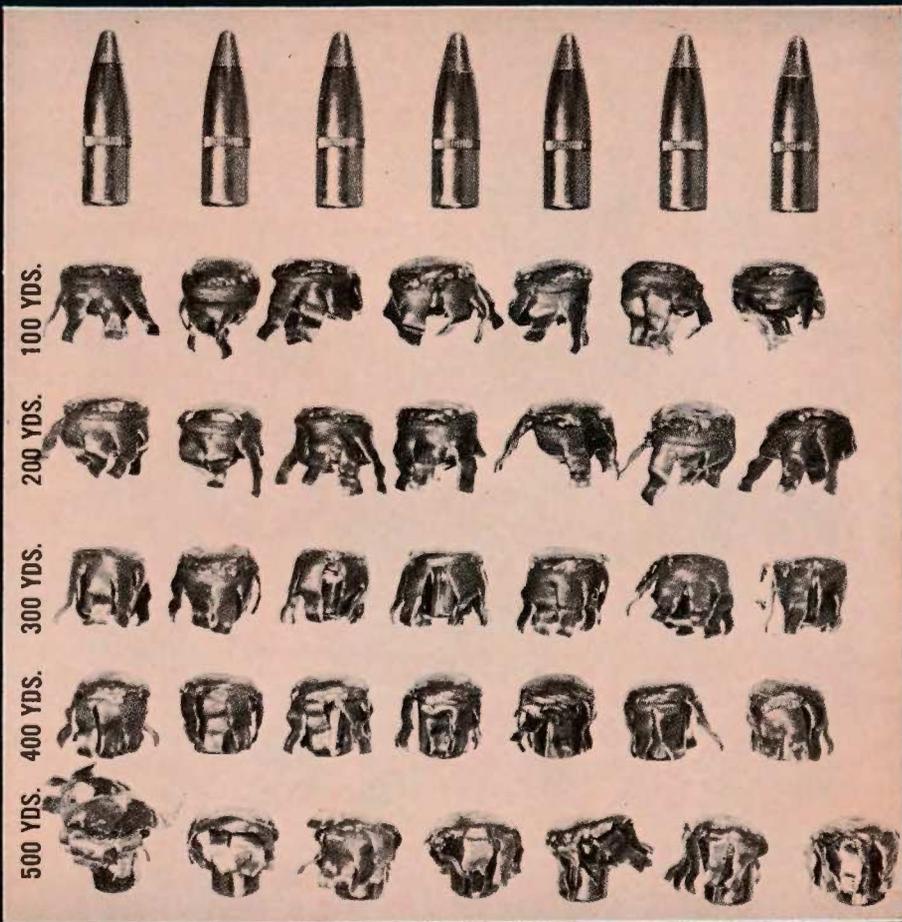
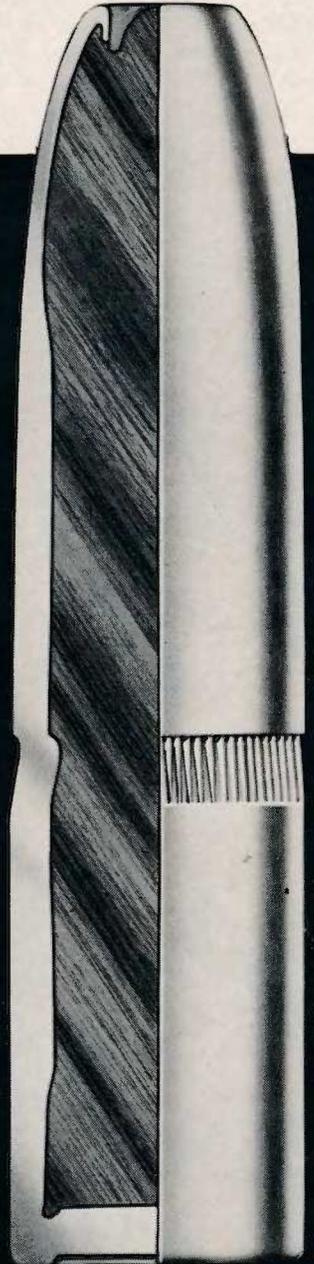
The REMARKABLE RIFLE BULLET

When all else is left behind, it is the bullet which must perform



Charles Askins

By CHARLES ASKINS



Winchester-Western .30 caliber, 180 grain bullets shown unfired, and as they have mushroomed at ranges of 100, 200, 300, 400, and 500 yards.

Remington Corelokt bullet, showing lead core, jacket.

WE LIKE TO THINK we are pretty hot stuff when it comes to the design of a good rifle ball, but the facts are that for sheer ingenuity the Germans have given us a hell of a run for our money. Many of our bullet designs are holdovers from the days of yore. That is these date from the 30's, and many go back a long way beyond that.

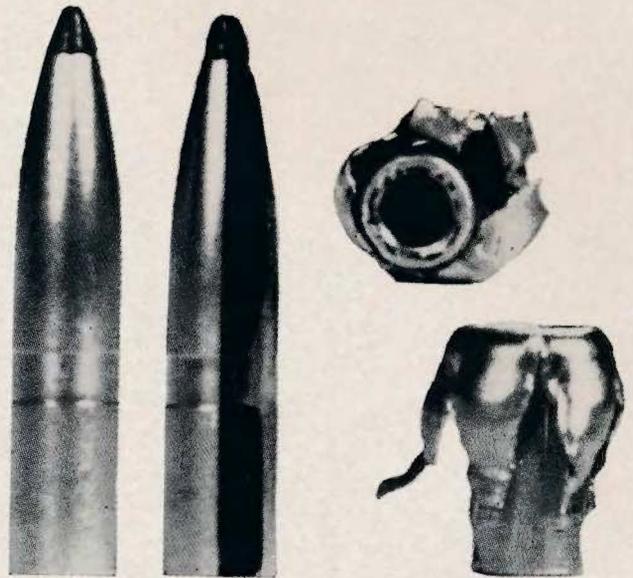
The Germans came along with two slugs that are now pretty ancient—like our own—but were good when they were developed and are potent today. These are the H-mantle and the D-mantle bullets. The H-mantle has a partition in it like the present Nosler and the D-mantle has two jackets, one within the other. Stoeger sells both these slugs, both in loaded cartridges and by themselves.

Despite the fact that over the past three decades we have seen a tremendously active development of rifles and have seen bloom the extraordinarily fine family of magnum calibers, many of our bullets for these are decidedly old hat. We like new things and along with the new arms we should keep pace with new bullets.

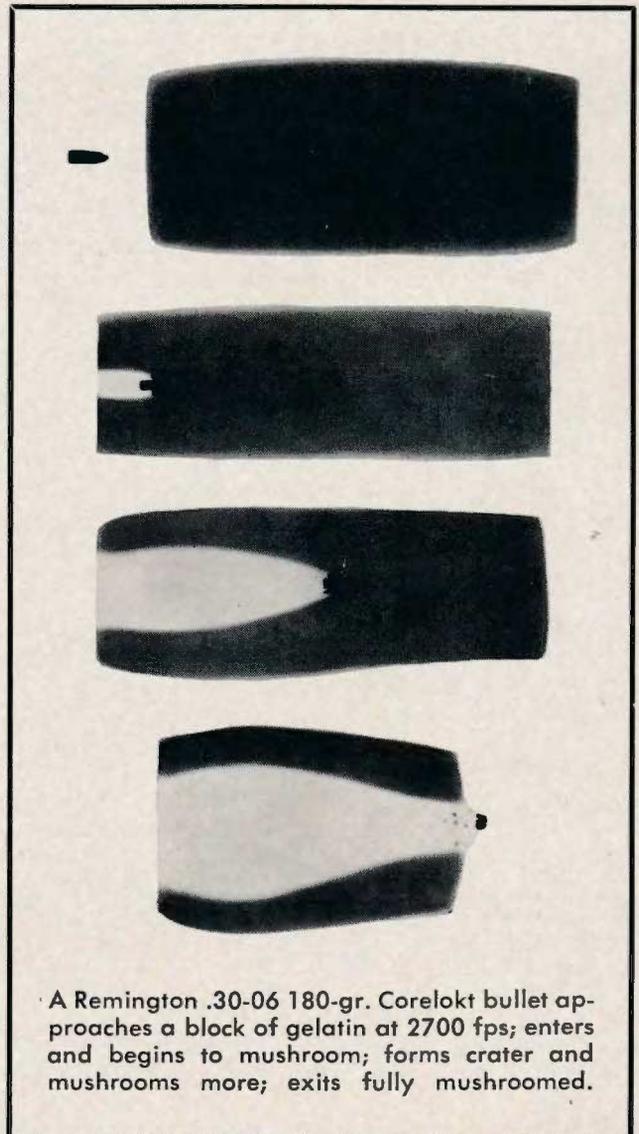
We make our bullets in two pieces; an outer envelope and an inner core. The outer shell is put together of a stuff called gilding metal. This is a trade name for an alloy. The alloys varies somewhat but usually is 90% copper and 10% zinc and has been around since right after World War One. The Western Cartridge Co. makes up these jackets, and adds a wee mite of tin. This, they claim, adds a lubricant and the bullet is easier to size to final diameter. Too, it is supposed to be a little easier on the barrel. The addition of the less than 1% of tin calls for a new name, and the Western metal is called Lubaloy. The English have basically the same stuff, and call it Noboloy.

There isn't anything wrong with gilding metal as a bullet shell but when you ponder that it hasn't been changed, altered, discarded or bettered in almost a half-century it makes you wonder. Other metals work pretty well for bullet hulls. The German H-mantle is made of mild steel. During WW-II when there was a lot of need for copper we made lots of bullets of steel. Right now Norma Precision offers their Dual-Core in '03, .308 Win. and .308 Magnum loadings. This slug has a steel jacket. This jacket is thin toward the nose and progressively thickens toward the base. The inner core has a soft pure lead forward section and an hardened and alloyed leaden base. I shot a Polar bear with the slug at 90 yards and the bullet went through both shoulders and a whole lot of bruin in between. One of the biggest ammo makers told me that their experiments with mild steel jacketed bullets indicated the steel had a bad tendency to roll back and then break off in pieces. It was not ductile enough, he claimed. That 10-ft Polar bear, if you could get a short statement from him today, probably would not agree with this.

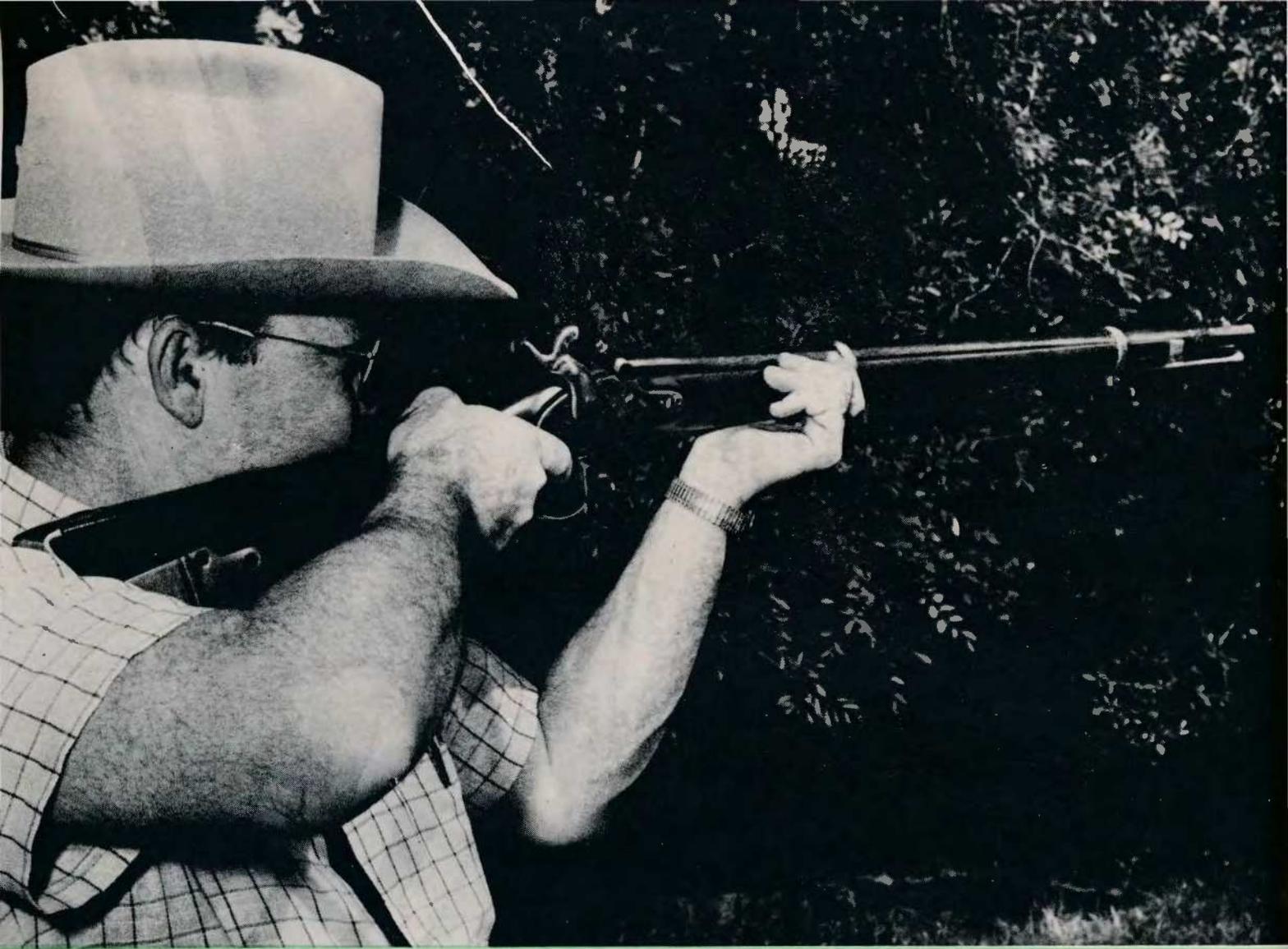
The core of most bullets is usually made of an alloyed or hardened lead. Very seldom is pure lead used anymore. The core material comes in the shape of a roll of wire which is passed through a die where it is cut to length in the shape of slugs. When inserted in the jacket the operation is from the front or nose end. After the slug is in place, the jacket is die-shaped to bring it to the desired nose configuration. During WW-I we had a 150-gr. flat-based .30 cal bullet. Cores had been inserted in these bullets from the base. The jacket was then rolled over the base. Shooters, after the war, filed the points of these hard-nosed bullets and fired them in the game fields. I continually heard stories about cores being *(Continued on page 79)*



The Nosler bullet, with partition between the front and rear cores. Note uniform expansion.



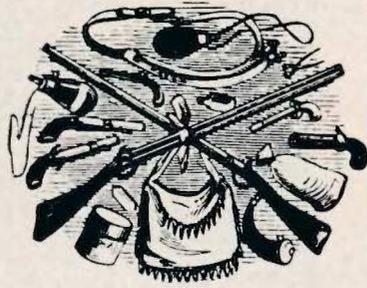
A Remington .30-06 180-gr. Corelokt bullet approaches a block of gelatin at 2700 fps; enters and begins to mushroom; forms crater and mushrooms more; exits fully mushroomed.



Shooting the Caplock Rifled Musket

By Maj. George C. Nonte





SPORTING MUZZLE LOADERS are nice to shoot. Some have rare grace and beauty—a fine Kentucky is a delight to the senses and comes to shoulder with the ease of a zephyr-wafted feather. Then there are the fine target rifles that will lay there and punch neat holes in forty-rod paper all day long. They satisfy ones urge to seek perfection in performance at any cost. They are fun to shoot, too, but are practical for little else than paper-punching.

But there is one truly utilitarian front-loader that can be shot reasonably well by any one—it doesn't cost a fortune, and it doesn't have to be custom-made. You can buy one off the counter with little or no difficulty. This the Cap Lock Rifled Musket, manufactured by the millions the world over during the middle third of the 1800's. They are sturdy, rugged guns, with all the grace and aesthetic appeal of a wagon tongue. They are heavy, bulky, and come to shoulder like a cedar post. For all that, the rifled musket has tremendous appeal all its own. For one thing, there's hardly a man among us who can't claim some near or distant kin who struggled through Chicamaugua, Gettysburg, or some similar bloodletting with Enfield or Springfield "Minnie Gun" in hand. With an original or reproduction of that arm in hand, one's mind slips so easily into imagined scenes of blue and grey uniforms appearing wraithlike through billows and tendrils of white pungent black powder smoke. As you stand there, the faint voices of long-dead drums and bugles can be heard, along with the crack of caisson and carriage wheels, the scream of horses, and the hoarse, inarticulate cries of valiant men lunging toward their fate.

From what we've heard and seen, the military arm of our Civil War is by far more popular among black powder shooters than any other type. To shoot we must have a safe and serviceable gun, so let's take a look at what's available.

The basic Union arm of the Civil War was the M1861 .58 caliber rifled musket. Produced extensively at Springfield Armory, it was procured by hundreds of thousands from numerous makers. Consequently, it is the most common today and, when in good con-

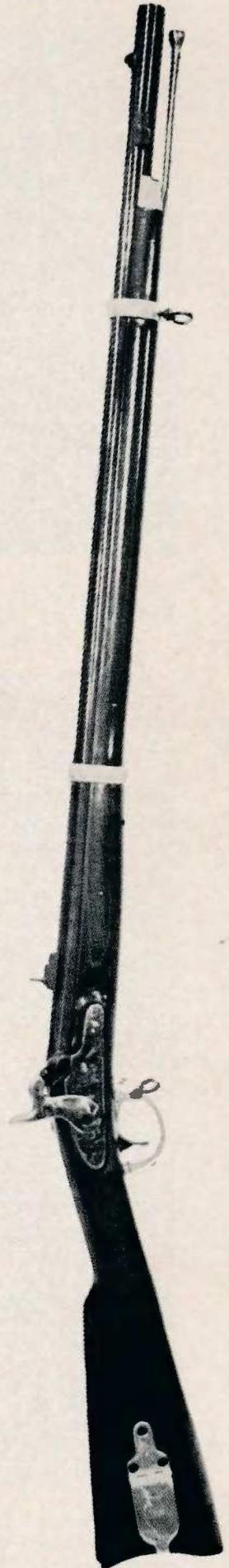
dition, an excellent shooting arm. One of this model in fine shooting condition may be encountered today for up to \$200—a pretty good piece of change for any of us. A specimen that can be put into shootable condition will easily bring half that much, even though it looks pretty rough. The later M1863 rifled musket is also not too difficult to find at about the same price.

The second most common surviving cap-lock military rifle in the country is the ubiquitous .577 caliber British "Enfield" of which several hundred thousand were procured by both blue and grey. The Enfields probably shoot just as well as the M1861 and M1863 rifles, but are usually picked as a "second choice" by hard-to-please shooters. On today's market, the Enfield is just as costly as the original Springfield M1861.

Of course, there are dozens of other different makes and models suitable for shooting. Generally they did not survive in sufficient numbers to be easily come by now. Collectors have priced them out of shooters' reach. If you do decide to use an original gun for shooting, please keep in mind that it won't last forever. An average specimen may be shot a reasonable amount—if cared for carefully—without significantly affecting its value. Any visible deterioration from shooting will, however, depreciate its value. It would be sacrilege to shoot a "mint" specimen.

By far the most economical and practical approach to acquisition of a "shooting" rifled musket is to buy a new one. Yes, a new one! Very fine reproductions of the basic M1863 rifle are produced in Europe and sold here at prices ranging up to \$125.00. Outstanding in this group is The Navy Arms Corp., "Zouave," copied directly from the Remington contract piece made from 1863 onward.

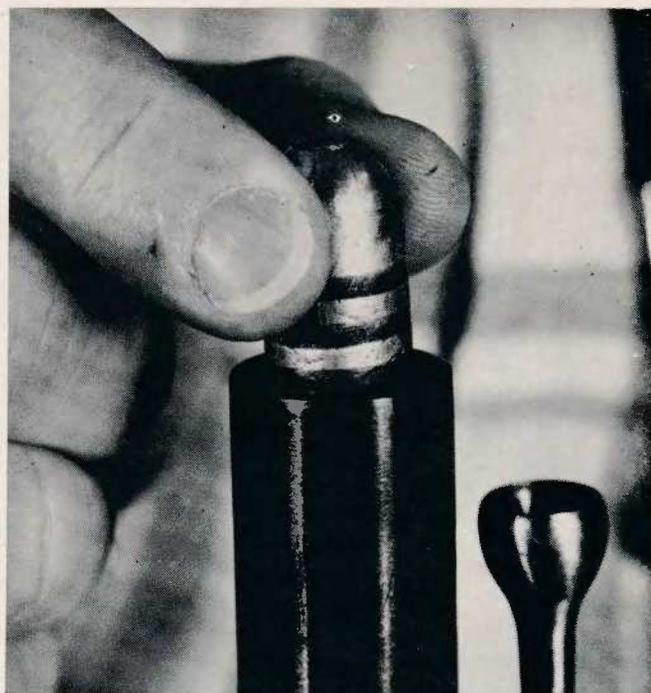
This model follows the contours of the original very closely. With its polished brass furniture, bright ramrod, and blued barrel, it is a most colorful sight. This gun is well made of modern materials and certainly superior in strength to the originals. It is proofed with a heavy charge by its manufacturer. As it comes from the box, it need only be degreased and it is ready for the range. Certainly this is far less trouble than



CAPLOCK MUSKET



1 A .45-70 case serves well as a powder measure. The case will hold about 75-gr. of the powder.



2 Insert bullet in the muzzle with thumb and finger, being sure no part of the hand is over muzzle.

completely overhauling an original gun. And, in the long run, it will be less costly.

Assume you've selected your gun—old or new—and that it is in perfect mechanical condition. Also, that it is in essentially as issued configuration, with open sights, full stock, and iron or steel ramrod.

What else do you need? First, ammunition, in the form of musket (Top-Hat) caps; a can of FFG or FFFG granulation black powder; and a supply of *pure lead* .58 caliber minie bullets properly lubricated. In addition, you should have a nipple prick, nipple wrench, and both worm and cleaning heads for the ramrod (or separate cleaning rod if you prefer) and a charge cup or adjustable measure-flask.

Prepare the gun for firing by wiping all oil and grease from the bore with a patch dipped in solvent or lighter fluid. Pour a small amount of solvent into the upright barrel and let it run out through the nipple (hammer at half cock) to clear oil from the touch hole. If solvent doesn't get through, use the nipple prick to get it started. Next, blow through the nipple to dry up any residual solvent.

With the hammer at half cock, place a cap on the nipple. Ear the hammer to full cock and fire the cap—making certain the muzzle is pointed down range or in a safe direction. Some smoke should issue from the muzzle, indicating all passages are clear, and the flame will burn moisture out of the nipple and drum passages. Firing several more caps will make doubly certain everything is clear and is normal practice.

And now, loading and shooting. Assuming you'll begin with loose powder and bullet, lower the hammer full upon the nipple. With the butt near your feet, lean the muzzle out to arms length, making certain that any accidental discharge will be directed up and away from you and everyone else.

Pour a charge of 50 grains weight of powder into the muzzle. Avoid placing any part of the hand directly over

the bore. Take the lubricated bullet between thumb and finger and start it base-first into the muzzle. Do *not* use the fist or palm to drive the bullet in. Held between thumb and finger as shown, the bullet will not do any damage in the event of an accidental firing.

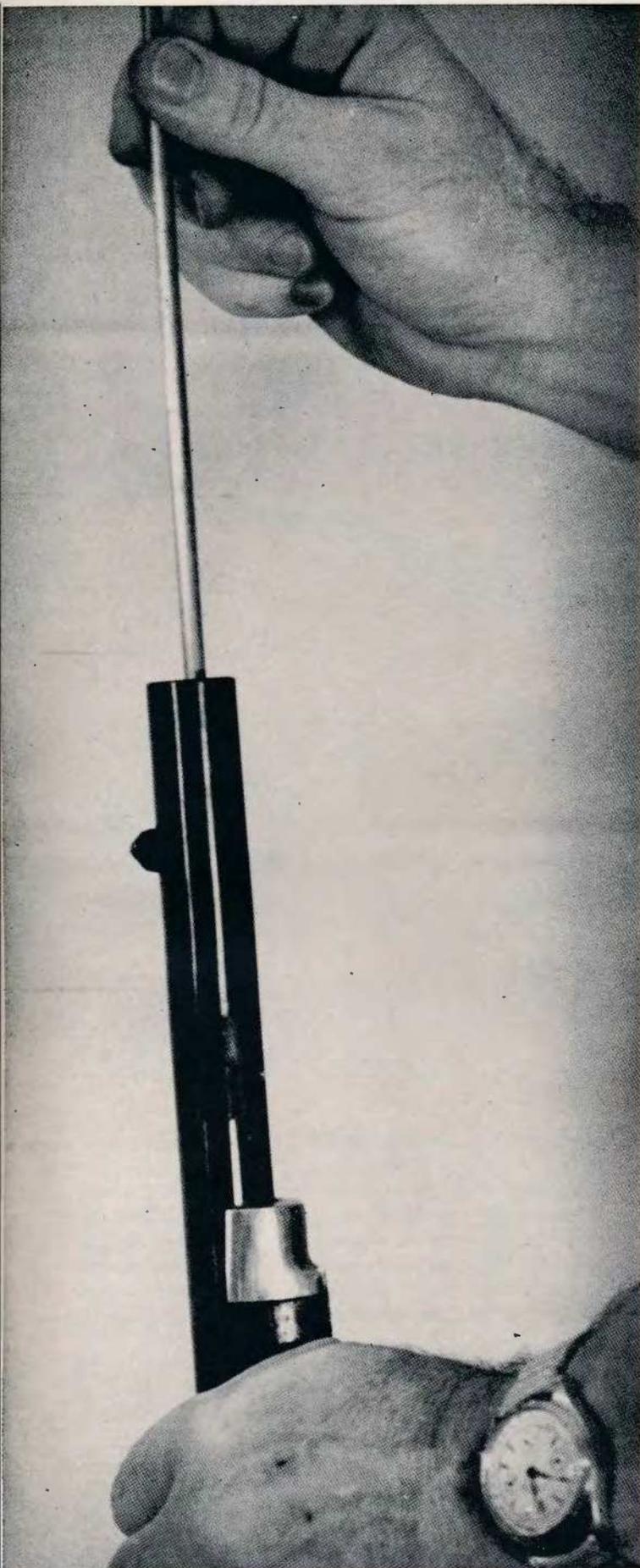
Draw the ramrod from its seat in the stock. Holding it between thumb and forefinger, reverse it and use the cupped end to force the bullet home on the powder. A single, smooth movement ending with the bullet solidly on the powder is best. Bullet should be seated with uniform force, but never ram really *hard*, and never "bounce" or "throw" the ramrod against the bullet as depicted in some television and movie scenes; to do so will seriously deform the bullet and crush the powder granules—resulting in an inaccurate shot.

After several shots, ramming will become difficult. When it reaches the point that the thumb and finger won't do the job, clean the bore—don't start trying to *drive* the bullet down the barrel. This will only deform it and ruin accuracy. A clean barrel and proper size bullets will always produce smooth, easy ramming.

Assuming you intend to fire immediately, point the musket down range, cradled in the left arm (for a right-hander). Ear the hammer back to half cock, making certain the trigger is not even *touched* during the process. Any trigger movement during cocking can result in improper sear engagement in the half cock notch, setting the stage for just a slight jar of the gun to cause an accidental firing.

With the hammer properly at half cock, place a cap over the nipple, pressing it solidly home with the thumb. A capper may be used if desired, but even then, seating should be verified by thumb pressure. *Do not go to full cock until actually ready to fire.*

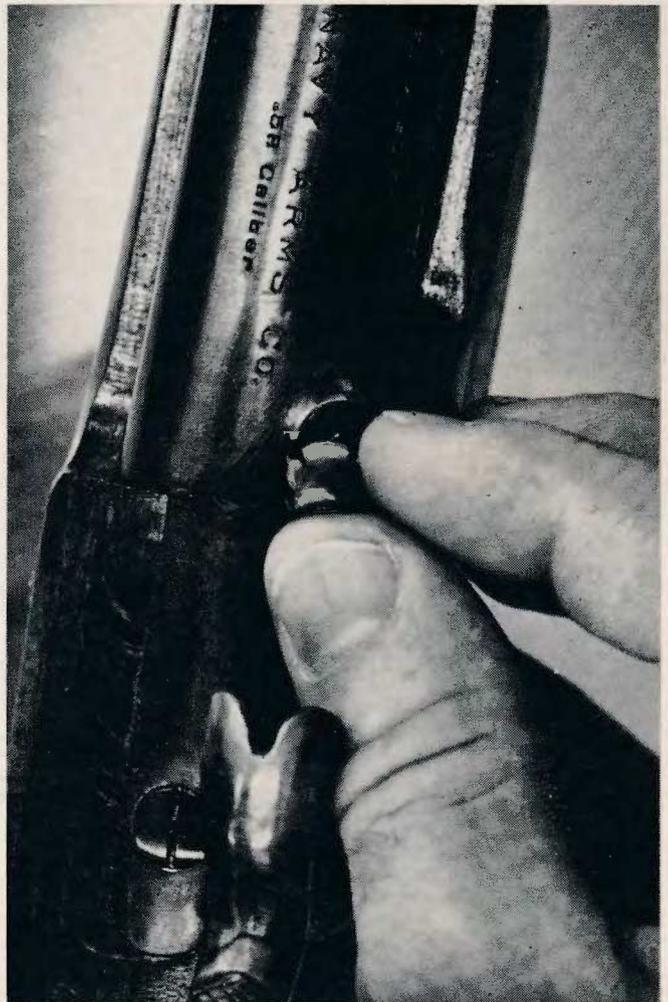
"Ready on the right—ready on the left—ready on the firing line!" Pull the hammer to full cock, aim, finger on trigger "Commence Firing!" (Continued on page 65)



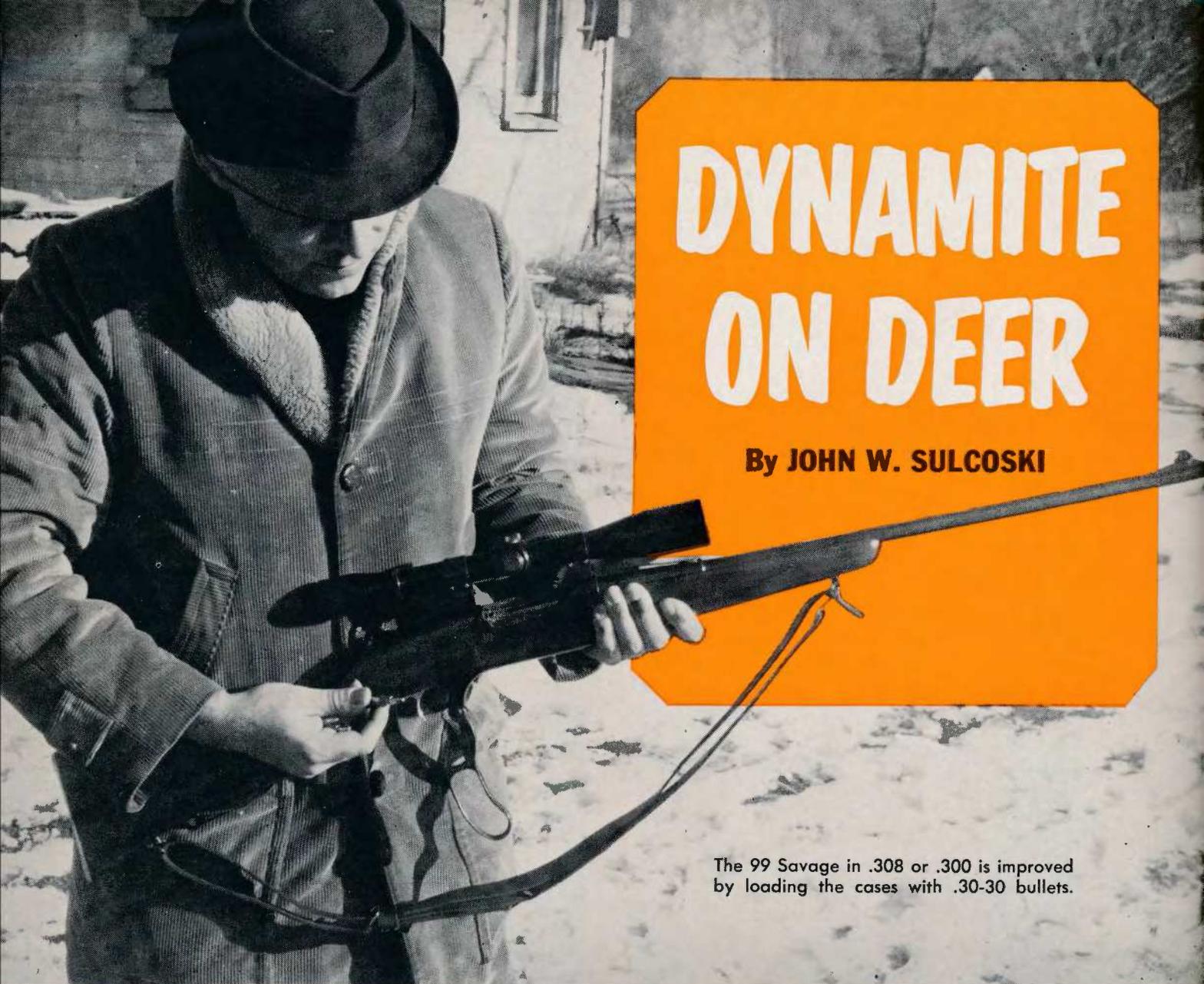
3 In ramming bullet home, again use just thumb, finger on ramrod to avoid seating bullet too hard.



4 Return ramrod to its seat with fingertips, being careful not to place the hand over muzzle of gun.



5 Press the cap down firmly on the nipple as the last step of loading the caplock muzzle loader.



DYNAMITE ON DEER

By JOHN W. SULCOSKI

The 99 Savage in .308 or .300 is improved by loading the cases with .30-30 bullets.

THE NOISE OF the farmers making a drive in an adjacent thicket brought me alert on my Pennsylvania post four years ago. I was posted along a path which bisected a small area of timber and one section of Pennsylvania game lands. A four-pointed (Eastern count) trotted slowly into view and stopped behind a tree, concealing the head and frontal chest area—and only 75 yards away.

My initial surge of buck fever subsided. I slowly raised my caliber .30-06 Remington Model 725 mounted with a Weaver K3 and centered the crosshairs just to the side of the tree on his rear lung area. At the sound of the shot, the front legs of the deer buckled under him. A sense of elation gripped me—my first buck! My hands confidently worked the bolt for the

coup de grace if needed. To my amazement, the buck bounded away before I could chamber the second cartridge.

This pathetic scene was never to be repeated. No, I did not give up hunting. Something was wrong in this attempted kill, although all the factors of a successful kill were apparently present; accurate rifle, good technique in the let-off of the bullet, short range, powerful cartridge, and good bullet placement.

The culprit narrowed down to the bullet, the 180 grain Norma hollow point boattail backed by 54 grains of 4350, arsenal cases, and Federal primer. This bullet was selected because of my preference for hollow points. In my experience, hollow points as a rule are more accurate than soft-point bullets of the same

general type and configuration.

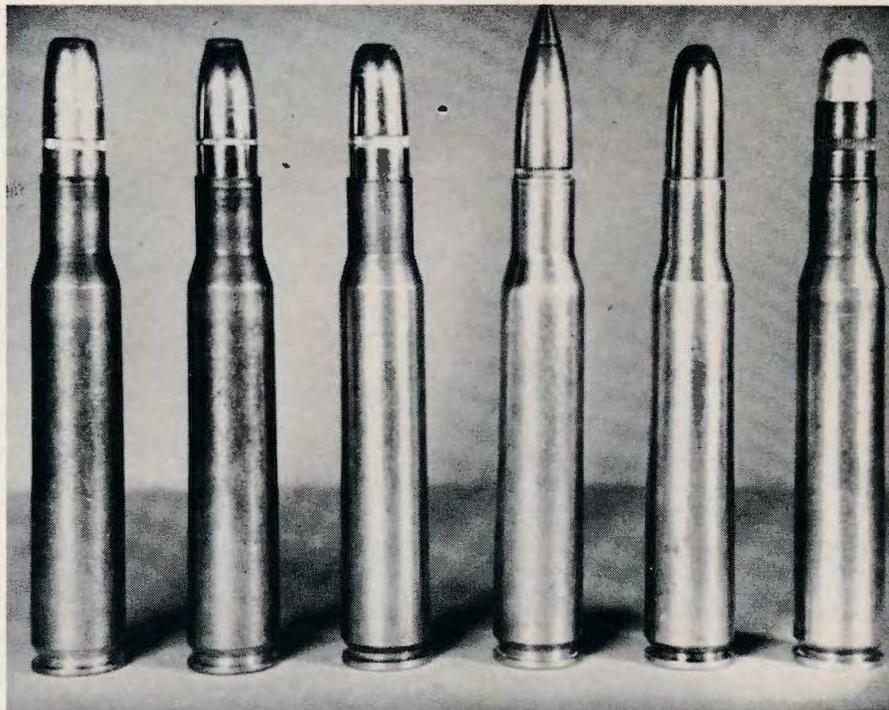
The absence of blood led me to believe that the bullet did not expand quickly enough, if at all. My next move was to select a .30 caliber bullet of sufficient weight which would mushroom immediately upon entrance into the animal.

All bullet makers claim rapid upset and guaranteed performance, but I wanted to be absolutely sure this would occur. It seemed to me that a bullet driven faster than intended should give this desired performance. My choice narrowed down to the 170 grain Remington Mushroom Core-lokt hollow point intended for the .30-30. This bullet is designed for adequate penetration at muzzle velocities around 2000 foot seconds. It worked well in the past for me in the .30-30; I killed

four deer with it, although none were instant kills.

A little experimentation showed me the bullet gave acceptable accuracy in my model 725. When loaded in the .30-06 case, 58 grains of 4831 (about 2400 f.s.) or 48 grains of 4320 (about 2600 f.s.) gave me one- to two-inch groups depending upon my holding ability. The final proof lay in the next hunt.

The next year, a good sized spike buck moved slowly through the timber no more than 60 yards away. The crosshairs came to rest on his lungs just half way up the body. At the shot, the deer arched his back and broke into a ten yard death run, ended by the buck's ramming a tree. An "autopsy" revealed the bullet had hit a rib and exploded within the lung cavity, completely homogenizing the lung area. The bullet entrance hole seemed to be an inch in diameter, while the exit of part of the core was only a pencil point. Fragments were



(L.-R.) 170-gr. Hornady FP, 170-gr. Sierra FP, 170-gr. Rem. HPCL, 180-gr. Rem. Brnz. Pt., 180-gr. Rem. SPCL factory, 190-gr. Win. ST.

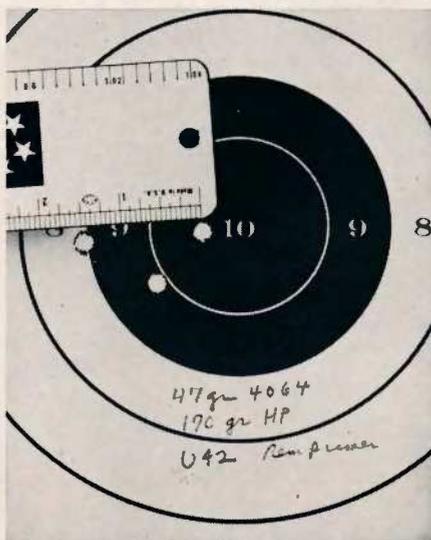


Loads used (L.-R.): 170-gr. Hornady at 2600 fs, 100-gr. Speer Half-jacket at 3000 fs, 170-gr. Rem. HPCL at 2600 fs, 190-gr. Win. ST at 2400 fs, 100-gr. Speer H-J at 2400 fs from .30-06 case, Remington Brnz. Pt. at 2600 fs.

found all throughout the lung area.

One of my hunting pals had shot a small buck three times with his Remington Model 760 pump gun, using the 180 grain Remington Bronze Point factory load in .30-06 caliber. Two bullets went completely through the animal with no expansion, while the third blew up on the shoulder like a varmint bullet. Once he saw the performance of the .30-30 bullet at .30-06 velocities, he asked me to load some for him.

The next year I missed my buck, but my uncle and my previously mentioned pal both downed their deer with these loads. In each case, the result was the same—dynamite on deer! In fact, one large deer was hit in the paunch with the 170 grainer, broke into a 30 (Continued on page 75)



From a Remington Model 700 ADL in .30-06 caliber: left, 47-gr. 4064, 170-gr. Rem. HPCL; right, 45-gr. 4320, 190-gr. Winchester Silvertip.



The Harris rest is best for the sitting position.



A Riflemate is used with its legs partly extended.

BACK IN THE DAYS of buffalo hunting, when lead for bullets was a scare item and had to be brought all the way from Illinois, and powder for these loads had to come from Pennsylvania, the buffalo hunters, who only got a dollar or two for the hides, had to be very accurate in their shooting. I have seen many illustrated accounts of the buffalo hunters and one thing I remember is that they almost always show the shooter hunkered down on a knoll or rise in the prairie, with the muzzle of his rifle (usually a heavy barreled Sharps) cradled in some sort of a rest. These rests were usually a section of a tree limb with a crotch that would hold the gun steady, or sometimes, two sticks, crossed and fastened together near the top, to form a rest.

My first big game rifle (I still have it) was a Winchester '94 in .25-35 caliber, that I got in 1909. Game in the country that I grew up in consisted of black-tail deer, black bear, and cougar. Black bear were considered to be predators and there was no closed season on them but cougar were hard to get unless we used dogs. Although we had loading tools for such guns as the .45-90, the .40-82, etc., all of these using black powder, and which I used to load for and shoot just for practice, I had no loading tools, powder, or bullets for the .25-35. I had to buy factory



Les Bowman

By **LES BOWMAN**

Bowman shows a variety of the rests he has tested. Though not exactly his favorites, the heavy wood mono-pod types will get the job done — if they are used properly.

.22. I still use it a lot on big game of any type but I prefer using a rest when I can get a good one. A prone shot is one of the hardest to make successfully. This is due to a number of things; the roughness of the ground, high grass or brush which may make it necessary to hold over to get a good shot, and the fact that the hunter is short of breath from running and cannot get in position.

Years ago I began experimenting with making portable rests that were not too bulky or heavy to be carried on foot or on horseback, and which could be set up and used in a hurry. It was rather easy to make a rest for use on a varmint hunt as the hunter usually has plenty of time to get ready for a shot, but big game is something else.

The need for a good lightweight, easy to use rest was brought quite forcefully to my attention when we became engaged in the outfitting business around 20 years ago. It was part of my job, and that of the guides we hired, to keep a hunter from attempting an offhand shot at the first head of game he saw, whether it was standing still or running. A great many hunters couldn't hit the side of a barn, offhand, but seemed to think that all they had to do is point the gun in the direction of the game and, if they

TAKE A REST

loads for it. Money was something that I didn't see much of in those days, and believe me I made sure that every shot I fired really counted.

My early hunting days were spent in country with heavy underbrush most everywhere, and I soon found out that a shot had to be placed correctly to make a quick clean kill and prevent a lot of tracking in this heavy cover. I soon found that using a rest of some kind—against a tree, over a log, or from a sit, with elbows on the knees—was practically a necessity if I were to be successful. I do not remember ever shooting this rifle offhand at over 100 yards and as a result nearly every shot I made put the game down for good. Occasionally, I would have to use a finishing shot but I do not remember ever losing much game.

This habit of using a rest has remained with me. It is a natural thing for me to take advantage of a tree or rock nearby, or shoot from prone with an elbow rest. This is done without any conscious thinking on my part; just a part of the shooting act, because of my early training. If I couldn't find a good rest, a sitting position with the hasty sling, was my favorite shooting stance. This position is flexible enough to make good hits at running game, and I used it a lot for shooting running jack rabbits with a

fired enough shots, were bound to hit something.

During these years of outfitting, it was my pleasure to act as a personal guide for many of the world's most experienced hunters. As I look back now, I can only remember a few times that they ever shot offhand. The more experienced a hunter is, the more apt he is to automatically take a rest. I certainly see nothing belittling in taking advantage of the best possible shooting position in order to make good clean kills, but I do think it is most unsportsmanlike to show off by trying an offhand shot that will quite possibly result in a badly wounded animal getting away. There are sometimes when the offhand shot is the only possible one, and if it is not made there would never be another chance at that particular head of game. These are the exception, however, and unless you are a good and experienced shot you should not attempt it.

During my experiments with gun rests I tried all kinds, including pedestals, tripod rests, bipods, and monopods. Some were made to be carried by hand and some were strapped to or fastened in other ways to the rifle. In the fore-arm type of rest it didn't take much strength or weight to hold the barrel very steady and if the muzzle end was steady the butt end more or less took care of itself.

About ten years ago I discovered that quite a few shooters were also concerned about the gun rest problem. Arvid Benson, a good friend of ours from Arlington, Virginia, and a well-known big game hunter, made a rest that solved this problem as far as he was concerned. This rest is the lightest and easiest to use

(Continued on page 55)

MR. PEABODY'S

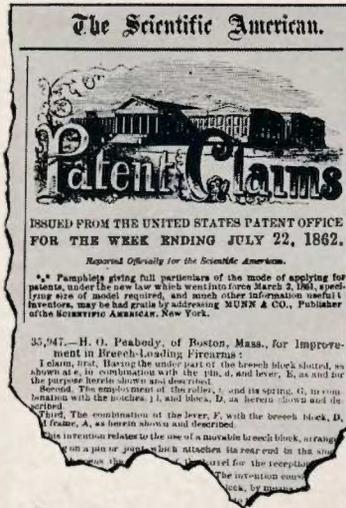


Peabody rifle in the Afghan War. — Photo from Historical Pictures, Chicago.

RIFLE

How the inventor of an important rifle is rewarded with near-obscurity

By RICHARD P. MILLER



BEHIND A SUN-SCORCHED BOULDER somewhere in the no-man's land northwest of Peshawar, Private Thomas Atkinson of Her Majesty's Indian Army shouldered his straight-stocked Martini rifle and snicked the sights up to 600 yards. Easing his white pith sun-helmet back a trifle and ignoring the prickly sweat running down his back under the red tunic, he squinted over his front blade at a dancing, white-clad figure down the slope. He squeezed off his shot, and the Afghan warrior crumpled backward under the impact of 480 grains of soft lead.

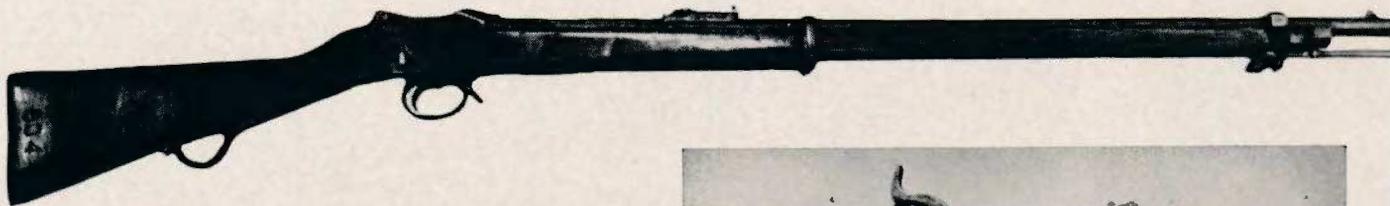
Whistling to himself, Private Atkinson levered out the empty case, thumbed home a new cartridge and waited for the order to advance. He thought of bragging to his mates, and of drinking beer back at the bivouac; certainly, he did not think of a Bostonian named Henry O. Peabody, and probably the name would have meant nothing to him. But Henry O. Peabody's invention, with an altered striker mechanism and a totally different name, was smoking in Private Atkinson's hands and ready for another Afghan if necessary.

Twenty years earlier, in the summer of 1862, Peabody had taken a U.S. patent on a new breechloading rifle action. His brainchild was fast, strong, and economical to make, something that could be said of few of the wacky firearms spawned by the American Civil War. He submitted his pivoted falling-block action to the U.S. War Department for tests at Springfield Armory with every hope of success. The government didn't get around to trying the Peabody rifle until 1865—when it surpassed a field of 65 competitors—and then shelved the question of a new rifle when news of Appomattox came in. Instead, the testing board decided to convert thousands of .58 caliber Springfields using the Allin trap-door system, and Peabody found himself without a contract.

Disappointed, the Yankee inventor gave a franchise to the Providence Tool Company of Rhode Island and, like the marketers of the Remington rolling-block, sought foreign buyers for his rifle. He sold a few thousand to Canada and state militia units in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York, and secured larger orders in Rumania and Switzerland. Through his overseas deals, Peabody met a talented Swiss inventor, Frederick von Martini, who was to give the Peabody a new lease on life. Ironically, their collaboration also caused Peabody's name to be forgotten, except in the United States.

Peabody had to admit there was room for improvement in his graceful rifle. The trigger guard was a lever which lowered the front end of the block to expose the breech, but then a separate outside hammer had to be cocked for firing. Martini changed this, designing an internal, self-cocking striker mechanism which slashed loading time and made the arm less liable to damage in the field.

In 1870, Peabody and Martini pooled their patents, and *(Continued on page 57)*



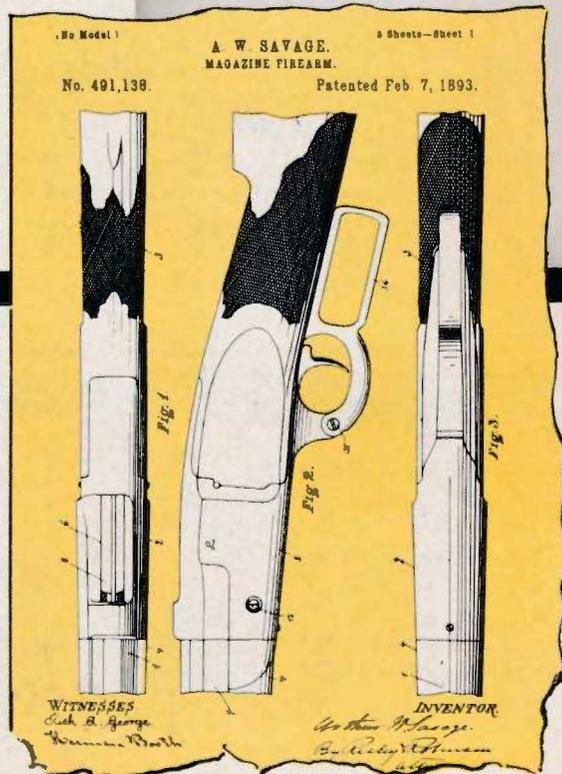
The original Peabody was rejected by the U.S. Army; Martini improved the action and made it salable; a Henry barrel was later added to the rifle.



THE SAVAGE

By K. P. KARNOPP

AFTER MORE THAN 100 YEARS, May 13, 1857 is still a very significant date to American sportsmen. This was the birthdate of Arthur William Savage. For an American arms inventor, he chose a peculiar birthplace, Kingston, Jamaica, in the British West Indies. There are several minor mysteries in his early life. How did he get to Utica, New York? What qualified him to manage a railway there? And above all, what got him interested in firearms design? We don't know the answers to these questions, but several generations of American sportsmen can be grateful that these things did happen. For Arthur William Savage invented the Model 99 Savage rifle, still virtually unchanged today. This was the first, lever-action rifle *not* having a tubular magazine hung under the barrel. This is important for two reasons. First, it permits the use of pointed bullets having much greater ballistic efficiency than the flat-nosed bullets required by a tubular magazine. Even greater than this, however, tubular magazines must be fastened to the barrel, and modern firearms engineering has learned that anything fastened to the barrel has an erratic effect on barrel vibrations and hence a bad effect on accuracy. To all intents and purposes the 99 has



The model shown is similar in so many ways to the patent drawings it is thought to be the original prototype made by Arthur Savage.

The latest Savage 99 models are available with detachable clip. Presentation grades (below) are tastefully engraved, checkered.

'99



THE SAVAGE '99



Cutaway view shows 99 action mechanism. Right: Engraving on presentation Model 99, serial No. 1,000,000; shown on our front cover in full color.

the inherent accuracy of a bolt-action. The writer's late friend, Ed Breckheimer, had a Model 99 in .250-3000 caliber, and with this he shot many many groups at 100 yards that were in the 1" and smaller class. Varmint accuracy in a lever action? Yes! But try this on a tubular magazine rifle, even if it was good for killing Indians!

In some ways, Arthur Savage designed this rifle better than he knew. For one thing, the 99 has a solid breech—no gas from a pierced primer or split case can reach the shooter's face. This was not as important in the old days as it is now. Today, cartridge pressures run much higher, and the consequences of such a cartridge failure would be more severe. I once had a split case in a Krag. The blast of gas that came back stunned me and I was momentarily blinded. This could not happen with a 99.

Another excellent feature is the side ejection, which permits a low, centrally mounted scope. In Savage's time scopes were almost never used on hunting rifles, but today we are mighty glad he did it that way.

Rather early in the game, these rifles were available in takedown style. In

those times, when traveling by train, trolley car and other common carriers, it was nice to be able to take the rifle down for better portability. Today, of course, a full-length rifle easily fits in a car trunk and hence the feature has been dropped. As a rule, the looser fit of a take-down gun has a tendency to reduce accuracy, so perhaps it is just as well.

Available for many years with these takedowns was a unique feature. Savage could supply a .410 ga. shotgun barrel to replace the regular rifle barrel and thus make a handy item for pot-shooting birds and rabbits to supply the camp larder. It was, of course, a single-shot, and disappeared with the passing of the take-down feature. There were several single-shot rifles in the old days which could mount a shotgun barrel, notably the Maynard, but we don't know of any other repeater that ever offered this feature.

The ordinary lever-action mechanism has to start to cock the hammer at the same time as the empty cartridge is in the primary extraction stage. This double load is avoided in the 99 because the first part of the opening motion has nothing to accomplish but ex-





Savage catalog of 1900 shows Arthur Savage as he shoots a 99 with half of the parts missing.



Mr. Arthur Savage, the inventor, firing the Savage Magazine Rifle as a single loader with the following parts of the mechanism taken out:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1, Magazine Carrier, | 6, Automatic Cut-off Spring, | 10, Trigger Spring Screw, |
| 2, Magazine Spindle, | 7, Retractor, | 11, Bolt Stop, |
| 3, Magazine Spring, | 8, Retractor Screw, | 12, Bolt Stop Screw, |
| 4, Magazine Spindle Screw, | 9, Trigger Spring, | 13, Trigger and Lever Lock, |
| 5, Automatic Cut-off, | | |

The above parts constitute nearly one-half the mechanism.

The recoil is so slight that the rifle can be fired without the support of the fore and butt stocks.

56

Griffith, Astell & Cady Co., Printers and Embosser,
Holyoke, Mass.

tract the case. The last part of the stroke, when the shooter's hand has a mechanical advantage, does the cocking. By dividing the load in this fashion, the motion becomes smoother and easier for the shooter. For this, and other well-thought-out principles, the Savage is regarded as one of the smoothest, easiest operating lever-action rifles available.

In short, Arthur William made it very difficult for anyone to think of a way to improve his baby.

About that rotary magazine; Savage

never claimed to have invented it. It seems likely that he borrowed it from Mannlicher, who designed it in 1887. However, as far as we know, Mannlicher never applied it to a lever-action, and Savage never used it on a bolt-action. However, there is still in existence at the Savage factory, a cute little pump-action rifle, in .32/20 caliber, which uses the rotary magazine. This, of course, was an experiment which never went into production.

Another feature of the 99 which is almost unique is that the buttstock is

held to the frame by a stockbolt, instead of the conventional woodscrews through the tang. This construction makes for a very rigid stock and contributes greatly to accuracy. And then there is the indicator that tells the hunter how many rounds are left in the magazine. Numbers on the rotary part show through a little window in the frame to furnish this information. Neat, huh?

Of course, a recent development at Savage has replaced the rotary magazine
(Continued on page 62)



Early Savage 99 sporter, with octagon barrel, and Model 99 military version.



PHOTO BY JEFFREY J. KURTZEMAN

Clement Pottet
Paris, France, 1829





ORIGINALLY IN THE famous Harrod collection and now in the outstanding Clay P. Bedford collection, this cased pistol, with shoulder stock and auxiliary barrel, possesses one of the rarest of ignition systems.

The maker, Clement Pottet of France, took out a French patent on March 3, 1829, which covered not only the breech-loading mechanical construction of the pistol but the special iron cartridge cases it used. This was the first employment of a copper cap as a part of a reloadable center-fire cartridge. A nipple was formed as an integral part of the cartridge case and on this the copper cup or cap containing fulminate was pressed in place. While Pauly, for whom Pottet had worked at one time, had invented a gun to use a reloadable center-fire cartridge as early as

1812, Pottet was the first to develop a successful system employing the efficient copper cap.

The pistol shown here is .52 caliber with 10-groove rifling. The short pistol barrel is 9½" long and the rifle barrel measures 25¼". Included with the gun within a partitioned hardwood case are seven of the unique cartridges or chargers, a bullet mould, screw driver, powder flask, ivory cap box, loading tool, and ramrod.

To load the piece, the barrel and forearm are rotated 90° and then slid forward ½", permitting the breech to be turned sufficiently to expose the chamber for loading. A false hammer on the lock plate is used for cocking the concealed striker into firing position.

—James E. Serven.

THE GUNS OF WELLS FARGO



By GEORGE VIRGINES



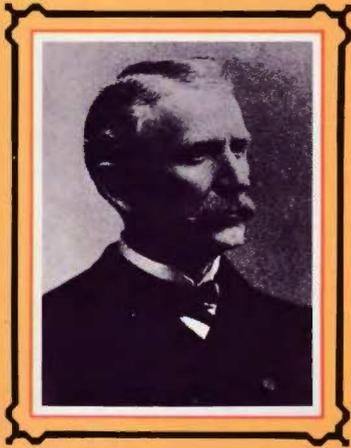
ONE HUNDRED AND twenty seven years separate the first express trip from the present day widespread express network that covers the United States. William Frederick Harnden made the first

trip as an expressman from Boston to New York in 1839. At that time an express shipment involved nothing more than a mere handful of parcels, papers, and messages. Today, William Frederick Harnden is honored as the founder of the express business in Amer-

ica which was so important to our early development.

Thus began the birth of an American institution which is called "express." The mere mentioning of the many names that have become synonymous with express business history creates an aura of romance and excitement—especially in relation-to our American frontier West.

Adams Express Company and the Southern Express, American Express, Central Overland California & Pikes Peak Express, Pony Express, Union Pacific Express, United States Express, Railway Express, and



James B. Hume, an early Chief of Detectives for Wells, Fargo and Company.



Many Wells, Fargo guns, such as these Model 1849 Colt's, bear the company's authentic stamp. Crude Wells, Fargo markings on guns, however, are often fake.

the never to be forgotten Wells, Fargo & Company Express, are just a very few of the many express companies that participated in, and left an imprint of a great Western enterprise that highlighted, our American frontier. Perhaps the most publicized express company in history was the Pony Express which in an eighteen month period created a heroic episode of the frontier that stirred the imagination of the country—and still does. Because of the great coverage already given to this historic express company in past issues of GUNS it will be omitted here. (Read this

very exciting story in GUNS July, 1963.)

The other express company that has become a household name is the famous Wells, Fargo & Company. The books and articles that have been written about this enterprising company would fill a good size library. Although the Wells, Fargo is now just a part of legend and history, the name still lives on. In San Francisco there is the Wells Fargo Bank and in New York the Wells Fargo & Company Armoured Car, the money movers.

The history of the early *(Continued on page 58)*



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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON

(Continued from page 16)

who is under indictment or who has been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year or who is a fugitive from justice to ship, transport, or cause to be shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce any firearm or ammunition." *Again, why no prosecutions?*

Section 902-f- "It shall be unlawful for any person. . . to receive any firearm or ammunition which has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce" Why go on? *Not only could have the sellers been convicted of violations of local law, the criminals could have been convicted!*

There is no public record that any pressure was put on federal officials to prosecute. Obviously, there was more need of an issue than for the protection of the public!

Meanwhile, the press, through large metropolitan dailies which back strenuous new gun legislation, syndicated to smaller papers the fable that new law was needed. But, worst of all were the lies.

The shooting sportsmen were told time and time again that the legislation would impose no hardships on his sport. They were told that there was no intention to propose a requirement for national registration of firearms. Now, we hear authorities saying that "only the police should have handguns." The same anti-gunners tell us there is no threat of confiscation.

So the anti-gun law was lobbied through congress. Within the week Postmaster General W. Marvin Watson announced a major revision in postal delivery by postmasters of any regulations which would prohibit firearms without prior notification to law enforcement officers. *Why did it take so long?*

Over the years GUNS MAGAZINE has been saying that the only additional federal law necessary is one directing the local postmaster to deliver firearms in accordance with local law. Now the Post Office Department has decided it did not need any new law.

Why didn't the anti-gunners, if they only wanted to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, ask the Post Office to make this kind of regulation some five years ago when it was first determined there was such a thing as "mail order murder?" *They were playing legislative roulette with human lives.*

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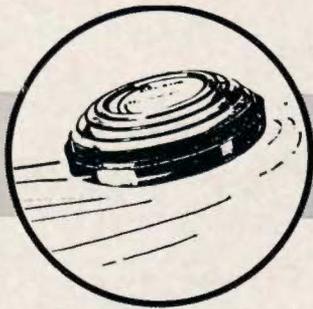
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PULL!

By DICK MILLER

“WHAT GUN SHOULD I USE?” This is the one question most frequently asked of veteran competitors by would-be or beginning clay target shooters. The novice seems to feel that he or she has been put down, or at least given a too-short answer, when the veteran replies, “You should use the gun with which you can break the most targets.” Tyros also seem miffed when a veteran tells them that the gun isn’t all that important, and that a good shooter will break a respectable number of targets with just about any gun.

Because it is a matter of undeniable record that the would-be or new shooter will not accept the two terse answers to the “what gun” question, and because newcomers are extremely important to the clay target sports, I will expand the brief answers with some basic information on gun choice.

Since trap and skeet guns differ in some important characteristics, I shall treat the two games separately, beginning with trap guns. In the early days of trap, the side-by-side double was king of the range, sharing the limelight with the break-open single barrel, single shot. The single barrel trap gun can be called a true specialty gun, and should not be confused with the inexpensive single barrel shotgun which is so often the youngster’s first gun.

When the pump repeater appeared on the scene, many gunners switched allegiance to the pump which was a relatively less expensive gun to produce. At about the same time, the over/under double gun began to attract the fancy of the trapgunner, and grabbed a substantial portion of the shooter’s preference.

The early so-called long action or spring-operated autoloader (popularly called “automatic”) was never a factor in the trap game. Trapshooters contemptuously dubbed the automatic a “corn sheller,” and more than a few crusty trap veterans would not shoot on a squad with another shooter using

such a “corn sheller.” The principal objection to the automatic was its disturbing faculty for ejecting a fired case at the next shooter just as he was preparing to get off his shot, which could prove mighty disconcerting, especially if the hot empty touched bare flesh.

All this was changed with the advent of the short-action or gas-operated auto, and changed even more when the makers of trap automatics changed the ejection mechanism so that the empty was discharged downward toward the shooter’s feet rather than at the unfortunate contestant on the next post. And, now that reloading has become a major factor in the clay target games, many shooters set their autoloaders so that the shell is not ejected at all, but is removed from the gun by hand (in order that the precious empty will not hit the ground and become club property).

So, new shooter, you now can make a choice between the specialty single, the side-by-side double, the over/under double, the pump and the autoloader. All are popular, and can get the job done.

There is but one limiting factor for the trapgunner. The 16-yard and handicap games require only one shot, therefore the gun need not be a repeater. Obviously, if you intend to participate in the third trap event of doubles, your choice must be a repeater, if you expect to confine yourself to one gun. Many shooters I know (including me) used the single on 16-yard and handicap, then switched to one of the repeaters for doubles. Why do this? In my case, and in the case of shooters I know, I felt I could shoot the single best. No real logic, just shooter’s preference.

Invariably, the novice wants to know wherein a trap gun differs from the field gun, or hunting gun. The answer: a trap gun is basically a field gun with added equipment for the purpose of doing a better job on trap targets. Almost without exception,

trap guns are equipped with ventilated ribs. The ventilated rib does two things for the shooter; dissipates the heat mirage set up by a hot barrel, and provides a much superior sighting plane.

All trap guns are supplied with a so-called beavertail forend, a more generous or large forend, to insure that the shooter’s fingers do not touch a hot barrel. If you shoot one round of trap in the summer with a field gun equipped with a small, light forend that is excellent for game shooting, but happen to touch the hot barrel resulting from 25 or more quick shots, you will never again question the need for a beavertail forend on a trap gun.

For obvious reasons, trap guns are heavier than most field guns. A gun light enough to carry comfortably all day in the field will usually be unpleasant to shoot many rounds at the trap range. Heavier guns also tend to swing more smoothly and to eliminate the score-reducing tendency to “poke” shots with a light gun.

Trap guns are supplied with “straighter” stocks than are field guns, that is, the trap gun has less drop at the heel than a field gun. (The subject of stock dimensions could almost be a separate column, therefore I am going to stick to the simple explanation of “straight stock” here.) Field guns are usually stocked so that the shooter of average build will fire “dead-on” at the target—which is also true of skeet guns.

In the case of the trapshooter, when he calls for a target the bird starts from about ground level. At about a minimum of twenty yards in flight the target is seen by the shooter who takes his sight picture, tells his finger to pull the trigger, at which time the firing sequence is initiated. While all this is transpiring, the target continues to rise, and because of the straight stock dimensions the inherent lag is overcome and the gun in effect shoots above the line of sight. The straight stock also allows the shooter to take a “six-o’clock” hold on the target, or to sit the target on top of his barrel so that the barrel does not obscure the target from his vision.

Most shooters will find that to consistently break targets with a field gun they must “black out” the target, or in effect shoot above it to compensate for the rising target. Obviously, it is easier to break a target that you can constantly see (as with the properly stocked trap gun) than it is to break a target that is obscured by your barrel, and for which you must mentally compensate.

Because of the recoil factor, most trap guns are equipped by the maker with recoil pads—which is not usually true of the field gun. Of course, a recoil pad may be added as you deem necessary.

Side-by-side doubles and over/under doubles may be equipped with two triggers, one for each barrel, or may be equipped with more expensive single triggers, which may be either selective or non-selective. With the selective single trigger, the shooter may select which of the two barrels will fire first in the sequence of two shots. In the case of the non-selective trigger, the more open choked barrel fires first, then the more tightly choked, longer range barrel fires next with the cycle being repeated each time the gun is opened. If both barrels are of the same choke (usually full choke, in the case of trap guns) the added expense of a selective trigger becomes academic or unnecessary.

Both double guns may be offered either with extractors or with automatic ejectors (with added cost for the automatic feature). With extractors, the fired case is removed far enough from the chamber so that the shooter may remove it the rest of the way manually. The automatic ejector flips the fired case from the gun upon opening with no additional effort on the part of the shooter.

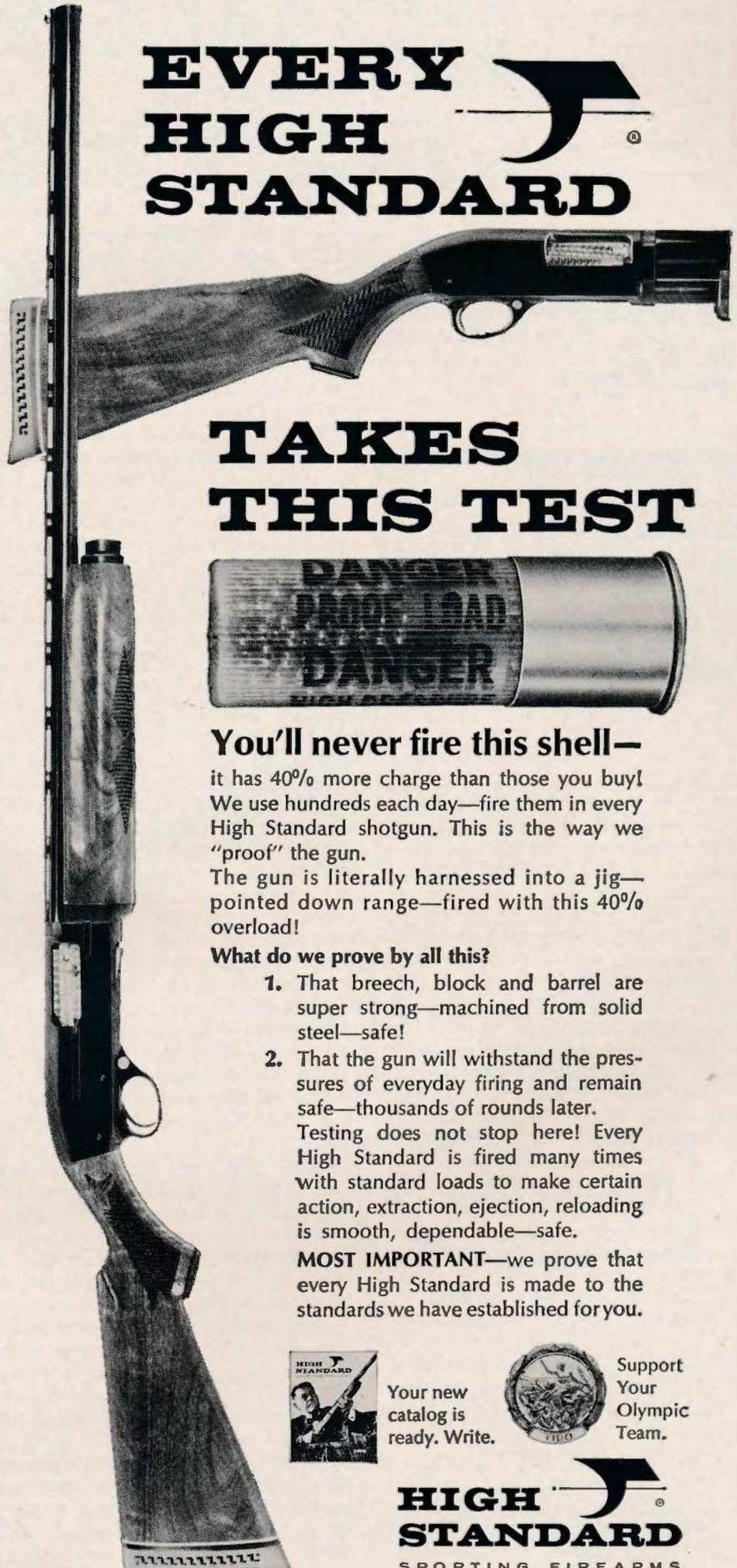
If you reload and want to retain the empty, extractors are your best choice. Many shooters I know have had their automatic ejectors de-activated, so that empties are not flipped from the gun, which in effect means that they paid for a feature of original equipment which they are not using. In this case, you pay your money and take your choice.

Oddly enough, one of the most controversial and hotly-debated facets of gun selection, both field and trap, is barrel length. In the days of black powder and early smokeless powder, anything less than a 34-inch barrel was sacrilege because then longer barrels were more efficient. We all know today that with modern powder the affect of barrel length on performance is negligible, yet the matter of length continues to be thorny.

If there is one standard length for trap guns, it is 30 inches. However, with the feeling that longer barrels make for a smoother, more even swing, there is still demand for the 32-inch and, in some cases, 34-inch barrels. This is especially true with the singles and doubles with their shorter overall length. (The break-open action does not require extra

(Continued on next page)

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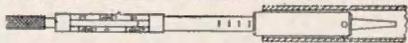
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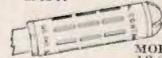


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length for the receiver or action housing, as in the case of pumps and autos.) Because of this feature, a 32-inch break-open gun (single, double, O/U) is about the same length as a thirty inch pump or auto. A few trap guns are offered with 28-inch barrels which are very popular for field shooting but not at this stage a factor in the trap game.

Now, for a word about choke. Choke in a shotgun barrel is a constriction at the muzzle designed to make the shot pattern effective at varying distances. Generally speaking, full choke is designed to be most effective at distances from 45 to 55 yards, modified choke to perform best at ranges from 35 to 45 yards, improved cylinder choke for 25 to 35 yards, and skeet at 20 to 25 yards.

Because of trap distances, the overwhelming choice is full choke. With new wads, powder, etc., it would be expected that a variation on the above, improved modified, or even modified, would make great gains in popularity, but so far I have observed no great groundswell in this direction. Full choke is still king on the trap range.

And, all trap guns are twelve gauge. There is nothing in the rule book which says you can't shoot a sixteen, or even a twenty, but no one I know is willing to give a competitor that much of an advantage.

Now, over on the skeet range, the selection of action types becomes slightly more simple. Because of the need for a repeater, the single shot is not used at skeet. The choice is between the pump, auto, over/under, and side-by-side double.

The bugaboos of barrel length and choke do not rear their twin ugly heads in skeet guns, because all barrels are 26 inches and one choke, skeet.

Like trap guns, skeet guns have ventilated ribs, and for the same reasons. The same criteria for selection of triggers and ejector systems on the double guns apply for skeet guns as well as trap guns. If both barrels are skeet bored, the selective trigger becomes academic and, if you reload, you don't need to spend more money for automatic ejectors. You will need to decide whether you want four guns, one each of 12, 20, 28, and 410 gauges (or a 12, 28, and 410, using the 28 in 20-ga. events); whether you will use gauge adapters in one gauge gun; or buy one gun with two or three extra barrels fitted to it (all of this on the condition that you shoot all the gauge events). Beavertail forends are

"in" for the same reason as in trap.

Now, for a word about variable chokes or compensating devices. These are rather widely used in skeet and present no real problem for your fellow shooters because you are alone on the shooting station. But, if you walk out to the trap range with a compensating device attached to your gun barrel and the rest of the squad leaves, don't assume you have galloping B. O. or halitosis. The squad left because they were loathe to subject their ears to the extra blast of the compensating device at close range.

In other words, don't make the mistake I made as a callow youth when I bought a fine Parker single barrel trap gun with a compensator installed, and then wondered why I was persona non grata at the trap club. No one had objected to the Cutts on my skeet gun, but somehow no one wanted to shoot next to me on the trap field. A kindly veteran set me right, as I do for you now. I mention this because your veteran may not be so kindly as was mine.

Nothing in this column should be construed as indicating that you can't shoot trap or skeet with your trusty hunting gun. Any gun you use for ducks or pheasants will double as trap gun, and any upland gun will break skeet targets. Or, in both cases, the reverse is true. The trap and skeet guns just do the job better because they were built for that purpose. Many a trap or skeet championship has been won with a plain, unadorned field gun, sans any of the extra equipment I have described.

Like I said, it's the shooter, not the gun, who breaks targets but most people won't accept that answer, hence this discourse on guns. You will notice, coward that I am, that I did not recommend any specific action type, but presented all of them impartially. I will make one exception to that impartiality. In the case of the small man, woman or youngster, I would suggest first the break-open types (single, double, O/U) because this action is shorter and these guns are easier to handle. I have seen small men, women and kids whose arms were simply not long enough to reach the action slide on a pump, or the forend on an auto, and who were badly off balance because too much weight was forward on the gun. They would have been better served by the more compact guns.

In all other cases, as I said in the beginning, the best choice is the gun that will break the most targets.

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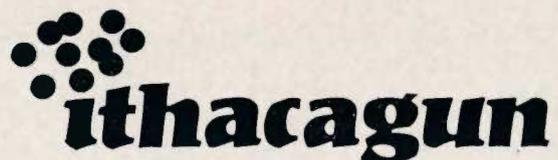
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TAKE A REST

(Continued from page 37)

one that I have ever tried. Copying the one made by Arvid, I made up several like it for myself and friends. It is quite delicate and is rather easily broken. To eliminate this problem I always carry an extra if I am going on a long and hard hunting trip. I have used this rest in the Arctic for polar bear, in the high grass country of Admiralty Island for the big brown bear, and on a rocky cliff, at 13,000 feet for Big Horn sheep. I have also used one for varmint hunting. The weight of this small piece of equipment is only two or three ounces.

About the time that I began making my own rests from Arvid's design, a number of other shooters also started to experiment with all sorts of rests. A few even started production on their design and did a bit of advertising. Some of these rests were too heavy, cumbersome, and slow to use and some, especially the tripod models, didn't work very well on uneven terrain. The mono-pods had to be struck into the ground and this wasn't always practical from the standpoint of big game hunting.

As soon as I heard of one of these new rests I would get one and try it out. I was on the lookout for a good, rugged, fast to use, easy to carry rest, that was in production, so I could recommend it to my hunters. The first practical rest that I considered had enough merit to recommend it to our hunters was a simple bipod scissors-type, made of wood. It folded up easily and could go in a pocket, or be hung on a belt with the small, integral hook. It fastened directly onto the barrel but had a soft rubber cushion glued to it so that it did not affect the point of aim, even on a rifle with a light barrel. This rest is made in two different heights. They are made by Ten Ring Manufacturing Corporation, 44 Main St., New City, N. Y. 10956.

I really gave this type rest a good testing out. My hunters liked them and many of them bought one to use. However, the old idea that resting a barrel on anything would throw the shot off to a certain degree, disturbed many of the users. I contacted Bill Hadley, who had designed the rest, about this theory and we corresponded quite a bit. Finally, I received a new, all-metal rest from him. This one fastened to the fore-end of the stock by a couple of thumb screws, and the legs are adjustable for height. I quote from Bill's letter that came with the rest, "It was you who prompted me to develop this rest

called the Rifle-Mate, and you are the first to receive it."

The only thing I didn't like about the Rifle-Mate was that the legs were fastened rigidly to the metal body, making it a bit bulky, though it worked very well both for varmint shooting and for hunting purposes. However, some of our shooters like the older, folding leg, Redi-Rest better and prefer to use it. Also, it weighs about six ounces as compared to 12 ounces for the Rifle-Mate.

The value of using a good rest was quickly proved by the results the hunters began to accumulate. This was especially true of our antelope hunters. Most of this hunting is done in open, rolling hills country, covered by high grass and brush. After a long stalk it is often quite hard to hold a rifle steady; the rest can be high enough to clear this grass and brush obstruction and still provide a solid base to shoot from.

Whenever a new rest appeared I got one and tried it out but none of them seemed to be as handy or practical as the Ten Ring products (except my copy of Arvid Benson's rest) until I heard of a new one being produced by Gerald Harris of Harris Engineering, Inc., Box 305, Fraser, Mich. 48026. The first picture I saw of this rest led me to believe that there was too much machinery to it, but when I received the two sample rests (a low one and a high one) I changed my mind about this, after using them on different varmint and game rifles.

This new Harris Bi-pod is very ingenious. It does require the rifle to be fitted with a stud for a quick detachable sling swivel on the fore-end. The rest fastens to the stud and a set screw tightens it on very solidly. The legs fold forward, and are held flat along the underside of the barrel by spring tension when not in use. They can be snapped down in a second when one wants to use the rest. Fastening this rest to the front swivel stud doesn't prohibit the use of your sling, as it is just fastened to a fitting built on the base of the rest. When the legs of the rest are folded forward they in no way interfere with carrying the gun on the sling and never get in the way when stalking.

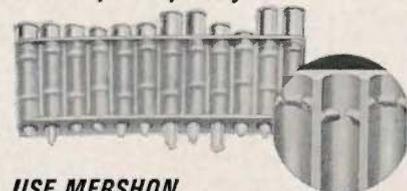
One model is 7½" in length and the other is 13½" (with extended legs it is 23½"). This model is the one that is best to use for a sit, with the legs extended. It is a bit more unwieldy than the 7½" one but it is the only

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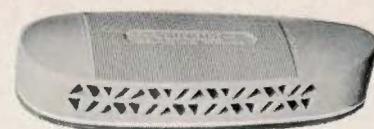
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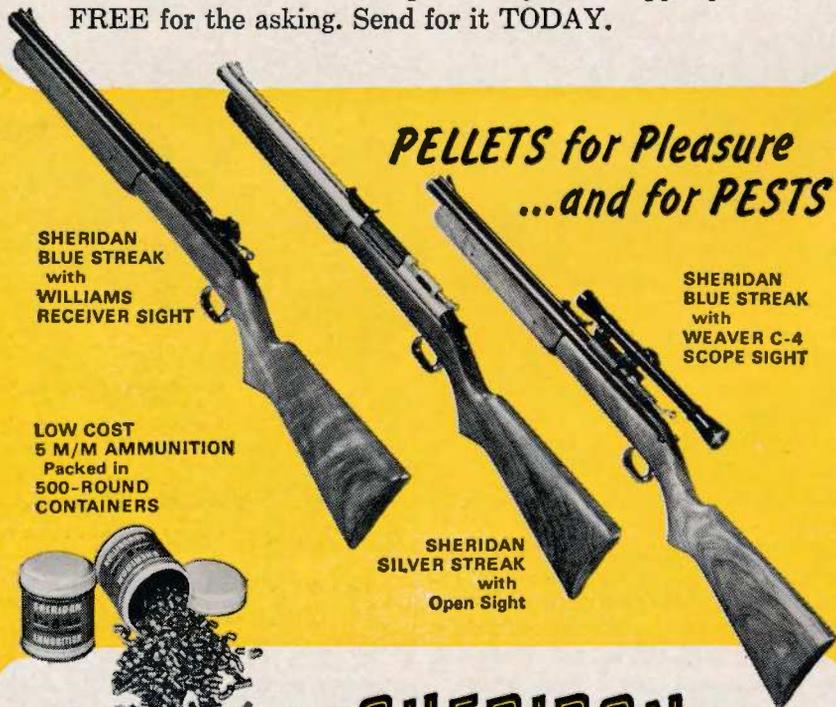
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good rest that I have found that allows comfortable shooting from an upright sit, on flat ground.

Of the dozen or more types of production rests that I have tested those made by Ten Ring and Harris proved to be the best for me. To take advantage of the flat shooting, long range, very accurate rifles we now have, the use of a good reliable rest helps a shooter get the most from them. It certainly adds to the satisfaction a hunter feels if he has made a good, clean one-shot kill.

Although very few hunters have enough experience to shoot moving game, with a bit of practice it can be done successfully off a rest. Even the shooter who practices offhand shooting on a target range, may find his shot placement poor, under certain actual hunting conditions. In the west most hunting is done at quite high altitudes. Few people realize that over one third of the country is above 5000 feet altitude. In Wyoming or Colorado, hunting is done as high as 12,000 feet. This altitude makes the heart beat faster and harder and the breathing deeper. Couple this with a bit of exertion, like a short run or a bit of a climb—plus the excitement of the hunt—and it turns most any hunter's rifle barrel into quite a wiggly thing, even if an expert is doing the shooting.

We always required our hunters to at least check their rifle's sighting on our range before going hunting. Elevation makes some difference in trajectory. Transporting rifles, even with the best of care, can also contribute to this, so it was almost necessary that we did this sighting before we packed in on a hunt. After they had sighted in and shot well from the bench, I would suggest they try an offhand shot. My targets are 12" by 15", and time after time they would miss the target at 100 yards, although we would get a few who could make a fair group.

Then I would ask them to trot, not run fast, from the front of the shooting house, around the little 12 foot square house and back to face the target and make another offhand shot. Not even one in fifty could place a shot well after that little run. After the same short run, a rest against a tree, or a sit, tightened the groups considerably. With a rest on the gun they all made presentable shot placements, at 100 yards, after this type of exercise.

For the hunter of today, there is no sensible excuse for offhand shooting. Some sort of a rest will help anyone to obtain better shot placement and thus make for more clean, one-shot kills.

THE PEABODY RIFLE

(Continued from page 39)

Providence Tool began turning out "Peabody-Martini" rifles. Business picked up at once. Turkey bought over a third of a million of the new models during the 1870's, chambered for the .45 Turkish round. Providence Tool also made top-grade target versions, many of which were used at the "What Cheer" range in Rhode Island, as famous in its time as Creedmoor. Martini also submitted the action to the British War Office, which was studying a replacement for the trap-door Snider rifle, also an American invention.

"Milords" liked the new gun. Its sturdy double ejectors would throw the empty case clear, unlike the Snider which had to be turned upside down and shaken. The British combined the Peabody-Martini action with a .45 caliber seven-groove barrel designed by a Scotsman, Alexander Henry, and in the spring of 1871 adopted the result as the Mark I Martini-Henry rifle. No mention was made of Henry O. Peabody.

The new arm weighed nine pounds even and was 49½ inches long, 33 inches of that in a barrel. Most were to be issued with a triangular socket bayonet, but several different styles of sword bayonet also came out sporadically.

The round for the British Martini-Henry was a monster .577-.450 bottlenecked cartridge of thin rolled brass, with a paper-patched 480-grain bullet hurled by 85 grains of black powder. The slug moved out at only 1,350 feet per second, but with a muzzle energy of 1,950 foot-pounds. It was soon found capable of stopping all of the Empire's exotic foes, from drug-maddened thugs in Burma to Abyssinian tribesmen who carved their raw steaks from living cattle. British cavalry and artillery units were issued the natty little Martini-Henry carbine, with 21-inch barrel and a reduced load of 70 grains with a 410-grain bullet.

As ever, the British were fond of changing their horses in midstream, and the Martini-Henry soon ran through several Marks. The Mark I, now quite rare, had a safety-catch and a brass breech-in. For the Mark II, the safety was scrapped and a split steel breech-in substituted. For the Mark III and Mark IV, the forearm hooked into the receiver instead of being pinned to lugs on the barrel. The Mark IV was changed by adoption of a long lever to aid extraction.

But there was another problem. The unique Henry rifling, while accurate, was unusually prone to fouling, and after a dozen or so quick rounds the kick of the rifle became excruciating. This factor ultimately led to study of different barreling and smokeless powders.

In 1888, Britain adopted the magazine Lee-Metford Rifle in .303 caliber and soon after began issuing cordite smokeless ammunition. Thousands of Martini rifles were rebarreled with Metford rifling in .303, and were later (around 1895) changed to Enfield barreling along with the Lee-Metfords.

Between 1871 and 1895, when it became "limited standard" issue for auxiliary troops, the Martini-Henry figured in a dozen pitched battles and hundreds of forgotten skirmishes throughout the British Empire. Thanks to Rudyard Kipling, the Martini also became known to the reading public. Read his tale "Black Jack" for an interesting, if fanciful, account of what might happen if the Martini were fired without a breech-pin.

The Peabody-Martini-Henry-Metford-Enfield story is still being told today, in fact. Martini's were used to train British troops during World War I, and fought on both sides during the Irish uprisings in the early 1920's. Many thousands of .577-.450 Martini-Henrys have been released from service in recent years, but additional thousands of .303 Martini-Enfields are still in the hands of Arab, Asian, and African fighters. To this day, skilled native craftsmen in Yemen and Pakistan make copies of the Martini, along with hand-made Lee-Enfields and Webley revolvers. You can still go out and buy a top-grade Martini .22 target rifle made by the Birmingham Small Arms Company (B.S.A.), and many American shooters have built their own rifles on the small .310 Greener Martini action used in Australia for cadet training.

All told, several million military Martini-Henry's were produced, and hundreds of thousands more came forth as sporting rifles. But only those made by Providence Tool are called Peabody-Martini's, giving recognition to the inventor who started it all.

And Private Atkinson, cleaning the barrel of his "straight-stocked, cross-eyed bitch" while the regimental band played "The Roast Beef of Old England," never give Henry O. Peabody of Boston a thought. 

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WELLS, FARGO

(Continued from page 47)

express companies has naturally inspired a great deal of interest. But what inspired the road agents, i.e., holdup men, was the enormous sums of money, gold, silver, and other valuables that express companies contracted to haul. The lure of this wealth induced many a man to become an express robber.

Stagecoaches, and later trains, were preyed upon. Perhaps the greatest nemesis to Wells, Fargo was the famous Black Bart, legendary bandit, who according to legend was known as the poet bandit, and who succeeded in releasing Wells, Fargo of twenty-seven valuable shipments. He was finally apprehended by Wells, Fargo

battalion which defended the express companies' property, with the only reward sometimes being death.

Many types of weapons were used by the messengers to safe guard the passengers and property of the express companies.

In the Wells, Fargo History Room of the San Francisco Wells, Fargo Bank is displayed a historic collection of mementoes that recreates the colorful and exciting legendary past of Wells, Fargo. Included in the many interesting items is the vehicle that is instantly associated with Wells, Fargo and the shotgun messenger.



The Colt given James B. Hume by Charlie Dorsey.

Chief of Agents, James B. Hume.

It soon became apparent that the express companies had to take up the challenge presented by these bold holdup men. The answer to this challenge was the introduction of the famed shotgun messenger.

Naturally the early express companies had holdup troubles as soon as they went into business. They tried every means to transport valuable shipments and to safeguard them. But when men found that the good gold claims were already taken by the time they reached the West, they resorted to helping themselves to the gold by fair or foul means—mostly the latter.

Thus, came the gun wielding "Shotgun Messenger." He sat high in the seat next to the stage driver, ever alert, protecting the unobtrusive green wood or iron treasure chest, usually beneath his feet. The shotgun messengers became the honored,

This is, of course, the stagecoach, or Concord Coach as it was properly known. Also featured in this museum are gold nuggets, treasure chests, wanted posters, Wells, Fargo guard badges, and many more intriguing items.

But of most interest are the many weapons that helped to make frontier and Wells, Fargo history. If these weapons could only talk, what tales they could tell!

One of the earlier model guns displayed is a Colt Pocket Model of 1849. This particular model is marked "WELLS FARGO EXPRESS" on the brass backstrap. It has the typical and familiar stagecoach holdup scene engraved on the cylinder, a three inch octagon barrel, caliber .31, walnut grips, and brass trigger guard. Unfortunately, this model gun became popularly known as the Wells, Fargo Model; the absence of the loading lever so identified this model.

Wells, Fargo in appreciation of loyalty and heroism was generous in

rewarding messengers and law officers with appropriate gifts such as finely engraved gold watches and firearms. One such weapon on display is a handsome Henry rifle with a silver plate attached to the stock and engraved with a scene of frontier exploits and inscribed "... for his gallant conduct May 16, 1866. . . ." This rifle was presented to Steve Venard, who killed three bandits attempting to holdup a Wells, Fargo stagecoach.

Eugene Blair, another famous shotgun messenger for Wells, Fargo, fought off many holdups, and was also a very early gun collector. He always received a fine new firearm for each of his heroic deeds and added it to his collection. They say he had a formidable arsenal.

The reliable and meanest gun of the Old West was the double barrel shotgun. It was sometimes used with barrels up to 32 inches, but more commonly cut down to 18 inches or 20 inches, although lesser barrel lengths have been known. Remington, Ithaca, Colt, Richards, and other shotguns have all been used by the many express companies. Displayed in the Wells, Fargo Museum History Room are three little known shotguns made by Wm. Dougalle, New Era Gun Co., and the Hollis & Son, Co. Other interesting weapons at the museum are several that once belonged to and were used by James B. Hume, who was once Under Sheriff of El Dorado County, and who later became the Chief of Detectives for Wells, Fargo.

One of his guns is a Colt 1860 Army, caliber .44, cap and ball, Serial No. 147003, and inscribed on the butt, "J. P. HUME." This gun was given to Hume by Charley Dorsey, alias Thorn, who held up the Eureka Stage on September 1, 1879 and who also murdered William F. Cummins. Another Colt 1860 Army, caliber .44, with Serial No. 179367, that once belonged to James B. Hume, was also from Charles Dorsey.

A very illustrious employee of Wells, Fargo was Wyatt Earp. He worked on James B. Hume's payroll in Tombstone in 1880 as a shotgun guard. Earp earned his salary by riding shotgun for the stages that traveled between Tombstone and Tucson.

Wells, Fargo being the most glamorized express company it is natural that more interest lies in the type of weapons they used. In the early days they used the Spencer Repeating carbine of .52 caliber. The Henry rifle and the Winchester in the various models were great favorites as

its successors.

Any Wells, Fargo marked weapon is rare and a most sought after piece. Many rare guns have turned up in some of the most unusual places. One such gun was noted in a gun catalog issued by the Antique Gun Expert, Theodore Dexter. This particular piece was a Winchester 1866 Saddle Ring Carbine, marked "WELLS, FARGO & CO.—SAN FRANCISCO." Its hiding place of 35 years was revealed in the 1900's when it was found carefully wrapped in newspapers and hidden between the beams of an old San Francisco livery stable, once used by Wells, Fargo as a horse station. It only can be conjectured as to why it was left there, later to be recovered. The great earthquake of April 1906 destroyed most of San Francisco and Wells, Fargo & Company was among the many companies that were consumed by the resulting fires. All of Wells, Fargo records were destroyed. Consequently, many questions concerning the record of certain marked Wells, Fargo weapons must go unanswered or be answered through other sources.

In the Colt Company records it is revealed that many Colt firearms were purchased by a Mr. W. H. Ashton, purchasing agent for Wells, Fargo. He is also listed in the 1909 New York directory as the agent for the New York Wells, Fargo. With the introduction of the center fire metallic cartridge handguns, many types of revolvers became the favorite sidearms of agents of the various express companies. The Smith & Wesson Schofield, caliber .45, and generally with a 5-inch barrel, became very popular with Wells, Fargo men. About 5,000 First Model Schofield revolvers, still retaining the "U.S." martial markings, were purchased as army surplus by Wells, Fargo Company.

Most famous of all frontier guns is the Colt Single Action Army revolver. This old shootin' iron is as indissolubly linked with our frontier history as covered wagons, mining camps, cattle ranches, lawmen and out-laws, and the stagecoach. Wells, Fargo and Colt were legendary and synonymous in frontier history. The Colt Company sold many types of guns to Wells, Fargo and they were stamped by the factory on the bottom of the butt, "W.F. & CO." They came in a variety of models such as the Colt Single Action Army, Colt Bisley Model, Police Positive, double action, and Specials in .38 caliber. These were the first Colt revolvers so

(Continued on next page)



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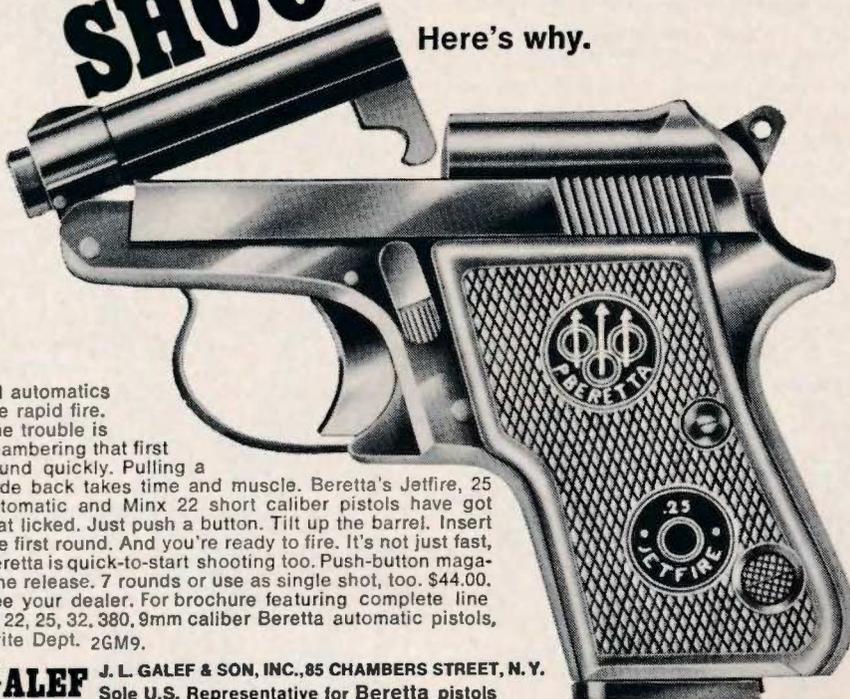
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(Continued from page 59)

stamped that can be verified by Colt factory records.

Wells, Fargo, Union Pacific Express, Adams Express, and other express company markings have been found beautifully engraved to crudely hand stamped on many weapons of various periods. The authenticity of these markings is difficult to verify. In some cases the express company employee marked his weapon with the name or initials of his company to show his pride in being a part of such an outfit. But because of the popularity and rarity of express marked weapons it would be wise to beware of fakes. The later day firearms used by the various express companies can be authenticated by the manufacturer or the Railway Express Company.

Another equally famous express company was the Adams Express Company. This company dates back to 1845, and existed as an express company throughout the south until the 20th Century. Many weapons have been noted with the "Adams Express Co." markings from early percussion models to the modern type weapons in use around 1918. The latter day guns usually were marked "Property of Adams Express Co."

All of the express companies equipped their employees with a variety of handguns, rifles, and shotguns. In the handgun line, besides Colt, there were Smith & Wesson, .38 caliber double actions in several models, and Iver Johnson five shot double action revolvers; also the M97 Winchester shotgun. These types were marked "Adams Express Co.," "U.S. EXPRESS CO." ("U.S.X"), "American Express Co.," and "American Railway Express."

In June of 1918 the three great operating express companies of the United States; Adams (which included the Southern Express), American, and Wells, Fargo were merged into a single agency to be called the American Railway Express. It was after this period that the Railway Express remarked many of the weapons with its own markings. Also, from time to time, many of these weapons were sold as surplus to gun dealers, collectors and, unfortunately, many were just destroyed.

The merger was the end of several great enterprises whose turbulent history was exciting, daring, and legendary. It began in the East—a true part of the heritage of our country.

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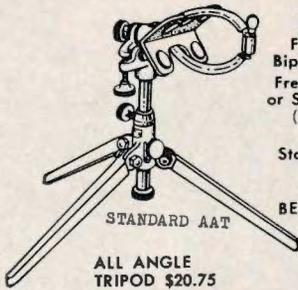


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SAVAGE MODEL 99

(Continued from page 43)



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with an optional detachable box mag-
azine. The advantages here, of course,
are being able to unload without
pumping the cartridge through the
action, and being able to reload in a
wink.

In its long career the 99 has been
chambered for quite a variety of car-
tridges, some of them controversial.
The original loading was the .303 Sav-
age, a round for which no other rifle
has ever been chambered. This was
quite similar to the .30/30, but had a
heavier (190 gr.) bullet which many
hunters felt made it a better killer on
game larger than deer.

With this story, GUNS Magazine
takes pleasure in presenting, for the
very first time, a picture of what may
well be the original inventor's model
of the 99. This rifle, long buried in the
hush-hush department at Savage
Arms has almost all the major fea-
tures of the current Savage 99. Since
it has a unique style of checkering on
the stock, and this is exactly repro-
duced in the patent drawings, Savage
officials suspect it might be Arthur's
original working model. The caliber
of this historic piece is a bit of a
shock, though. It is in .32/20, a cali-
ber which never appeared in a pro-
duction model. A beautifully made
little rifle, it has the same size-re-
lationship to the regular 99 that the
Model 92 Winchester has to the Mod-
el 86.

In the early days, Savage tried hard
to get military contracts for the 99,
primarily using the .303, although a
few experimental military "muskets"
exist chambered for .30/40 Krag and
.30/06 (with, of course, receivers
lengthened to accommodate). A few
of the 303's were sold to militia outfits,
but not so many that a Savage Musket
isn't a great collector's prize today.

Some of the earlier calibers, such as
.32/40, .25/35, and .38/55 were also
available in the old days.

Those days at Savage must have
been exciting ones. For example, the
late Townsend Whelen, in his 1920
book, "The American Rifle" tells the
story of one of the early users in Can-
ada. This man bought a 99 and one
box of shells, in .303 caliber naturally,
since that was the only one available
in the old days. With this box of shells
he killed 18 head of big game! We
imagine the Savage advertising de-
partment was not at all backward
about publicizing this! (By the way,

you young sprouts should not confuse
the .303 Savage round with the .303
British, which is a little bigger.)

Incidentally, those readers inter-
ested in the earlier 99's should send for
Savage's catalog for 1900, recently re-
produced and available from the Sav-
age Advertising Department (Savage
Arms, Westfield, Mass. 01085) for just
one buck (\$1.00). Among other things,
it shows the military models and some
very finely engraved numbers.

The engraved models were killed
off by the Great Depression, but of
late years Savage has re-introduced
these in two grades, "Citation" and
"Presentation." These are not only
beautifully engraved but have very
fancy walnut stocks. Either would be
worthy of being passed down from fa-
ther to son for generations.

In 1911 the late great Charles New-
ton contributed the .22 Hi-Power
cartridge design, a 70 gr. bullet which
traveled at the then enormous veloc-
ity of 2800 feet per second. This im-
mediately caused a lot of controversy,
some claiming it good for moose, oth-
ers saying it was not good for anything
bigger than coyote. While it finally
died from the Savage line in 1931, and
all U.S. loaders dropped it soon after,
it is still widely used in Canada, and
loaded there by Dominion.

Newton's next, and greatest con-
tribution, was the design of the .250-
3000 round. This became extremely
popular and remained so up until the
advent of the .243 Winchester. When
Savage chambered the 99 for this one
a few years ago, it took over, and the
.250 has been dropped.

Another famous round was the .300
Savage. This came out right after
World War I, when millions of Ameri-
cans had been introduced to the .30/06.
It was able to duplicate the '06 ballis-
tics in a shorter case which would
work in the 99 action. And *this* one
went on to be developed eventually
into the NATO cartridge and the .308
Winchester.

Today, the Savage Model 99 is
available in four basic styles. The
99DL, the top of the line; the 99F, a
featherweight version; the 99E, a car-
bine version without any frills; and
the 99C, with the new detachable clip
magazine. These new 99's, though old
in design, reflect all that is new in
modern firearms technology, and Ar-
thur Savage would be proud of them.



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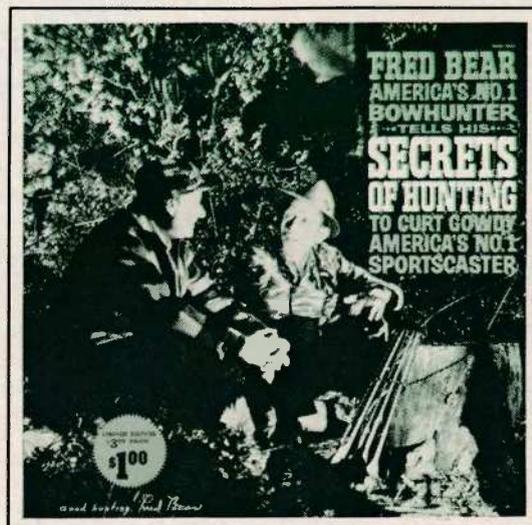
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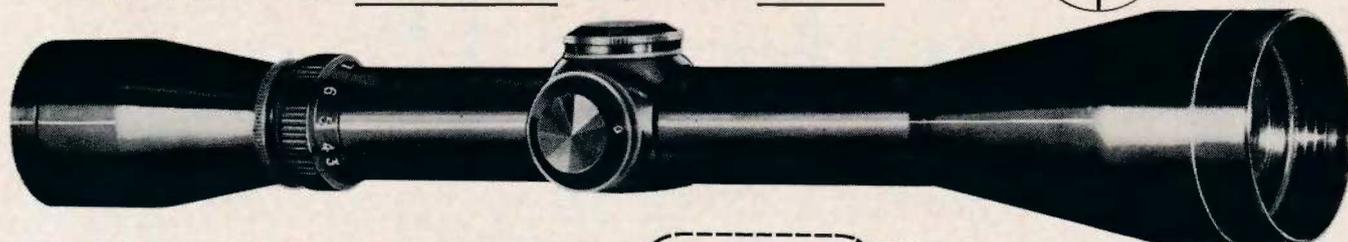
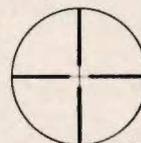


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CAPLOCK MUSKET

(Continued from page 33)

Settle the bull on the front sight; press the trigger; and as that broad butt shoves back into your shoulder, orange flame and white smoke blossom from the cavernous muzzle. A 500-grain slug as big as your thumb arcs toward the target, just as did thousands of them on battlefields the world over well more than a century ago.

Simple, wasn't it? Fun, too. No modern, high-velocity, smallbore rifle can quite match the atavistic thrill to be had from the big military charcoal-burners of yesteryear.

Hurry up—load her up again and let's have another go at it!

Stop right there! The infantry private in the line at First Manassas had to hurry loading or take a bayonet in the throat—he had to risk things like lousy accuracy, a misfire, or an accidental firing. There wasn't any other way. You don't have that problem—but you *will* have problems if you get in a bodacious hurry for that next shot and do something stupid.

First, if you up-end that musket immediately and dump a fresh powder charge down the barrel, there just *might* be a spark or ember down in there. It *might* ignite the powder with one hell of a bang, perhaps causing the flask—if you're using one—to explode.

There *could* be an ember in the touch hole. If so, nothing might happen until the bullet is rammed home—at which time air being forced out through the hole could fan the spark to ignite the propelling charge. If that happened, both bullet and ramrod would be shot out, quite possible making a mess of your hand or anything else in the way.

This sort of thing is easily prevented. Just don't be in too big a rush to reload. Second, before reloading, lower the hammer full down on the nipple, preferably sandwiching a small piece of leather between the two. This will prevent the rush of air that might fan a near-dead ember to life.

So, take your time reloading. In too big a rush you might ram a bullet *without* any powder under it. Don't laugh—it's happened to many an experienced shooter (present company not excluded) and can be most embarrassing. Another rather interesting result of too much haste occurred to a friend of mine. He hurriedly charged, rammed, capped, and fired—to watch in open-mouthed dismay

as his yard-long ramrod sailed toward the target. In the rush, he'd forgotten only one thing—to take the ramrod out of the barrel! Only a *little* mistake, but ———?

Shooting can be safely made faster and more convenient. The first step in this direction is to place pre-measured powder charges in plastic containers to simplify loading. Plastic tubes which are a snug fit on the bullet are available. Powder is placed in the tube which is then "stoppered" with the bullet. One simply plucks the bullet from the tube, pours charge in to the barrel, and immediately starts bullet in muzzle.

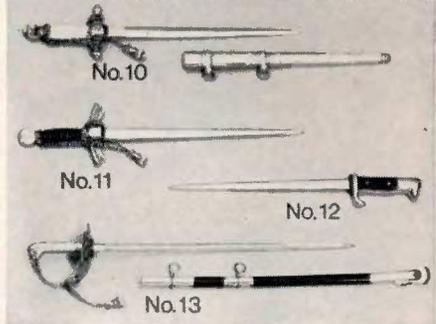
Also a considerable convenience is the prepared paper cartridge available from Dixie Gun Works. The envelope or tube contains the powder charge and is tied or cemented securely to the bullet. Either the base may be torn open or the end containing the bullet may be torn off to expose the powder. In either case, the powder is pushed down the barrel—after which the bullet and whatever paper remains attached to it is rammed home. The paper may be torn in almost any manner, but the soldier armed with the rifled front-loader grabbed the bullet in his teeth and ripped away—often spitting the bullet into the muzzle as he reached for his ramrod. Or, if he were more fastidious, he might hold the bullet in his hand and bite off the base of the cartridge.

In either case, good teeth were essential. Interestingly enough, the army's rigid dental standards stemmed from this need. Only in the past few years have those old cartridge-biting tooth standards been relaxed.

Paper cartridges of this type are *not* nitrated, so the paper is blown clear of the barrel without being consumed. This increases the possibility of a live ember being left in the bore.

The original issue powder charge for the U.S. .58 caliber rifled musket was 60 grains of black powder, FG granulation. It produced 934 fps with the 500 grain minie bullet from the 33" barrel. That load is too hefty for comfortable range work—and, in fact, considerably less accurate than lighter charges. Charges in the vicinity of 50 grains of FFG or FFFG usually give much better accuracy than the issue load, and produce much less recoil as well. Particularly pleasant to shoot is 35-40 grains of FFFG which pro-

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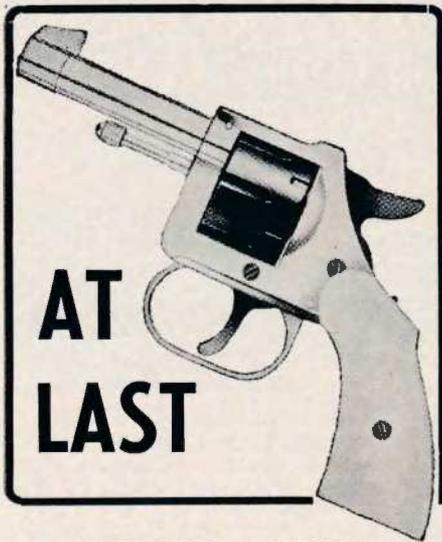
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duces excellent accuracy at 50 yards, the range at which most rifled musket competitions are held. Since individual rifles will behave somewhat differently, the charge should be varied until maximum accuracy is obtained from your particular gun. To be competitive in official North-South Skirmish matches, a gun must be able to group its shots into slightly less than 3 inches.

While Lyman bullet 575213 normally shoots quite well in .577 and .58 caliber rifled muskets, it will be well worth your while to try 575213 O.S. (oversize), 575494, and the new 57730. The latter has a very blunt nose, shifting the center of gravity well forward, producing very fine accuracy.

Perhaps we've been remiss here in referring only to .58 caliber guns. Actually, rifled muskets will be encountered in .54 and .69 caliber with some frequency. Occasional European arms will also show up in other calibers. Procedures are the same with all of them. Smaller calibers work best with less powder, the bigger ones with more. Lyman makes molds suitable

for about any bore size you might encounter, so there is no problem there.

Seldom is much thought given to shooting anything but minie-type bullets in the rifled musket. However, patched round balls can also be used with a fair degree of success. Simply load them as for a conventional round-ball rifle, with ticking patches. Keep powder charges light to start—beginning at about 30-35 grains—and work up only to the point where acceptable accuracy is produced. The heavy charges often used in round-ball rifles are a bit much for the relatively thin-walled musket-barrels, so don't try them. Round balls won't do as well as the minie, but they are fun for plinking and short range work.

The rifled musket was all things to all men in war—and it can be many things to you. Serious competition in the skirmish tradition; plinking along the creek bank; or putting winter meat in the smokehouse. It can do them all—if you'll just take the time to do your part.



THE FN M1949

(Continued from page 23)

signed with a means of adjusting the power of the gas piston to accommodate variations in ammunition and temperature. A tubular gas regulator is screwed over the gas cylinder beneath the handguard. Removing the handguard provides access to the regulator. Screwed fully in, the regulator restricts the gas exhaust port, forcing maximum energy to be applied to the gas piston. Backing the regulator off opens the exhaust port, reducing the amount of energy applied to the piston. When fully open, insufficient force will be applied to the piston for proper functioning.

The correct regulator setting for a given load is found by backing the regulator off until the bolt is not driven far enough rearward to eject the fired case and feed a fresh round. From this point, the regulator is screwed back in progressively until 100% positive feeding and ejection is obtained. Screwing the regulator in farther than this simply results in an excess of power being applied, over-stressing recoiling parts.

In addition to this, the gas cylinder plug may be rotated 180° to close off the gas port. This halts semi-automatic functioning, and the arm may be fired as a manually-operated repeater by drawing back the locking handle after each shot.

Briefly, the M1949 functions in this

manner: pressing the trigger disengages the sear from the forward hammer hook and the hammer is driven forward to strike the firing pin which strikes the primer to fire the cartridge; as the bullet passes over the gas port atop the barrel, gas escapes into the cylinder and impinges on the face of the piston; the piston is driven rearward to uncover the exhaust port, allowing gas to escape and reduce pressure on piston head; piston drives the bolt carrier to the rear, at the same time compressing the piston return spring; by the time gas pressure has dropped, carrier has sufficient momentum to continue rearward camming the rear of the bolt upward out of engagement with the receiver locking surface; bolt is carried rearward with carrier, the extractor claw pulling the fired case from the chamber; as bolt and carrier near the end of their movement, the ejector strikes the base of the fired case and hurls it from the gun. During this rearward movement, the recoil springs have been compressed between carrier and receiver; these springs now force carrier and bolt forward, stripping a fresh cartridge from the magazine into the chamber; as the cartridge seats, the extractor claw snaps over the case rim and the bolt face strikes the rear of the barrel; the carrier continues forward for a short distance, camming

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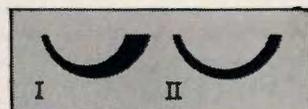
Auto/Range is All Automatic. 1. Spot your target in your Auto/Range scope. 2. Turning the knob on the range ring moves the top stadia wire, allowing you to bracket vital target area between the wires. This simultaneously rotates the trajectory cam, tilting the scope to compensate for bullet drop. 3. Now aim with the center crosshair — the cam has made your elevation correction. *SQUEEZE OFF YOUR SHOT WITHOUT GUESSING, WITHOUT "HOLDING OVER"*. By contrast, the best you get with so-called "range-finding" scopes is an estimate — you still have to guess and "hold over".

The capacity for accuracy of a new Auto/Range scope (within 1 minute of angle) far exceeds the shooting precision of most rifles and ammunition. It makes every shooter a better marksman at any range.

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Customized trajectory cam designs are the key to automatic compensation for bullet drop. Configuration of every cam model is matched to specific bullet caliber, weight and type (calculated by means of actual firing tests and bullet-drop measurements, not by published ballistic computations). Cams can be interchanged in seconds, so that Auto/Range scopes may be used with a variety of cartridges. Separate

custom cams for most popular bullet calibers and weights are readily available. Figure (I) is a representation of cam configuration for use with a 30.06 cartridge of relatively high trajectory. Figure (II) illustrates configuration for a flatter-trajectory cartridge, like a 7mm Remington magnum.



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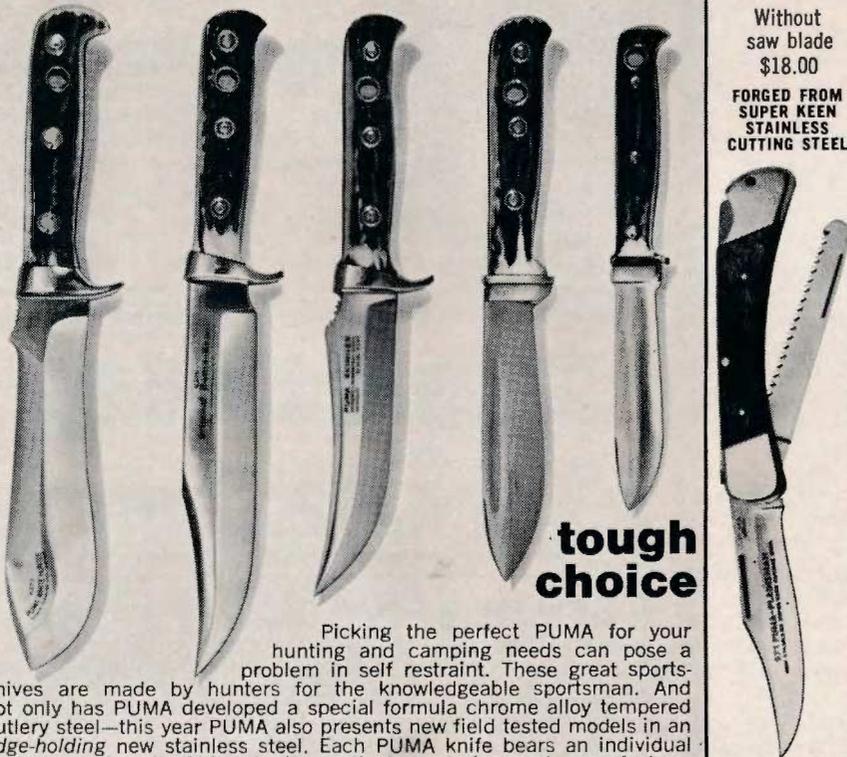
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the rear of the bolt down in front of the locking surface in the receiver; the carrier then halts, and the arm is ready to be fired again. During rearward bolt movement the hammer is forced rearward and cocked as already outlined.

The safety mechanism includes a variation of the one utilized in the Garand, in that the bolt carrier is designed so that it interferes with the hammer striking the firing pin until both the bolt is locked and the carrier itself is fully forward. Thus if the carrier is not fully forward the hammer may fall, but can only strike the rear of the carrier. It cannot fire the cartridge in the chamber. When this happens, it is necessary to pull back the cocking handle to recock the arm before it can be fired. The firing pin is automatically retracted by a return spring after being driven forward to fire.

The bolt is slotted to allow it to travel over the ejector which also serves as a guide. As the bolt nears the end of its stroke, the ejector protrudes far enough out from the face of the bolt to pivot the cartridge out of the gun.

The manual safety is on the right side of the trigger guard and is in the form of a rotating lever with a half round block which not only locks the trigger, but also drops its bar down to interfere with the trigger finger being inserted into the trigger guard. This is a warning that the safety is applied.

Of course, the question most often asked by actual or potential buyers is, "How in the Hell do I take this thing apart?" It isn't really all that difficult. Proceed in the following manner: Retract the bolt fully to the rear, and let it slam completely forward, making certain no cartridges remain in magazine or chamber; remove the magazine by prying rearward with a bullet point on the magazine catch, located in the slot at the rear of the magazine. Turn the serrated thumb piece at the rear of the receiver to the vertical position; press forward on the receiver cover (the part carrying the rear sight) approximately 1/4" until the dismantling cuts in the receiver are aligned with the retaining lugs of the cover; carefully lift the cover upward and rearward, taking care that the recoil spring does not jump out of the bolt and become kinked; retract the bolt carrier until it is properly aligned with the dismantling cuts in the receiver; lift carrier and bolt upward together, clear of the receiver; remove bolt from carrier to the rear. Reassembly is accomplished in the reverse order.

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gas cylinder plug by depressing hollow-headed pin on right side, then rotating plug 1/4 turn and drawing it out. Further disassembly is not ordinarily necessary or recommended. However, the other components may be separated from the stock by removing the stock bands and the three trigger guard screws.

Loading is simple. Pull the cocking handle to the rear and press the bolt lock on the left side of the carrier inward to hold it there. Ten single rounds may be pressed through the feed lips down into the magazine, a five-round Mauser clip may be placed in the slots provided in the carrier and the cartridges stripped into the magazine. With the magazine charged, pulling back slightly on the cocking handle will disengage the bolt lock. Then let go the handle and allow the action to be driven shut by the recoil springs. Don't "ride" the handle forward or you may wind up with incomplete locking, which will invariably produce a misfire.

Relatively large quantities of this gun were manufactured in .30-06 and 7X57mm caliber and sold on the world market. Subsequent to this, development of more modern selective-fire 7.62mm assault rifles caused them to be declared excess to their carrier's needs. These surplus arms, quite logically, were purchased by large arms dealers and have for some time now been offered to American shooters at quite reasonable prices. The rifles currently being sold are in excellent-to-new condition, and are the most aesthetically pleasing of all the full-power military automatics.

The M1949 looks good enough to tempt one into sporterizing it. Actually, not much can be done along those lines, but a new sporterlike stock can be obtained from Reinhart Fajen.

Scopes can be mounted in several ways. The Pachmayr Low-Swing mount fits nicely with only two holes drilled and tapped on the side. This mount can be swung aside to facilitate loading. Another mount, which requires no drilling, is available from Selco (Box 126, Gastonia, No. Carolina) and is priced at \$14.00. This mount fits on those rifles which have a dovetail milled on the left side of the receiver. This mount is quite high, and the original iron sights can remain on the rifle.

A Redfield or Lyman receiver sight can also be fitted by first cutting off the original sight to make room for the windage arm. Any such sight made for flat-side receivers will work, though those with short windage arms will require the aperture to be cranked well over to the right for ze-

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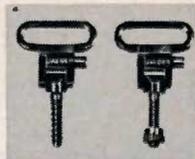
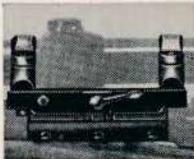
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roing in the rifle properly. With the exception of a few 7.92mm specimens captured from Egypt, all of the M1949 rifles I've seen were in quite good condition.

The M1949 rifles offered by Century Arms (see ad on page 13) were declared surplus by Venezuela, and are chambered for the 7X57 Mauser cartridge. Since there are few autoloaders in this caliber at the right are loads I have found to work well in the M1949.

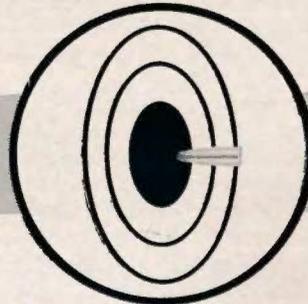
Those rifles offered by Hunters Lodge (see ad on inside back cover) are chambered for the .30-06 cartridge, and were declared surplus by Luxembourg. Any of the loads shown in the manuals for the .30-06 Remington or Winchester autoloaders will work well in the M1949.

Both versions of this rifle are of-

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Norma/154	4831/52.0	2640
Norma/110	N203/45.0	3020
Norma/110	N201/42.0	2275
Norma/160	N203/41.5	2500
Norma/175	N203/37.5	2250
Speer/145	4350/48.0	2700
Speer/145	4064/42.0	2700

fered in good to very good condition, and are in really fine condition for surplus arms. If you want a good, accurate, reliable military self-loader, you won't go wrong with the FN M1949.



POINT BLANK

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

THE GUNNER WITH a small hand has a lot of trouble getting his fingers around the six-gun grip so that he can handle the recoil. I often conclude that the successful handgunner had better have a hand that is not less than 7½ inches in length, measured from the end of the middle finger to the end of the palm. And that same hand had better be not less than 3½ or 4 inches in width with a trigger finger 3 inches long. With a hand of this dimension he can pretty well control the recoil of the bigger calibers.

The stock-to-trigger reach on the bigger S&W revolvers is 2¼", on the Colt Python it is 2¾" with the old .45 SA running 2⅞", and the .45 Model 1911 going 2¾" with the old trigger in place and 2½" with the new. Not only is it necessary to get the hand around the stock to control the up-chuck of the muzzle but it is also essential that the shooter reach the trigger comfortably too!

If the shooter's hand is on the small side, or he has a stubby trigger finger, then he must take an off-side position on the stock. This means, instead of positioning the gun in the natural fork between thumb and forefinger, he must shift the hand more onto the right hand side of the grip. When the gun recoils with this kind of a cock-

eyed hold it will twist upward and to the left.

Any handgun, regardless of caliber, is susceptible to the grip. At best this is pretty sorry for the reason that the hand has only four fingers and a thumb. The fingers support the pistol on the right side. Only the finger tips provide any support on the far side of the stock, which is decidedly unsound from a mechanical consideration. It would be a lot better to hold the gun in both hands, thus placing fingers on both sides of the stock.

With the one-hand grip the pistol, when it fires, recoils upward and away from the off-side support. This means that it rises and also twists to the left. At that microsecond when the primer flashes the pistol commences to recoil. This recoil is going on while the bullet is traveling down the barrel. Unless the grip is absolutely uniform from shot to shot there will be times when the muzzle will rise and twist more than others. This causes wide hits and poor shot groups.

Take the popular .357 magnum for example. This cartridge in a 42-oz. gun will develop seven foot pounds of recoil. The .44 magnum in a 44-oz. gun will churn up 18.50 ft. lbs. And the old .45 auto indicates 4.50 ft. lbs.,

(Continued on page 72)



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(Continued from page 70)

the new 9 mm S&W auto shows 3.1 ft. lbs. and even the .22 automatic has recoil and, while this is no problem, it is still present.

There is a tendency these days to make gun stocks too big. This is especially true of custom-turned grips. The big grip means that the shooter cannot get his hand as far around the stock as he should. As a result, it tends to shift and twist under the kick on the gun. If the marksman turns to the other extreme and uses stocks that are smaller he will find that he has the pistol under better control but then the recoil will punish him a good deal more severely.

Regardless of the size of the shooter's gun hand there is only one proper grip so far as strength goes. That is to hold the piece with a grip like iron! The gun wants to be grasped so tightly that the ends of the fingers all turn white. This is because all the blood has been pressed out of them. This kind of a pressure insures a uniformity of recoil, which in turn accounts for a sameness of hit location. The upflip and twist of the muzzle is held to minimum limits which in turn dictates where each bullet prints. When you first try to hold the handgun with the force that is required it will tremble. This will go on for quite a long time and the only cure is practice—both with the gun empty and loaded. Persist in gripping very hard and over a period of time, which may stretch into several months, you will finally achieve a grasp as tough as it should be and yet the gun will not wobble and tremble. Then you have arrived.

All our handguns are too deep in the receiver. Measured from the center line of the bore to the axis of support at the stock the big frame S&W revolvers have a depth of $3\frac{1}{16}$ " , the Colt Python goes $3\frac{1}{2}$ " and the old .45 Model 1911 runs 3". The only types that are somewhere approaching the ideal are the new .22 auto pistols. The High Standard ISU model, for example, has a depth of only $2\frac{7}{8}$ " .

Due to this ungainly depth of action, with a bore standing some three inches above the hand, the gun develops a number of faults. One of these is the ease with which it is canted. While the bore is three inches above its support the sights are even higher. Any cant in the sights is exaggerated at the target. Along with this, any tendency of the hand to tremble is accentuated and by the same token any slight twitches or jerkiness on the trigger is pronounced because of the depth of the action.

The cops have, in my opinion, struck



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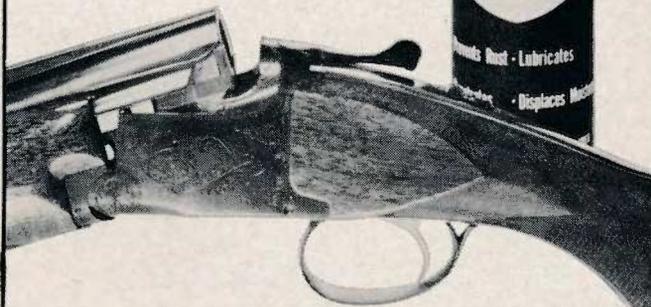
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on one of the best solutions to the recoil problem. Many of them in the seven yard stage of their practical police course, grip the revolver with both hands. This has a lot going for it. For one thing it is a damper on the up-turn of the muzzle, it provides the same amount of support on the left side of the stock as on the right so that the muzzle does not tend to twist off to the left, it permits a faster recovery for the follower shot, and it is steadier.

Handgun stocks are all designed to be held by one hand. Many of them, if custom made, are equipped with thumb rest and so do not lend themselves handily to a two-fisted grip. But there isn't any reason why the gunman who is determined to shoot with both hands on the stock cannot adapt the factory stocks to this manner of hold. After a lot of shooting with all the calibers, from the .22 auto to the .44 magnum, I have found that better scoring results.

It has been my experience in doing a lot of two-handed practice that the larger the caliber the more differences you will find in favor of gripping with both fists. This is especially true when shooting fast. Rapid fire. Take the .45 auto as example: the two hands hold the muzzle down out of high recoil and prevent the twist which the old gun wants to take at the height of its recoil. When this is dampened the recovery for the following shot is faster and there is then more time to align the sights.

It takes practice and an altered stance—full face—to shoot with two hands. After some training the gun can be held more steadily simply because two hands offer a better, more secure support than just the one. It has been my experience that with the two-hand grip that there is less tendency to flinch on the trigger. And this is markedly so when shooting fast.



RUGER BOLT ACTION RIFLE

(Continued from page 21)

long Mauser-type; proved over many years as a reliable, trouble-free system. The most recently designed bolts are of two pieces; the bolt itself, and the handle. The Ruger bolt is of one piece construction.

Think of all of the features you would put on a custom built rifle; integral scope mount bases; hinged magazine floorplate; adjustable trigger; sliding tang safety; quick detachable sling swivels. Well, the Ruger M/77 has all of these. One other thing that every shooter wants is a stock that is bedded perfectly, to prevent splitting due to improper mating with the recoil surfaces, and to assure utmost accuracy. Ruger engineers have devised a new stock bedding system, on which a patent is pending. Here's how it works: The heavy mounting screw, which goes through the stock at the front of the magazine floorplate and attaches to the bottom of the receiver, is angled to the rear. When the stock is installed and the screw tightened, it draws the barrel-receiver assembly downward (just as the ordinary stock screw does); in addition, it also pulls it toward the rear, firmly against the recoil shoulder of the stock. This system eliminates the movement of the barrel-receiver in the stock, and assures perfect bedding, no matter how many times the stock is removed. This is one of those things that is so simple, yet so effective, that you wonder why nobody

had thought of it before.

The Ruger M/77 is designed around a short action, and will be chambered for the many short cartridges which are popular today; the .22/250; 6 mm Remington; .243 Winchester; .308 Winchester. Later next year, we will see it chambered for the 6.5 mm Magnum, .284 and .350 Remington Magnum. These cartridges deliver ballistics and accuracy comparable to many of our older, longer cartridges, and they are well suited for just about every North American big game animal, and of course the full spectrum of varmints. Because of this short action, and the use of a 22 inch barrel, the Ruger M/77 is short, handy, and light in weight. The over-all length is 42 inches, and the weight will be approximately 6½ pounds.

Getting back to the stock once again, it is, of course, American walnut, with a rifle-type rubber butt plate. Hand checkering is done in a conservative, yet functional pattern, and the stock is finished with oil, hand rubbed and polished. Attached are the QD sling swivels, and an attractive pistol grip cap with the Ruger medalion.

Reading this far, you have probably been trying to guess the price of the M/77, and unless I'm wrong, many have been guessing in the area of \$200 to \$250. The basic price of the M/77 is \$160. This includes all of the features already mentioned, plus a



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set of Ruger 1" scope rings. At this price, the rifle comes without iron sights, but if you prefer them, they are available, installed, for \$15 extra.

This is only a preliminary report on the Ruger M/77, which our editors will put through all of the testing common with a new gun. When this is completed, a full field test report will be published. Yet, even this field test will be incomplete, for there is

more to learning about a new gun than merely shooting it for accuracy or taking one or two heads of game with it. The true worth of a gun is found only after one has lived with it for some time, and after it is in the hands of many shooters, each with his own idea of what a rifle should be. Unless I miss my guess, the Ruger will pass the test of time, the most severe test of all.



FAKE FORSYTH GUNS

(Continued from page 27)

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to maintain a high grade of work.

Before listing some distinguishing features of the genuine scent-bottle lock it will be useful to give a quick outline of how it worked.

The Forsyth lock plate was quite similar to that of most bar action locks; the unique mechanism was the magazine, shaped with a narrowed waist something like scent-bottles of that period. This magazine was pivoted on a steel shaft which was screwed at a right angle into the vent position in the barrel. The shaft was drilled through the center and channeled to form a contained flash chamber, the outer end closed by a screw.

A supply of fulminate sufficient for about 25 shots was placed in the base of the magazine; in the top was a steel firing pin. The magazine could be rotated on the shaft through an angle of 180 degrees and held in position by a stop, so that, in the firing position, the firing pin would be struck squarely by the hammer. The act of rotating the magazine measured out the proper charge of fulminate (detonating compound) into the chamber whence by a blow of the hammer the resulting fire was communicated through the drilled shaft to the main charge in the barrel. Forsyth locks of this sort were sometimes called "piston locks."

There are certain distinguishing features for which one may look when checking the authenticity of a Forsyth scent-bottle pistol, rifle or shotgun. Here are a few conditions which should arouse your suspicions:

1. Poor engraving and shoddy workmanship on the magazine and shaft.
2. No number on the reverse side of magazine.
3. No deeply inset stamp of the letter F and the word PATENT in a curved line on face of magazine.
4. Barrel marking FORSYTH & CO. LONDON in gold on barrel.

5. No taper to the shaft on which the scent-bottle magazine rotates.

Things to look for in the genuine Forsyth arms are:

1. The hole of the washer which holds the magazine to the shaft is not truly square but is arched on one side.
2. The shaft is tapered about 0.05".
3. All magazines bear a number on reverse side and an F centered over the word PATENT deeply stamped in the face.
4. Magazines up to No. 2100 were plain; thereafter they were engraved.
5. A quick release catch (as illustrated in No. 3084), making the washer and holding screw unnecessary, appeared on magazines numbered about 2450 and was used intermittently for several years.
6. Cork washers were installed inside the shaft aperture of the magazine to prevent a leakage into the storage compartment in its base. Screws to adjust pressure on the corks were used up to somewhere between the first 400 and 500 arms. After that straight slots were employed for the cork bushings and the screws were eliminated. You will note this change by comparing No. 205 and No. 982 in an accompanying illustration. Some shafts were coated with platinum to prevent rust or corrosion and to assure a precise fit for the magazine.
7. The first few hundred magazines produced did not have an annular platinum lining around the firing pin hole, but over three quarters of all genuine Forsyth magazines did have this feature. None of the replica magazines has this platinum lining.

There are some additional differences between the Forsyth arms pro-

duced at 10 Piccadilly or 8 Leicester Street and those produced in Mr. Swindel's back room, but the differences shown here are sufficient to distinguish forgeries from originals. Mr. Swindel has had some company, too, in the Forsyth swindeling business, but he was the major culprit.

Could Alexander Forsyth see the prices genuine works of his invention now command—from \$3000 to \$5000—he might dourly recall the very meagre returns he received during his lifetime. After a few years in the operation of Forsyth & Co., during which he spent much time in court successfully defending his patent rights against others who had sought to capitalize on them, the minister of Belhelvie returned to his parish. Belatedly, in 1842 the Lords of the Treasury granted the Reverend Forsyth £ 200 “for remuneration as the original inventor of percussion arms.” He died the following year and is buried in the Belhelvie churchyard.

Alexander John Forsyth had shown

the way. In that little “Smiddy” in his manse garden he had solved an ignition problem which had stumped experienced gunmakers for generations. Once Forsyth had shown the way, additional forward steps were taken by Joseph Manton, Durs Egg, Westley Richards and others. Finally Joshua Shaw, another amateur and a former sign painter who emigrated from England to Pennsylvania, produced the copper percussion cap. It is perhaps ironic that in his life-time Alexander Forsyth was honored only by an award of £ 200 for inventing the percussion system whereas Joshua Shaw was granted an award of \$18,000 for improving it.

Perhaps Alexander Forsyth's greatest reward was the high regard of his host of friends who always thought of him as “a godly man in the pulpit, a good man in the field with a gun, and a genius at his workbench.” He gave to the Forsyth name the lustre of commendable accomplishment and left it untarnished. 

DYNAMITE ON DEER

(Continued from page 35)

yard circular death run culminated by another shot in the neck. The paunch was homogenized just as in the lung shots. Now I'm reloading for my whole hunting party.

The technique of selecting a bullet intended for moderate velocities and using it at high velocity can be applied to other calibers with equal success. The table (p. 77) shows loads which have proven accurate and effective in the guns tested. Some experimentation may be necessary to get one-inch groups in your rifle.

You will notice that most powder charges and bullet combinations listed in the table are not in the maximum category. Maximum velocity with this type of bullet is not necessary. A .30-30 bullet cannot expand any faster when driven at 2700 fs than at 2500 fs if it is designed for 2000 fs velocity; unless of course the shooting is done at very long range—400 yards and beyond. All these bullets recommended here are blunt nose types designed for short range brush work such as the Pennsylvania deer woods. If you want long range shots, pick the Nosler bullets in spitzer type.

The loads suggested in this article are only recommended for thin-skinned game such as the different species of deer shot at moderate range in brush. These round-nose or blunt-shaped bullets lose velocity too rapidly to be useful at ranges greater than 200 yds. at most. For

long-range shooting, the spitzer bullet is necessary. For heavier game, such as moose and elk, the controlled-expansion bullets (Core-lokt, Silver-tip, Nosler Partition) do not explode prematurely.

Maximum velocities are not conducive to good accuracy. When developing a load for the 170-gr. HP in the .30-06, powder charges from 45 to 53 grains of 4320 could be used without pressure problems in my rifle, yet groups opened up to from three to four inches at the higher velocity levels. My uncle's pet load for his .30-06 Model 760 Remington is the 170-gr. Remington HP backed by 57 grains of 4831, a very mild load indeed. Although this load only gives about 2400 foot seconds, it kills just as well as a 2600 load; plus accuracy is excellent in his rifle.

It is somewhat surprising to find that some lever-action rifles and slide action rifles will almost equal the vaunted accuracy of the bolt action for three shots from a cold barrel. My uncle's Model 760 pump gun will place the first three shots in a 1½" group, and his son's Savage 99E in .308 caliber will put all the shots in a four-inch bull at 100 yards with open sights. I have seen another rifleman put six shots in a two-inch group using two different brands of factory 270 ammo with the 150-gr. load.

One disadvantage of these “dynamite loads” is that no blood trail is

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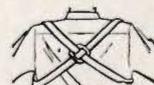
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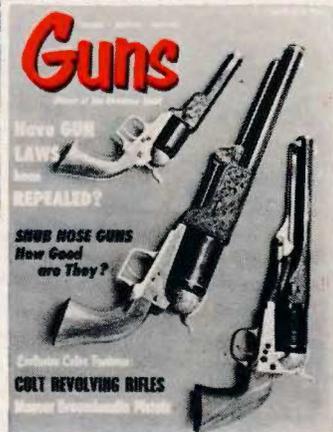
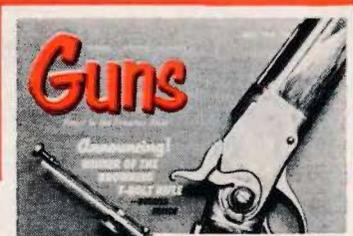
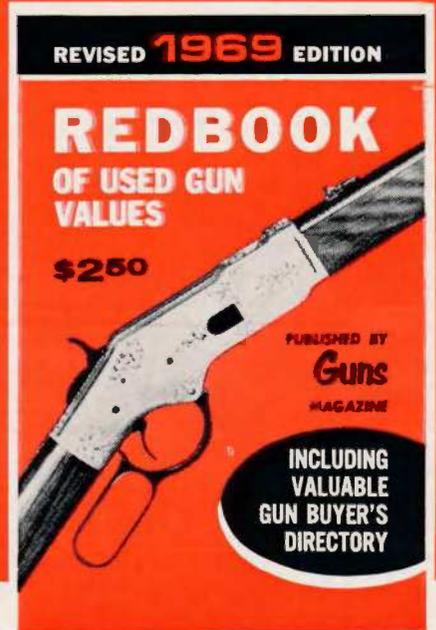
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left by a hit animal since the bullet explodes in the lung cavity. Actually, no blood trail is necessary since the deer will almost always be found dead on or near the spot where he was hit. The members of my hunting party have never been required to trail a hit animal yet. My father-in-law, who hunts in another party, used the 190 gr. Winchester Silvertip backed by 45 gr. 4320 for 2400 f.s. He hit a large doe in the paunch with this load. Normally, the deer would get away to die a lingering death with such a wound. However, this bullet, traveling more than 500 fs faster than intended, caused such a massive wound that the doe was found dead only 100 yds. away.

made on this subject, but the energy retained by a bullet after striking the animal, mushrooming inside, and passing through completely, must be substantial or else many animals directly in line with the first would not be killed by such "expanded slugs."

There are many cases on record where a hunter has killed two deer with one shot. If that bullet did not retain at least 25 per cent or more of its energy, the second deer would not be killed. This situation is highly improbable with a .30-30 bullet driven at .30-06 or .308 velocities. More than 80 per cent of the energy is retained within the impacted animal because of complete blow-up.

And what does this energy do?

Bullet Diameter	Bullet	Author's Suggested Caliber	Suggested Powder Charge	Approximate Velocity
.257	100-gr. Rem.	.257 Roberts	40-gr. 4350	2800
	SP CL #B22740	.25-06	56-gr. 4831	3100
.280	175-gr. Rem.	.280 Rem.	50-gr. 4350	2500
	SP CL #B22760	7 mm Rem. Mag.	60-gr. 4831	2600
.308	170-gr. Rem.	.308 Win.	41-gr. 4320	2400
	HP CL	.300 Savage	38-gr. 4064	2400
	#B22780	.30-40 Krag	39-gr. 4064	2400
		.30-06	48-gr. 4320	2600
.308	190-gr. Win.	.30-06	45-gr. 4320	2500
	Silvertip	.300 H & H	63-gr. 4350	2900
	#30195	.308 Norma Mag.	71-gr. 4831	2800
		.300 Win. Mag.	73-gr. 4831	2800
.311	180-gr. Rem. SP CL #B22812	.303 British	38-gr. 4064	2200
.322	170-gr. Win. Power-Pt. #8M17PF	8 x 57 JS (8 mm Mauser)	41-gr. HV-2	2500
.358	200-gr. Rem. HP CL #B22866	.358 Win.	48-gr. 4064	2400

The destructive power of these loads is not only dependent upon the very rapid mushrooming of the thin jacket, but also because all the bullet weight, and consequently all the kinetic energy, is retained within the animal. The kinetic energy of a bullet—or any moving object for that matter—is dependent upon its mass (mass equals weight divided by the acceleration due to gravity) and the square of the velocity. A bullet of 2500 foot-pounds energy which completely penetrates an animal does not expend all its kinetic energy within the animal; some kinetic energy is still retained or else the projectile wouldn't be able to continue on its way after passing through the animal body. I have never seen any studies

Energy is defined physically as the ability to do work—the work involved in destroying tissue. No matter how we go about it, we must destroy tissue in order to kill the animal. Under today's hunting pressures, where in some places the hunters are strung out on the ridge like soldiers ready to repulse the British at New Orleans, an instant kill is necessary. If the deer goes even 100 yds. before it expires, you might trail it to find somebody else's tag on it.

Today's factory bullets in the classic deer calibers—.30-30, .32 Spl., .35 Rem., etc.—are usually of the controlled expansion type. They work well on rear-end shots due to their slow mushrooming, but for lung shots they are not instant killers. By thin-



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ning the jackets slightly, exposing more lead or by some other device, these bullets could be made to upset more rapidly. For thin-skinned game such as deer, the fast-mushrooming bullet is the fastest killer.

Even the lowly .30-30 can be turned into a better killer by using .30-06 varmint weight bullets because of the thin jackets. The 110-gr. Hornady carbine bullet or 100-gr. Speer plinker can both be loaded to 2600 feet per second with the proper powders in this small case. This load is similar in energy to the 243 Winchester 100-gr. bullet. The factory claims a muzzle velocity of 3070 f.s., for this 243 load, but in a 22" barrel 2800 f.s. is tops and hot with most powders. The .30 caliber 110-gr. bullet has the advantage of a larger diameter to punch a bigger hole. The round nose shape enables the 110-gr. carbine bullet to be used in tubular magazines. For the clip-fed Savage Model 340 bolt action, the 110-gr. Sierra HP could be used—another good bullet.

The increasingly popular 7 mm Remington Magnum can also benefit by the use of faster-expanding 175-gr. bullets. Loading the 175-gr. RNSP (designed for the 7 mm Mauser at 2300 f.s.) to 2600 f.s. with 60-gr. 4831 in the Magnum case will give tremendous killing power with good brush-bucking ability and lower recoil. The 150-gr. load in 7 mm Magnum is a good killer on deer, but not as good at bucking brush as its heavier 175-gr. brother. Using the 7 mm Mauser bullet in the magnum case truly makes it an all-around rifle. Loading 170-gr. .30-30 bullets to 2700 f.s. in the 308 Norma Magnum or in the 300 Win. Magnum also makes them excellent brush-bucking deer-killers.

When a person tells me he uses his open-sights .30-30 because he doesn't want to spoil too much meat, I walk away. The next thing he'll say is he won't shoot doe to build up the herd, and we'll be off and running. If he doesn't want to spoil any meat, he should hide in a tree, jump on them as they pass, and slit the throat with a knife. I have seen more meat wasted from the traditional lower velocity deer calibers than from the higher velocity calibers like the .30-06 and .308.

If you're tired of telling about "the one that got away," try using the loads recommended above. I doubt if you'll ever be sorry if you stick to them for your brush work. To paraphrase the Kodak people, you pull the trigger and the bullet will do the rest. That five cent bullet is the most important part of the hunt—choose it carefully.



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RIFLE BULLET

(Continued from page 29)

blowed plumb through the jacket. This usually left the jacket in the bore. On the next shot a lot of things happened, most of 'em bad! These were stories, I never actually saw a single case of blowing the leaden slug smack dab through the jacket although with both ends of the bullet open I can see how it might happen.

Despite the fact that our bullet design is pretty old stuff we get awfully good bullets from not only all our major makers but a lot of the smaller fellows, too. George Jacobsen, who is the superintendent of bullet production at Frankford Arsenal, says that the goodness of the bullet is 90% of the success of the load. He gives the primer, powder and cartridge only 10% in the equation.

George says that it isn't so much the weight of the bullet and the business of keeping all the slugs to within a fractional part of a grain's weight that counts as much as the quality of the projectile. The uniformity of the jacketing material, the way that envelope is drawn in the die, the way the lead core is made, inserted, and based, is really what spells the difference! Jacobsen has been supervising the production of bullets for more than 30 years. He knows what he is talking about!

He contends that you can take a batch of bullets and gauge and spin every last one of them and thereafter shoot the lot and find out that performance is decidedly average. All at once, our Frankford Arsenal man has found a machine that has been producing top quality .30 caliber bullets will suddenly commence to turn out a bullet that will be as much as 30% poorer than it has done before.

L.E. Wilson, one of our greatest benchrest shooters, a tool & die maker and a master machinist, makes his own bullet jackets and so do a whale of a lot of other benchresters. Wilson finds that even with the best jackets, made by those smaller firms that specialize in bullets for the benchresters, some will indicate a greater thickness on one side than on the other. Townsend Whelen, in commenting on this (Whelen one time was in command at Frankford Arsenal) said a die might turn out a batch of jackets with as much as .001" thickness greater on one side than the other.

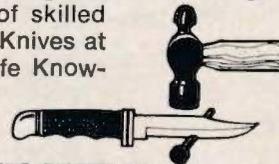
A bullet, to be truly accurate must, when it is in flight, present the perfect gyroscope. Its center of gravity must conform to its center of form if it is to

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perform like a perfect gyroscope. If, however, the jacket is a mite thicker on one side than the other, or the lead core has an air bubble in it, or has not filled the jacket fully and completely, then while the slug is in the bore it will of necessity be compelled to rotate around its center of form; but the instant it leaves the muzzle it will commence to rotate around its center of gravity, and commences to fly in a spiral. This also occurs when the bullet is irregular in shape, if the point is not uniform, or is not truly round.

No bullet is perfect, and all are to some extent unbalanced or deformed when forced up the rifle bore. All are apt to develop some air spiral, some may wobble a bit, and others tip at the nose. Sometimes a bullet will tip due to the base design. Gas rushes past the base and adversely upsets the tip just as the projectile emerges from the muzzle. The boat-tail bullet has been blamed for tipping and while it looks like it might be a culprit, the fine reputation the slope-tail slug has, for accuracy at all ranges, sort of absolves it on this score.

In the early 20's we developed a big yen for very sharp pointed bullets. The Germans had been the first with very sharp-nosed rifle bullets and, as they had succeeded in whooping up not only the velocities of their trusty old 8 mm Mauser by doing this and lengthening the maximum range of the cartridge when used in their Maxim machine guns, we decided to get on the handwagon. As tribute to the originators we took up their name for these sharpies, Spitzer, meaning pointed.

A spitzer bullet may have an ogive of 5 or 6 or even as much as 8 diameters. In the beginning this was not more than 3 diameters. These days such a slug would be dubbed a semi-spitzer.

Quite a lot can be said for the spitzer-pointed bullet. If it has decent sectional density it will shed less velocity than slugs with round or flat-pointed noses; it knifes through the air with less resistance, holds to a flatter trajectory, travels to greater distances and anywhere along the route if you want to make comparison it will deliver up more energy.

When the long, sharp, keenly pointed slug is combined with a boat-tail then it is really a geewiz number! It is usually contended that the angled butt isn't much good until the bullet has dropped below the speed of sound but this ain't necessarily so. If you will compare velocities of the .300 H&H Magnum in its 180-gr. loading with boattail bullet and with a 180-gr. flat base you will find that as

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soon as the two bullets—both starting at identical velocities from the muzzle—pass the 250-yd. mark the boattail starts to get the best of it. Naturally the farther it goes the better it looks.

The spitzer is a hard baby to stabilize. Reason for this is that the center of gravity isn't near the bullet's center. Take the old round nose bullet and you will have a lot less difficulty for the reason that the center of gravity is where it ought to be. A bullet with a long spire point and an angled shank of 6 to 9 degrees is inherently unstable. Speaking generally, such bullets need a barrel with a sharp twist to keep them point foremost. This is true even though the bullet may be fairly light.

This brings me to the point that rifles, too, oftentimes shoot poorly because the twist of the rifling is too slow. Get a longish bullet with an 8-diameter ogive and maybe a 6-degree taper on the heel and you will have to spin it very quickly. The longer the bullet, by the same token, and the slower it leaves the muzzle, the more abrupt the pitch to keep it point on, properly stabilized, and accurate. The rifling twist for a lot of our older calibers, most of which had diameters bigger than we use these days, had twists that were quite slow.

In stabilizing our spitzer with a quicker twist we have to pay the price of somewhat increased pressures. This is pretty academic these days. In discussing twists it is a safe rule of thumb to conclude that the proper turn of rifling is the one that is going to stabilize the heaviest bullet you will ever plan to shoot at the longest range the rifle will ever be used.

Despite all this comment on the ultra-sharp pointed bullet it is not much shakes as a killer. That long rakish nose has a bad tendency to spin off at an angle when it hits a bone. There is simply too much shoulder on the front end of the projectile. Too, it is a sorry sort of performer when it is fired through twigs, limbs, brush or jungle grass. Again that drastically sloped ogive tends to be diverted when it strikes vegetation between muzzle and target.

The bullet, once it has been turned from its path, either by bone, muscle, or a combination of both, has a bad habit of turning end over end. The M-16 rifle with its minuscule 55-grain bullet has a pronounced tendency to tip. The .223 bullet is a spitzer and to compound the thing it has a 6 degree boattail.

The better configuration for sure-fire game killing is the round nose or semi-spitzer bullets. These slugs do not tend to divert from the original



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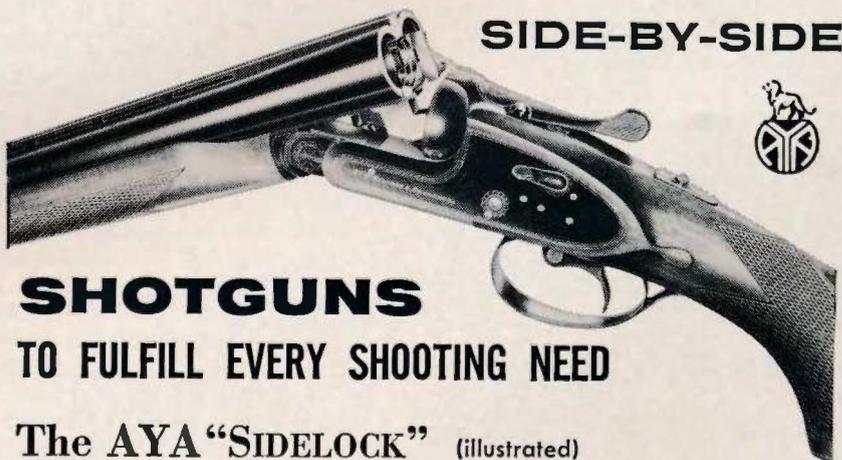
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ballistic path, and shear through bone and tissue without tipping nearly so badly. On twigs, limbs and brush the two are much better actors. When I hunt for real, as in Africa, Asia or Alaska, I forego the spire-pointed fodder for something not nearly so exotic. The round nose or semi-spitzer may not hold velocities as well, nor shoot quite so flat, nor retain quite the energy quotient at 500 yards, but when the bullet has good sectional density at my game-taking yardages, distances that are always on the short side, I find I anchor a lot more meat.

The bullet manufacturer is caught in a continual bind. He finds that he must make a slug that will kill a piddling little whitetail buck that weighs only 125 pounds at 65 yards and do this without making hamburger out of the hams. Then he must also provide a selfsame bullet that will go on out to 350 yards and there up-end an old stud caribou, retaining for this latter chore sufficient oomph to hit the critter in the butt end, traverse the hams, chop up the backbone, ruin the kidneys, tear into the lungs and cut the aorta. And all in the same bullet, mind you.

This is a real chore, and if we sometimes grow a mite impatient with the current crop of bullets just bear in mind these are some of the problems which face our makers. It is simple enough for the designer to provide a tailored slug that will kill whitetails and do it with not only the greatest assurance of every-shot success but also accomplish this with the destruction of a minimum of freezer meat. At the same time, and if you ask him, our engineer can provide a bullet that will shoot through a Barrens Ground caribou from end to end and not only do this at 350 yards but also at 550 yards if you want that kind of a loading.

But when we ask the long-hairs to combine these two dissimilar virtues all in one bullet it is a pretty tall order.

In hunting, I am not the Nimrod to go wearing out a lot of boot leather in chases after small game. To me small game includes deer, pronghorn antelope, caribou, goats and sheep. I like to hunt the big species and these begin with critters like wapiti, moose, the largest bears, eland, sambahr and tiger. By the same token I am not too interested in the smaller calibers. The 7 mm magnum is about the lower limit, and ordnance over .30 caliber appeals to me. In searching for really dependable bullets in these calibers I look for good weight, proper construction, high velocities and sectional densities that are high enough to insure reliable performance.

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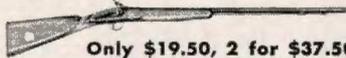
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part of a great many hunters as to the sectional density of the bullet. There isn't anything the least bit mysterious about SD. It is figured by dividing the weight of the bullet, expressed in pounds, by the square of the diameter, and then multiply the result by .7854. Not only does the slug with good SD fly through the air with a better retention of its velocity but what's maybe even more important—other things being equal—it penetrates and kills the more lethally.

In the .30 caliber—a great favorite of mine for most of the medium game around the globe—a decent SD figure is .270—this for an 180-gr. spitzer. Better still is the .30 cal. 200-gr. round nose with an SD of .301. Now that's a real hang up! Given my druthers, I'll shoot the .30 cal. 200-gr. Nosler around the world. With an attendant ballistic coefficient of .425 this is really a gee whizzer, believe me!

Another buster in the 7 mm magnum (.284 cal.) is the 160-gr. spitzer softpoint with a sectional density of .284 and a ballistic coefficient of .469. Better still is the 175-gr. semi-spitzer softpoint, with a SD of .310. Another good one is the .338 magnum—also the .340 Weatherby—which, with a 250-gr. bullet, produces a figure of .323 as sectional density.

There are a great many poor bullets from the standpoint of sectional density and ballistic coefficient. Take the .25 caliber family as example. The long popular .250 Savage loading with its 87-gr. bullet has only .188 as SD. In the 100 grain, it is a little better, up to .216. Best of the lot is the 125-gr. with an SD of .272. The .270 caliber, a long time favorite with countless American sportsmen, has built its goodness around a 130-gr. bullet. This slug has a sectional density of .243; and a ballistic coefficient of .365. A second loading for the .270, is the 150-gr. bullet; it shows .279 as SD.

To reiterate, the sectional density of the bullet, if it be on the high side, affords these advantages: 1) The higher the SD the less velocity is lost after the bullet quits the muzzle. 2) For a given muzzle velocity the higher sectional density provides a flatter trajectory. 3) For a given bullet construction the greater the SD the better the penetration on game. 4) The higher the sectional density the better the bullet bucks the wind. 5) Though not so desirable is the fact that usually the higher the SD the lower the muzzle velocity with a given chamber pressure.

Sectional density and ballistic coefficient figures quoted here for the most part have been excerpted from the new Speer Loading Manual.

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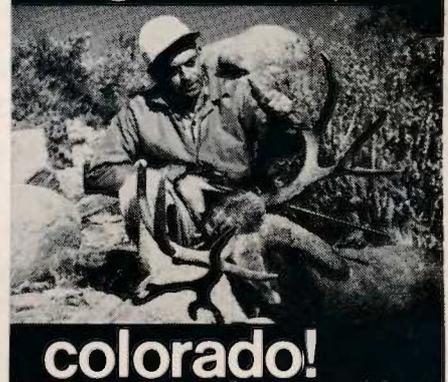
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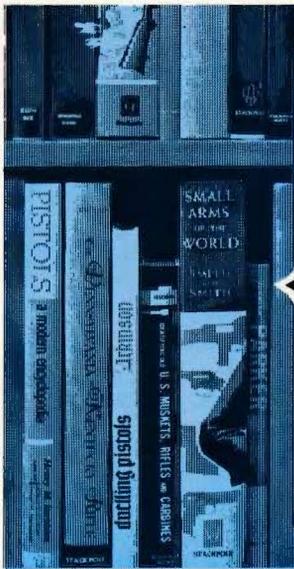
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