**OCTOBER 1961 50c** 

HUNTING . SHOOTING . ADVENTURE

<u>Ulk</u>

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

- WILLIAM B. EDWARDS Guns to Bridge the Weapons Gap
- BERT POPOWSKI Price Tag on U.S. Safaris
- COL. CHARLES ASKINS Who's Who in Hunting

ANSWER TO THE 'WHERE TO HUNT' PROBLEM

Wart Hog taken with the Deerstalker, March, 1961, near Lake Albert, Uganda, Africa,

# AMERICA'S NEWEST GAME RIFLE RECEIVENT OF A MAGNUM CARBINE

Proven on the plains of Africa, the RUGER "Deerstalker" carbine is a technological breakthrough for the benefit of American sportsmen.

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#### FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

OCTOBER, 1961 Vol. VII, No. 10-82

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#### THE COVER

The West hasn't changed much, once you get back from the highways where a working saddle and a working gun are a man's tools for the job as well as means for his pleasure. And the working guns today are very likely to be Model 94.30-30 and the Colt Single Action, just as in olden days. The little carbine won't reach as far, or hit as hard, as some others, but it will "get the meat" if you know how to use it. Picture is by Harvey Caplin of Albuquerque.

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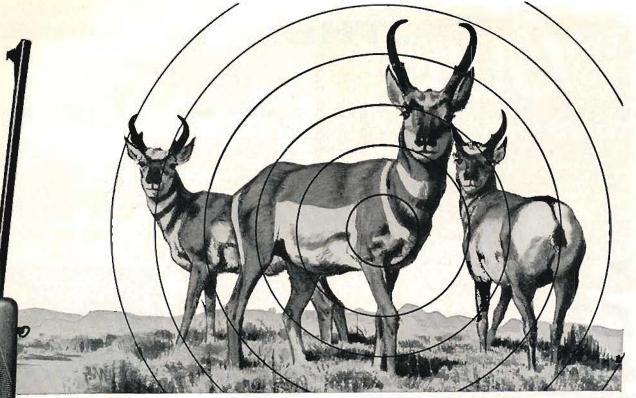
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(left) 99-DL... truly de luxe! New top tang safety is fast, quiet, convenient. New trigger-sear mechanism assures crisper trigger pull. Monte Carlo stock. Barrel length 24". 300, 308, .243, .358 calibers. \$132.50.



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AST JUNE I reported certain changes in our staff and told you that other changes were coming. Some of the changes forecast are apparent in this issue. Some of greater importance are not visible but will enable us to serve you better in the future than we have ever done.

EDITOR'S

Product testing and reporting will now be handled by GUNS staff and "guest experts" at our new range-laboratory being constructed at Tamarack Farms, a property of our publisher. The very best of testing equipment will enable us to report more accurately and more scientifically than we have done or

than any other magazine in our field can do, on guns, ammunition, and all shooting equipment. "Gun Rack," under the direction of Bob Steindler and with contributions by outstanding specialists around the world, will carry our reports and comments. These new facilities represent a major investment, which we know will pay off in service to readers and advertisers alike.

-



Harry Reeves, Pistol Master

New departments are in preparation for coming issues. One

is a voice-of-experience "how to" column offering advice and solutions to shooting problems—on the target range, at home in your workshop, and in the hunting field. The writer? Well, he'll be anonymous for the present; may, in fact, be plural, as specific problems call for specific experience. But there will be help here for novice and expert alike—from basic fundamentals to the things you have always suspected the experts knew but wouldn't tell.

We are extremely proud to announce also the addition of Harry Reeves to our Advisory Board, under the classification of Handgun Competition. Surely no man in the world is as well qualified to write on this subject as is the only man in history ever to win six National Pistol Championships. First man ever to break the mystical "2600" barrier, Reeves is still the Master of Masters wherever handguns speak for record. An Inspector in the Detroit Police Department, Harry will be retiring soon, will be a frequent contributor to GUNS.

The greatest names in shooting have appeared in GUNS, and this parade of bylines will be a continuous feature of our program. Stories in preparation now cover hunting from Maine to Hawaii, from Florida to the snowy tips of Alaska, from Sweden to South Africa. Waiting for the printer are new and strangely startling stories of military weapons, past, present, and future—the guns we had, and who destroyed them; the guns we have, and how we got them; and the guns we need and where we'll get them. But not all of GUNS will be the smash headlines; there will always be the basic fare of how to kill a woodchuck (or a squirrel, or a whitetail, or a pheasant), how to choose a gun, how to shoot it, or feed it, or fix it. There will always be, too, the still more basic fare of how to fight anti-gun legislation, and how to promote shooting.

These, plus format changes and improvements, will keep GUNS smart and modern in appearance as well an in content, maintaining its past, present, and still unchallenged position as "The Finest In The Firearms Field." If we fail to please you, tell us; when we do please you, tell your friends! Good things deserve sharing!—E.B.M.



Honor Roll

. Antietam Bull Run Gettysburg Shiloh Vick sburg acty Malion

#### DEDICATED TO





#### **CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL MODEL**

From Manassas to Gettysburg to Appomattox, both Yank and Johnny Reb saw their duty and did it ... more often than not with the Colt .44 1860 Army. So, a hundred years later it is fitting that a replica of that gun become the Civil War Centennial Model now offered by Colt. Scaled 1/8 size in single shot, .22 cal. short, the Centennial Model is presented in royal blue with gold-plated strap, and trigger guard ... the single \$32.50. Consecutive serial numbered matched pair \$59.50. See your Colt Registered Dealer or write . . .

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GUNS . OCTOBER 1961



Here's a new "progressive-type" reloader with engineering and design features that enable you, alone, to turn 'em out at better than 500 per, that loads any hull including the new plastics accurately and efficiently, that is safe, and that makes reloading economical.

500

You don't have to reload for years to make the new MEC 500 pay for itself either. If you don't do a lot of loading yourself, get your friends to go into group ownership. The MEC 500 is light, compact, and com-pletely portable. It can be readily moved from home to home. In fact, it doesn't even have to be fastened to a bench.

The MEC 500 is available in 12 and 20 gauge and comes completely assembled, tested and ready for use. Included with each tool is a handy instruction booklet giving you step by step procedure. See this amazing new tool and other MEC reloaders at your dealer now. If your dealer cannot supply, write to Mayville Engi-neering Co., Inc., Mayville, Wisconsin.



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#### RELOADING HANDBOOK

National Rifle Association (Washington, D.C., 1961. \$4.50)

This 223 page manual on handloading is a compilation of articles that appeared in "American Rifleman" over a period of years. This latest handbook contains 60 major and 45 minor articles, all fully illustrated, on handloading in all its facets. For the beginning handloader, this could well become a source of information on loads and how-to load ammunition, make bullets, and all matters pertaining to handloading. For the expert, it will be a constant reference source-R.A.S.

#### HATCHER'S NOTEBOOK

By Gen. Julian S. Hatcher (Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa., \$7.50)

General Hatcher certainly needs no introduction to shooters, many of us having cut our eyeteeth on the earlier edition of Hatcher's "Notebook." The recently revised and enlarged edition is noteworthy for its completeness and easy style. One is again impressed with General Hatcher's thoroughness and his familiarity with the newest developments. His deep insight into arms and ammunition becomes apparent on every page of the book. You owe it to yourself to read and re-read this book by one of America's outstanding firearms authorities .- R.A.S.

#### CIVIL WAR SMALL ARMS

National Rifle Association (Washington, D.C., 1961. \$0.50)

With the revival of interest in the Civil War period, this collection of six essays on small arms of that period should prove of great interest to the beginning gun buff. Illustrated in the usual style of "American Rifleman," where the articles were first published, one could only wish that more material on this fascinating subject had been included in this N.R.A. handbook .- R.A.S

#### FREDERIC REMINGTON'S OWN WEST

Written & Illustrated by Frederic Remington, Edited by Harold McCracken

(Dial Press, New York, 1960. \$7.50)

Everybody knows Frederic Remington for his drawings and paintings; perhaps not so many know that he was also a writer of real talent. Theodore Roosevelt, who had a very considerable first-hand knowledge of the west himself (as well as a talent for writing), wrote Remington: "You come closer to the real thing than any other man in the western business . . . Somehow you get close not only to the plainsman and the soldier, but to the half-breed and the Indian, in the same way Kipling does to the British Tommy." This book contains the best of Remington's writings, plus more than a hundred of his illustrations. A valued addition to my library, and I'm sure it will be the same in yours .- E.B.M.

GUNS . OCTOBER 1961

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For example, the actions are hand-fitted and hand-engraved. The construction is Monobloc (a Beretta exclusive on double barrel models), and the barrels are machined of the finest chromium alloy steel.

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#### That Cooper Cover

Several readers have admired the picture of Cooper and his crows, complimenting us on being able to show Cooper as a shooter for sport, not merely as an actor with a gun. That picture, and also the one of Cooper prone with a scope-sighted rifle, were taken by Lee Straight, Outdoor Editor of "The Vancouver Sun," Vancouver, Canada, during his hunting trip with Cooper a few years ago. --Editor.

#### U. S. Safari

I have just finished reading the wonderful article in July GUNS titled "Plans For A U. S. Safari," by Bert Popowski. This is one of the best and most truthful articles on guided hunting that I have ever found in any magazine. Against the crooked or inefficient guide the sportsman has no recourse. Did you ever hear of a hunter getting his money back after an unsuccessful trip?

Wilson L. Du Comb Carlyle, Illinois

No, but we know many guides who are neither crooked nor inefficient. A very few bad apples can give the whole barrel a bad odor.—Editor.

Bert Popowski's article, "Plans For A U. S. Safari," was excellent. Suggest he write another one including a good long list of questions one should ask in selecting a guideoutfitter. It would help a lot of inexperienced hunters avoid costly mistakes.

A. L. Arneson Morris, Minnesota

#### Suggestions Wanted

As a subscriber to your magazine, I want to say that you have some very good reading material. I am a life member of the NRA and an NRA Certified Firearms Instructor. I conduct the NRA Basic Small Arms Training School here in Bristol.

I read the article, "Good Gun Publicity," by William B. Edwards, and got to thinking, how could I get good publicity on my NRA Small Arms Training School so more boys and girls would register and take the course. I have had publicity in our local paper, on our local radio station, and also on television a couple of times. But I get the best results from the press. I also have given talks to Boy Scout Troops. What I would like to know is how I can stir up the interests of boys and girls and their parents in taking this course in gun safety. Also, I would like to get the word about the school spread to surrounding cities and towns. I thought it might be possible that some of your readers might have some suggestions as to how I can increase the registration in this school.

I believe that firearm safety training should

be as important as automobile driver education and I intend to do my part in teaching the juniors just as long as I can get them to take the course. Firearm accidents don't just happen; they are caused by ignorance or carelessness.

I would be glad to hear from anyone interested in my Small Arms Training School and how I might receive more registrations and publicity in waking up the parents to firearms safety training.

Ernest L. E. Hack Perkins St., Box 42 Bristol, Connecticut

#### One Man's Meat ...

I found the article by Chuck Dell, "Make Your Rifle Do Two Jobs," very interesting. The loads he recommends for the .30-30 and .30-06 are just about my favorites as far as accuracy and killing power are concerned. Not many hand loaders who write recommend the 3031 powder; rather, they tend to go for the slower burning kinds such as 4350 and 4320. I believe that 3031 is just about the best type for such loads as .30-06 with 180 gr. bullets, .30-40 Krag 150 and 180 gr. bullets and the .30-30 with 150 and 180 gr. bullets. In short barrels, this burns very cleanly and there is very much less muzzle blast than with the slower burning stuff. In the .30-30, I cut back the powder charge to 31 gr. of 3031, due to the fact that over 30 gr. with the Hornady 170 gr. bullet the powder is compressed in the case and I found accuracy was better if the charge were cut 1/2 grain. In the .30-06 with 18 inch barrel, I find

In the .30-06 with 18 inch barrel, I find that 44 gr. of the 3031 behind a 180 gr. Rem. Core-lokt is about the best killing load I have ever seen on deer. In the .30-40 Krag, also with an 18 inch barrel, a charge of 38 gr. of 3031 and a 180 gr. Rem. Core-Lokt are just about as good as any load.

As you may gather, I am very partial to the short barreled rifles for our type hunting. Short barrels are accurate enough, in my opinion, if a satisfactory load is worked out and adapted to the short rifle. This trouble with factory loads in short barrels is that factory loads are compromises for the general run, and I believe they set a standard of a 24 inch length and load to that.

Wallace M. Holden Jackman, Maine

#### Bouquet-or Brickbat?

My congratulations to you for a wonderful magazine and to Elmer Keith for his fine article which appeared in the May issue, "Recoil? Relax and Enjoy It." It reminded me of that old saying, "I like to hit myself 'cuz it feels so good when I stop."

Bert Q. Mimoso La Habra, Calif.

# GREAT GUNS

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Department B-10

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#### By KENT BELLAH

#### S & W .22 C.F. Magnum

S MITH & WESSON, creator of the Magnums, set a new velocity record with each new Magnum revolver they brought out. Now they have done it again, shattering their own Hi-V records with the "fastest of the hot-shots." The potent new S & W .22 C.F. Magnum revs up to a really fantastic 2460 [ps! The 40 grain jacketed soft point bullet starts on a mission of death and destruction like a Texas tornado with its tail on fire. The new speed record may stand for generations, or at least until new propellants are created. A short time ago the gun seemed as far away as the moon. Handgun varminters could only



The .44 Magnum, factory-loaded .22 Jet, and Sisk-Bellah pill in new Jet case.

dream about it in Technicolor. It takes out after meat like a hungry wolf, then gets the wolf.

The gun is quite versatile, converting to ordinary rim fire cartridges by flipping a lever on the hammer. Both firing pins are built in the frame, and are "floating" type, as they should be. Long rifle ammo is used in chamber inserts that come with the gun, or in an auxiliary cylinder, available on special order with a gun, or fitted on guns sent to the factory. At moderate range, .22 L.R. ammo prints pretty well in center fire groups, allowing low cost plinking with instant conversion to the deadly .22 Remington Jet C.F. Magnum. I consider this dual purpose revolver unexcelled for survival use, a real sporting varminter, and plinker.

Fitting and finishing is Smith & Wesson target quality. The target sights with a ramp front, and target walnut stocks are ideal for sporting use. The superb trigger breaks as clean as scored glass. You'll find the little blaster is extremely easy to shoot accurately to extremely long range because recoil is practically nil. The report is as loud as a .357 Magnum, with a rifle-like crack, but not as severe as some wildcat .22 revolvers



loaded full throttle for lower velocity.

Remington's Jet Magnum is the .357 Magnum hull choked down to .22 with a long sloping shoulder and a huge powder capacity for the small hole in the barrel. One round I broke down had 14.5 grains of powder that looks like 2400. It isn't canister grade and the charge is not suggested for reloads. It may vary in different lots, as factory ammo is loaded to pressure and velocity figures rather than by weight. Factory loads penetrate heavy steel plates like cheese, making large, %" holes that look like they were drilled. The same plates are dented by .357 Magnum bullets, that bounce off like a rubber ball.

Hunters will love the flat, 1-inch mid-range trajectory at 100 yards. By holding on the top of most varmints you'll be dead-on at 150 yards! Groups are good, even at 200 yards and more. It's like a compact rifle in ease of shooting, groups, and terminal damage.

Another rifle characteristic is shell setback if a round is fired in an oily chamber. The shell fails to grip the chamber wall, and set-back greatly increases the bead thrust. A .357 head develops more thrust than a smaller oue. Chambers must be clean and dry. Use carbon tet (poison!) or lighter fluid on a swab. High pressure is necessary for Hi-V performance. The gun will take it safely, like modern rifles and headspace, on the rim, is very close.

I had the pleasure of firing some Remington experimental ammo. Pressure was so high cases had to be driven out of the cylinder. Remington doesn't sell this ammunition, of course, but the excessive loads proved the strength of the gun. No damage was done, and not one chamber expanded. Sticky cases indicate excess pressure, if they were fully resized. You can not judge pressure by primers flowing in the firing pin hole. They can not erater with a floating firing pin.

As with rifles, watch for excessive bore leading before shooting center fire ammo after firing lead alloy bullets. It isn't likely since the guns are well fitted and the bores beautifully finished. But any revolver may lead at times with lead alloy bullets. I haven't had any trouble with rim fire ammo or cast bullet reloads to date, but I check all revolver bores and throats after shooting naked lead alloy bullets. Initial leading is easily removed.

Handloads with efficient bullets do more damage on varmints than factory loads, even at lower velocity. Factory pills penetrate well, but more deadly bullets explode as if fired from varmint rifles. The fastest, most violent explosion is with the 37 grain Re-(Continued on page 14)



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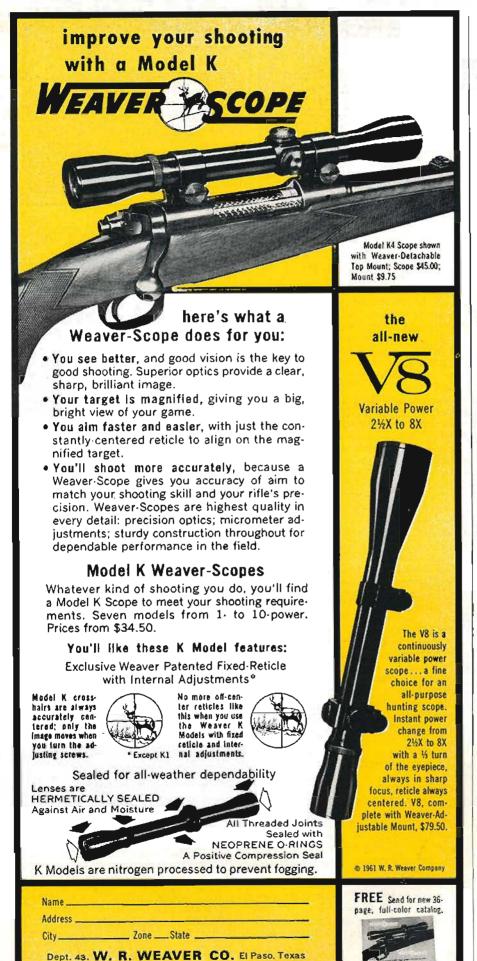
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THE WORLD'S MOST USED, MOST PROVED SCOPES

(Continued from page 13) volver pill I designed, produced by Sisk Bullet Co., Iowa Park, Texas. It has a flat nose and a deep hollow point in a soft lead core. The short, .320" jacket exposes plenty of the soft nose and in itself is soft and thin. Winchester made a quite similar design for their .22 Magnum Rim Fire cartridge a couple of years after the Sisk pill came out.

I had Sisk make similar types in 45 and 50 grain. You'll lose Hi-V shock with the latter. Some lads have used it with good results on deer. I don't recommend this heavy bullet, or any 22 handgun for deer. All the revolver pills work well in rifles for varmints with moderate charges. They were created especially for Harvey's wildcat Kay-Chuk, that I expected to spark a hot center fire varmint revolver. I think it did. Perhaps we'll have companion caliber rifles for the new round someday.

Pulling some Remington .222" Jet bullets I replaced them with 37 grain Sisk revolver pills. They about doubled the damage on jackrabbits. For reloads I worked up to 14.3 grains 2400, and decided 13.3 grains was an



Jet bullet expands with deep penetration, while Sisk-Bellah pill explodes.

adequate "heller" load in my gun. A load of 12.5 grains is accurate and potent, if you want less noise. The 8 grains of Unique did not indicate excess pressure, if you must use Unique, and 7.5 grains down to 5.2 grains is accurate. The 7.5 grains are pretty potent. All loads were ignited by CCI No. 500 primers. I found 12.5 grains 2400 worked well with CCI No. 550 Magnum primers. A Magnum primer is not needed with these powders, although they are excellent where needed. I recommend CCI No. 500.

Firing my 13.3 grain load into moist, sifted sand, the largest recovered fragment was 8 grains of lead and jacket fused together. Another shot gave a 5 grain fragment. Lead smears indicated complete disintegration. This is superb blowup. Jackrabbits were damaged more than with a .222 rifle, looking more like Swift damage.

Sisk's 45 grain revolver bullet performs dandy with 12.1 grains 2400, giving a whiter, brighter muzzle flash 12" in diameter. The 1),5 grains work well, and are less noisy. The Unique flash is oblong, while 2400 forms a ball of fire at the muzzle.

Sisk's 35 grain rifle bullet takes all charges listed, with much less blowup. It holds accuracy with 5, 6 or 7 grains Unique, all excellent loads for small eating game you don't want blown to Kingdom Come, and so (Continued on page 73)

14

GUNS . OCTOBER 1961

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gun to a rifle of excellent

Justly revered and respected by varminters, bench-rest shooters, and hunters, Sako actions and barrels have racked up an impressive record over the years. Firearms International now has on hand the newest Finnish arm-the Finnhear.

From its squared-off, modern fore-arm to the Monte Carlo checkpiece and fine rubber recoil pad, the gun is one of the nicest looking production guns I have ever seen. And it shoots like the proverbial house afire.

This new Finnbear has three locking lugs, plus one safety lug. The bolt face is recessed. the trigger pull is adjustable, the sliding thumb safety is silent and positive. The barrel is finely finished inside and out; Sako uses the cold-forming process to build the barrels. The gun I tested was a .30-'06, serial number 336. The guns chambered for the magnum cartridges hold four rounds, others hold five rounds of ammo. Trigger pull was 3.75 pounds as the gun came from the factory, and the pull was smooth without creep or hacklash. The gun without scope weighed one ounce less than 71/2 pounds; barrel length was 24 inches (for the .264 Magnum the barrel is two inches longer). Over-all length is 44% inches. As usual with Sako rifles, there is no rear sight, but a peepsight is optional. The hooded ramp front sight is of conventional design.

The gun was tested with factory and G.I. loads as well as with reloaded ammo. Accuracy at 100 yards, shooting from a wobbly



Finnbear accuracy is being checked at 100 yard range with match ammo.

rest (the ground was very soft due to heavy rains), was quite good, the gun grouping 1% inches repeatedly with a cold barrel. With a hot barrel, the spread increased slightly more than ¼ inch. Test groups were fired from a rest, and the few off-hand shots merely confirmed the gun's inherent accuracy. The Sako mount held the BALvar 8 scope safely, and definition, despite mirage effects, was excellent. I did encounter one minor difficulty with the gun; the extraction worked smoothly, but ejection was faulty in a fair number of rounds. In taking the gun down, it was found that the extractor needed

#### By R. A. STEINDLER

one or two strokes with a fine Swiss file. From then on, no more ejection problems were encountered.

The new Finnbear is in the finest Sako tradition and has my whole-hearted approval. A fine gun that will grace many a gun cabinet, the new import sells for slightly less than \$170.



Brass was not damaged or marked in function tests of new Finnbear gun.

#### Kodiak Model 260

Kodiak Manufacturing Company of North Haven, Conn., recently released their Model 260, a .22 RF Magnum semi-automatic rifle. After putting the gun through its paces, it is my pleasure to report here that it is superbly accurate, is a pleasure to handle and shoot. The gun holds point of aim very well, as was attested by a number of very dead woodchucks and gophers. At 100 yards, the gun held groups to slightly less than 2 inches, and at 50 yards, it was no chore at all to shoot groups that measured between 3/8 and 1/8 of an inch.

The gun is 40 inches long, with a barrel length of 22 inches. Without scope, the weight is approximately 61/2 pounds, plus or minus depending on the density of the wood. With one round in the chamber, the Model Magnum shells, and feeding is smooth from the front-fed tubular magazine. The receiver is grooved for the tip-off mount, and the scope that Kodiak sells for a mere ten dollars is certainly worth the money.

The gold bead front sight is very helpful, especially on dark days or when shooting against a dark background. Function of the gun depends on the blow-back principle, and thus the weight of the gun is quite surprising and is located forward. The two chromevanadium steel action bars go directly into the bolt, and the inertia weight is slightly over one pound. Twist of the barrel is 1 in 16, tests having shown that this is the best twist for the .22 RFM cartridge.

In firing, I encountered a few malfunctions, but let me hasten to explain that these were not the fault of the gun, but of the ammo. This cartridge does not burn all of the pow-(Continued on page 55)

Now from the famous gun laboratories of Winchester comes the greatest advance in over 600 years of gun-making: Win-Lite: the incredible glass fiber barrel.

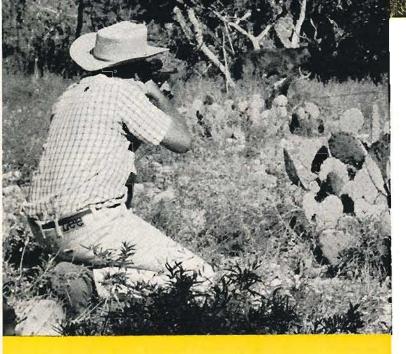
This shotgun is Winchester's Model 59. Its weatherproof Win-Lite barrel is made with 500 miles of glass fiber fused and bonded to an extremely thin steel tube creating a barrel much stronger than steel at nearly half the weight of conventional barrels.

The amazing new floating-action chamber reduces recoil effect by 20 per cent. The inscribed receiver is aluminum. It will never rust. The Model 59 weighs 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pounds. \$149.95. It is the strongest, fastest shooting lightweight automatic ever made. It is a totally new experience in shotgun handling. It will stand with Winchester's all-time greats.

SPECIFICATIONS - Action: Self-loading, non-recoiling barrel. Barrel: Available in 30", 28", 26" lengths and full, modified or improved cylinder chokes. Barrels are instantly interchange able. Stock: Checkered pistol grip and forearm of American Walnut. Capacity: 3 shells - two in magazine, one in chamber. Shoots Magnum 2 3/4" or field loads without any adjustment

WINCHESTER®





Author finishes off a Sika buck taken on Texas ranch. These crafty animals make hunt exciting.

# THE ANSWER TO THE 'Where To Hunt' PROBLEM

By BYRON W. DALRYMPLE GUNS • OCTOBER 1961

#### HUNTING BIG GAME, WHETHER EXOTIC OR NATIVE, ON PRIVATE PRESERVES IS NO LESS SPORTING, NO LESS EXCITING AND NO MORE EXPENSIVE, THAN "WILD" HUNTING

The Texas blackbuck, still in brown coat, fell to the .244.



THE MORNING was crisp and clear and from beside the open Jeep we glassed a distant lightly wooded hill, seeking game. Something big and brown moved over there —a rough haired animal as big as an elk. We had a good long look but could see no antlers. Then another big rangy form loomed out of the scrub cedar, and sun glinted unmistakably on a tall rack.

We hopped into the Jeep and worked our way along a trail that would bring us behind the big hill. As we rode, excitement built in me. Mixed with a wonder almost akin to disbelief. This rough, wooded region stretching around us was on the Edwards Plateau, in Texas. But the big hulking deer we'd studied through the glasses were native to a land far removed from Texas. They were sambar deer, from India.

We parked the Jeep and split up to try to drive the big buck into range of one of us. We were hunting on a privately owned ranch, and the deer were in a high-fenced area of only 800 acres. It would seem a snap to kill one of them. But I had been hunting for days and, so far, had had neither a shot nor so much as a glimpse of the game we sought until now. And I was to get very little more at this time. There was a sudden crashing of timber. Two bulky brown bodies burtled toward me, disappeared into cedars without presenting a shot, and larruped down into the rough canyon below. It was over just that quickly.

"So this is big-game preserve hunting," my exasperated partner blurted when we puffed up to the vehicle. "I'll never sneer at it again."

He was voicing the sentiments of a number of hunters who have tried it. To be sure, the subject has been a controversial one for some years. But today there are a great many hunters who welcome the chance to hunt big-game on a preserve. There is no question about it: the big-game preserve is the coming thing in many parts of the country, and in several areas it is already here. Not only is it bound to appear more and more with offerings of foreign game; it is my prediction that within a few years a great many preserves offering privately-owned native big-game will be in operation.

I doubt if most hunters know just how far preserve hunting for publicly-owned big-game has already progressed. Whether it is good or bad is a matter of opinion and has little bearing. The fact is, that it exists, and is swiftly growing. In a world whose population explodes, hunters crowd the public lands even in areas where there are millions of acres of them. Numerous hunters do not like this crowding, and they are finding that an exclusive preserve hunt costs very little more, sometimes no more, or even less than an every-man-for-himself hunt on public lands.

If we are logical about it, we are already using the preserve system to a great extent on millions of acres of public and private land where the game is state owned. Let us say that you have a stroke of good financial luck and are able to make a long-dreamed-of hunt far back in northern Canada. It costs you \$500 to fly in, and \$1500 for the hunt package. The outfitter has a territory in which no one else operates. It is public domain, to be sure; but the "public" as such will never see it because it is too expensive for John Q. Average to make such a trip. And so, basically, you are hunting on a big-game preserve. It is a protected territory where you have no competition from your neighbors, and for this, fundamentally, you pay handsomely.

Or go out to Wyoming to hunt antelope or mule deer. Or to New Mexico or Colorado. A very great deal of the land easily accessible to the average hunter is privately owned. The antelope and deer, to be sure, belong to the state. But more and more, in these states and many others,

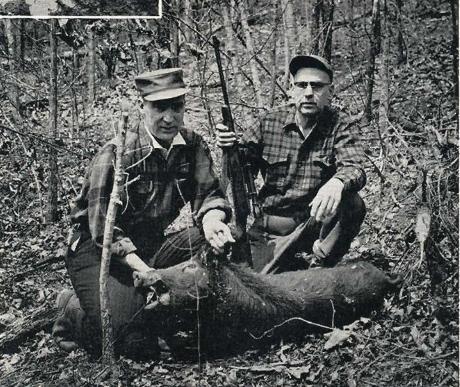


you pay the land owner a fee before you hunt. I know several Wyoming ranches that charge as much as \$50 for an antelope or deer. This, of course, is in addition to your license. In most fee instance of this sort, guide is not included. The payment is for hunting privilege only.

Not too long ago I hunted in Colorado in an area where every land owner had signs along the road advertising for hunters. Most of them charged \$10 per day for hunting rights. One I was on briefly took all comers. This practice of packing the property, of getting every last dollar, is certainly undesirable. It is one of the best arguments possible for the privately-owned big-game *preserve*, where the land owner also owns the *game* and is therefore forced to be concerned for its welfare, and for the welfare of his hunters.

In New Mexico, there are several large ranches where one may hunt elk and deer and bear for a package fee. The game belongs to the state. But because these ranches are well run and their game carefully cropped, by limited numbers of hunters, there is no crowding. One must purchase state big-game licenses, however; and this makes the price of the package rather steep. But that's beside the point. What I'm emphasizing is that these places—even though hunters may never have thought of them that way—are, for all practical purposes, big-game preserves. Fee hunting for state-owned big-game is already pretty well entrenched in one form or another over much of the U. S. today.

Texas is a prime example. I own a place there, and have spent the last four hunting seasons there. Years ago, all but a piddling amount of Texas land became privately owned. Texans do not know public domain lands as do the residents of many other states, and in modern times they never have. Therefore, a system has evolved which was forced by this circumstance. You must know someone who invites you to hunt on his land, or you must pay for "day hunting," or you must have a (Continued on page 61)



Tennessee game preserve hunting is rugged, even in special vehicle and hunters must shoot fast. This is fine boar area.

Lucky hunters connected with snapshot at running pig. Hunting costs run from \$85-\$125, depending on size of boar killed.

#### FOR COMPANY AFIELD IN YEARS AHEAD, THIS FATHER TAUGHT SONS TO HUNT

By RAFE GIBBS

THE WORDS came tumbling out of Chris, the spokesman, as abruptly as he and Gray had tumbled into my den:

"Dad, can we go rabbit hunting with Mr. Williams? He said he would show us how to shoot."

My sons, Chris, 12, and Gray, 11. . . They had tossed me a question I had not expected—at least, not so soon.

But surprise was not the only factor involved. There was a father's jealousy of a filial interloper, and he, my good friend, John Williams. Only one first hunting trip is given to a boy, and in this case I wanted the father to be the giver.

I had given my boys roller skates, sleds, bicycles. But these were such small prizes compared with a first hunting trip.

My own first trip came one morning in the Twenties in central Washington's pheasant country. And from it memories of a dog pointing a cluster of frost-sheated willows, the whir of accelerating wings, a wild, brown-camouflaged squadron taking off, the quick roars of my Uncle Ernest's double-barreled shotgun, two grain-fattened birds plummeting downward for Sunday's table.

I was 13, and thrilled. But I remember, too, wishing my father had been with me. He was not a hunter, however, and it had been up to my uncle to introduce me to the oldest sport. He let me shoot at the next flushed birds. I bagged only a beautifully purple and brown and green shoulder bruise, but I wore it like a badge.

And now it was my sons who would earn their badges. If the time had come for them to go hunting, it was my responsibility to show them the ways of the sport.

"No, fellows, (Continued on page 43)

Learning to shoot includes hitting bird thrown from handtrap. That is fun. Less pleasure is found in negotiating wire fence with empty gun and without helping hand.



Gray and Chris practice gun-holding under the watchful eyes of dad who looks forward to many long years of happy hunting with sons.

# FIRST of the GOOD YEARS



THE UTILITY gun was a fairly popular type through the 1920's and 30's, but was almost killed off by the National Firearms Act. This was due to the fact that in their original design, most of these guns had features that brought them within certain provisions of this Act. Under our present system of nomenclature, we would probably refer to them as "survival weapons," but there are distinct differences that set the old utility gun apart from similar types available today. They represent an interesting phase of firearms development, yet reference to them is almost completely lacking in modern text books.

The utility gun was introduced about 1920 and was largely the outgrowth or successor to the earlier "Bicycle" or "Pocket" rifle. The prototype came out about 1870 and faded away between 1918 and 1920 along with extensive use of the bicycle. The "Bicycle" gun was characterized by a short, 8 to 18 inch, barrel and a detachable, usually skeletonized stock. It was chambered for rimfire cartridges from .22 to .44, and some were smoothbored, using rimfire shot cartridges. There were also a number of long barreled, detachable-stock revolvers.

These guns followed the general design of short barrel, light weight, small caliber, and the detachable or folding stock. They were compact guns, chambered for the .22 rimfire and larger center fire cartridges, as well as shotgun shells up to 20 gauge. The "Bicycle" gun was designed primarily for hunting small game in areas that could be reached by bicycle. The utility gun was an auxiliary or secondary gun intended as a supplement to the rifle for taking small game or birds for the pot. It was also advertised for the trapper or farmer who needed both hands free in making their rounds, but who might have occasion to shoot predators or small game. In effect, it was a walking or pack gun, intermediate between the rifle and the handgun, with features of both. In the hands of the average hunter, it had a longer effective range, and was therefore more practical, than the pistol or revolver.

One of the better known and most popular of the utility guns was the Marbles "Game Getter." This was a combination, over-under gun with a .22 rimfire top barrel and a smoothbore lower barrel. It had a revolver type grip and a folding shoulder stock made of nickel-plated, cold-rolled sheet steel. The stock was swung back and held in place by a sliding lock when in use. It was unlatched and swung forward and down for carrying. The upper barrel used the .22 short, long or long rifle cartridge. The lower barrel was available either for the .44 center fire shot and round ball cartridge (it would also handle the 2-inch .410 shell) or the standard  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch .410 shot shell.

Barrel length was optional at 12, 15, or 18 inches. Weight varied from 2 lbs. 11 ounces to 3 lbs. 5 ounces, depending on barrel length. The action was opened by pulling back on the trigger guard to unlock, then the barrels hinged down like a modern double barreled shotgun. Plain extractors pulled the shells half-way out for manual removal. The hammer was of the rebound type with an adjustable striker that was set by the shooter to fire the barrel desired. Sights consisted of a 1/16" gold bead (*Continued on page 36*)

# THESE GUNS WERE OUTLAWED

BUT THE CRIMINALS THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO

HELP ARE STILL WITH US

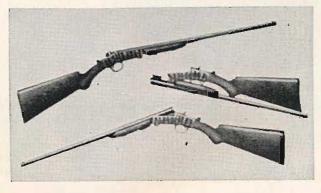
By FRANK C. BARNES

Savage Model 24 cut to 18 inches is used by rancher Bruce Grimes of New Mexico. Folding, detachable stock, right, is illegal under Act. lthaca's Auto and Burglar gun enjoyed popularity as protection and hunting gun, came in 20 gauge only, with 121/4" barrels, patterned well with all shot.

Stevens Model 35 Autoshot .410 single shot choke bored pistol was available with 8 or 121/4 inch barrel, as defense or small game gun, for shot or ball.

H & R Handygun, "ideal side arm for the hunter, trapper and woodsman," with detachable wire stock, was highly accurate .22 handgun.

> Forerunner of modern collapsible shotgun was this H & R Folding Gun with automatic ejector. Gun came in wide choice of gauge, barrel length, and weight.



Marble's Game Getter gun took .22 rimfire ammo in upper barrel. Lower tube took choice of shot, ball .44 CF, 2-inch .410 shell, or standard .410.

## The GUN YOU HOPE

By BILL TONEY

Colt Python in .357 is good defense gun.

ANY GUN MAY HELP, BUT SECOND BEST IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR COMBAT. HERE IS AN EXPERT'S CHOICE OF DEFENSIVE REVOLVERS

YOU ARE A householder, businessman, police officer, or in the military service. You have been considering the purchase of a handgun for self-defense, but you are confused by single actions, double actions, automatics, shorts, longs, specials, magnums, and so on.

First, for what purpose will the gun be used? The manual of arms may be practiced with wooden rifles. Window peepers may sometimes be frightened with toy guns, and some "speed cops" are overgunned with water pistols. The most important use that anyone will have for any gun is the protection of life—his own or that of a third party. The laws of justifiable homicide vary from state to state, but I know of none in which you would not be legally justifiable, the shooting

> Custom grips on this Colt .357 help absorb heavy recoil, give shooter better control over gun while drawing, combat shooting.

must be necessary, and the dangerous intent and actions of your opponent evident. This will mean waiting until he draws or raises his own gun.

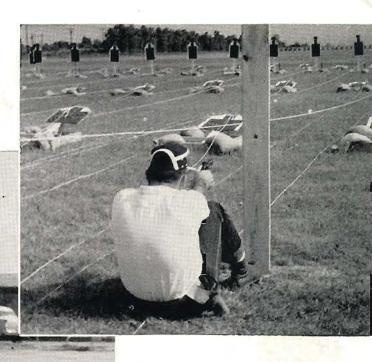
The primary consideration then is his instant immobilization. His hostile action must be stopped before the possibly fatal shot is fired, and you may have only a fraction of a second in which to do that. Your weapon must be accurate, hard-hitting, fast handling, and easy and comfortable to carry. Among those who seek the best handgun, the police officer will probably spend more time carrying one and is more likely to have to use it in individual combat with a determined, armed opponent than anyone else. What will best fill his needs? Would it also fill yours?

Our Government Model .45 caliber automatic pistol is an excellent military sidearm, and some very good foreign police agencies use automatics. And for many years in America—and until recently in some western areas—the single action revolver was the choice. Now it is generally conceded that the double action revolver is the best choice for police work.

There are minimum limitations on size, weight, and length of sidearms below which we cannot go without sacrificing power, accuracy, and case of firing. Beyond maximum limitations we sacrifice speed, handling ease, and carrying comfort. Police officers performing undercover work may choose a small, light, easily conceated weapon in the most effective caliber available. Uniformed officers wearing Sam Browne belts and outdoorsmen wearing heavy rigs carry revolvers with up to six-inch barrels and weighing up to three pounds. Four or five-inch barrels and 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> pound weights are good all-around choices for them or for officers in plainclothes, but not for undercover work.

Since some combat shooting will require aiming, sights are important. The front sight should be square, 1/10-1/8 inch wide, strong and sturdy, and sloped forward at an angle of about 45 degrees to prevent catching in holster or clothing. (*Continued on page* 64)

### You NEVER Need



Long barrels, holsters make drawing of gun from sitting position difficult. Six inch Smith and Wesson is handled easily by crack shooter Bob Gough of El Paso, Texas.

This is Bill Jordan's S&W Combat Magnum with grips of his own design. Jordan is a master of combat quick draw firing.

#### SHEEP HUNTING CAN BECOME AN OBSESSION, ESPECIALLY IF YOU TRY TO COMPLETE THE "GRAND SLAM" ON THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS

By DON DeHART

A

SLAM

ON

RAM!

THE EARLY morning sky was dull and overcast as I stood glassing some of the rough, rocky desert real estate called the Sand Tank Mountains on the Arizona maps. As I carefully looked over a high rock peak about three-quarters of a mile away with a spur ridge cutting off to the East, I spoke to my two companions, Homer Coppinger, a farmer from Echo, Oregon, and my partner, Austin Hall, a guide from Payson, Arizona. "Boys, this looks like good sheep country." Moving my 9x35 Baush and Lomb glasses slowly over the area, I saw what appeared to be a big desert ram silhouetted on the skyline of the spur ridge below. "Great guns," I exclaimed, "there is a big one." Homer answered, "I thought I saw something on that ridge too, but it looked too big to be a sheep. But, by jiggers, it sure is."

By this time all three of us had our binoculars on the ram. We watched him as he slowly moved along the ridge. He paused, shook his head and running a few steps, sprang into the air as though he were going to fight another sheep even though there were none to be seen. After this display he walked slowly out of sight. I had decided that he looked good and we should get closer to see if he was as good as we thought.

This was December 2, 1960, and the opening day of Arizona's desert bighorn sheep hunt. Out of eighty permits in the drawing, only ten per cent or eight non-residents from other states had drawn the lucky licenses. To say these permits are a much wanted item is putting it mildly. Arizona is the only state where non-residents who have bagged the other three North American Sheep can get a desert bighorn to complete what is called the "Grand Slam." In other words, join that select group who have all four trophies which include the Dall Sheep (white), Stone Sheep, and the Rocky Mountain Bighorn.

Homer had taken his Dall Sheep while hunting with me in the fall of 1957 in Alaska where I operate the Alaska Guides and Outfitters from my headquarters at Slana, Alaska. We had gone to British Columbia where Dennis Callison of Mile 422 on the Alaska Highway and I hunt for Stone Sheep at the headwaters of the Muskwa River. Here, we were able to get Homer onto a good Stone, which gave him a "half-slam" and made him a confirmed sheep hunter. The next two years, 1958 and 1959, he spent in Alberta after Rocky Mountain bighorn. In 1959 he made his kill getting a fine ram. Now he had bagged three toward the "Grand Slam" and of course, he had to try for a permit in the Arizona hunt and came out as one of the few lucky ones.

He drove to Buckeye, Arizona, where he met Austin Hall and me and together we headed for Gila Bend where we were to go into areas 39 and 40 for which his permit called. All in all, there were only fifteen hunters in the area, and Homer was the only non-resident hunter.

After going through the game checking station, we drove our pick-up and jeep some 25 miles into the area where we had decided to start hunting. We had tents, food, water and complete equipment and supplies for a stay of ten days. This country is very dry and unless camp is made at a stock tank there is no water to be found. I want to stress right here the importance of (Continued on page 51)



Pickup truck served as base camp in Arizona desert where sheep hunt took place. Plenty of provisions and water are needed in arid country to insure comfortable camp for 3.

Homer Coppinger, confirmed sheep hunter, keeps glassing the mountains even though he completed grand slam with record sheep that morning. Lucky break concluded hunt on the first day of season and in relatively easy country.

Sharing the honors with Homer Coppinger just after completion of grand slam is Arizonian Austin Hall who acted as guide on this once-in-a-lifetime hunt. Sheep scored 1683% in Boone and Crockett, was best Arizona sheep.



# PRICE TAGS ON U.S. SAFARIS

HERE ARE SOME TIPS ON HOW TO PLAN A BIG GAME HUNT WITHIN THE REACH OF YOUR BUDGET

Trips for moose can be costly, but the lordly trophy at rainbow's end is reward enough for many hunters.

By BERT POPOWSKI

AS A SADDLE-CALLOUSED vet of scads of trips into unknown big-game country, plus a dollar-impoverished victim of some of them, I've the deepest sympathy for eagerbeaver beginners who think such trips can be made for a mere pittance. For, unless they're coached by an old pro, they're doomed to some keen disappointments in both game and field pleasure.

Although I don't consider myself as particularly slow with a buck, I like to get reasonable value in return. Thus, I've had guides and guide-outfitters—there's a huge difference—that were absolute tops in their exacting professions; and I've had others—their billfolds bulging with what used to be my money—that I was glumly glad to see the last of. For, to a hunter, there's no sharper disappointment than having suf-

28

Luxurious accommodations like these, if available, cost plenty unless expense can be shared by several hunters.

fered a bum steer on what should be one of life's outstanding experiences.

For example, during one recent seven-day span I answered 27 letters from obviously uninformed big-game hunters. They'd killed their deer in their home states, perhaps added some turkeys and other wily game, but they weren't what I'd call "dry-eared" in this matter of hunting the game-rich western states. And the variety of their questions indicated that the available information had left them much more puzzled than informed.

The first query I fire at a prospective hunter is this: "How much money do you have to spend?" Some of them grow hostile at that, yet it's a fundamental. I'm chiefly interested in helping those hunters who can afford a good hunt only



once every several years. The guys who can afford Alaska or Hawaii can stop reading right here!

Basically, the plentitude of any one species and its areas of distribution determines its basic cost. If you're interested in antelope, bighorn sheep or mountain goats—all of which we're lucky to have to hunt at all in latitudes between Canada and Mexico—you'll need some expert assistance and advice. And if you want to bag a grizzly you're bucking 10,000-to-1 odds in those same areas, with the cost skyrocketing according to scarcity of each species.

The non-resident hunter who can afford a western hunt every second or third year might wisely invest in a whitetailed or mule-eared deer hunt in the west; with, perhaps, an acclimating go at pronghorn antelope in Wyoming or Montana. Where seasons overlap he might bag all three in as many days or, at most, within a week. Then, any spare time he has should be devoted to scouting up the best available accommodations for the more prized species: elk, shirasi (Wyoming) moose, desert bighorns and javelina of the southwest, to mention only a few. There are also treats of small-game and varmint hunting to enjoy, plus some superlative fishing.

Several eastern hunters to whom I've outlined trips of such

where success is often measured by fine physical condition, plus the usual hunting skills.

What such hunters can do seven days a week at home might cause considerable distress, even death, at similar western projects. Elk might be too much for them, especially during early-season hunts when they'll be 'way up in the mountains. So will mountain-living muleys, as distinct from those that live in the plains. Neither leave high country until forced out by snows. Such exhaustion risks can be minimized by the use of Jeeps and horses, but they all add to the total of estimated costs.

Another pertinent question is: "What combination of species do you want to hunt?" Most visitors want to try at least two kinds of big game; in fact, many western states offer combination permits with that very thought in mind. Conversely, some species are separated from others by hundreds of miles, often requiring additional permits in other states. Too, they may be offered to hunters during early, intermediate, late and, sometimes, special seasons to harvest the surplus.

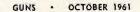
Finally: "Are you hunting for meat, or trophies?" It makes a considerable difference, both in the time and cost you should allow for the jaunt. Purely meat hunters can

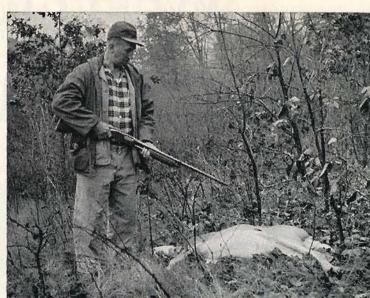


Cost of a bear hunt depends on your point of departure. Good hide is a worthwhile trophy, more useful than most.

diverse interests have since written me in delighted appreciation. They found western restaurants were willing to prepare some of their game for ou-the-spot enjoyment at rock-bottom costs, they met up with some salty westerners with whom they made fast friends, and their subsequent trips were often financially eased through such contacts. Some of my neighboring sportsmen are so fortunately located they can give visiting hunters hunts that'll be remembered for a lifetime.

Hunting several western big-game species invites another searching question: "What is your physical condition?" Visitors who are heavy with sedentary lard, soft from deskjockey jobs or, especially, have faulty tickers, shouldn't plan lightly on tackling sheep or goats; or plan on other species

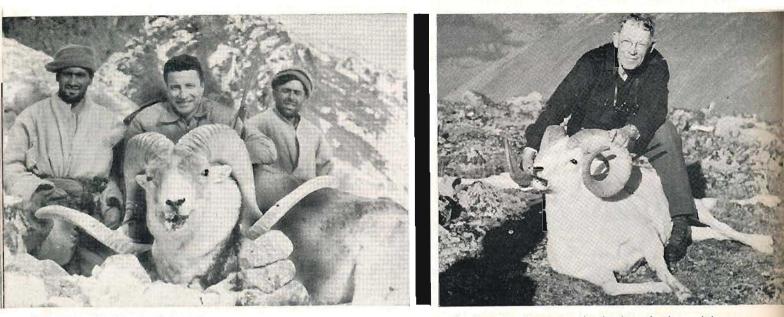




Wide spread of whitetail habitat makes this the cheapest hunt for most Americans. Meat value further reduces cost.

down the first representative specimen they see, sometimes from among dozens or scores sighted during any one hunting day—as in the case of antelope. But sheep, and sometimes goats, are different. They have to have horns of certain development before they're legal. And finding a fully mature muley stag, or a lordly bull elk or moose for its trophy value, can often run into lots of observation and searching. Pointing for a spot in the Boone and Crockett records may take even more.

The neatest package deals involve guide-outfitting trips. They vary with the region, the species of game, and duration of the hunt. Thus, it's always wiser to go to red-hot areas than to attempt to shave a few dollars off the daily charges by hunting in fringe areas. (Continued on page 57)



Elgin T. Gates with his record-breaking Ovis Poli, the largest member of the sheep family, both in body and horn, Jack O'Connor, winner of 1957 award, displays the out-standing Dall ram he collected in Yukon on his '56 trip.

## WHO'S WHO in BIG GAME HUNTING?

Herb Klein shot this exceptionally fine African Cape buff with 48 inch horns on his first safari in 1953.



#### By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

WHO ARE OUR topflight huntsmen today? We have 15,000,000 shooting men in this country, but who are the top guns within the fraternity?

This is a pretty sticky question because none of our fifteen million shooting men register the trophies brought to bag, the numbers of shots fired, the days afield, the dollars spent, nor the guns bought. It is a fact that many great hunters are scarcely known beyond their own immediate hunting lands. This lack of an accounting makes it something of a chore to assess the shooting accomplishments of the clan.

If we are going to single out an individual as our No. 1 nimrod what shall be the basis of selection? Shall it be by reason of game brought to bag, varieties collected, miles traveled, powder burned or the days and months in the game fields to qualify as our hunting royalty? Or shall we just look around and maybe say that the chuck hunter working a West Virginia sidehill is our choice; or the government hunter who yearly kills thousands of coyotes; or an Eskimo stalking our dwindling caribou?

When we bounce around the names of our all-time greatest hunters, the legendary ones, that renowned Kentuckian, Daniel Boone, almost always gets the nod as our No. 1 nimrod. Right after Dan'l, and practically in the same breath, someone always puts forward Davy Crocket; and after the hero of the Alamo there is Kit Carson, Buffalo Bill, Big Foot Wallace and a veritable regiment of others.

What did these pioneer hunters kill? Boone never tackled anything bigger than a bear, and one encounter has been retold no less than ten thousand times. As for the others, the stodgy bison seems to have been largest.

While our hunters of yesterday are pretty freely acknowledged to be our all-time headliners, their fame cannot rest on the size or the ferocity of the game bagged. True, the grizzly is sometimes a toughie, but there are other and infinitely more dangerous critters. Maybe then the renown of our legendary game-stalkers is more founded on the quantities of game fallen before their guns. Certainly in the case of Buffalo Bill this is probably true. Cody shot up the prairie bovines by the thousands. It gained him some measure of immortality in the hunter's hall of fame, and it certainly contributed to the decimation which the species suffered.

Our shooting figures of the past are reduced somewhat in stature when we compare their exploits with those of sportsmen from beyond our shores. Take Sir Samuel Baker, the outsize Englishman, who hunted during the tag end of the last century. This giant of a man stood bare inches short of 7 feet, weighed 265 lbs., and was so powerful he had Gibbs of Bristol build a 21 lb. rifle. This musket sported a 36 inch barrel and threw a 4 oz. ball backed by 16 drams of powder. When we realize the standard 12 gauge shotload today contains only 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> drams equivalent, we get some idea of the power of the Baker ordnance. Sir Samuel used this rifle for a full half-century of practically continuous hunting. He was wealthy, and the chase was even more than a passion with him, it was an obsession.



Berry B. Brooks, who was selected Outstanding Sportsman in 1951, with his very remarkable sable antelope.

He shot on every continent, including this one, and his bag of game ran into the thousands.

Of more recent times are the exploits of the incredible W. D. M. "Karamojo" Bell. This laddy, a Scot, hunting after the turn of the century, accounted for 1100-odd pachyderms during a relatively brief hunting period, and what is even more astounding, he used a 7 mm. rifle for most of the hunting. Anyone caught stalking elephant today with a pipsqueak like the 7 mm. would be tossed into the Nairobi pokey. It isn't cricket to shoot the lordly animals with anything smaller than the (Continued on page 44)



Some 147 carefully chosen trophy heads from all over the world grace the walls of Elgin Gates' trophy room.

### THESE GUNS COULD BRIDGE THE WEAPONS GAP

SOMEBODY GOOFED IN COPYING THIS GERMAN GUN IN WORLD WAR II, BUT THE GOOF COULD PAY OFF NOW BY GIVING US GUNS FOR BRUSH WARS



German-made evolution of MG42 (bottom) runs from MG34 built to "evade" Versailles treaty, through MG34 (Modified), MG34 S shortened for handiness, and MG34/41. "34" series have a rotating bolt; that in MG42 is Polish-inspired with vertical rollers fitting barrel end.

#### By WILLIAM B. EDWARDS

W HICH WOULD YOU RATHER BUY, a Volkswagen or a machine gun? At the same price, I'd prefer the Volkswagen; but today's citizen-taxpayer is paying \$1600 each to purchase America's newest M60 General Purpose 7.62 mm NATO-caliber "light" machine gun, whereas your VW costs \$1585 at port of entry. Included in the Volkswagen price are transoceanic freight, U. S. customs, and the profits of the manufacturer, exporter, importer,

distributor and dealer. The \$1600 contract price for the General Purpose Machine Gun needs cover only the cost of manufacture plus a nominal manufacturer's profit agreed upon in the contract and which is low enough to squelch any accusation of "profiteering" on the part of the manufacturer.

Although the man ultimately responsible for the development and okaying of this gun—Dr. Fred Carten of the Office of Chief of Ordnance, Department of the Army—told me that "this is the world's best light machine gun," there are some who question whether, with modern methods of fabrication, a machine gun has to cost so much. This is a matter of particular and immediate importance today, when Mr. K is rattling swords at us over Berlin, when we may soon have urgent and desperate need for a large supply of machine weapons to oppose the superior manpower that could be thrown against us in The Divided City.

We have the capacity to produce such a gun—or once had that capacity. Oddly, the very light machine gun which this capacity permitted us to produce was, during its brief moment in Ordnance history, a distinguished failure. It was distinguished mainly because the Germans from whom we copied it made good use of the gun in World War Two, so good (*Continued on page 37*)

Saginaw-made copy of MG-42 is like German gun in all parts but feed group, sights. For \$25,000 two weapons were made on standard tools.

Cal. 8mm German MG42

Feed group of MG42 (top) and T-24 is identical. American gun takes German belt using .30M2 rounds but jams were found which NATO round might avoid.

Cal. 30M2 U.S. T-24 LMG



# A Build-It-Yourself **PORTABLE BENCH REST**

AS EASY TO BUILD AS IT IS TO CARRY, THIS BENCH COSTS VERY LITTLE, SERVES MANY NEEDS

BY VERNON F. SCHULTZ

A GOOD PORTABLE shooter's benchrest can be built for \$12. This one is a dual-purpose stand, adaptable for the shooter who likes to sit squarely behind the gun, and also for those who like to sit sideways to it.

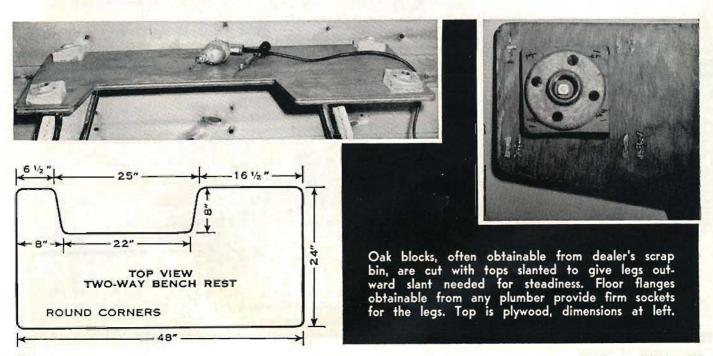
Main cost is a 2'x4' piece of 34'' fir plywood, interior grade. Make the cuts according to the sketch, round off the corners, then sand and bevel the edges, as fir is known for its slivering. Three coats of floor sealer, with special attention and saturation at the edges, will give a shower proof finish to the plywood.

Four blocks of wood, 4 inches square or larger, are cut to the proper angle. Oak or any other dense wood is best. (Most lumber yards have bins of odd size scraps for sale cheap.)

The block is the most difficult item to saw, but an error of  $\frac{1}{16}$  of an inch, one way or the other, will make little difference. Most important is to get the leg pointed out (*Continued on page* 74)



Bench can be used from side position, as pictured above, or from behind rifle. A permanent rest can be added if desired.





D YOU HAVE a friend who is a hot trap or skeet shot and/or fancies himself a great quail gunner? If you have such a friend (or fiend) and want to cut him down to size, take him at once to the Blaine Waite bird walks, three miles south of Hartford City, Indiana, off Indiana Route 3.

Some quail hunters have said that no clay target game could duplicate the field conditions of quail hunting. If there are quail buffs who hold this opinion, they have not yet tried the bird walks on Blaine Waite's farm. Here, Waite and his associate Guy Triplett have simulated every evasive tactic of a quail, and added a few variations which have not yet occurred to quail (thank goodness).

The operation has been open almost daily for a year, and as we go to press, no shooter has a perfect score on either of the two bird walks. One is a 25-target course, all singles, and the other is a shorter 15-bird path, with nine singles and three pairs of doubles.

One recent national trapshooting trophy winner had to be content with a score of fifteen on the 25-target walk. I was confident a new record would be set when I scored 19 on the first trip around. I'm still thinking up alibis for the lower score produced by the second trip. I had a little gun trouble on the short path, which I'm sure was all that kept me from a perfect score. I explained that I really didn't have time for a second trip with another gun. When my wife pointed out that I did have time, I suddenly became too tired for another trip (what I didn't want to reveal is that I'm going to slip on another barrel, and go back and mow 'em down). If I'm not at home for the rest of the year. try calling me at the Blaine Waite residence, phone 873 Ring 1, Hartford City, Indiana. Mailing address, R.R. 2. I still think those targets can be broken.

Without revealing too much of the set-up, I can tell you that as you walk down the paths with your guide, clay birds go zooming off in front of you, behind you, to your left to your right, and through brush or trees. At one corner of a field, you creep through a tunnel in brushy trees, then just as you emerge, out flies a bird in front of you. When you take another step, off shoots a bird to your left, through a screen of trees—just like quail.

You can warm up, if you wish, on regulation 16-yard targets, before setting out on the paths. Fees are \$2.50, plus shells, for the 25-target path, and \$1.50 for the shorter 15-bird course. A landing strip for light planes is located one mile from the walks, for the convenience of visiting sportsmen. No provision is made for alibis. You must provide those.

As we go to press, Waite is planning to

add a five-dollar bonus to the shooter who scores 20 on the 25-bird course, and a comparable reward on the short path, with perhaps a jack-pot for the shooter with a perfect score (if and when it is broken).

Dull!

**BY DICK MILLER** 

Future plans call for an all-around tournament, when facilities are ready, combining bird path, trap, and skeet scores for championship events, similar to the Williams Gun Shop All-Around Michigan championships.

#### . . .

Perhaps a movement should now be started to rewrite the Articles of War, stipulating that future military engagements be limited to the shotgun. The reason for this, after a long history of recent domination of International shooting events by Iron Curtain countries, the United States team won the World's Championships, at Oslo, Norway. Francis Eisenlauer, Col. W. C. Everhart,

Francis Eisenlauer, Col. W. C. Everhart, and Dr. G. C. McLaughlin teamed up to crack 585 of 600 International-type targets. An Italian team was one target off the Yank winning place, and Russia scored 582 for a third place finish. East Germany was fourth, giving the Soviet and satellites a stand-off in the place divisions. At least, in this engagement, the free world achieved a standoff, or better.

Mr. Eisenlauer tied with an Italian gunner for the World individual title he won in Moscow last year, but lost a shoot-off, 24 to 25.

This column has always maintained that North American clay target gunners ought to hold their own with the hest in the world. This news from Oslo seems to hear out this confidence in our marksmanship. Pull! congratulations go to the winning shooters, and to the rest of the American team, Sgt. William Abhott, Lt. James Clark, and Frank Little, all of whom shot well, and won gold medals in competition.

#### . . .

George White, personable manager of the National Skeet Shooting Association, reminds me with pride that skeet shooting is definitely on the up-swing in 1961. At the time of our conversation, 842 shoots had been registered for 1961, as against 720 in 1960. This is good news for skeet buffs, and a good trend for all clay target fans.

#### . . .

More clay target booming can be expected in the Northern Indiana industrial complex, now that the Elkhart Trap And Skeet Club is in operation. This fine new club offers the full range of clay target programming, including registered shoots, merchandise shoots, industrial leagues, and events for the beginner. The new club, featuring 4 fields and a \$100,000 clubhouse, is south of the Indiana Toll Road, on the west side of the Edwardsburg road. Note to other clubs: the Elkhart





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club will be a family recreation spot. Camping, playground, fishing, and picnic areas are included in the new lay-out, so that more Hoosier hot-shots will be in the making. (End of commercial for my home state of Indiana).

. . .

Also in Indiana, the Sherwood Club, Shererville, has added skeet to the already busy trap fields at the popular Northwest Indiana family recreation club. he did in earlier portions of this column. After the bragging about North American victories in International Trapshooting, I must now offset this by reporting that Russia took top team honors in the World Skeet championships at Oslo. The great Canadian Barney Hartman did uphold our honor with a second-place finish in individual, events, losing the title to Carlos Plaza of Venezuela by one target. The individual events were a battle of the Americans, North and South. The United States team placed fourth in the team events.

. . .

#### Ye editor has to eat some of the bragging in the tear

#### THESE GUNS WERE OUTLAWED

(Continued from page 22)

front and a three leaf, folding rear sight that gave a choice of a small U notch, buckhorn with large U notch or a  $\frac{3}{22}$  inch peep. A special heavy leather holster with shoulder strap and belt loop was furnished with the gun. Price varied from \$24-26, and an extra holster was \$2.50.

Another utility gun used widely was the Harrington and Richardson "Handy Gun." This was a single barrel, single shot, break open, shotgun-type weapon with a detachable, heavy wire stock. It came in a choice of calibers including the .22 Long Rifle, .32-20, .410, and 28 gauge. The rifled models had a 12¼ inch barrel, but the smoothbore offered a choice of 8 or 12¼ inch barrel. Sights were the simple front bead on the shot models and a low ramp combined with an adjustable aperture on the rifled ones. Weight varied from 33 to 42 ounces. The gun came complete with stock and a special holster for \$12-15.

Without the stock, this particular gun was nothing more than a single shot pistol in .22 or .32.20 caliber, and as such was not subject to the National Firearms Act; but it was discontinued anyway. Colonel Townsend Whelen wrote up the "Handy Gun" in the May 1932 issue of Outdoor Li/e, and had some very kind words for this gun on a big game hunt.

Harrington and Richardson also made a folding, single barrel shotgun that, in the light frame model, was something of a utility gun. This came in .410 and 28 gauge and had a 22 inch barrel. It weighed only 4½ pounds and folded into a neat little package not much longer than the but stock. It was intended as a light, handy, small game, auxiliary gun, but was too bulky to carry in a holster. It was discontinued due to lack of sales, not because of the National Firearms Act.

The latest models of the well known Stevens "Off Hand" or tip-up, single shot pistol were advertised as utility guns. These were available in .22 Long Rifle or .410 gauge only, and had 6, 8, or 121/4 inch barrels. At one time, detachable stocks were furnished for them, hut this was discontinued several years before the factory quit making these little guns. Many owners made their own detachable stocks of wood or wire as these guns were well adapted to such use. Weight varied from 24 to 34 ounces, sights were of the adjustable, open leaf type. They were priced around \$10. The shot version became illegal, but the .22 was just a single shot pistol that the factory discontinued due to lack of sales. The one fault was the firing pin, which could be broken quite easily by dry firing.

The Ithaca Gun Company, famous for their

shotguns, turned out a utility gun that was later advertised for police use. It was nothing more than a light frame, double barreled, 20 gauge shotgun with 12¼ inch cylinder bored barrels and a pistol grip. It weighed only 4¼ pounds and was made with a short forearm so it could be held in both hands.

I fired one of these guns once, and with heavy loads, it did require two hands, if you expected to have the gun in hand for the second shot. No shoulder stock was furnished by the factory, but it was easy to make and fit one that would fasten to the gun with a simple strap. The factory did furnish a special holster, the complete out-fit selling for about \$45. The gun was originally intended for small game, but just before it went off the market, Ithaca called it the "Auto-Burglar Gun" and suggested it for automobile and police use. It was a sawed-off shotgun in every sense of the term and the National Firearms Act put it out of business. It was, however, one of the most effective small game auxiliary guns ever made. Loaded with buckshot or the solid ball, it was a wicked killer on medium size game at close range.

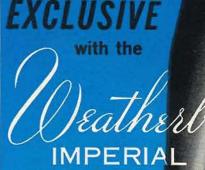
Savage Arms Company had a rather unique approach to the utility gun that should be mentioned. This was a single shot, .410 gauge shotgun barrel that could be used on their Model 99-G, takedown, high-powered rifle. The entire outfit could be purchased as a combination kit in a fancy hasswood carrying case. The shotshell barrel could also be ordered separately at a cost of only \$10. The .410 barrel required hand-fitting if not purchased with the original rifle. It was a very handy item, but was discontinued when Savage quit making takedown Model 99 rifles.

After the National Firearms Act eliminated most of the desirable features of the utility gun, weapons of this type disappeared for a few years. When they did return, around 1938-40, it was as combination guns or takedown carbines. Savage-Stevens brought out the .22/.410 over and under Model 24 and also a single barrel shotgun with an interchangeable .22 Hornet or .30-30 rifle barrel. Marlin had their Model 90 over-under available with a choice of .22 Long Rifle, .22 Hornet or .218 Bee top barrel and .410 gauge lower barrel. All of these guns had barrels that were too long; they weighed too much and were too bulky to be real utility guns. However, as primary weapons for small game hunting they had many advantages over the utility type and are still quite popular. The Marlin was discontinued in 1942, the Savage-Stevens Model 24 is still being made.

At present, we have two guns that probably qualify in the utility category. One is

the Armalite, AR-7 Explorer, and the other is the Firearms International Combo. The AR-7 is a .22 semi-automatic that takes down and fits into the plastic stock. Over-all length is 341/2 inches, takedown length 161/2 inches and the barrel length is 16 inches. It only weighs 2% pounds. The Combo is a riflepistol combination based on the Unique Model L22 semi-auto pistol. It can be used as one or the other by purchase of a rifle barrel and stock unit to go along with the pistol. The pistol has a 35/16 inch barrel and the rifle unit an 18 inch barrel. Both of these are very light, handy, and adequate for small game. The Savage Model 219 single shot .22 Hornet or .30-30 and the Model 24, .22/.410 are both rather long and heavy to be true utility guns. However, I have seen some of these guns with the barrel cut to about 18 inches and with takedown features. In any event, they are very handy guns.

The amendments to the National Firearms Act enacted during 1960 will now allow barrel lengths down to 16 inches, and this will make it legal to build small caliber weapons that will more nearly approach the old utility gun. The folding or detachable shoulder stock is still illegal, but the ordinary takedown feature is just as useful in practically all cases. The long barreled, "Buntline" type revolver made by Colt and Ruger lack only the shoulder stock to be utility guns. If the hunter uses both hands and a rest, the lack of a stock becomes relatively unimportant. The modern hunting revolver has, to a large extent, filled the need for a utility or auxiliary gun, as conceived some 40 years ago. We actually have as good or Better weapons available in this category as any time previously, and only the name and the shot feature appear to be gone for good.



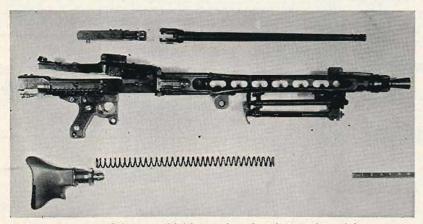
### THESE GUNS COULD BRIDGE THE WEAPONS GAP

(Continued from page 33)

that it is even today the standard light machine gun of the Bundeswehr and has been returned to production at Rheinmetall in West Germany at a cost of about \$200 each, in NATO caliber. The gun was, and is, known in Germany as the MG42. In the U.S., the record clerk in Springfield Armory's museum knows it as the "Machine Gun, T-24." At the offices of the contractor, Saginaw Steering Gear Division of General Motors Corp. in Detroit, it is known as the gun they couldn't get to fire right.

And yet the gun Dr. Carten calls the world's best LMG owes its feed mechanism and much of its bolt and mount construction to this German prototype. It is so much like the German gun that the noted German arms engineer, Dr. Lossnitzer, now employed by Springfield Armory, when he saw the first models of the M60, was overheard to say, lever and jerked the barrel to the rear as the casing moved sideways, forward of the breech. "We have hardly ever captured one of these with a had barrel," he explained, "in spite of their high rate of fire of 1200 rounds per minute." He pointed to the mailing tube carrying two extra barrels strapped to the skeleton tripod of the piece. "We understand their gunners have orders to change the barrels every belt burst, every 250 rounds. It keeps them from overheating."

I was impressed by the sheet-metal stampings and relatively low-cost welded construction of this gun, as well as by its novel recoil-operated engineering features. Especially interesting was the light weight of the piece. The gun could also be mounted on a bipod or on an elaborate tripod which permitted anti-aircraft fire. Low cost, ease



U.S.-made copy of German LMG was fitted with BAR bipod for test but either American or German style mounts, sights, could be used today.

"Well, I don't see where it is any better than our MG-42." Perhaps he was right: at any rate, Ordnance once put much store in this novel German weapon, as I learned when I first saw one.

The time was in 1943, at Aberdeen Proving Ground's huge Foreign Materiel shed. While visiting the arms display there under care of Colonel Jarrett, I saw a group of trainee officers being conducted around by a young Lieutenant of Ordnance. He was showing off an MG-42. Demonstrating the utter simplicity of barrel removal, he flipped the big of manufacture, were the keynotes.

Behind the design of this gun lay an earlier model, the MG34. It, in turn, was an upgrading of the Rheinmetall MG13. These guns were developed during the days of German Army limitation by the Versailles treaty. Forbidden to develop what antiquated arms design concepts called "Heavy Machine Guns," German ordnance in Germany and in collaborating factories abroad came up with lightweight guns capable of being adapted, as by quick barrel changes, to the tactical (Continued on page 40)

a on page 40)

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role of the Heavy Machine Gun.

Sustained fire, with mobility, were among the factors which impressed U.S. engineers in favor of the MG42, once we managed to catch one to study. Though internal bolt changes were made, the MG42 is a somewhat refined stamped metal version of the MG34. The belt feed, an excellent design shoving the cartridges out of half-circle clips on the link belt, though modified, is basically the same today, and reflects the one major belt construction advance over the old woven belts. Too, the MG34 and MG42 could be fed from 50-round belts curled inside drums that hooked onto the side like big cartridge magazines. Fed that way, or from "saddle drums" of similar construction, the guns were capable of being used in the assault in a manner only approximated but never surpassed by our own much-modified and heavier Browning .30s. The MG42 was a gun to write home about-if you lived.

So serious was U.S. interest in this design during War Two that we actually considered adopting this model and fabricating it in the U.S. for immediate use overseas. Rather than study it as the "hasis" for an American design, the contract as let to Saginaw Gear required the copying of the guns "to closely follow the lines of the German weapons, but incorporating modifications to adapt the gun to our requirements." Drawings were made of a captured MG42 and completed during June, 1943. The only changes made were to adapt the gun to our Caliber .30 Ball M2 cartridge, including necessary barrel internal modifications. The MG42 of course is normally in the original German 8 mm Mauser caliber.

Wherever possible, an exact duplication was made of German design and parts, and the American ammunition was used in the German open link belt. Two guns were constructed on tools fabricated by following the drawings. The two guns were not "experimental" guns in the sense that the word meant something wholly new and untried. The project as stated was simply to fabricate a copy of the MG42. Intent of Ordnance was, after testing to prove the gun had been copied correctly, to launch full scale production for the war emergency. The guns built by Saginaw Gear Division were fabricated on tooling built to permit this increase of production when the final okay was given.

Two guns, designed "T-24," were received from Saginaw Gear in record time by the Ordnance Research Center on January 6, 1944. Test firing was unsatisfactory, and it was recommended that further development work be undertaken before the gun be subjected to the lengthy and severe standard light machine gun test. The T-24 contained slight modifications of the MG42. The bolt was increased in weight, in an effort to reduce the cyclic rate of fire to conform to the average 600 per minute of U.S. requirements. A conventional BAR bipod was fitted in lieu of making up one like that of the MG42. As the weapons were received at Aberdeen without sights, a BAR rear sight and a temporary front sight were adapted to fit the guns. The buttstock was formed of sheet metal instead of plastic as on the German gun.

As modified, the average cyclic rate of fire was 614 rounds per minute. In the short 20 13/16" barrel, the average instrumental

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velocity was 2629 feet per second, with a maximum velocity of 2670 and a minimum of 2561, using standard M2 ammunition. Both low pressure and high pressure ammunition was used in the functioning tests.

Using 38,000 pounds-per-square-inch ammunition, three failures to eject, created by short recoil, were recorded. Gun operation was satisfactory during 50 rounds fired with high pressure 55,000 p.s.i. ammunition.

The endurance test was started, but excessive failures to eject occurred. It was found that short 2- and 3-round bursts could be achieved without any gun malfunctions, but continuous fire created occasional jams and malfunctions. Single shots could not be obtained, as the weapon was not provided with a control for this type of fire; it followed the German fully-automatic original. At full automatic, 14 short recoils (failures of the bolt to carry fully to rear, thereby ejecting the fired case clear), and one failure to feed, were recorded. Three hundred rounds were then fired in intermittent short and long bursts. Two failures to feed, two short recoils, and one ruptured case were experienced.

Various adjustments and substitution of parts were tried without success. In all, 1,583 rounds were fired, with a total of 51 malfunctions. Had the gun passed even this test, they would have been produced for the emergency and considered as "limited standard." They were still superior in many ways to our Brownings.

According to Col. George M. Chinn's "The Machine Gun" (Vol. 1), published by the Bureau of Naval Ordnance as a synthesis of machine gun designing through the ages, investigation revealed "that inadequate compensation for the difference between cartridge length of our caliber .30 M2 and the German 8 mm cartridge case had been made, and that the receiver on the American version was too long. The rear lugs on the bolt body also had not been placed far enough back to allow the bolt face to recoil behind the ejection slot in the bottom of the receiver. As a result, the receiver yoke interfered with the cartridge guide plate by as much as a quarter of an inch."

The project was stopped, and the two models were ultimately delivered to Springfield Armory as muscum specimens of a costly failure by the Industry-Ordnance Team to come up with the goods.

The gods of irony must have been laughing, for the failure of some unsung Saginaw engineer to correctly compensate for the cartridge length (which in the case of the M2 is about 3/4" longer than the standard German round), created a gun that today could be of great value. Today, our standard cartridge is not only shorter than the .30 M2. but shorter by nearly 1/4" than the 8 mm Mauser. As anyone knows who has converted a Mauser 98 to another cartridge, complications arise if you alter it to a longer case length; but if the new load is the same, or shorter, the job is easy. While changes in autoloading mechanisms, as in the MG42, are not so simply done, the Germans today find conversion of their MG42 to the new. shorter 7.62 mm NATO a fairly easy matter. Currently, the Bundeswehr is using Wartime MG42s with new barrels in them made by the FN in Belgium on special contract.

I saw these barrels being proof tested in







the Liege Proof House test branch at the FN. Two old MG42s were fixed in the proof bunker. Barrels were slapped in, the top cover raised, a strip of 20 shots placed across it, and the barrel fired. Each gun had, I was told, run more than seventy thousand shots on full-automatic in accepting barrels for the Bundeswehr. Today, the West Germans are again producing MG42, post-war model in the new caliber, but very like the old in parts and construction. Apparently, Rheinmetall had no real problems in copying the MG42 for the new, shorter cartridge.

Today, if the Saginaw tools have not rusted into uselessness, or if they have not been lost or thriftily sold as scrap, we have a potential gold mine in tax savings in this equipment. Cleaned up, set into a production line and put to making MG42-NATO parts, this wasted program of wartime haste could be made to pay unexpected dividends. The MG42 is enough like the M60 to be similar from a training point of view. During our present emergency shortage of weapons, just as in War Two, the American MG42-NATO could be classified Limited Standard and serve a valuable need in bolstering our weapons-short troops in Western Europe. Instead of a special gun unfamiliar to the German Ordnance (upon whom we would have to rely in part in an emergency), we would have guns which are, wherever possible, "an exact duplication of the German design and parts."

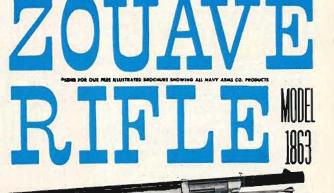
The new German gun costs between \$200 and \$300, depending on accessory equipment, Our expensive, riveted-together Heavy cal. .50 Browning only costs \$750. The U.S. version MG42-NATO in mass production could



hardly cost more than double the German price—considerably less than a Volkswagen! For each machine gun, produced, the taxpayer would have \$1200 left over to put into the civilian economy for greater prosperity; or for each \$1600 now spent on a gun top designers don't "see where it is any better than the MG42," four guns could be produced for the price of one.

As those conventional hard-hitting Red Divisions build up in East Germany around Berlin, it would be a comfort to the Berlin Garrison to know it was getting firepower in quantity, fast and cheap. Can we put our MG42s into the line in time?

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42

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### FIRST OF THE GOOD YEARS

(Continued from page 21)

I don't want you to go rabbit hunting today with John Williams--because I want to take you hunting myself, next Saturday."

Hunting day. On the fringe of the timbered Thatuna Range of northern Idaho, we parked our car. Here among the protective pines was game to be had in good measure. In our Idaho mountains today are more deer, elk, bear and rabbits than Lewis and Clark knew early in the 19th century.

For a quick brush-up (we had practiced earlier on grandpa's farm), we held target practice on inanimate objects before moving on to the rabbit rendezvous. The targets selected were grounded pine cones, because I wanted to impress on the boys that they should not fire a rifle without seeing a backstop of earth. ,.

Chris got first shot, and promptly jumped a cone at 25 yards. "My first cone!" he shouted. "I'm going

to shellac it and keep it on my desk for a paper weight."

Gray, considerably smaller than Chris, then aimed weavingly at another cone, and clipped off a twig a yard to port.

"My first twig!" he cried. "I'm going to shellae it, and keep it for a ... a ... well, I'm going to keep it.'

Surprisingly, with no protest on Gray's part, it was agreed that perhaps he wasn't up to rabbits yet, and Chris and I would do the shooting. And also, with no protest from Chris, it was decided that-for demonstration purposes-I would take the first shot. This was big stuff in the big outdoors, no place for pettiness.

Winter was nudging fall, and three inches of fairly fresh snow lay soft on the groundideal for rabbit hunting. Rabbits, being very busy animals, make a lot of tracks in a lot of directions, but they usually follow courses with a minimum of rock and timber obstacles. We looked for such courses.

Coming upon one, I thought it was devoid of furred traffic, but out of the corner of my eye I spotted a cottontail diving off a pine stump. Throwing up my rifle, I fired in that instant during which a rabbit almost invariably pauses for a last look before taking cover. I missed.

"Why didn't you shoot him while he was running?" demanded Chris.

"It takes a better shot than your dad to be fairly certain of killing a zig-zagging rabbit with a rifle," I grinned. "And before you shoot at any animal you should be pretty sure of killing it. Crippled animals suffer, so we'll try to hit a rabbit when it's pausing."

"Well, I saw that rabbit-uh-pausing for quite a while on the stump," offered Gray, "Why didn't you tell me?"

"God made the rabbit so pretty I didn't want it killed."

As I fumbled for an answer, Chris came up with:

"Gray, don't you ever hold out again! God made the rabbit pretty, but He made it for people's food, too.

The next time Gray spotted a rabbit he told with a nudge of Chris' arm, which now cradled the rifle. Chris fired, but the shot



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went high, and the rabbit low.

Again I took the rifle. I wanted very much to get something for the pot. The boys expected it of me, and this was the one trip on which I did not want to let them down.

With this thought still weighing heavily upon me 20 minutes later, I noticed a cottontail creeping out of bramble hiding.

"You got him! You got him!" chorused two boys. Gray was first to the rabbit, and held it high.

"Is More ever going to be surprised! You know, Dad, when she wished us luck this morning I betcha she didn't really think we'd get anything."

The eternal thrill of man in bringing home game to doubting woman!

All morning we had been crossing deer tracks—old tracks—but now we came upon fresh imprints. Crisp in the snow. Made within the hour.

"Oh, boy!" said Chris. "Let's get a deer, and really surprise Mom."

I explained that we could not do that on two counts: Deer hunting season was not open, and it is always illegal in Idabo to shoot a deer with a .22.

"Well, let's follow the deer tracks, anyway," countered Chris. "It's no fun hunting unless you're following something—and I don't see any rabbit tracks around here."

The deer tracks were worth following, too. The toe drag and spread between the hoof prints indicated a big buck. In this part of the range, probably a whitetail. We followed.

Nibbled brush was still moist. Our quarry could not be far away. But we trudged a half-mile through the hush of the woods. Then it was a mile.

"Look for a quick-flipping, white-fringed tail in the brush," I told the boys. "It's a danger signal to other deer, but a tip-off to hunters, too."

The youngsters scanned the thickening

undergrowth diligently, but they were getting tired, and that was just what I did not want to happen. I was selfish. I was thoroughly enjoying this new-found companionship with my sons, and I wanted them to be eager for another hunt, and another...

Then I noticed we had been traveling in a circle. And whitetail deer, I knew, have a trick of looping a hunter and following him awhile before going into hiding.

I turned quickly, and the boys followed my action. We saw him then. A manypronged, whitetail buck silbouetted atop a ridge. Whitetails usually avoid the skylines, but this one was breaking the rule to give us an unforgetable picture of the wild. Gracefully tapered brown body outlined against blue sky and green timber.

"Dad, we caught him!" cried Gray.

In our vision only, but the conquest was sufficient for the day. We started home, and I noticed that both Chris and Gray were light of step again.

"Some fun," said Gray.

"Yeah," agreed Chris.

I was glad that I—not my friend, John Williams—was the third man in the party. And I do not refer to three men facetiously, for somehow my boys had grown considerably that day. Hunting is a man's game, and my boys had known and thrilled to the hunt. The old man had opened the door to the big outdoors for the two young men, and he was a proud doorman.

We three men would bunt again, and again. Would warm up after the hunt before a low-burning campfire, would listen to the cry of the loon and the shushing of the wind, would retell yarns freshened by the mountain air, would crawl into bough-cushioned sleeping bags and sleep the sleep of the hibernating hear.

One day, one rifle, one rabbit, one sight of a deer had brought promise of good years to come.

### WHO'S WHO IN BIG GAME HUNTING

(Continued from page 31)

.375 Magnum these days. Just how Karamojo Bell killed his mammoth game with such an inadequate weapon is still the subject of lively debate in elephant-busting circles.

But who is the modern counterpart of these hunters? Scarcely a sportsman among us who does not know of some really outstanding shooter and hunter, an individual who yearly bags his buck, fetches home the festive turkey, seldom misses when the bobwhite fly. Then there are others who cast farther afield, shooting in far away places like Kenya, India, and the great island that is known as Kodiak. Great hunters, all. But what manner of hunting records do they keep? Unfortunately, all too few.

Luckily, there are some accountings which are maintained and are valuable in toting up the standings of our hunting crew. One of these, and surely the most valuable, is the Book of Records maintained by the Boone & Crockett Club of New York. This organization accepts measurements of game trophies from any sportsman, investigates the claims and, if substantiated, enters the measurements in the next volume of the record book.

In England, the firm of Rowland Ward, one of the ranking taxidermy houses of the hunting world maintains a similar record of African and Asian game. Sportsmen submit their claims to Ward's, a representative of the company takes the measurements, and if they are of such proportions as to deserve a place in the Book of Records, the entry is duly made. Unfortunately, the Rowland Ward listings have not been brought up to date. The latest effort saw the light 'way back in 1935. Rumor has it, however, that a new text is in the mill.

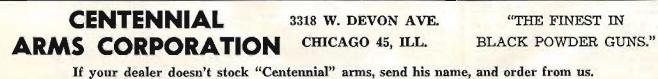
Between these two books, the researcher gains relevant data in any effort to establish the standings of our ranking sportsmen.

Better, possibly, than these compilations of trophy records is the current award given for the outstanding sportsman of the year. This is a recent thing, now in its sixth year, originated by the west coast firearms manufacturer, Roy Weatherby.

A committee, ten in number, consider the claims of ranking sportsmen and at the end of the year after all candidates file their briefs, a vote is taken and the outstanding sportsman selected.

The selection committee contains some imposing names, people who are practicing sportsmen and hunters, and a crew, certainly, competent to put the finger on our gamelands (Continued on page 46)







### (Continued from page 44)

kingpin. Membership consists of General Nate Twining, U.S. Air Force, now retired, formerly chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff; Joe Foss, Marine flyer of World War II fame, formerly governor of South Dakota, presently Commissioner of the American Football League; Coloman Jonas, president of the great taxidermy firm, Jonas Brothers; General Jimmy Doolittle, one of the great heroes of WWII; Jack O'Connor, for more than a quarter-century the firearms editor of "Outdoor Life" magazine; Warren Page, guns editor of "Field and Stream" magazine; Brigadier General Robert Scott, USAF, retired, an author who wrote the best-seller. "God Is My Co-Pilot" and "Between the Elephant's Eyes"; Herb Klein, Texas oilman, hunter and sportsman; Pete Brown, a firearms writer with considerable hunting experience; and finally Weatherby who whumped up the idea of annually selecting our most outstanding hunting-shooting sportsman.

The annual selection is based on the following: "A sportsman who by his outstanding achievements in the big game hunting world, by having collected the greatest number of average and record animals, unusual accomplishments, high character and sportsmanship, and contributions to game conservation and hunting education shall be worthy of this great award."

In 1956, Herb Klein, Dallas, Texas, oilman, was selected as the Outstanding Sportsman of the Year; in '57 it was Jack O'Connor, Lewiston, Idaho; the third annual choice was Warren Page, New York. In 1959, the diadem was handed to Berry B. Brooks, Memphis, Tenn., cotton broker; and in 1960, the crown was unanimously bestowed on Elgin T. Gates, Balboa, California.

Are these then our greatest present-day

sportsmen? Has this fivesome, by reason of trophies shot, miles traveled, gamelands visited, powder burned, and/or record books cracked, really earned the coveted title of "Outstanding Sportsmen of America?" "Let us take a look at the record." How about



World record (561/2") African sable.

this Texan, Herb Klein, who was first to be hailed as the champion Nimrod. What has he done?

Thirty-five years ago (Klein is now about 55) he went to work in the oil fields of Wyoming. While in the state he shot deer, elk, bighorn sheep, antelope, and bear. Later, he swung over into Montana and Idaho, and still later dipped down into Colorado and Utah. Directly after the second world war, he commenced to journey annually into Alberta, and it wasn't long until he had covered all of Alaska and was familiar with the gamelands of Old Mexico. By this time, he had shot all our North American sheep, the Dall of Alaska, the Stone of the Yukon, the Bighorn of the Rockies and the Desert of Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada. He was one of the extremely few sportsmen, incidentally, to accomplish this "Grand Slam" on our



most difficult species. He had by this time also shot moose, caribou, grizzly, black, Kodiak, and Polar bears, Coues deer, mountain lion, buffalo, wolves, muskox, scal, and wolverine.

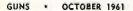
In 1953, in company with O'Connor, he trekked to Africa for a long safari. He has since repeated the trip twice. In 1954, he whipped over into India, again with his favorite shooting crony, O'Connor. He has twice made extended hunts in Iran where, as a friend of the Prince, Abdorreza Pahlavi, full brother of the Shah and one of the keenest sportsmen, he bagged Armenian red sheep, Sind ibex, and Kopa Dagh urial. During 1959, he and Elgin Gates hunted the Sahara, and there Klein took white oryx, addax, Dorcas gazelle, Dama gazelle, and Barbary sheep. The pair then dropped a bit farther south, into central French Equatorial Africa, and shot the giant eland, red kob. Korin gazelle, and the red as well as the yellow duiker.

Then there was a trip to the island of Sardinia, a little hunted spot, certainly, but remunerative in that Klein accounted for the rare and unusual Sardinian mouflon.

While the remarkable sportsman might seem, up to this point, to have concentrated on the horned game, it is pertinent to note that he has also made a grand slam on the great cats. He has to his credit the African lion, African leopard, Asian tiger, the Indian spotted leopard, a black panther from Kashmir-probably the only one ever collected by an American-and two snow leopards, also from Kashmir, again the only specimens ever taken by an American. Then he has a clouded or "marbled" leopard from Asia, an African cheetah, the African serval cat, the genet cat, the savage cat as well.as the civet cat. There are jungle cats, fishing cats, and leopard cats from India, and a Himalayan lynx. On this side of the world, he has ac-



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KODIAK MANUFACTURING COMPANY 112 QUINNIPIAC AVE., NORTH HAVEN, CONN. counted for our mountain lion and for the jaguar. This latter feline is a rare one; few indeed are the sportsmen who can claim the lordly "tigre."

In speaking about his shooting, Klein says, "To my knowledge, I have collected more different species of big game from all over the world than any hunter either dead or alive. I have all of the North American big game animals listed in the Boone & Crockett book except the Woodland caribou. I have collected all of the major species of sheep in the world with the exception of the Siberian argali. This beastie is behind the Curtain.

"I have possibly the best sheep collection of any sportsman in the world. In my collection of 36, I have four Bighorn sheep, one of which is listed in the Boone & Crockett and two are eligible. I also have 6 Dall rams, two of which are in the records, two eligible; I have 4 Stone sheep, two of them in the book and another eligible; then there are 3 Desert sheep, one of which is listed. Jack O'Connor and myself are the only two sportsmen in the world who have collected a double round of all the North American sheep. I need just one more Desert ram to complete my fourth 'Grand Slam'-something no one else bas ever done!"

The hunt which Klein does not mention but which establishes him as one of the greatest huntsmen of our time was his last year's expedition, in company with Elgin Gates, into the tiny and little known principality of Hunza. This country, located in the northernmost reaches of Pakistan, hard against the Red Chinese borders, is a land situated in the mightiest mountain range of this world, the lofty and terrifying Himilayas. It holds the No. 1 game trophy of this sphere, the Marco Polo sheep. This game, largest in body and horn of the entire sheep family, is stalked and shot at 20,000 feet elevation. The last American to bag an Ovis Poli was 35 years ago.

This is our greatest huntsman. Without disparaging the feats of our old shootinghunting pioneers, this remarkable sportsman has outdistanced them anyway you want to tally the score.

Just a half-step behind the peripatetic Klein is his running mate, Elgin Gates. Here is another fabulous gunner, marching down the corridors of the hunter's hall of fame in a sort of lockstep with his Texas amigo.

Gates, a 37-year-old athlete, has crammed two lifetimes of the most ardnous gamequesting into these six last years. During this time, his bullets have bitten into the game critters of Tanganyika, Kenya, Uganda, India, Ethiopia, Alaska, Mexico, Iran, Pakistan, Mozambique, French Equatorial Africa, Somalia, Moyen Congo, Kashmir, Hunza, Nepal-and a smallish chunk of Red China! He has a trophy room 40x70 feet, jam-packed with no less than 147 carefully selected heads out of the more than 500 big game trophies brought to bag.

This astonishing young man has his name in the Boone & Crockett listing no less than 14 times, more than any other huntsman. He has the No. 1 mountain caribou, the first place blacktail deer, first place jaguar, fifth place mountain caribou, as well as the fifth place jaguar. He has the ninth ranking blacktail buck; then there is a Desert sheep, an antelope, a wapiti, a Coues deer, plus honorable mentions on Bighorn sheep and

(Continued on page 50)

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Your chance to get the surplus military ammunit ever. We need room in gain. Buy now and save	most popular calibers of tion at prices lower than our warehouse so you plenty. All first quality.
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### (Continued from page 48)

wapiti. Says Gates, "I have bagged 25 of the 30 North American species listed by B&C. Of the 25 I have killed, some 13 are listed in the 1958 edition of the book, and the other 12 will make this next edition."

He has made the "Grand Slam" on our four species of North American sheep.

In the Rowland Ward text, he will have the new world record kudu with a 67%" horns, the sable with 56½" horns, an East African sable at 49%", and a white oryx with 47 inch horns. Just behind this oryx is a second which will hold the No. 2 spot with horns of 46% inches. Besides these are record Roan antelope, Nyala, fringe-eared oryx, beisa oryx, leopard, Grant gazelle, and klipspringer.

Of all his hunting, that which far surpasses all else in the estimation of the knowledgeable shooting man, was his last year's expedition, in company with Herb Klein, to the little country of Hunza. There in the skyscraping Himalayas, in the land known as Bamidunya—the "Roof of the World" he shot and killed the Marco Polo sheep, the Ovis Poli, the rarest and most difficult game animal in the world today.

Jack O'Connor, winner in 1957, has hunted up and down this continent for 40 years. Has, as Herb Klein points out, taken the four species of our elusive mountain sheep and done this not once but twice! Only he and Klein have done this. He has thrice hunted Africa, been twice to India, and has made numerous forays into Iran to shoot with his friend Prince Abdorreza Pahlavi. He holds an enviable record as a sportsman-hunter, an accounting which fully justifies his selection as Outstanding Sportsman.

Warren Page, 1958 selection, has hunted even more widely. He is on the go constantly, returning to touch at home base only long enough to jug up a half-dozen stories to keep his gun column alive, and then off again to some far-away ends of the earth. Page has hunted Africa repeatedly, scarcely missing a year, has coursed up and down the Rocky Mountains chain from the Arctic Circle to distant Bolivia where those Rockies are renamed the Andes. He has savored New Zealand, probably the most prolific game haven on earth, and has hunted for many months in Scandinavia. As these lines are set to print he is making preparations for a shikar in Vietnam, Indo-China. A veritable whiring dervish sort of hunters' hunter, this sportsman is indeed a worthy champion.

Lastly comes Berry Brooks, the 1959 choice of The Jury. Brooks has hunted extensively on the North American continent, ranging from Alaska to deep within Mexico. He has made the "Grand Slam" on mountain sheep, and while doing this has accounted for a Bighorn ram with 43'4'' curl and a Stone sheep with 42'4'' head. He has taken every species of American game listed in the Boone & Crockett records except the woodland caribou, polar bear, and muskox. He has made two very lengthy safaris in Africa, the first of 5 months and the second of 9 months and has collected some 72 different species of African fauna. He is en route to India for a tussle with the major fauna of Nehru's jungles as these lines are written.

These then are our hunters, the men who comprise the Who's Who of Big Game Hunting.

### SLAM ON RAM

(Continued from page 27)

carrying adequate supplies of food, water, clothing, and gasoline for your vehicles for these desert hunts. There are no filling stations or grocery stores around the corner. You must carry all the standard food items as well as one or two coolers to keep fresh vegetables and meat. These coolers full of ice will last from five to seven days and provide a better and more varied diet. You should also take lots of fresh fruit as well as canned fruit and juices. Everyone has a tendency to dehydrate in this dry climate and thus it is essential to carry at least ten gallons of water for each day you expect to be in camp. With a party of three consuming about three gallons for drinking this leaves the rest for cooking and camp use. No water can be wasted on these trips.

For clothing we wear blue jeans and jackets, the same as the cowboys wear here in the West. A good pair of leather gloves to protect the hands from cactus and brush is also a necessity. The most important item of clothing is the footgear. A sheep hunter travels a big part of the time on foot. The going is rough and it requires the best quality boots obtainable with sturdy soles of cord or rubber material to stand up under the rugged use and give a good grip on the dry rocky slopes. They should have eight or ten inch tops of the best quality leather to protect and support the ankles. Remember. if your feet go bad you are finished on a sheep hunt. A good felt hat with medium to wide brim is a must to shade the eyes from the glaring sunlight. At this time of year nights on the descrt may be cool and a down jacket feels good in camp as well as riding the jeep to and from camp. The days are usually quite warm. As a matter of fact, to fellows like myself, from the northern climates, it seems pretty hot while toiling up the side of these sun-baked crags. Arizona desert mountains are in most cases as rocky and rugged as any you will find anywhere on the continent with vertical cliffs, deep canyons and peaks soaring high in the skies.

After making camp in a protected spot above a dry wash and eating a good supper we relaxed around the campfire, talked of past hunts and discussed plans for our opening day. With an early start facing us, we bedded down for the night with cager anticipation for morning to come.

At 4:30 a.m. we were up, starting the coffee, frying bacon and eggs, making lunches. Breakfast over and the dishes washed, we were ready to head up the dry creek before daylight. We bumped and churned along the sandy wash through the mesquite, catus, and catsclaw brush as the sky became lighter. Austin drove the jeep to a low ridge where we unloaded and 1 started glassing the surrounding area as mentioned earlier.

We watched a few minutes to see if we could see this ram or any other sheep that might spook and spoil our stalk. Failing to see any I suggested, "What say we keep to the canyon on the right so the wind blowing from the sheep toward us will enable us to work around to the west side of the peak and try to get above that rascal?" All agreed on this plan and we took off up a small dry wash which led into a rough, rocky canyon that would bring us up onto the west side of

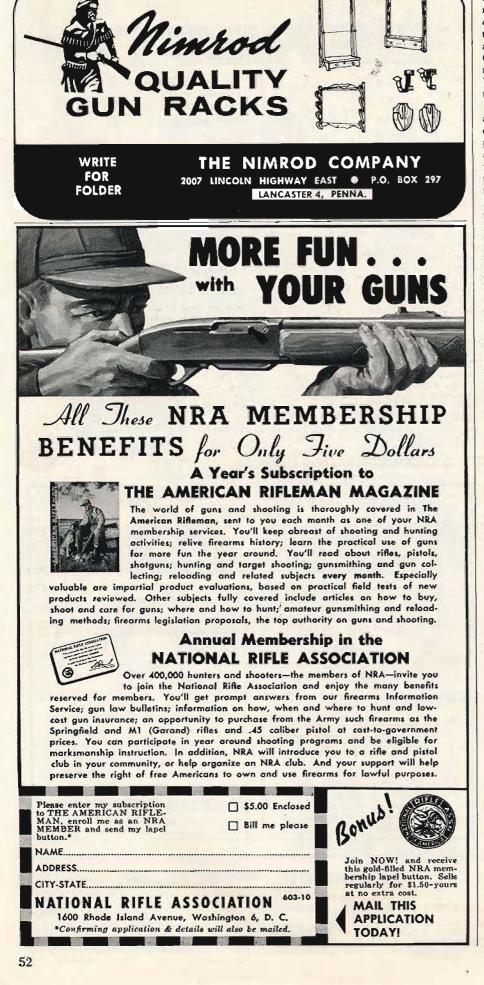


The Beretta Jetfire automatic pistol can be loaded and fired without pulling back the slide. Its blowback action permits the ejection of spent cartridges without any extractor. Because the hinged barrel design permits loading as a single shot the Jetfire has the two-fold advantage of both a single action as well as an automatic pistol.

Advanced design permits field stripping in one second by releasing the barrel and removing the slide. Improved safety is provided with the external hammer in half cocked safety position. Jetfre 25 Callber Automatic, Blue Finish \_\_\_\_\_\_ \$32.00

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the pcak. We had hard going over huge piles of large boulders and places choked with mesquite, catsclaw and various kinds of cactus. Homer was finding every bush had thorns or stickers and quite different from any sheep hunting experiences in Alaska or Canada. However, he was all keyed-up and raring to go and stayed right at my heels. We stopped just under the peak of the mountain and made final plans for the stalk.

We agreed that we must keep under cover and try to locate the ram before he discovered us. As we crept up to the top of the peak, I noticed that the wind was shifting and starting to blow over the top of the peak where we had last seen our game. This is not unusual as winds are often variable up in the peaks, he it Alaska, Canada or Arizona. As we crawled up and flattened out on the rim of the peak, Austin and I motioned Homer back about ten or fifteen feet while we looked the area over. We could see the place where the ram had gone over, but he was nowhere in sight along the east ridge or at the base of the ridge. We both scanned the area carefully, trying to locate him in the tumble of rocks and small shale slides below. Suddenly I heard a rock roll directly under the edge of the drop-off ahead of where I was sitting. Looking over at Austin, with his neck stretched like a turkey, peering over the edge and frantically motioning he whispered, "There he is!" "Homer! Here he is!" we both stage-whispered at once. The wind pouring over the bluff like water over a fall had spooked him and he started to run. "Homer, get him, get him!" I shouted. Homer was beside me in a flash. The sheep was now in the open and he had a fine head, a real trophy, and I judged it would make the record books. "Come on, Homer, shoot him," I said. The ram was now running and getting ready to cross over the ridge. Homer pulled off a shot at fifty yards with his .300 Weatherby Magnum with 78 grains of 4350 pushing a 180 grain Hornady spire point bullet. He missed! By now the ram was moving out fast. Homer pulled down again and at the crash of the rifle, the ram buckled. He was hit hard, a few feet more and he stumbled and went down to stay. If Homer had missed this shot, the ram would have been over the spur ridge and out of sight. This last shot, which was in excess of 175 yards did the job. As I watched the ram where he lay, Homer broke out with a yell that would have outdone any Indian on the warpath. If you have ever seen a happy man here was onehe had his "Grand Slam." We worked our way down to the ridge and out to the sheep. He was a beauty! One of the most even set of horns I had ever seen. Our rough measure showed them to be 34% inches curl and 15% hase.

After taking pictures and admiring this fine trophy, Austin and I dressed out the animal and prepared it for the packboard. After getting the trophy and the meat loaded on the jeep, we returned to camp where we caped out the head and hung the meat to cool in a Palo Verde tree. We spent the rest of the day in camp, finished up the trophy work and salted the cape to preserve it until it reached the taxidermist. There, a mount was to be made so that Homer could hang it on the wall of his trophy room, along with his other three Grand Slam heads.

After dinner we sat around the campfire and discussed the hunt. I remarked that it (Continued on page 54)





to Gila Bend where we checked out with the Game Ranger. He told us that we were the first ones to check in with a sheep.

When we arrived at Homer's motel in Phoenix his wife, Ann, was happy to see us back and said, "Thank goodness, you are done hunting sheep, now you have all of them." "What do you mean?" Homer replied. "I am going to start all over again and go after bigger heads." That's what I'd call a dedicated die-hard sheep hunter. Austin and I were thrilled to have had a part in helping Homer make his "Slam."

At the end of the sixty-day waiting period and after official measurements could be made for the Boone and Crockett Club, Jonas Brothers of Seattle, Washington, sent me the official score on Homer's sheep. It had totaled a score of 168% points and when I consulted Dr. C. G. Clare, local Boone and Crockett man at Phoenix, Arizona, he told me that William O'Brien of Phoenix, a resident hunter, had a ram that scored 1681/4. These two top heads of the 1960 Arizona hunt are worthy trophies for two fine sportsmen. They have now obtained one of the world's i rarest and most magnificent trophies.



(Continued from page 16)

der completely, and unburned powder particles louse up the functioning of any gun, especially when function depends on mechanical principles as it does in the Model 260. The simplest cure for fouling is the old-fashioned remedy: A cleaning rod, a patch, and some solvent. And let's he realistic about this: Function and accuracy of most any gun can be improved with good gun care.

To recap: A fine gun with very good accuracy in an easily handled caliber, definitely worth looking at if you are in the market for a semi-auto in this caliber. I understand that Kodiak is now producing a bolt action rifle in the .308 Norma caliber. This .308 Norma cartridge is ballistically very close to the venerable .300 H&H Magnum. I hope to be able to report on this one in the near future.

### Bullets for the .22 Jet

From Grand Island, Nebraska, home of the Hornady bullet, comes word that they have cooked up a very neat little 40 grain bullet that mikes .222 for the .22 Jet and the S&W Model 53.

Since Hornady has been making some darned fine bullets for quite a while now, I have little doubt that these too will fill the bill very well. In looks, the bullet is quite a departure from the factory bullet and, since it has more lead showing, it is my opinion that it will perform very nicely on game. Mr. Hornady, with whom I talked at the grand opening of the Shoot-O-Rama in neighboring Waukegan, tells me that they have performed very extensive ballistics tests and agreed that 12.5 grains of 2400 should give the little pill the right amount of push. This load was chronographed by Hornady at slightly over 1900 fps, thus coming very close to the factory loads. Since the Model 53 has done such fine accuracy shooting for me, I am most anxious to load a slew of the .22 Jet hulls with the Hornady bullets.

While on the subject of the .22 Jet I would like to clarify one point: I have received a number of questions about the Model 53 and the reputed fact that cases stick badly in the cylinder and have to be driven out with a mallet. Personally, I have not had this experience, although other shooters did encounter some trouble in this respect. I have a very early Model 53, and have fired better than 300 rounds of the Jet ammo with it. If the ammo does stick, it is probably from a very early experimental lot. Currently produced factory loads do not produce ejection trouble. As in all magnums, be sure that the gun is free of grease, oil, and other dirt before firing it. Before cussing ammo and gun, be sure that the fault does not lie in your gun care.

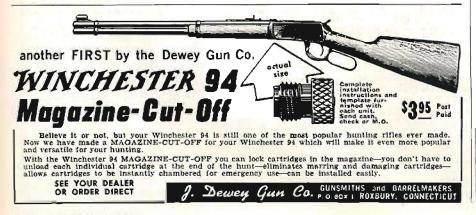
### The MEC 500

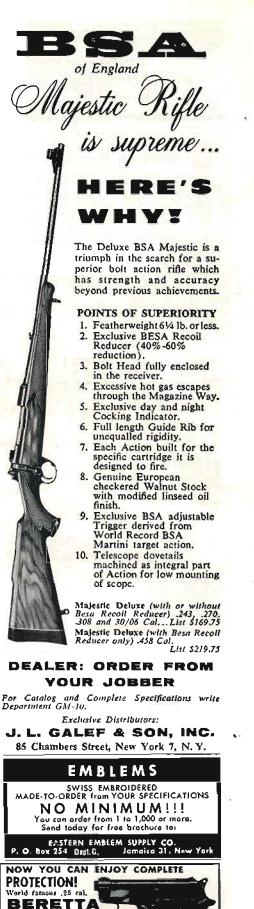
Since my last report on this fine shotshell loader, I have had the chance to use one for some time. In all honesty, I must admit that I never did have enough time and practice to attain the speed of 500 rounds an hour, but after just a little practice I did manage to grind out somewhat better than 400 rounds in one hour. Like most everything else on the loading bench, speed is attained with practice.

Seems to me that there must be a good reason for people like Ted Bachhuber to go to the trouble and expense to print folders that set forth instructions on how to use a tool properly. This was demonstrated graphically by two friends to whom I loaned my MEC 500. One is a studious fellow who read instructions slowly and very carefully, then made a number of shells, closely following directions. His production rate was almost 250 rounds an hour and his reloads looked just like the factory stuff. Another loading friend, the impatient kind, disregarded directions and went ahead on his own. An hour later he had a sorry looking lot of shells, most of them ruined by his efforts to force things and, all in all, there were 150 rounds that fed through the guns we used to test the rounds. In either case, the rounds functioned well, and this reflects a great deal of honor on the MEC 500. It is a sturdy, smooth-working tool designed by Ted, who has loaded more shotshells for more years than he wants to admit, and who started loading hulls when most of us did not even know it could be done. I particularly like the system that delivers shot and powder. It is so simple that mistakes are not possible and feeding is positive.

### Magnum Game Calls

A flight of crows winging hurriedly to the home roost at dusk always make my trigger finger itch. Having spotted a flight path not long ago, I decided to confuse a passel of the black robbers. Hiding in some tall weeds, I let go with the distress call-one that calls the birds from quite a distance. It was comical to see a flight of some 20 crows slam on the





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	Sporter-Weight	11/8	.615	24"	3 16.
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Enfield, Win. '70, Rem. 721 & 722, Norwegian Krag, Mex. Small Ring Mauser, Jap 6.5 and 7.7. Chambered for all standard calibers, including the new .338 Win, and .264 Win. Choice of medium heavy, sporter weight or light weight. Economically priced: Ace Barrel (white), \$24.00-except 264 and 338 cal. (\$2.00 more for Enfield barrel.) Guarantee: Barrels are made to the highest standards of workmanship and after a five day inspection period customer has the privilege to return for full refund if net 100% abaread Barrel Barrel bard barrel barrel	TWIST: Ace Barrels come in standard twists as follows:           Cal. 243, 257, 270, 7MM, 25-06, 280, 318 and 30-06.           1-10. Cal. 244, 250, 300 and 308, 1-12. Cal. 242-500.           Data Cal. 244, 250, 300 and 308, 1-12. Cal. 242-500.           Filting Service: Flagits will fit any ACE Barrell to your netion, stamp callber, head-net we spostage and insurance remittance is enclosed.           Ace 24" or 26" Barrels for 338 or -264 Win, filted field, FN or 05 Mauser-no others).           Ace 24" or 05" Barrels for 338 or -264 Win, filted field, FN or 05 Mauser-no others).           Head spaced and test fired           Head spring FN beltes Action (Wing 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100				
					nat 100% pleased. Barrel should be head-spaced before use by a competent gunsmith.

(White)

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brakes and start diving at my cardboard owl decoy. After this fracas, I need either a new owl decoy or a poorer location for my crow calling!

The following week, I located a flock of ducks on a farm pond. Came evening and time for the birds to raft up. I hid on the edges of the pond and started calling. Again the same results; the birds almost broke a leg trying to come overhead to see where the other flight of ducks had settled down and what they were chuckling over. Both of these small experiences were put to shame when I called a red fox from the front steps of my house. My land is infested with rabbits, pheasants, and other wildlife, including foxes. A few squeals on this particular rabbit call and the beast showed up. Unfortunately, my dogs set up such a howl that my red friend decided that there was something wrong and left in high gear.

This calling was done with the new Magnum Game calls which are marketed through a subsidiary of P. S. Olt Company. These calls are bigger and thus easier to handle. and have a very clear, true sound. Game calling has been a somewhat neglected matter by most hunters. They buy a call, try it a few times and then simply give up. That they might be calling at the wrong time or place does not dawn on them, and they blame the call for their failure. Calling game requires skill and patience, and skill can be gained only by practice. The patience you must supply yourself.



GUNS . OCTOBER 1961

### PRICE TAGS ON U.S. SAFARIS

(Continued from page 29)

Thus, in the Rocky Mountain areas—if the hunter goes for game for which no guide is required and furnishes his own transportation, mere food and lodging will average around \$15 daily. But if a guide-outfitter runs the whole show, the daily tab runs to \$60. As compared to Canada and Alaska, where pack-train trips start at \$100, jump to \$150 for plane and/or boat transport, and may reach \$200 per day when planes and dog-teams are furnished, the rates are wholly reasonable—if game is bagged.

These are the going rates for one man, per day. But if two or more hunters share a trip the cost is correspondingly less per each, since only a little additional gear and food need be transported for each member of the party. However, there are some charges that rise in direct ratio to the number of hunters per party: food, saddle horses and pack animals for riding and transporting personal gear and, in some cases, separate guides for additional hunters—plus their riding and pack stock.

There are other ways to whittle down the overall costs. Thus one hunter, who intends to confine all his time to hunting and will lend only the most superficial assistance in camp chores, should expect to pay maximum rates. He will need at least one more man, or woman, in camp to supply mere creature comforts—from cooking his meals, wrangling the riding and pack stock, and packing and unpacking his gear.

Such a loner will furnish all of his per-

sonal gear: all spare clothing, sleeping bag and air mattress, toilet and first-aid kit, photographic gear, spare guns and ammunition, and other miscellanea. If he is smart he'll carry a spare riffe as insurance so that a mishap doesn't leave him weaponless.

If two hunters make such a trip they can share the same outfitter-provided sleeping tent and all the auxiliary comforts it provides. They may also elect to carry only one spare rifle between them. The time needed to pitch camp, prepare meals and guide them to game thus extends the demands of the hunting day only slightly over that required by one hunter.

If one or both also pitch in to assist in wrangling the stock, gathering firewood, dressing out and capeing and salting game, the chores-per-man can be hugely reduced, particularly if such chores are definitely assigned so that no one member of the party destroys the whole camp's efficiency.

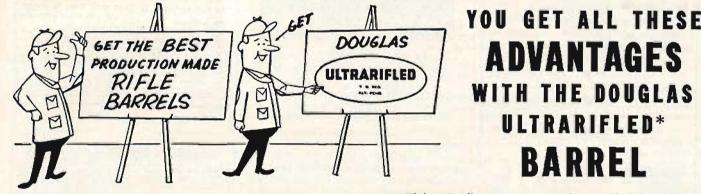
Food on a wilderness hunt is often a problem. On any long bunts the hunter's rifle is expected to provide some of it. But there are two extremes of looking at it: either the hunter may wish to take home a representative sampling of his game, in which the outfitter has to supply the grub; or the hunter may give up his game for camp meat, because of warm weather or simply because his main interest is the trophy cape. Between these two extremes are several arrangements that ought to reach agreement before the trip commences.



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I was on only one "hungry" hunt in my life. The outfitter, without a word to us, had planned to feed a three-weeks, six-mouth camp off the game we killed. Thus, he took along only a fair supply of canned meats, bread, bacon and other rock-bottom essentials. In spite of his professed experience he completely overlooked the fact that one raiding bear or wolverine could have reduced our subsistence to the starvation level. Which is precisely what happened, though due to his improvidence and not because of wildlife camp-thieves.

It is no secret that hard-working men, be they hunters or ditchdiggers, cannot maintain energy without both proteins and fats. Canned meats do not provide either in emergency cases of extreme effort and/or cold. Men can wilt to nothing in energy reserve on a diet of birds and rabbits, though such fare may stuff their bellies to the bursting point. Excessive shooting of small game on a big-game hunt is also a fine way to spook the latter out of the locality.

That was our case in Hungry Camp. With the exception of one scrawny ram, which the



Marks of deer feeding through snow are signposts for hunter.

desperate outfitter urged me to shoot for camp meat, and which we ate down to the hocks in three days, we were a hungry, exhausted, and disillusioned crew when we wound up that fiasco.

Today's outfitters needn't risk such foulups. A vast variety of dehydrated foods, all ridiculously easy to pack and prepare, are at their disposal. If kept dry and undamaged, such foods last indefinitely. They just save packing in a lot of heavy and bulky moisture-rich items that previously used to be packaged in space-wasting tin cans. Using dehydrated foods a man can tuck the makings of a hearty meal in a shirt pocket.

One outfitter I know makes a late-summer pack trip into his guiding areas, cacheing 20-pound weather-tight metal pannier boxes of such concentrated grub at strategic points along the way. They are then in readiness for the hunting season. His pre-season trip also provides a chance at an accurate check of game prospects. Needless to say, his clients have always been well-fed and steaming with energy. And they invariably come out with better-than-average bags of game for which they haven't had to spend their last few ounces of energy.

The net result is that this outfitter and his clients all have marvelous times. I suspect they'd enjoy their trips if game was hard to come by. But, with lots of burnable energy, (Continued on page 60)











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### (Continued from page 58)

they get canny as coyotes in stalking their game and collect it with a minimum of exhausting labor. There's so much to be said for such a happy and energetic camp. Among which is the fact this outfitter never has to search for clients.

Guide-outfitters have only the duration of the hunting season in which to earn their wages. Most of them, facing a 30-day open season, will generally break it up into convenient units; three 10-day trips, two of a fortnight each, or a single painstaking party of trophy hunters who hire him for the duration. Therefore, it's almost impossible to hire such an outfitter on an indefinite day-by-day basis. Why should he agree to day wages when he can contract for any one of these and thus be employed as long as the law permits hunting?

Once his season's hunts are scheduled the capable guide-outfitter has few financial worries. His 25 per cent down payment easily covers all gear and supplies, with the remaining 75 per cent due at each trip's end. Unless he is operating on a shoestring basissuch as having to hire a large share of his horses, pack equipment and camp help-he stands to make good wages for the season.



Sighting bear at 1000 yards, good stalk cut range to 100.

That's why many ranchers turn to guideoutfitting during fishing and hunting seasons. They already have most of the needful gear, some of their ranch help is always available for side chores as a welcome relief from monotony, and equipment has to be maintained and wages paid anyway. So, during slack periods when ranch work isn't pressing, ranchers can get some return on their investment in both gear and labor. Too, many of them are themselves hunters and thoroughly enjoy sharing the sport.

Guide-outfitting is no job for pantywaists. It's long-hour work, sometimes brutally hard when game is bagged in rough country. Occasionally it is downright dangerous. But it's an open-air existence, where a man can savor many creature comforts all the more keenly because he's earned them. Finally, it's participation in the fundamental age-old pursuit of rich red meat for his belly. A man who doesn't respond to that atavistic urge has something wrong with his corpuscles.

Psychologically, I suppose, that's the main line of separation between the good outfitters and the hums. The man who has a liking of the wild things, and realizes that without his harvesting help a lot of them would die slowly and brutally in the wilds, has the instincts of the sportsman. If he also wants to share such harvesting pleasures with less

Pachme

fortunately situated individuals he will probably turn into an excellent guide-outfitter.

But the man who thinks only of the money such work will earn him and takes no pleasure in the wilderness and its wild-life is more than likely to turn racketeer; as he probably would in almost any other line of life work under comparable circumstances. This is a fundamental factor to consider when you're hiring a guide-outfitter. If he talks mainly of game and hunting his heart is in his work, and vice versa.

What you should expect for your money: These are average rates per man, per day, for guide or guide-outfitter services. Home-tohome round-trip transportation, plus hunting licenses and game tags, are extra. Rates are reduced for two or three in the party. New England and Eastern Canada:

\$20-shelter, food, guide.

\$30-shelter, tent, food, guide, canoe.

- Southern States, except Southwest:
  - \$10—guide, outboard, decoys, blind. \$25—shelter, food, guide, hounds.
- \$35--shelter, food, Jeep, guide, bird-dog. Rockies, Plains, Southwest:

\$15-shelter, food.

\$35-shelter, food, guide, Jeep.

\$60-tent, two pack horses, saddle horse, guide and one helper, food.

Canada, Alaska and the Arctic:

- \$100-tent, food, two pack horses, saddle horse, guide and two helpers.
- \$150-plane, inboard cruiser, shelter, food, guide and two helpers.
- \$200-plane, inboard cruiser, shelter, tent, guide, dog-sled.

### THE WHERE TO HUNT PROBLEM (Continued from page 20)

yearly hunting lease. The system works fairly well because everyone, or almost everyone, has accepted it.

As far as I can gather, it is not technically legal to pen up state-owned game in Texas. Still, ranch after ranch in my area does build deer-proof fences. Since no one except friends of the rancher, or lease holders, would be allowed to hunt there anyway, the state overlooks the practice. Out in west Texas, where mule deer replace the whitetails and really big ranches replace the modest sized ones, there are no deer-proof fences, but preserve hunting for state-owned game is in operation everywhere. For so much per deer-\$50, \$100, \$125-you may hunt. On some ranches, you get certain services-guide, meals, or whatever you request, in the package or for additional fees.

Last fall, I hunted on such a ranch in the Big Bend Country. A territory of some thousands of acres was assigned to myself and one partner. No other hunters were on it. For the services furnished, which were quite plush, the fee was \$150 per man. We were allowed to hunt deer, blue quail, and javelina, all of which were abundant. Naturally, a state license was required. I cannot but admit that, compared to a hunt on oftencrowded public lands, which would have cost as much or more with guide and other services somewhere else, we had a bargain. Game was teeming. We had no competition. But again, for all practical purposes, this was big-game preserve hunting, even though the state owned the game. It was Texas that led off, too, some few

It was Texas that led off, too, some few years ago, in the field of *actual* big-game ONE HORNADY BULLET ONE BULL ELEPHANT

Hornady 500 gr. FMJ pushed by 90 grs. 4320 from a Buhmiller 45 Magnum



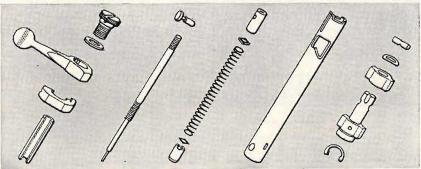
"He was a lone bull and a wise old fellow, staying in heavy forest near farms and doing great damage to crops at night," writes J. R. Buhmiller of Kalispell, Montana, who got him. "It took us three days in the rainy season to track him. Then one shot with a Hornady 500 grain steel jacketed bullet laid him low... as well as about 70 others. (Shot under approval of Tanganyika Game Department.) Those Hornady Bullets will reach the brain if properly directed from any position where the head is exposed. Frontal shots needing great penetration were easy."

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(one of a series of reports to shooters)

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preserve hunting, when a number of ranches began experimenting with exotic big-game animals. The location was logical, because here the size of individual holdings made room available for such operations, and mild climate made the chance of success in raising the animals greater. In addition, there was little true public hunting, and astute land owners were quick to see that the biggame preserve would have to be launched with foreign game under fence. This would avoid state ownership of the game, and the appeal of the exotic animal would be provocative to hunters.

Today there are several Texas ranches in full operation offering big-game hunting for so much per animal on these exotics, and there are many other ranches building up herds. The old Rickenbacker Ranch near Hunt, Texas, now under different ownership, has sambar deer, Japanese sika deer, Axis deer from India, and spiral-horned blackbuck antelope which are also native to India. The blackbuck has become so well acclimated in Texas that it does as well as any native. It is a fine, fast game animal, and the trophy bucks are wild and wary as hawks.

Then there are mouffon. Two Mediterranean animals, the Barbary sheep and the Mouffon, have done well in both Texas and New Mexico. A ranch near Llano, Texas, has even bred a strain of Mouffon that appears to be best for that area. Whenever trophy animals are surplus, hunters are allowed in to try for them at so much per animal.

The Burnham Brothers of Marble Falls, Texas, famous for their predator calls, told me recently that they had acquired a good stocking of aoudad (Barbary sheep) for their 1600-acre ranch, which lies in rough, brushy country not far from the above named village. As soon as they build up a surplus, they are going to begin advertising for hunters. I am currently considering a hunt in New Mexico for aoudad this fall, with a rancher who is offering a limited number of trophy animals. (The state of New Mexico also has aoudad well started, but hunting so far is for residents only.)

Up at Walland, Tennessee, not far from Great Smokies National Park, there is a preserve in operation called Hunter's Haven. It specializes in wild boar, descendants of the European or Russian Boar for which public hunts have been going on in Tennessee under state supervision for some years now. Recently I laid out the details of a TV movie short made there by GMC Truck. For anyone who thinks preserve hunting for big game is tame stuff, let me mention that during the filming one "actor-hunter" was put over a fence three times by several boars in a concerted charge.

Here, as on the southwestern ranches, hunting is done in rough, wild country under conditions precisely like those one finds when hunting big-game on public lands. There is no feeling that one is hunting "tame" animals. You're not! The Tennessee operation is also building up a huntable herd of fallow deer. I've not so far had experience with these animals, which make a magnificent trophy, but I have hunted sika, sambar, axis, and blackbuck, and have found all of them wonderful game animals. The sika, even on a modest-sized preserve, is extremely wary. A good buck comes as hard as any whitetail.

Just why big-game preserve hunting should have any stigma attached to it is difficult to explain. Bird hunting preserves have sprung



up by scores all over the U.S. Their success proves that there was a very real demand for them. Why should hunters scorn deer raised in wild surroundings, yet acclaim pheasants freshly released from pens before the gun, or ducks carried to a hilltop and released to fly back over the guns to a pond? The truth is, those who've tried big-game preserve hunting don't! Big-game animals raised on wild land and in a wild state are wild, period. Their natural range limitations, in a wholly wild and unfenced state, are seldom more than in a fenced preserve.

The advantages of preserve hunting for big-game are many. First of all, where privately owned foreign animals are concerned. there are no expensive state licenses to buy. In most instances, one pays only for game killed. Obviously, there must be a time limit. One Texas operation allows hunters a week. They pay a registration fee of \$25 and if a kill is made, that fee is deducted from the charge for the animal. If no kill is made, there was no charge except forfeit of the \$25. Animals ran from \$100 to \$300, depending on species and sex. Many a hunter who has blown four hundred bucks on a mountain hunt on public lands and come home skunked will be quick to see an advantage here!

But perhaps more than anything else the total lack of crowding appeals to hunters. On the big-game preserve, usually only one party hunts at a time. Reservations are made ahead of time, just as with an outfitter. You know that no other triggerhappy gentleman will be mistaking you for a mountable trophy. The appeal of the unusual when hunting sika, blackbuck, or any of the others, is obvious.

But, as I have said, big-game preserve hunting is certain not to end with exotics. As the number of preserves increases, in all probability a deer such as a whitetail, or even a modest sized exotic such as a blackbuck or sika, will cost about \$100 to \$150. The average city dweller who goes deer hunting today on public land spends that much, or more. Does, which will be a constant surplus problem, will be cheaper.

Equipment won't be as complicated or expensive. Except on very large preserves the hunter won't camp out. He'll stay nearby, or at accommodations on the premises. Hunter's Haven in Tennessee has some cabins, is building more, and serves meals to its hunters. Many, such as this one, will offer some kind of bird shooting as a diversion, and many will have a stocked trout stream or other fishing as a sideline. The hunter will not have to do much packing for such a trip. Very likely he'll not even need a knife. Most of the Texas spots are set up to do the butchering.

Unless some drastic changes occur, like the importation of some super-tough critter, the guns and ammunition you'll use will be unchanged. On our native animals such as whitetails, mulc deer, and elk, the pattern is already well set. On the exotics, here are some of my observations from experience.

The blackbuck antelope from India is very fast and wary, and ordinarily requires rather long shots. I've seen them killed neatly with the .243 and .270. Since the mature buck seldom weighs much over 85 to 95 pounds, though he looks much larger, these rifles are adequate. A trophy axis deer may go around 200 pounds on the hoof, is usually less, re-



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REDFIELD GUN SIGHT CO. 1307 So. Clarkson + Denver 10, Colo. quires the same gun and load as for mule deer hunting. The sika, which I predict will eventually be a great favorite, is on the average about like an average whitetail. It is a blocky, extremely handsome deer, chocolateblack, with antlers ivory hued when well rubbed. On the one I had mounted, I used the .308 with 150 grain load.

The sambar is in the native elk class. The largest one I've known weight on in this country weighed, before gutting, 712 pounds. These are tough deer. They appear shaggy and awkward, and sometimes act and look almost stupid. But they're a long way from it. They are awesomely fast in dense timber, and seldom show themselves in the open. I have seen two killed at healthy yardage with the .270. I used my .308 loaded with 180grain deep-penetration bullet. The shot was not long. It did a masterful job.

I don't believe the hunter of today should sneer at or resist or try to stop the trend to big-game preserve hunting. It may be the answer for thousands of hunters. It may even be the savior of big-game hunting in the U.S. In reality, only the tall fence separates this hunting from what the pioneer knew. The sbarp air smells as sweet, the woods are just as mysterious. The crack of a twig, the sight of a plunging game animal, is just as upsetting. And if you think you can't get buck fever looking down your barrel at a trophy under preserve conditions you are wrong. I know. I've already had it!

### SIXGUNS FOR DEFENSE (Continued from page 24)

Gold, bright yellow or white finish on the face of the sight is good when the shooting will be against dark backgrounds. Black is hest against a light background. A serrated, matted, or stippled blued finish or a bright red is a good all-around choice. The rear sight should be square notched, free of sharp outside corners and edges, sturdy enough to withstand hard knocks, and may be outlined in white or some other color. It should be capable of quick, casy and positive click adjustment.

Standard factory grips have never been a good fit for anyone. A grip adapter helps in both single and double action firing, and I find Smith and Wesson's target grips excellent for service use. Colt's target grips are better than their standard grips. But there is no grip or size that will fit everyone perfectly. The ideal solution is a custommade grip. They should be very similar to target grips but adaptable to either hand without thumb-rests, flaring bases, sharp edges, or other protuberances. Some of us build up the back of our target grips to make the ball of the trigger finger fall more comfortably on the trigger. Grips flush with the backstrap make for easier double action.

A tune-up job by a good gunsmith will adjust your trigger pull to your liking and smooth out the action. Graphite lubricants and dry-firing will also slick up the action.

In selecting the caliber you should consider accuracy, power, cross sectional area, type of bullet, range, penetration, and trajectory.

The need for accuracy is obvious. I was told that Pat Garrett was once asked concerning the respective merit of speed versus accuracy in a gunfight. The old buffalo hunter replied, "Speed is important, but accuracy (Continued on page 67)



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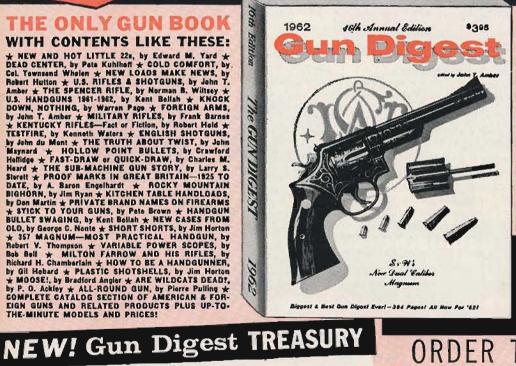
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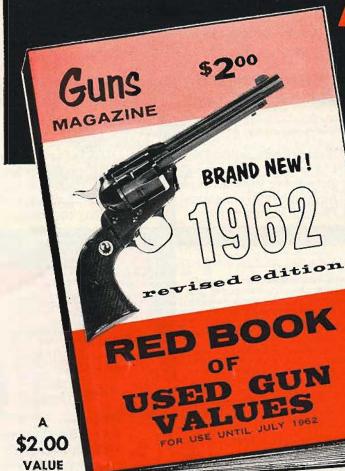
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### (Continued from page 64)

is fatal." To fire and miss, or to fire and hit the wrong person is worse than not firing at all. Fortunately, all the calibers to be discussed here have satisfactory accuracy in normal factory loads when used in good guns.

The revolver must be versatile enough so that the user can fire fast double-action without aiming as well as successive accurately aimed shots. A flat trajectory makes firing at unknown ranges easier. Penetration of automobile bodies, bullet proof vests, or other protection may be necessary. There must be power to immobilize an opponent immediately at the greatest range at which the user can hit a man-sized target. Many men have been blasted into eternity after perforating a more heavily armed opponent with fatal but non-paralyzing gunfire. Stop him!

Ballistics tables give the power and energy of various loads. Practical experiments further determine their effectiveness. The .38 Special seems to be the most versatile cartridge of all. For example, it is produced commercially in six different loadings ranging from the midrange target load with wadcutter bullet to a special metal piercing load.

This wadcutter load is for precision shooting with maximum ease. It is not for combat or large, dangerous game. The full-charge cartridge with a 200 grain bullet throws a heavy slug at the sacrifice of penetration and flat trajectory. The regular full charge .38 Special with 158 grain bullet has about 125 feet per second more muzzle velocity, a little more penetration, a slightly flatter trajectory, and about 20 foot-pounds more muzzle energy. It has proved itself a poor manstopper. In one case a man hit six times with a .38 Special killed his assailant and recovered. In at least two cases of which I have personal knowledge the bullets passed all the way through the victim's body but lacked the power to break through the back of his shirt.

The high velocity .38 Special loads with lead bullets have more muzzle energy, better penetration and flatter trajectory. However, instead of upsetting, they are more likely to pass through the body utilizing energy equivalent to that of the regular load and expending the remainder in continued flight. Special metal piercing loads in this caliber are good but are poor manstoppers. They too fail to utilize their energy passing through the human body.

The .44 Special as loaded by Western and fired in a 6½ inch barrel drives a 246 grain lead bullet 770 feet per second for a muzzle energy of 324 foot-pounds. Its penetration should be slightly less than the regular .38 Special and considerably less than the high speed .38 Special. Its larger wound channel combined with the 324 foot-pounds of muzzle energy, all of which is likely to be expended in the body because of its low muzzle velocity, give a more damaging shock effect than any of the .38 Special loads.

The .45 ACP in regular loading with 230 grain bullet has 850 feet per second muzzle velocity and 369 foot-pounds muzzle energy from a 5 inch barrel. This means slightly superior shock, range, penetration, and flatter trajectory than the .44 Special with factory loads. However, when fired in revolvers, reloading is either slow or half-moon clips must be used. There have been some indications in pistol competition that clips lead to a higher incidence of misfires, which

(Continued on page 70)



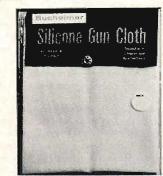






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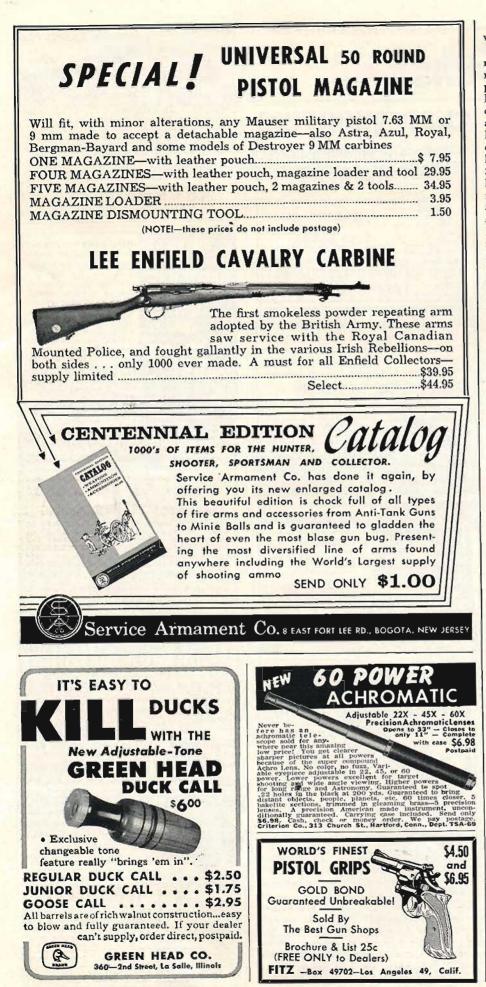


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### (Continued from page 67)

would be unacceptable in a service revolver. The .357 Magnum, with a much higher muzzle velocity than any of the other calibers mentioned so far, has a more desirable range, penetration, trajectory, and shock effect. In November of 1954 General Julian S. Hatcher, one of America's outstanding small arms authorities, reported tests by H. P. White Laboratories on muzzle velocities of .38 Special and .357 Magnum calibers in various barrel lengths. The muzzle energy of the .38 Special Western Super-X with 150 grain bullet fired in a revolver with a 4 inch barrel was 288 foot-pounds, or about 56% of the 513 foot-pounds obtained with .357 Magnum ammunition in the same revolver. The .357 Magnum plain lead bullet with its additional muzzle velocity is also more likely to upset in its passage through flesh. In many cases the indications from firing into other substances of similar consistency are that the bullets expand to about .50 caliber in a man's body. This will create a more damaging wound channel than any of the previously mentioned calibers and will be more likely to expend all the kinetic energy of the moving bullet. Its shock effect is much more likely to stop a hostile opponent.

Besides the .38 Special's notorious failure as a man-stopper. I have heard of and had personal knowledge of some instances in which men hit with regular .44's and .45's were not immobilized. I have never heard of anyone hit solidly with a .357 Magnum plain lead bullet without being instantly stopped. There may be some such cases. We cannot draw a straight line and say that all calibers on one side are ineffective while all on the other side are infallible. The results depend upon other variable factors such as the size, strength, vitality, physical condition, and emotional state of the person shot. It is obvious though that in most cases the .38 Special does not stop a man while the .357 Magnum does in most cases. The .357 Magnum also has high penetration in wood or metal, a flatter trajectory and a longer range.

However, the .357 Magnum is more difficult to learn to shoot than the lighter calibers, but this is not too great an obstacle. I recently fired several times over the NRA Short Course, equivalent of the National Match Course, using .38 Special midrange wadcutters and full charge .357 Magnum ammunition in the same revolver. My average scores were 287.7 with the wadcutters and 273.7 with magnum ammunition. The difference is less that five percent, and it would probably disappear completely when firing a combat type pistol course.

In all the .357 Magnums that I have shot, factory ammunition leaded the barrels hadly and consequent loss of accuracy became quickly apparent. A stiff bronze brush and plenty of elbow grease will get the lead out, but it is a nuisance to have to do that during long practice sessions. Harder bullets with more lubrication leave less leading but fail to mushroom as well as factory bullets. Gas checks on lead bullets reduce the leading to an acceptable point. Swaged lead bullets in brass or copper half-jackets combine the features of minimum leading, upset on impact, and holding together after impact. They are also more expensive than the others.

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per second and a 240 grain bullet, it develops 1150 foot-pounds muzzle energy in the  $6\frac{1}{2}$ inch barrel. We can expect about 1375 feet per second and 1013 foot-pounds muzzle energy in the 4 inch barrel. In contrast the 38 Special midrange wadcutter fired from a 6 inch barrel is rated at 195 foot-pounds.

The only double action .44 Magnum on the market is an excellent gun but large and weighing three pounds with the 6½ inch barrel. A man can carry this weapon on a heavy gun rig, but many do not like the size and weight. Training would probably be slower with it than with any of the other calibers because of the heavy recoil. Those especially interested in shooting and outstanding in marksmanship could learn to handle it without excessive loss of accuracy, control, or speed. The rank and file probably could not.

Out of this assortment of calibers we find the .357 Magnum best in power, penetration, range and flat trajectory. These guns can be handled by most shooters, are available from two major companies, and come in both heavy and medium weight double action models. Smith and Wesson's .357 Magnum, Highway Patrolman and Combat Magnum, Colt's Python and Colt's .357 Magnum all have good, adjustable sight combinations, and may be had in 4 inch barrels.

The Smith and Wesson .357 Magnum in glossy finish, very smooth and easily fired double action, is available in a variety of barrel lengths and sight combinations which appeal to those who like the larger, heavier revolvers and do not mind the cost. Its production grade, the Highway Patrolman, is for the individual or department with the same tastes but tighter budgets.

The superb Colt Python in glossy finish with easy cocking action is truly a target grade weapon. A few top competition shooters have used it with 6 inch barrel for match shooting. Personally, I find it excellent for the first 20 or 30 shots. I once fired a score of 287 over the National Match Course with a Colt Python using magnum ammunition. It becomes too heavy though for a long day of tournament shooting.

Most people will probably prefer revolvers of medium size and weight. If they hold out for highest quality in this class their choice will be between the Colt Python with 4 inch barrel and the Smith and Wesson Combat Magnum. The shorter Python has all the quality of the 6 inch Python. It is simply fitted with a 4 inch barrel instead of the 6 inch one. The result is less weight, faster handling, and easier carrying. The Smith and Wesson Combat Magnum has medium size and weight, 4 inch barrel, very smooth double action and special heat treatment. It is an especially good choice for all-around police use. For a durable and good quality revolver at the lowest price, the Colt .357 is the best choice.

When selecting a handgun for defense, certain variables such as fit, weight and so on must be taken into account. Whatever gun you select, you should be assured that it will do the job of stopping your opponent if the need should arise. But of course, gun and caliber alone won't do it. You'll need to practice gun handling, drawing, firing, and reloading. Here the best training can be gained on a combat course range, and once you fire this course, you'll be sold on it. I know, I am sold on it.



#### THE GUN MARKET

Classified ads, 20c per word per insertion including name and address. Pay-able in advance. Minimum ad 10 words. Closing date Dec. 1961 issue (on

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LARGE ILLUSTRATED Catalog-Antique and modern guns, swords, war relics, armor, military gear. Excellent reference book-\$1.00. Brick House Shop, New Paltz 4, N. Y.

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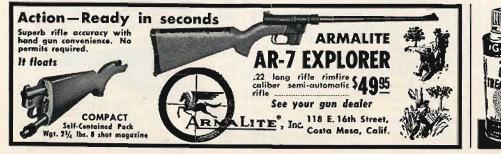
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### HANDLOADING BENCH

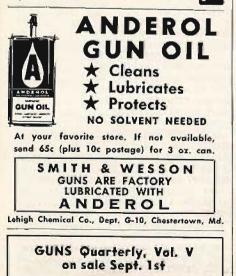
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does 3.5 grains of Bullseye. These charges are good with the Lyman-Bellah cast bullet No. 225107 that I designed for minimum cost shooting. Lyman moulds are available in solid or hollow point type, both good. Cast bullets are not designed for full charges. They are fine for cheap plinking. Size castings no larger than .224". CCI No. 500 primers gave perfect ignition, often a problem in a big case with low loading density. A hard alloy is best. Illinois Bullet Alloy No. 7 seems superior to a home mix. If you alloy metals, try 10-1 lead-tin. If loads do not chamber easily, seat bullets deeper.

The 2-die rifle type dies are used with all bullets, which makes loading faster. As with most rifle cartridges, I seated bullets without crimping. I do not advise firing top charges without working up in your gun. Max loads are not necessary for superb performance at long range.

Case set-back from an oily chamber or cartridge prevents easy rotation of the cylinder for the last round. So will cases not fully resized. Check resized hulls in your gun. Fred Huntington of R.C.B.S. had sample Jet dies before the gun was out. That's Jet speed! The first sizer had to be faced off .004" to size cases enough for easy cylinder rotation. Of course their production dies will be perfect. I could have faced off the shell holder without harm in this caliber. (Important: NEVER alter shell holders for rimless rifle cartridges!) C-H has Jet dies as this is written, and no doubt other makers will have them soon.

Adjust your trimmer to square up the mouth of once-fired hulls, and use your inside-outside deburring tool. Cases stretch a bit. Seat primers slightly below the head face so they can't drag on the standing breech. A Buehler mount fits the gun without drilling or tapping. It works dandy for rest or test shooting, or two-hand work. I suggested Buehler make this S & W scope mount, and he now has models for many other handguns. I have his first S & W handmade prototype. I think the best glass is Weaver's K-2.5 or K-3, specified for the longer eye relief. You'll get a kick out of Smith & Wesson's new .22 Magnum, not in your hand, but in Hi-V performance. Try it and see!



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### PORTABLE BENCH REST

(Continued from page 34)

and away from the plywood. Mark the different thickness on the edges of the blocks.

Turn the bench upside down and mark out the positions of the blocks at the corners, staying two inches from each of the two sides. The thickest portion of the block should face the center of the plywood, the thinnest portion points to the corner of the plywood. It is best to mark the block thickness on the plywood, in order to avoid assembling errors.

Fasten the blocks to plywood with three screws. Screws must be of different lengths to avoid going through top of plywood.

Drill a ¼-inch hole through the center of the block and through the plywood. A 21/2inch bolt, top countersunk, then provides the necessary strength for rough handling.

The ¾-inch floor flanges are then screwed to the angled blocks. The 34-inch galvanized pipe legs are cut to 36 inches, since the 6 inch increment, threaded on both ends, is a standard plumbing item. Caps on the ends prevent the bench from sinking into soft ground. Many shooters find that a bench 2.3 inches lower than this suits them better. If so, the pipes can be cut to fit. They need not be re-threaded at the bottom; a pair of crutch tips fitted on them will work very well.

A notch or two in the forward part of the right side will provide rests for one or two rifles.

A boat cushion and an automobile seat cushion are used to bring the rifle barrel to the shooter's individual height. A small bag packed with sawdust is also good.

As seat I use a sturdy wooden box, that does double-duty as a container for shooting gear and extra equipment.

This bench will allow a good shooter with good equipment to hold his groups down to less than two inches at two hundred vards. But the rest is up to the shooter, and the bench will belp. I know; I have tried it.



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