

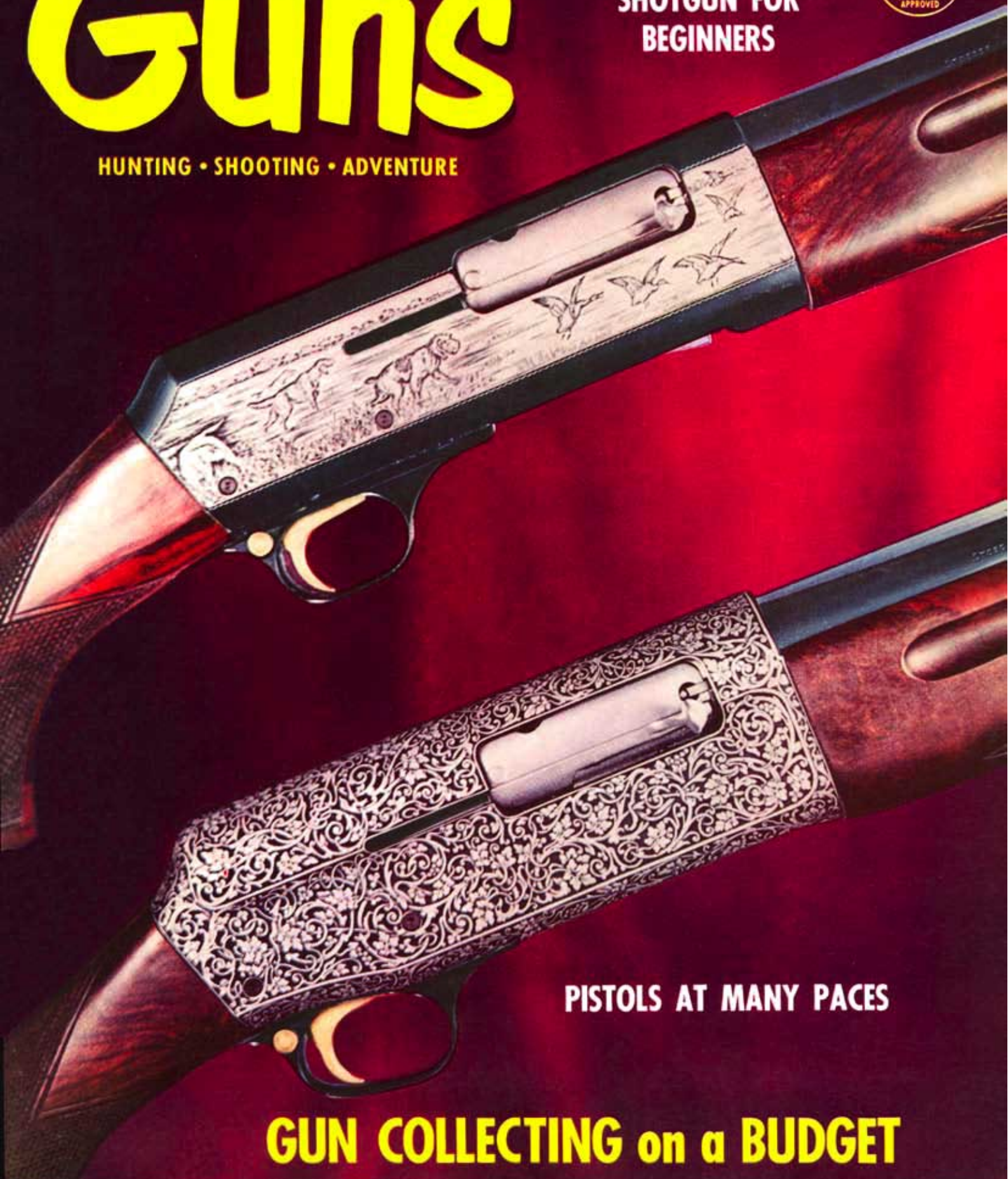
NOVEMBER 1958 50c

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By JOEL McCREA

Motion Picture Actor

I have been a rancher as well as an actor for over twenty-five years; in fact, I became an actor to accumulate enough cash so I could buy a ranch. So naturally on my ranch in Ventura, California, I have a lot of use for guns, and have quite a collection that my boys and I use. My favorite is hard to name, but I guess that actually I'd pick the .30-30 Winchester carbine. I do a lot of riding around the ranch and for an all-around gun you can't beat this one. It's light enough to carry easily in a saddle scabbard and not so big that when you have to hit a rattler at close range you feel as if you've blasted him with a piece of artillery. This Winchester is a very effective, potent weapon. I've killed deer, bear and coyotes with it and its never let me down. For an all-round gun, I'll take the .30-30 any day.

MY FAVORITE GUN

By VASSILI BORISSOV

Russian Rifle Champion

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TRIGGER TALK

SURPRISED? Like our cover? Yes, this is the same old GUNS, the "Finest In The Firearms Field," By shooters, For shooters—and collectors, experimenters, and anybody who wants to be well informed in the world of guns. But the prettier packaging is nice, isn't it? And we hope to give a lot of covers equally fine, from now on. Check the report on Franchi automatic shotguns, our cover guns, in "Gun Rack."

In our new trap-and-skeet department, **PULL!**, Dick Miller tells of the first rate performance by Joan Masset at the skeet shooting nationals. Joan took the ladies' 20 gauge world championship—not bad for a gal who's only been shooting two years! Husband Bob, an all-around gun fan, is pretty proud.

"Guns in the News" departs from the normal by giving credit where credit is due—a small laurel for the Hon. Bob Sikes. His appeal for better smallarms for our forces should not go unheeded.

Of unusual interest, we think, is the lead-off story of the Savage 99. A truly great rifle, few sportsmen know the facts behind the gun, the story of the man who made it. Rifle-smith Frank DeHaas gives you the full picture, including the spread of fabulous cartridges for which this fine gun has been made.

Another "great" this month is the story by Colonel Townsend Whelen on page 20. We use the term great, not in flattery, but merely to place a man in his times. From the years before World War I when he was a junior lieutenant sweltering in the Canal Zone, to today, the Colonel's writings have had a profound effect on the arms American hunters and shooters use. His ever-enquiring mind, open to facts not fancy, now brings you a provocative report of his recent experiences at the shooting bench.

Pistol shooters will relish *Pistols at Many Paces*, page 18. Resumé of one man's work with handguns up to 600 yards, we predict it will get some gun fans itching to try out for distance. How far can you use a handgun with accuracy?

Also for pistolers is *Gun Collecting on a Budget*. This rundown of collectable Smith & Wessons may make you get the urge—and in what other line can you still find century-old pistols in fine shape at such low prices?

Much has been said recently of imported surplus rifles. We felt it was time to explore some of the facts in this business, in terms of what it means to the U.S. sportsman. In *Gun Giant of the Golden West* you'll read how cheap centerfire rifles are causing a "revolution" in American shooting habits.

Buying a .22 rifle? Try the autoloaders, says Dave Moreton on page 22. An experienced scientific rifleman, Moreton (director of a police magazine testing laboratory) gives you the inside story of autoloading .22 rifles.

You will notice in this issue that our stories are more terse, shorter, in sharper focus, giving you more gun lore and the best in gun-writing, by any standard. Subscribe to GUNS today: \$5.



THE COVER

Among the world's best standard guns are the autoloading Franchi, made in Italy and sold here by Stoeger Arms in New York. But among the world's finest guns are the two pictured here on royal purple: the Crown Grade 20 ga. engraved with a realistic game scene, and the lavishly decorated Diamond Grade Franchi.

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

NOVEMBER, 1958

VOL. IV, 11-47

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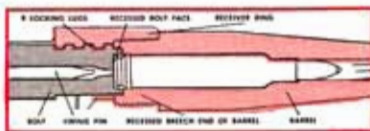
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CHARLES W. LEAVELL ▶

SUMTER,
SOUTH CAROLINA

GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

In our May, 1958, issue we published a story titled "Red Guns In The Desert," by GUNS Technical Editor William B. Edwards. The following remarks by Representative Robert Sikes (outspoken friend of the shooting sports in the U.S. House of Representatives), as quoted in the Chicago Daily Tribune, bear out GUNS editors' estimate of the importance of the story.

Washington, Aug. 18—Rep. Robert L. F. Sikes (D., Fla.) told the House Monday that the United States has "lost face" in the mid-east because Arab troops carry better rifles than American soldiers and marines.

"In their various arms deals with the Soviets," Sikes said, "the Egyptians, Syrians and more lately the Yemenites, have acquired the new lightweight infantry weapons family using the new light cartridge, with which the Kremlin has re-armed the Soviet army. These new Soviet rifles, tommy guns, and machine guns increase the firepower of Red and Arab soldiers, yet reduce the burden they must carry in combat."

"The Israelis have introduced the very same kind of lightweight rifle system which our army has wanted for over 10 years. They have a light semi-automatic rifle for the infantryman, like the M-15 model our army is procuring in only token quantities this year; and they have a heavy barreled rifle as a light machine gun, like the new model which our army desires."

Sikes said Israeli weapons are of the Belgian design which the Pentagon developed and tested for some years. They fire the new lightweight .308 cartridge, developed by army ordnance and Winchester arms for North Atlantic treaty organization troops.

"In contrast," Sikes said, "our army GI's and the marines carry the M-1 Garand rifle, adopted by the army in 1936. The heavy machine gun is designated model 1917, but only because it was adopted that year. Actually it was readied by John Browning in 1901, on patents awarded when Queen Victoria reigned and McKinley was president. The cartridge all these weapons fire is the famous old .30-06 standing for calibre .30, 1906."

"Consider the potential effect on military morale. What is a soldier or marine to think if we send him to the fore-front of the fight for peace and western civilization and claim that we back home cannot afford to give him arms as modern as Colonel Nasser seems able to afford for his Arabs and Egyptian soldiers?"

"What, too, was the effect when our troops landed in Lebanon and the mid-easterners could see with their own eyes that America failed to furnish its men with rifles as modern as the Soviets, Czechs, and Israelis have and can sell?"

"These people of undeveloped areas may not know much about modern weapons such as guided missiles and nuclear warheads," Sikes said, "but they do know rifles. Among Arabs in particular the rifle is the mark of a man. If, then, these people can see for themselves that our vaunted modern military power is second-rate in the weapons that they know about, doubt must arise about American wonder weapons they find hard to understand and cannot see."

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New Gun Catalogs Hand Book Of Cast Bullets

EACH YEAR, for more years than I now like to remember, Lyman Gunsight Corp. has brought out a new edition of their Ideal Handbook. This year's book, titled as above, is the 41st edition and it now has a companion volume, a different book in many ways. It covers all types, shapes, and kinds of cast bullets, from the first round ball through the paper patched Sharps slugs to the modern grooved and gas checked projectiles, as well as shotgun slugs and shot container loads. It is the most complete work of its kind I have seen to date—Lyman's "Handbook of Cast Bullets."



Charles E. Lyman

From the Sharps rifle photo cover throughout, the book is well illustrated, mostly in color, well organized, and complete in all details. After an introduction by Charles E. Lyman, III, the first section contains seven interesting articles by authorities on their subjects: "How To Make Bullets," by Lyman; "Tips on Casting," by Loverin; "Sizing, Lubricating, and Care of Moulds," by Jury; "Accuracy From Cast Bullets," by Teesdale; and "Selecting the Right Bullet for Your Gun," by Kilbourn. These are followed by the Lyman ammunition reloading hand book and a final chapter on how bullet moulds are made.

Section two of the book is "A History of the Bullet," by Weller, while section three, Chapter 9, is a data section compiled by a great many American shooters.

Bullet alloys, powders, and tools are thoroughly covered. Shotshell reloading is fully covered for all slug loading. A big detachable wall chart is included, showing all calibers of cartridges on one side and a great many Lyman reloading tools, sights, etc., on the other. The chart is suitable for hanging in the work shop. The back cover is a full-color reproduction of a very fine painting by Gale Hoskins, of a pioneer family casting bullets on the cabin floor.

This book contains a wealth of material for the beginner as well as the most experienced hand loader, and much early shooting history as well, plus reloading and bullet making data and the best loads for all calibers with cast bullets. (The book does not contain loads for modern jacketed bullets.) Here are 230 pages of factual reloading and bullet making information, priced at just \$2.00. A must for all shooters and reloaders. Charley Lyman and his entire staff are to be complimented.

World's Guns

Golden State Arms, Inc., 386 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., have published a large book covering pre-flintlock, flintlock, percussion, and modern firearms, also edged weapons. It is a very well illustrated and priced catalogue, offering collectors a valuable reference as to current prices on a great many types of arms, including auto pistols. Nearly all military and some sporting weapons are included, with some excellent articles on various phases of gun collecting.

This modern treatise is printed on excellent paper and has excellent illustrations throughout. Its 288 large pages with index makes it a first class history of arms development, particularly of military arms. It is an invaluable aid to identification of early arms and, while not complete (no book is), this one covers a very wide and large field of arms and also cartridges and edged weapons. Price \$2.00.

New Weatherby Catalogue

"Tomorrow's Rifles Today," price \$2.00, put out and sold by Weatherby's, Inc., of South Gate, Calif., is one of the best illustrated and most complete custom arms catalogues we have seen. It thoroughly covers all details of Weatherby's new Mark V rifle action and complete rifles made thereon. Excellent cuts of all grade rifles as well as other custom work, stocks, scopes, and engraving are included, along with a great many excellent photos of celebrities with rare and great game. The complete line of Weatherby magnum cartridges and loading data for same is fully covered. A lengthy treatise on the effect of high velocity by Roy Weatherby, as well as a great many testimonials by users of Weatherby rifles, add color to the book. All classes of engraving, fancy checkering and stock carving as well as overlay in precious metals are covered. His rifles are all stocked to my old design of 30 years ago as to butt stock, grip, and cheek piece Monte Carlo comb. Complete data on his new scopes, as well as ballistic charts of the Weatherby Magnum cartridges, adds further to the usefulness of the book. Many photos of the Weatherby factory and show rooms complete the picture. A most colorful and interesting catalogue for all big game hunters.

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(Continued on page 60)

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GUNS Technical Staff

Italian Shotguns and Rifles

To test Italian guns, of course I had to start out right—with a pizza pie for lunch. Driving out to publisher George vonRosen's "Tamarac Farm," where GUNS Magazine's range test facilities are, I had loaded the car with five items—one of the cheap imported Italian war-surplus carbines, three handsome Beretta scatterguns, and a remarkably light Franchi lightweight 20 automatic.

The Italian carbine was of the Mannlicher-Carcano Terni Model 1891/38, caliber 7.35 mm., a gun which some newspaper columnists had said was "unsafe." Since this was news to me, and since a vast number of millions of this basic model had been made for the Duce's armed forces in 6.5mm and 7.35mm caliber, and also since several GUNS advertisers were selling this gun, I determined to give it a little blow up test. One of the severest "home mechanic" types of over-stressing a rifled gun is to load a bullet into the bore and chamber a live round behind it, the second bullet just touching. This we did, closing the bolt with a little force. We had got the rifle from Pete Beers of Interarmco, primary importers of these guns now offered by Winfield Arms, Golden State, Mars Equipment, and other mail order dealers, and in the gun stores as well. With the magazine gripped in a vise, the gun itself pointing into a hollow tree, and myself protected by a thick oak, I pulled the string. The report was loud, but the barrel and breech held together ok. The pressure generated by the two bullets had been enough to melt the case as well as set it back, and the case burst at the extractor hook, pushing it up and jamming the bolt closed. Slugging the bolt handle against a log opened it, damaging the extractor and bending the action. But all this came after the test firing. No doubt about the gun tested, and probably true of the general run of Terni carbines, these 7.35mm rifles are entirely safe with the factory loaded ammo.

Of greater importance to most gunners are the Italian shotguns. The guncraft in Italy is centuries old, has been renowned since the days of Benvenuto Cellini, Lazarino Cominazzo (whose myriads of relatives spelled their names with an amazing confusion of consonants), and a more modern gentleman named Luigi Franchi. The Franchi products today are distributed by A. F. Stoeger, famous old importing firm of New York (507 Fifth Ave., "Shooter's Bible" \$2) and we picked up one of the 20 gauge guns from Jim Bell, on Mannheim Road, Chicagoland distributor of Stoeger guns and rifles, and one of the area's most progressive gun shops.

The 20-gauge full choke 28" barrel Franchi we shot weighed in at 5 pounds 5 ounces on our postal scales. Looking it over, several features were noteworthy. First to view and feel was the excellent fine

checkering on the forend. The pistol grip has flat checkering but the forend has a full pattern of 20-to-the-inch diamonds, cleanly done, very pretty and practical. The action is long recoil. The standard 12 gauge weighs about 6½ pounds, all with durable aluminum frame and trigger group. (The all-steel 12 ga. wildfowler "Superange Magnum" weighs about 8½.) Light weight guns will continue to provide controversy for gun experts and shooters for the next century, as it has for the last. My own experience in shooting this gun is that it has very little kick, and the double-shuffle characteristic of long recoil shotguns is much minimized by the lightness of the moving and non-moving parts. By comparison with a 20 gauge CZ autoloader of similar long-recoil design, the Franchi made less fuss at the shoulder.

Handling of the light Franchi was very pleasant. In the 20 ga., or even in the standard light 12 which weighs a trifling amount more, these guns score high as upland fusils where much of the hunting is just that: hunting for birds, and often not too much shooting. For skeet, too, these guns should have a following. Though light in weight they do not kick objectionably with the standard checkered butt plate, and if fitted with a rubber recoil pad would be even softer to shoot. Prices on these guns range from about \$148 in the 20 ga., 12 ga. lightweight, and Superange Magnum steel 12, up to \$1200 for elaborately engraved Imperial grades. For those who can be satisfied with a little less than the most profuse sculptural adornment, there is a nicely game-scene engraved "Hunter Model" complete with game scenes, both sides, and ribbed barrel, at \$178.50 for hollow rib and \$192 for ventilated rib.

The three Beretta guns came our way from Bennett Galef of J. L. Galef & Sons, also New York, 85 Chambers St., distributors of the Beretta rifles, shotguns and pistols. The craftsmen of Gardone, the sleepy village in the valley of the river Trompia where Beretta guns are made, are not so sleepy as the town. At work they wear white shirts, neckties, even coat jackets, and as they stand at their machines, their shoes are shined. What this has to do with gunmaking is simply this: a man who takes pride in his own appearance, will certainly take pride in what he does, and see that it is done well. So it is with the machinists at Beretta, descendants of the smiths of yesteryear. And the machine work on these guns shows the care and precision with which they are made.

Minor member of the Beretta gun family is the "Companion," a folding single gun having a combined under-lever for break-open and an exposed hammer spur. The one stud, forward of the trigger guard, breaks the gun and also cocks the inside striker. Ingenious, it allows Beretta to make a very

(Continued on page 59)

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Joe Hiestand



*

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SHELLEY BRAVERMAN
ATHENS 12, NEW YORK

**CROSSFIRE****Good Old Tim Sullivan**

Thanks a lot for the article by Roger Riley in the June issue of GUNS. From my previous letters, you will know that I am not entirely in agreement with him. In many instances, he is absolutely wrong.

Why is it that so many persons want to do away with the Sullivan Law instead of directing their efforts to getting the things the Sullivan Law provides? Subdivision 8, Section 1897, says it is the duty of the police commissioner to issue a license upon application by a householder, messenger of any banking institution, storekeeper or merchant. Here is something to really write about! Let's give the people what the law wants them to have and which it is the duty of the issuing authorities to give.

Sgt. Bill Brefka
N.Y. State Troopers
Albany, N. Y.

Duty or not, Sergeant, try and get that license in New York City. If the law "wants" householders to have guns, why have the law?—Editors.

Those Parker Doubles

I have a Parker 20 gauge double barrel shotgun. Thanks to your article in GUNS Magazine, I know that I have a fine gun. This gun is as new as the day it was bought, and I intend to keep it that way. Not being too familiar with shotguns, I asked different hunters the value of this Parker and all they could tell me is that it was a good gun. So thanks to you, Mr. Copeland, for the wonderful article on the Parker. The serial number is 237272 on my gun and it was bought between 1942 and 1945.

Orlando Nudo
Mowessen, Pa.

We received many fine letters complimenting Mr. Fred Copeland on his Parker article, and some calling attention to a scrambled caption. To correct the caption: the gun shown on page 33, next to bottom, was not a V.H.E. grade but a B.H.E. The V.H.E. grade is an almost plain quality gun, while the one we pictured was fancy. Gremlins sneaked into the original Parker photograph catalog lent to us by Mr. Alvis of Remington Arms (who took over Parker Brothers), and scrambled the caption. So far as current values go, GUNS cannot appraise guns sight unseen. Generally, modern Parkers like Mr. Nudo's, above, command higher prices than older Damascus barrel types or early front lifters, since they are sold primarily for shooting to connoisseurs who know fine guns.—Editors.

I read your article on Parker guns and thought you might be interested in knowing that Mr. Geo. E. Lane, 38 Woodland St.,

Meriden, Conn., is still alive and does some stock work. This gentleman was head of custom stocking for many years at Parkers. He is in his eighties.

Leon E. Ingraham
Western Sportsman
Greeley, Colo.

**Rigby Rifles and
"How Far Is Far?"**

Thank you for the copies of your magazine. I was most impressed with the strides you in America have made with GUNS, though I am not convinced that the ideal form of sport is to kill your game from a very long distance with a high powered rifle. I, myself, much prefer the stalk to the shot, and I know that some others do too, although it is not necessary to go as far as some people who have returned to the bow and arrow.

However, we gunsmiths must follow the popular trend and I am planning to produce a .275 (or 7mm) with a much higher muzzle velocity. I prefer the 140 grain bullet and am experimenting with that as well as with Norma's 160 grain boat-tailed bullet . . . I am also working on a heavier calibre rifle, about .350, for which I think we should have a bullet weight of 225 to 275 grains. Our present .350 throws a 225 grain bullet at a muzzle velocity of 2600, and it is a proven killer. But something faster seems to be needed for kills at about 500 yards range, which seems to be nearer the American ideal . . . I have found no reason to change the .416, but if anybody wants a .458 we are perfectly prepared to make them up, and I am experimenting with a muzzle brake or recoil reducer, which should have a definite appeal to those who are not regular shots like the White Hunters, but only shoot an occasional round of heavy calibre ammunition when they go on Safari.

Vernon Harriss
John Rigby & Co., London

May we add in self defense that by no means all Americans believe in extra-long-range shooting at game targets either! This GUNS editor doesn't; and GUNS has consistently advised, "Get close, where you know you can make a clean-killing hit—or don't shoot!" English readers (like many Americans) have been misled by gun-writers who boast of shots which are impractical (and unsportsmanlike) for most hunters.—Editors.

Here's One To Try

There is a very definite connection between two articles in different issues of your very fine magazine. In my dogeared issue of July, 1957 (Buckshot Is For Bucks), Henry Schaefer reports his success with a 10-hall 000 Haelig buckshot load. In the almost as dogeared (my wife now reads it) August, 1958, issue (Patches for Pattern), Calvin Dimm answers a question that has bothered me for many years; namely, why my grandfather's old muzzleloading coalburner could

reach out about twice as far as my modern over and under. Wish I had this information many years ago. How about teaming up a 10-ball 000 load and using Mr. Dimm's patches? Should even the odds for the boys who hunt wolves and coyotes, as well as add to the number of clean deer kills in those states which permit only shotguns. If and when someone checks this out and you report the results, I'll read about it in my favorite magazine.

Mike Isham
Farmington, New Mexico

Wrong Powder

I goofed in the September GUNS by quoting Dick Speer, president of Cascade Cartridge, Inc., as saying a .30-06 rifle still had hunting accuracy after firing more than 60,000 rounds loaded with C.C.I. primers, 150 grain bullets, and charges of 50 grains 4198 powder. The powder used in the laboratory test was 50 grains 4895.

The laboratory charge listed was certainly not a recommended load. Handloaders will immediately note that it is way out of line with any loading data and entirely too heavy. Your postman will have some heavy loads of letters from readers who caught the error. Many may doubt the 60,000 round barrel life also, but this figure was correct. While the excellent C.C.I. primers set a new world's bench rest record, they may have set some kind of record for long barrel life.

Kent Bellah
Saint Jo, Texas

Gang Busters

In reference to the article of Roger Riley on the New York gun law, it would be appropriate, while the excellent book, "Last Of The Great Outlaws," by Homer Croy, is still on the book stands, to bring to the attention of influential legislators the significance of the Northfield raid on the careers of the Younger Brothers, and the redoubtable Frank and Jesse James. In that small, back-woodsey town there was a gun on every man and a rifle in every store; an armed citizenry. The result of an attack by a large and well organized gang of bandits was: no money stolen, two bandits dead, all bandits wounded, prison for the Youngers, the James brothers forced into semi-retirement. One small-town group of armed citizens broke up the most famous outlaw gang America has ever seen.

Charles S. Johnson
Arlington, Va.

Lucky Okies

Being a regular reader of your absorbing magazine I have seen the article regarding the Sullivan law in New York. It has occurred to me that the anti-Sullivan law advocates, may their tribe increase, will have some powerful help from the toy manufacturers when the New York police begin to declare that permits are needed for youngsters to wear their low-slung cap and water pistols. I know this idea is facetious but it seems to me that it could almost happen—in New York!

Here in Oklahoma we gun bugs are fortunate. All we need in order to buy a gun is the dough and a clean record.

J. N. Byrd, Jr., M.D.
Tulsa, Oklahoma

FAMOUS FOSTERS* TEAM UP WITH ITHACAS FOR QUALITY ALL THE WAY



Like many American shooters, the Preston Fosters of TV and movie fame, are thorough outdoor folks and do a whale of a lot of hunting and shooting. They go for the perfect feel and balance, faster, easier action they get with their Ithacas.

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*Preston Foster and his wife Sheila are starred in the TV "Waterfront" Series.

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SAVAGE: THE RIFLE THAT IS 60 YEARS YOUNG



Savage calibers were .22 Imp, .25-35, .303 Savage, .30-30, .32-40, .38-55, .250-3000, .300 Sav., .243, .308, .358—last five current.

Engraved M99 was given by F.D.R. to Shah of Persia, has U.S. and royal arms inlaid on action side.



**RIFLE LAUNCHED IN
GAS-LIGHT ERA, TODAY
REMAINS MODERN, UNCHANGED
THROUGH SIXTY YEARS OF SUCCESS**

By FRANK DE HAAS

ARTHUR SAVAGE WROTE a letter to a customer in 1903. "We sent you one of our catalogs," he said. "and you still haven't bought a rifle. What is wrong?" Though the letter was a little aggressive for the managing director of what has become one of America's largest arms firms, the tone was understandable. Arthur W. Savage had designed what he believed to be a perfect sporting rifle, and he couldn't see how anyone could fail to recognize it as such.

This rifle is the world renowned Savage Model 99, a high power lever action repeater. Its success began with the Savage-designed .303 cartridge, has since become popular around the world. The new company was firmly established by 1914, making only sporting guns. Besides the original .303 Savage caliber, three others were designed especially for the Model 99; the .22 Hi-Power, .300 Savage, and .250/3000. Each boosted its prestige and popularity among riflemen a little



ABOUT THE INVENTOR

The founder of Savage Arms, Arthur William Savage: b. Kingston, Jamaica, May 13, 1857. Schools in Baltimore, Md., and in England. Traveled East and West Indies, Egypt, Australia. Returned to U.S. 1886 as manager Utica (N. Y.) Belt Line RR. In 1890, started work on rifle; test models to U.S. in 1891-94. Left firm in 1906, moved to West Coast as orange grower. Operated Savage Tire Co.; was president of Water Company in California. In World War I organized Savage Munitions Co., San Diego, Cal., to make .45 pistols. Worked with British Ministry of Munitions. Died Sept. 22, 1938.



Savage lines blend with Redfield "Bear Cub" scope in Stith mount. Author prefers scope on M99, took big bull elk (right) with one shot from his .300 Savage.



higher. Today two of these old-line calibers, .300 and .250/3000, are still going strong, and it is also chambered for three of the very latest, most modern big game calibers, the .243, .308 and .358 series. Has the Savage 99 reached its pinnacle of development? Probably not. Even though it bears a model date a half century old, in most respects that date could be changed to "Model 1958." No other rifle has so well stood the test of time, no other is so freshly "modern" in style, in design, in functioning as the Savage 99, yesterday and today.

When keen-minded inventor Arthur Savage back in the 1890's dreamed up his novel lever-action spool magazine hammerless repeater, he hardly imagined that around this one single model would be built a vast arms industry, and that almost 65 years later an identical rifle would be shooting the world's most modern high power sporting cartridges. In 1891 Savage submitted two handmade rifles to the U.S. Ordnance Department test board. The Savage was rejected, but the inventor continued to improve the gun, for his basic idea was sound, a square-section breech block that cammed up in the final closing motion of the lever, to lock solidly against the rear of the receiver. The Savage Repeating Arms Company began in 1894 to make and market his rifles, in sporting and long 30" barrel full stock military models. In 1895 he submitted the improved rifle to the New York State Board for possible National Guard adoption, and presented it also to the Navy for trial. And again, he failed to get it adopted. Then, as a newly-

naturalized citizen (he was born 1857 in Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I.), he turned to the American sportsman for a market, and the fundamental excellence of his rifle became widely known. The snowball of success began. The sporting model .303 Savage caliber was a smashing success, having a decided edge in power over competitive .30 calibers in lever action rifles. The Model 95 in .303 Savage caliber was the start of the gun that is so well known today.

The standard rifle was supplied with either round, half-round-octagon, and full octagon barrels, weighing about 7½ pounds. Experts disagree about how many were made: one source states 5000 in the first few years, while another says it was not until 1898 that any quantity were made. All Model 95 rifles, both sporting and military, were believed made for Arthur Savage's company by Marlin Firearms in New Haven. The model was discontinued in 1899 when minor changes were made in the mechanism, and the first of the true Model 99s came into being. The year marked a company reorganization with new capital, new tools, and a new factory erected at the firm's home town of Utica, N. Y., home of Savages until 1945.

What has made that original design still so "up to date?" First, it was built at the start of the smokeless powder era, used new "smokeless steel." The Savage action had many "firsts": it was the first solid breeched, hammerless, rotary spool magazine, and completely enclosed action made. It featured coil springs, all new at the time, in any repeating rifle. To load, the action is opened and cartridges pressed



Original M95 Savages in Winchester collection are 26" sporter, 30" full stock military Savage offered U.S. Army.

down onto the spool, until five are in place. Upon closing the action, the top cartridge is chambered. In the receiver side an opening shows a number on the magazine spool indicating the number of shells left. The rifle can be fired single shot, magazine in reserve, or at any time the magazine can be fired empty just by opening the bolt fully.

The hammerless rifle is smooth in outline. The safety is behind the trigger and, when "on," locks the trigger and locks the lever closed. A sliding shotgun safety on top is offered as a special feature by Savage, for left-handed shooters. The striker can be easily let down on a live cartridge so the rifle can be carried safely, by holding the trigger as the finger lever is closed. This leaves the striker down, but not resting far enough forward to touch the primer. To shoot, the finger lever can be slapped open about halfway, then snapped shut, cocking the striker. The breech block has a camming action opening and closing to aid extraction.

Another feature of Savage's rifles is a cocking indicator. Arthur Savage's first had a hole in the breech block showing the firing pin position. In the 95 model and up till about 1909 in the Model 99, a little square lever on the bolt stuck up. It could be seen and felt. Then came the pin indicator, located on the rear of the receiver, as it is on the 99s made today. To get the full accuracy of such cartridges as the .22 Hi-Power, .250/3000 and .300 Savage, a scope sight was needed. Because it is hammerless, with cartridges ejected to the side, the Model 99 became the most popular scope-sighted hunting rifle in America. Sharp pointed bullets can be used in the rotary Model 99 magazine, and the result was a long range varmint and small game outfit, more accurate than any other lever action. The magazine design is also, as Savage sellers have discovered, a magazine "you cannot drop."



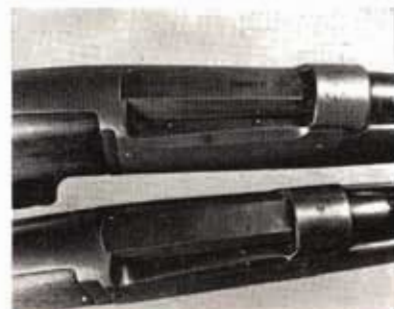
All shots under 2" at 100 yards testifies to high accuracy potential of .250-3000 Model 99. Gun shot accurately in spite of being take-down.

There is only one basic Model 99 action, but it could have been otherwise. His very first models were military rifles. Until about 1908 Savage listed a military rifle, long 30" barrel, full forestock with bands, military sights, and with angular or sword bayonet. But his attempts to peddle them met with little success. In a futile effort to drum up sales he stated in the 1899 catalog that he was prepared to manufacture the Model 99 Savage Military to handle any military cartridge. These at the time included .30/40, .303 British, 7.9 Mauser, the 7mm, and others, all longer than the Savage sporting calibers. Had the Jamaica riflemaker been successful in getting military contracts, we might be the heirs to a longer Savage 99 action today—an interesting speculation with Savage now having to make



Flat-sided Savage receiver takes engraving well. M99K had ornate scroll pattern with game scene in vignette.

Favorite with javelina, wild boar hunters, in the South West and in Tennessee, is the Savage .250-3000 or .300.



Square cocking indicator on M95 bolt differs from later M99 pin.

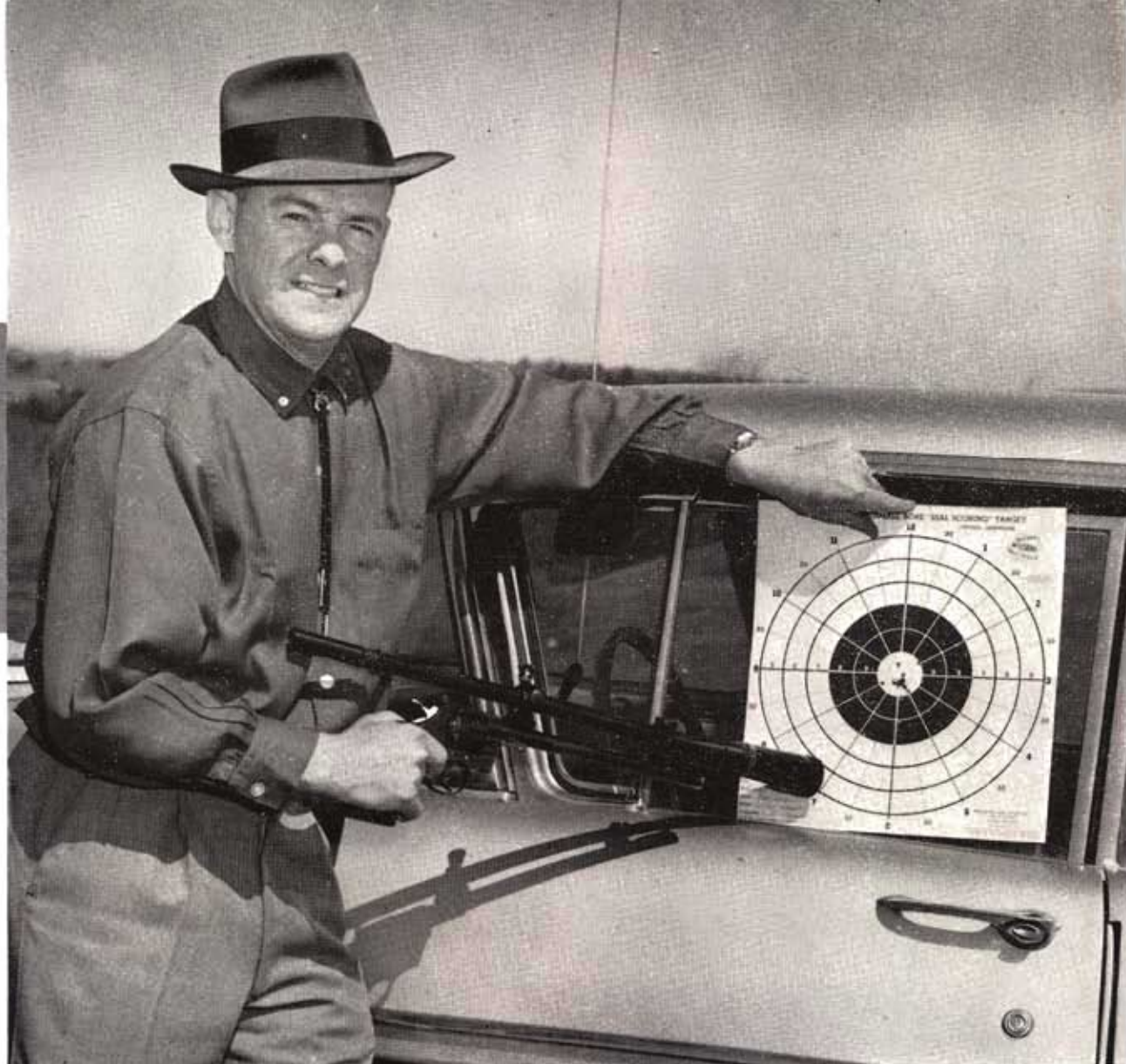
Trigger holds firing pin to rear as bolt is closed. Haas says this could be improved to give a more "crisp" pull.

bolt action rifles for the long .30-06 and .270 shells. Failure of the military rifle may have been a disappointment to Mr. Savage—may even have been a disappointment to ordnancemen, who would have found the Savage mechanism an easy one to adapt to gas-operated automatic principle decades before such weapons became common. But it was the sporting version which has made the Savage name remembered and the company prosper.

The first Model 99 sporting rifles had 26" round, half-octagon or full octagon barrels. These established the Savage as a very accurate rifle. Savage boldly advertised the inherent accuracy of their lever action repeater, and

there is no reason why the Savage rifle with fairly heavy 26" barrel should not have been as accurate as any single shot of the same barrel length, weight and caliber. But the carbines with short, slim barrels, and a short sighting radius, were no record setters on the range. Then in 1901 came the featherweight model, slimming the barrel down to make the rifle weigh barely six pounds. The average hunter didn't give a whoop about accuracy so long as it was suitable for big game shooting, so these carbines and featherweights became extremely popular. No one who ever handled one of these little rifles could resist falling for it.

Arthur Savage resigned as (Continued on page 36)



Ray Vigue's long range shooting showed grouping ability of custom barrel Colt to hold close on 100 yard smallbore target. Lyman 30X-scoped .22 OMT was rest-fired.

Officers Models in .22 (top) and .357 were fitted with special 10" barrels at Colt factory. Heavy .357 has Weaver K-10 in split mounts.



**DOWN-EASTER TWO-GUN MAN USES CUSTOM COLTS WITH
VARMINT SCOPES MOUNTED FOR LONG RANGE SHOOTING**

HAVE
FUN
WITH
GUNS

PISTOLS AT MANY PACES

By R. J. SIEGLER

THE SPORT who bet his fancy pocket watch that Ray Vigue couldn't hit said watch at 315 feet with a .22 pistol, lost. He called it quits after three hits and stated (what Vigue would be the first to deny) that this was an example of the ultimate in handgun marksmanship.

Vigue considers himself an experimenter and researcher "of the old school." He's been using handguns for 30 years. Five years ago he began testing the long range potential of the sidearm. In these five years he has fired 75,000 rounds of .22 rimfire and 10,000 rounds of .38 Special and .357 Magnum, using a variety of handguns equipped with scope sights.

He doesn't feel he's finished the job yet.

Some of the data painstakingly acquired in the early years was lost when high water flooded his camp in northern Maine. So back he went, not to the slide rule ("I'd rather burn powder than push a pencil"), but to the field.

The experiments began when Vigue found that little information was published on long range handgunning. Gun and ammo manufacturers told him ballistics research was invariably restricted to 100 yards or less. So Vigue, a modest, soft-spoken chap of 42, then had a SA Colt .44-40 fitted with a Weaver (and later a Lyman) scope of low power.

Results were interesting, but muzzle blast, heavy recoil, and the high trajectory of the heavy bullet led him to the .22. He had a Colt Officer's Model with a six-inch barrel fitted with a 6X Weaver by a Bangor, Me., gunsmith. This worked out very well, but at ranges in excess of 200 yards it was evident that a revolver with a longer barrel equipped with a more powerful scope was called for. Vigue drifted to .22 automatics for a while, but eventually settled on a matched pair of custom-made revolvers by Colt, in .22 and .357.

Designed to his specifications (Colt told him it was the first order of the type honored in 35 years) they are twin beauties, enough to sweat the palms of any handgunner ogling them. Built on the OMT frame, the barrels are 10-inch. The .22's rifling is somewhat tighter in spiral than the standard, and a bit undersize in the bore. The .357 has standard rifling and a snug bore. Both bores are chrome plated.

Front sights are mounted higher than conventional to allow unrestricted sighting when the arm is used without scope. This is essential, as the scope mounts remain attached to the top of the .22 barrel. Each sight is fitted with a small gold bead recessed into the blade. The sights are removable from the barrels by loosening two attaching screws. This permits split-ring mounts to be slipped onto the .357 barrel. Rear sights are standard adjustable.

After trying various scope magnifications, Vigue settled on the Lyman 30X Super Targetspot on the .22 and the Weaver K-10 on the Magnum. He (Continued on page 52)



Study of long-range pistol accuracy led Maine shooter to burn up 85,000 rounds at distances up to 600 yards.



To countless thousands of shooters, Col. Townsend Whelen (above) is "The Dean of Riflemen." This story proves that he is still seeking truth, even in contradiction to accepted theory.

By COL. TOWNSEND WHELEN

FOR AT LEAST 75 YEARS, the standard and prescribed positions for firing the rifle in target practice, competitions, and military training have been prone, sitting, kneeling, and standing. It has not been permissible to rest the rifle on any steadying object in any way, and the rifle must be fired free from any support other than the hands, arms, and shoulder. Of course, considerable practice is necessary in these positions to hold the rifle steadily enough so that the bullseye will be struck consistently. Thus considerable intelligent training and practice is necessary before anyone can shoot the rifle well. Riflemen are made, not born.

Because it introduced an element not available to shooters and competitors everywhere, it was thought that resting the rifle on any firm substance to steady

GIVE YOUR

DEAN OF AMERICAN RIFLE AUTHORITIES SAYS IT "JUST AIN'T SO" THAT A HARD REST WRECKS RIFLE ACCURACY

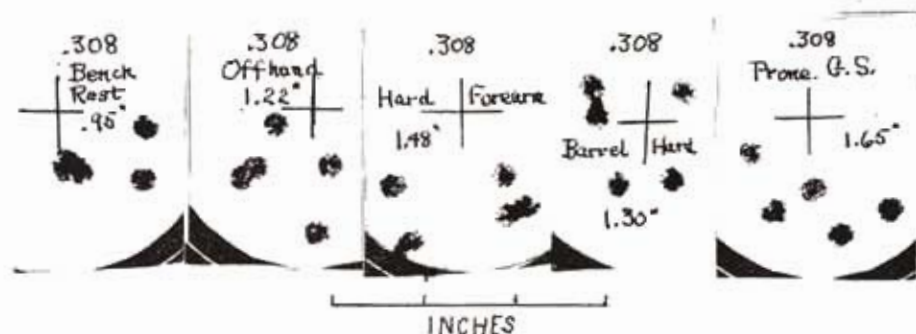


it was unfair. Also it was *thought* that if the rifle was rested it would not shoot to its normal zero or sighting as determined in the legal positions; in fact, that it would shoot very wild. All marksmanship manuals stated that the rifle should never be rested on any hard object, and all experienced hunters have *known* that if a rest *were* used to be sure of a very long shot, it should be on some soft object such as a folded shooting coat or gloves.

I believed all this myself. In fact, many years ago I conducted a number of experiments which showed that resting the forearm or the barrel on any firm or fairly firm object caused the rifle to shoot high from its normal zero found in sitting, kneeling, and standing positions, while shooting from the prone position with a tight gunsling caused it to shoot low. I published these findings on pages 57 and 258 of my book, "Small Arms Design and Ballistics, Vol. II," T. G. Samworth, Publisher. But these experiments were conducted by me in 1913 and earlier, with rifles in which the forearm was screwed to the barrel or bound to the barrel by a band, a method of assembly which has now been obsolete for a number of years. Later (August, 1919), Captain Wallace of the Infantry School of Arms and I showed by experimental firing that this did not apply to the .30-06 Springfield Model 1903 Military rifle, which shot pretty consistently to the same zero no matter how held or rested. The barrel of this rifle is free floating within its forearm and handguard, or supposed to be so.

Bench rest shooting, instituted about twelve years ago, together with the modern telescope sight, introduced a method of shooting which practically eliminated all human errors. Any peculiarities of rifle and ammunition stood out clearly, divorced from any lack of skill in shooting. We old shooters began to use the bench in an effort to find out why our bullets did not all shoot into one hole, and to discover those things that would improve accuracy and reliability. At first we thought it was quite necessary that the rifle be rested at exact spots on the forearm and under edge of butt-stock, on soft sandbags; but later we found that resting on quite firm objects made no difference, and in fact was slightly steadier. This caused considerable doubts in our minds as to the truth of the old belief that resting the rifle caused it to shoot high and wild. As a class, we old shooters are "from Missouri;" we have to be shown. And bench rest shooting was a method by which we *could* be shown beyond any reason for doubt.

In our Regular Army also, considerable doubt was being expressed about this belief that resting the rifle causes it to shoot wide and wild. Apparently, resting did not have this effect on the service rifle (see above). If the rifle would shoot consistently and to its established zero when rested, it was only common sense that soldiers should be encouraged to rest it when possible in order to assure sure hits on the enemy, particularly in the excitement of warfare. These thoughts and facts have now resulted in a complete revision in military marksmanship training, and in the introduction of a new system at present called "Trainfire." All preliminary marksmanship instruction is now conducted on a 25 meter range, shooting at a black paster 8.5 centimeters square affixed to an E-type silhouette. The firer aims at the bottom of the paster, and carefully adjusts his (Continued on page 32)



Testing 5 rifles from 5 shooting positions, Whelen found "hard rest" groups (4th from left above) only $\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ " high, not enough to spoil hunting accuracy.

RIFLE A REST



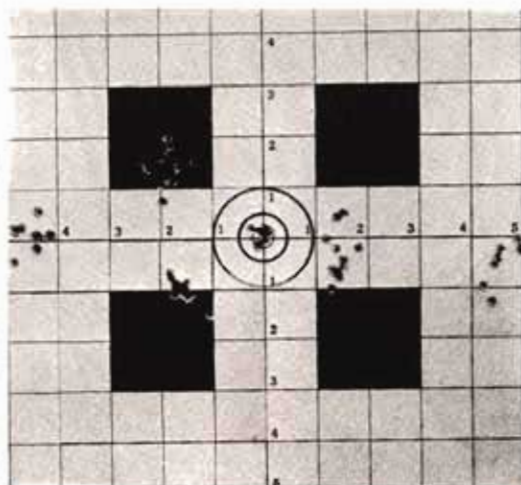
Shell shield on Rem .552 keeps hot brass from face, may kick them back into gun.

By DAVID O. MORETON

FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS I have made life miserable for our local red squirrel population, testing typical .22 autoloading rifles for GUNS. How accurate were they? My assignment I first thought, was not a happy one. Being a bolt action rifle nut, I could not quite see what in Heaven's name so many rifle buyers saw in these ammunition burners. But now, after putting well over 5,000 rounds of assorted brands through these pop guns, I have come to know them and their attractions a little better.

Guns tested were: Winchester M77, clip and tube repeaters; Remington's M552; Browning Grade I .22 auto; the J. C. Higgins M29, sold by Sears, made by Hi-Standard; Mossberg's M151K; Savage's 6K; and Marlin in M98 with tube (stock) magazine and 39-C with clip. Tradewinds, Inc., sent the French Gevarm. The Beretta (Italy), is imported by J. L. Galef, was also tested. The newest Ithaca X-5, and the H & R Lynx could not be included as they were not on the market at the time tests were conducted. Control guns were 40-X Remington and

TESTING THE .22 AUTOS



M52C group (center) compared with Marlin groups with EZXS (far left), Super Speed (up left), Super-X (low left), Kleanbore (right) and Monark.

Rifles tested were shot from padded rest. Over 5000 shots checked accuracy of guns thoroughly. Mossberg and others were fired with scopes.



Eleven autoloaders got full test in woods hunting for red squirrels.



5,000 ROUNDS THROUGH ASSORTMENT OF .22 AUTOLOADING RIFLES CONVINCES WRITER OF THEIR PRACTICAL PLINKING AND SMALL-GAME ACCURACY

M52C Winchester match rifles, sighted with Lyman 20X Supertargetspot or Unertl 10X.

All eleven rifles tested are semi-automatic, straight blow-back; that is, they fire only one shot with each pull of the trigger, and the force of the powder gas shoves the cartridge case and breech block to the rear, compressing a breech block return spring. The empty case is ejected, the spring throws the breech forward, stripping a fresh cartridge from clip or tube magazine into the chamber. Then the gun is ready to fire again, simply by pulling the trigger. One gun, the Gevarm, fires from an open bolt like a BAR: pressing the trigger releases the bolt from a rear position: the cartridge fires as it chambers. The cycle

continues till clip or magazine tube is empty.

The Winchester M77 is a solid frame gun, not takedown; 8-shot clip fitted at front of trigger guard, or tube magazine holding 15 Long Rifle rounds beneath barrel. Its sleek, streamlined appearance is uniform with that of the Model 38 big-bore hunting rifle. M77 has rotary thumb safety, walnut pistol grip stock, 22" round tapered barrel, bead front sight, open rear. Receiver grooved for Weaver Tip-Off scope mount. Weight about 5½ pounds, par for the course. Round bolt handle is on the left side of the action.

Browning's autoloader, newcomer to U.S. market under that brand, is identical to pre-war (Continued on page 47)



Author fired rifles from rest to check accuracy at 100 yards. Gevarm, Weaver B4 on top, proved to be fairly accurate but ads' claims of "higher velocity" could not be proved.

GUN COLLECTING



Low-cost S & W collection includes .32 #1½; .32 #1½ New Issue; .32 #1½ SA; early .38 and .32 hammerless. Bottom is .32 Hand Ejector, first issue. Top right is DA .44 "Navy"; .38 DA, 4th issue, .38 Model 2, second type; same, 1st type; and .35 auto.

ON A BUDGET

COLLECTING SMITH & WESSONS BRINGS A "RICH MAN'S HOBBY" WITHIN AVERAGE MEANS



Hundred dollar-or-less Smiths include engraved tip-up .32 sold for \$40 recently, and rare Ladysmith .22, a tiny copy of M & P, often sold in \$70 to \$100 range.



No. 3 .44 and .45 S&Ws were worldbeaters for blackpowder target game. Model (top) has thumb rest safety, ivory handle gun is like those used by Walter Winans.

YOU SAY YOU DON'T BELIEVE that gun collecting can be inexpensive? Perhaps you have been looking the wrong way. A nice collection of guns, one that you will be proud to show your friends, can be had even by us who are in the lower income brackets. All it takes is some careful planning and the right selection of guns.

First, you must decide how much money you have to spend, and then decide how you can best spend it to get the most good guns. Next, you must decide where to spend it. This is very important because, sad though it is to relate, there *are* people in this world who will take a beginning gun collector to the cleaners. Talk to as many gun collectors as you can. Find a reputable dealer. Read as many books as you can about gun collecting, and follow the magazine ads closely. From this you will get a good idea of current market prices and you won't find yourself tagged as a "fish." We both know people, the writer included, who have really gotten stuck with some "No-collection-would-be-complete-without-this-gun-in-any-condition" clunkers. Make your plans carefully and know what you are going to do *before* you start spending.

The selection of which guns to collect will be your next problem. So often, a person will just ramble around, buying any old gun he finds, without any definite goal in mind. Now, we said we wanted an inexpensive collection. Well, rambling around is one way to *not* be inexpensive. Even if you do buy only cheap guns, you will soon find that you have quite a sum in them, in travel expenses. It's up to you whether you can or can't afford it.

What we are looking for are guns that do not require a fortune to buy, and will offer a good selection of guns that will be more valuable in the future. Among the guns that would best fit this category are Smith & Wesson pistols.

In the photograph on page 24, eleven guns are pictured. These represent only a small number of the many low cost Smith & Wesson pistols available to a beginning gun collector. No gun in this picture cost over fifty dollars; and, in comparison with percus-



First U.S. metallic cartridge revolver was little S & W (2nd issue) .22; most variations sell for \$25.

sion revolvers, "Kentucky" rifles, dueling pistols, and many other collector categories, that is cheap. Yet all of these are prized collectors items. They are all antiques, and all are fairly plentiful. Most important, they are constantly growing in value.

Ever since Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson put their first bored-through cylinder .22 caliber Model No. 1 on the market in 1857, the Smith & Wesson people have been making some of the finest pistols money could buy. Their quality and workmanship have been so superior that, even today, most of the Smith's you find are still in perfect working order. As you progress in your gun collection, you will find out how important this will be to you.

Among the more desirable and least expensive guns that you will want to begin with are the small "tip-ups." These guns, oddly enough, are also the oldest guns that Smith & Wesson made. The name comes from the way the barrel tips up to allow the cylinder to be removed for loading. They come in three varieties of .22 and .32 calibers.

The .22's are properly named Model 1. The Model 1, *first issue* was the first modern-cartridge gun that Smith & Wesson made. (Before this, they made the famous Volcanic pistols) This gun was first produced in 1857, is easily distinguished from the *second issue* because of its round frame. The *second issue* came out in 1860 and, together, there were 126,430 of them made. The *third issue* came out in 1868, and there were 128,528 of these made. This *third issue* is distinguished from the *second* by

Many Smiths have important historic association like Colorado territory governor McCook's .44 sold for only \$135.

the fluted cylinder and round butt.

The .32 caliber variety of "tip-up" pictured is the Model 1½. As a rule, you will find these cost a little less than the Model 1. The Model 1½ *Old Model*, corresponds in looks with the Model 1 *second issue* except for its larger size and difference in cylinder stop. This .32 has its cylinder stop at the bottom rather than on top. These were first made in 1865 and there were 25,224 made. The Model 1½ *New Model* is, except for size, like the Model 1 *third issue*. These came out in 1869. There is no record of how many were made, but the number was high. The third gun of the Model 1½ series is not a "tip-up" (page 24), but is the first .32 caliber to fire a center fire bullet. The gun is a top-break model that came out around 1877. The proper name for this gun is the Model 1½ *Single Action*. It was produced until 1892 and there were 97,540 made.

In looking for some of these "tip-ups," you may run across some seeming imitations of the Smith's with MADE FOR SMITH & WESSON stamped on the barrel. What you have found may be some of the guns that were infringements on the Smith & Wesson patents. Smith & Wesson sued several companies for patent infringements and took over and sold their guns. It might be a good idea for you to pick up one of these for the collection also. However, don't be surprised if the price is higher than for a genuine Smith. Recent evidence indicates S & W actually contracted for some of these pistols from their competitors in the early days to fill their own orders, according to John Parsons' "Smith & Wesson Revolvers."

As to what you should look for next in the low priced field, you have an open market. If you would still like to stay on the spur trigger models, you might go after the .38 caliber variety. These are top-break models and are similar to the Model 1½ *Single Action*. The proper name for these is the Model 2 (see cut). There were 24,633 made of the Model 2 *first issue*, beginning in 1876. This gun has a long barrel strap which gives it a rather ugly appearance. Collectors have dubbed this one the "Baby Russian." The Model 2 *second issue* came out in the 1880's, and there were 83,522 of them made. (Continued on page 54)



Checking shot proves 28 gives killing pattern 10 yards farther than .410.



28 GAUGE FOR BEGINNERS

OFTEN IGNORED, THE 28 HAS EDGE OVER POPULAR .410 AS FIRST GUN FOR YOUNG HUNTER



Wads in 28 (center shell) produce better ballistics than jammed-up column in .410, equals 20. Single 28 is good beginners' gun but author's son (left) likes '11-48 Remington for game.

By FRANK DE HAAS



THE 28 GAUGE IS THE SHOTGUN seldom spoken of. But after almost dying out, there is a new surge of popularity for this in-between size. From 10 gauge down to .22 Shot, the 20 gauge and the .410 fans make the loudest noises. With new magnums, shooters tout the 20 as a proven game gun. The .410 fans, or faddists as some label them, are different: feats they claim to accomplish with this pea-shooter rival the power of the biggest goose guns. But the 28 gauge enthusiast will just smile quietly. He has undoubtedly tried all three and knows that the 28 is a close step behind the 20 in practical power, and several huge strides ahead of the .410. Like many shotgun experts, he has found the 28 gauge has a wider use than just firing the 28 skeet program or in the hands of the skilled wing shot. The 28 is the smallest shotgun that can be successfully used on game.

Its value is not limited to the skilled wing shot only; one of the best uses is to put the 28 in the hands of the beginner field shooter instead of the .410.

The .410 traditional "first gun," lacks killing punch and range for most game, with the possible exception of the cotton-tail rabbit. Most youngsters start their hunting career with an older shooter, and usually these oldsters will have a gun much more potent than the .410. Their success gives the young shooter little chance to bag any game. (Continued on page 40)



GOLDEN STATE ARMS HAS GROWN BIG BY SUPPLYING SHOOTERS WITH GUNS FROM ABROAD; GUNS THAT WHET THE BUYERS TASTE FOR BETTER SPORTERS

GUN GIANT OF THE

By JOHN W. BREATHED, Jr.



Big stock of guns is kept by Golden State. Italian 7.35mm is liked for cheap center-fire kids' plinking rifle.

TO MOST SHOOTERS, the expression "things will be okay when my ship comes in" is just a saying, but to Al Gettler, Bob Brenner, and Walter "Andy" Anderson of Golden State Arms Co., the phrase has reality. "We are finally getting in our Israel government surplus rifles via London," breathes Brenner with genuine relief. "But that London dock strike almost killed us," he adds. For the importer, dock strikes which tie up cargoes for weeks or months can spell doom. This bright new comet in the sky of the fire-arms world, Golden State Arms, almost burned out. Yet for thousands of gun fanciers all over the nation, the sun rises and sets with the Pasadena, California, company's big catalog and ad offerings each month.

I first got an insight into the workings of Golden State's gun importing, and some understanding of the meaning their business has for the American shooter, by meeting Brenner in, of all places, Simson's restaurant in London's West End. As Americans do in the far corners of the earth, we inevitably "ran across one another" and had dinner at Simson's. Flipping coins, we managed to stick another American, one of Brenner's biggest competitors in the arms business, with the check. Though Bob would not talk about what he was doing, he would admit he was in England "buying guns." I later learned that he actually was doing business in Ireland.

"The Irish government had a quantity of World War I artillery and parts that it wanted to dispose of," Bob told me. "We took a look at the lot and made the successful bid. There were British 25 pounder 'quick firers' and many other kinds of semi-obsolete field guns in the batch, and it was almost all brand spanking new."

Brenner explained that some of Golden State's business is with small governments who can't afford to pay for newly constructed arms at today's high prices. The artillery business is much like the same trade conducted (Continued on page 43)

Exotic fusils from foreign lands featured at GS include Russian ca. 1870 and FN auto-loader 8mm captured from Egyptians in Sinai.



GOLDEN WEST



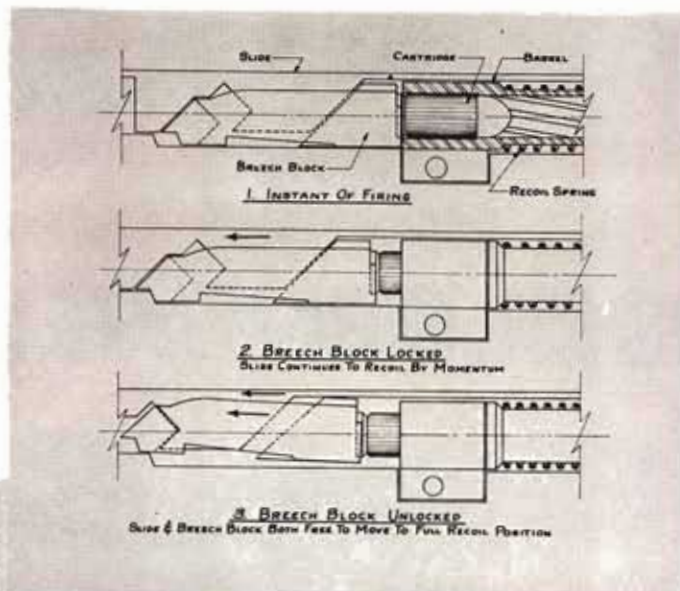
Pioneer in de-wat machinegun business was GS whose mechanics did truly permanent job which still left moving parts free, maintained gun's collector value.

Gun OF THE MONTH

By DONALD SIMMONS



THE OLD • THE NEW • THE UNUSUAL



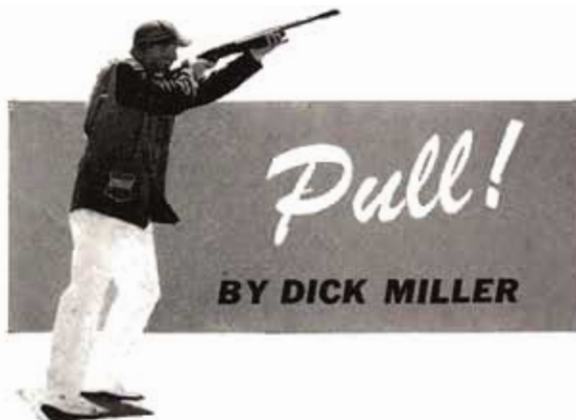
Slide grooves separate models; cutaway shows two-piece bolt details.

**REMINGTON POCKET AUTO
IN TWO MODELS STILL IS
CARRIED AS DEFENSE PISTOL,
POPULAR HANDGUN FOR COLLECTOR**

THE REMINGTON M51 automatic pistol was made from 1918 to 1934, designed by J. D. Pedersen. Unique hesitation blowback design was pioneered on experimental .45 pistol but produced only in .32 and .380 pocket size. Separation of slide and breech block in recoil cycle allowed use of lighter recoil spring, making pistol easier to cock. Approximately 65,000 of both calibers were made. I have one of the first thousand and one of the last.

Differences in marks and slide grooves distinguish the two. Early slide mark is, in two lines, THE REMINGTON ARMS UNION METALLIC CARTRIDGE CO., INC./REMINGTON ILION WKS ILION, N.Y. USA PEDERSEN PATENTS PENDING. On trigger guard right side, an anchor. Frame, left side, PA followed by serial. Grips, both sides, in three lines, REMINGTON/UMC/TRADE MARK. Magazine bottom, U and on left side, 32 or 380 Cal. One gun in #7,000 series also has anchor on bottom of grip safety.

Marks on late M51 are, on slide two lines: REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC. ILION, N.Y. U.S.A. PEDERSEN PATENTS/PAT'D. MAR. 9, 20, AUG. 3, 20, OCT. 12, 20, JUNE 14, 20, OTHERS PENDING. Frame at trigger guard right side has 8-point circular star and on frame above trigger guard, in two lines, REMINGTON/TRADE MARK. Frame, left side on guard, I.N. and on frame above trigger guard, PA followed by serial. Grips are marked as first model. Magazine bottom, no mark and on left side, caliber. The barrel, at ejection port, is marked 32 CAL./7.65 MM or 380 CAL./9 MM. The old model slide has nine machined grasping grooves, the later model has 15 sawtooth grooves. Internally, the old model extractor is longer, dovetailed into position, has definite spring action. New model extractor is short, held by cylindrical section and the slide wall, has no spring tension.



IT CAN'T HAPPEN here—but it did! The theory that new shooters or shooters without hot shooting records can't win in the Skeet Nationals was smashed like a station eight in-come, in the 1958 NSSA skeet tournament.

Joan Masset, 3758 West Cornelia, Chicago, dropped in on the 1958 Nationals, with husband Bob, to see the big-name skeet-gunners perform. It was 20 gauge day at the big event in skeet, and Joan didn't expect to win any medals. Her 82 per cent average for 1958 in the 20 gauge division didn't raise any eyebrows.

Besides she had recorded only 700 registered targets for the year, and only 300 prior to the Illinois State Shoot. In just three skeet events before the Nationals had she fired the three-gun small gun events (20 gauge, small gauge, and sub-small gauge).

What happened at the Nationals is history, and may encourage more "unknown" skeet shooters to enter the national tournaments. Mrs. Masset broke 96x100 of the 20 gauge

The Massets' interest in guns and shooting began with the collecting fever. Mrs. Masset had fashioned an interesting collection of gun oddities before switching from the collecting game to handgun shooting, along with hubby Bob. Next came Christmas and the skeet gun, followed by skeet on New Year's Day at Lincoln Park, on Chicago's Outer Drive. Mrs. Masset credits both her husband and Lincoln Park manager Jim Wareham with coaching her to the Ladies title in the short space of two seasons.

She was introduced to trap on a day when the thermometer hovered around two degrees below zero. This introduction leaves her cold on the game of trap, but she feels that a fling at trap on a hot, sunny day might add another shooting interest. Who knows—maybe a combination of a warm winter day and a round of trap might solve Bob Masset's Christmas gift list problem for another year.

The Massets make up a potential husband and wife combination for annexing future skeet titles. Bob cracked 99 clays in the Illinois State Shoot, good for a runner-up spot in Class B, and is Lincoln Park's Class B champ by virtue of a perfect century in the club shoot.

CHIPS AND MISSES: Feminine trapshooters have given men strong competition during the 1958 season. In at least two instances, the distaff target dusters were too deadly for the men. Iva Pembroke Jarvis, the Kansas schoolmarm, bested C. E. Barnhart in a shoot-off, to win the Kansas 16 yard title. Iva found only one unruly target in the 200 bird event.

Edna Stark, the veteran lady gunner from Hoosierland's capitol city, showed the way to a classy group of Midwest trapshooters at Herschel Cheek's Clinton Gun Club in June, when she broke 492x500 in a 16-yard marathon contest. To demonstrate that this was no fluke, she followed the 500 target 16 yard marathon with a 96 in a 100 target handicap race. While grinding out the victory in the long 16-yard program, Mrs. Stark put together one straight run of 196 targets.

The Hoosier State Shoot in July was the scene of one of the summer's hottest shooting duels, when oldtimer Frank Mitsch of Crown Point, Indiana, and young Johnny Sternberger of Dayton, Ohio, locked horns. Both Mitsch and Sternberger ground out 498 of the Hoosier classic's 500 16 yard targets. Youth won out when Sternberger bested Mitsch in a shoot-off for the Rock Jenkins Memorial Trophy. Mitsch fashioned a straight run of 487 targets while putting together his 498x500.

My failure to get to Vandalia for the Grand this year was, believe me, due to job pressure

and not to any lack of interest. Funny how a professional job in the shooting business can cut into a man's own shooting; but that's how it is, and I like it.

Dick is midwestern representative for shooting promotion under the aegis of Sportsman's Service Bureau.—Editor)

Anyway, the Grand was bigger and better than ever, in spite of depression fears and blue-note prophecies. And guns was not without representation. Editor Bev Mann, Tech Editor Bill Edwards, and Ad-man Lee Salberg were on hand early in the week, to renew acquaintances and line up stories for future issues. By the time the big events came up on the shooting schedule, a record number of scattergunners pitched a record number of pellets out toward the airport from trapshooting's favorite firing line, to crown a new champion.

Because he didn't play the optionals, Grand Winner Tom Ericco, who enters Northwestern U. this fall on a scholarship, will enjoy fewer after-class malts than he might have had if he had "shot the works." He played it straight, and took home \$2,500.00. But that ain't hay, and how can a man guess, when he lays down his fee money, that the winner's lightning might strike him?

C. R. Crawford, last year's Grand American winner, broke a very respectable 93 from the 24 yard line in this year's race for ex-Grand Winners.

Word of the death on August 3rd of B. F. Cheek, winner of the 1936 Grand American Handicap and father of ATA past president Herschel Cheek, was a sobering note at this year's meet. "B.F." was well known to thousands of trapshooters, a familiar figure at the annual Vandalia conclave.




Photo by Bill Trinkaus Jr., III, News Photos

Mrs. Joan Masset, recent winner of Ladies' World 20 gauge Championship.

targets, and was amazed to learn that she was tied with Jeanie Shields, host club Pontiac's lady champion, for the coveted title. Joan had seen Jeanie shoot and felt that a shoot-off would be a hopeless anticlimax. When the shootoff was completed, she was dumbfounded to learn that she had won, 23 to 22.

Joan Masset suspects that husband Bob Masset wanted a shooting buddy when he gave her a skeet gun for Christmas in 1956. Bob's strategy seems to have paid off, since she began shooting on New Year's Day.




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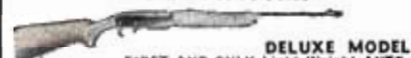
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FIRST AND ONLY Light Weight AUTO-LOADING Big Game Rifle Exclusive
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* 244 REMINGTON, 30-06, 308 WIN. Retail—\$149.95 YOUR PRICE **\$119.95**
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* REMINGTON 721, 30-06, 270 Cal. Retail—\$99.25 YOUR PRICE **\$76.25**
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GIVE YOUR RIFLE A REST

(Continued from page 21)

sight until his shot group is moved to the center of the top of the paster. The resulting zero is his "250 meter battle sight zero," which is used for all subsequent field firing. The firing point of this 25 meter range is arranged with foxholes, trenches, stumps, trees, sandbagged parapets, and other objects on which the soldier rests his rifle to be absolutely certain of his aim and steadiness of position in establishing this zero, and also to encourage him to rely on such rests to make sure hits.

About a year ago, I determined that I would myself endeavor to find out the truth about this matter of resting the rifle, particularly with relation to modern hunting and varmint rifles. I had five very fine and dependable rifles with which to experiment. Accordingly I laid out a program of tests. I would fire each of these rifles at 100 yards in series of five-shot groups, always with the same adjustment of the telescope sight, and at the same point of aim, each rifle to be fired in the following positions and manner of resting or not resting:

Bench Rest: The rifle rested in the normal bench test manner, forearm rested midway between its tip and the receiver on a sandbag placed on a Beecher pedestal, and the lower edge of the butt-stock likewise rested on another sandbag placed on the bench.

Hard Forearm: Rifle rested the same as "bench rest" above, except that the forearm was rested on a solid wood block placed in the trough of the pedestal.

Offhand: To approximate the standing position. Of course it would be impractical to do all the shooting necessary to establish a positive standing position zero, and to record such firing, so a position was adopted in which the rifle was held in the same position and tension as it would be in the regular standing position. The forearm was grasped by the left hand, and the back of that hand was rested in the sandbag held in the pedestal. There was no rear rest, the elbows being rested on the bench, butt to shoulder as in firing standing. This was a steady position.

Hard Barrel: The rifle was fired in the bench rest position above, except the naked barrel, ahead of the forearm, was rested on a solid wood block placed in the pedestal.

Prone with sling: This was in the standard prone position now used by all riflemen, and with a fairly tight gunsling used to steady the position, exactly as riflemen now shoot on the range and in competition.

The five rifles which I fired in each of these positions were:

1. A .30-06 Springfield sporting rifle, standard weight Springfield barrel, stock by Griffin & Howe, forearm fitting the barrel snugly but not attached thereto, front sling swivel attached to forearm only. 4X Bearcub scope with wide flat top post reticle. The load was the 180 grain Sierra soft point boat tail bullet with 57 grains of 4350. Muzzle velocity approximately 2,700 f.p.s.

2. A .22-250 rifle with F.N. Mauser action, 26 inch medium heavy Douglas barrel. Weight 12 pounds; a "heavy varmint" rifle. Balvar 24X scope set at 24 power. Load, 50 grain Baldwin soft swaged bullet, and 32 grains of 3031 powder, muzzle velocity about 3,500 f.p.s. The barrel was entirely free floating within the forearm of its sporting stock.

3. A .308 W.C.F. rifle with F.N. Mauser action, a No. 4 medium heavy Douglas Ultra-rifled barrel for the .308 cartridge, 26 inches with 12 inch twist. Barrel free floating in the forearm of its sporting stock. Weight of rifle 9½ pounds. 8X Lyman Junior Target-spot Scope. Load, 150 grain Sierra spitzer bullet and 46 grains of Ball-C powder. Muzzle velocity about 2,800 f.p.s.

4. A .243 Winchester Model 70 "Varmint" rifle, 26 inch medium weight stainless steel Winchester barrel, Winchester sporting stock, action bedded in Harter's glass and forearm free floating. Sight: 6X Unertl Condor scope in Unertl target (not dehorned) mounts. Load: 85 grain Sierra spitzer bullet, 36 grains Ball-C powder, muzzle velocity approximately 3,200 f.p.s.

5. A .270 W.C.F. caliber F.N. Mauser rifle, with standard F.N. Barrel, with fine sporting stock by W. L. Humphrey, barrel fitting snugly in the forearm, sling swivel attached to forearm only. 4X Bear Cub scope with wide flat-top post reticle. Load, 150 grain Sierra soft point boat tail bullet and 57 grains of 4831 powder. Muzzle velocity 3,000.

With all these rifles, the action was exceptionally well bedded in the stock, and the gunsling was attached to the forearm only, the barrel being either free floating or just a snug fit in its forearm.

The results of this shooting of all five rifles were the same, and were clearly shown when the targets were arranged with the point of aim on the same line. The various manners of holding, resting, and aiming these five rifles had no practical effect on the location of the center of impact, except only when the naked barrel was rested on a solid wood block, like resting it on a log. In that case, the rifles shot from one-half inch to 1.5 inches above their zero for the other positions. But in firing in the other four positions, resting or not resting, and prone with the sling, each rifle shot practically to its normal location of center of impact and zero.

So, provided the hunter is using a modern bolt action rifle in which the forearm is not secured to the barrel by a band or screw, with sling secured to the forearm only, there seems to be no reason why he should not rest the forearm on any object, or use the gunsling to steady his position and thus make sure of his shot. In fact there is every reason why he should, because so often he is unsteady from excitement or exertion. In the standing position, where the target cannot be seen in lower positions, there is no reason why he should not take a rest on the limb or against the trunk of a tree.

Theorizing is rather dangerous in a matter of this nature; nevertheless I am attempting to do a little of it. When a shoulder rifle is fired, the barrel first jumps, bends, or "flips" downward, and then there is a corresponding up jump, the two constituting the vibration. (The very evident jump upward of the muzzle, the movement the shooter sees, takes place after the bullet has left the muzzle.) With high intensity rifles (m.v. 2,700 f.p.s. or more) like those fired in these tests, it is probable that the barrel time is so short that the bullet leaves the muzzle while the barrel is in its down jump. This down jump is so extremely powerful that the small variations of resist-

ance that the forearm presents to it have little influence in its totality. I think this applies only when the forearm and the front sling swivel are not attached to the barrel in any way. However, if the naked barrel be rested on a firm object, the resistance to the down jump is very much greater, and it shows up in a slightly higher center of impact.

All of this may or may not apply to low velocity rifles such as those firing the .22 Long Rifle cartridge. With these, the barrel time is much longer. With these, there seems to be a little evidence that unequal gunslung tension and the manner in which the recoil is taken on the shoulder has some effect. I hope to investigate this more fully this coming summer, when I will be doing a lot of small bore shooting.

The methods of resting the forearm and shooting with the gunslung may have some slight influence on the center of impact, but hardly enough to be of any importance to the hunter. An examination of our test targets shows that some of the groups are just a trifle high, but never more than half an inch. This may have been due to the human element, some of the rifles being fired with low power scopes where there may be a very slight error of aim. Or it may be due to the manner in which the various shots arranged themselves in the group. Or it may be due to the influence of the particular manner of resting the forearm. So I do not believe that all this offers any excuse for the competitive bench rest shooter, where the size of the five or ten shot group is of so much importance, neglecting to rest his rifle very uniformly for each shot.

But certainly it shows that the sportsman should take the time and make the effort to zero (sight in) his rifle precisely, shooting from a steady rest. And, in hunting, he should employ such a rest whenever it is readily available. He will thus avoid many disappointments, and the percentage of his game killed humanely with a single shot will increase.

Please note the size of the groups shown in the selected photographs here shown. These are not selected groups. Each test was fired straight through, all at one time on the same day. No attempt was made to get small, selected groups. Each of the rifles and loads is capable, on occasions, of firing much smaller groups. But the groups do indicate the consistent average accuracy. The groups were all fired with telescope sights. Had they been fired with a large hunting aperture rear sight, and a flat top "Sourdough" front sight smoked black, they would have been possibly about $\frac{1}{4}$ ths of an inch larger. But if they had been fired with the bead front sight and open rear sight with which all factory rifles are regularly equipped the Lord only knows how large they would have been.

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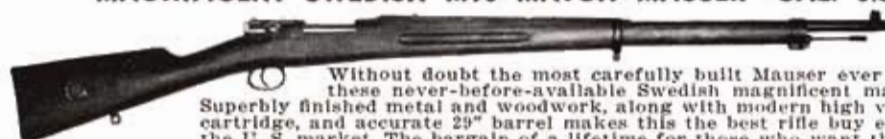
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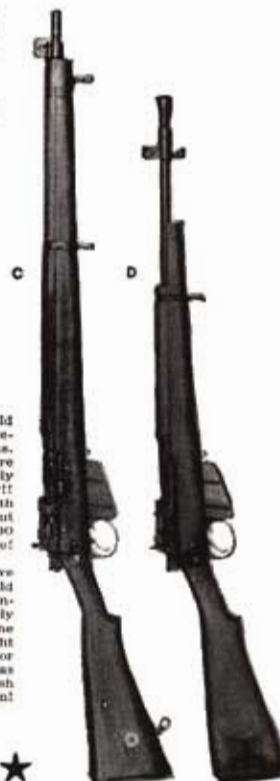
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SAVAGE: THE RIFLE THAT IS 60 YEARS YOUNG

(Continued from page 17)

managing director in 1906, moved west and grew oranges. During his last years with the firm, Savage embarked on the pistol road. Though the Savage-Searles .45 automatic was a contender for Government approval, the Colt won out in 1905-1911. Later Savage made a highly successful pocket pistol in two versions, and the 1906 catalog had two blank pages which bore a notice to the customer that he would see something new there in the next catalog. Arthur Savage later organized the Savage Munitions Co. in San Diego to make .45 Colt automatics during World War I, but only slides were turned out and there in minute quantity. Back in Utica, .32 and .380 pocket automatics were made, and a half-dozen .25 pistols escaped from the factory model room to delight collectors today. Long before Savage's death in 1938, the factory had stopped making handguns. The rifle was their strong point.

In 1907 the biggest step was the takedown Model 99. It was popular—a great fad in past years, handy to pack in a suitcase—but added nothing to the accuracy. The quick takedown had the barrel fixed by an interrupted thread: twist 90° with forearm removed, and out it came. The slower takedown was a full thread barrel, had to be completely unscrewed. A forearm socket slipped over a stud on the barrel, and was used as a wrench to break the barrel loose. The slow takedown was the more accurate, and the barrel remained tighter in the receiver for much longer. The quick takedown eventually shot loose. The habit of carrying full-length rifles in cases and the inherent inaccuracy of such takedown systems caused Savage to discontinue it in the early 1940s. Novel feature of the takedown models was an extra .410 shot barrel that made the rifle into a single shotgun. The cartridges would not feed into the standard rifle magazine spool.

The 1907 line-up was chock full of different kinds of the same rifle, the 99. The first pistol grip and the first deluxe models appeared. Top 99 was the Monarch, fancy carved wood, all-over engraving, smoothed inwards, and a price tag of \$250, probably the fanciest rifle ever turned out by Savage. On down the line each model was a little less engraved, wood a little less fancy, price a little smaller, until the plain basic Savage 99, workhorse of the lot, then at only \$20. This model probably killed more game than all the rest of the fancy ones put together.

By the mid-twenties the models were known as A, B, C, D, E, F, and G, the last being the fanciest. The 22" and 24" barrels were favorites, but 26" was still sold. By the mid-thirties the 26" barrels were gone. The Savage 99K was introduced then, a fancy model, takedown only, for presentation purposes. Two of Savage's best models, the R

and the RS, probably the very best hunting rifles Savage ever made, came out about this time. They were the first 99 rifles without the Schnabel forearm. In 1938 Savage had eight versions of the 99, but models were dropped right and left with war production demanding the firm's attention, and only the model EG in .250/3000 and .300 Savage was offered, and few of these to be had.

Currently Savage is making four models, the EG, R, RS and F. The RS is again the dandy of the lot, stocked especially for use with scope sights. The model F is the featherweight 99, more accurate with its screwed-in barrel, not takedown. Today's line-up includes calibers of .243, .250/3000, .308, .300 Savage, and .358. But the Savage story is only half-complete, unless it includes the famous Savage calibers especially designed for the rifle, plus the standard cartridges it was chambered for.

The original 95 and later 99 began their career chambered for a round christened ".303 Savage." Shorter than the British military .303, it may have been Savage's attempt to trade on the British cartridge's acceptance among Canadian shooters. The .303 Savage was an instant success with backwoodsmen, hunters and trappers. It was a good killer, accurate and hard-hitting. Almost identical to the .30-30, it had a slightly heavier bullet, had the edge over the .30-30 in power. Though never used in any other make of rifle, the .303 Savage had become so well established that it was not until 1940 Savage discontinued it in simplifying their line. The cartridge is still in the stores.

The .30-30 was drafted into the Savage line-up because to many hunters it was "the" cartridge. Savage began chambering for it in 1901, discontinued it along with the .303. While many experts claim the .30-30 isn't a military cartridge, Savage made it so. From 1901 to 1907 some of the long-barreled military 99s were sold to various state guard and militia forces. While never used by the U.S. Army or Navy, the .30-30 in a limited sense was a military caliber.

Along with the .30-30, the .25-35 also appeared in the Savage 99 and was popular for deer and varmint shooting. In the early days Savage also chambered for the .32-40 and .38-55, two popular target cartridges. The .38-55 was a big-game cartridge of late black-powder days.

The Savage rifle became linked to the fates of an immortal of arms and cartridge design, Charles Newton of Buffalo. Though their connection was short, Newton sired two cartridges long remembered—the .22 Hi-Power and the .250/3000 Savage. In 1911 Savage announced the Model 99 in .22 Hi-Power. Newton got the credit, but the final design was not his cartridge at all. His

(Continued on page 38)


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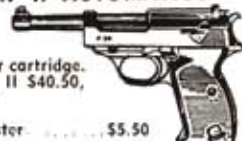
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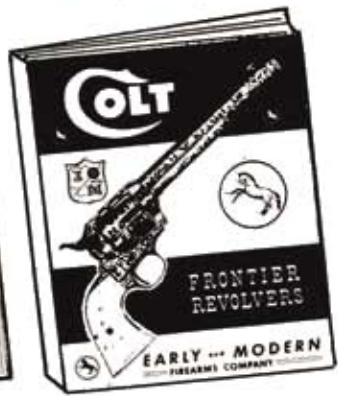
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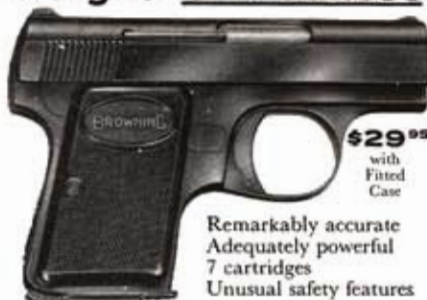
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(Continued from page 36)
original design had more body length, larger diameter at the shoulder and less body taper. Such a cartridge would have more powder, with more velocity. But Savage had the rights to the round and took the easy way out, necking the .25-35 to hold the 70-grain bullet. The caliber was pretty potent even so—intended for a varmint and small game load, the range of kills included at least one elephant. Someone named it "the Imp." In North America it took antelope, deer, bear, caribou and even moose, and all the while arms experts kept hollering the Imp was inadequate for anything but varmints! The Savage .22 Hi-Power was the only commercial .22 centerfire from 1911 until 1931 when the .22 Hornet appeared. Savage dropped the caliber along with the .303 and .30-30.

Of the four original Savage calibers the most widely used from 1912 to date is the .250-3000. In this, the second of Newton's loads for the 99, the bullet weight was changed from the designer's recommended 100 grains moving at 2700 or 2800 feet per second to an 87 grain bullet topping 3000 fps. The .250-3000 with 87 grain bullet is a wonderful varmint caliber: with the 100 grain load that came later, mighty good for deer. In the Savage 99, especially in the RS model solid frame and regular weight, the .250-3000 has been acclaimed by experts as the most accurate lever action repeating rifle-cartridge combination ever developed.

Mainstay of the line since its introduction in 1920 has been the .300 Savage load. For a lever action it was a phenomenal cartridge. With their .303 and .30-30 lugging the war-hero .30-06, Savage had to come up with something more powerful to maintain its place in the esteem of hunters. Thus came the .300 Savage. It was nothing radi-

cal, just a shortened 30.06, to fit the 99 action. It was loaded initially to almost identical ballistics, and the success of this powerful combination dispelled any doubts about the strength of the Savage action—it handled this powerful new shell easily. The .30-06 gradually was boosted in velocity and now the military round leads the Savage .300 by 100 yards—in other words, the .30-06 is as powerful at 300 yards as the .300 Savage is at 200.

After peace came, Savage soon announced the Model 99 could be bought chambered for the then-new .308 Winchester cartridge, almost identical with the .300 but not interchangeable. Winchester had designed a whole new lever action rifle for this cartridge, but Savage already had a suitable action.

Right on the heels of the .308 came news of another new caliber on the same case, the mighty .243 Winchester. Savage lost no time in barrelling for it, actually beating its innovators in getting rifles to dealers chambered for the new caliber. The .243 is an ultra-flat shooting long range varmint cartridge. It is the .308 necked down for a .243" bullet weighing 80 or 100 grains. Just as the .308 will likely replace the .300 Savage, so the .243 will crowd out the .250-3000, because it is far superior in all respects. Even better news for bear and deer hunters was Savage's release of the Model 99 in .358 Winchester, the third based on the .308 case. It is similar to the old .35 Remington, but loaded to the top pressure bracket, delivering the 200 grain slug at 2530 fps and the heavier 250 grain brush cutter at 2250 fps. Savage had previously lacked a big-caliber slug and the welcome addition of the .358 completes the present Savage quintet.

These five calibers might seem to cover the field, but they do not. Only the three

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bearing the Winchester birthmark can be considered outstanding, and two of them replace the long-popular .300 Savage and .250-3000. These will not last long. There is room for two or three new cartridges in this line-up and they might just as well bear the Savage name or trade mark.

Savage lacks an all-around varmint caliber, of which the .22 is the master. First .22 which comes to mind is the .22-250 Varminter, based on the .250-3000 case. A wildcat of merit, it has no commercial "home." I have rebarreled late model 99s to this cartridge, and produced a very fast shooting, accurate varmint rifle. The .219 Improved Zipper is even better suited to this action, for it can be loaded to push the 50 grain bullet at 3600 or 3700 fps without extraction troubles. Or perhaps the .22 Hi-Power should be revived, case blown out, shooting the .226" spitzer bullet of 60 or 70 grains at about 3200 fps. This cartridge would show the most amazing ballistics per bullet weight of any varmint cartridge today! It would be more like Newton intended it to be, and a good name for it would be the ".228 Newton Savage."

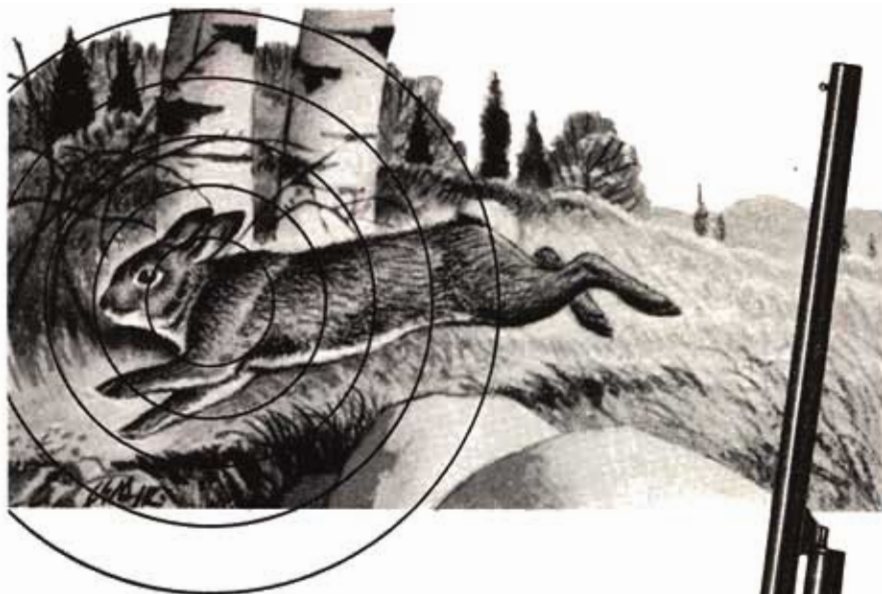
Next, the gap between .243 and .308 could be plugged with a .270. A decade or so ago Bliss Titus, gunsmith of Heber City, Idaho, wanted a .270 on his favorite rifle, the Savage 99. He worked up a short .270, a .300 Savage squeezed down, and many of his customers swear by it. It has a velocity of 2800 fps with the 130 grain bullet and 3000 fps with the 100 grain varmint pills and can, with top loading, give the 150 grain bullet about 2600 fps. This is very close to the factory load standard .270 Winchester. Savage has looked at this caliber, may one day reconsider, for the .270-300 Titus has earned a record for accuracy, flat shooting, good killing ability and mild recoil.

And there is room for another cartridge in the 99, a really big bore—say a .375 or even a .400 in a straight semi-rimmed case. With modern powders a 300 grain bullet could be pushed along at 2000 fps, and the Model 99 action could take it.

What does the future have in store for the Model 99? Almost identical to the original action, it could be even better. It has stood the test of time, but the present action is not good enough, if it is to keep pace with competitors. New calibers will do a lot, but some redesign and improvements in the action will do more.

Greater length is not needed because the trend today is to shorten the cartridge. But worthwhile changes could be made in the trigger, and safety. The present trigger and sear of Arthur Savage's are strong, reliable, but modern shooters demand crisp, short trigger pulls and there is plenty of room in the action for such a mechanism, including the top tang safety which is so popular. Another improvement could be lightweight, using light metals. Savage has always made their guns light by trimming down the barrels, at the expense of accuracy. Would it not be better to leave the barrel alone and trim weight from the action by use of modern light metal alloys?

After a half century of world wide use, the saga of the Savage 99 is still only half told. No one knows what the future has in store for this ageless rifle. Perhaps, like Roy Chapman Andrews who explored the vast Gobi Desert with a Savage years ago, some modern space man may take a Savage along on the first trip to the moon.



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THE 28 GAUGE FOR BEGINNERS

(Continued from page 27)

Junior may be proud as a peacock with his new .410, and happy with it for a year or so, but novelty will wear off and he'll expect something better. If he is at all interested in hunting, why not start him with a 28 bore gun right away? He won't be so handicapped with the limitations of the .410 and his enthusiasm for hunting won't be destroyed by being under-gunned.

The little 28 bore also makes a swell family shotgun for year round informal skeet and trap, bottle busting and for picking off feathered varmints like crows, magpies and starlings. It is truly a versatile smallbore, yet one that speaks with authority.

Shells for 28 and .410 have the same amount of shot, but there the similarity ends. The 28 has more powder, a modern gas seal over-powder wad, two thick filler wads, and a short column of shot—just like its bigger brothers, 20, 16 and 12, and the way a shotshell ought to be loaded. But how does the 28 rate for today's shooting? Even the lightest 20 gauge load of $\frac{3}{8}$ ounce of shot has a slight edge over the 28's $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce of shot in killing power, since velocities are equal. However, if the 28 is boosted by handloading to $\frac{3}{8}$ or even a full ounce—and there is no reason why this could not be done with factory loads—it compares more favorably with the widely-accepted 20 gauge shooting the same charge. But check the 28 against the .410. Anyone who has ever shot game with both gauges will agree the 28 is far superior to the smaller bore even though both throw the same shot charge. Many shooters have spent much time theorizing and experimenting to find out why this is so. Whether the $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce of shot squeezed out the smaller .410" barrel is more deformed or spews them out helter-skelter from the smaller choke more so than the same amount of shot moving out of the larger 28 gauge (.550") bore is not fully known. But most .410 shotguns have a pattern at 30 yards that is going to pot fast—if it holds up even that far—while the 28 is still grouped evenly.

Though the 28 gauge hasn't the popularity of the 12 or 16, fortunately we have as many different shotguns chambered for this smallbore as in any other standard size. Remington began the big push behind the recent crush

on the 28 gauge when they chambered their Model 11-48 shotgun for it in 1952. Many of the old square-breech Remington and Browning fans went for this new streamlined auto-loader, and as the automatic shotgun has always been a favorite for hunting, now the autoloader fan can match his bigbore with a smaller 28 gauge. Though this Remington is made in .410 as well as all other popular gauges, the 28 is the answer to any need for a sporting shotgun smaller than 20.

Remington's autoloader was a late-comer in the smallbore field, but Winchester has been fairly busy with 28 gauge guns for years. The pump Model 12 which comes in standard gauges was supplied first in 28 gauge in the fall of 1937. The skeet shooters kept the 28 alive the last few decades. The Model 12 from the first was supplied in a special 28 gauge Skeet grade, and it was the only 28 gauge shotgun available for the sport aside from doubles. The Model 12 has had a somewhat erratic production career, first appearing in field grade with choice of chokes and barrel lengths, as well as the Skeet style. Later it was listed only in the Skeet grade with skeet choke. Still later, this past year, it is again available in different chokes and barrel lengths in the Super Field grade. The Model 12 Super Field is a very neat shotgun with a raised matted rib and extension slide handle, featuring quality wood and neat checkering. No doubt the sale of 28 gauge ammunition has been on the rise, so Winchester put the Model 12 in this gauge back into limited production, as a gun suitable for game shooting. The Model 21 double Winchester also was made in 28 gauge, and might be furnished again if the interest increases. And their Model 37 single barrel shotgun has been on and off in their catalog listings in 28 gauge.

The field today lists the Stevens Model 94, Savage Model 220 hammerless, and Iver Johnson Champion single barrel guns in 28 gauge. Winchester and Remington share honors, with the Model 12 pump Super Field or Skeet grade, on special order, and the Model 11-48 in all grades, plain to extra fancy, and Skeet grade. Imported guns in-

(Continued on page 42)

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(Continued from page 40)

clude Stoeger's Zephyr uplander double, the Continental Supra de Lux and Royal Crown (a double C/U), the Beretta double, almost all of the English doubles and over-unders, many of the Spanish and Belgian doubles come in 28 bore, and Simmons Gun Co. of Kansas City, Mo., supplies 28 gauge barrels for the Browning over/under, both 12 and 20 gauge frame sizes.

I noticed, when testing and shooting the 28 and .410, the louder report, greater recoil, of the 28 using shotguns of the same weight, single barrels in this case. Now, if the 28 has more recoil than the .410 with the same ¾ ounce of shot, only one conclusion can be drawn—that the 28 imparts more velocity to its load. Checking the ballistic tables, we see this is true, and we also find that in Super-X loading the 28 gauge steps its pellets along a little faster than the 20 gauge standard shells, with more velocity and more pellet energy, hence "killing power" for clean kills.

Surprisingly, the little 28 gauge stacks up ahead of the much more popular 20 gauge in everything but number of pellets—the 28 has only ¾ ounce factory load compared with the standard 20's one ounce. At the muzzle, 28 gauge velocity is 1295 fps over the 20's 1220 fps average. The .410 stumbles along 10 per cent slower—1135 fps at the gun. The same schedule holds out to 60 yards, where the .410 has pooped out at 540 fps, the 20 is rolling 560 fps, and the 28 gauge Super-X clocks at 575 fps. The reflection in pellet energy of these higher velocities proves the case: four #7½'s at 20 yards from the 28 figure 9.2 in pellet energy (2.3 each) while the .410 shot figures a puny 6.7. The paper figures back up what many shotgun experts say is true—that the 28 is 15 yards more effective than the .410.

Most shotguns experienced with a variety of gauges agree that the 28 is the smallest gauge that can be recommended for game shooting. Hardly anyone will recommend the .410, except maybe for cotton-tails, and some pretty experienced outdoorsmen including Elmer Keith claim they can see no bonafide excuse for the .410 at all. Perhaps the most loyal booster the little 28 gauge ever had was the late Major Charles Askins, Senior, who was fifty years ago the foremost shotgun authority. In the old American Field magazine a half century past Askins discussed the merits and differences of the existing 12, 16, 20 and 28 gauge loads. His test 28 gauge was a Parker double with 30" full choke barrels, using handloads. With this gun he shot many patterns to compare with the other three gauges. Although he did admit the performance of his Parker was exceptional, the 28 bore was even then a 35-to-40 yard killer, and Askins bagged all sorts of game at ranges up to 45 yards.

Since the 28 is a smallbore, it is generally considered only good for shooting rabbits, bobwhites, doves, woodcock and the like. For these it is a good gauge, provided the gun is choked right and in skilled hands, and used within its range and pattern limitations. If tightly choked and using #7½ shot, the maximum range for sure kills is from 35 to 40 yards. But why limit the 28 to small game? Since the larger game birds have a greater area exposed to pattern, at the same range they will receive more shot pellets. Sending its shot out at the same

velocities as the larger bores, four #6 shot from a 28 will kill a mallard just as dead at 40 yards as the same four pellets from a 12 bore; the difference is that to get enough shot into a 40-yard duck with the 28, the gun must shoot a tighter pattern and it must be aimed accurately. Thus the choice of a choke is more or less settled if we are to use the 28 gauge for serious game shooting.

As small a pattern as possible means full choke, for in small bores the tightest choke will always prove the best killer. There are not many shot pellets in a ¾ ounce load and they should be lunched as closely as possible. However, on doubles and over/unders the best choice is probably modified and full borings. On single shots, pumps or automatics, full choke is likely the best choice though unusual shooting conditions might warrant a modified choke. I know of one shooter who has used a Remington Model 11-48 in 28 gauge bored modified for years on pheasants with excellent results.

The 28 gauge is truly a veteran old timer, as old as most of the other favorite loads of today. It began as a muzzle loader, but even as a breechloader it never caught the popular fancy of shooters in all these years, at least not to the degree which marked the ever-lasting popularity of the 12, 16 and 20 and, recently, the .410. Yet it has managed to entice some shooters each year since the first factory loaded shell was put up, so there have always been some guns and shells available.

One of the things which held the 28 gauge back was the shotshell itself. When it started life years ago it was made in 2½" length with ¾ ounce of shot, and guns then made were chambered for this load. Then in the late 1920's the 28 bore had a slight upsurge in popularity and the load was boosted to ¾ ounce, the case stretched to 2¾". It was dubbed the "Magnum 28" and the better doubles chambered for it were called the same. It was not long before no more of the 2½" shells were on the market and then the owners of the older 28 shotguns with the short chambers had to have them bored out, quit using the gun, or force in the longer shells, which many of them did with increases in pressure and a few lost barrels. Then about 1947 the ammo makers standardized the shell and decided thenceforth to make the 28 gauge 2¾" long with ¾ ounce of shot, one load only, with Nos. 4, 6, 7½ and 9 shot, the last being marketed as a skeet load. It is now the simplest loading of the entire shotgun cartridge line and completely adequate for all needs within its range.

While the .410 is still around, it has lost much of the appeal it used to have. Now for the first time many shooters want to shoot and own a 28 gauge gun, along with their heavier 12 bores. They want a shotgun that is effective on most upland game, something that is smaller than a 20, but much more deadly than the .410.

The little 28 bore deserves more attention from serious shotguns, and as new shooters use it on game, the good word will spread. Then perhaps the 28 shell will appear in a much-needed short magnum one-ounce load. While it will never outshine the .410 in sheer popularity, it will surpass it in the game fields. Among shooters who know, the 28 gauge is the smallest sporting shotgun.

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GREEN HEAD DUCK CALL

\$6.00

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GREEN HEAD CO.
360—2nd Street, La Salle, Illinois

Sometimes those warehouses give up some interesting relics, and some stories of unusual "finds." Right now many thousands of hunters, gun cranks, and garden-variety plinkers have gun racks carrying rifles and pistols which might still be collecting dust and rust in some forgotten arsenal, were it not for the bird-dog instinct of Golden State's agents. Brenner's stories of rummaging in the dusty basements of Europe's storehouses sound literally dry as dust, except for the fact that occasionally something like a case of 3-Star Hennessy cognac comes to light instead of the expected crate of rifles.

Once a boat load of gun goodies has been bird-dogged out of the bowels of an old European arsenal and shipped back to Pasadena, the weapons are far from ready for paper punchers or potential deer slayers. A couple of decades of dust and usually a layer or two of cosmoline must be removed, broken stocks replaced, actions checked for proper functioning, and repairs made. If a weapon requires more than simple repair, it is scrapped for parts. The Processing Department, where all this is accomplished, occupies nearly all of the second floor of the 28,000 sq. ft. mansion which is the home of G. S. A.

I could not help comparing this to the Detroit-style automobile production-line layout; but a great deal more attention is given to details on the guns being processed here than Detroit lavishes on the average car. The day I watched this operation, a batch of Gewehr 43's was being processed. After having all the cosmoline removed in huge vapor degreasing tanks, the rifles were stripped so that the gas ports and recoil mechanism could be completely cleaned of carbon. A detail such as this, if overlooked, could mean a customer complaint; and complaints are avoided at G.S.A. like termites at a peg leg factory. After a complete clean-up, the rifles are re-assembled rubbed down with a special preservative oil which protects both metal and wood, and test fired prior to packaging for the mails.

Sharing the ground floor of this charming old Pasadena home, now the largest gun store west of the Mississippi, is the mail order department; the whirring, buzzing, coldly efficient IBM machines which process the thousands of letters and orders received daily. Making this end of the business run smoothly and being sure every shooter from Bangor, Maine, to Baja, California, receives exactly the gun he wants in the condition he expected, is the fantastic job of Andy Anderson. He sums up the firm's attitude when he states, "It's got to be first rate when

we sell it, because that's what I would expect it to be if I bought it."

When you hear Andy talk you get the impression that he takes a tremendous amount of pride in the fact that rifle and pistol ranges, as well as hunting areas from coast to coast, are reflecting G.S.A.'s impact on the scheme of things. It's a common sight on a range today to see a serious shooter hurling lead across the grass from his Remington rolling block, right next to another nimrod pouring the gilding metal through his Gewehr '41 or '43. Five of your long green will get you 10 iron men that the next group of deer hunters you encounter in pursuit of their favorite sport, will be armed with a Schmidt-Rubin sporter, a Krag carbine, or one of those loveable old Springfield '03's still warm from the caress of G.S.A.'s degreasing tanks. Time was when the neighborhood pistol range sang with nothing much louder than a .22 LR, but just for cackles, next Saturday noon drop in at your local pistol range and watch the happy citizens making thunder with Webley and Colt .45's, Czech P27 Autos, German Mauser Militarys and Lugers. The sudden popularity of these large calibre wrist developers is due to the mountains of surplus ammo G.S.A. makes available along with the hand guns at prices that bring big calibre knuckle-busting down nearly to the economic level of inexpensive .22 practice.

Andy Anderson, whose experience includes a long association with other important gun dealers before going in with Golden State Arms, is closer to the shooter than Brenner. "I've found something remarkable in this cheap centerfire rifle deal that I would never have expected before," he remarks. "By making a good, solid surplus military rifle available at a very low price, we have interested a great many casual gun guys in becoming real shooting enthusiasts. This old military ammo, we'll sell by the handful or by the sealed case to fellows who burn it up on the range. Then, when it comes time to go hunting, they come back here for fresh U.S. hunting ammo. We're always happy to sell that, too," he adds.

"From personal contact with shooters, from letters, the orders of our customers, and guys who just write in with a question or two, I know we have helped increase the nationwide interest in big bore shooting. It's nice to sell a million rounds of obsolete military ammo a month at low prices, but this stuff won't last forever. It's a good thing Winchester and Remington are turning out cartridges for these foreign calibers.

(Continued on page 46)

EDWARD H. BOHLIN, Original Designer of the "GUNSLINGER" This Belt and Holster Has No Equal for Fast Drawing

This is the type of holster used in the "Old West", but made with added safety features and so constructed the gun handle has ample clearance from the side of the belt, minimizing accidental discharge. The Bohlin "snap-away" safety hammer strap is securely fastened into holster and has a spring which holds gun "down", but when released it snaps downward, holding the safety strap where it does not interfere with "drawing". The holster is shaped in a natural curve, allowing the cylinder to turn freely before or while drawing, but if preferred, the holster can be had with lining and a wide non-crushable spring, inserted to hold a permanent, free space around the cylinder. Belt and Holster are made of heavy, best quality, single thickness saddle leather. The belt, as shown in illustration, is shaped to "Hang Loose", thus giving the same position as in a holster with a long "SUTHER" FAST DRAWING.

Pioneers in designing and making holsters, our workmanship and quality is unconditionally guaranteed. NOTICE: When ordering be sure and send your waist and hip measurements, the length of gun barrel, caliber and make of gun, and if spring wanted, include \$1.00 extra for postage. In California add 4% Sales Tax, 20% deposit required on all C.O.D. orders. Free folder showing various types of fast-draw holsters on request.

Pamphlet of Instructions Free with First Order.
Single Belt and Holster with nickel plated Buckle (as shown) Tan \$26.75
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(See the Dope-Bag Article in August Rifleman on p. 63 & 64)



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THE MOST ENJOYABLE \$14.95 YOU'VE EVER SPENT! ORDER TODAY

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POWERFUL SEMI-AUTO CO₂ PISTOL

Take along a Plainman on your vacation—but take plenty of extra BB's, for everyone will gather round & want to shoot. It's difficult to miss even fast moving small game & pests since aim can be corrected in rapid—semi-automatic fire. Four or five shots can be "on target" before it has had time to move.

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A single pull of trigger both loads and fires a new round. QUICK LOADING—100 BB's loaded in super capacity magazine well in 5 seconds—simply pour BB's in and slide trap closed. IDEAL FISHING COMPANION—destroys fish consuming snakes. Safe in populated areas on "Low" power setting.

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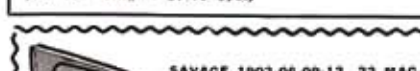


STOCK BLANKS

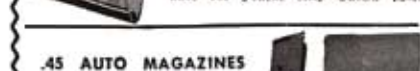
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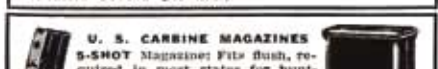


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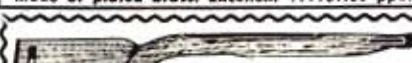
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In handsome carrying box w/self locking handle, 10 solid brass rods (worth 75¢ ea.), bristle cleaning brushes, 2 containers, special gun grease, 10 special screw drivers, & punch. Antique styled brass oil can (often used for priming powder on percussion & flints), patch can. All fitted for pistols .32 cal. & up. Give or sell extra rods & screw drivers by friends.

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Tools, completely as-
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Same as above and with
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Tools, Complete Primer and
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Anvil Centering Tool for both
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(Continued from page 44)

like 8mm Mauser, 8mm Lebel and .303 British, because we sell a lot of these in factory hunting loads along with the surplus military fodder." According to Anderson, one of the U.S. factories may again produce the .455 Eley revolver cartridge, made until 1946 for Colts, Smith & Wessons, and Web-ley .455 British-caliber revolvers, and there has been some talk of the Italian 7.35mm cartridge being made as a standard American load to safe, accurate specifications.

"Those Italian Carcano carbines are one of our biggest sellers," the arms importers declare. They price them low for three reasons, they say. First, "we believe in buying low and selling low—gives the shooter a little more for his money." Secondly, they find them to be "terrific 'in-between rifles,'" in the words of Walter Anderson. "We mean by that, these rifles which sell from say \$10 to \$20 are between the .22 rifles and the big bore rifles, and help get the smallbore shoot-ers interested in the larger calibers. The low-cost foreign or old surplus U.S. military guns bridge the gap in price and interest between these two fields," says Anderson. The third reason, Andy admits, is that "they aren't worth any more!"

Anderson told me that, considering prices of military rifles in fine shape, there have been a few collectors who have been "hard hit by our imports. When we uncork a new lot of arms, such as these fine military rifles of exotic pattern, like the Czech-made 'Camel Corps' carbines or the SHE Model 1950 automatic rifles in the new short cartridge caliber, there are bound to be changes in the gun collectors prices." Anderson acknowl-edges. "But the benefit of making a larger supply of odd old arms available to more people offsets any disadvantages. We've found that supply creates its own demand among gun enthusiasts, and that holds true for hunters, target or range riflemen, pistol enthusiasts and collectors of all kinds," claim the Golden State men.

And they are out to supply that demand. One principal part of the GS development was the acquisition of the big Martin B. Retting collection. These guns are spread across the far end of the gun store, where the display quickens the pulse of the hard bitten collector. There's the faint odor of oil-rubbed walnut, old leather and perhaps just a hint of moth balls. This is the "Antique Section," the recently acquired Martin Retting collection, probably the largest commercial collection in the country today. Brouse a minute in this collector's mecca and you will see such eye-glazers as a Springfield '03 with complete Pedersen Device, a Paterson Colt with serial number "1," a complete Samurai suit of armour, a couple of "clean" Sharps carbines, several Colt Navys, matched and cased duellers by Autellet, Henry Allport, and Gastinne Renette, a Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor, a Persian helmet from the days of Ghengis Khan, and a beautiful gold in-laid example of the Austrian air gun that struck fear in Napoleon's heart, made by Contriner of Vienna.

If, after reading this description of what is going on up there on the hill in Pasadena, you gain the impression that here is a Valhalla for gun nuts, you are exactly right. The night watchman swears he heard the ghost of old Paul Mauser wandering among the racks one quiet night, muttering softly to himself, "Ach, it is so good to see mein lieblings out from der rust und der cosmoline again."

TESTING THE .22 AUTOS

(Continued from page 23)

Remington (Browning-designed) model. It is the only one of the group which features a real take-down. Barrel and receiver groups can be separated easily for storage or carrying, as in a suitcase. Tube magazine for 11 Long Rifles is in the stock; guard has cross-bolt safety. Loading port is on the stock, right side. Magazine follower has a good feature: spring stop latch prevents shooter from withdrawing the magazine tube too far when pulling it out for reloading. French walnut stock, finely grained, pistol grip with semi-beavertail forearm, piano finish and checkered. Adjustable open rear sight with blade front, mounted on tapered round 19 1/4" barrel. There is no "bolt handle": the breech-block has a grooved lug which can be felt below the receiver, can be easily pushed back for operating. Smooth-sided receiver, ejection



Beretta did not take top mount but breech removes for cleaning from rear.

from below. Lightly engraved receiver (Grades II and III have more engraving) is grooved for Tip-Off mount. Weight a scant 4 lbs. 12 ozs.

Hi-Standard's "J. C. Higgins M29" made for Sears Roebuck mail-order sales is a solid frame rifle, tube magazine under barrel holding 17 Long Rifles. The 23 1/2" barrel is held in a precision cast alloy receiver grooved for mount. Bolt handle is cast of same light alloy, placed on the right, grooved to fit the finger. Walnut stock of test rifle had pistol grip—some are listed as without pistol grip. Front sight is mounted on a ramp, has contrasting metal face for clearer sighting. Rear is familiar "Rocky Mountain" with stepped wedge elevation.

The Mossberg M151K features a Monte Carlo raised stock with cheek piece. Tube magazine in stock holds 15 .22 LR's, loading port on stock right side. Safety is a function of the bolt knob, on right side: the knob pushed in locks bolt partially to the rear. Blade front sight; open rear adjustable for

windage and elevation. Receiver grooved for mount. Mossberg were among the first makers to groove their rifle receivers for top Tip-Off style mounts.

Savage Model 6K had tube magazine under barrel, 22 Shorts or 15 LR's. Bolt can be locked forward by pushing handle to the left, and using as a single shot bolt action. After firing, handle is pulled to right, bolt is freed, pushed to rear, and gun loaded either singly or from magazine. The 6K will function as an automatic only with .22 Long Rifle ammunition; bolt action design is to fire inexpensive Shorts. Monte Carlo stock with pistol grip and cheekpiece. Open head front sight, leaf rear adjusted for elevation by stepped wedge. Receiver grooved as others.

Companion piece to the Remington big-bore M740 and M760, and their shotguns, is their Model 552. According to Remington's advertising, this autoloader will function perfectly with a clip holding assorted Shorts, Longs, Long Rifles, Tube (under barrel) capacity is 15 LR's, 17 Longs, 20 Shorts, more or less, assorted. Cross bolt safety disconnects both hammer and trigger. Bolt handle left side, forward of the receiver. Ejected case deflector is fitted at rear of ejection port right side of receiver. Open sights, receiver grooved for scope mount.

From Marlin came two guns, Mod. 98 with tubular stock magazine (15 LR's) and Mod. 89-C with long 12-shot clip. Both have 22" round barrels, Micro-Groove rifling. Mod. 98 has cheekpiece Monte Carlo stock, peep rear sight adjustable for windage and elevation. Front sight is a hooded ramp bead. Bolt handle is a curved steel stamping on the right side of the action. Receiver is grooved for mount. The Mod. 89-C is the same but is clip-loaded and has an open rear sight. Stock is standard pistol grip without cheek-piece.

Pietro Beretta's .22 rifle tested is the model called Silver Gyrfalcon, imported by J. L. Galef. There are several Berettas varying mainly in weight, finish, and stock. Test gun weighed 5 1/2 pounds, has schnabel foretip. Italian-made rifle features 4-second take-down and three moving parts. With the bolt retracted and locked into the breech housing, depressing a thumb latch at the rear will allow the whole assembly including springs to be lifted off instantly, like Bergmann, Lancheester, or PPSH submachine guns. This allows the barrel to be cleaned from the rear, unlike other autoloaders with solid receiver backs. Bolt handle is flat, lifts up much like bolt action, and bolt can be locked forward (handle down) as a bolt action repeater, like Savage 6K. Sights are blade front and flip-up

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leaf rear. Clip loaded, 5-shot.

Tradewinds, Inc., supplied a Gevarm (French-made) .22 autoloader with an interesting action. The gun has no extractor or firing pin. Firing is by a ridge across the bolt face, which creases the back of the case as the bolt throws forward on pressing the trigger. This creates double ignition at two points on the rim, supposedly sure-fire even with poor .22 ammunition. (Much European .22 RF ammunition is of inferior quality with weak ignition.) According to the manufacturer, the double ignition results in increased muzzle velocity. The Gevarm clip holds 8 rounds. The round tapered barrel has a globe-type front sight with interchangeable inserts and tangent military-style rear sight. Extra inserts store in a pistol-grip trap.

Claims of manufacturers as to better performance because of some feature were tested. With the Gevarm, the claim was increased muzzle velocity due to double ignition. To verify this, tests were made to measure instrumental velocity. Our Hollywood-Owen chronograph recorded maximum velocity with one lot of ammunition at 1370 feet per second; minimum was 1280 fps; average was 1325 fps, with double ignition firing bar. To double check this, I sent the Gevarm to my friend Burt Munhall at the H. P. White Laboratory in Bel Air, Md., nationally known ballistics research institute. Their electric Potter Counter Chronograph is accurate to .00001 second. After testing the double ignition velocities, Burt machined off one side of the double ignition bar, converting the breech face to single ignition as with a conventional firing pin. He verified my double ignition figures first, then ran his own tests, then returned the Gevarm to me for my cross check on the single pin ignition. In all cases the average figures obtained by me were within 10 fps of those obtained at the H.P. White Laboratory.

The H. P. White report, summed up, showed that with Western Super-X .22, (Catalog No. K 1226R, Lot No. ACH 52) instrumental velocity at 20 feet with double firing pin averaged (50 shots) 1333 fps; with single firing pin, the average was 1341 fps. Using Western Super-Match Mk. III (Catalog No. SM 22LR, Lot No. 55HC), double ignition 50-round average was 1061 fps; with single ignition the average was 1057 fps. Munhall's report concluded, "There is no significant gain in velocity which can be attributed to the ignition of the cartridge priming on both sides by means of the bar type firing pin as advertised."

In appraising the significance of this report, it is well for the American shooter to realize that possible velocity increases which might have occurred in testing abroad with erratic European .22's should not be confused with what a given arm will actually do in this country with the ammunition you buy at the store.

Accuracy tests took most time in evaluating these eleven interesting rifles. A dozen or more targets were used with each rifle.



All firing was at 50 yards. Accuracy was erratic, and not restricted to any one gun. As a group they performed with what at best is called "hunting accuracy," and then only at ranges not exceeding their sights' capabilities for clear aiming. I estimate this range at not more than 50 yards or meters. For good accuracy one needs better sights, iron or scope, than are currently available for weapons of this type.

In lieu of the poor factory sights and their variations in sight picture, the Weaver B-4 economy-priced scope (\$9.75) was used. This gave each rifle an equal chance in sighting. The Beretta receiver with demountable top is not grooved for Tip-Off mount. The possessor or purchaser of one of these autoloaders should consider also getting a Weaver scope, the B-4 or the B-6.

Surprisingly enough the majority of targets, regardless of which rifle fired them, looked very much alike. Typical groups from the Mossberg M151K showed three of 10-shots and four of 5-shots with most having a tendency toward vertical pattern. Two exceptions occurred; one 10-shot group fired was large but not strung out. One 5-shot group showed three tightly together, one out at 3 o'clock, the other out at 11 o'clock. One 10-shot group was fired with Winchester Super Speed from a cold gun. As the rifle heated up the second shot groups dropped down and started to string out vertically. The aiming point was one bull on a 50-yard multiple target; the point of impact was one bull lower. Similar variations between point of aim and point of impact occurred with each rifle; some improved when heated up, others did not.

From the test firing the Marlin Micro-Groove Mod. 89-C showed to a marked degree that it was more accurate than all of the other .22 autoloading rifles under test. This accuracy was not confined to any one grade of ammunition, though Super-X gave the best group. Each rifle may perform its best with one particular brand or lot.

The 89-C was then compared in accuracy with the Winchester M52C, using EZXS Lot #55KC Packer 3a. The M52C's 10-shot 50 yard group, all X's, can be covered with a dime and change to spare. The Marlin 10-shot EZXS group took a half-dollar to cover. Four groups were then fired using Remington Kleanbore, Federal Monark, WRACo Super Speed, and Western Super-X. The Kleanbore group and Monark group would require a silver dollar to cover them and, in the Kleanbore group, a round or two would sort of peek out at the edges. The Super Speed group can just about be covered with a half dollar; the Super-X group—except for one lone shot out at 5 o'clock—can be covered with a quarter.

After all accuracy firing was done, targets were measured. Average group size for eleven rifles tested was 2.25". Maximum group was 6.50"; minimum was 1.25". On several occasions one or two rifles grouped into .75"

(Continued on page 50)

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(Continued from page 48)

for eight or nine rounds, then tossed one or two out making the group larger.

The Marlin 89-C ran first; the Winchester 77 (clip) second in accuracy. Both gave their best performances with different grades and makes of ammunition. Perhaps both rifles would perform more accurately if they had better bedding and improved trigger pulls. It is believed that all of the rifles tested would show marked improvements in close shooting if "accurized."

Every one of the rifles performed most satisfactorily with high velocity ammunition, Super-X, Super Speed, or Hi-Speed. There seems to be a market trend to "high velocity" smallbore ammo; it may be the manufacturers anticipate this demand by adjusting their weapons for more reliable functioning with these grades of ammunition.

With some weapons, notably Remington 552, Higgins M29, and Winchester M77, some malfunctions were encountered, but no test gun was entirely free from malfunctions. Remington claims the shooter can mix Shorts, Longs, and Long Rifles indiscriminately in the M552 autoloader and fire them without trouble. This claim did not prove true for us. Frequent jams in ejection and feeding resulted. An assortment of 12 cartridges, regular and high speed, all lengths, was loaded into the M552. The resulting 50-yard target gave an average maximum spread of 5 1/2" x 6" by 3" stretching from 11 o'clock to 5 o'clock.

After several hundred shots the J. C. Higgins M29 developed a weak firing pin blow. The M29 also sprayed unburnt powder grains down through the two slots in the bottom of the receiver just forward of the

trigger guards, not dangerous, but dirty. Each weapon occasionally failed to eject, using low velocity ammunition.

Trigger pulls on all rifles were poor. The topic is a sore point to shooters used to smooth, clean, crisp, creepless and backlashless target triggers. Such triggers cost more. But it would seem to me that the buyer of a .22 autoloading rifle in the \$50 plus bracket could expect to get a fairly decent trigger pull for the money. Least offensive were the Higgins M29, Remington 552, Winchester 77-C, and the Browning, with none capable of taking any prizes. Trigger pull is often a critical factor in the shooter's ability to do well with any particular rifle. A gun with less accuracy and a good trigger may outshoot more accurate but coarser-trigger rifle.

In my opinion the American-designed and produced rifles were decidedly better pointing and handling in the field. The Gevarm lacked a butt plate (the wood is finished smooth), which caused the stock to take a beating in the gun rack and in the field. The "petiteness" of these guns bothered me, as it did some shooters polled. Other shooters liked the diminutive styling, called the Browning "cute."

The Mossberg was afflicted with too much forend, which gave it a clumsy feeling. "What's the knob (schnabel) for?" asked one range visitor. Frankly, I don't know. Recent word suggests that Mossberg, after years of sticking to their schnabel styling, are exploring reactions to a straight forend.

In spite of the faults mentioned, the rifles as a class performed with reasonable satisfaction in the woods. Each rifle was used a minimum of four days in the woods, following the same general path for each hunt.

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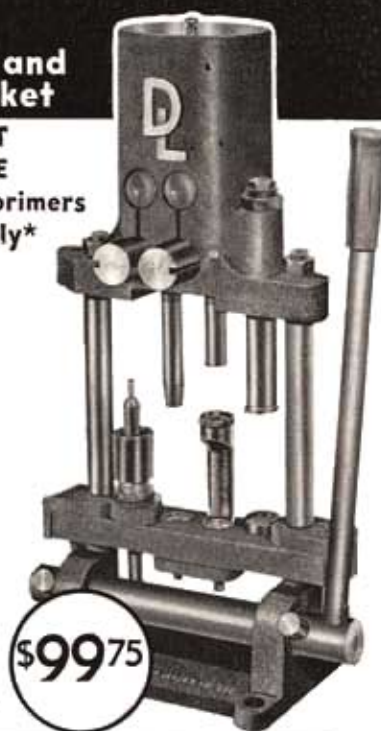
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Each hunt each day covered three to five miles of rugged wooded mountains. The only real headache encountered was the Gevarm's open bolt which collected twigs, pine needles, when pushing through brush. If I fell and dropped the gun in loose sand, pine needles, or dirt, it became absolutely necessary to strip the gun and clean it. But each of the rifles accounted for at least several squirrels.

The Remington M552 would be my personal choice, next the Winchester 77-C, as most comfortable, smoothest handling in the woods. Both rifles are "understudy" guns for larger calibers or gauges, helping to keep hunting skill up to par at reduced cost. But a number of visitors over the test period expressed different choices. One time the Browning was finally chosen; at other times the Savage or the Marlin scored first.

In loading, the best makes were those with clips. Tubular magazines caused battering of bullets, shaving and grooves in the lead, as revealed by repeated loadings and un-loadings. Best accuracy obtained, it should be noted, was with the clip-fed autoloaders, Marlin 39-C, Win. M77-C, Beretta, Gevarm.

To load the guns it was necessary to work the bolt knobs back and forth. With the exception of the Beretta bolt handle, these knobs are wholly inadequate, being too small or of poor design. In many instances it was easier to empty a tube magazine by firing a burst at the backstop or a tin can. (This is a wonderful way for a youngster to burn up ammunition and unload his rifle in the interests of safety.) The Browning under-receiver bolt was rough on the thumb, the serrations too sharp for comfort. This should be checked if buying one. The Beretta's handle was most like the conventional bolt

action type, but flattened out without the knob. It is ideal, easy to operate and comfortably designed. The Browning had the best tube magazine arrangement, allowing the shooter to withdraw it and lock it in the "loading" position with no chance of pulling the tube too far out and having to reinsert it. This can happen with other guns when there are two or three squirrels up a tree and you find you have just run out of ammo and are in a hurry.

Aside from running out of ammunition at the wrong moment, the next trouble with the autoloaders was jamming. This occurred whenever a case failed to eject. Often the spent case and the next in line would become wedged into the action by the spring-loaded bolt, freezing the action.

In concluding the tests, it became evident that any purchaser might safely assume his rifle would give the average accuracy performance arrived at during the firing. With the proper ammo, groups of approximately 2 1/4" at 50 yards may be expected. The generalization does not eliminate the possibility of getting a rifle which will shoot closer groups, nor one that will not perform as well. It is possible to get some degree of accuracy with the .22 autoloaders, but not on a par with target grade weapons, naturally. Hunting accuracy is possible, but only after careful selection of the most accurate grade and brand of ammunition for the particular rifle. Popular though they are, it seems that .22 automatics as presently manufactured will give only mediocre accuracy. But even so, it would be foolish to deny that, even with their many shortcomings, for what they were intended, plinking and small shooting, the .22 autos can do the job.

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PISTOLS AT MANY PACES

(Continued from page 19)

tested ten scopes and a dozen guns before arriving at these combinations. The Target-spot is attached to the .22 with a pair of bridge mounts screwed to the barrel. Weaver split rings hold the K-10 on the Magnum.

The weights of both guns are about what would be expected and Vigue has given up any offhand plinking. The .22 with its scope and six rounds in the cylinder tips the scale at 4 pounds, 11 ounces. Less scope it is still 3 pounds, 4 ounces. The .357 with scope and ammo is four pounds, 2 ounces; less scope it is 3 pounds, 4 ounces.

He used to try a two-hand hold, but with little success at long ranges. Most of the shooting done is with the .22 mainly because of the heavy muzzle blast of the center fire. Today, most of his testing is done using an improvised L-shaped rest. Grips on both guns, by the way, are standard target models. The pull is a sweet, crisp 2 1/4 pounds for the Magnum and 2 1/2 pounds for the .22.

Vigue is a traveling man whose work takes him into the remote wilderness areas of Maine and the entire northeast, as well as Canada. He's an off-highway sales representative for a truck manufacturer and deals in heavy equipment for loggers and miners. So he's no stranger to the woods, and although he denies he is a hunter, he has taken about all legal species of Maine game with the handgun.

A lot of his game shots are a surprise to both him and the quarry as they meet on the remote tote roads of Maine's rugged tall timber. In that way he manages to get his one-to-a-customer deer every year without actually "hunting" for it. In addition, he has shot many crows, porcupines, and chucks with the .22 and scope, some at 200 yards. His best long shot at big game was a deer taken with the scope-sighted Magnum at 240 yards.

Vigue emphasizes, however, that he is no advocate of hunting with the handgun unless shooting can be accomplished at relatively close range with the gun of proper caliber, and with the shooter able to place the first shot in a killing area. But, aside from hunting, the nature of Vigue's work lends itself ideally to pursuit of his hobby.

The hardwood case into which the two Colts and scopes nest is usually carried along, unless he's crossing into Canada where the unwieldy weapons are still sidearms, and forbidden. With the kit is his loose leaf binder where he files the special forms he had printed detailing every shot string. Even

the forms are sub-divided by the methodical Vigue with white pages for shots taken at under 100 yards; yellow for 200; and pinks for 300 or more.

Sometime during the course of practically each day a spot is found where a target or targets can be set up. These include abandoned logging trails, open fields with suitable backstops, or gravel pits.

The scope-sighted guns have been fired at distances up to and including 600 yards for the .357, and 500 yards with the .22. Targets included standard rifle 100 and 200-yard NRA types; also metal objects, pine boards for penetration tests, and other "outdoor" marks.

Wind drift came under careful study, using the .22 at ranges in excess of 200 yards. Targets included stationary objects surrounded by water, at known distances with winds varying in velocity and direction. His trajectory data was scrupulously collected with the traditional equally-spaced paper blanks at ten-yard intervals to 300 yards. But there again the flood washed out years of hard work. Vigue's recent records on accuracy show pretty vividly that the limit of the handgun's potential hasn't yet been reached. But at the same time, he is quick to point out, the revolver isn't in the same league with the rifle. His tests lead him to a ratio of four-to-one in comparing the two. That is, if the .22 rifle will group one inch at 100 yards, the revolver can be expected to shoot a four-inch group. He has carried this out to 300 yards with 24-inch revolver groups.

"But I can't vouch for the accuracy of any rifle," he says. "I don't use one." As a matter of fact, he doesn't own a rifle, has never even fired one.

All of Vigue's targets are witnessed, many of them by his friend, Maine State Trooper Wilbur McGowan of Ashland—a fine shot in his own right. McGowan has produced a 3/4-inch group at 50 yards with the .22 Colt and iron sights. With the scope, both men have shot many at 200 yards that could be covered by a man's hand.

One of the best 200-yard targets has a maximum vertical spread of 4.3 inches; horizontal 3.6 inches; maximum vertical-horizontal, 5.2 inches; average vertical, 1.72; average horizontal, 1.86; mean average 1.79.

The .357 has been fired at targets up to 600 yards. Vigue uses a metal target for the Magnum at extreme ranges. This enables the shooter to determine by sound when a hit is made and also allows easier spotting of the bullet holes.

Very little shooting at paper targets has been done with the .357, and little is known as to its grouping. Groups on metal have been described as fair at 200 and even 300 yards, however. The Magnum isn't a simple arm to shoot with a scope. In fact, it's a matter of fighting back to gain any results with it at all. Eye relief is only two inches and a careless hold can mean a black eye. Detonation, so close to the head, is severe.

Ray Vigue gives full credit to such long range pistoliers as Elmer Keith and Ed McGovern. "I'm no pioneer," he says, "I have nothing to sell, no theories to expound nor to prove. I'm just curious about how far a bullet shot from a handgun can reach, its flight path, degree of accuracy at long range.

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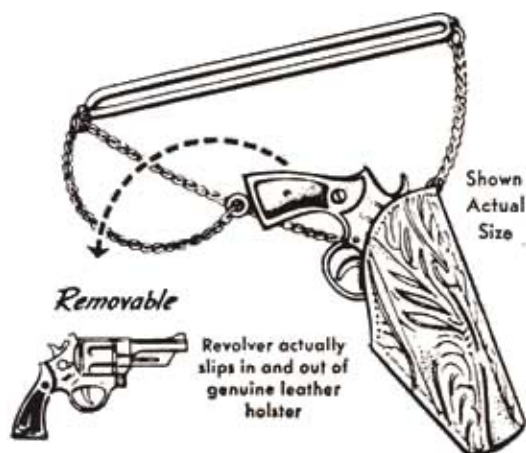
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COLLECTING ON A BUDGET

(Continued from page 26)

The serial numbers on these started where the first issue stopped. The barrel strap was shorter, which gave the piece a more graceful appearance. The Model 2 third issue was made almost identical to the second except for internal improvements. It came out in 1891 and the numbers ran from 1 to 28,107.

Smith & Wesson made only one other spur trigger gun and this one is, again, a "tip-up." This is the Model 2 Old Model, better known as the "Army Model." It is a .32 caliber pistol very similar to the Model 1 1/2 Old Model. It has a larger frame than the Model 1 1/2 and came only in 5 and 6 inch barrel lengths. There were 76,502 of these made starting in 1861. It is older than the other .32 "tip-ups" and usually demands a respectable price.

You may now go after some of the double action revolvers, Smith & Wesson came out in 1880 with both .32 and .38 double action to top break guns. They made three issues of the .32 between 1880 and 1919, and five issues of the .38 between 1880 and 1911. If you really want something nice, you might try for one of each issue. However, one each of the .32 and .38 would be sufficient to represent them.

Another gun of the double action top-break design which you will want is the "Safety Hammerless." These are similar in appearance to the regular double actions except that they have an inclosed hammer and a squeeze safety on the back strap. There were two issues in the .32 caliber starting in 1888, and five issues in the .38 caliber starting in 1887. Both of these guns were highly popular as pocket pistols and many persons still use them. Again, shop around for good condition.

Almost all the output of the Smith & Wesson plant has been revolvers. However, they have made four automatics. Two of these are current, modern guns: the 9 mm Luger Automatic and the new .22 Automatic

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target pistol. The other two are now obsolete: the .35 Automatic (see cut) and the .32 Automatic. There were 8,350 of the .35 Automatic made between 1913 and 1921. This gun was never very popular because of the odd caliber, so it was discontinued. It is a nice piece to have in your collection, and most of them can still be had for fifty dollars or less. The .32 Automatic is a different matter. These were made between 1924 and 1937. There are no records of the number made, but the popular consensus is that it was less than 1,000. Collectors have started grabbing these, and the price has risen to over \$100 in most areas.

In considering guns in the higher price bracket which you may want to get in the future, your first must be the "Lady Smith." This is the much sought after .22 caliber Model M Hand Ejector (see cut). There were three issues of this gun, the first one coming out in 1902. The serial numbers on this one ran from 1 to 4,575. Then, in 1906, the second issue came out and the numbers ran from 4,576 to 13,950. The third issue was catalogued as the .22 Perfected Hand Ejector. It came out in 1911 and was numbered from 13,951 to 26,151.

The very small .22 caliber frame of this gun has caused it to become quite popular at present. Along with a running popularity always comes a running price, and the latter is getting almost ridiculous. The value of a gun is usually set by its age, the number made, whether it was a first type, and the condition. Well, this little firearm fails to merit high prices by any of those standards. Yet, owners demand and get well over \$100 for them.

The big brother to the "Lady Smith" would be the .32 caliber Model I Hand Ejector. This gun is the forerunner of all the modern Smith & Wesson revolvers. It is the first swing-out cylinder hand ejector that they made. It came out in 1896, and there were 19,712 of them made. An unusual feature about them is the writing which is between each flute of the cylinder. These guns can still be found at around fifty dollars; however, the price is rising rather rapidly.

So far, we haven't said much about the big

bore guns, and there are quite a few of them. The first big gun that Smith & Wesson made was the Model 3, .44 caliber Single Action American. There are no records available on this gun, but it was probably first made around 1870. It is quite large, with an 8" barrel. You will probably find this one tough to locate.

Another .44 caliber gun made by S & W was the Model 3 Single Action Russian. This was a gun made to fill an order for the Russian Government between 1870 and 1875. There were 215,704 of these made, but around 200,000 were sent to Russia, making it a hard gun to find here.

In 1879, the Model 3 Single Action New Model came on the market (page 25). This gun fired the .44 S & W Russian cartridge and was quite popular as a target pistol. There were 38,796 of these weapons made. Also, there were a few of this in other calibers.

A much sought after big gun is the Model .45 caliber Single Action Schofield Model Army revolver. There were 6,000 of these made for the U.S. Government from 1875. Originally these guns had a 7" barrel. Later, about half were returned to the factory and the barrels were shortened. These guns with the short barrels were then sold to Wells Fargo, and they were stamped WELLS FARGO. The gun gets its name from the special barrel catch patented in 1873 by an army officer of that name.

The guns that I have mentioned are by no means the only Smiths that you will want in your collection. There are many others. I mention these only as a guide to help in making your plans. As you go along, you may also come across some models with unusual variations. The Smith & Wesson people were constantly looking for improvements. Consequently, there are many inventor's or experimental models to be found. This variation might be anything from an unusual rear sight to a special thumb safety (page 25). Keep your eyes open for some of these "really rare" specimens. They can add to the value of your collection, or they can be used as "trailing horses" to fill in blank spots in your assortment of specimens in the category you like best.

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SHOPPING

ROYAL 900 is small, cordless all transistor portable radio model of Zenith Radio Corp. For economical operation and for long hours on self-contained flashlight batteries, model perfect for cabins, and as "move about" receiver for the active hunter. A rich, full



tone even at high volume levels, and outstanding power make this an ideal traveling companion. The one-piece moulded cabinet is smartly styled with a finished back and ribboned grille. Pull-up carry handle adds convenience plus to a demand product. Suggested retail price is \$69.95 less batteries. The receiver weighs 3 pounds 3 1/2 ounces, complete with batteries. It is little more than 4 inches high, 7 inches long and 3 inches deep. Manufactured by Zenith Radio Corp., 6001 W. Dickens, Chicago 39, Ill.



FOUR CELL, SIX-VOLT TORCH is high-fashion styled, marking a new family of electric torches by Burgess Battery Company of Freeport, Ill. The four cell light weighing only 22 ounces, was designed by Burgess to combine family flashlight handiness with utility lantern power, without conventional lantern bulk or weight. It is built for heavy duty action around the home or car, or for use on camping trips. Two matching companion lights, a standard two-cell flashlight, and a junior-sized model have been created to fit into purse or pocket, and are styled identically. Design features include an oversized lighthead to increase light output; recessed lens like modern auto headlamps; and an all brass, lightweight seamless barrel. The lights incorporate a new type aluminized, distortion-proof reflector, and are equipped with a built-in bulb protector and a three-position locking switch with a button for signaling.



SEE-ALL is an all chrome wide angle 7 power Binocular, that weighs only 16 ounces, can be carried in your pocket, and serves a field of 525 feet at 1000 yards. Actually, this amounts to 50% more viewing than what you see when using an ordinary 7 power Pocket Binocular. Smooth, precision factory production has been started and immediate deliveries are assured at the amazing low introductory price of \$29.95, including a genuine leather carrying case and straps. See-All, destined to become the binocular find of the decade, is a product of the United Binocular Co., 9043 S. Western Ave., Chicago 20, Ill.



DOVE DECOYS. A practical dove hunter designed these decoys after many trials. They resemble the mourning dove, purposely colored a little darker, better to be seen against a dark background. Experimentation proved that by using profile or silhouette decoys properly placed, the illusion of movement will bring the doves closely into shooting range. This is most important for the hunter as he may get his limit in less time without walking so far afield. Further information about this line may be obtained from Brooks Dove Decoys, 7735 Kingsley Street, Houston 17, Texas.



MODEL 70 TRIGGER GUARD RELEASE. The new Trigger Guard and built-in floor plate release for the G & H Winchester Model 70 enables the hunter to remove cartridges from the magazine at will by a simple flick of the finger. This assembly can be self-installed in minutes without the necessity of any fitting—finely machined and new. Trigger Guard sells for \$15.00, and is a recent addition to the sporting goods line of Abercrombie & Fitch Company, Madison Ave., at 45th St., N. Y. 17, N. Y.

WITH Guns

WOOD-N-STREAM BOOTS for the ladies who have taken to hunting and other outdoor sports, are being introduced by the Albert H. Weinbrenner Co., Milwaukee 1, Wis. The Diana #500—Ladies Cherokee Nimrod, 8 inch Boot, Moccasin, leather lined vamp, brass eyelets, leather laces, nail-less construction, gum rubber corrugated sole and heel.



The Nokomis #505—Ladies Cherokee Nimrod, 8 inch hunting boot with insulated 3 ply protection, moccasin vamp, fully leather lined, brass eyelets, leather laces, nailless construction, gum rubber corrugated sole and heel. Boots designed for active outdoor women in red or brown nimrod leather, lightweight, flexible—yet extra rugged.



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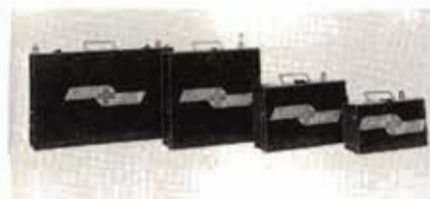
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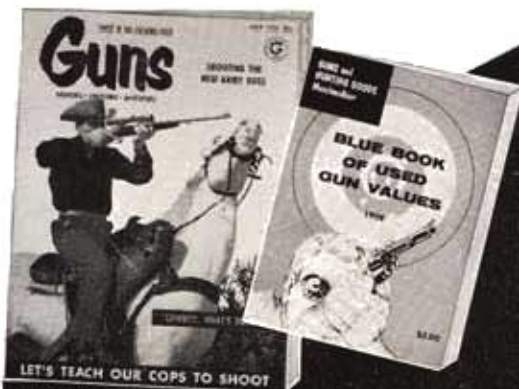
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GUN RACK

(Continued from page 10)

inexpensive mechanism which is almost as compact, folded back, as if it were taken down. While the Companion comes in all bores, the .410 might be especially suitable for pest control on the farm. The bigger gauges up to 12 are chambered for 2 3/4" standard magnum shells, up to 30" full choke barrel. Finish is smooth, not highly polished but a clean metal surface, evenly burnished. Wood is nicely checkered, stock has a semi-pistol grip. Price \$39.95. The only thing to watch with this gun is that, in folding down the barrel, you do not catch your finger between the forend and the cocking lever. This is an unlikely accident when the hinge is stiff and new, but might occur as the gun gets more use and the user gets careless. With the barrel diagonal, you can fold this shotgun into a medium sized suitcase for travelling.

"Silver Snipe" is the moniker of Beretta's easy-handling 12 ga. over/under. Again, close examination showed the excellent machining of the breech and barrel parts. By working the lock off the back of the barrels, Beretta makes the receiver very shallow, about 2 1/4" from bottom plate to top of topmost barrel. Most of this dimension is necessary barrel size. The 1/4" of receiver bottom has the cocking bar in it. Octagon barrel breech gives a good sighting view, more of a directional blur hardly seen, more sensed, to aid your gun pointing as you throw it to your shoulder. Weight is only 6 1/2 pounds, 12 gauge 26" barrels. Tubes 28" also available. Stock at comb, 1 1/2"; at heel, 2 1/2"; pull, 14". Pitch on 28" barrel, 2 1/4".

In handling the Silver Snipe, if the action is almost but not quite closed, the locking bolts will snap forward from the breech ready to slip into their barrel recesses. Then, if the barrels are again opened, the extractor pushed out, and the barrel then snapped down, the extractors will hang up on the locking bolts. It is but a moment's hesitation to forestall this by working the thumb top lever in the usual manner.

Third item is the new Silver Pigeon pump action repeater. A novelty from the European makers, this is Italy's first pump gun and it is a good one. Manufacture to close standards, of course. Checkering and finish very good on the richly veined Italian walnut stock. I found this gun to be very rapid in action. Bossman vonRosen argued the single trigger o/u was fastest, and we tried two shots from each, he with the o/u, I with the pump. Our witness, state trooper Mike McCormick, thought the o/u was the quicker of the two, but I'm not entirely sure—seemed as if two shots got out of the pump pretty rapidly. Five shot max. of course, take down. Inside this gun is some new design including a hand-polished satin-chromed bolt which has minimum surface friction. The big, checkered forend gives a good grip for fast shooting, too. General specs, include 12 ga. only, barrels 26" to 32", Full, Modified or IC, with weight about 6 1/2 pounds in the 28" barrel gun. Stock could be a little straighter, 1 1/2"x2 1/4"x14", pitch 2 1/4". Priced from \$89.95, fancier models up to \$139.95 and \$245.

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for the first time: "Gee, wish I'd thought of that." Single barrel guns have been hand-capped always by having only one built-in choke, or by requiring manual adjustment to change the choke on some of the good, standard attachable choke-compensators or brakes. Now the Adjustomatic gives the shotgunner a wide pattern close in, a tight pattern farther away, without manual adjustment.

The Adjustomatic, made by the Hartford Gun Choke Co., Box 239C, Hartford, 1, Ct., is a businesslike 1/4" sleeve that sticks on the end of your single gun. It has knurlings and some slots which have a slight recoil-reducing effect, and also help work the adjusting sleeve since gas pressure shoves the sleeve forward to change choke for the second shot. The company will attach a choke—12 ga., 16 or 20—to your barrel, lap and polish inside, and return to you prepaid for \$29.95.

To use it is easy. The tube is set to the desired choke, one of three main positions which are, as stamped on the light-metal choke collet, Cylinder-Improved (C-I), Improved-Modified (I-M), and Modified-Full (M-F). The tube is held to the rear by a spring surrounding the barrel and retained by a knurled ring at the back. When the shot is fired, gas pressure after the shot charge leaves the gun shifts the tube about 1/4" to the front, literally blowing it forward. Inside, surrounding the spring steel fingered choke is a coned ring, much like the friction ring on an autoloading Browning-type shotgun. The choke sleeve screws against this coned ring, compressing it. This

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degree of compression is so calculated that, in its forward position, this ring is dragged over the choke fingers and at the end of its motion, it compresses the choke fingers. The choke is made with a slight flare on its external OD, a trifle like the muzzle of a National Match .45, and the choke sleeve compresses these fingers to constrict the choke.

Ten shots fired gave reasonable pattern changes from setting to setting. By pushing the choke to the front position before firing, it can be locked in any desired choke setting. A small screw on the bottom of the tube, easily pressed, will release the choke and the internal spring quickly places it in the "first shot" setting of the two combinations desired.

Of course there is no way to get a Cylinder-Full combination of shots, but there would be little call for it anyway. The choke selections reflect the most common double barrel shotgun combinations and the Adjustomatic unquestionably is as "versatile" as any double when it comes to chokes.

In spite of the forward pull necessarily exerted on the gun mechanism as the choke sleeve blows to the front, this does not take away any energy needed for operating an autoloading mechanism. We had the choke fitted at Hartford onto our early white-receiver Browning Double Automatic, and it worked fine. It is possible that it "kicked" a trifle less than usual with this choke, but we wouldn't like to swear to that.

Working one of Remington's old hand

traps made in Fremont, Ohio, I set two clays on the throwing arm, with the choke set to blow from Improved Cylinder to Modified. Then I tripped the lever, caught the near bird on a straight away and swung across to my left (awkward for me, I'm left handed) and busted the second. After doing that four times with one miss I figured the choke had proved itself—the birds were diverging at right angles, and the final birds were dusted at about 45 yards.

Patterning tests showed the Adjustomatic comes reasonably close to its factory marks with 7 1/2 Western Trap loads. Each shooter getting an Adjustomatic should then pattern his gun with various loads, determine the individual characteristics of the Adjustomatic as fitted to his gun and then, in the field, choose the Adjustomatic setting which gives him the needed shot concentration. By using the choke according to instructions, you can actually get as many as five "double" combinations and, locked out of automatic functioning, seven single patterns. A wide pattern on the closest of that quail covey for "dead bird," and a tighter shot spread as the others go down the line, will produce a higher percent of kills for shells fired—no doubt about that. The only problem perhaps is, what to do when they flare up and then fly down your gun barrel. The answer to that is perhaps, slug 'em with the Adjustomatic as they fly by! But for normal field shooting and those ducks that change gears at the first shot, Adjustomatic gives choke versatility when it's needed.

ELMER KEITH SAYS

(Continued from page 8)

obtained from this company, from very heavy saddle leather rifle scabbards to light weight water proof slip on covers for protection against rain or dust. We have found their products excellent.

New Weaver Catalogue

My old friend Bill Weaver has a new catalogue in full color depicting all his scopes, mounts, and reticles, many mounted on fine rifles. The new catalogue also contains charts showing proper bases and mounts for each scope and arm. It also covers his famous Weaver choke on shotguns, and his IX shotgun scope, also useful on many big bore rifles for close work.

Weaver scopes have come a long, long way since the first scope he sent me in his old grasshopper mount many years ago. His scopes and mounts have shown a steady and marked advance with the years, and Bill Weaver is the man who really made hunting scopes available to all and has done more for the shooters in scope-sighting their arms than any other scope maker to date. I have used Weaver scopes on all North American game I have hunted, and last year used a K-4 Weaver scope on 23 head of African game as well. His scopes are all in strong steel tubing which will take a lot of hard knocks, and his latest scopes with centered reticle and latest optics compare very favorably with any on the market. Low price with a quality product has ever been his aim, to reach the greatest possible number of shooters.

Anyone wishing a Weaver scope for his new rifle should send for the new Weaver catalogue. Weaver scopes are good, honestly made products that will stand the gaff on any firearm regardless of caliber. I shot a hand-made Mauser rifle made especially

for the .50 caliber Browning Govt. machine gun cartridges (gun weighed just 25 pounds), fitted with a Weaver K-V scope that stood up to the recoil with ease.

Christy Gun Works Catalogue

The Christy Gun Works, 875 57th St., Sacramento, Calif., has issued their No. 58 catalogue. This is a very useful book for all gunsmiths and dealers, covering a myriad of gun parts and accessories as well as machine and hand tools for the gunsmith and gun crank. Most sights, scopes, mounts, butt plates and pads, as well as other accessories, are to be found in this big catalogue. Not only does it list all parts for arms furnished but also work done in the Christy plant for customers. Bob Christy once told me that anything relating to a gun of any kind was his business, and the plant can do about any kind of gunsmithing, from color case hardening to fine engraving, or any kind of repair work as desired.

Super-Accurate .22 Jacketed Bullets

Speer Products, Lewiston, Idaho, have produced a super-accurate 52 grain hollow point bullet for use in about all .22 caliber rifles. We have tested them in a very accurate Sako Mauser .222 with 24 grains 4995, and groups went well under one inch at 100 yards. Vernon Speer gave them the supreme test last year by passing them out at the National Bench Rest Rifle Match. He gave 72 competitors a supply for use in a five-shot 100 yard match. It was held immediately after the competition had finished two five-shot 100 yard matches, using their own choice of bullets. The official score

(Continued on page 66)

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169

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Raymon T. Roush, Hoagland, Indiana
62

HANDLOADING BENCH



TO GET BETTER ACCURACY, we members of the Hull Fillers & Cap Busters Association, Unlimited, might cast a critical eye at our cast bullets, and the moulds we "throw" them in. They cost almost nothing and, if they shoot as well or better than factory pills (which they should) they are the big pay-off in handloading. Rifle-men use them freely, but real dedicated handgunners are the big consumers.

Some people, even target shooters, think any old slug is "good enough" for the short tube, and they make pills any self respecting rifleman would return to the melting pot. Crummy slugs may "get by" at short range but they are a major cause of loose groups with long or short guns. Most designs can be made to shoot fairly well with proper charges but, unless near perfect bullets leave the muzzle, accuracy will suffer. I'd like to let some air out of an often repeated statement by "experts" who stress holding cast bullet weight to some ridiculous figure such as .1 grain. It isn't practical or necessary. What is important is a uniform alloy at a uniform temperature that casts bullets in perfect balance, fully filled out and with no air pockets. THAT is absolutely necessary for true flight.

Prove it by testing perfect bullets from the same batch. File a full one grain of metal from the nose of half the test bullets. Use semi-wadcutters with accurate target charges below 1,075 feet per second with the nose filed square. You can hardly tell the difference in groups. Most important is a perfect base with clean, sharp edges. Next is a completely filled-out body. At higher velocity, a perfect nose begins to affect accuracy. A combination of factors causes inaccuracy, which may include a weight variation, but a tiny weight difference alone has little

effect. Until a mould reaches proper temperature the first 50 bullets may vary more in weight than the next couple of thousand, provided a steady casting routine is used.

An imperfectly blended alloy, which is rather common, makes some bullets have more or less tin content. Some bullets may be out of balance with slag, air pockets, or more or less tin on one side. The answer is to use an accurately weighed amount of each metal in each batch, that is kept well stirred and fluxed. Once in a blue moon you find a mould with a slanted or out of round cavity that will never make bullets in perfect balance, but moulds made in recent years are generally fine quality. The most common trouble is a mould the user has sprung or otherwise abused. Fins on bullets indicate an advanced stage of damage. Blocks should close perfectly so bullets will have a very faint dividing line. A warped or sprung sprue cutter can be detected by holding blocks to the light. The fit should be perfect.

Metal temperature should be uniform and as low as possible to insure perfect castings. Good bullets have been made by the ancient dip pot your great grandpa used in a fire-place or campfire, or that you can use on a gas stove. However, it allows a temperature variation of several hundred degrees. A cold alloy makes imperfect, undersized bullets not fully filled out. If too hot, tin burns out, and the imperfect bullets may be hard and brittle. The only sure method of uniformity is a thermostat controlled electric pot, such as the SAECO, that holds temperature within 20 degrees.

Controlled heat gives bullets a uniform specific gravity, with the exact heat for your casting speed, room temperature, alloy and type of bullets. I suggest setting at about

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725 degrees for general use, but it should be changed to meet your requirements. Multi-cavity moulds, big bullets or hollow points require more heat. A straight tin-lead alloy, which I prefer for handguns, uses lower heat than a ternary alloy that includes antimony for rifle bullets. The handgun mix may vary from 1-30 tin and lead (Lyman says 1-40) for light target loads, up to 1-12 (Lyman says 1-10) for high velocity.

One of the big custom loaders, George Buey of Philadelphia, used his SAECO furnace to make half a million bullets, using five tons of lead in a three-month period. The factory price for this many .38 bullets is \$20,300.00. If Capt. Buey used scrap lead, currently about .07c per pound, his lead cost was \$350.

The pot holds about 11 pounds of metal, and is excellent to melt down scrap for casting into one pound pigs of alloy. It has sufficient pressure to fill out a bullet perfectly and greatly reduce internal air pockets and defects. Being bottom draw, dross floats to the top where it can't get in bullets to cause unbalance. No need to skim the slag often, as with a dip pot, as it helps prevent oxidation of the metal. You can cast around 300 bullets per hour with a single cavity mould, or 1,000 with the four-hole jobs.

Metal won't overflow on the mould if you touch a block of beeswax to the furnace spout every couple of thousand castings. I like to add a one pound pig of alloy to the pot after casting about 50 bullets. You'll find a half pot of alloy is more snappy than a full pot, which is a bit sluggish in reaching casting temperature. If adding a cold pig or two causes the spout to freeze up, a shingle nail driven through a short stick is handy to start the flow, if you don't want to wait a minute. Spill a squirt of metal to insure a perfect cast next time. Big blocks

(Continued on page 65)

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(Continued from page 63)

take a full flow of metal, but with one- or two-cavity blocks the flow should be reduced with the regulating screw. An unregulated flow is the major cause of crummy bullets.

Directions advise screwing the furnace to a bench to prevent any chance of its being knocked over. A better idea is to screw the base to a board about 12" square, which allows the unit to be easily moved. If fluxing smoke is any bother, it can be pulled away from the unit and blown out the window with a small electric fan. Use a tin can to save spruce cuttings, that melt in a hurry to start a new batch.

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(Continued from page 60)

sheets on that match prove the accuracy of Speer 52 grain hollow point bullets. Twenty-eight shooters, or 38%, had smaller groups with the Speer bullets than with the bullets they used in the previous matches. Ten of the 28 competitors shot groups measuring less than .300", while only one shooter had done so previously. Average group size of the 28 shooters was .376" with Speer bullets and .514" with other previously used bullets. Finally, the present five-shot record of .0745" was established with a Speer 52 grain bullet load.

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High Velocity

Over 20 years ago, F. C. Ness, then Dope Bag editor for "The American Rifleman," made the statement that, when a rifle bullet reached a critical velocity of around 4000 feet or over, expansion was no longer necessary for instant killing of game. Many of us who even then had been playing with high velocity for years, knew better. But, as General Hatcher once remarked, each succeeding generation must relearn what its predecessor learned 25 years before.

After reading Mr. Ness's remarks, my old friend Grove Wotkins, who developed the .22 Hornet and worked with Winchester on the .220 Swift, sent me his heavy barrel bull gun in .220 Swift calibre on a Model 54 Winchester action. The rifle had an eight-inch twist and was equipped with a 10 or 12 power target scope. Capt. Wotkins also sent a large batch of hand loads for the rifle. These were loaded with a very long solid bronze bullet, hand turned on a screw lathe, with a very long spitzer point as sharp as a needle and with boat tail base. The body of the bullet rode on top of the lands and was bore diameter, while the bullet had two narrow rotating bands like an artillery shell to engage and fill the rifling. These bullets, as I remember, weighed just under 50 grains and were loaded to over 4000 feet velocity.

Bob Hagel and I drove up the Pahsimeroi valley to test this rifle and there picked up Julius MacIzer and his two boys, Max and Irvin, and also Lee Bradley and his son. As the snow lay deep on the surrounding mountains, the sage jack rabbits were down in the valley by the millions, and we found out all we needed to know about that rifle and load and its lack of killing power.

The first jack I shot was broadside at 150 yards across a small gulch. Prone with sling,

I held just back of his shoulders and drove one of those long bronze needles through him. The jack stopped eating for a few seconds and scratched the point of bullet entrance with his right hind foot. Then he turned and went on eating sage brush.

My next shot hit him in the back and came out the chest, missing the spine. Again, the rabbit quit eating, hopped around a few times and then, after nibbling some more sage brush, started hopping around in a small circle. Finally he stopped again, rolled over, and kicked his last.

We had a generous supply of Capt. Wotkins hand loads and used them all that day. We killed a great many rabbits, but the load had practically no killing effect at all unless the brain or spine was hit. The rifle and load were superbly accurate and we shot many rabbits through the head up to and including 300 yards from a comfortable prone position with sling. When brain or spine was hit, of course we killed the rabbit; but several were shot through the body three to five times before they showed any indication of suffering any more than from a flea bite. Many of them would scratch at the bullet entrance hole; others would bite and nibble at it as if wondering just what kind of an insect had bitten them. After receiving two or three through the lungs, they would, after a time, quit eating sage and run in a short circle and finally roll over. Some simply sat in the snow as though nothing had happened to them and, after a time, would roll over from internal hemorrhage.

Only once did we see any evidence of a bullet hole without carefully parting the hair with a match. That one rabbit was running directly away from me down a trail in the snow, and I managed to catch him in the small field of the big target scope. The long bronze needle hit him square in the center of the spine at the rump, and tumbled him end over end, laying him out in a red sheet on the snow. All other hits were very hard to locate, even when shot through the brain. We had to part the hair carefully to find the small needle-like entrance and exit holes.

With seven good riflemen shooting from prone position, we used up all the ammunition sent and found we could not depend on the load to kill anything quickly unless brain or spine was punctured. When we slipped a 48 grain soft point factory load in the rifle, the jack, if hit anywhere near center of body, was simply blown to bits.

I dissected many rabbits and the holes through their lungs were hardly large enough to receive a kitchen match stem, with a dark spot about a half-inch in diameter surrounding the wound channel. This experience, with over 4000 feet velocity on a long, non-expanding needle of bronze in .22 caliber, convinced me that speed alone is not a killer. By contrast, the soft point factory bullet fired from the same .220 Swift, simply demolished a jack rabbit. Let anyone who has further aspirations to use sharp pointed full jacketed or solid bronze bullets on game try them out as we did and he too will be convinced that high velocity alone will not kill anything. You must also have an expanding bullet if it is a small bore, that will upset and disintegrate at its terrific velocity and rotational speed to disintegrate flesh and blood, or you won't get the results you want.

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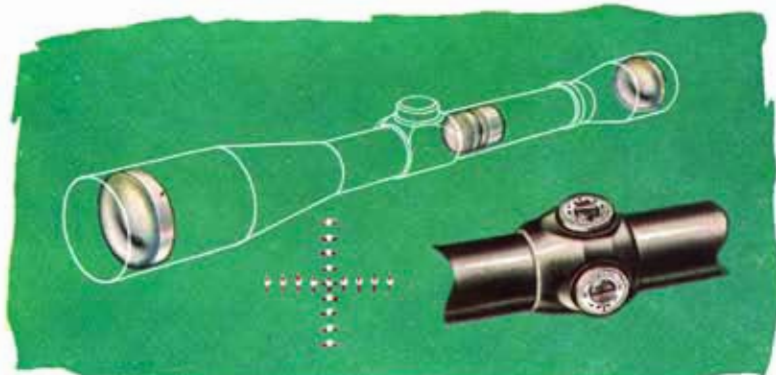


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