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City of Gun Makers

It was a real pleasure to read the article "City of Gunmakers" in the July 1955 edition of your magazine. I was impressed by the abundance of knowledge on Ferlach collected by the author and I believe that there are many Austrians who are not familiar with some of the historical highlights therein.

Your article makes us proud of the world's recognition of our fine gunsmith craft which can almost be called an art. Moreover, it will awaken the interest of American outdoor men in acquiring such a gun which not only is a proud possession for any shooter and hunter but also represents a means of survival for the craftsmen of this ancient art in the Austrian valley in these times of evergrowing mechanization.

It will help to preserve in this world of ours an art and skill which without support would be doomed to extinction. We Austrians would like to see the small group of masters in the art of "Buechsenmacherei" increase to a sizable number so that it will enrich the world and economically viewed, permit more talented youngsters in the rural areas for which the soil can no more provide, to practice this art and to live better.

S. Gorog Austrian Embassy, Washington, D. C.

Defense Of The Luger

It is not often that we see a man with a great knowledge of guns shoot as far off the mark as Colonel Askins does in the July issue of Guns. I refer to his report on tests of various handgun loads and their tabulation on the merit system. In his conclusions, based on these facts, he lets the world know that the 9 m/m Luger cartridge is about the most useless and inadequate load in existence!

Not to make it a personal controversy, let me base this rebuttal, not on my own observation of 50 years, but rather on the findings of the military commissions of most of the world powers. Incidentally, I might say that these commissions perhaps spent in the aggregate as many thousand dollars as the good colonel had dollars to spend in his efforts to thus summarily controvert their findings.

Let us look at his tests: The .357 Magnum shows much more penetration than the pitiful 9 m/m. Ergo—the latter is no good; but somehow the military men figure that the penetration of the latter load is amply sufficient to penetrate a man's body with enough energy left to wound another back of him. Very likely, the .357 would mow down a whole line of men, but they are not set up for this kind of shooting. These ordnance

men did not set up a row of tin hats either to see how many could be punctured, nor did they try to break down a barier of ice blocks.

Compared on the basis of power and penetration alone, the .357 would win easily, but as I see it, this cartridge has only one real advantage. It is the best tool for an officer chasing a fleeing auto. Beyond that, it has very little.

Many returned soldiers have told me that they were happy when they could get a Luger instead of their faithful 45, since they could do much better with the former than their hard kicking and innaccurate 45 automatic.

The Luger is easily the most accurate of military handguns, is easy to shoot and fully sufficient for its intended purpose. If power and penetration were the only desideratum in the selection of a military pistol, the English would be using today that most powerful of all automatics, the Mars; instead they simmered down to an easy to hold and to shoot revolver of .38 caliber, not even approaching our .38 Special in power.

The harsh criticism of Askins of the apparent weakness of the 9 m/m may have some reason in the ammunition he used. For some reason, best known to themselves, our ammunition makers have persistently underloaded foreign cartridges. Not to imply an ulterior motive in this, I hasten to say that I consider this fact to be a measure of self protection against law suits over blown-up guns. The early Lugers over here were notorious for malfunctions, until we remedied this by clipping off three or four turns of the action spring. Later the D.W.M. factory furnished pistols for America with lighter springs to balance the lower power of our miserable native cartridges,

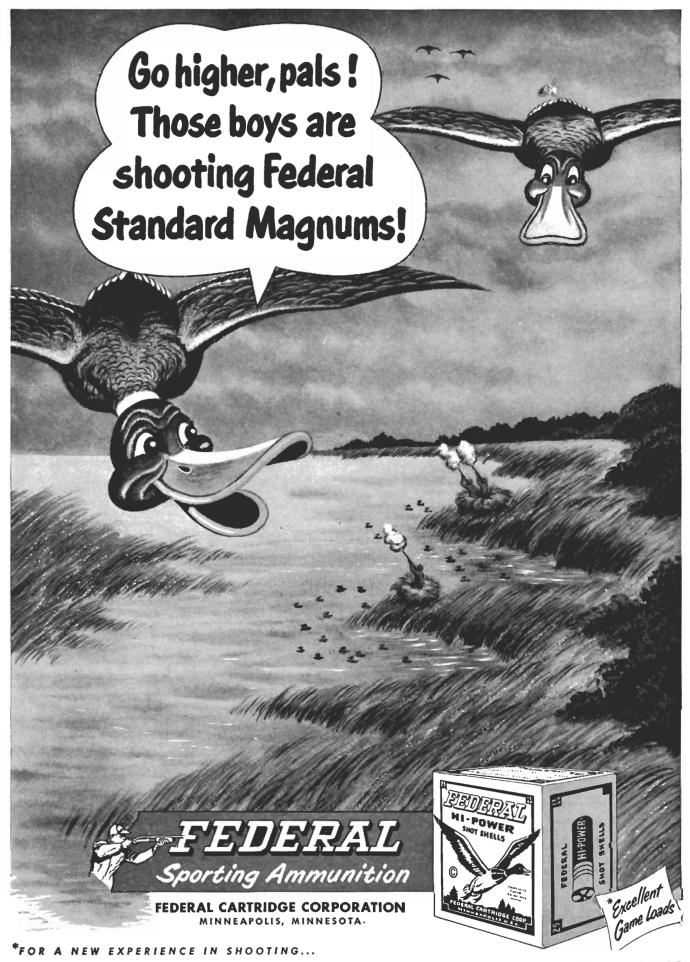
Summing up the 9 m/m load is the nearest thing to an ideal army cartridge. Regardless of comparative power, it fills the bill in all reasonable respects.

Hans Roedder Berwyn, Pa.

The Great Rifle Controversy

In the May issue of Guns an article appeared on the subject of a NATO rifle. The author expressed grave doubts about the Belgian FN gun, the T-48. It is true that the FN is identical to the Tokarev, abandoned by the Russians as unreliable. But many top-flight ordnance experts thought highly of the Tokarev. It can only be assumed that the gun was dropped, so far as I know no statement has ever been made. A possible explanation for the dropping is production difficulties. Russian manufacturing facilities are not the best in the world, and mass-producing

(Continued on page 48)





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MY FAVORITE GUN



BY ALAN LADD, famed Hollywood movie star

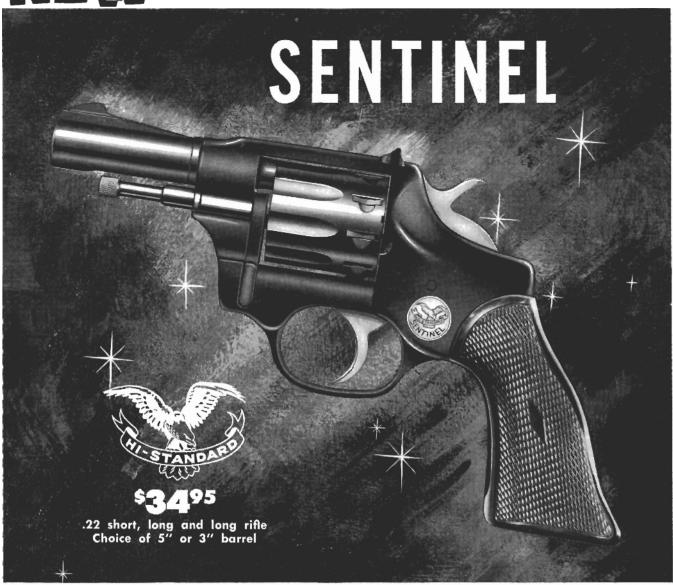
I do not have a large collection but all the guns are in working condition. Most of my shooting is target or skeet when I can manage a few days at the ranch. Guess my favorite is a 30.06 though. And as for small arms, I like a snub-nosed 45.



BY MARTY MARION, manager of Chicago White Sox

I prefer a 16 gauge automatic. With this gun I have all I need for my shooting. I also use a choke control so I can use one gun for all types of shooting.

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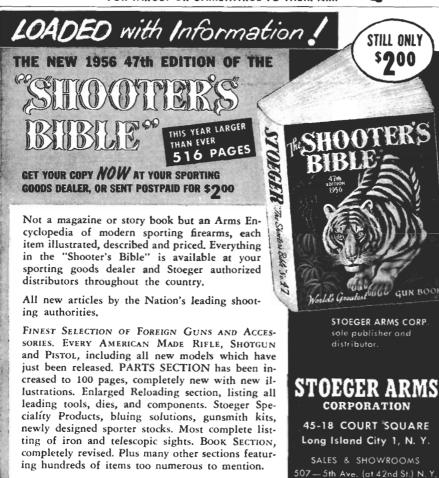
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GUNS in the NEWS

Arthur Wheeler of Northwood, N. H., went deer hunting and got himself a home run—almost literally. A big buck he'd wounded with his last shot came charging at him. Wheeler grabbed hold of his rifle and swung at him baseball style. The rifle stock landed solidly on the deer's noggin and felled him.

0 0 0

□ Carl Millslagel of Los Angeles has vowed that he is going to look twice before shooting "panthers" from his auto. Driving along the countryside, Millslagel throught he saw such a beast and shot it. It turned out to be Constable Edward Elmore's Persian cat. Millslagel was charged with "disturbing the peace."

0 0 0

□ At least Fred Schulling of Eau Claire, Mich., knows his deer rifle wasn't lost. He found an unsigned note in his mailbox which said. "I stole your deer rifle."

0 0 0

mear Cedar City, Utah, Daryl Shumway stopped his truck, reached for the rifle he always carried and fired at the cat four times. And missed. Then, out of ammo and patience, he picked up a rock and threw it at the animal. The rock caught the cat squarely between the eyes.

0 0 0

■ A Lewiston, Me., hunter shot a deer but didn't get the animal. The deer was run down by a motorist. A man knocked the animal unconscious with a hammer and another finished it off with a shot. A game warden offered the deer to the motorist, who declined. The man with the hammer accepted it. The rifleman got nothing.

0 0 0

□ A 16-pound female bobcat greeted Carl A. Newquist of Butte, Mont., on his front porch when he arrived from lunch. He dashed into the house, emerged with a 12-gauge shotgun and one blast ended the wildcat's curiosity about city life.

WHY the world's finest hunting sight

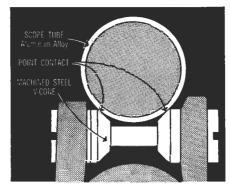
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When Bausch & Lomb undertook to design and build a hunting sight, we had no preconceived notions—other than to make the best hunting sight ever produced . . . a fitting companion for the finest rifles, which would give the hunter the maximum in performance and dependability. Among the hundreds of experienced shooters and gun experts from whom we asked recommendations, was one persistent demand: "Make it strong! When a trip has been planned for a year, and probably is costing more in time and money than any of us can really afford, don't let the one shot we came for be lost by an accident to the sight! Build a sight, if you can, stronger even than the rifle it goes on!"

To provide for vertical and horizontal sighting adjustments in a rifle sight, two methods are available. The scope can be mounted in fixed position on the rifle with internal adjustment provided for movement of the reticle within the tube. Or the reticle can be fixed within the scope, and external adjustment provided in the mount for movement of the entire scope. Either method can be made equally precise and convenient. However, the advantage of strength (as well as optical performance) is all on the side of external adjustment. For internal adjustment, movement of a suspended reticle disc must be accomplished by a mechanism of rings, screws, and springs -tiny and delicate enough to fit within the confined space, and not interfere with the path of light. The Bausch & Lomb method of adjustments in the mount, on the other hand, makes possible the construction of a thoroughly solid and shock-proof scope, which zeros in by being held in a pair of machined steel V-cones or "spools." The front double-cone threads into the mount for windage adjustment. The rear mount is a spool with ground eccentric which rotates to provide elevation adjustment.

There are only two moving parts (plus lock screws) of strong, heavy-section design to the entire adjustment. Whatever accident befalls the rifle or sight, there's no place for the scope to go except into the V-cones, at dead-zero every time. No jolt or blow which won't dent the barrel of the scope (hardened aluminum alloy Brinell 120) can throw it off even a hair. It's just about as easy to bend the barrel of your rifle as it is to knock the B&L Sight out of adjustment!

An extra benefit to this design is that the same scope can be used on any number of rifles. For each rifle, only a mount is needed. When the mounts are zeroed,



the scope can go from gun to gun, in zero on every one.

Superior optical performance for this

design is assured in the fact that the reticle is always in the center of the optical field where the image is best. And, of course, being a Bausch & Lomb optical instrument, the B&L Sight provides a razor-sharp definition and brilliant contrast of image which knows no superior.

Balvar, the Variable-Power (2½×-4×) Bausch & Lomb Sight is \$80. Baltur (2½× fixed power) and Balfor (4× fixed power) are \$65. Mounts for all popular big-game rifles are \$25. Ownership of any of these rigs will assure to you the satisfaction of a lifetime of use of the strongest, most dependable, best-performance sight ever offered to the hunter.







☐ Shooter's Bible \$2.00

STATE



New Marlin Levermatic

A NEWCOMER to short-action lever guns is the "Levermatic," perhaps called that because unlike older Marlin lever guns it feeds cartridges from a vertical clip like an automatic. The invention of a railroad engineer who whomps these things up in his spare time, its incredibly short lever throw is



accomplished by a nightmare of internal cam grooves which in substance mean that the shooter can grasp the small of the stock in normal fashion and simply snap the lever down with his fingers, without changing the position of his hand on the stock at all.

Marlin engineer Tom Robinson considered the prototype model of this gun one of the worst pieces of machinery he had ever seen, but he also knew that if Marlin didn't buy it, some competitor would, and then it would be goodbye to the Marlin leadership in the .22 lever action field. With the rights controlled by Marlin, a thorough restyling job was done by the Marlin crew with the characteristically clean lined, graceful stock designs they lay out. The Levermatic appears on the market as a surprisingly light, easy-acting plinking rifle.

Although its action would ordinarily rule it out of such work as competitive match shooting, the gun has the Marlin "microgroove" rifling which since it creates an absolute minimum of disfiguring to the bullet in its passage down the bore, has shown remarkable accuracy in all calibers in which they have so far tried it, .22 LR included. The Levermatic sells for \$48.75, blue and walnut.

Match .22 Ammo

New bullet profile and improved priming with altered loading density characterize the latest Peters and Remington .22 Match ammo, their first to appear on the market in several years. The bullet shape has been considerably changed from the old shapes common to most makes of Long Rifle cartridges, and the priming is more evenly distributed in the case rim.

Overall length of the new load is a trifle greater than previous loads, a result of seating the bullet farther out of the case. Also, the bullet ogive has been changed from the conventional sugar-loaf point to a sort of hemisphere end to a cylinder, with the enlarged rotating band around the base at the case mouth. The rotating band, which must be squeezed down by the rifling, is narrower in this new amnunition, and the center of gravity of the new projectile seems more to the bullet rear. This tends to minimize tail wobble and acts to stabilize the bullet more promptly in flight, giving greater inherent accuracy, while the narrower rotating band means that the bullet is subjected to less plastic defomation as it is forced through the rifling and is therefore delivered more perfect at the muzzle.

Crimping is light: and a uniform "squeeze" along the side of the bullet serves to aid in holding the bullet friction tight in the case mouth. In addition, the slightly concave bullet base, acted on by gas pressure, has only a thin edge at the outside, instead of the



thick rim of older designs. This means that gas cutting is reduced to nil, and the whole effect is an increase in accuracy in what has been usually known as "the world's most highly developed cartridge," the .22 Long Rifle. The new Rem and Pete ammo sells for \$1.05 per box of 50, \$10.50 a carton, and is designed especially for maximum accuracy in rifles. (Continued on page 46)

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NOVEMBER 1955 Vol. 1 No. 11-11





MAGAZINE

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TRIGGER

This kingsize issue of Guns is the biggest package we've delivered to readers since this magazine was started less than a year ago. Like Topsy we've grown and grown and grown and our current 84-page issue represents almost doubling in size since our first issue.

We want to take occasion in this special game hunting issue to thank our devoted readers who have not only flooded us with subscriptions but also proven excellent customers for our many advertisers. Their excellent response to ads in Guns has in a short time established this magazine as a foremost gun market, a place where gun bugs can find the best in bargains.

The editors of Guns like to think of the magazine as a forum and an exchange for readers and advertisers, a place where shooters can express their opinions freely and learn about the newest developments in the gun field. In line with this thinking Col. Charles Askins, who shoots just as precisely and on target with his words as with his gun, is a regular contributor to these pages. Never hesitant in being a controversial figure, the former national pistol champion writes with humor and good sense whether he is writing about Sears new gas-operated shotgun (see page 42) or tackling the powers that be in the gun world.

That he does in next month's issue when he writes on "A Shooting Iron Too Hot To Handle." It concerns a 22 centerfire that he developed for competition shooting but which was banned by the National Rifle Association. Askins relates his side of the controversy in an article no competitive shooter will want to miss. Also in the offing is another provocative piece by Colonel Askins, in which he asks and answers the ticklish question, "Are Pistol Champs Alcoholics?"

In publishing controversial articles—stories in past issues like "That Overrated Hogleg" and "Can Women Outshoot Men?"—Guns is opening up its pages to those questions that so often are talked about in gun shops and gun clubs but rarely get into print. We want gun enthusiasts to consider this their magazine and to have full freedom to express themselves as they wish—no matter what side of the fence they're on.

Here's How Husqvarna <u>Has</u> Improved the Mauser Action!

Husqvarna alone—among the great firearms manufacturers of the world—has come up with the answer to a true sporting rifle built on a Mauser-type action! It is the development of the HVA Improved Mauser Action which not only assures time-proven Mauser dependability but presents design and functional features together with superior strength never before seen in Mauser-type sporting rifles.

Behind this development are many years of research—including a period of months spent in this country by the chief firearms designer of the Husqvarna Weapons Factory. Information gathered from gunsmiths and firearms experts indicated that modification should start with the action—for aside from function, it is the action that govern weight, size and overall design of the rifle.

Naturally any refinement could not be made at the sacrifice of the great strength for which the '98 Mauser had long been famous. It was here that the problem lay for years—for to reduce size and weight normally would mean a proportionate loss in strength. Yet, in the very heart of the problem Husqvarna found the answer. Through their

incomparable world-famous high quality Swedish steel, they were able to produce a completely redesigned action—smaller, lighter, with even superior strength than existing Mauser-type actions. The excellence of this steel is due to the extremely low content of sulphur and phosphorous and very small variations in the quantities of carbon and manganese. By using high-grade iron ore and a special smelting process using charcoal instead of coke, this is achieved. This, together with a well-developed hardening process, results in steel that has no peer.

Tests performed, using the HVA Improved Mauser Action and other military and commercial Mauser actions, proved the HVA able to withstand breech pressures far greater than normal when subjected to abnormally large loads—facts which convincingly prove that its strength and gas handling properties clearly exceeded those of the other actions.

This reduction in size and weight resulted in a more streamlined receiver and smaller diameter receiver rings... a feature which permits a thinner stock at this point with a further decrease in weight, and a much better gripping surface both in handling and carrying.

The bolt, unlike the '98 Mauser and similar types, has solid locking lugs top and bottom, made possible by the positioning of the ejecter slot in the bolt face rather than through the top locking lug. This results in lugs of equal strength, whereas the familiar split locking lug is naturally weaker.

For convenient and positive operation, a thumb slide safety which locks both trigger sear and bolt is located on the right side of the receiver tang just to the rear of the bolt handle. This improvement over the old conventional scope safety allows mounting scopes in the lowest position, without any interference in operating the safety.

For easy cartridge removal a hinged floor plate replaces the standard magazine floor plate. Release is simple and controlled by an accident-proof fingertip catch at the front of the trigger guard.

trigger guard.
Added to these improvements are these features: streamlined, snag-proof bolt sleeve; curved bolt handle for ac-



Absolute precision in workmanship is evident in these closeups of the HVA Improved Mauser Action. Notice the streamlined receiver with front ring and rear bridge of same diameter. Stock is slim and fits neatly around receiver for ease in handling and carrying. Both gunsmith and shooter are assured maximum safety as each HVA Action, separate or complete with barrel, carries the NITRO PROOF TEST MARK. Actions for all popular calibers are priced at \$59.50. Barreled actions available at \$89.50.

proved the '98 Mauser for sporting

rifles - and developed the HVA Im-

proved Mauser Action for which there

commodating lowest-mounted scopes; receivers drilled and tapped for receiver sights and scope mounts.

Each action and barrel is highly polished and blued, the breech bolt and extractor are also highly polished and left bright, permitting smooth, fast operation.

THIS IS HOW Husqvarna has im-

is no equal. Now in two superb models, each built on this action, Husqvarna presents truly the world's finest in Mauser-type sporting rifles—the new lightweight and the Crown Grade.

THE LIGHTWEIGHT



Lightweight yes, but a beautiful, husky, "Heavy gun" performer! At only 6 lbs. 6 oz. the Lightweight is certain to be popular in big game hunting when weight becomes mighty important after

hours of handling and carrying a rifle. Available in both .30-06 and .270 calibers, in sporting style stock with built-in cheek rest, the Lightweight is reasonably priced at \$139.95.

THE CROWN GRADE



Here is the ultimate in gun crafts-manship—the favorite of discerning sportsmen the world over. In the production of each Crown Grade extreme care is given to custom finishing, the accumulation of almost 300 years of skill is exercised in precision work-manship throughout, and the proud symbol of this careful devotion . . . the signature of the gunsmith who

produced the rifle is inscribed on each barrel. The Crown Grade is available in 30-06, 270 and 308 calibers, in both Monte Carlo style stock priced at \$162.50, and Sporting Style stock at \$157.50

Write for catalog Sole U. S. Agent: TRADEWINDS, INC.. P. O. Box 1191-H, Tacoma, Washington. Canada, Dorken Bros Co., 408 McGill St., Montreal.

HUNTING DEER WITH AN ELEPHANT GUN



Yes, I ADMIT IT, I'm the guy who uses that shoulder artillery, the .375 H & H Magnum, on little ol' deer. I plead guilty to using the big bone-shocker that Holland & Holland first made for the heaviest of thick-skinned African game—rhino and elephants. H & H listed bullet energies of about

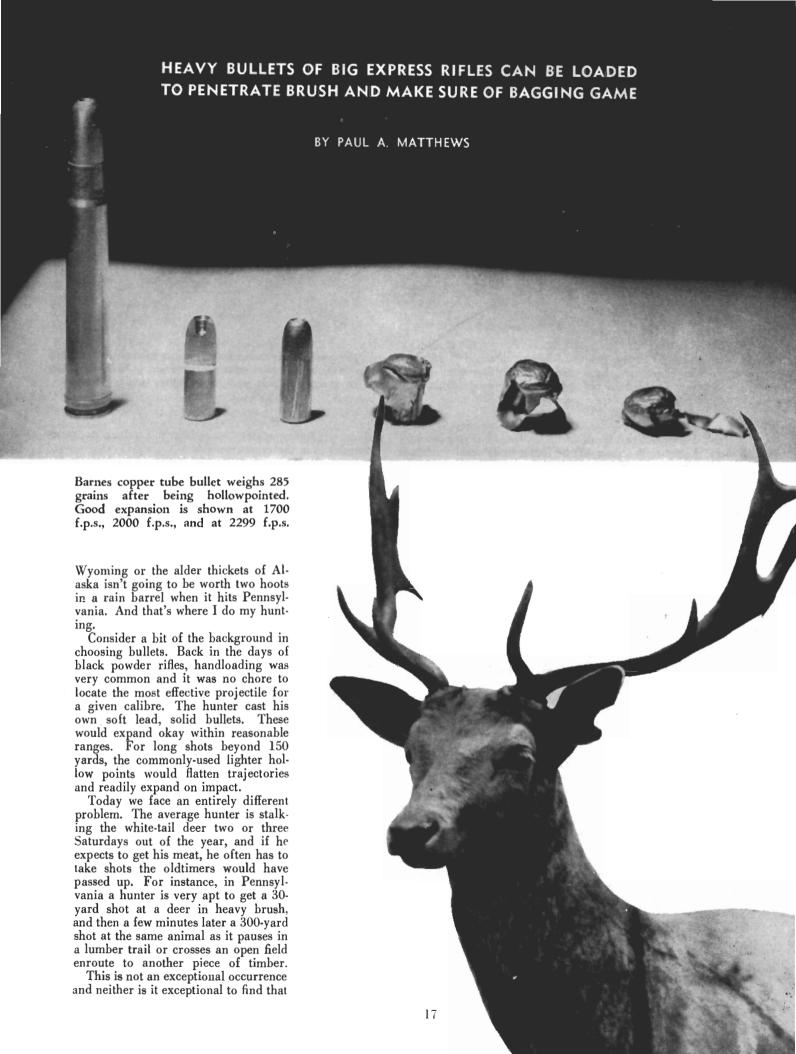
two tons and deer rifle cartridges are unformly about half that power.

I know that most hunters would insist that all that freight blasting a poor little old Pennsylvania deer would leave maybe four hooves and a handful of furry hamburger, but it doesn't work out quite that way.

I like the .375 because it gives me some bullet weight to play around with. I believe it to be best for my particular rifle, method of hunting and the terrain I encounter. My choice may not correspond with others but the fact is that the bullet performing so beautifully in the crags of the Rockies, the plains of



Pennsylvania woods-shooting may offer shots like this startling closeup or longer ranges to 150 yards. Principles of right handload in terms of bullet weight and velocity are adaptable to any large-bore rifle like M141 .35 Remington.





Shooting up sitting gelatine block at distance of 25 yards with 285-grain home-made hollowpoints loaded to 300-yard velocity duplicates shock and tissue displacement of deer hit by ordinary load at extreme distance. Ordinary Knox gelatine moulded in old gallon can is used for ballistic tests to stimulate flesh and show bullet damage to game.

the deer was hit with one of the bullets. Within a week or so, the soured carcass will be found in a laurel thicket or frozen swamp. This is often the result of a poor bullet choice, and quite likely misinformation collected from sources ranging from the barber shop to the favorite outdoor magazine.

From my studies of bullet performance on Pennsylvania deer, my final decision is for a bullet incorporating considerable weight for the brush, quick expansion for close shots on deer charged with fright, and *certain* expansion at even 300 yards without having to depend on hitting a bone structure. This seems quite an order, but I believe that I have succeeded in finding such a bullet for my rifle.

Without entering the argument between the big and small bore boys, let me repeat that I use the .375 Magnum for my hunting. Without any question of doubt, it is far more powerful than necessary for deer, but with an improper bullet can fail as miserably as a .22 rimfire.

My first experience with it was when using the light-jacketed 38/55/225 bullet on a spike buck. He was dead when he hit the ground.

My second experience was when talking to a doctor whose ammunition I had loaded. His buck took the Winchester 270 grain soft nose backed with 69 grains of 4064 low through the heart and never flinched. Though not a failure, the doctor gave the deer up as lost until a more experienced hunter of the party insisted on a check and found the buck piled up 60 or 70 yards away. More rapid expansion might have stopped him immediately, while any further lack of expansion might have meant a lost buck.

Despite the fact my light-jacketed bullet gave me good performance, I knew it lacked the weight to go through thick brush. I had on hand at that time several hundred Barnes bullets weighing 300 grains with a 1/32" copper tubing jacket. With 76 grains of #4350, they were very accurate over the longer ranges and their weight was in the right bracket. My first test with them was using a fresh beef head at 75 yards. They would penetrate crosswise just under the horn boss without even a hint of expansion, and on a lengthwise shot through the nose and out the back of the head. They made an exit hole about the size of my thumb. I tried the 255 grain bullet with similar

shots, producing surface wounds and a refusal to penetrate on even the crosswise shot.

Determined to use the heavy bullets, I took a double handful of them to the shop and had a cooperative lathe operator shove a 1/sth center drill in the noses until it removed all the exposed lead. This made a cavity about 7/32nds of an inch deep and a bevel across the top about 3/16ths of an inch wide, leaving a bullet weighing 285 grs.

Obviously, because of its construction, the beef head was not the proper thing to test deer bullets with. The accepted flesh-like substance used by the ammunition manufacturers is plain gelatin like you can buy in the grocery store. Sixteen boxes of it mixed in a two-gallon can used for a mould and gives just about the right consistency, though it can be varied somewhat. To remove the block from the mould, I turned the can upside down, poured boiling water over it, and then pulled the can up, leaving the block in position. I was now set for the important phase of my testing.

Ballistics charts give all sorts of figures on bullet weight and velocities at various ranges. The most impressive figure is "muzzle velocity" but the real figure which counts is the 100 to 300 yard series. Instead of shooting full loads at targets hundreds of yards away, I took the easier course and shot at the gelatin block placed about 25 feet from my gun. It has been proved that the difference in rotational velocity of a given full-load bullet striking at 300 yards, and the same bullet loaded to strike at 25 feet with 300 yard velocity, has little to do with the resulting wound. Thus by underloading the 285 grain home-made hollowpoints, I was duplicating terminal ballistics at 300 yards without the fifth of a mile walk I'd otherwise have to hike to see the target. Checking bullets at very close ranges at reduced velocities will help you determine accurately how they will perform at longer ranges where the velocity has dropped off to the muzzle velocity of the tested bullet.

My first experiment with the hollow-pointed bullet in gelatin was a load of 50 grains of #4895 giving a velocity of about 2000 feet per second. Because of the heavy jacket, I didn't expect any expansion in the soft gelatin, but expand they did, giving me a beautiful, funnel-shaped wound

channel and filling the gelatin with flakes of lead. Because of this fragmentation, I decided to fool around a bit more and see how low a velocity I could reach and maintain expansion, and how high a velocity I could obtain and still have a bullet left.

Since the old 38/72 fired a 275 grain projectile at 1480 fps, I figured 80 grains of FG black powder would push the 285 grain bullet close to 1500 fps. I fired through the nine-inch block, retrieving the bullet in a long box filled with mildly-damp, fine sawdust. There was no expansion or bullet deformation of any kind after penetrating the gelatin and 40 inches of sawdust.

The next load was 40 grains of #4895 estimated at 1700 fps. After the gelatin block and 24 inches of sawdust, I had a slug left measuring 23/32nds of an inch long and weighing 249 grains. The front of the bullet was flared out and the jacket peeled back until it was a shade better

than 3/4ths of an inch across it.

I then repeated the original load of 50 grains of 4895 at 2000 fps. As before, there was considerable disruption, filling the block with flakes of lead and the bullet being found at the 21-inch mark in the sawdust. Measuring from the flattened nose to the base, the slug measured just an even half-inch in length, and the exposed lead, 7/16ths of an inch across. It weighed 198 grains.

For the last load, I was fortunate to find one that had been chronographed with the Barnes bullet. This was 70 grains of #4350, with a muzzle velocity of 2299 fps, about the same velocity my hunting load would have at 75 or

80 yards.

I had the gelatin sheltered in a small building. Immediately after firing, bits of the stuff hung from the win-

dows, ceiling, and walls. The remainder of the bullet still penetrated 15 inches of sawdust, but was more or less shaped like a large button 58ths of an inch across and 38ths of an inch from nose to base. It weighed 154 grains. This is a long ways from the 15/32 inch measurement or the original bullet.

Now right away some of the more scientific-minded readers are going to jump up and shout: "Inconclusive; no chronograph!" I admit it. I am one of the 15 million shooters in this country not having access to such an instrument. While it certainly would have made the test more accurate, a chronograph is not essential. Any handloader-rifleman with some incentive and a block of gelatin, by interpolating the figures found in the handloading manuals, can find the bullet best suited for his needs.

For my own particular use, though I am far overgunned, I have a bullet considered fully dependable on light game out to 300 yards. Its combined qualities of heavy weight, blunt nose, and moderate velocity also make

it equally efficient in the brush.

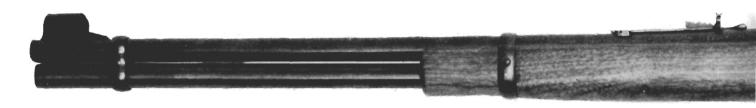
As for long range shooting with heavy bullets, 90 per cent of hitting out yonder is the shooter's ability to estimate range, and 75 per cent of *killing* out yonder is the proper bullet. A poorly-placed efficient bullet will often kill in the immediate vicinity, whereas an inefficient bullet may let the game run for miles and wind up a total loss for everybody.

But regardless of how, where and what you hunt for, there is a best bullet for the job. Spend some time and find it. Then, whether you ease that shot off at 30 or 300 yards, you will have a confidence of success you have not known before.

One very heavy bullet hand-loaded for cutting brush without chance of accidental deflection inherent in high velocity loads downed this little blacktail buck at 60 yards in swamp underbrush. Handload permitted use of heavy bullet without meat damage which full charge would have caused, as .375 H & H Magnum is too powerful in factory loads.



AMERICA'S BEST



AFTER 60 YEARS OF PRODUCTION, WINCHESTER 30-30 REMAINS FAVORITE GUN OF NATION'S HUNTERS FOR VERSATILITY, COMPACTNESS AND ACCURACY

By JACK CONNOR

ONE WAY to lose friends and dissipate your influence is to start an argument about the best shooting iron for deer. There is no "best" gun for deer, but there is one rifle that comes mighty near it—the Winchester .30-30.

In a nation which prides itself on being up to the minute in every field of of design, with the very latest power and all the fancy chrome, the Model 1894 Winchester "thutty-thutty" stands as a monument to the man who designed it-John Browning, the world's greatest firearms inventor. And a darned active monument it is, for this fall several hundred thousand men with gaudy shirts and glittering eyes will head into wild country with an entire expensive hunting trip hinging on an item that has changed not a hair for six decades—the .30-30 carbine. Despite all the current emphasis at striking a deer dead at umpteen thousand yards range, and use of .55 caliber and bigger anti-tank rifles, and even a proposed recoiless shoulder rifle for the sportsman, a legion of hunters this year as for 60 years before will declare the .30-30 is still the rifle for deer hunting.

In a Minnesota brush country deer camp near the Manitoba and North Dakota lines, I once counted the artillery of six hunters to see how the guns ran. One had a scoped Winchester .30/06 Model 70, two .300 Savages, a .270 also on the Model 70, a Remington Model 760A in .35 caliber, and—naturally—a battered old '94.

The little smoke pole belonged to a lanky, stubble-bearded bush savage who raised beef steers nearby and was hunting with us. We had one buck hung up at the end of the first day, and his little 30-30 carbine had tagged it. My friend Jelly Smith was inclined to give all the credit to the native and his knowledge of the terrain.

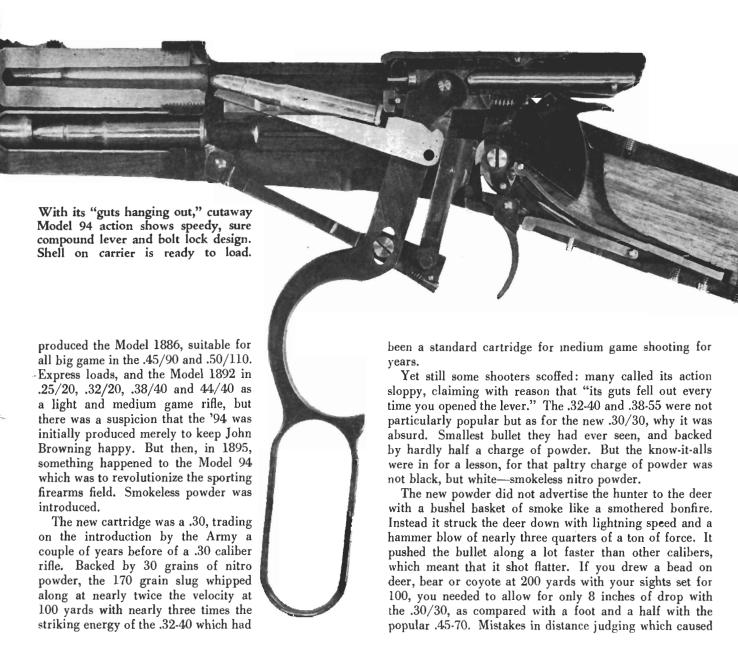
"With all your dough," he said, "why don't you get yourself a real deer rifle? That little pop gun you got there ain't fit for coyotes." The cattleman, whose name was Gust Engstrom, fixed a calm gaze on Jelly. "Well, now, I didn't notice that fancy .300 of yours hangin' up any venison today. Still, we're eatin' deer liver tonight."

And so it is with America's most popular gun-it delivers the game.

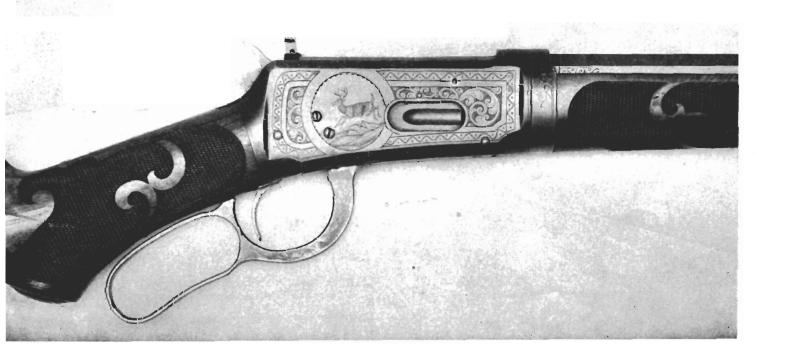
Famed outdoor artist Roger Preuss uses snug foreend grip and outside lever hold to fire light .30-30 rapidly.







Deluxe engraving and fancy checkering of older takedown Model 94 rifle was typical of fine work done by Winchester craftsmen. On special order today Winchester will do custom finishing priced according to individual order.





When first introduced at turn of the century, popular Model 94 could be bought in many styles of carbine and rifle. Two fancy-grade half-magazine rifles are shown above, one (top) a rare takedown gun, other engraved.

a complete miss with the older guns would still be hits with the new rifle.

Interest in the new "thutty thutty" built up rapidly. From disdain for the new gun, arms "experts" turned to criticizing in a so-called helpful manner—so much so, that in 1902, Winchester brought out a new cartridge and chambered the Model 94 rifle for it. Titled the .32 Winchester Special, the new cartridge is so similar to the .30/30, that it has been claimed the .32 WS is to use the oversize bullet in shot-out .30/30's! This of course is not true, but the .32 WS found favor with people who wanted something a little different.

Shortly after the .32 came out, Winchester received an enthusiastic letter from a Dr. Davies, of Brussels, Belgium. Praise for the .32 WS was praise for the .30/30, too. Dr. Davies wrote: "The .32 Special does very well, and kills in a perfect manner, although I should be afraid to tackle buffalo with it. It killed one elephant with one head shot—the animal was struck as by lightning. That arm is adapted for all game except buffalo and rhinoceros. For elephant with body shots, antelope, and even elephant if you shoot at the head, the .32 is correct. If people ask me what arms for Africa, I answer . . . if you do not wish elephant, buffalo or rhino, take the .32 Special. It is handy and light. I myself should not be afraid to tackle everything with a .32."

The Winchester people wrote of Dr. Davies' exploits to another of their customers, who was about to travel on safari to Africa—President Theodore Roosevelt. Said the Winchester spokesman: "As the doctor on his own confession is not much of a hunter and has had but little experience, the above must be taken with a considerable grain of salt. Yet from the doctor's observation we are inclined to

believe you will find the .30-30 a very handy gun." Teddy did just that: his .30-30 Model 94 was one of the five Winchester guns he "officially" carried on the trip, and figured in many of his hunting tales which he later wrote.

Claims to elephant-gun status are not made by Winchester for the '94, but they do not have to look shy when anybody asks whether it's good on deer. Undoubtedly the '94 is the most widely used firearm for deer in the country, even after 60 years of use. In 1951, for instance, shooting writer Warren Page made a survey of guns used to bag 250 white tail bucks. Of these 250, 61 were killed at 40 yards, 49 at 60 yards, 46 at 80 yards, and 29 at 100 yards. Of the guns used, the .30/30 topped the list, accounting alone for 20 per cent of the kills.

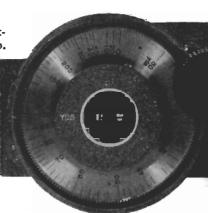
Even on big stuff it rates high. Not recommended for moose hunting, the .30/30 still turns in its share each season. At Cache Creek, British Columbia, a survey of 953 moose hunters shooting 42 different calibers showed the .30/30 in fourth place, accounting for 77 kills. There is a reason behind this widespread popularity of a 60-year-old gun, and part of it is the very age of the weapon.

To a generation brought up on lever action guns, the Model '94 "looks like a gun." The rugged hind end of the breech, the hammer sticking up where you can see at a glance if it's cocked, the straight stock and lever, all have a look to them that is unique. Secondly, the flat slab-slided receiver fits into a saddle scabbard like it was made for it, as indeed it was. The lever gun was first and foremost a horseman's rifle, and for packing into the far hills the '94 is a first consideration.

It is light, about $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds in the modern 20" barreled carbine version, and it swings up to your shoulder light as a feather and easy as a dream. (Continued on page 52)



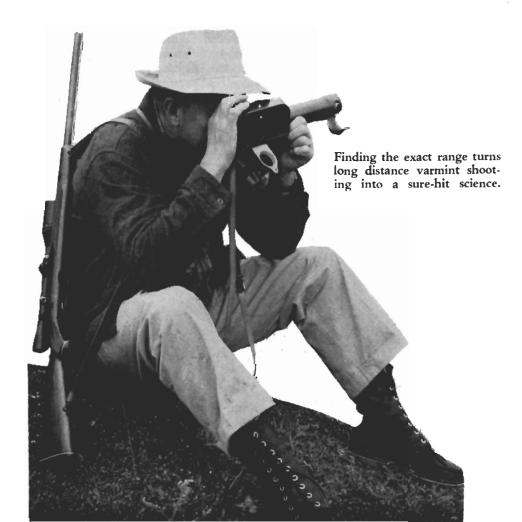
Portable Bushnell rangefinder and experimental Thalson instruments are only two portable models on sale in American market today. Prices range from about \$100 and up.



SHOOTING SQUIRRELS WITH A RANGE FINDER

NEW PORTABLE INSTRUMENT COMPUTES EXACT YARDAGE TO GAME, TEACHES HUNTER TO BE MORE ACCURATE IN ESTIMATING RANGES

By FRANCIS E. SELL

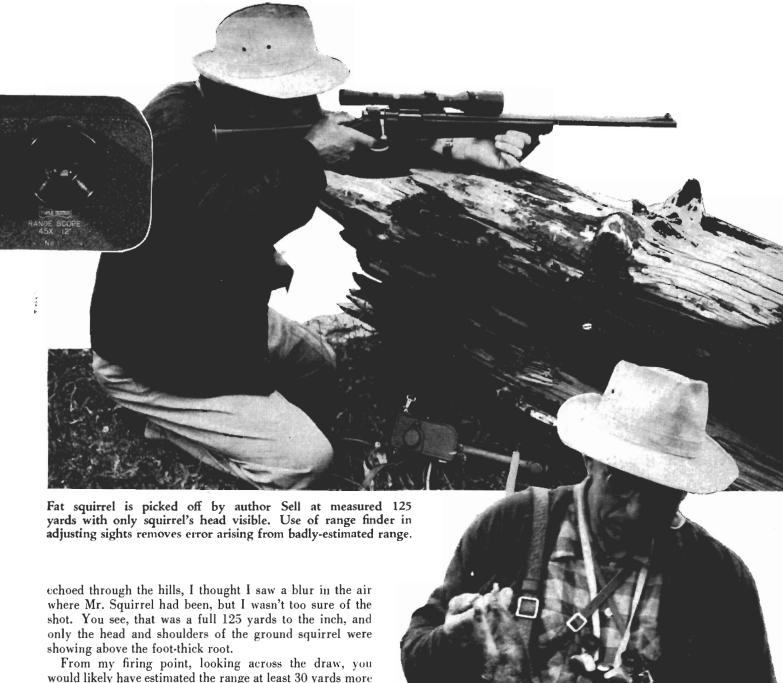


THE PERSISTENT CRY of that ground squirrel, "Ech—hit! Ech—hit!" came across the broken ground, from where he sat perked up behind a big root. Twisting the dial, gradually the hazing images of two bright eyes and the heads of two phantom squirrels, superimposed, came into one focus. I had already scouted the low hills with my binoculars, and now was checking out this little scamper-varmint with a range finder.

My gun? No, it wasn't a 16" naval rifle, but merely one of the Marlin .222's, but the range finder was in principle like the big jobs on battleships. Through its glass I now had located not only the loudly vocal ground squirrel sitting on a root of the cedar windfall, but also several fresh "workings" where new dirt had been deposited in front of burrows on the hillside.

Getting into a prone position, I adjusted the sling on my .222, and lay spread-eagled across the bank of the washed-out wagon trace. The crosshairs of my scope settled on the target, and I eased off the shot.

As the whiplash crack of the rifle



From my firing point, looking across the draw, you would likely have estimated the range at least 30 yards more than the actual bullet-line distance. At least, that is what I have done taking this identical shot on other occasions. But this time I had a very convenient means of measuring ranges—up hill or down, across canyons or flats, it is all one to me now with my range finder.

This piece of equipment is new to riflemen, but it is destined to become better known as time goes on, for it serves two very important purposes. It gives you a very accurate reading on sniping ranges when you are out after ground squirrel or woodchuck. Equally important, it teaches you to become more accurate in your estimates of big game ranges. You see how 100 yards looks down a steep hill. You see how 300 yards appears across a deep canyon. And all this is related to your rifle shooting.

A very good feature of this range finder I use—a Japanese instrument imported by Dave Bushnell—is its portability. About 16 inches long, it weighs perhaps three or four pounds—very easy to carry, and handy to use.

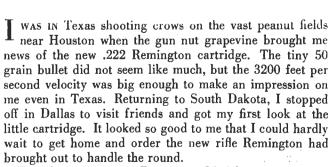
The mechanics of my range finder are relatively simple. In looking through it at your target, you see super-imposed images, a shadowed one slightly off-set. When the two are brought directly over each other, (Continued on page 72)

HAPPY HUNTING
WITH THE
.222 CARTRIDGE

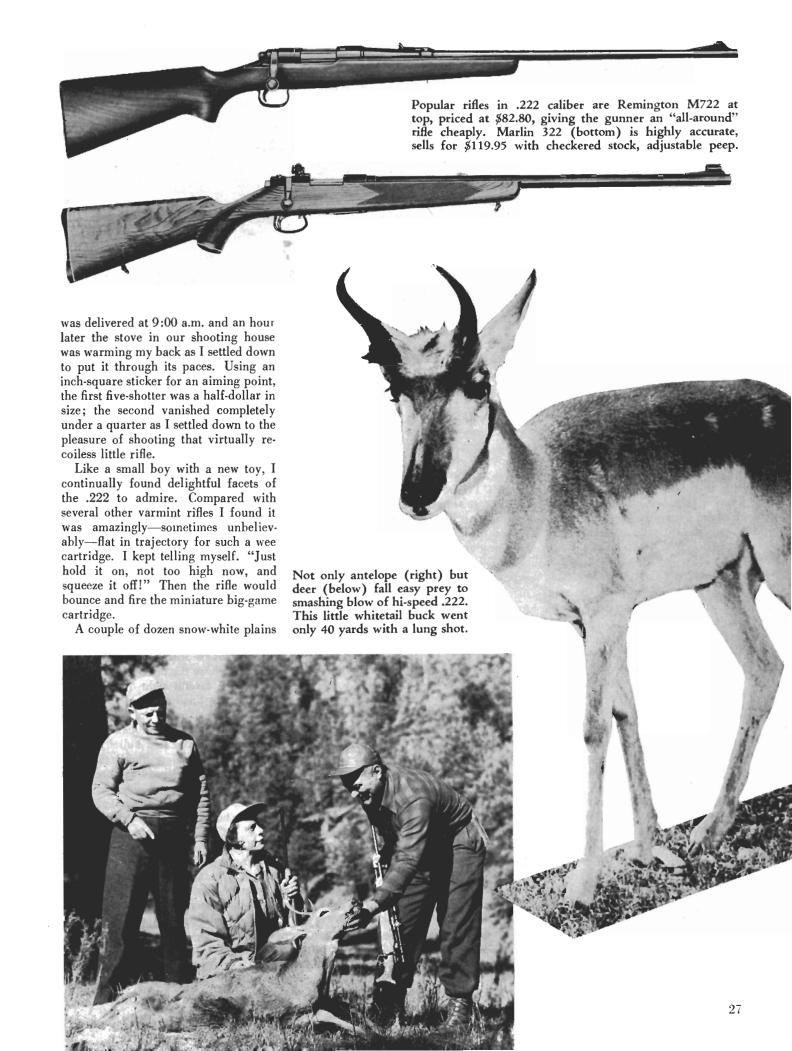
IN HUNTING MEDIUM GAME LIKE
ANTELOPE AND SMALL DEER,
NEW POPGUN WITH LIGHT LOAD
PROVES IDEAL FOR GOOD FLAT
SHOOTING AT LONG RANGES

By BERT POPOWSKI

Weaker .22 Hornet and highly erosive .220 Swift are compared with zippy .222 Remington, which made one-shot kill from Sako-Marlin in hands of pleased hunter Lloyd Fox who points at buck's neck shot (right.)



That first .222 was a Remington Model 722, wearing a 6x Weaver scope on Redfield mounts. With it came a couple of hundred rounds of its amazing firecrackers. It



jackrabbits died suddenly in the next several weeks, struck by the .222's. And one here, a pair there, tallied up to eleven game-killing great horned owls which let go all holds and dove into the snowbanks below their perches, after a dose of .222 medicine. Three got away. each one shrouded behind bullet-shattering brush. The .222 seemed to work swell at anything I tried it on, and in fact, anything anybody else tried it on. too! There were woodchucks and prairie dogs for targets, but I found that I was doing less and less shooting. I just had too many shooting friends who couldn't bear to stop "trying out" that .222 long enough for me to wedge in a little shooting. The happier my friends were with the popular, the more anxious I got to try it out on some serious game. When antelope season neared, my mind was made up.

The .222 was legal for South Dakota pronghorns, and that was the rifle I would use—and incidentally, it's worth checking the .222's legality in your own state to avoid arguments with the game warden. The antelope area where

I'd drawn a permit was very nearly the worst possible one to do any calm hunting. Instead, we were strung out in a long line, with Wyoming scarcely 30 yards behind us. Rancher friends wanted every hunter to fill out, to stop the alfalfa-raiding propensities of the fleet-footed "goats." Any hunter who failed to drop his animal before it escaped into Wyoming, from where it would return to ruin more alfalfa after the five-day season was over, wouldn't exactly be a fair-haired boy in the estimation of those hard-bitten cattlemen.

Though I preferred a buck, under the circumstances I took what came along, a barren doe. And, when a neighboring hunter yelled: "Get it! My gun's jammed!" I dropped the second doe for him. With four licenses yet to fill for the party, when an ankle-broken young buck finally came wheeling by, I dropped that one, too. I fired a total of four shots, one of which was a miss because I still wasn't used to the speed of that 50-grain bullet. That miss, on the first shot, passed in front of my doe.

My doe collapsed in mid-leap, with a bullet through her ribcage. She found no legs under her after that bullet blew up in her boiler. The second doe was shot in the middle of the back as she was recovering from a slide under a barb-wire fence. It was just three paces from the fence to her white rump-patch. That bullet had blown up internally, too. But the little buck, shot through the back of the shoulders, with the bullet hitting no bones, showed an exit bullet hole no larger than that made on its entry side. And he, like my doe, fell dead in mid-leap and scarcely kicked.

I have found such non-expansion in two other instances, out of nearly a thousand rounds fired through several .222 rifles, the F I Sako, and Marlin's M 322. One was a coyote that was hit while hitting the breeze, the bullet catching him under the belly behind the floating ribs and exiting through the brisket. But he fell as suddenly and limply as if hit through the head or the spinal cord. The other was a broadside bobcat that was walking slowly and care-



Hunter Bill Dawson stands beside modern Dakota's equivalent of the old pack saddle, a car-top carrier, which holds his antelope on ride to freezer.

tully atop the thin crust on foot-deep snow. He fell in his tracks and as far as I could see, through the scope and on closer examination, never twitched. Apparently the violent shock generated by the fast passage of the bullet is equally as deadly as its almost complete disintegration effect.

My younger son, Jerry, with the .222 killed a fine antelope buck that he had to take quartering. His bullet caught the front of the gut cavity and blew up in it. The shock also ruptured the diaphragm but we found no lung damage when we dressed out the animal.

That buck walked a half-dozen steps, according to Jerry. and laid down. Since this was his first antelope he confessed he didn't know just what to do: expose himself in working in for a close shot and hope the buck was hit hard enough to stay put; or draw a careful sight on the head or neck and so finish it off. He finally elected the latter course and reported that the bullet slammed the buck's head down so fast that it literally bounced on the tough buffalograss sod. He was so instantly dead of that bullet, which hit the neck vertebra just under the jaw hinge, that he didn't even roll out of his folded-legged bedding pose.

My older son, John, after killing several antelope with his .270, used a Marlin heavy-barreled .222 on a Sako action on his last pronghorn buck. He temporarily forgot the flat-shooting qualities of the load and over-shot a bedded buck, at slightly under 300 yards. But, when the buck got into full stride, John swung out ahead and touched off a second shot. The bullet caught the buck just above the windpipe, severed the jugular vain, and so confused him that he spent his few remaining seconds of life in darting first this way, and then that, until he collapsed within 50 yards of where he was first hit.

I have personally killed six antelope and four whitetailed deer with various .222 rifles. Three of those antelope and all of the deer were within 100 yards of the muzzle; one antelope was at over 200 yards. (Continued on page 76)

WHAT'S
INSIDE
A SCOPE

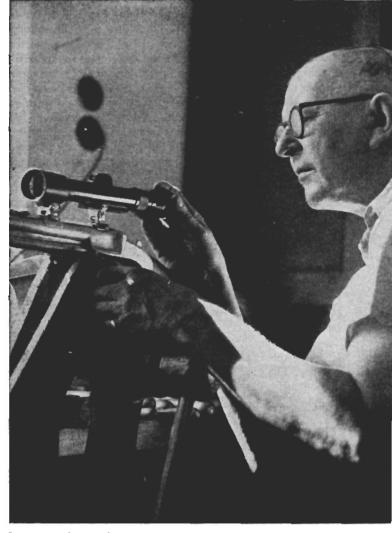
Bushnell +X Scopemaster is typical of hunting scopes which use cemented achromats for color-free light transmission and two small erecting lenses to keep length short for rifle use.

UNDERSTANDING OPTIC PRINCIPLES IS BIG HELP TO GAME SHOOTERS IN CORRECT CHOICE OF SCOPE

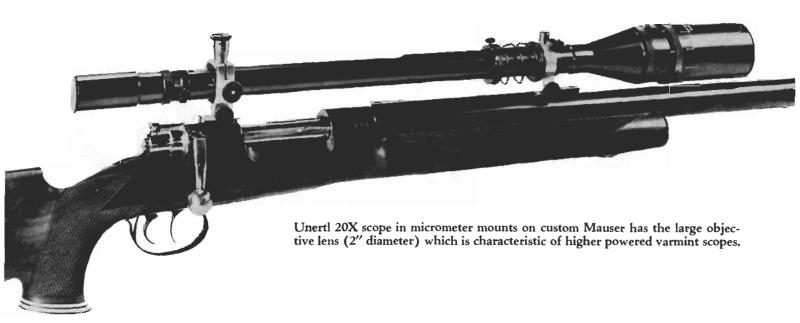
By DAVID F BUTLER

CLEAR SIGHTING is the purpose of rifle telescope sights. yet there is no subject on which the average sportsman is so blind as the innards of his glass sights and why some are better than others. In trying to choose from a wide variety of makes and designs, shooters usually rely on manufacturers' claims, without understanding the basic properties which make one instrument more valuable to him than another. Statistics of mount and scope weight are easy to comprehend, yet the functioning and reasons why sights may vary greatly in value for a specific job, is the least understood phase of this least-understood instrument.

While optics is a complicated field of design, the principles involved in scope sights and the methods of operation of these instruments can be easily understood with a clear explanation. New understanding may help you choose your next scope wisely.



Large number of foreign scopes now on American market, such as Kahles scope being fitted by Ferlach gunmaker, make knowledge of glass sights more important than ever.



A hunting scope is in some ways like a rifle—only reversed. Bullets go down the bore of the gun, away from the shooter, and hit the target. In a scope tiny "bullets" of light from the target pass through the tube and hit their own "target"—your sighting eye.

Every solid object sends out light. If your eye—or a telescope—is looking at the object, it will pick up rays of reflected light. Not all the light reflected from the entire surface of an object (deer or woodchuck, for example) will enter the scope, but all those sent towards the shooter which are picked up by the scope will be brought together to form an image behind the lens.

All the rays sent toward the scope

pass through the lens, and all are brought to a point by the curve of the lens, much like a single lens can focus sunlight to start a fire. This, incidentally, is the reason why under no circumstances should you ever look at the direct sun with any scope-you'll be burned blind in an instant. But the very much weaker reflected light is always perfectly safe through a scope, and the only difference you may notice besides magnification is that the image seems much clearer and brighter, such as at dawn or evening when scopes can give you an added half-hour of safe shooting because they make things seem brighter.

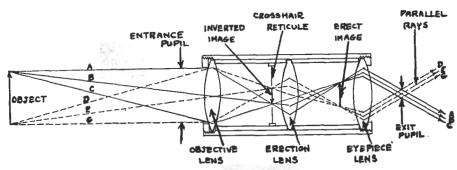
When the rays pass through a lens,

they all come to a point and then continuing, diverge again growing ever wider and weaker. If the object viewed is located above the axis of the lens or center line of the scope, the image formed after the rays cross occurs below the axis of the lens; this invariably occurs with any lens that forms an image.

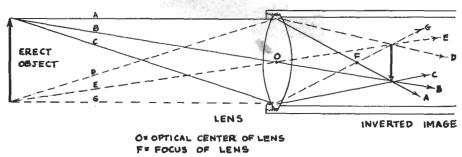
In a telescope, the fixed diameter of the objective lens at the front of the scope controls the amount of light which can enter. The wider the lens, the greater the light gathering power of the scope usually. But some of the cheaper scopes made some years ago in Europe traded on this fact by fitting very wide objective lenses, although only the center areas picked up light.

The human eye is a little more advanced in design than the scope; the adjustable iris diaphragm limits the light entering to that required for a clear, "normal" image. On a bright day, or watching yourself in the mirror while shining a flashlight on your eye, you can see the iris opening close down until a very narrow pencil of light enters. On a dark night, the opening will be made as wide as possible to gather in all the light available. The diameter of the pencil of light is known as the "entrance pupil."

The eye lens transfers this beam of light into an image on the light-sensitive back of the eyeball called the "retina." This image is inverted, because all points of the object which naturally lay above the axis of the lens were cast on the bottom of the retina, while all parts below the axis of the lens were cast on the upper part. In our brain, some sense tells us to right things again, but in a scope, more lenses have to do that job. The optical



Simple telescopic sight focuses on object (arrow) and converts light rays into image. Diagram shows how rays from top and bottom of object are transmitted.



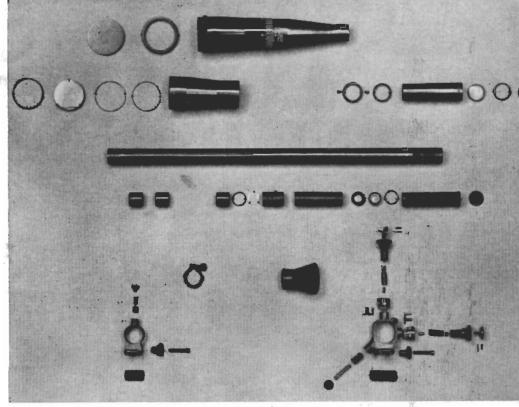
How lens forms an inverted image in scope can be seen in further breakdown of how rays behave. Distance O to F is focal length, is method of rating lenses.

situation in the eye is exactly the same as in a simple lens scope except that the light diverges again after forming the image, while in the eye the retina stops it. So far, in both the magnification is "one to one" where the object, depending on distance only, seems natural size.

The simplest possible telescope we could use on a rifle is a three lens system. The objective lens at the front forms an inverted image, which continues through a second, erecting lens that forms an upright image just forward of the third eyepiece lens. This erect image is located at the exact focal distance away from the eyepiece lens. This is very necessary, since otherwise all we would see instead of a clear image would be one much reduced or fuzzy.

A beam of light which enters a lens parallel to the axis of the lens is bent and passes through a certain point beyond the lens. All the many beams of light parallel to the axis pass through this one point, and consequently it is known as the "focus" of the lens. In our simple scope, since an image is formed at the focus of the eyepiece lens, it is as if a focusing lens were turned around and the light passing through the eyepiece lens will leave parallel to the axis. These parallel rays are picked up by the eye exactly as if it were looking at an object and an image of the target greatly magnified is formed on the retina.

Crosshairs in a scope are important in considering which one you will choose for what purpose. These fine lines are needed to make an aiming mark. A circular reticule of fine crosshairs is placed in the scope where the image of the objective lens is formed. The hunter never sees the crosshairs; instead, they block out two narrow



Lyman target scope taken apart shows four achromats and one simple lens used. Front mount is at lower left and micrometer rear mount is at lower right.

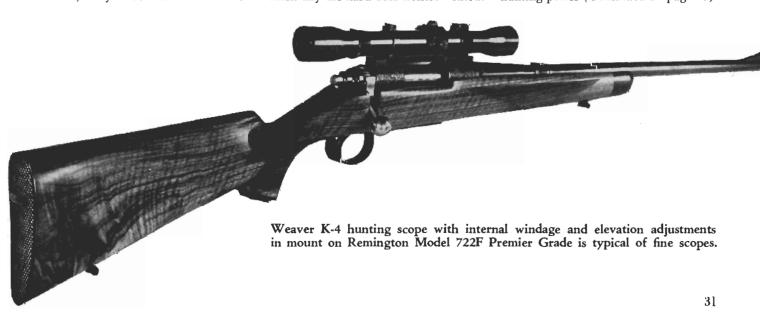
bands of light so that a shooter actually sees an image with two dark bands across it where no light comes through —a shadow.

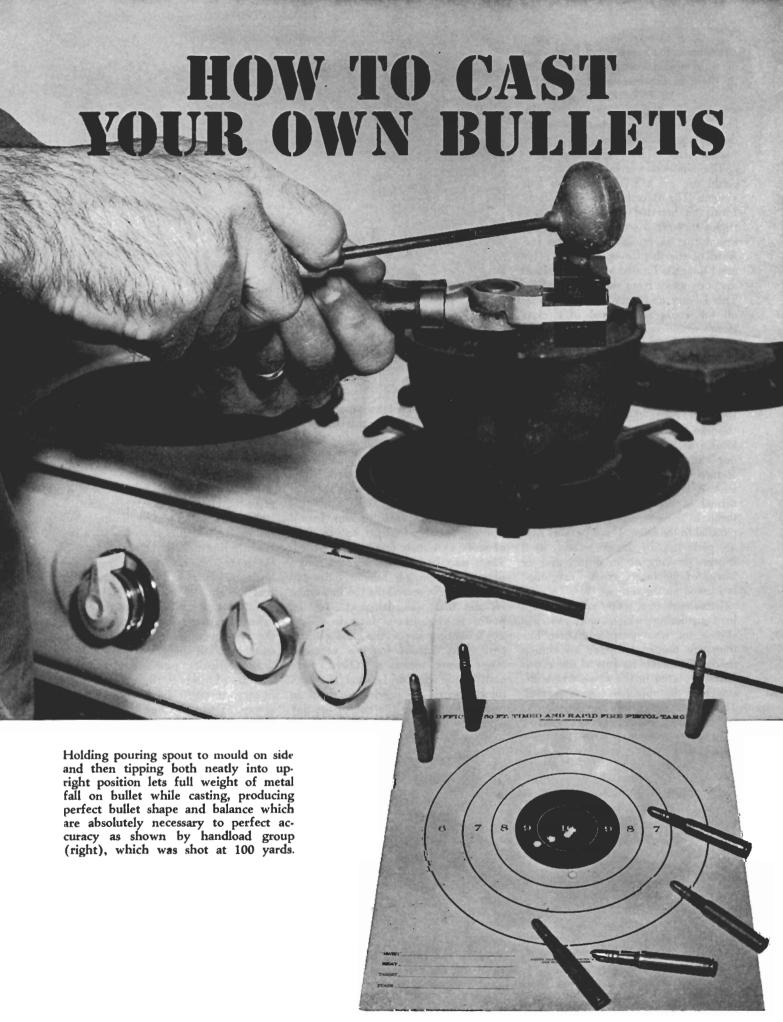
These images take various forms. For high-powered target scopes, 20X or more, extremely fine hairs are used. These may be tungsten wire or spider filament, though human hairs are known to have served the job in a scope reticule that was damaged. As the power is diminished, down to 4X or 2½X hunting scopes, the hairs get bigger. Two reasons for this are: the lower power means a thicker, more easily made wire can be used, and also, thicker wires are needed to shoot in poor light, such as the end of the day when any die-hard deer hunter without

his buck will hang on waiting for one until the light fades.

Most scopes now use single "X" cross-hairs. European types, particularly the Hensoldt glasses of long-standing repute, use thicker posts with a tapered tip that ends in the exact center of the image. Some scopes have double horizontal hairs and two thicknesses so that the shooter will have a sight instantly for two different ranges. Even inverted posts have been used, on the theory that a post rising straight up will block out the game.

Dot reticules, pioneered by Robert Thomas of Silver Spring, Md., are now factory - installed in many American scopes. These use fine cross hairs in hunting-power (Continued on page 60)





CASTING BULLETS FOR BEST ACCURACY IS EASY IF YOU KNOW HOW: DETAILS MEAN ALL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIGH SCORES AND MAGGIE'S DRAWERS

By BOB KINDLEY

Cast bullets are the modern handloader's way to beat the high cost of ammunition. Factory-loaded cartridges for a high-powered rifle cost upwards of 15 cents each. Even precision-made jacketed bullets for handloaders cost about a dime. Casting your own bullets is the economical answer. Accurate cast bullet handloads can be worked up at a fraction of the cost of loads using jacketed bullets, but in order to obtain the best possible accuracy from cast bullets, each one must be perfect.

Casting accurate lead alloy bullets is no trick. Any one with a minimum of experience and equipment can produce perfect cast bullets. But each operation from casting to seating of the bullet in the case must be performed with the utmost care if consistent groups are to be obtained.

A cast iron melting pot that will hold 10 pounds of bullet metal, a special dipper with a spout to fit the sprue hole of the mould, and the mould itself are the items that need to be bought. Heat, a wooden mallet or hardwood stick 2 x 2 x 12, a couple of tin pie pans or coffee can lids, and a folded blanket or towel are also needed. Oh, yes, I almost forgot, but you won't after one melting session: you'll also need a pair of gloves to handle the hot mould and dipper with. Any soft lead, scrap or new, may be used, hardened by added tin. Block tin or ordinary solder are both excellent. Solder, a mixture of lead and tin by weight, is easy to use. A pound of 50-50 solder contains a half pound each of lead and tin. When 4½ pounds of lead are added to a pound of this solder, the resulting mixture will be 5½ pounds of a 1 to 10 bullet metal.

When starting to cast arrange your equipment conveniently. Place a folded blanket or large turkish towel so that the bullets can be dropped from the mold on it. Arrange the tin pie pans so that one can catch the sprue cuttings, the other the dross. Keep a few pieces of beeswax handy for fluxing.

Weigh out and melt the lead, a small quantity first and then add the rest. When the lead has melted, add the correct weight of tin for the hardness desired. Take the dipper and stir the two molten metals thoroughly. Leave the dipper submerged in the pot.

Flux the metal by adding a piece of beeswax about the size of a walnut. It will melt, spread over the surface, smoke for a while, and then burst into flames. If it does not ignite, touch it off with a match.

Fluxing is important for three reasons. It helps the metals to mix properly, causes the impurities to rise to the surface, and makes the molten metal more fluid. After the beeswax has burned, skim the dross from the surface

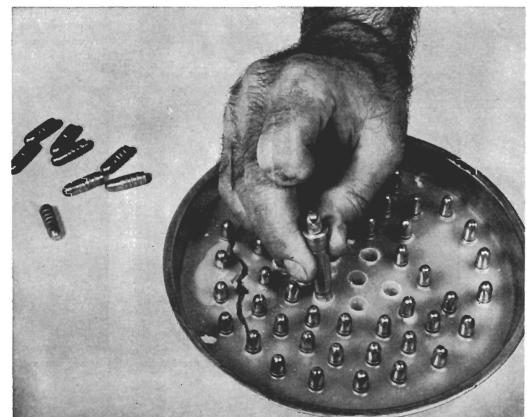
with the dipper and dump it into one of the pie pans. This operation will be necessary every 15 minutes or so, but it should never be done without first fluxing the metal with beeswax. This is important for good casting.

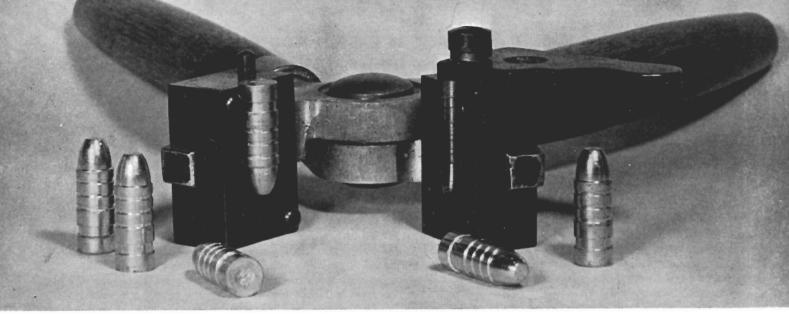
One of the secrets of casting perfect bullets is to have the mold very hot, almost as hot as the molten metal itself. A quick method is to prop the mold blocks slightly open against the melting pot while the metal is melting. This will bring the mold almost to the proper temperature by the time the alloy has melted. Turn the mold every few minutes to distribute the heat evenly; otherwise the mold may warp. Never dip the entire mold in the molten metal to heat it. It will come out a solid block of metal, firmly soldered together, and require a lot of time to clean.

When ready to start casting, hold the mold with the sprue hole to the right over the pot. Fill the dipper about 2/3 full of metal and connect the spout with the sprue hole. Tip the mold and dipper neatly upright. The weight of the molten metal in the dipper will force it into the mold. Tip the dipper away, leaving a small puddle of molten metal in the sprue hole. With a little practice, it will be easy to leave just enough to fill the hole.

With the mallet give the cutter a tap to cut off the sprue. Drop this small piece into one of the pie tins. Later these can be dumped back into the pot. Open the mold a few inches above the folded blanket and drop the bullets onto this soft surface. Hot bullets are easily damaged, must be handled carefully.

Lubricating is done in old pie pan with cast bullets standing on bases. Pick up bullets from cooled grease with "cake cutter" made from cartridge.

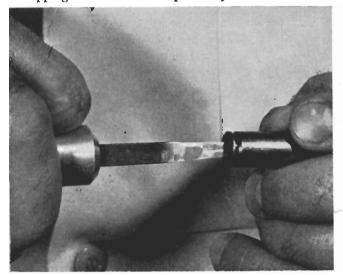




Mould block faces should fit true along the parting line, leaving only minor ridge at worst on the bullet as cast. Sometimes bullets will remain in one half of mould when it is opened. Never strike mould blocks with metal, but only tap gently with wood to loosen bullet and allow it to drop lightly onto soft cloth.



Decapping is done with inexpensive punch and base set.



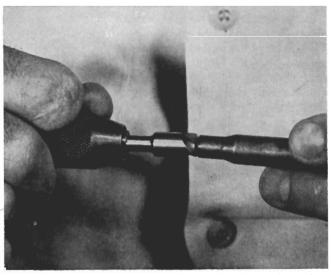
Primer pocket on GI case is reamed with old ground file.

Bullets will be imperfect until the mold has reached the right temperature. Continue casting and discarding, perhaps 15 or 20, until the bullets look perfect. When the bullet is a bright, shiny silver with full sharp corners and a smooth perfect base the mold has reached the proper temperature. Casting can now proceed without interruptions except to flux and clean off the dross.

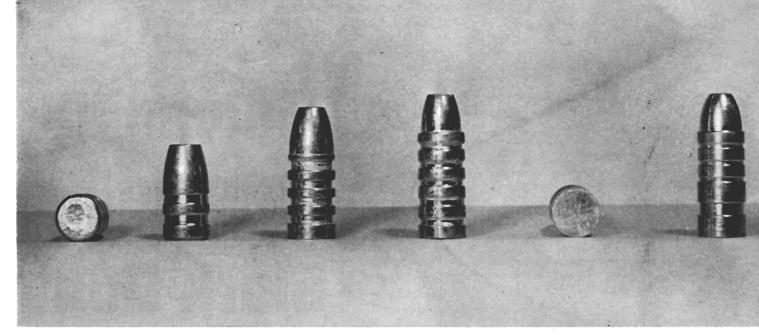
Too hot a mold will make the bullets look frosted. Cool it by waving it in the air a few times, or by dipping it in hot water. But never, under any circumstances, dip the mold in hot water without a bullet in the cavity. If you do the mold may warp and be ruined.

Bullets have a tendency to stick in one half of the mold. Tap the opposite block or the hinge of the mold with the mallet. Never strike it with metal. A few taps will usually cause the bullet to drop free. Sticking bullets may be an indication that the mold is becoming too hot and that the bullets are not shrinking. Cooling the mold slightly will help remedy this.

Accurate cast bullets must be perfect. Handloads with relatively soft lead bullets must be assembled differently



Chamfering resized neck is necessary to guide bullet.



Mould temperature will affect quality of cast bullets. No. 1 and 2 (left to right) are poorly cast, bases rounded and not filled out because mould was too cold. No. 3 is frosty from too-hot mould. No. 4 is 32-40 Pederson bullet from hand-made mould. No. 5 and 6 are perfect bullets with flat bases, sharp corners, well formed.

from those loaded with jacketed slugs. Each operation from casting to seating of the bullet in the case must be performed with the ultmost care if consistent groups are to be obtained.

After casting, each bullet should be examined and only those free from flaws be used. Grease grooves must have full, sharp corners to insure adequate lubrication. Bearing surfaces should be smooth and free from wrinkles and inclusions. An accurate cast bullet must have a flat base, the "steering end," with a clean sprue cut as near the center as possible.

A most important factor in grouping consistently with cast bullets is uniform bullet-weight. Bullets as cast won't weigh the same, even though they appear to be perfectly formed. To obtain bullets of uniform weight, select and weigh one that appears to be perfect. Use this weight as a check. Separate the bullets by weight into three categories: 1, those that weigh the same as the scale setting; 2, those that weigh a grain more; and 3, those that weigh a grain less. Discard any that vary more than a grain either way. This might seem unnecessary but it will tighten up groups

and is time well spent in achieving maximum accuracy.

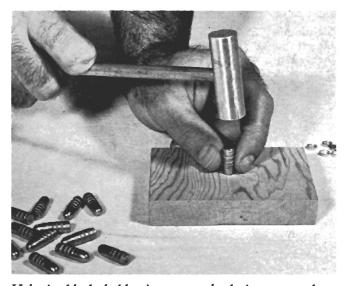
The lubricant will also affect the accuracy of cast bullets. Getting the proper lubricant for any particular rifle is one of the tricks of making a cast bullet perform correctly. All commercial lubricants give excellent results with most loads, but sometimes a "home-brewed" mixture will improve accuracy, or solve a leading problem.

Home-made lubricants are many and varied. Each hand-loader swears by his own pet concoction. One that gives excellent results in my 30-06 and .257 Roberts consists of a 50-50 (weight) beeswax and parafine mixture. This may be softened with Vaseline or some lubricant like Pennsoil #305. Another home brew consists of 95 per cent beeswax and 5 per cent of any good gun grease containing graphite. In higher velocity loads graphite lubricants have given best results and helped eliminate leading.

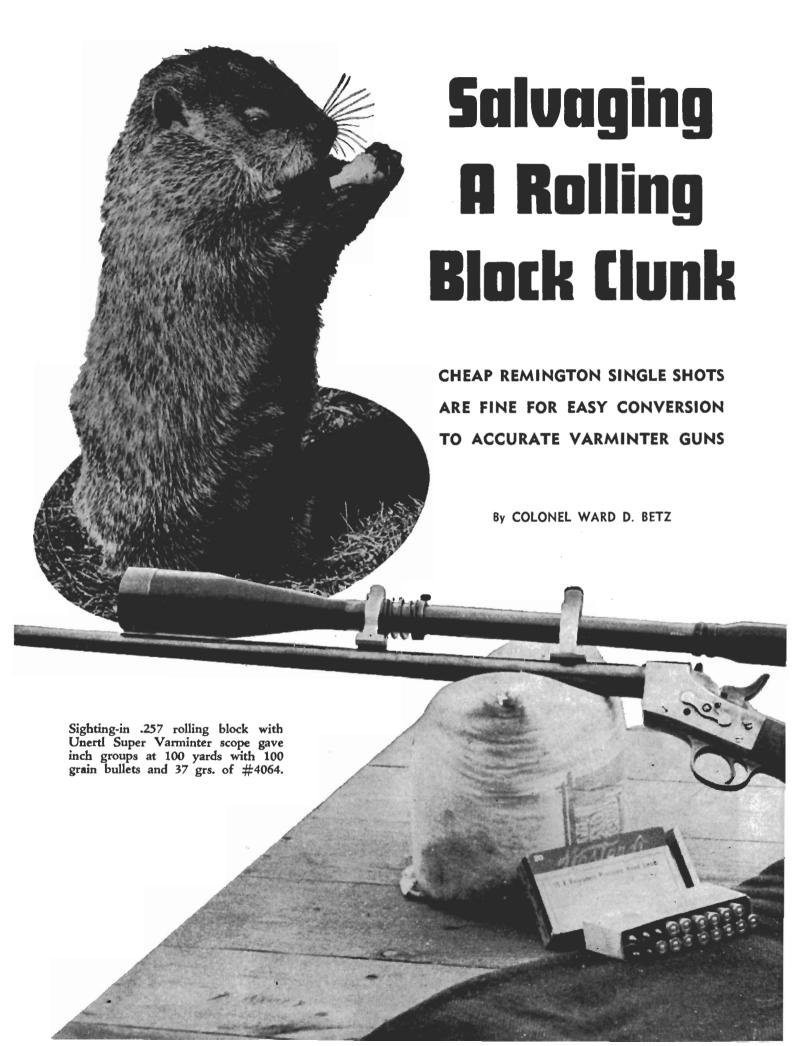
To properly lubricate cast bullets, minimum equipment is needed. Get a shallow cake pan, cut the head off a fired case, and you're in business. Stand the bullets in the pan about 3/4" apart. Pour melted lubricant over them until it fills the top grease groove. (Continued on page 64)

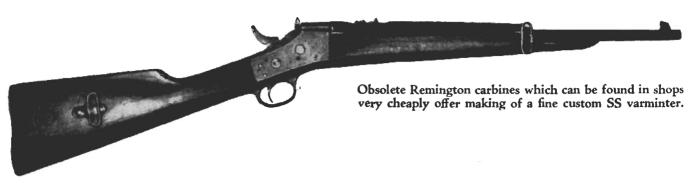


Bullets are sized through Ideal die in cheap pipe base.



Hole in block holds tip as gas-check is put on base.





NEXT to attending a turkey shoot or a gun collector's bull session, there is nothing a real gone gun nut enjoys more than hanging around a topflight gunsmith's shop on a Saturday afternoon, kibitzing the arms brought in for surgery and chewing the fat with the owner. Almost any weekend at Charles C. Johnson's place at Lawrence-ville, Ohio, you can find a regular museum of guns and a wide assortment of shooting characters, all the way from the lad who's putting together a 25-pound octagon barrel bench-rest muzzle loader to the Sunday hunter who wants his .30-'06 tuned up for deer season.

Charley is a gunsmith of the old cost-plus-bread-and-butter school, who puts more faith in close machine tolerances and customer satisfaction than in production engineering. Instead of handing you a crisp statement running into heavy sugar, he's just as liable as not, when your job is done, to drawl, "Oh, shucks, gimme about four and a half."

One of the country's foremost arms craftsmen, Charley turns out bolt action bench rest rifles that win champion-ships, but he has a soft spot in his heart for the old single shots. Once the king of American rifles, the single-shot Winchesters, Remingtons and Sharps are now almost let alone as curiosities. But not entirely left alone; many have been rebuilt and refinished into fine varmint guns by Charley.

Building a varmint rifle on an old single-shot rifle action is one of the common tasks of gunsmithing today. Modern repeating designs are of advantage in firing two or three shots at the tail of a disappearing deer, but when you flop down and bust a cap on Mr. Woodchuck two hundred yards away, there isn't any second chance.



Among the simon-pure varmint shooters who haunt Charley's shop out here in the Ohio woodchuck belt, it's about an even toss-up as to which is the most popular chuck rifle. The progressives favor bolt actions like the Winchester Model 70 .220 Swift and the Remington .222 or custom-built wildcats on Mauser and Springfield actions. The conservatives lean toward single shots like the Winchester High-sidewall, with an occasional elite Farquarson or Sharps-Borchardt showing up.

I had been shooting a Haenel-Lorenz target grade Mauser that Charley had rebarreled to .219 Improved Zipper, and had been doing all right with it. The sight of Charley's rack full of old SS clunkers brought in for rejuvenation always gave me a chuckle. Why on earth a man would want to waste his time and money on such junk was beyond me, that is until Dick Lee and I started stalking woodchucks together.

Dick is an Air Force major, a big blond guy who is a technician, perfectionist and fanatic with his hobbies as

Colonel Betz tries out his standard 7mm Remington rifle with a new front sight before turning it over to Charles Johnson (left), the gunsmith who rebarreled it to .257.





Rolling block opens by cocking hammer and pulling back on the block thumbpiece. Action is safe for 7mm or similar loads if proof-tested after rebarrelling.

well as on the job. He'd acquired a Winchester Low-sidewall musket and had Charley convert it to .22 Hornet. Dick had popped off an awful lot of groundhogs with it on the theory that one shot was all a man needed for one hog.

The trouble was that he wasn't content to stick with the Hornet and groundhogs. One evening a couple of years ago he came charging into the house with an idea.

"Why," he demanded, "wouldn't it be a good idea to send in to Winfield Arms and get a couple of these 7mm carbines?" He showed me an ad describing the Remington Rolling Block shorties as excellent arms for deer. Dick knew my weakness for the 7 x 57 cartridge which I had used so successfully on elk, wild boar and chamois, but after all, the ancient Rolling Block was hardly the rifle I'd had in mind when recommending the 7mm to Dick as his first big-bore rifle. I couldn't quite see dumping good dough down the barrel of a relic that probably wouldn't shoot for sour apples and might blow up if it did, and I said so.

But Dick is a mighty persuasive guy with his ideas. He was about to be assigned overseas and had decided that a 7mm bargain was just what he needed for the medium game he expected to encounter. Before I could think up any more convincing arguments, an order for two carbines was on its way to Los Angeles.

Not long afterward I got a subdued call from Dick. "You'd better come over. They're here," he said in the tones a man uses to announce his best coon dog's demise. Dick was waiting at the back door and led me silently to the dining room table where a long paper carton lay open with two stubby guns lying in it like Exhibits A and B at an inquest. They were the ugliest, most weather-beaten little monsters I'd ever laid eyes on, and I groaned inwardly at the thought of the powder and primers I could have bought for the cash I'd invested in one of them.

"Take your pick, it was my idea," Dick said. "Barrels on both of 'em are pretty rough. Stocks are all beat up; they're stamped 'Uruguay-something'. I think the actions are okay, but they sure have lost their blue."

I picked up the nearest carbine and cranked back the ponderous block and huge hammer to look through the bore. The barrel had once been rifled all right, but it looked like the Uruguayan GIs had skipped some "care and cleaning" classes, and had shot the rust out instead. The stock was black with years of over-oiling and was badly dented and scratched. The sights were typically oldtime military, a wedge blade in front and tangent leaf behind, and the steep pitch of the stock made the carbine as awkward to aim as an arquebus.

Dick was hefting his bargain, trying it on for size and clanging the action open and shut. Gradually he began to lose his sorrowful look. "They're just as advertised, all right," he mused. "Good mechanically and fair otherwise. What the heck, for 16 bucks I didn't expect to get a mint number. Wonder if it'll shoot?"

Guns don't stay unshot long around here, no matter how gruesome their appearance. That weekend, after taking the Rolling Blocks apart for a condition check, we took them out to the range for a tryout. We'd read about the guns and knew they'd been manufactured and used for years in many heavy calibers. All parts of the actions had appeared to be in good shape, so I felt no qualms in firing standard factory 7mm ammunition.

The stubby Remingtons were almost impossible to shoot from the prone position as the line of sight was about 21/2" above the comb of the stock, so I fired the first five shots from sitting. The noise was something out of the past, say about July 4, 1920 out behind the blacksmith shop. The muzzle blast filled my low-cuts with sand. At 25 yards all shots registered on the paper and the empty shells ejected enthusiastically. Dick's carbine also performed well at 25 yards, but out at 100 yards both formed cones of dispersion like a Spray King hose nozzle set for sweet peas, and we gave it up as a bad job.

Several months later I dropped in at the Winfield Arms Corporation's showrooms in Los Angeles and mentioned to Paul Rennick, who was squiring me around, that we'd been somewhat disappointed in the carbines. He took me back in the shop where hundreds of the long 7mm rifles were being degreased, and told me all the carbines had been sold. Paul explained that each rifle was inspected and graded as being in good, fair or unserviceable condition, and was priced and sold accordingly. He offered to take our carbines back. But we'd decided to keep them for the actions, so I ordered two of the Rolling Block rifles with Paul's promise to be on the lookout for a couple with good barrels.

Dick and I wound up a month later with two more Remingtons that were as pretty as new, their actions mottled like Colt's .45 Peacemakers and the blue on the rest of the metalwork in perfect shape. The bores were as clean as glass and looked like they had never been fired. The walnut stocks were in excellent condition not oil-soaked or gouged like those on the carbines and except for a little wear on the butt-

plates, the rifles looked like they'd just been delivered from the factory.

Before we could get in any shooting with the long Remingtons, Dick was transferred to Australia. I settled down with powder scales and sandbag to find out what my 1901 type musket could do with modern handloads. It took me only a couple of shots to find out why the Uruguayans hadn't used my rifle. It had an oversized chamber with so much headspace that full loads ruptured the cartridge cases at the web, and I suppose it had been sitting in cosmoline in some arsenal corner for 50 years waiting to be sold as war surplus.

Fired forming cases with reduced loads cured this trouble, but I discovered that the chamber was also somewhat egg-shaped and fired cases wouldn't go back in the rifle without being full-length resized, a laborious job. I had plenty of empty brass, so I gave the rollicking Remington a good workout, and it gave me a pleasant surprise. Shooting in freezing weather that December, I made several 10-shot groups measuring a little over 2" in diameter. By varying the powder charge I found I could tighten groups up well under 2", and I began to think I had something as accurate as many factory rifles on the market today.

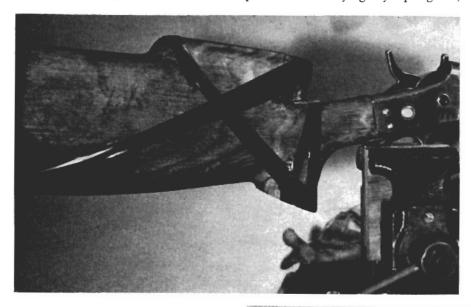
Of course the sights were pretty bad, the trigger pulled off at about ten pounds, and I got a crick in my neck every time I shot a string from the sandbag. But there was something about that darned old relic that captured my heart. I still feel a lot more professional carrying my Springfield.

but when I haul back the big hammer on the Rolling Block and watch that long barrel swing into line, it takes me back to the old days. I can imagine how the pioneers must have felt, facing buffalo and grizzlies on the great plains with only one shot, but a lot of confidence.

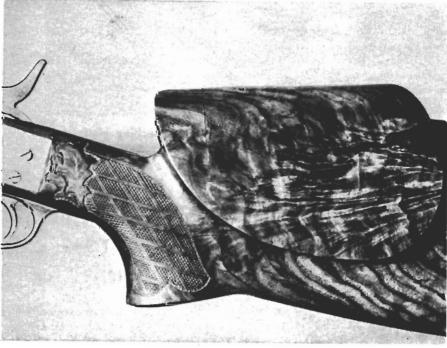
My first reaction was to convert the Remington 7mm to a sporter with a decent stock, a scope and a trigger job. But when I discussed it with Charley Johnson, he convinced me that it would be a shame to spoil such a well preserved specimen. The rifle handled so well offhand that the low-pitched stock wasn't too much of a handicap with iron sights. It was so light that little could be gained by removing the slender, military forearm and handguard. So Charley removed the barrel and reamed a tight new chamber in it. sweetened up the trigger pull and mounted a pair of Lyman sights, leaving the rest of the rifle as issued.

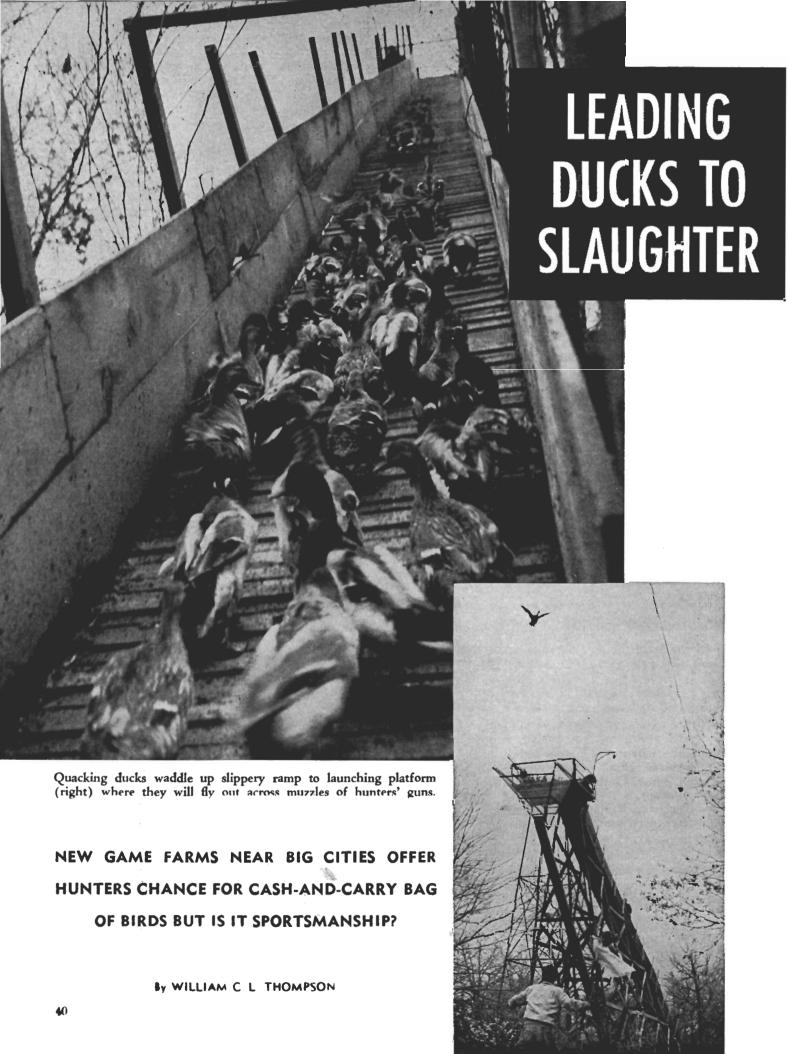
The more I shot this semi-modified antique the more I liked it. Not only was its accuracy improved, but it handled better for field shooting than any rifle I'd ever shot standing on my hind legs. As a matter of fact, I had so much confidence in it that I took the 7mm Rolling Block to Alaska the next year, much to the amusement of my hunting partners, and bagged a moose with it.

One spring Saturday afternoon I took one of the old Remington carbines up to Charley's shop to find out what, if anything, it could be used for. Charley is an (Continued on page 56)



Fitting new butt for high scope sight line involves gluing extra pieces (above) onto Winchester Hi-Wall blank to adapt to Remington. With some checkering, finished stock makes high cheek-piece seem to be original.





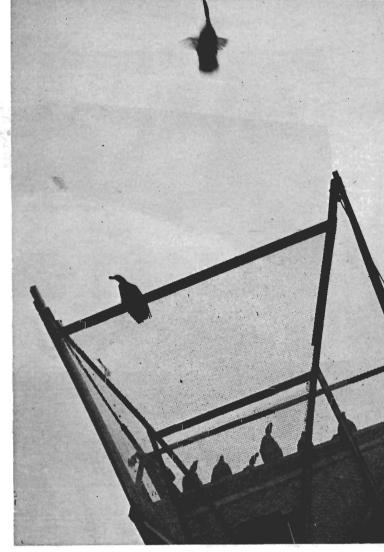
WITH THE DRAINAGE of vast acres of former wildfowl feeding grounds throughout the nation, America's hunters are hard pressed in many areas to find ducks for hunting. As a result a new hunting gimmick has been devised by some promoters to provide ducks on the wing for would-be hunters. What it amounts to is virtually an open air slaughterhouse.

The duck-hunting grounds are found near big cities around the nation and hunters are invited at a fee to get their bag of feathered friends. The prospectus tells the hunter that he need not drive many miles to find a suitable place to set out decoys and build a blind. Close at hand is a private shooting ground, where ducks and even pheasant are raised from eggs and turned loose to fly out over "hunter's" guns. It's almost impossible to miss coming home with a good bag.

Typical of these game farms is the Wing and Fin Lodge near Chicago. Only 40 miles from the Loop in McHenry. mallards, pintails and other wild ducks are raised on a farm like any other barnyard animal. They are kept under chicken wire so they cannot fly away, and are well fed so that they will fly when their turn comes to "walk the last mile." On execution day, the ducks are kept from water, so that when they leave the launching platform. thirst will send them to the lake.

The "last mile" is a long wooden ramp with cross slats so that the ducks' feet will not slip as they paddle up the incline. Wire netting covers it, to make them walk up the ramp, not fly. When I was at the Wing & Fin Lodge, a light rain had made the ramp slick and slippery, and the ducks had a tough time walking. They slipped and flopped around. but finally, tired and worn, they reached the top.

Here a railing affords them a place to fly from. Immediately in front of the railing is a wire cage into which tired ducks that won't fly flop and slide down to the bottom again where they are prodded up the ramp again. Finally they take the "easy way" and fly. (Continued on page 73)



Ducks pause at top of ramp after long climb, before taking to air and slaughter by hunters as they fly to lake.

Hunters wait behind trees or out on the lake in blinds until ducks, driven from ramp, fly out to meet booming guns.









Author Askins holds two Model 60s amid piles of shotshells he fired in extensive test of Sears' new gun.

NEW SEARS INNOVATION DIGESTS ANY 12 GAUGE LOAD AND PROVES HIGHLY EFFICIENT IN A RUGGED TEST DESPITE SOME BUGS IN GUN

By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS

SEARS, ROEBUCK which once provided more toilet paper in the shape of last year's catalog than did Scott's Tissue are now making firearms. It has been a gradual evolution. Once Sears owned Meridan Firearms Company but apparently found gun-making unprofitable and Meridan disappeared. Then Sears commenced peddling Stevens and Savage ordnance under a Sears pseudonym and later by the reported acquisition of an interest in the High Standard Arms Co. Along with the venture into guns manufacture came the practice of calling all their sporting goods the "J. C. Higgins" line. This hombre, Higgins, has his monicker tacked on everything. To the uninitiated it would appear that John Clarence, or whatever those initials stand for, must be a rootin', tootin', hell-for-leather outdoorsman. He lends his name to tennis racquets, golf clubs, fishing tackle, boats, skis, shooting irons, and a thousand other sports items.

As time has gone by, I have grown increasingly curious about old John Clarence. Finally I asked some of my amigos at Sears to give me a rundown on this redoubtable if somewhat nebulous character. I figured he must be a seventh vice-president in charge of sporting goods at least. What I got for an answer would do credit to a page straight from this year's Congressional Record. Higgins is no vice-president and he is not in charge of sporting goods. As a matter of fact he is in charge of nothing; he just ain't.

Suffice right here to state that John Clarence is not John

Bulky forearm of Model 60 encloses necessary gas operating parts, and affords firm grip like "beavertail" on other guns. Standard grade Model 60 sells for \$89.95.

FIRST SUCCESSFUL GAS SHOTGUN

Clarence at all. Those initials stand for Josephine Clementine for you see J. C. Higgins is a female.

I know this to be a fact for the gal is in a family way. And if you don't believe it, just take a gander at the latest Higgins silhouette. There amidships, right between the poopdeck and the waterline, is a bulge unmistakable and damning. Yep, Sears has got a pregnancy on its hands. And like a lot of these Saturday-night-moment-of-passion affairs, this one is going to raise some eyebrows in criticism.

The evidence of this blessed-event-in-the-offing is revealed in a brand new Sears product, the latest to bear the name J. C. Higgins, and it makes out a bad case for Josephine Clementine I'll tell you! The belly line looks worse than the last time Farouk made Life Magazine.

This latest is a shooting iron, a shotgun, an automatic, and if it were human and famous, Winchell would be braying to the heavens that here was grist for his mill. For the gun is as neat and trim as a Briggs Cunningham raceruntil it comes to the midsection. Here it bulges, sags, protrudes, distends, swells, and just looks pretty sad generally.

The offending member is the forestock.

Maybe there is some excuse for the late-pregnancy ap-

pearance of the forward stock since it houses the only gasoperating system on a shotgun anywhere but despite the somewhat revolutionary mechanism contained within, I still hold that the forend is as ugly as a jackass eating cockle-

It took High Standard, who make some of the finest auto pistols, five long years to conceive and birth this Sears offspring. One of the engineers up at New Haven, homebase for High Standard, took a long, hard look at the kraut Gew 41-M auto rifle right after World War II and decided the gas system could be adapted to a shotgun.

This gas system briefly is based on the employment of a collar-like piston and not the more conventional solid-head job This collar receives the blow of the gases and due to its shape provides greater surface upon which the gases may impinge. Necessarily this somewhat novel type of piston must work upon a guide rod. In turn this provides a second advantage for this guide eliminates torque to both the piston and the operating rod.

The new "J. C. Higgins" hardware has a gas system designed along essentially similar lines. The gas piston is a collar-like piece which is fitted very snugly over the tubular

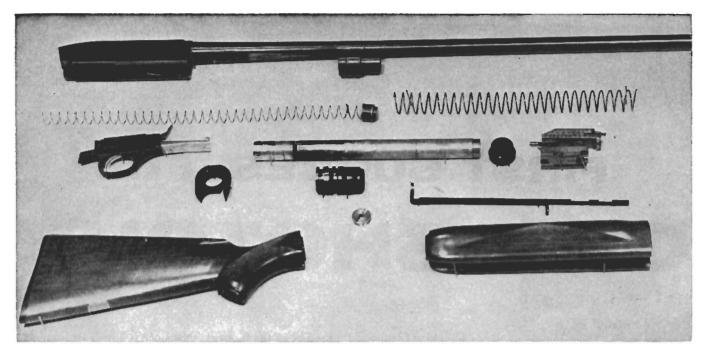
Askins sawed off one barrel to 20" riot gun length,

which lowered pressure too quick. Gun would not work.



Gun failed to eject right when fired inverted, though Sears claims gun shoots satisfactorily held any way.





Simplicity of Model 60 is shown in stripped view. Gun has hardly more parts than an ordinary pump repeater.

shell magazine. Gas is vented from the barrel through three ports, lying parallel to each other and at right angles to the bore, approximately a dozen inches ahead of the chamber. This gas is jetted into a conventional gas cylinder and there impinges on the oddly-shaped piston. The piston presents a double-shoulder surface. The gas flows from the upper shoulder to the lower, and in effect produces a movement of the piston which is not so harsh and violent. especially during the first stages of its travel.

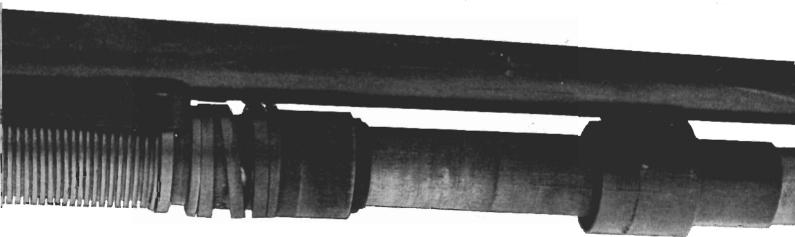
Hitched to the lower end of the piston is the operating rod which transmits the movement to the bolt slide. This slide is loosely hinged to the breechbolt and has been purposely given five-tenths of an inch (approx.) of free travel before it commences to unlock the bolt. This false travel is necessary to give time to get the shotload out of the bore and permit pressures to subside; too, the paper case has got to be given an interval to contract or else the extractor will tear the head off the case.

As the piston moves along the magazine tube which actboth as a guide and a gas seal, it compresses the operating spring which is wound about the tubing. Once the breechblock has reached the limit of its travel and ejection of the empty has occurred, the spring must then provide the energy to move the breechblock back into battery, chambering the live round as it comes forward. The gas cylinder, piston and operating rod return buffer spring, and the operating spring are all contained in the bulbous forend.

The forend is metal lined and fits so tightly it is shimmed with rubber to snug it the more. A small and unobtrusive vent at the rear is utilized to permit the escape of residual gases.

Thinking the operation of the gun might depend on trapping a portion of the gases inside this cover, I removed it to see if in truth the weapon would malfunction. It would not The performance was just as certain with the fore stock tossed under a bush as when in place on the shotgun. Why precisely it has been so carefully fitted even to the extent of adding rubber stripping, I do not quite sabe.

The Josephine Clementine—called the Model 60—is remarkably free of parts. It has only 67 pieces altogether. There are fewer parts in this shotgun than any other autoloading scattergun on the market. The weapon is a non-takedown. This is both a blessing and a curse. A repeater whether pump action or self-loader. (Continued on page 67)



Secret of gas-operation is "piston" ring surrounding magazine tube, which works operating slide to left of cushion spring. Early test guns did not have this spring, designed by Hi-Standard's Harry Sefried, tore shell heads.

CARTRIDGES

QUIPS QUOTES & OUERIES

By STUART MILLER

Shotgun Samples

BACK in the "good old days" advertisers did not have radio, TV and all of today's gimmicks, but they were long on sample packages. Whether it was a new batch of patent medicine, or merely a sensational new kind of cookie, companies passed out sample



boxes of their product directly to the consumer or to the retailer who handed them to the consumer. Recently I came across a box of UMC shotshells which surprised me—it proves that this habit extended even to the ammunition companies. These are not dummy display shells, but are factory-loaded shotgun shells, ready for the shooter to try out on target or game.

The set consists of ten loaded shells, five the low-powered, low and medium based shells. Two of these are pinkcased "Nitro-Club," one loaded with Hazard and the other with Troisdorfer powder. One is a low based tan-colored "Nitro Club" Laflin & Rand, and two are lemon-colored "Nitro Club" with Infallible and S.G.R. powders. The more powerful, high-based shells consisted of two purple "Arrow" shells. one with Waslrode and the other with Ballistite; a green "Trap" load with new Schultze and two pinkish "Arrow" shells with DuPont and E.C. powders. All these shells are 12 gauge, loaded with No. 7 shot. The set gave the customer a chance to try out all 10 differen kinds of powder under similar conditions, so that he might pick out the best powder for his purposes.

I hope some day to learn for sure how these sets were put into shooters' hands. They may have been sold by the company for a small sum, distributed free through the sporting goods dealers, or even passed out by the company representative at some of the trapshooting exhibitions so popular in the early 1900s.

The Original Winchester 6MM

With the announcement of Winchester's new .243 caliber, or 6mm, the original 6mm Winchester Lee cartridge comes back to public interest. The 6mm Lee U.S. Navy Rifle Model 1895 was a rifle and cartridge that had more than its share of "firsts." It was the first U.S. military clip loader; the first and only U.S. military "straight pull" bolt rifle; it was and is the smallest caliber U.S. military weapon; and the smallest caliber of any military rifle up to that time or since; and finally it was equipped with our shortest bayonet, the blade of which was but 81/2 inches long.

Winchester made most of the rifles, having a contract for 10,000 for the



Navy. They were not too successful, because of rapid barrel wear and inaccuracy at long ranges, and were soon replaced by the 30 caliber Springfield rifle.

The 6mm Lee cartridges were then the smallest (Continued on page 78)



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NRA caliber .22 match rules. The pistol is available for the cal. .22 short or long rifie cartridge, with standard (see picture) or adjustable custom-made grips, with 7½" barrel, 9½" sight-radius, 33 ounces trigger-pull, musate-brake, three adjustable weights, new SLIDE-STOP, MI-CROMETER rear-sight (click adjustment for elevation, opposed screws for windage adjustment) and a fine slightly adjustable trigger with no slack.



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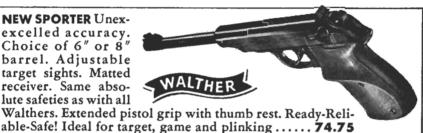


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GUN RACK

(Continued from page 10)

New Winchester Cartridge

A new Winchester cartridge based on the .308 case has been announced, available now in the Model 70 featherweight hunting rifle, and soon to be available in the Model 88 lever action sporter.

The new cartridge sounds familiar: 6 mm -but it is nothing like the old, highly erosive, not-too-accurate 6 mm Lee Navy of 1895. This new load, also known as .243 Winchester, is a high-intensity varmint load which ranges upwards into the medium game-killing class. Ballistics of the new round show it to be the energy equivalents of most deer and bear loads, with far flatter trajectories and greater accuracy. Even at the extreme ranges of 500 yards, the .243 in the 100-grain bullet has 835 foot/pounds energy, well within the class of some of the older black-powder deer killers at much shorter ranges.

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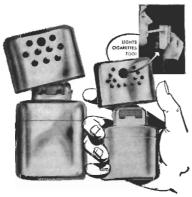
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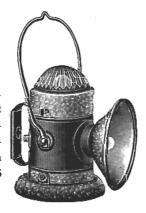
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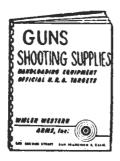
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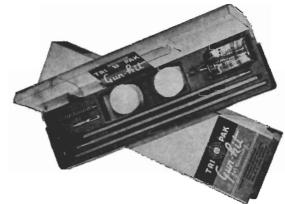
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CROSSFIRE

(Continued from page 4)

the Tokarev may have been too much for the Russian war machine. The bolt-action M-91 Mossin-Nagant may have been easier to make. The Tokarev was somewhat heavier than it had to be, and the large box magazine was unhandy in prone fire and in cover. The Rus sian rank and file are not highly intelligent. and the auto may have been too much for them to grasp. However, the Russians didn't pass them off on the Chinese in Korea, as is usually the case with old Russian stuff, but kept them and are now using them in the cadet schools, where future leaders are being trained, and are being familiarized with the weapon.

The Tokarev is blithely condemned in the article, with the apparent aim of making the reader associate this blanket condemnation with the FN rifle. Criticizing the Tokarev muzzle-brake is rather silly in this respect. as the FN doesn't have a muzzle-brake, and trying to tar both guns with the same brush won't work here.

One surprising feature of both the T-44 and the T-48 is the large magazine they use. Although this is desirable in full auto fire, this might not be so good in some situations.

The Tokarev gas plug adjustment is condemned as impractical, but nothing is said of the FN plug, which I understand is much better.

In reliability tests the FN seems to have fallen down somewhat, but tests in the British isles have, I believe, shown that the FN is a reliable machine, and functions just as well as comparable weapons.

Unimpressive service records of the FN in Egypt are cited. The probable cause of this is the famed ammunition scandals, which was one of the reasons for King Farouk's fall. Bad ammo was bought by the government at a reduced price, and the money saved went into Farouk's pocket. No automatic weapon will work with defective amunition, an obvious deduction.

The FN takedown is acknowledged to be simple, but the multiplicity of parts is looked down upon by author Thompson. The answer to this is that any malfunctions which may occur in combat can be fixed without disassembly of the entire gun. Mr. Thompson criticizes the FN sights, the peep type. Answer, use the much better English optical sights. Mr. Thompson says the FN is older than the Garand, which is correct. Nevertheless, that doesn't mean it isn't just as good as the Garand, if not better than it.

> Desmond O'Neill Santa Cruz, Calif.

What's Wrong With Gun Laws

Since Guns came out I have thoroughly enjoyed each issue, especially the military and police articles.

That is why I felt I should write about the July "Special Police Issue," particularly mentioning the article "What's Wrong With Gun Laws."

The mere fact that the police officer chose not to sign his name to the article shows what blundering idiots some of his superiors must be. Some of these lily-livered cops who abhor violence and killing ought to quit the force. The cop who lets a punk pull a gun on him and get off the first show

is really a sucker. A few cops who can shoot straight and aren't afraid to use their guns would do a lot more good than some of these crackpot gun laws.

Ray Ledford St. Louis, Missouri

St. Valentine's Guns

The article on forensic ballistics in the August issue by William C. L. Thompson was well presented and most interesting.

However, I am sure that the statement to the effect that the St. Valentine's guns were never recovered is erroneous. Two model 1921 Thompson guns were recovered in 1930 at St. Joseph, Michigan, from the home of the late Fred Burke, a member of the old Egan Rats gang.

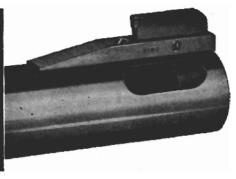
Tests conducted by the late Colonel Goddard showed that these weapons had been used in the massacre. One was also identified as the arm used to kill gangster Frank Yale in New York City in 1928.

Burke was not returned to Chicago, however, but was imprisoned for life-convicted of the murder of a St. Joseph, Michigan, police officer. He died in prison about 1947, ending the career of one of the nation's most vicious killers-for-hire.

> G. Arnold Whiteliead Portland, Oregon







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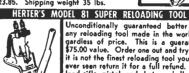
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MY WAY OF BECOMING A HUNTER, by Robert Rockwell (Norton \$3.75)

Taught in the shadow of the great Carl Akeley, Robert Rockwell's adventures and achievements in the field of museum taxidermy and specimen collections have earned for him a distinction all his own. His is an extraordinarily fascinating autobiographical account of his work at the American Museum of Natural History.

JOAQUIN MURIETA by Yellow Bird (University of Oaklahoma Press \$3)

The University of Oklahoma has been making a significant contribution to our modern appreciation of the fact and legend of America's past by reprinting important books from the last century. Introduced by Joseph H. Jackson, this one is a new edition of the famous book published in California in 1854 by John Rollin Ridge under the pseudonym of "Yellow Bird." It is Ridge's preposterous fiction which is credited with immortalizing this otherwise unimportant California goldfield bandit.

THE HIGHWAYMAN by Frank Gruber (Rinehart \$2.75)

If the gun fan can stomach Frank Gruber's opening pages, in which he has one man with his "Frontier Model" shoot another man's derringer out of his hand, then the rest of the book will stand with the others of Gruber's fast action, cleverly contrived westerns. This one is about a take-off on Billy the Kid. but Gruber's hero is "Sam Bonner," not Billy Bonney. It is the story of a young kid, harrassed by the terrors of Shiloh, gone bad, and the difficulties he encounters in trying to go straight. One of the difficulties is lovely Vivian Thompson, a passenger on the stage Bonner holds up.

BLACK POWDER EMPIRE by Rutherford G. Montgomery (Little Brown \$2.75)

A standard plot about Barney Price whose pretty wife Mora finds her husband's halfbrother more attractive. More action and fighting is afforded by Barney's search for the rustlers who killed his father.

WESTERN AMERICA by Leroy Hafen and C. C. Rister (Prentice-Hall \$8.70).

Now in its second edition, this comprehensive textbook of 700 pages reads more like a piece of western fiction, than a sober account of the march of manifest destiny to the Pacific. Sub-titled "The Exploration, Settlement and Development of the Region beyond the Mississippi," this work covers that part of American history most important to the gun collector-the days of the West, from

Cortez to Crazy Horse. Set against the fabric painted by Hafen and Rister are the Indians, badmen, western characters of all kinds. whose needs supported the eastern gunmakers and created the lore and legend of the American West. Far more detailed than an ordinary history book, with maps, references, bibliographies and frequent important quotations, "Western America" will give any arms collector a renewed insight into the people and the times which used and created the guns in his collection.

PORI TUPU by Oskar Koenig, (McGraw-Hill \$3.75)

Modern Africa to the "average American" is a place peopled by tall Watussi, Gregory Peck, and a fifth of Drambui, all together in the sunset. Koenig's book draws a real picture, far more fascinating in its reality than any strivings of Hollywoods' scenarists, for, as Koenig says, "This is the book of my memories, the balance-sheet of my 25 years of big game hunting." The title is the clue—
"pori tupu" means "sheer bush"—dense, impenetrable, unknown even today. The terrors of the Dark Continent have abated since the days when pygmies supposedly warred with the cranes, but much of Africa is still darkstill unexplored and unknown. Light touches are added by Koenig's introducing the reader to other African hunters of his acquaintance.

THE MESTIZO by Bill Parks (Macmillan

This is Bill Parks' first novel. Even for a "second or third," it is very good-fast paced but not forced, and the dialogue is clever. The characters are real individuals. The writing is not dragged down by the plot, either. "The Mestizo" deals with a would-be peaceful rancher in the southwest whose life becomes complicated by a beautiful and flirtatious visitor, a band of smugglers running guns into Mexico-and a Yaqui mestizo, who liked to gamble, sometimes with money, sometimes with lives.

THE BRIGHT SWORD by Eleanor Perenyis (Rinehart \$3.50)

The story of General Sam Hood (the Texas Brigade of Longstreet's Corps), "The Bright Sword" is an historical novel of unusual power and beauty. The writing is interesting and the basic plot is already drawn-that most famous of all novel frameworks, the American Civil War. Individual elements in the recreation of this southern drama have detail and a quality of realistic imagery seldom found, such as the picture of carefree, gay Richmond, with the Yankee guns earshot away. One of the better recent novels.

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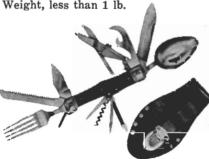
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THE 30-30

(Continued from page 23)

And usually, too, you're dreaming when the big buck leaps out of the brush 20 yards up the trail and waves his fast-disappearing flag at you. I know I was one time when I went after Canada's deer in the open brushy country east of the south end of Lake of the Woods. I didn't have a '94 with me, and I'll never forget that trip as a consequence.

I was lugging just a little over 10 pounds of scoped high power medicine, for in this country you get some long, open shots. We came to a fresh deer trail crossing a road and it led into a tamarack "island."

Les Atkins, an aficionado of the M94 from Rainy River, Ontario, was with me. He started around one end of the tamarack, and l around the other. My hike was shorter, so when I got to the edge of the trees I waited just off a well-trodden deer trail. I must have dreamed a little about the record rack I'd take home with me, for the first thing l knew Les let out a yell and the next thing I knew I was eyeball-to-eyeball of a 130pound buck coming straight at me hell bent for leather on the trail.

When he saw me, he jammed on all four brakes, power actioned. By the time I could elevate that ten-pound-plus sleeping pill up to my shoulder and take a bearing through the scope, the buck had swapped ends and bounded off into a low patch of willow along a drain ditch. Before I could squeeze off a shot he was down in the ditch and gone.

When Les came up a moment later, he had a ready answer for the lost deer: "If you'd had this thirty-thirty of mine, we'd be dress-ing out a deer right now." That was true enough: I just couldn't get that scope sighted piece of iron up fast enough to snap-shoot the deer, and I learned the hard way what a couple million hunters knew, those who own Model 94's.

Originally the gun sold for \$18, and it looked like a darned good buy to rifle users all over the world. It still costs about the same in terms of gold: when the rifle listed for \$18, an ounce of gold was worth about \$20. Now, with the little carbine checking out at an even \$69, an ounce of gold in the free world market (not U.S. government controlled) brings about \$75.

Farmers bought it for the odd shot at chicken-stealing coyotes or bobcats, because it was a simple action to handle for a man who fired it once or twice a year. Townsmen bought it for the occasional deer hunt. Trappers and professional hunters who fired thousands of shots a year bought it, too, buying it for its ruggedness and slim scabbard packing on a saddle. It became a favorite all over the west, supplanting the tired, worn-out Model 73's of the previous generation. It was a favorite for all sorts of shooting, four-legged game and two. Easier to shoot accurately than a six-gun, it accounted for a good many two-legged bad actors, "killed while escaping arrest," and in other ways. Mexicans, Indians, Eskimos found that the Model 94 would stand up to abuse and neglect and keep shooting after most other guns had given up. In 19 years Winchester sold a record 700,000 carbines and Long Johns, and it became the most widely-distributed rifle-in North America.

Then came World War I, and top sergeants hammered the superior virtues of the hole



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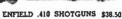
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Win Model 97 12 ga. Pump	77.30
Win Model 24 Double	77.10
Rem. Model 11/48 all gauges	110.45
Rem. Model 870 all gauges	77.30
Rem. Model 870 3" Duck	88.30
Rem. 870 TC Trap Gun	189.40
Rem. 870 TB Trap Gun	136.15
Rem. 760A all calibers	104.40
Rem. 760ADL all calibers	119.95
Savage 99EG all calibers	105.65
Savage 99 Lightweight	108.60 49.95
Savage 340 222, 30/30	マグ・グラ

	F121
Savage 775 SC Super Choke	114.50
S & W 38 Terrier	57.64
S & W 38 Airwate	64.60
C & W AS Assessed	70.07
S & W 45 Army	
S & W 44 Military	70.07
S & W 38/44 Outdoorsman	84.24
S & W 38 Chief Special	59.64
\$ & W 357 Magnum	109.33
S & W K38 Masterpiece	73.80
Sako 270, 30/06	135.50
Astra Cub 25—22	29.90
Sake 222	
Sako 222	135.00
Colt Trooper	71.05
Colt Officers Model	79.25
Colt Three Fifty Seven	89.50
Hi Standard Supermatic	74.55
Ithaca 37 all gauges	85.95
Iver Johnson 55S	26.10
Marlin 336 Texan All Calibers	68.95
Dugar Mark !	
Ruger Mark I	57.50
Ruger Standard 22	37.50
Ithaca 4E	400.00
Remington 270/30-06 Barrelled Action	78.40

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action Springfield into their lanky backwoods Tennessee recruits. Boys who had been brought up on cap-lock muzzle loaders, and accustomed to "bark" squirrels for the family breakfast, gradually got interested in the "new Springfield" that would plop bullets into a 36" bullseye at two-thirds of a mile with surprising regularity. Manufacturers got onto the bolt action spree, and gun editors strung along, pushing the Springfield, claiming the best gun for anything was a .30-06 remodeled into a sporter.

Unfortunately, some bolt action enthusiasts tried to push their .30-06 pets by belittling everything connected with their chief rival, the lever actions and especially the .30-30. Some of the stuff they wrote was as far removed from the truth as Molotov is from a Sunday school. The things they said about that faithful old Model 1894! It was weak, unsafe, unreliable; it wasn't accurate enough to hit a deer over 150 yards. They claimed the .30-30 cartridge was so feeble-though now 10 per cent stronger than it used to be, due to improved powders-that its bullets would just bounce off the skull of a grizzly, or stick in the ribs of moose or elk, and should on no account be used on anything larger than small deer!

Old timers knew this was nonsense, and the '94 continued to sell but not at the same level as before. About 700,000 had been sold up to 1914, but it wasn't until 1927 that the engraved Model 94 bearing serial number 1,000,000 was presented to President Calvin Coolidge. Another 20 years were to pass before a half-million more were made, and No. 1,500,000 presented to President Harry S. Truman in 1948.

By then, some changes had occurred in the "buying habits" of the public. Several million GIs had become acquainted with the little M1 Carbine, and the qualities which made that gun such a wartime favorite, were also to be found in the time-honored Model 94. Both were light and both handled easy in one hand, came up to the shoulder and worked fast. Within five years another half-million had been turned out to satisfy the war-starved hunter sportsmen, and No. 2,000,000 was presented to President Eisenhower in 1953.

As for its accuracy, which used to be one of the easy ways to damn the .30-30 if you couldn't think up anything better, the cartridge now figures among the latest fads of super-accurate bench rest shooting. The most popular rifles have been bored for the new and very special hand-made cartridges, like the .219 Wasp with particular handloads and the .22-250 hand-fed. But one contrary customer took his straight from the bottle-from a fresh package of Winchester .30-30 ammo, to be exact. Yep, he had his 24-pound bench rest railroad tie fixed up to shoot the ancient thirty-thirty with a little coaxing. And what happened? He literally got tired of putting five shots, time and again, into one ragged hole at 100 yards just over half an inch across!

This year the 30-30's diamond jubilee finds no sign of senile decay in either rifle or cartridge. Even the issuing of a new model lever gun in .308 by Winchester doesn't seem to have affected much the sales of the '94 deer rifle. On the contrary, indications are that if our grandsons still hunt deer 60 years from now, the rifle they will most commonly haul out of their helicopters will be the same as great-great grandpa toted in his buckboard -the old reliable Winchester lever-action "thutty-thutty."

KRUST Shooting and Reloading Supplies

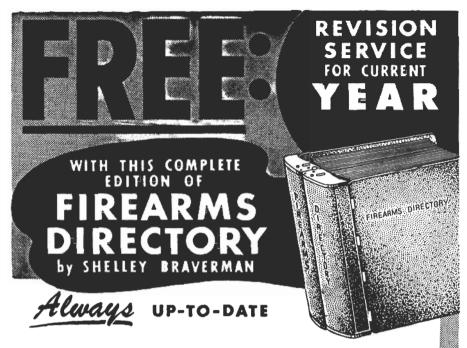
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RELOADING TOOLS	Weatherby Imperial Scope 6X 98.00	30 cal. 150 gr. Rd. Nose SP cannelured 4.75
Lyman Shotshell Reloading\$29.50	Leupold Plainsman 21/4X 64.50	30 cal. 180 gr. Spire SP 5.00
Lyman Tru-Line Jr. Benchtool (complete) 25.00	Leupold Pioneer 2½X 45.00	30 cal. 180 gr. Rd. Nose SP cannelured 5.00
	Leupold Pioneer 4X	30 cal. 170 gr. Flat Nose SP cannelured 5.00
Lyman Tru-Line Dies Only	Leupold Pioneer 8X	312 cal. 150 gr. Rd. Nose SP cannelured. 4.75
Lyman #55 Powder Measure 14.50	Leupold Westerner 8X 89.50	321 cal. 170 gr. Flat Nose SP cannelured 5.00
Lyman EZY Load Press (complete) 58.75		8mm cal. 170 gr. Rd. Nose SP cannelured 5.00
Lyman EZY Load Dies Only 16.25	Leupold Mountaineer 4X Double	
Lyman 45 Sizer & Lubricator (complete) 16.00	Adj. Scope 79.50	321 cal. 170 gr. Flat Nose SP cannelured 5.00
Lyman 310 Tool (complete) 15.75	r	8mm cal. 170 gr. Rd. Nose SP cannelured 5.00
Lyman 310 Dies Only 10.75	!NOVEMBER SPECIAL!!	348 cal. 200 gr. Flat Nose SP cannelured 5.50
Pacific Super Tool with one set of dies 39.95		35 cal. 200 gr. Rd. Nose SP cannelured 5.50
Pacific Dies per set	A FREE POWDER DRIPPER	35 cal. 275 gr. Semi Spitzer SP cannelured 6.00
Pacific Shell Holder	with each purchase of a	375 cal. 300 gr. Rd. Nose SP cannelured . 7.00
	REDDING POWDER SCALE	Nosler Bullets Per 50
Pacific Auto, Primer Feed		270 cal. 130 gr. Soft Nose Spitzer \$4,50
Pacific Powder Scale (with weights) 10.95	/ <u>-</u>	270 cal. 150 gr. Soft Nose Spitzer 5.00
Ideal Shell Trimmer 7.00	MOUNTS	30 cal. 150 gr. Soft Nose Spitzer 4.50
B & M #28 Straightline Tool (complete) 22.50	Weaver Model B4—Tip-Off or N Mount \$ 9.75	30 cal. 180 gr. Soft Nose Spitzer 5.00
B & M Powder Measure Standard Tube 14.50	Weaver Model B6—Tip-Off or N Mount 12.50	
B & M Powder Measure Micro Tube 16.00		30 cal. 200 gr. Blunt Nose Spitzer 5.00
B & M Extra Dies 4.00	Weaver Mount, Top or Side (complete) 9.75	Sierra Bullets Per 100
B & M #26 Bullet Seater 4.00	Weaver Top Mount Rings (pair) 9.00	223 and 224 cal. 40 and 45 gr. Hornet SP \$2.65
B & M Primer Pocket Reamer 3.00	Weaver Side Mount Brackets 9.00	224 cal. 45, 50 and 55 gr. Semi-Ptd, SP 2.90
Smiley Standard Trimmer 14.00	Weaver Top or Side Mount Bases (each) 1.50	224 cal. 63 gr. Semi-Ptd. SP HV 2.90
Smiley Deluxe Trimmer	Stith Master Mount	224 cal. 45, 50 and 55 gr. Spitzer 2.90
Smiley Drill Press Model	Stith Dovetail Mount 20.00	6mm cal. 85 gr. Spitzer SP 3.95
	Pachmayr Lo-Swing 1" Mount 20.00	6mm cal. 100 gr. Semi-Ptd. SP 4.20
Wilson Universal Case Trimmer 13.75	Griffin & Howe Mount 25.00	257 cal. 87 gr. Spitzer 3.95
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Wilson Inside Neck Reamer 5.00		6.5 cal. 120 gr. \$4.45, 140 gr. Boattail. 4.75
Redding Powder Scale, Beam Type 14.00	Redfields Jr. Mount 26mm (complete) 19.50	270 cal. 110 gr
Thalson Shotshell Reloading Set 22.50	Redfields Jr. Bases Only 6.75	270 cal. 130 gr. Flat Base 4.75
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Grigsby Extra Collets either standard	Redfields 22mm Rings Only 5.75	270 cal. 150 gr. Spitzer SP Boattail 5.00
or magnum 3.00	Redfields 1" Rings Only 9.75	7mm cal. 120 gr. \$4.45, 140 gr. Spitzer SP 4.75
Grigsby Pistol Model Trimmer "D" 11.45	Redfields 22mm Split Rings Only 10.75	7mm cal. 160 gr. Spitzer SP Boattail 5.00
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ROLLING BLOCK CLUNK

(Continued from page 39)

accomplished diplomat in his dealings with the oddballs who come to him with their gun problems. When I asked him what he thought about rebarreling the Rolling Block action. he reckoned mildly that it was strong enough to handle any medium-pressure cartridge, but pointed out that the trigger and hammer combination were unwieldy and slow. Unless the block and hammer pins were good and tight, the block might spring back enough to allow the cartridges to expand to a point where full-length resizing would be necessary.

I didn't want to invest any important money in the project, but did want to learn what the 1901 Remington would do with a cartridge a bit hotter than the 7mm. Charley just happened to remember having a secondhand .257 Roberts barrel some customer had left with him after a conversion job, and offered to fit it to the Remington, in the interests of science, for ten bucks.

There's a standing joke around Charley's shop about the little boy who brought in his Christmas .22 for work and got it back on his 21st birthday, but by next weekend Charley had the Rolling Block Roberts ready to test fire. He had gone over the action piece by piece to check for defective parts and excessive looseness and wear, but the only conclusive proof of a rifle's capability is to shoot it.

A factory round functioned perfectly; the empty shell ejected readily and slid back into the chamber without sticking. One of Charley's "blue-pill" overloads was then fired with no sign of trouble. The empty ejected easily and the action closed smoothly on the empty case, although the chamber pressure had been high enough to flatten the primer and extrude it out to the lip of the primer pocket. Several more overloads were fired with the same results, and we were satisfied the action would function all right.

Obeying one of those unreasonable impulses that keep gun nuts broke, I bought a pair of deluxe grade Bishop stock blankand after some jury-rig carpentry made necessary by the long, straight tangs on the Remington action, had a stock that fitted my shoulder like an Ivy League jacket. While I was rubbing down the wood to bring out the rich pattern of the dark Ozark wal nut, Charley mounted a pair of blocks on the rifle for the 12-power Unertl Super Varminter scope, and the rifle was ready to zero

Over a period of weeks I fired several hundred rounds through the .257, using factory ammunition and a number of combinations of case makes, powders and bullets in reloads. I soon learned that the old girl was temperamental and wouldn't perform well with heavy charges or a warm barrel. My log book shows 4-shot, 100 yard groups of 0.45", 0.88", 0.94" and 0.95". In each string, however, the fifth shot wandered out over the 1" mark.

Tedious trial and error revealed the fact that the rifle preferred 100 grain bullets and a moderate charge of 37 grains of No. 4064 powder, and that it would put its first three shots into about a half-inch group. I used it with devastating effect on woodchucke that summer, but I had to select my

terrain carefully because of the tendency of the ,257 bullets to ricochet, a distinct hazard in the thickly-populated Ohio farmlands.

Then the bug began to bite again. I still had the other carbine Dick had left behind. It was in better condition than the one Charley had converted for me, and I wondered what it would do with a .22 wildcat chamber in its teeth. When I reported my good luck with the .257 to Charley and asked what he thought of making up a 22/250 Rolling Block, an amused twinkle appeared at the corners of his eyes. But he was much too polite to tell me I was crazy. About all he'd commit himself to was. "Well, it wouldn't hurt any to try it."

This time we did the job up right with a Pfeiffer premium grade barrel measuring 14" thick at the breech and tapering to 1" at the muzzle. Charley tightened up the action with new block and hammer pins, relieved some of the pressure on the trigger spring and smoothed the sear to a clean pulloff, I stocked the rifle with some straight-grained German walnut I had on hand, and started shooting.

The .22/250 is a much more solid citizen than the .257 Rolling Block. It shoots 45, 50, 52 and 55 grain bullets almost equally well, with a slight preference for Hornady's 50 grain spire points and Martin Weimer's 52 grain bench-rest hollow-points. (I asked Martin why he made his bullets with tiny hollow points for target use, and he replied, "Because they shoot better that way," and I guess that's about as good a reason as any.)

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ers like those thrown by the .257. The logbook shows many 5-shot groups running near half-inch size, and the largest 10-shot string fired so far measures only 1.55" with a warm barrel.

Of course the slow trigger, long hammer fall and rigidly-fastened forearm all combine to prevent the .22/250 Remington from ever getting into serious competition on the target range. But its only drawback as a varmint rifle is the fact it's so dad blamed heavy with that 1½" barrel and 12x scope that I need a gunbearer on safari through the alfalfa fields. But I can count on it for consistently better than minute of angle accuracy, and have knocked off many a whistle-pig with it at ranges from 250 to 300 yards.

In my experiments with the old Remingtons I was surprised to find that I did not encounter case trouble with any of them, either as to ejection of empties or rechambering of reloads. Even with the .22/250, fired cases may be reloaded and fired several times before full-length resizing is necessary.

Any doubts I may have had as to the safety and reliability of the 1901 actions have also been dispelled. The stout hammer base cams against the sturdy block, pulling it tight on the face of the breech and forming, with the block, a barrier of steel between the cartridge and the shooter's face. I don't mean to imply that the Rolling Blocks are suitable for high intensity cartridges using heavy bullets, nor would I recommend continued use of maximum loads in the calibers I've described.

I am convinced, however, that the 1901 Remington action, in good condition, that is, without defective or badly-worn parts, is safe for any normal load in all three calibers. It certainly is an interesting foundation upon which to build a varmint rifle which is adequate in power and range for the kind of shooting encountered in the east. It is a good deal cheaper and more readily available than any of the other single shot rifle actions so eagerly sought after for this purpose these days.

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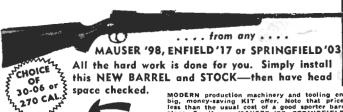


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INSIDE A SCOPE

(Continued from page 31)

scopes, with a small dot placed at the junction. These dots form a perfect circle and can be seen in poor light more readily than the crossing of ordinary hairs. They are small enough so that important aiming details are not blocked out, and large enough so that the eye instantly sees them and is ready to aim and shoot. Double dots have been installed occasionally giving two ranges instead of just one.

Many beginning hunters seem to think that a scope sight is only a rear sight, and that its prime purpose is to magnify the front sight! The reason why only one sight needs to be used may seem a little mysterious. but think for a minute on the principles of optics, and you'll see the reason why. A scope is not just a single see-through gadget like a rear peep sight. From front objective lens to rear eyepiece lens, the scope is a tube, through which a whole bundle of light is passing. The tolerances of manufacture inside a scope are measured pretty finely, much finer than metal work on two ordinary sights placed maybe 25 inches apart on a hunting rifle.

A scope actually is "two sights," for the whole optical affair is based on the fact that the light from the target will pass through the exact center of the objective lens, and after being flipped six ways to Sunday, come out the back eyepiece lens, still exactly on center. Although the distance from lens to lens may be only eight to twelve inches as the light travels (Boone "Gunscopes" and other scopes like binocular halves actually pass the light a far greater distance than their compact length), the fine tolerances and large magnification make it a very effective "set of sights" just like a front and rear sight on a rifle.

If you ran a tube from front to rear sight. you'd duplicate in a sense the sighting construction of a rifle scope. When the reticule is so placed as to cut that inner line of sight, and move above, below, or to either side of it, you're doing no more than shift the aperture on your ordinary micrometer click rear sight, though it's in a different position for optical reasons.

Most scopes now have both windage and elevation adjustments built into the side of the tube, so that the reticule is shifted while the scope tube stays fixed. Target scopes on the other hand can be more finely adjusted if the changes are made in the mount. The micrometer adjusting parts to the target scope mounts work like ordinary sight adjustments, mostly in clicks which shift the scope tube 1/4 minute of angle with respect to the line of bore. At 100 yards this moves the bullet 1/4 of an inch on the target, since I minute equals I inch for each 100 yards of range.

While highly accurate target scopes are pretty long-some 20 inches or more, a scope constructed on our simple three-lens system would be extremely long, since an erecting lens requires a minimum of four times its focal length distance to invert an image. Even if a short focal length lens was used. the lens system would be far too long to fit a hunting scope, and this type of system would not give the clear view or "resolution" of a fine scope.

Another difficulty with our simple threelens system is that no corrections have been made for the distortions that occur when light passes through the lens. While there are seven types of distortion one of the most important which radically affects scope design is color distortion or "chromatic aberration."

When white light passes through a triangular prism, it is broken up into the many colors which compose it, the visible "spectrum." In passing through a lens this occurs as the different colors that make up white light are each bent to a different degree. "Achromatic" lenses are used to correct this color distortion, which may be seen in a poor lens as a rim of color around the

Each achroniat is made of two pieces of glass, usually a piece of crown glass and one of flint glass. Each half of the lens is a completed simple lens, ground to exact shape and highly polished. Cemented together with a colorless adhesive, it makes a compound lens. Usually four out of the five lenses in rifle scopes are achromats, which automatically correct chromatic distortion occurring in the fifth lens so that the final image is distortion-free.

A typical hunting scope is the 4X model, Bushnell "Scopemaster" with internal adjustments. Not all scopes have internal adjustments even in the hunting field-the Bausch & Lomb, Leupold "Pioneer" line, and Stith Master models require mounts with adjustments such as the Stith mounts, the Miller Kodiak Dreamount, Fischer adjusto mount, and some others. The new Weatherby Imperial is based on ordinary scope principles but has the windage and elevation knobs placed right in line on top (or side if you prefer). While this is advantageous to a left-handed shooter, its principal value is in giving a distinctive appearance to the Weatherby scope making it attractive and streamlined.

The lenses in the Bushnell are cemented achromats, one serving for the objective lens. The inverted image is formed exactly where the crosshairs are located in the reticule. Further up the tube are two cemented achromats very close together. Since only a small area of the erecting lens, right in the center, is used for light transmission, the obvious move is to make the erecting lens smaller than the objective lens. That is what has been done, and the use of two lenses reduces the distance required for inverting the image so that the scope can be short.

At the right end of the scope is the eyepiece lens system, a cemented achromat and a simple lens. The achromat makes the corrections for the final lens so that the image comes out clear. Other aberrations are also compensated for in the design of the scope, by altering the shape and location of the lenses slightly.

The elevating and windage adjustments can be seen at the scope tube middle, where the cross-hair reticule is moved as the shooter wishes to change his aim for windage or for range. The ring is pushed firmly against the adjusting screws by a powerful spring acting diagonally. Backing off one screw moves the reticule in the direction of that screwtightening it up, shifts the reticule in the other direction.

On well-made scopes the full diameter of the objective lens is used for light transmission. The light leaving the scope, however, is much narrower a beam. Called the



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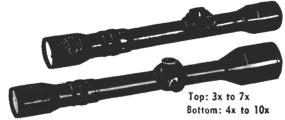
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"exit pupil," this imaginary spot to the rear of the eyepiece lens is where the eye must be located to look through the scope, and the width of the column of light at this point is much narrower than the beam entering the objective. The larger this exit pupil is, the better the scope, for a small exit pupil means that the scope will be difficult to look through.

A low power scope has a large exit pupil, which causes the "picture" to seem as big as the scope. As you throw the rifle rapidly to your shoulder, the eye finds the line of sight easily. Higher powered target scopes have small exit pupils, requiring more time to align the eye properly.

For powerful rifles the sharp exit pupil image should be at least three inches from the rear of the scope, or you may get socked one when the entire gun and scope kicks back in recoil. A target scope, being held in a sliding mount, automatically "moves away" from the eye in firing as the rifle kicks back and the scope inertia holds it still.

At a position popularly called "eye relief," this exit pupil is worth knowing about before you buy a scope. Mathematically it may be found by dividing the clear opening of the objective lens, called the "entrance pupil," by the magnification of the scope.

The actual exit pupil can be seen very easily by holding a piece of thin paper behind the eyepiece lens, with the scope pointed at a bright object such as a light or a cloud. Move the paper back and forth until the sharpest, most distinct image is obtained and sketch the image on the paper. The sharpest image is located at the narrow point or exit pupil, and this diameter is usually measured in millimeters since all optical work is calculated on the metric system.

Your scope's power or magnification can easly be measured by checking it against a brick wall, both eyes open. The number of actual bricks seen with your unaided eye as compared to the width or height of one brick in the scope, gives a fair indication of the power.

Relative brightness is also an important standard of comparison among scopes, and it is also affected by the magnification.

CORRECTION

In the September issue "The Finest Colt Ever Made" story was incorrectly credited to Torsten Lenk of the Royal Armory in Stockholm. Mr. Lenk supplied the illustrations and a copy of the Journal of the Royal Armory in which his original story on these Colt revolvers appeared. The story was rewritten for clarity but Mr. Lenk has asked that we state he did not write that story as it appeared.

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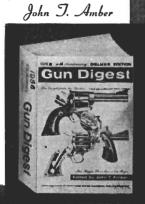
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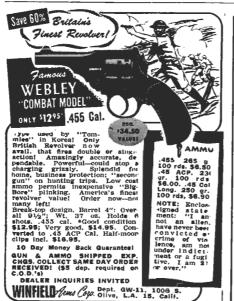
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CAST BULLETS

(Continued from page 35)

After the lubricant has hardened, bullets can be cut from it as required. Simply press the mouth of the case down over the point of the bullet and into the hardened lubricant. As the case fills up with bullets, the lubricated ones will be forced out of the top. Wipe the excess lubricant from the bases by drawing them across a piece of cloth tacked to a board. This is an easy, economical method of lubricating cast bullets and does a good iob. When more bullets are to be lubricated, place them in the holes in the lubricant and remelt.

In all medium to high velocity loads the cast bullet base must be protected by a copper cup gas check, slipped over the base of the bullet. It prevents the intense heat generated by the expanding powder gases from fusing the soft lead base. All gas check cast bullets have a smaller diameter step on the base over which the copper cup fits.

The make of gas check seems to have little effect on cast bullet accuracy. Any of the brands on the market perform excellently. Some of these crimp on to the bullet base during sizing. This type is less likely to fly off after the bullet leaves the barrel and is preferred by many handloaders for this reason.

Attaching gas checks is easy. A small block of wood with holes that will just fit the bullet point will prevent deformation while the gas check is being attached. Hold the bullet point down in the hole and place the gas check on the base. Carefully tap it home using a wooden or plastic mallet, being sure to start the copper cup straight, not tipped to one

After attaching gas checks, size the cast bullets to the correct diameter for the particular rifle in which they will be used. Individual rifle bores will vary in size and due to this fact molds are cut to throw bullets .005" to .006" oversize. To shoot accurately, cast bullets must be run through a sizing die to reduce the diameter to the proper size.

Cast bullet sizing has a decided effect on accuracy. There are many theories about the

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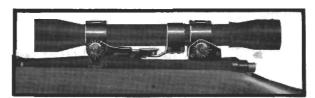
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correct size for any particular caliber. H. Guy Loverin, noted cast bullet designer, prefers bullets several thousandths over bore diameter. His theory is that the larger diameter bullet creates a greater chamber pressure, giving cleaner, more efficient burning of the powder. In many rifles, a cast bullet .002" to .003" larger than the bore diameter will certainly give excellent results.

But in my 30-06 sporter, a cast bullet sized to .308", just .0005" over bore diameter, has always grouped closer than one sized to the conventional .311" with the same load. In my .257 Mauser, a .257" diameter bullet has always shot tighter groups. This is especially true in the higher velocity loads. Using cast bullets of bore diameter has been one of the most important group-tighteners in all of my rifles. My experience has been that the less a cast bullet is sized by the barrel of the rifle, the more accurately it will shoot.

Before sizing bullets for any particular rifle, measure the bore diameter by driving a soft lead slug through the barrel and "miking" it. Then experiment. Try loads with bullets .002" or .003" over bore diameter.

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One of the most important factors in sizing cast bullets is that it must remain concentric throughout the operation. The die should not shave more lead from one side of the bullet than from the other or the bullet will be lopsided and not fly true. And the diameter of a cast bullet should not be reduced more than .003" or .004" at a time. Thus, in sizing .30 caliber bullets, if the final diameter is to be .308" they must be run through a .311" die first and then reduced to the smaller diameter.

Cases require special attention to insure uniform accuracy with cast bullet handloads. Each must be full length resized before it is first loaded with a cast bullet. Subsequent reloadings will then require neck sizing only. Cases that have been used with reduced gas check loads should not be loaded with jacketed bullets for full power loads. Keep these cases separate and use for cast bullets only.

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Neck sizing cases for cast bullets is one of the most important operations. It is a waste of time to cast perfect bullets, carefully lubricate and size them and then ruin the whole lot by forcing them into improperly sized case necks. Expanding plugs of the correct diameter for the size of cast bullet must be used.

For best results a case neck should not reduce the diameter of the bullet more than .001". For a east bullet sized to .311" an expanding plug of .310" or .311" is correct. For one sized to .308" a neck size of .308" will give excellent accuracy. The closer the neck diameter of the case is to the diameter of the bullet, the less chance there is for any bullet deformation when it is seated.

The best accuracy will be obtained from cases that have been neck sized only and then just to the seating depth of the bullet. Leaving about 1/16" of the neck unsized will force the chamber to hold the cartridge concentric with the bore, insuring an accurate delivery of the bullet to the rifling.

Another operation that will help tighten groups is cleaning the inside of the necks with steel wool to remove fouling and give a uniform tension on all sides of the bullet.

Bullet seating depth will also affect cast bullet accuracy. Here again experimentation



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is necessary. A good place to start is with the bullet seated so that it just touches the lands with the cartridge chambered. This seating depth with most loads and bullets will give excellent accuracy. Cast bullets, however, are peculiar and sometimes shoot more accurately with some powder charges when seated so that the bullet base is flush with the bottom of the neck. Once the seating depth for a particular load has been determined make up a dummy cartridge to be used to adjust the seating die for any future loads.

Excellent cast bullet handloads can be worked up with any of the powders. The quick burning types like Unique, #2400, #4759, #4227, and #4198 usually work better in low velocity light bullet loads. The slow burning powders give better results used with heavy bullets at long ranges.

Most cast bullet handloaders, however, are looking for economy in practice loads. For this reason #4895 Gov't powder at \$0.90 to \$1.00 per pound is one of the best bets. It is adaptable to almost any caliber except small capacity cases but sometimes a booster charge of 1 to 2 grains of Bullseye or DuPont #5 pistol powder is necessary to give clean burning of the main powder charge. Powder charges can be weighed out on the scales, yet I find that the Belding and Mull powder measure gives me as consistent accuracy as the weighed charges. I use the scales to check about every tenth measured charge, simply as a safety precaution.

Cast bullet hand loads are temperamental but once accuracy has been attained a lot of economical shooting is to be had that will teach you all there is to know.



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GAS SHOTGUN

(Continued from page 44)

shoots loose after a few years if it is one of the demountable kind.

I have had trombone jobs that finally got so they wagged like a Llewelyn's tail. This mail-order prize will never do that. It will remain rigid and strong through all its life. The gas system dictated that it be built thusly. When it comes to cleaning one of these non-takeapart numbers it is a damned nuisance, and especially when the cleaning patch has got to pass through a variable choke gadget to reach the bore.

The receiver—heart of any firearm—is the most handsome feature of the Model 60. It is sleek, rakish, flowing, and sufficiently long to place the trigger far enough back where the gunner with short arms and stubby fingers will have no trouble reaching it. Too, it is not so abruptly curved that difficulty is experienced in looking over the rump end. And finally it carries a highly polished and most appealing blue job. This lustre gives the weapon a rich and appealing appearance that adds immeasurably to its good looks.

There are no screws in the receiver. The trigger group is held in place by a couple of pins, that may be pushed out with a brass drift.

The stock is American walnut, not pretty, not homely. There is the usual cheap checkering on the full pistol grip; the fore stock is similarly decorated. The work looks like it was done with a slightly rusty can opener. Measurements of the stock are entirely standard, i.e. $14^n x 1\frac{1}{2}^n x 2\frac{1}{2}^n$.

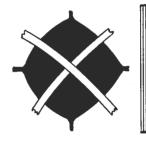


NAME YOUR POISON, PARD

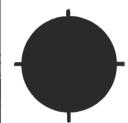
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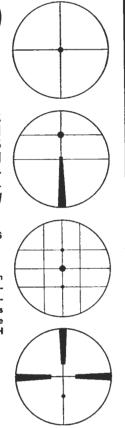
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LAKEVILLE ARMS COMPANY 100 HOLLEY STREET . LAKEVILLE, CONN.

It is popular today to use a dural receiver, or at least sub-assemblies within the standard alloyed steel receiver of this light alloy. High Standard did not deign to consider any lightening of the new gun. The Model 60 hefts a good 7½ pounds, and if your fancy runs to the deluxe version it hefts a half pound more. The barrel is 28 inches and it has been made unnecessarily heavy. An inch-and-three-quarters are lopped off this tube when the Chokemaster is attached. By a switch to a dural receiver, a weight-trimming operation on the barrel, plus a redesign job on the 7-monthsgone forend they could have trimmed an easy 34 pound from the howitzer and it would have materially increased its popularity.

How does the first gas-powered shotgun behave when cranked up?

It digests any 12 gauge load crammed in it, It doesn't matter if you fill the magazine with two of the heaviest magnum loads and follow these with a couple of the 2% dram peewees, Josephine Clementine assimilates em without pain or strain.

Equally versatile is the performance of the gun with various makes of amnio-Remington, Peters, Federal, Western or Winchester, it makes no difference. The gun will accept 'em all.

The full choke barrel (70%) shot modified patterns with Federal skeet and Peters field loads at 40 yards. It shot full ehoke with Remington Express and Western Super-X and with Winchester, Remington and Federal standard magnum loads ran from 80 to 85 per cent at the regulation distance. It is a closely bored barrel and developed no signs of patchiness or any tendency to blow patterns during any of the firing.

The first gun I received was function-fired 200 shots during a single afternoon. It developed ejection trouble due principally to faulty performance of the shell carrier. The carrier was out of time and would rise and impede the ejection of the spent case.

Seven days later the company had another gun in my hands. I ripped the shell carrier out of it and placed the thing in the first gun. I then fired it 198 shots and caught 10 jams, all of them caused by failure of the weapon to eject cleanly.

The ejector on the Model 60 is of the plunger type. It passes completely through the breechblock, and when the block reaches the very end of its travel the protruding end of the ejector rod slams into the receiver bulkhead. This contact pushes it forward and the nose comes in force against the rim of the cartridge. The blow it strikes should spin the empty out of the gun and send it for a dozen feet at least. Instead of doing this the cases fall at the shooter's feet. Obviously the answer is to get more gas pressure so that the bolt comes back like the devil was after it. Then the ejector would really wallop that case and send it whistling.

1 fired the second gun shipped me 303 shots in 53 minutes. It smoked. Three jams occurred, all due to weak ejection. I found the hotter Josephine Clementine got, the better she perked. Oil oozed from the forestock and the empties when ejected glistened as though they had been buttered. The oily appearance was due to the wax cooking out of the paper. Despite the fact that the cartridge remained in the chamber for only a moment the weapon was so hot it instantly rendered the paraffin liquid.

I had been told the gun would malfunction unless it was fired from the shoulder, this substantial support necessary to give

some resistance to the gas. This I found was poppycock. I did most of my shooting by firing from the hip. With this flimsy support the gun was free to recoil all it liked and it clattered beautifully. I had also been told it would rip the head off the case if the stock was backed up against a tree. I tried that too and found this was another old wives' tale.

It functioned okay when I stood it on a firing stand and triggered off five shots at high noon; likewise I dropped the muzzle to 6 o'clock and knocked out another 5 shots. It will not perform satisfactorily if rolled over on its back, and likewise jams are frequent if fired on the left side or on the right.

I rolled three magazines of cartridges in the Texas sand and crammed 'em into the gun without any cleaning. These sand-encrusted loads never missed a turn. I followed these dirty ones with a box of clean shells and the sand left in the gun caused no trouble.

I scooped up a generous handful of dirt, gravel and sand and with the bolt locked back, poured it into the action. I followed this by turning the gun upside down and then on either side. I let the loose terra trickle down the barrel so that the chamber had a liberal dosing. I then dumped out all the sand that was loose and loaded up. I jacked 15 rounds through the gun. It worked like it had been oiled. I did not bother to elean it after this treatment but went ahead and fired about 100 additional rounds.

Josephine isn't going to be popular with the Army and her appeal to prison guards, industrial people with guard problems, the police, and like groups is going to be small. She won't perk when her business end is shortened to 20 inches, standard dimension for buckshot-throwing guard weapons.

I whacked eight inches off the muzzle end of the Model 60 and she stopped like a union man at the 5 o'clock whistle. The gas ports are approximately 12 inches ahead of the shell chamber, a certain amount of barrel tube must extend beyond these ports to maintain pressures while the piston is doing its stuff. When I lopped the barrel off to 20 inches, I reduced it below critical length.

TELESCOPES

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Sears, always slightly more decorious than a gaggle of Boston Back Bay dowagers, can take heart from the fact that their shooting iron isn't going to enjoy any marked popularity with bank robbers in particular and gangsters in general. It ain't worth a tinker's hoot when chopped off to what this gentry considers good business lengths.

Sears now enjoy a full 10% of all the gunsammo business in these United States. Josephine Clementine-the glamor gal with the sagging waistline-is going to have quite a coming-out party. All the 700 stores, and not forgetting the omnipresent catalog, will cohost the debut and it ought to be the ranking blowout of the autumnal season.



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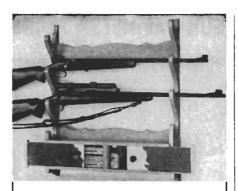
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SHOOTING SQUIRRELS

(Continued from page 25)

so that you see but one distinct image, the range scale gives you the exact yardage. With just a little practice, you can become exceptionally accurate in its use. I found not more than five per cent error at around 400 yards, less as the range decreased. It was sufficiently accurate at all the longer ranges to put me "on target" with any modern sniping rifle, when the target was the size of a woodchuck or ground squirrel.

When I walked across to examine the results of my shot, I found the ground squirrel lying behind the roots of the cedar. He had been neatly decapitated, but all my shots are not quite so fortunate. After these western ground squirrel have been shot over for a few weeks, they become extremely skeptical of a rifleman's intentions. I have spent a full hour "wishing" up an old buster who had taken to his burrow, and when he did appear, it was to only risk an eye and part of his head above ground, and that at a full 100 yards.

First thing a rifleman is apt to ask in connection with this type of summer rifle shooting is: "What is the best rifle outfit for the job in hand?" That, like most questions about field shooting and field rifles has several right answers.

For out and out sniping, I have never found any rifle which suited me as well as my Marlin Model 322. I use a handload of 24 grains of 3031 Du Pont behind a 50 grain Speer Spitzer soft point. This load has proved very accurate and flat shooting. To bring out its best accuracy, I have the 322 equipped with a Bushnell 8X Scopechief, using a fine crosshair reticule.

With this rifle, shooting at the longer ranges out around two hundred to three hundred yards, a range finder is very essential. I use it to measure range. Then my scope is brought into critical focus with its range adjustment, making the small, obscure target stand out from the background.

Most of my shooting with this caliber will range from a hundred to two hundred fifty yards. It is surprising how those three and four hundred yards shots shrink when they are measured with a range finder! Probably the most deceptive shot is one across a deep draw. When the range finder is put on it, the reason for many of your long range misses are readily apparent.

My .222 is sighted in to hit point of aim at 200 yards. This gives a mid-range trajectory of about 2.6", so I am on the button from the muzzle on out to around 225 yards with my handloads, on targets the size of ground squirrels.

Ground squirrels are very versatile. They play the game any way you want to play it. They are beautiful sniping targets for a good long range off-season outfit. But that is not their only rifle virtue. Sometimes it is good to go afield with a big game rifle. I often hunt them with my .348 Winchester, taking nothing but snapshots which I turn up by careful stalking. This type of shooting pays big dividends during the autumn big game season when quarry is elk or deer. If you can roll a ground squirrel when he is frantically scurrying for his burrow, then a big old buck crashing out of the hardhack becomes a comparatively easy target.

Here again, the range finder comes into



use, not to measure your snapshooting before the shot, but after. How far really was that shot made on that ground squirrel taking off toward the security of his hideout? Out of my hunting jacket comes this portable range finder. I have the distance beyond all doubt. Thirty-five yards—sometimes it is 50 yards. On a few occasions I roll a moving ground squirrel at 75. What a beautiful buildup of confidence such shooting gives me!

Another rifle which I have found excellent for this type of shooting is none other than the now obsolete 25/35 Winchester, Model 64. I rigged this rifle for ground squirrel hunting because it has an outside hammer, and is a lever action of the type I normally use for woods hunting big game. It has the virtue of being a wonderful understudy of my .348 Model 71.

It is equipped with a 4X scope on a Williams off-set mount. Its complement of iron sights are a Williams Foolproof receiver, and a Redfield Sourdough front sight. Both the iron and scope sights are of a type I normally use for big game shooting in autumn. so their off-season use pays hunting dividends later.

Best loading in the 25/35 is a 117 grain bullet driven at 2350 feet a second, using 26½ grains of Du Pont 3031. I say best loading for two reasons. First, I have found this load very accurate for a lever action rifle, giving me less than two inch groups for five shots at 100 yards. Second, this loading very closely duplicates the trajectory curve of my full power 200 grain, 348 big game load—something which is all to the good when I shift from the one rifle to the other.

The 25/35 kills quite consistently out to a 175 yards. When everything is favorable, it will kill to a full 200 yards. I use it more on my snapshooting ground squirrel forays, however. For out-and-out sniping, such as I was doing on this, my first trip of the summer season, there is nothing which will equal the .222 Remington caliber, and there is not a nicer rifle for this loading than the Marlin model 322 with its Sako Mauser action.

DUCKS TO SLAUGHTER

(Continued from page 41)

Down below, a man with a flag waves them away, like an aircraft carrier man waving away a plane to keep it from landing. Spying water over a clump of trees, the ducks make

Behind the trees, hunters, who have paid to shoot ducks, wait. Sometimes the ducks don't behave according to schedule. They come in low over the trees and get by without being shot. And the hunters are at least sportsmanlike enough not to shoot the duck after he lands in the water.

But the ducks are not too bright, because when they land on the water, they just rest instead of flying away. Then they are herded back to the pens where they are again forced to go through the suicide act.

While most of the wildfowl shot in the Chicagoland area is taken legally over public waters, by hunters willing to search out the natural feeding grounds of wild ducks, there are a number of these controlled breeding and shooting farms active. Licensed by the Illinois state department of conservation, they originally sprang into being as a way of augmenting the fast-disappearing natural wildlife of the locale.

Raising wild birds from eggs placed under setting chickens is standard procedure. When the young birds, pheasants for example, are grown, they are turned loose on a farm belonging to one of the club members. Then at the opening of the season, they are hunted like any natural wild birds, and they have the same chance that birds have had for thousands of years. The slaughterhouse "game farm" is the newest variation on this idea and is frowned upon by most hunters as a violation of the basic principles of sportsmanship.

Me, I'd rather buy my ducks at the butcher.

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.222 CARTRIDGE

(Continued from page 28)

and two were approximately 300 yards away. In no case was more than one bullet needed for each of the ten animals.

There are only three reasons against more regular use of this most-popular varmint caliber for such smaller species of big game as deer and pronghorned antelope. First, some states outlaw the deadly little cartridge on a blanket basis, because it admittedly isn't stout enough for the larger species of big game, or under extreme conditions of long range and in wind. Second, like all ultra-velocity loads, the .222's light 50- to 55-grain bullets are likely to fly to pieces if they encounter weeds or brush.

Finally, the .222 takes a fair degree of marksmanship to make sure hits and kills. The cartridge has proved its versatility in so many different forms of rifles that its accuracy is no longer a question. Many bench rest shooters swear it is the finest all-around cartridge in its class ever developed. But for the snap shooter who wants a cannon ball to plough through underbrush or drill through Tennessee ridges the .222 is a little light. Yet when the .222 connects, fair and square, it does the job.

I have never known a .222 bullet to fail to expand on such varmints as prairie dogs, woodchucks or jackrabbits. In fact I've seen some 300-yard shots on woodchucks that showed such violent tissue damage that an experienced varmint hunter might take it to be a close-up 100-yard kill. That is not a uniform performance by any means, but it has been noted several times, both with the factory 50-grain bullets, and with 50-grain Hornady spire-points. At 200 yards such damage is quite regularly noted, with but very rare exceptions. And at 100 yards I have seen no exceptions.

I've also experimented with jacketed .222 bullets—made by reversing soft-nosed bullets in RCBS dies—on various varmints of the woodchuck, jackrabbit and prairie dog category. This experimental shooting was intended as a prelude to using such bullets on South Dakota wild turkeys—which may be taken with rifles suitable for big game, or optionally with shotguns. But, because of the relatively open cover in which the birds are

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BRAD'S GUN SHOP 204 CALADIUM ST., LAKE JACKSON, TEXAS normally found, shotguns are very seldom used for the Thanksgiving birds.

These finished jacketed bullets were somewhat round-nosed. The main difference in their performance on varmints was the absence of the explosive "whock" that so regularly marks soft-nosed bullet contact with a meat target. And they were only about one-third as destructive of tissue as the soft-nosed slugs. However, they were damaging enough so I didn't want to use them on turkeys, for fear that hitting a bone would literally blow a bird asunder.

At present I am experimenting with loading down to the 1,800 to 2,000 foot per second range, with both soft-points and jacketed bullets, in trying to find a turkey load that is not overly destructive. These are to undergo tests on woodchucks, with the bullets pinpointed through the shoulders; since the destructive effect noted ought to closely parallel similar hits on turkeys. The answer may lie in a heavy-jacketed bullet, with the lead core brought up just flush with the nose of the jacket. If a sufficiently heavy jacket is used I doubt that it will even be desirable to use a lead-alloy core; the softer pure lead for cores may be entirely adequate and not conducive to any excessive meat damage.

I would advise against trying the .222 on big game, such as mule deer which are often found in wide-open country or have to be taken at long range across mountain canyons. And definitely it's not for elk, where I have seen a .30-06 bullet fail to go through the near shoulder of a cow elk at no more than fifty paces from the muzzle. That 180-grain bullet literally powdered the knob-bone of the shoulder joint, and knocked the cow down, but she got up and had to be shot through the neck as she should have been hit with the first shot.

Yet these-bigger deer and elk-are large even for the ordinary "big game" cartridges. It's for the smaller animals that class as "big game" that the .222 shows up well. Aside from the six taken with the .222, I have killed nearly 100 antelope, with rifles ranging all the way from the fine .270 through the .300 Weatherby Magnum. But I can't honestly say that that any six consecutive kills with the larger calibers killed pronghorns as fast as did the .222. In fact I've seen a buck antelope, after being ideally hit through the rib cage with a 130-grain .270 bullet, run a full 125 yards before he went down. And several others ran from 40 to 60 yards under similar conditions. If the bone and muscle running gear is not damaged, that seems quite standard on kills achieved by the larger calibers, unless brain or spinal cord is injured.

When the .222 stings them, they stay stung. I have never seen a whitetailed deer or an antelope travel more than 40 yards when hit with my .222. And it didn't seem to make much difference whether the bullets blew up inside or went through, relatively intact. They were all killed very rapidly.

For stalker-marksmen-hunters, who are willing to wait for and take the ideal shot, I'd unhesitatingly recommend the .222 Remington as a fine little rifle to carry, very accurate in the majority of cases, and very deadly in its performance on these two smaller species of big game. If the hunter will do his part, the tiny bullet will oblige him with very satisfying results—and no cartridge could do more than that!

REBARRELLING JAPANESE PISTOLS

A few years ago there were plenty of Jap pistols floating around and no ammunition available. One man bought a gunny sack full of 1500 8mm Nambu cartridges and found them to be all duds . . . little if any of the Jap ammunition was adequately sealed to keep long. Yet the Jap pistols were potentially good guns. The shortage of ammunition made them sell for as little as \$5, but Francis Fell of the Chicago Brinks office thought something could be done with them.

He cut off the barrel and fitted a used barrel in 38 caliber from a Colt Police Positive. Then the bolt was slightly cleaned up, and a special cartridge guide worked into the receiver. Solid-head Western .38 S&W cartridges were used, with a turn taken off the rims to permit them to fit the bolt face, but



enough rim was left to hold the shell against the end of the barrel.

Nambus have an odd long trigger pull which is almost without "creep" or changing tension. Many enthusiasts have thought that the Nambus would be good shooting guns if ammunition could be found. Fell claims quarter-size groups from this gun at 20 yards, and he cautions against the use of foldedhead shells-only solid brass such as the Western ammo should be used.

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CARTRIDGES

(Continued from page 45)

caliber military load, and our only military cartridge of the period that was never made at any U.S. arsenal. They were furnished the Navy under contract by Winchester and U.M.C.

The ball cartridge with its 112 grain plated copper jacketed bullet is second from right in the photo. This same type bullet was used in the training dummy at the extreme left. There was no powder in this dummy cartridge, but instead a square wood stick extended from hullet base to the hottom of the cartridge, and kept the bullet from being driven back into the case.

The cartridge is identified by a small hole drilled through the side of the case. To its right is the Gallery Practice cartridge, with a light load of powder and plain 80 grain lead bullet. This was also used as a guard duty load. At the extreme right is the blank cartridge with the waxed gray colored paper

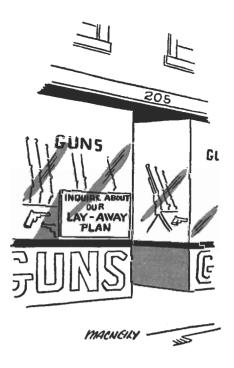
In addition to the ones shown, there is another cartridge that may be included in this set. It is the ".236 USN Rimmed," a rimmed version of the 6mm USN rifle round. There is still much speculation as to the purpose of this cartridge. It is said that these rifles, although designed for the rimless cartridges, will handle the rimmed ones, if the shells are fed into the chamber of the gun, through the magazine. An original box of these rimmed cartridges seems to carry out this theory since it is marked "For United States Navy Rifle, .236 Caliber, 36 Grains Smokeless Powder, 136 Grains Steel Jacketed Bullet." The rimless shells came in a box labeled "U.S. Navy Small Arms Cartridges For Rifle and Machine Cun. Smokeless Powder, 112 Gr, Copper Jacket Bullet". Both these boxes were Winchester. Reportedly, some experimental rifles were made in caliber .236 USN rimmed.

These military cartridges bore the usual commercial headstamps such as "WRACo 6mm USN", "UMC 6mm USN" and some times "WRACo .236 USN". The 112 grain metal jacketed and soft point sporting cartridges were made for many years. It seems too bad that the government discarded this gun and eartridge so soon. Further study and development might have brought forth some very interesting results with this early small bore smokeless cartridge.

'Unknown' Shotgun Shell Gauges

After I had come across those two "new" gauges of shotgun shells: the 18 ga. "Nitro Club" and the 30 ga. Murata, earlier this year, I wondered if there might not be more "unknown" gauges. I began checking old catalogs, and found a couple that really have me wondering.

The 1875 Winchester catalog lists the 11 gauge, and the 15 gauge empty primed brass shot gun shells at \$12 per 100. In addition these gauges were listed in both the "A" gauge for guns chambered for paper shells, and in "B" gauge—which were smaller diameters-for use in guns chambered for brass shells. So in theory, that makes four more new gauges . . . but do they actually exist?? Ever seen one??



Question Marks

"I have had a .45 Martini Henry rifle cartridge in the collection for quite a while. The other day I bought a '577/450 Martini Henry' and it turns out to be the same shell. Why the fancy name?" O. N. New Orleans.

Yes, they are the same cartridge. The English are great on this system of nomenclature, as shown in their 450/400, the 400/360, the 375/303 etc. What it represents -in the case of your Martini Henry-is that cartridge was designed from the old 577 Snider caliber, but necked down to the .450 bore or .45 caliber. In this system the first figure represents the size of the rear portion of the shell while the second figure is that of the bullet caliber, to which the case is necked down. So while the system sounds confusing, it actually gives quite a bit of information on the case dimensions of the eartridge.

"I just got in a Robin Hood 12-12 R.H.P. CO, pink shell. Was this by the Robin Hood Company of Swanton, Vt.? Also, did they make any other brands of shells?"-J. B., New York City.

The shell that you have is made by the Robin Hood Powder Co. of Swanton. This company began operations in 1898 making gunpowder. The next year they branched out and started loading shotgun shells that they imported from England. Then they made and loaded their own shells under their headstamp. The company continued operations until 1906, when they reorganized under the name of the Robin Hood Ammunition Company. As the powder company they made only shotgun shells, but as the ammunition company they added a line of rim fire and center fire rifle and revolver ammunition. The company was finally bought up by Remington in June of 1915, and following the World War, the plant was closed.

The company had many colorful brand names for their shotgun shells, including "Robin Hood," "Autocrat," "Automatic," "Clipper," "Comet," "Crescent," "Indian," "Capital" and "Tiger." There are few collectors who can show the entire set.

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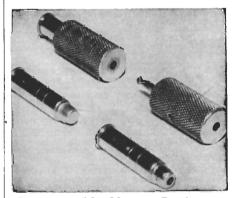
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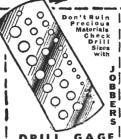


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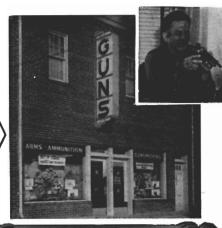




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We've got the bug, too. You can tell by the crisp mornings, the sudden briskness of the air, and the changing patterns of color on the landscape. The blood of all outdoorsmen is quickening with the anticipation of this fall's hunting trips.

Along the way, we hope our paths will cross and give us onother opportunity of meeting and talking with the many wonderful people we met during the post NRA Convention. All these people are tops in the sporting and outdoor field and it was encouraging to find so many using and showing active interest in the NORMA line of ammunition, bullets, and virgin brass cases for reloading. Comments and letters so far show all kinds of praise for NORMA's performance. No wonder. This ammunition is really filling a great need for high performance accuracy and smashing power.

Just as a sidelight for you reloaders . . . although NORMA cases are a bit thicker than regular American cases to withstand higher pressures, the slight decrease in powder volume is negligible for all normal loads. However, when approaching maximum loads, we suggest you start with a few grains less than your normal maximum load and work up if your rifle will allow, NORMA's extra strength pays off in longer life and higher performance.

munition

norma

SMASHING POWER of NORMA

bullets is sudden—swift—and sure in all types of game - at all ranges.

NORMA's clad steel jacket consists of a tough steel core laminated on each side by a layer of cupro-zinc alloy. In the game, the tough steel resists to the right degree the enormous centrifugal forces set up when the rotating bullet starts to mush. room, insuring perfectly controlled expansion at all hunting ranges.

ALWAYS REMEMBER

You don't kill your game at muzzle velocity. It's your remaining velocity that counts! NORMA precision bullets and ammunition are designed to give maximum velocity and smashing power even at the longest ranges.

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