

NOVEMBER 1966 75c

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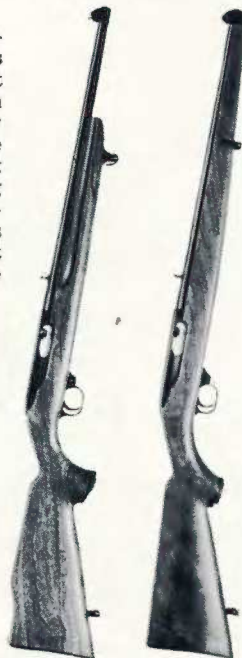


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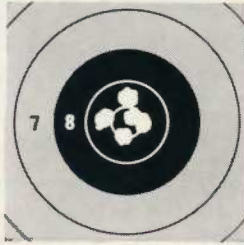


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# TRIGGER TALK

**T**HIS ISSUE will provide a good indicator of those who are old timers in the shooting game. Many, I am sure, will recall the introduction of the Nydar shotgun sight soon after World War II. Some of you will have forgotten about it, but it is still very much alive, and our article on page 34 will show that some new Nydar developments are in the works.

Many readers will recall, too, the vast number of .455 Webley revolvers which came into this country after the war, and may also recall that after finally straightening out the Mark I revolvers from the Mark IV, V, and VI, we came upon the same problems with .455 ammunition. The article on page 44 should clear up, once and for all, just what the various markings on .455 ammo mean.

I am sure that there are a great many readers who can recall owning a single shot rifle—whether a break open Savage, a Stevens, Remington rolling block, or any of the fancier Winchester, Farquharson, or Sharps. Those who thought that the single shot concept in high power rifles was a thing of the past, didn't reckon with one of America's most progressive gunmakers, Bill Ruger. The story of his new single shot rifle will be found on page 20.

This brings us to our next feature articles: Guns of Plevna and Duelling Pistols—I doubt very much that we have readers who will remember either the battle of Plevna in 1877, or participating in a duel to death with a percussion pistol. However, we think that these two features will be enjoyed by everyone who likes his gun facts spiced with the real story behind firearms development.

• • •

The color photographs on pages 39 and 42 are reproduced from the book "Duelling Pistols" with the permission of the publishers. The color photo on the center spread was taken by Dick Friske. The scene from the Battle of Plevna on pages 30 and 31 was reproduced through the courtesy of Culver Pictures, New York, N.Y.

## THE COVER

So that we could have a color photo of the new Ruger single shot rifle for this edition, Bill Ruger sent a man to New York with an early production model. There, Frank Eck set up and shot many photos of the rifle—as the courier waited. Pressed for time, he managed to do an admirable job. Frank also supplied the photo of the rifle and its cartridges shown on page 22.

**NOVEMBER, 1966**

Vol. XII, No. 11-143

George E. von Rosen  
Publisher

Arthur S. Arkush  
Ass't to the Publisher

# Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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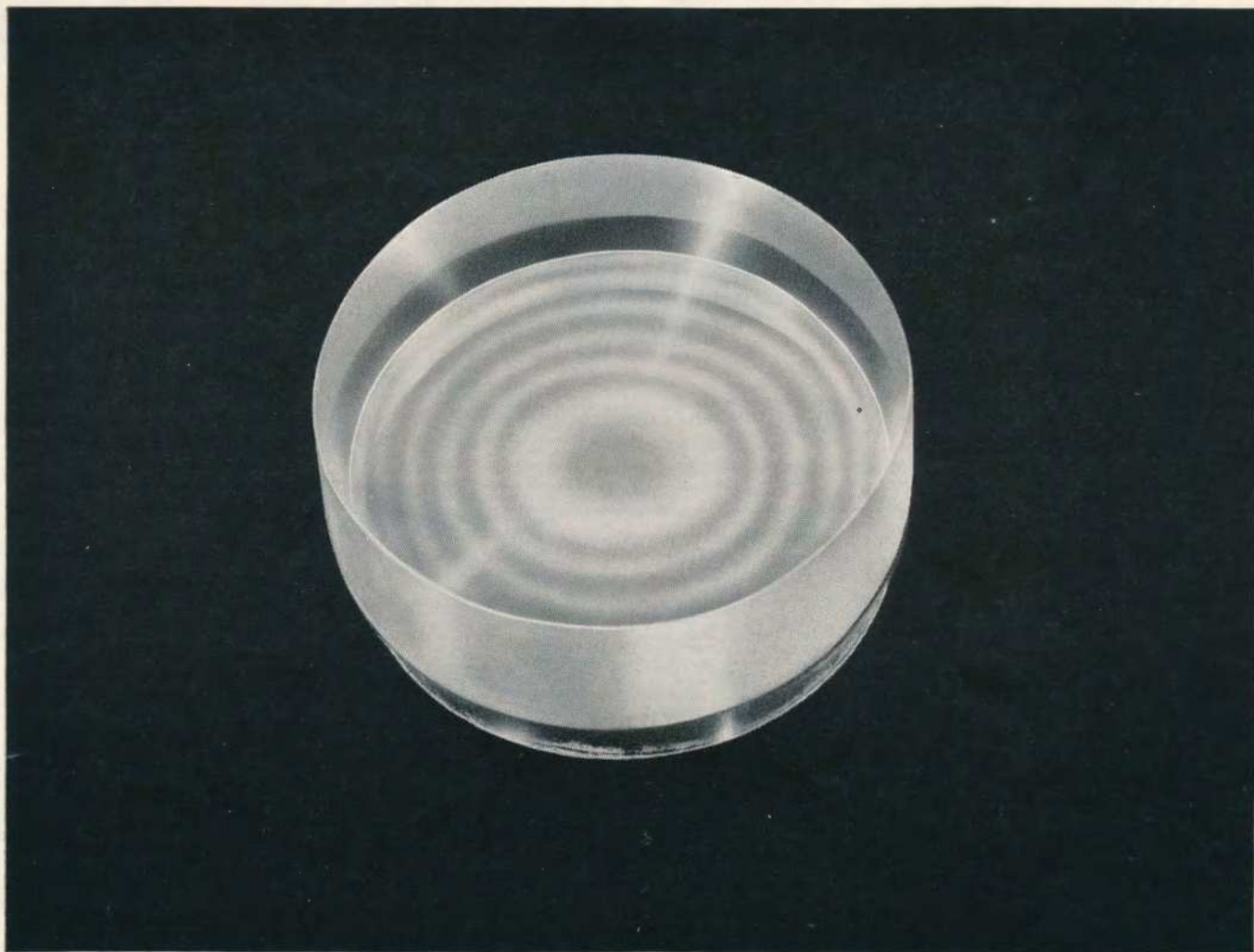
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REPRESENTATIVE: EAST COAST, Eugene L. Pollock, 210 E. 53rd St., New York 22, N. Y., PI 3-1780.  
NATIONAL ADV. OFFICES, 8150 N. Central Park Ave., Skokie, Ill., 60076, ORchard 5-6010.

GUNS Magazine is published monthly by Publishers' Development Corp., 8150 N. Central Park Avenue, Skokie, Illinois, 60076. Second class postage paid at Skokie, Illinois, and at additional mailing offices. SUBSCRIPTIONS: One year (12 issues), \$7.50. Single monthly copies, 75¢. CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Four weeks' notice required on all changes. Send old address as well as new. CONTRIBUTORS submitting manuscripts, photographs or drawings do so at their own risk. Material cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. PAYMENT will be made at rates current at time of publication and will cover reproduction in any or all GUNS Magazine editions. ADVERTISING RATES furnished on request. Copyright 1966, Publishers' Development Corporation. All rights reserved. Title to this publication passes to subscriber only on delivery to his address.



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**CROSSFIRE**

### **British Gun Laws**

Congratulations to Mr. Louis C. Kleber for his well written and intelligent article in the August issue, "British Gun Laws Don't Stop Crime!" Such articles are always welcome in the intensifying contest among Americans to keep and bear their arms. I sincerely hope that all members of Congress will read discussions like this during their search for more effective laws against those persons who use firearms in crime.

Mr. Kleber's essay points out extremely well the fact that a huge conglomeration of negative firearms legislation is very difficult to enforce, to say the least, and actually has little or no effect in curbing crimes in which firearms are used.

The British have already tried anti-gun laws, and those laws have failed graphically. Our own anti-gun laws are failures. Let us heed the British lesson and our own. If we must have "anti" laws, then let us have anti-criminal laws. Let us discriminate against and negate the criminal, not the gun. Let the person who commits a crime with a firearm be sentenced to fifteen years in prison, with no opportunity for parole except after 10 years confinement. Let the anti-criminal law become progressively stiffer as the criminal use to which the gun is put becomes more detrimental to society.

We need a strict, easily enforced anti-criminal gun law right now, and our legislators are in a position to enact such a law right now. If the law exists, then our enforcement agencies are logically charged with imposing the sentence on the criminal.

I am sure that if a criminal were aware of the fact that he would go to prison for a minimum of 10 years for possessing a gun while committing a crime, he would be deterred from using a gun.

Philip E. Bender  
New York, N. Y.

### **Buckshot Shock**

Concerning Bert Popowski's "Buckshot Is Dangerous," in the August, 1966, *GUNS*, let me first say that in general I agree with most of this article, as much of it coincides to a remarkable degree with my "Let's Out-law Buckshot," in the June, 1965, *GUNS*.

However, I for one certainly don't buy Popowski's theory that "since the shock effect is as the square of the number of hits," only two buckshot pellets developing 140 foot/pounds of energy each are required to give the effect of 500 foot/pounds of energy—a figure that I advanced in my article as representing the minimum acceptable

figure for clean kills on deer. For one thing, although Popowski presents it as proven fact, the "shock effect" theory is just that—a theory. In the second place, the "shock effect" theory has absolutely nothing to do with foot/pounds of energy, and therefore it cannot possibly be substituted for foot/pounds of energy, as Popowski attempts to do in his article.

B. R. Hughes  
Texarkana, Texas

### **Return of the .45-70**

I have just finished reading your article in the September issue of *GUNS* on the .45-70 rifle and carbine by Charles M. DeWitt. To him go my compliments for a very informative and concise article on a very fine old firearm, a gun that, despite talk to the contrary, won the West. Many think that because the gun was a single shot, it was an obsolete firearm as compared to the Winchester, but Army tactics then were to fight the Indian at long range, which the Springfield had. For close-in fighting, the trooper had his Colt revolver. A person practiced enough with the .45-70 Springfield can fire it, loading from a belt, 13 to 20 rounds per minute. I have personally fired it up to 21 rounds per minute.

Also in his article Mr. DeWitt says the Springfield did not see much action as the Military standard arm during the Indian wars. It was first issued in 1873 and retired in 1893. The truth is that it saw service in every battle, skirmish, piece of routine duty, or whatever the Army did in that period. Not only was it with Custer, but with Cook on the Rosebud, at Slim Buttes, at Big Hole, etc. It fought the Sioux, the Apache, and the Comanche. Its last action against hostile Indians was at Wounded Knee in 1890.

Again my thanks to Mr. DeWitt for a tribute to a history maker.

Nick DeMeo  
Bronx, N. Y.

### **Likes Magnum Report**

"The Littlest Magnum" article in your August issue was great! It teaches us laymen how to handle and test our .22 Magnum rifles. My compliments to *GUNS* and to Mr. Harry O. Dean for this excellent article.

Jim Redmond, Secretary  
New England Varmint Club  
Charloment, Ma.

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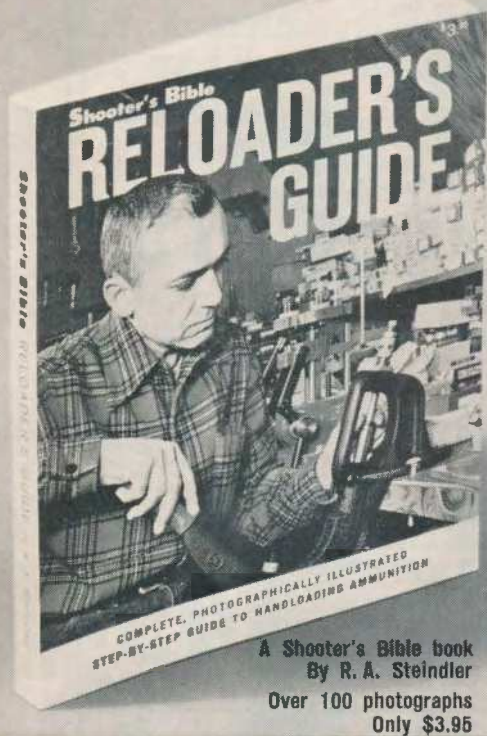
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By R. A. STEINDLER

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**Sure-Mark Products**

Wilkins and Schultz, Inc., Box 51G, Barrington, Ill., offers some fine products for the handloader, and one of their products should prove of real interest to every rifle shooter. The Sure-Mark Group Gauge, when placed over the target, allows the shooter to see at a glance how big the group is and how much windage and elevation adjustment is required to place the next group right smack into the bull. Complete instructions on how to use it come with each gauge, and this handy little item sells for only 50 cents postpaid.

The handloader will also appreciate the Sure-Mark Charge Gauge and the Sure-Mark Case Neck Lubricator. Visual inspection of charged cases to see that all of them contain the same amount of powder is the fast, but not always the certain, way to make sure that each case contains the correct amount of powder. The easily adjustable Charge Gauge—it comes with two measuring rods for calibers from .22 to .50—does the job swiftly and neatly and it practically guarantees that overcharges or short charges will not be overlooked. Easy to use and adjust, I consider this gauge as one of those handy items that does away with the various homemade devices—such as cutoff pencils.

The Case Neck Lubricator will gladden the hearts of those handloaders who prefer to use a dry lube for their cases. Merely sticking the neck of the case into the can of dry lube leads to waste and scattering of lube all over the bench. The Case Neck

Lubricator, offered with either graphite, mica or a molybdenum compound, is simple to use and does away with this annoyance. Simply slip the case neck over the burnisher of the correct size that is fastened to the post in the small metal container, and presto, you have just the right amount of dry lube on and in the case mouth and neck. The Charge Gauge retails for \$2.38, the Case Neck Lubricator for one buck (the molybdenum one costs two bits more), and all items are postpaid.

**Eley .22 CB Caps**

The British firm of Eley Kynoch, through their U.S. representative S.E. Laszlo, Dept. G, 200 Tillary Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201, now offers the vastly improved Eley .22 CB Caps. Make no mistake about it, the older CB caps were good, darned good indeed, but the new ones are even better. The cartridge is newly designed and the first thing that becomes apparent is the fact that the case has been lengthened. Thus, the new CB Caps function smoothly and easily through any gun, handgun or rifle, that will handle the .22 Short cartridge. I was very pleasantly surprised by the very low noise level of the new CB cartridge and compared it with some of the older Eley caps that I had on hand. The noise level has been reduced, at a rough guess, by about 50 per cent. The bullet, a clean looking 29 gr. affair, leaves the muzzle at around 720 fps, and the cartridge should be powerful enough to down small game and rodents. The price is 75 cents per box of 50 rounds, and accuracy on my 25 foot indoor range was excellent, both in handguns and in rifles.

**Rimmed .222 Cases**

No, that's no mistake—you can, with some trouble on your part, now get rimmed .222 Remington cases. Dave Andrews, ballistician of Speer, Inc., told me about these cases, then shipped me a couple of them. For those who want to make up rimmed .222's or use the case as basis for a wildcat in a single shot action, this should be welcome news. Suitable for the Boxer primers, the cases are made by Super Cartridge Co., Pty., Ltd., Maribyrnong, Victoria, Australia. The box containing the unprimed cases is marked

"222R" and the headstamp reads: "Super 222." As far as I was able to determine, no dealer handles these cases here in the States, and I have been unable to find out as yet what the cost of a box of .222R cases might be.

### Revolver Loading Clip

Although the Olson system of filling a revolver cylinder with cartridges is not usable for combat shooting under the current regulations followed by most police departments, I believe that these rubber rings will find ready acceptance in police circles and also with handgun hunters. The Olson Revolver Loading Clip is a simple synthetic rubber device that consists of six linked rubber loops. The cartridges are inserted into the rubber loops and are pushed all the way through until the case head butts up against the rubber loop. Transferring the cartridges to the cylinder of the gun is accomplished by putting the forward end of the cartridge into the chamber and twisting the rubber loop off the head of the case that is being inserted. With less than a minute's practice you can master the trick of getting the rounds into the cylinder.

The Olson system has the decided advantage of keeping the ammo in an orderly fashion in the ammo pouch, and it sure beats carrying loose ammo in your pants pocket. Just grab a string of cartridges and you are ready to load. Two of these clips cost only one dollar and their total weight is only 72 grains.

Don Hume, the famed holster maker, demonstrated these clips and a number of his new holsters to the Skokie Police Department, and several of the boys in that department went for the clip in a big hurry. You can order the clip directly from Don, Box 351G, Miami, Okla., 74354.

### Winchester's Model 275

Accuracy and functioning of the test gun were very good. The tubular magazine fed over 200 rounds of ammo without failure and there were no malfunctions. Personally, I would like to see a somewhat bigger and easier to reach slide release. The Model 275 slide release, located on the left side of the action, and somewhat to the rear of the trigger guard, appears to be a little on the small side and a bigger release would be considered as extra safety feature by many shooters. My five shot groups on the 50 yard range averaged slightly under 2"—excellent accuracy for a non-match rifle.



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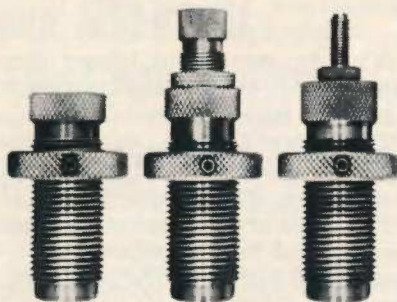


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## HANDLOADING BENCH

By DAVE WOLFE

Editor and Publisher of  
The HANDLOADER Magazine



**D**URING THE PAST SIX MONTHS, after taking over this column from the late Kent Bellah, more reader inquiry mail has been about the .357 Magnum than any other pistol cartridge. Most letters ask for specific loads for special-purpose shooting, however, more than a few readers wanted full details on pistol loading.

For the last couple of years this writer has done very little reloading for any handgun cartridge—chief interest has centered around bench-rest rifle calibers. As a matter of fact, my S&W Model 27 was sold early in 1965 to help pay for a Remington 700-X bench-rest rifle.

In view of the current interest in the .357, I borrowed a new Model 27 from Fred Miller, Sales Manager at Smith & Wesson. This gun has a  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inch barrel with white outline rear sight and red ramp front. During June and July we put more than 800 rounds through the gun, testing various loads. Results of these tests appear in the tables.

Since so many readers wanted full information on loading for handgun cartridges, perhaps it's wise to review this procedure. Bear in mind that the system outlined here is strictly mine—you will probably come up with shortcuts and techniques of your own after you become acquainted with the basics. The secret of good handloaded ammo, and this applies to rifle cartridges as well as handgun, is uniformity. Any variance of procedure in any batch of ammo is very apt to affect results.

Always inspect your cases prior to cleaning. I separate the brass by brand, inspecting each case at the mouth prior to placing it in blocks of fifty. The case mouth will be first to go bad in most handgun cartridges, simply because this area is worked the most in sizing, belling, and crimping. Best results are usually obtained when all brass in a lot is the same age—in other words, if it has undergone the same number of firings.

The cleaning operation is quite simple. I inspect the inside of the brass for dirt or other debris. Each case is then wiped with a lightly oiled rag. This lubricates the case, and gets rid of foreign grit and dirt. It doesn't take long to ruin a sizing die if particles of sand are left on the brass. For a lubricant on the rag, any of the advertised case lubes are satisfactory, or you might try plain, old lanolin, or common kitchen shortening such as Spry or Crisco. But don't overdo it; a thin film of lube is all that is required on the outside of the brass.

My next procedure is the trimming of

each case for a uniform length. This can be done in either a trim die, such as is made by RCBS, or in one of the many case trimmers on the market. After each case is uniform in length, each is deburred with a case chamfering tool. Here again, go lightly—you do not want the end of the shell sharpened.

Remember that most cartridges for semi-automatic pistols are head-spaced on the length of the case. In other words, the overall length is vitally important, and these cases should be trimmed to the specified length. Of course, cartridges for automatics, such as the .45 ACP, are not crimped in the bullet seating operation.

Next in the process in decapping or depriming, if you are using two-die sets. Most pistol dies nowadays are in three-die sets, the first die of which simply resizes the case. The second die deprimers and bells the case mouth; the third die, of course, seats the bullet and crimps the mouth. In some instances a fourth die will be encountered—this is simply a separate die to crimp the bullet into the case. Frankly, I do not think this extra die is necessary but "you pays your money and you takes your choice."

After the brass is deprimed, I take a small dental tool and clean primer pockets. Some reloading writers will tell you this step is not necessary, but I disagree. If primers are to be seated uniformly to the bottom of the primer pocket, these small "clinkers" should be removed.

Next comes the seating of new primers. The primer arm on your reloading tool can be used, but I much prefer to seat primers with the Lachmiller Primer Seating Tool. Not only is the operation faster, but I feel I am able to seat each primer more uniformly in a large batch of cases. Beginners often make the mistake of failing to seat primers to the bottom of the primer pocket; in fact, I've seen many cartridges loaded by beginners that had the primer sticking out of the case head. This condition can cause cylinders on revolvers to lock up. Also, primers not seated fully can cause very poor ignition of the powder.

If you are loading for semi-auto pistols, primers that are sticking out of the back of the case can cause a premature firing as the slide is closing on a round. I recall years ago reading one of Kent Bellah's columns where he advised beginners to check newly primed cases on a sheet of glass, or any flat, hard surface. If the case wobbles when placed on its head, the primer is not seated below the head face.

A word of caution: do not crush primers with too much pressure. If the primer pellet (the detonating compound) is damaged, you may experience hangfires, misfires, or just plain poor ignition. Although it has never happened to me, primers can be detonated during the primer seating operation. With experience you quickly learn by "feel" just the correct amount of pressure to put on the handle for uniform primer seating.

Next step is the charging of cases with powder. For any volume of loading, you will want to use a powder measure. The only time I weigh each charge is for load testing of small batches. My measure happens to be a Redding, which I have found to throw consistent charges of both pistol and rifle powder. You will probably find in some makes of measures that it's wise to have a drum for each type of powder—pistol and rifle.

Consistent operation of a powder measure again takes experience. For instance, I always move the handle on my Redding up about a half inch, bring it back rather sharply to the stop position to settle the powder in the drum, then operate the handle 180 degrees to charge the case. If this is done the same way each time, I get consistent charges to 1/10 grain variation—not enough to worry about.

### .357 MAGNUM LOADS

146-Grain Speer H.P.

Charge (grains)	Powder	Feet Per Second
4.8	Hi Skor	1102
14.5	4227	1265
8.0	AL-5	1122
9.0	AL-5	1228
10.5	H-110	1282
9.0	2400	1022
9.5	2400	1105
10.0	2400	1131
10.5	2400	1183
8.0	Herco	1280
9.0	Herco	1325
3.5	Bullseye	994
8.0	AL-7	1145

### .357 MAGNUM LOADS

160-Grain Speer S.P.

Charge (grains)	Powder	Feet Per Second
8.0	AL-5	1260
8.0	AL-7	1086
14.0	4227	1220
10.0	2400	1108
10.5	2400	1155
5.0	Unique	977
5.5	Unique	1023
3.5	Bullseye	960
8.0	Herco	1241

Some fellows like to charge a case and load the bullet in one operation. Frankly, I don't care for this method. But it's simply a matter of personal prejudice. I always charge fifty cases at a time, then inspect each case under a light to be sure that I have not missed any or thrown any double charges. The fine-grain, fast-burning pistol powder can be very dangerous and in most cases a double charge will build pressures higher than a normal handgun can take. You can then see why it's so important that each case be inspected.

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Those of you who subscribe to or buy The HANDLOADER Magazine at the local gun shop will recall an article by Dean Grennell in the July-August 1966 issue on the .357 Magnum. This issue came out in early June, just at the time I was beginning my tests with the S&W Model 27. Two Speer bullets were used in all my load testing, the 146-grain hollow point and the 160-grain soft point. Both are excellent bullets for the .357 Magnum, with a long-crimped-on jacket.

Since I was primarily interested in accuracy, I did not load any maximum charges, and consequently did not crimp bullets for any of the various loads. You will find that crimping is necessary when maximum or near maximum charges are used.

Most loading manuals, and brochures put out by the powder companies, list max and near-max loads for the .357. These are fine for hunting or self defense, but for all-round plinking and target shooting, I prefer lighter loads.

For all of the loads listed in the tables, I used the CCI No. 500 small pistol primer. All charges were weighed, and cartridges were loaded in 25 round batches. Five rounds were first chronographed on the Avtron; the remaining twenty were fired at 25 feet from a rest for accuracy. Bullets were seated to the end of the half-jacket on both weights. As mentioned previously, these were not crimped but held friction tight. We did not experience any movement of the bullets in the cylinder with any of the loads tested. It's also interesting to note that only 100 cases were used in all of these different loadings and we did not lose a single one to brass failure. This was due, of course, to the light loads and the fact that we were not crimping the bullets.

Our chronograph (an Avtron T-333) was set with the first screen five feet from the muzzle, and the screen spacing at ten feet.

Keep in mind that all loads listed here are merely "starters." You will want to do some experimenting on your own to find combinations that are comfortable to shoot and accurate in your particular gun. Of all the loads listed, we found that using the 146-grain hollow-point bullet, best accuracy was with 8 grains of AL-5 and 10.5 grains of 2400 powder. Running a very close second was the load of 14.5 grains of 4227.

For the 160-grain soft-point bullet, best accuracy was obtained with 10.5 grains of 2400. The loading of 14.0 grains of 4227, and 5.5 grains of Unique were also among the top accuracy loads.

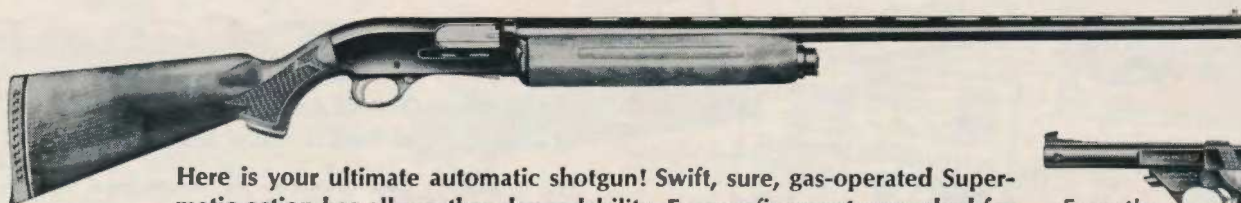
Frankly, I don't put too much stock in the accuracy results from these tests. There are just too many variables, including the times of day, the different days involved, the small number of shots fired with each powder loading (twenty), etc. Best thing that can be said for the entire experiment was that it was "loads of fun."





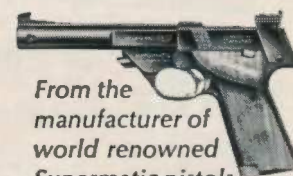
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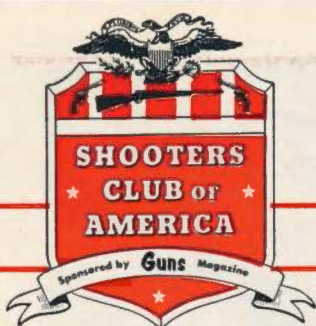
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A short time ago, we received a review copy of a book titled "The Right To Bear Arms." As it is an obvious commercial attempt to capitalize on your personal interest in the struggle over restrictive, anti-gun legislation, our original intent was to ignore this publication completely.

But after long consideration, we have decided it is a book every sportsman should be aware of. It is not worth buying, and in actual fact, purchase of this publication would be a donation to those attempting to eliminate your right to own firearms.

"The Right To Bear Arms" has already achieved a certain degree of notoriety, and is bound to receive a great deal of attention in the daily press, as well as in many monthly publications. Rather than review the actual content, which in our opinion is rather negligible, we will explain the method by which the author expects to reap profits from BOTH anti-gun fanatics and legitimate sportsmen.

To understand the complete process, one must go back to the April 1965 issue of GUNS Magazine, when we reported in this space that a Mr. Carl Bakal had authored an extremely provocative anti-gun article for Harper's Magazine.

We found that Mr. Bakal was, in addition to the single attacking magazine article, preparing an anti-gun book. He needed more information than was readily available, and thus he was consulting various gun magazine editors and publishers, firearms manufacturers, and association leaders.

Most of the firearms figures he contacted, like the staff of GUNS Magazine and the S.C.A., were willing to provide facts, figures, and the shooting sportsman's side of the debate. It was felt our duty lay in presenting information which would enable him to write a fair book, even knowing in advance that Mr. Bakal might not be capable of writing objectively on this subject.

As a result of our column, as a result of various industry bulletins about Bakal's plans, and as a result of his anti-gun article in Harper's Magazine, his projected anti-gun book (oddly titled

"The Right To Bear Arms"), received a considerable amount of pre-publication publicity.

The best part of this publicity, from Mr. Bakal's point of view, was that it guaranteed sales from two widely divergent groups: (1) Anti-gun people who would be delighted to read things they already believe: (2) Pro-gun sportsmen who would be angry enough to buy it just to see what he actually said.

The book is now available, and is receiving serious reviews in newspapers and magazines throughout the nation. Some of the reviews we have read have been fair and honest, others have been slanted and distorted. But panic-peddlers being what they are, this book will ultimately be brought to the attention of millions of sportsmen, and the first instinct of many will be to rush out and buy a copy.

This is the point at which we want to get our word in, and that word is DON'T. Don't contribute your cash to the coffers of those who would eliminate your right to own and enjoy firearms by buying a poorly written, fact-distorting treatise which in our opinion, is a compilation of unfair propaganda, with a misleading title rather than a worthwhile book. Don't help make it appear that the general public is hungry for firearms legislation.

To quote a release recently received in this office, which provides all the necessary information about Mr. Bakal's book -- "The Right To Bear Arms," by Carl Bakal, is a 400 page book, published by McGraw-Hill Book Company in July. It is anti-gun, anti-hunting and anti-shooter. One reviewer reported that the book is an obvious attempt to anger the sportsman and try to stampede him into buying the book. Another review stated that it was not worth the price of \$6.95.

With this, we concur. As a shooting sportsman, your money would be better invested in the pro-gun struggle than in Mr. Bakal's book. If you have not already done so, join the S.C.A. today. Your membership is a valuable investment in the future of the shooting sports, and in your personal right to own and enjoy firearms!

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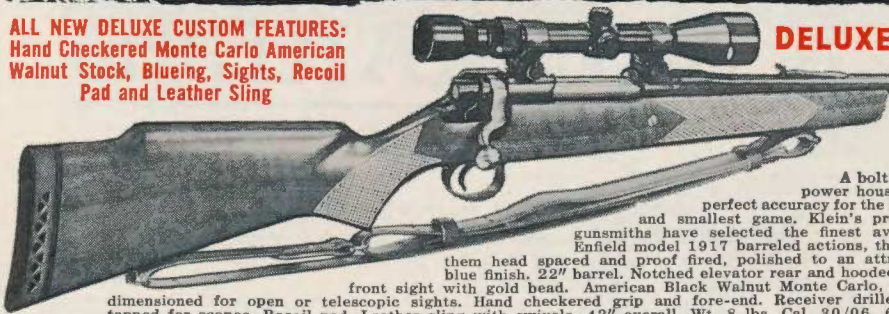




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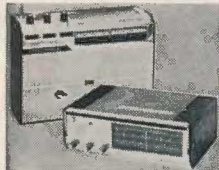
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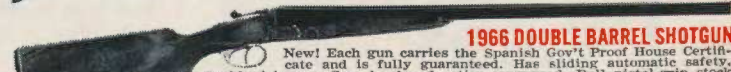
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# KNOW YOUR LAWMAKERS

## ARIZONA SENATE MEMORIAL NO. 1

The following is representative of the many memorials passed by the Houses of various states urging the United States Congress to defeat the Dodd anti-gun bill, S. 1592.—Editor.

A memorial urging the Congress of the United States to oppose the Dodd bill or any other Federal legislation relating to regulation and registration of mail order firearms sales.

To the Congress of the United States:

Your memorialist respectfully represents:

Whereas, since the unfortunate and untimely death of President John F. Kennedy, considerable impetus has occurred for the passage of the Dodd Bill relating to regulation and registration of mail order firearms sales; and

Whereas, the Dodd Bill (S. 1592), if enacted, will prohibit citizens from purchasing a firearm by mail, and give the United States Treasury Department such broad regulatory powers it could subject such citizens to police investigation and harassment and lead to registration of said firearms; and

Whereas, such requirements will cause an inconvenience, and an undue burden on, law abiding people of this Country, particularly in rural areas, and such legislation will open the door for the Treasury Department to regulate who may buy firearms; and

Whereas, the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States and Article 2, Section 26 of the Constitution of the State of Arizona guarantee to its citizens the right to keep and bear arms, and the Dodd Bill, if enacted, will be in direct violation of such guaranteed rights; and

Whereas, responsible organizations such as the National Rifle Association, National Wildlife Federation and others have no objection to workable laws that will prevent the misuse of firearms by increasing penalties for crimes committed with firearms; and

Whereas, the Dodd Bill, if enacted, will seriously hamper small industries that build fine custom rifles for mail order trade throughout the Nation; and

Whereas, any restrictive legislation should be directed to merely requiring that shipments of firearms in interstate commerce be made in compliance with the laws of the State of destination; and

Whereas, since practically all States have laws regulating sale of firearms to juveniles, convicted felons, and incompetents and against carrying concealed weapons, and since there are already Federal laws which make it a crime for a convicted felon to transport firearms across State lines, no Federal law for regulation and registration of mail order sales of firearms is necessary. Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States take positive action leading to the defeat of the Dodd Bill (S. 1592).

2. That the Congress of the United States carefully examine and oppose any other Federal legislation relating to registration and regulation of firearms which restricts the rights of law abiding citizens and usurps the police power of the States to control firearms, and that it urge the State Department to exercise more control under the Munitions Control Act of imports of cheap foreign pistols and military surplus.

3. The Secretary of State is directed to transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, and to each member of the Arizona Congressional delegation.

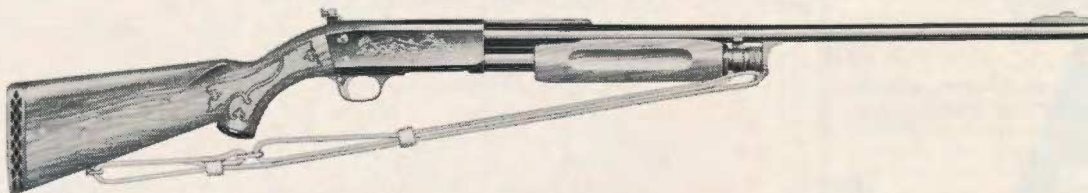
NOTE.—A similar memorial, House Memorial No. 3 was passed by the Arizona House on February 4, 1966.

A typographical error occurred in the statement of Congressman Billie S. Farnum of Michigan in the March, 1966, issue of GUNS. Mr. Farnum is a gun hobbyist, rather than a gun lobbyist.—Ed.

Readers Note: All Congressmen may be addressed at "House Office Building," and all Senators at "Senate Office Building," both at "Washington 25, D.C." Address all Governors at: State Capital, name of capital city, name of State.



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## OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON

CARL WOLFF



### THE CRY FOR GUN LAWS

On August 4th, the nation's capitol awoke to read and hear of two pathetic tragedies. The headlines of its newspapers told of an ex-marine turned sniper at the University of Texas. The other story, of only local interest, reported on three Great Danes mutilating two children, leaving one dead.

After the "Texas Tower" story, the call came for more Federal gun controls. President Johnson personally spurred the drive. "What happened is not without a lesson," the Chief Executive said. "We must press urgently for the (gun) legislation."

In the Senate, old voices again cried anew. Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D. Conn.) called for immediate action by the Senate Judiciary Committee where gun bills awaited action.

Senator Edward Kennedy (D., Mass.) attacked opposition to the legislation calling for "the lobby of the American people" to push more Federal controls. A new voice, Sen. George A. Smathers (D., Fla.) concurred with young Kennedy's remarks.

In the House side of Congress came the big surprise. Speaker John W. McCormick (D., Mass.) and the Minority Leader, Gerald F. Ford, (R. Mich.), urged passage of the gun bill. But, Rep. Wilbur D. Mills, (D., Ark.), Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee where the House gun bills waited, would not commit himself or his committee. He could not be stampeded.

Rep. Mills pointed out that the Senate had started the legislation forward and that, as is customary, it was up to the other body to move the bill. Only then would it be prudent for the House side to act.

Other lawmakers joining the call for control included House Majority Whip, Hale Boggs (D., La.); Sen. Ralph Yarborough, (D., Tex.); Reps. Sam Gibbons and Charles Bennet (both D., Fla.); Sen. Edward Long (D., Mo.) and Rep. Don Edwards (D., Calif.).

The sole voice in immediate opposition was Sen. Roman Hruska, (R., Neb.). It was "deplorable to trade on the emotion generated by the sniper incident," suggested the senator. Why saddle sportsmen and shooters with unjustified laws which will not prevent crime, was the Nebraska Senator's view.

The origin of Whitman's guns show clearly that no amount of legislation could have prevented the weapons from being obtained. The guns and their sources were:

1. Bolt action, 6mm, sporting rifle with scope; was



purchased locally from Chuck's Gun Shop.

2. Twelve gauge automatic shot gun, barrel and stock both sawed off; purchased locally from Sears.

3. Slide action .35 caliber rifle; belonged to his father in Lake Worth, Florida.

4. U. S. Carbine .30 caliber, M-1 with web sling; purchased at Charles P. Davis Hardware Store in Austin, Texas.

5. A .357 Magnum 4" barrel revolver, chrome plated; purchased while Whitman was in the U.S.M.C. and stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

6. Luger 9MM; purchased at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

7. Automatic pistol 6.35MM caliber, Galesi-Brescia; belonged to his father.

This detailed listing of the Whitman's firearms proves that there is now available means by which to trace the purchase of firearms without registration.

The dog tragedy is a pointed argument on behalf of access to firearms by law abiding citizens. After the three Great Danes left the children, some three hundred local citizens turned out, with their guns, to surround the wooded area which hid the animals. The people maintained an all-night vigil, protecting the community which lies just north of Washington. The perimeter held, and the following day the dogs were captured and sent to a lab for rabies tests before being destroyed. Without this ring of armed citizens, the child surviving the attack would have likely had to undergo painful rabies treatments.

#### DODD GIVES IN—COMPROMISE BILL MOVES

The Senate Judiciary Committee met in executive session on August 31, for a second attempt to vote on gun legislation. Before the Committee was a new compromise bill introduced only five days before by committee member, Senator Roman L. Hruska (D., Neb.).

The action on the pending gun legislation was provoked mainly because of the "Texas Tower Tragedy." Another factor was that anti-gun members were accusing the committee chairman, Senator James O. Eastland, (D., Miss.) of dragging his feet, thus denying the committee the right to work its will.

When the time came to vote on the pending bills, it became obvious to Senator Thomas Dodd (D., Conn.) that his bill, S. 1592, would not move through to the senate floor for vote without long delays and maximum concentrated effort by the "White House lobby."

Senator Dodd told this reporter that his plan was to allow the Hruska compromise to move to the floor of the Senate, then to substitute his bill. He stated that he had enough votes in the whole Senate to make the switch. If true, it would speed up the legislative cycle any gun legislation must make. Undoubtedly Senator Dodd knew Congress had to adjourn shortly.

I believe that the Senator has over-estimated his strength, or he is just saving face. It is also my belief that no gun bill can become law unless it is accepted by those who speak for the shooters. Next Congress, this will not be true. Time will allow an amended version of even such a bill as S. 1592 to move through Congress and become law.

This session, time is too short.



# At last!

a match  
grade  
rifle at a  
reasonable  
price



Here is an intermediate target rifle by Anschutz, builders of the Match 54 rifle that was used by all the winners in the smallbore shooting events at the Tokyo Olympics.

The 64 Savage/Anschutz has special features that add up to X-ring accuracy: a satin smooth single-shot action; trigger adjustable for pull, creep and backlash; a precision rifled and hand-lapped medium heavy barrel. Target stock has raised cheek-piece, deeply fluted comb, checkered contour pistol grip. Beavertail fore-end has long rail with instantly adjustable sliding swivel; adjustable rubber butt plate.

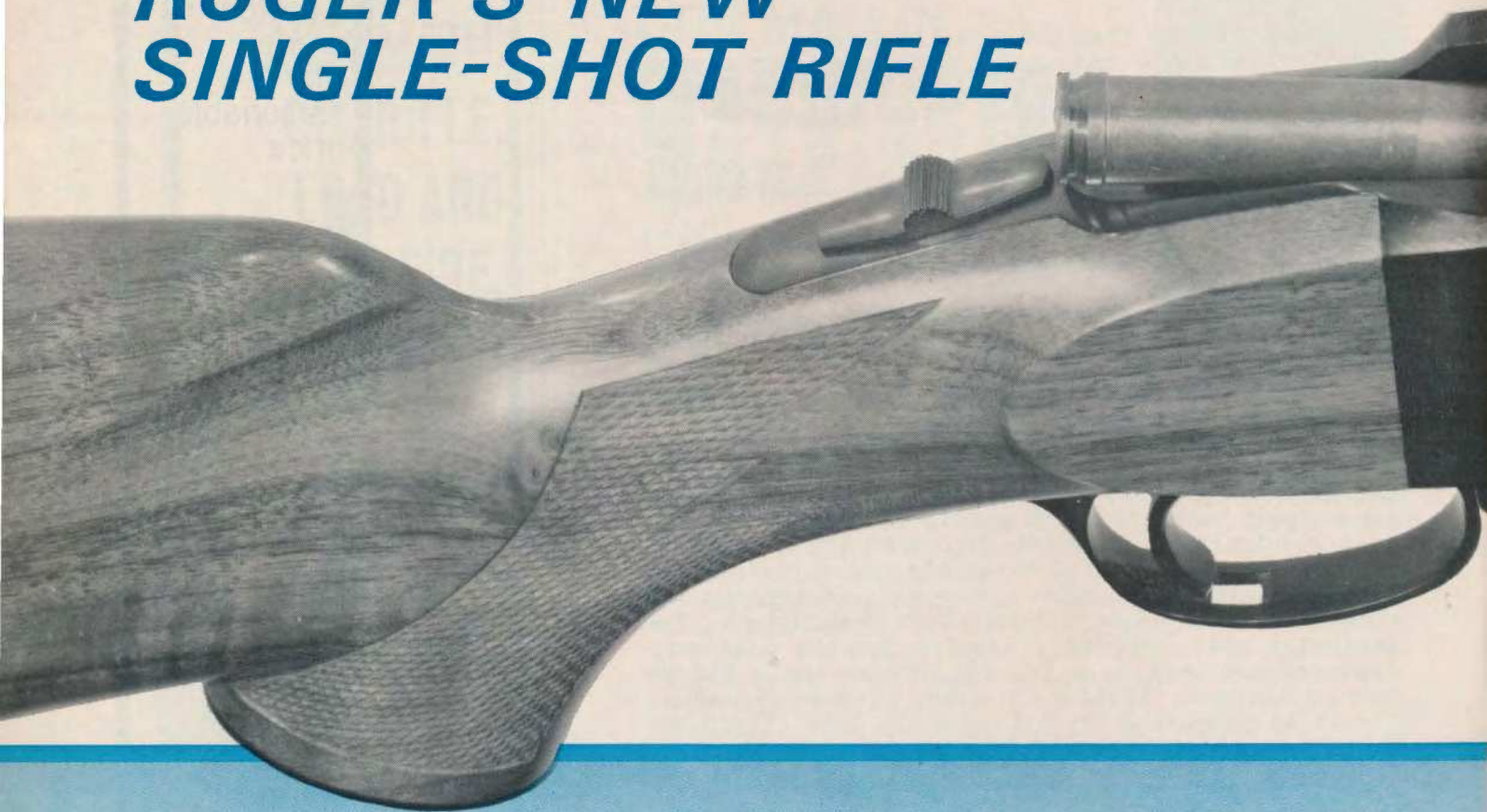
Model 64 costs only **\$81.50**; 64-S complete with Redfield Olympic sights as shown, only **\$107**. Prices subject to change. For free catalog write: Savage Arms, Westfield 114, Mass. 01085. (A division of Emhart Corporation. Savage, Anschutz and the Indian head Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.)

**Savage** 

**ANSCHUTZ**

**INTRODUCING**

# **RUGER'S NEW SINGLE-SHOT RIFLE**



By R. F. CHATFIELD-TAYLOR

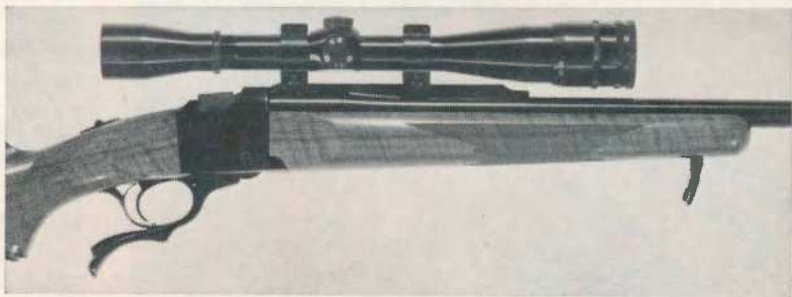
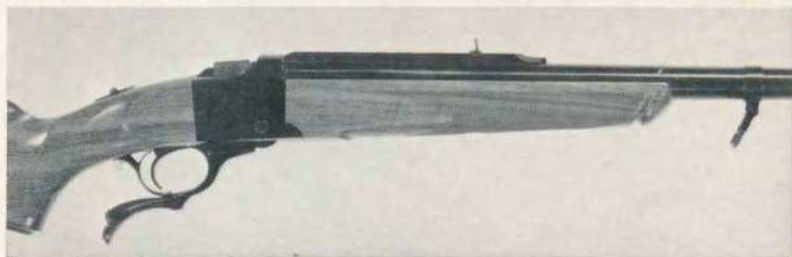
**R**IFLEMEN WILL SOON find it possible to avail themselves of a thoroughly modern, beautifully designed, and excellently made single shot rifle. The rifle will initially be offered in two basic configurations, a sporter version and a varmint version. This rifle, designed entirely by William B. Ruger will prove what shooters have been saying from the time that Sturm Ruger introduced their first gun: "They can do no wrong!"

By a curious concatenation of sometimes unrelated events I have been "in" on this development from its inception. It all started, actually, one day in New York. Spending my usual hour or so in the gun department of Abercrombie & Fitch on Madison Ave., I wound up eventually in the office of the manager of the gun department, Mr. Leo Martin. We discussed this and that like any two guncranks and I finally asked Leo if he knew of any firm in the world from which one could obtain a good single shot action suitable to high intensity loads. I was thinking of Heeren, mainly, when I asked. Leo asked just why I was interested in a single shot and I gave him my reasons which will follow later on in this article. He said that he was in agreement with everything I said and that he would have a search made throughout Europe to try to find a maker.

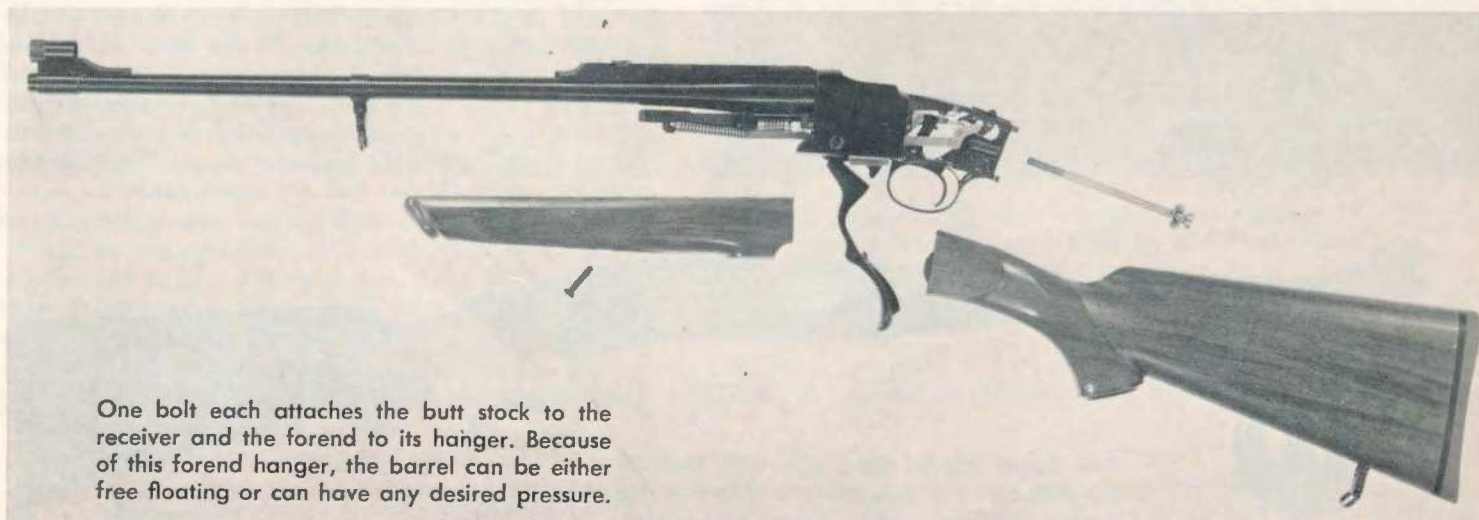
That very night I was Bill Ruger's house guest in Southport and over a pre-prandial libation or some-such I told him of my day and, particularly, about my talk with Leo Martin. He got a funny, far-away look in his eye and said, "You know, Bob, I just might be able to help you. You see, I've just about decided to build one myself."

"Actually, I've been thinking about it for quite some time. I've always been interested in the idea. Just couldn't make up my mind whether it would be well accepted. Now I am getting more and more convinced that there is a market, not only here in this country but also abroad. Maybe I'll sell actions to foreign gunmakers. They have no source any more."

As Bill was talking I was thinking of the many fine designs from Bill's drawing board which had already seen the light of day; and I was thinking, too, of the dozens and dozens of single shots Bill has in his collection each one of which has been gazed at and studied by the hour. I was thinking of Bill's genius as a firearms designer and manufacturer and I was also thinking that because of Bill's background and fundamental good taste in all matters, that his single shot would undoubtedly be a thing that would function properly and be aesthetically impeccable. Both predictions were quite accurate.



Two fore-end designs are available at buyer's option; a modern semi-beavertail style or one similar to the slim Henry pattern.



One bolt each attaches the butt stock to the receiver and the forend to its hanger. Because of this forend hanger, the barrel can be either free floating or can have any desired pressure.

"I think," Bill said, "that I know just about what kind of single shot I want to make but I'd be interested in just which type you'd pick if you could have anything you wanted."

"Let me think about it a day or two," I replied, and I'll write you."

When I did write Bill, a day or so later I suggested the following: It must

1. Be as accurate as any other type of rifle.
2. Have an action as strong or stronger than any other type.
3. Have powers of primary extraction comparable to that of any other action.
4. Have an absolutely positive safety, conveniently located.
5. Have a crisp, adjustable trigger pull.
6. Have lock time as fast or faster than other actions.
7. Have adequate provision for the mounting of scope sights.
8. Weigh about 8 lbs. in sporter version for calibers up to .30-06, complete with scope and sling, and somewhat more for magnums and varmint rifles.



9. Be offered in a wide variety of calibers, and virtually all calibers at an extra charge.
10. Have as short an action as possible.

Several years ago I was permitted to see a pilot model in 7 mm Remington Magnum. A group of us shot it at Bill's farm, and a happy bunch we were. No chance at that time for accuracy tests but we were able to see that the gun was a truly beautiful firearm. We were able to appreciate its action, safety, etc. and the fact that it extracted 70,000 psi proof loads as if they were .22 Shorts.

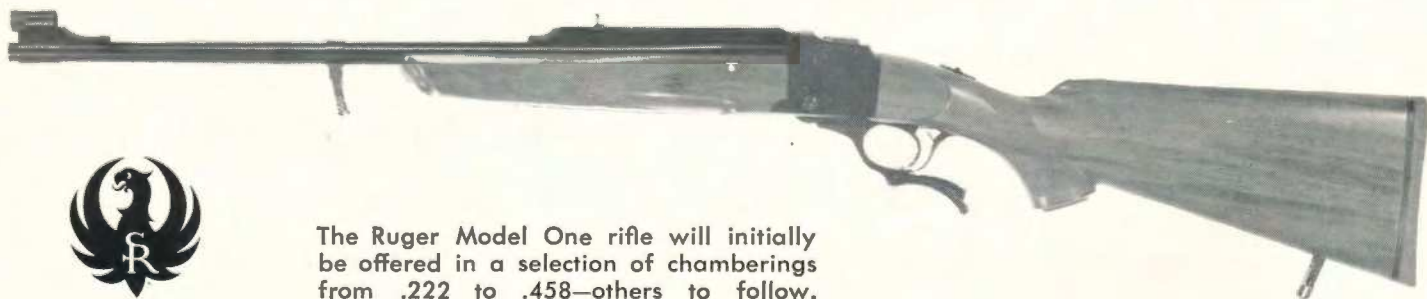
A year after that Bill and I went to Wyoming's Red Desert and I saw Bill kill a pronghorn antelope with his single shot, this time in .270 caliber, so darned far away you could hardly see it.

Others have said that Bill's single shot is a modernized version of some previously built single shot. Yes, it has certain features that were found on older models but I believe I am reasonably safe in saying that literally every design feature has been greatly improved upon. Here is the general idea:

The rifle is basically a falling block, hammerless single shot having a solid, uncut mass of metal completely surrounding the breech block, and having a positive shotgun type of safety on the tang. The action is operated by an under lever having the external configuration of the Farquharson as well as a similar arrangement for locking the lever in the up or action closed position. The hammer is pivoted on the same pin as the lever and strikes from the bottom up. The massive main spring is under the barrel, and along side of the main spring is an ejector spring which kicks the empty cartridge out of the chamber like the ejector on a high-grade double shotgun. However, this spring may be de-activated so that the handloader need not get down on his hands and knees to search for his brass. In this case the head of the cartridge case will be found resting on the top on the lowered breech block.

The butt stock is attached to the action by means of a large through-bolt which I believe I am safe in saying has been found to be by far the best way of attaching the rear half of a two piece stock to the action. The forearm is attached to an extension of the action so that the barrel will, in effect, be free-floating.

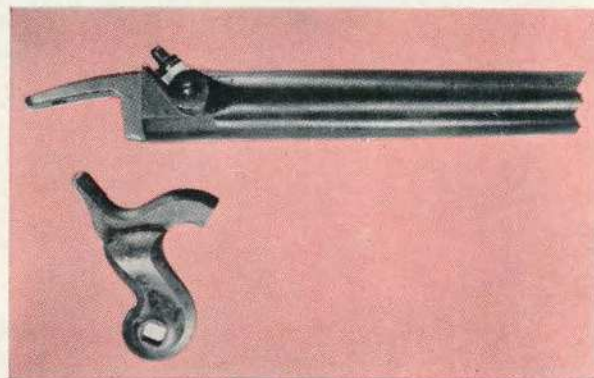
The forearm of the sporter model will be modeled after those of the famous Alexander Henry rifles of Scottish origin, and the front sling swivel on the sporter will be attached to a barrel band located some distance ahead of the front of the forearm. The varmint model will be equipped with a forearm similar to that found on custom bolt action sporters. It will have the conventional round tip and be of somewhat beavertail configuration. In this model the sling swivel will be attached to a screw in the forearm rather than to the barrel. (Continued on page 66)



The Ruger Model One rifle will initially be offered in a selection of chamberings from .222 to .458—others to follow.



Fitting of the muzzle-loading barrel and hammer to the Springfield was quite easily and quickly accomplished.



# INSTANT MUZZLE LOADER

By KINGSLEY P. KARNOPP

WE HAVE JUST had a lot of fun with an "Instant Muzzle-Loader," just one of the hundreds of muzzle-loading items sold by Dixie Gun Works, of Union City, Tenn. This is a very clever kit, manufactured by Numrich Arms, which enables the owner of a trap-door Springfield to convert it into a neat, practical muzzle-loader in a few minutes—without any alterations.

Essentially, it consists of a modern, carefully made .45 caliber muzzle-loading barrel plus an original Springfield muzzle-loading hammer.

To convert, it is only necessary to replace the original .45-70 barrel with the M/L barrel and change hammers. This takes a little longer than an "instant," but not much. The *first* time will take a little longer still, as sights—not furnished—have to be driven into their slots. The barrel is about two inches shorter than the .45-70 barrel, so the ramrod protrudes beyond it that far. However, we note that Numrich is now making these original length.

When we had everything organized, we hastened out to the 50 yard range. Taking a fast guess at the correct charge, we poured in 50 gr. of FF black (after first snapping a couple of musket caps on the nipple). A piece of patching cloth was pushed down into the muzzle, making a concave resting place for the ball. A bit of saliva went



The newly converted muzzle loader produced a five-shot group that measured four inches. Not a bad first try.

into the concavity for lubrication, and then the ball. The ball was then pushed down flush with the muzzle, and the patch trimmed with a sharp knife. Using the .45-70 cleaning rod as a ramrod, the ball was then seated firmly down on the powder. Taking, from bench rest, a 6 o'clock hold on the bull, we eased it off. There was a satisfactory crack, with very mild recoil. A fast look through the spotting scope showed a bullet hole at 6 o'clock about two inches above the point of aim. This showed that it was our lucky day, as the sights had only been "eye-balled" into place. We never had to touch them again! For a longer range it would have been necessary only to raise the elevator in the rear sight.

We went on and completed a five-shot group and found it to spread a little less than 4 inches. At first thought this might be considered a little too big, but experience has shown that such a "first-time" group can almost always be greatly improved by experimenting with changes in patching and powder charges. Even as is, though, there is quite sufficient accuracy to clobber a big buck at under 100 yards or perhaps even win a match at the local black powder shoot.

All in all, we think this kit is a fine buy at \$26.50. If you have an old Springfield, try one.





# NEW POLICE LOADS

**TO STOP A CRIMINAL—THIS IS THE POLICEMAN'S JOB, AND FOR THIS JOB HE MUST HAVE EFFECTIVE AMMUNITION**

By R. A. STEINDLER



Libertyville, Ill. police officers discuss test of Super Vel ammo. Many small departments are buying these loads.

**N**O ONE WILL ARGUE that in today's violent times, the police officer is faced with an ever-increasing need for better ammunition. Yet shooters in general, and handgunners in particular have long realized that the standard .38 Special Police load is a pipsqueak. Men who make firearms decisions in police departments stick—with a few enlightened exceptions—to the 158 grain .38 Special load the way a blonde clutches a mink coat. The fact that the load issued to most cops is virtually useless against a car, or even a tire, is acknowledged only in squadrooms, and then only in whispers.

The driver of a police car manages to bring his vehicle into such a position that his partner can use his .38 Special on the car of the fleeing suspect. Five shots at the left rear tire do not produce a single puncture, although all were hits. In another case, a car approaching a roadblock suddenly lurches away and takes off at high speed. Two shots from an officer's .38 Special at the windows crack the glass, but the

bullets ricochet into the side of the door frame, and from there fall ineffectively to the pavement.

Proponents of the idea that all cops should carry nothing smaller than a .357 Magnum will immediately and sagely point out that if the cops in these two instances had packed their favorite maggie, nothing like this would have happened. To those I can offer but one suggestion—try it, and you probably won't like what you'll see. After three solid days of shooting at such targets, with practically all handguns that a U.S. police officer is likely to use, those of us who were at these tests came to the profound conclusion that it ain't the gun but the ammunition that is at fault in such dismal failures as the two examples cited.

Most law enforcement agencies are steeped in the idea that the .38 Special is the best gun that a cop can carry, and since a lot of cops consider the .38 Special as a whopping big gun that punishes the shooter considerably, the suggestion of changing to a larger caliber will be about as welcome as a skunk at a Sunday School picnic. What's the answer? Better ammo!

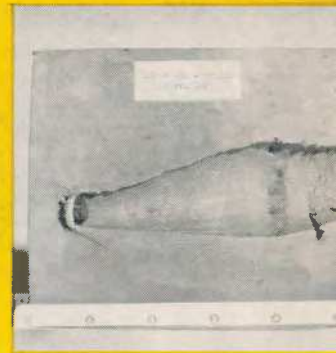
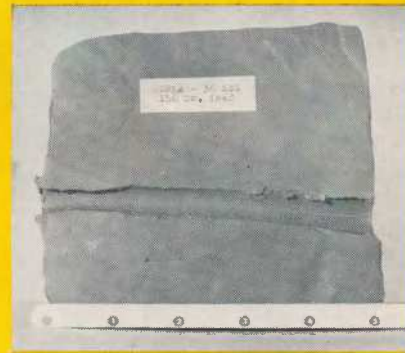
One company, under the guidance of a long-time handgunner, is producing just that—Super Vel Police ammo has passed all possible tests, and officers and law enforcement agencies are scrabbling for it as if it were pure gold bullion. Lee Jurras, with the help of Frank Hemsted, designed several types of bullets, seeking better expansion in lighter-than-average bullets. Lee finally came up with what appeared to be the solution to the problem. Frank made up the swaging dies, and when Lee handloaded a few of the new bullets and tested them, he was amazed at the results. In the small Indiana town of Shelbyville, it did not take long for word to get around that Jurras had a new bullet, and some of the gun-savvy cops promptly came around to look that new stuff over. Lee, with his partner Ernest Wallien, founded the Super Vel Cartridge Corporation to produce Super Vel ammo exclusively. Using new Norma brass, the company manufactures only the following police loads at present: .38 Special, a 110 gr. HP and SP, and .357 Magnum, also loaded with either the 110 gr. HP or SP bullet. Slated for production in the early part of 1967 are loads for the 9mm, .45 ACP, .44 Magnum, and possibly the .41 Magnum. The Jurras Bullet Corporation continues to manufacture .38 Special wad-cutter reloads, or as this ammo is known euphemistically, remanufactured ammo.

The standard 158 gr. lead bullet used in service guns attains a muzzle velocity of 773 fps from a 6 inch barrel, travels along at 756 fps when fired from a 4 inch barrel and, with the 2 inch bellygun, gets about 664 fps. The 110 gr. semi-jacketed Super Vel bullet starts from a 6 inch barrel at 1160 fps, from a 4 inch barrel the velocity will be 1121 fps, and the bellygun delivers at 995 fps. These velocities were taken from three S&W guns; a Highway Patrolman was chosen for the 6 and 4 inch barrel tests, while a Chiefs Special was used for the 2 inch barrel tests. In a 6 inch pressure barrel, the standard police load recorded 865 fps, while the Super Vel 110 gr. bullet was shoved along at 1370 fps.

The .357 Magnum police loads in the same 6 and 4 inch S&W guns were chrono- (Continued on page 72)



Super Vel ammunition is available with either soft point or hollow point bullet.



Blocks of modeling clay show bullet path. Norma .38 Special load (left), compared to Super Vel ammunition loaded with a 110 grain jacketed hollow point bullet.



Lee Jurras heads new firm making Super Vel ammunition, and personally checks all loading procedures for accuracy plus.

PLINKING WITH HANDGUNS CAN BE  
FUN, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE SHOOTING . . .

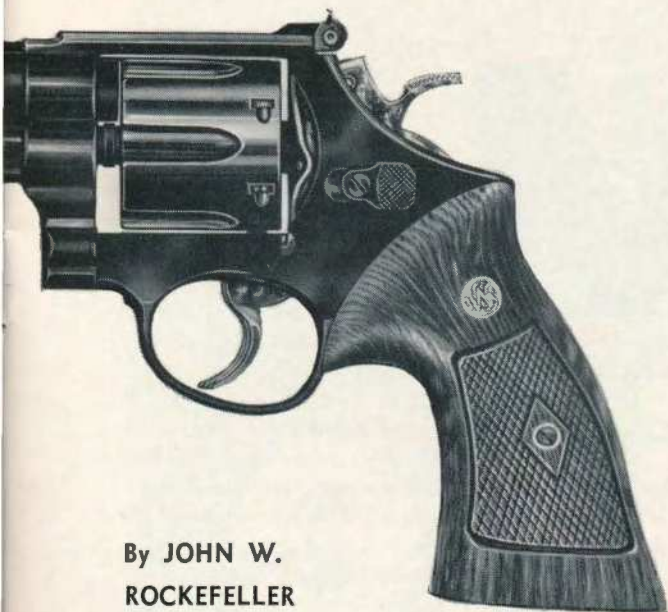


# *Half an Ounce of Lead*



The Colt New Service will fire either the .45 Colt or the .45 Short Colt.

<  
Many different big bore handguns are available. Top: Colt M1911 in .45 auto. Center: Colt M1917 revolver. Bottom: Webley converted to .45 ACP.



By JOHN W.  
ROCKEFELLER



Smith & Wesson's Model 25 and its stablemate the Model 22 are the only revolvers currently being produced which are chambered for .45 ACP cartridges, using half moon clips.

ON A WARM FALL day last year, Bill O'Donnel and I stood overlooking a valley northwest of North Loup, Nebraska, seeking a target for our sixguns. Finally selecting a down tree some 200 yards from where we stood, we raised our guns, aimed, and fired. Out in the valley, 300 grain bullets kicked up spurts of dust. We held higher, fired again: Closer. Soon we had the range, and a solid "whock" signaled a hit. We continued to fire, with periodic hits, until out of ammunition. We had our first taste of the fun of big bore handgun plunking.

These guns were Smith & Wesson .455 Hand Ejectors with 6½ inch barrels, rechambered to .45 Colt, and firing 300-grain, flat-nose cast bullets.

On a day some seven years ago, the owner of the local pawn shop showed me his personal defense gun. It was an ugly brute, a Webley Mark VI .455 revolver converted to fire .45 Auto ammo using two half-moon clips. After firing into his test stump, I just had to have it. So \$17.50 changed hands, and the gun was mine. This was the start of my affair with the heavy .45, and though I have flirted with other, lighter calibers, I have always come back to these.

A local sporting goods store went out of business soon after and I was able to purchase about 400 rounds of old corrosive G.I. ammo with steel cases. I commenced shooting my gun, and found it accurate, as its weight and large grip kept recoil down. So I had found a darned nice plinking gun.

After shooting the old fodder, I would remove both barrel and cylinder

from the frame, put them in the wash-basin, and scrub them out with hot soapy water. Then I would rinse, dry, reassemble, and oil the gun. Thanks to these messy, but necessary precautions, the bore of that gun is still as nice as the day I got it.

Of course, anyone who shoots a heavy handgun must sooner or later take up handloading. Usually you seek help from more experienced loaders, and then gradually acquire tools and experience until you can take it up yourself. I was no exception: I started out by buying a second-hand bullet mould for the 245 grain Lyman Keith #452423. Fortunately this was the best possible bullet for a .45 Auto cartridge when used in a revolver.

Since I owned neither powder measure nor scales at that time, I was forced to use more primitive means to measure powder. A .22 Long Rifle case holds just 2.7 grains of Bullseye when scooped full. So I just soldered a case to a nail, and used it to scoop charges of Bullseye from a sauce-dish. This charge, with the Keith bullet, gives about 600 feet per second, light recoil, and excellent accuracy. It is just right for beginners and has the advantage of low noise level for indoor range. Actually it is an excellent gallery load.

I got a couple of other .45's later, a Colt M1911 auto and a Colt M1917 revolver. Both are better guns than the Webley, but I had feeding difficulties with the auto, and the revolver was so tightly chambered that it gave trouble with my handloads. So I did most of my shooting with good ol'

reliable, the Webley revolver.

All the time I was shooting the Webley, I was using regular rimless .45 Auto brass with clips; a darned nuisance, since every round fired must be snapped into clips, and the empties removed afterward for reloading. Without clips, the shells fall so far into the chambers of the Webley that the hammer nose cannot reach the primer. This was also true of a Colt M1917 I had once.

Of course, I had heard of .45 Auto Rim, but at \$6.95 a box it is a bit steep for a cheap revolver. I used clips, I found it best to put two of these in each plastic box of handloads, so they wouldn't be forgotten. You can get all the clips you need from Smith & Wesson for 10¢ apiece, if you need any.

The old Webley is retired, now. It did its job well, and earned a rest. I now use a .45 Auto for all my big-bore plinking, and I find that loading a pistol magazine is a lot less bother than fooling with revolver clips. I prefer to carry several spare loaded magazines with the gun, so I don't have to stop to reload.

I find that I prefer the newer M1911A1 over the M1911, but I insist on a Colt. I prefer the arched mainspring housing and short checkered trigger over the older version, and insist on a long-spur grip safety, so gun won't "hammer bite" me.

I don't work my automatics over much. I file the rear sight notch to Patridge type, and take it to the range and get it to shoot center. If gun is an old M1911, I install the new type grip safety. Then (Continued on page 64)

# The M-1 Carbine

## -MORE THAN 30 YEARS LATER

By HAL SWIGGETT



These bars of laundry soap were hit by Sierra's 110 grain soft point, a GI Ball, and a 100 gr. Hornady short jacket.



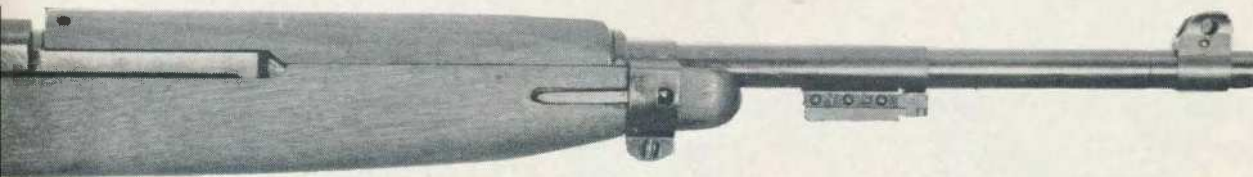
This coyote was stopped by one shot at 40 yards using Hornady's short jacket.

SURE IS CUTE, but what's it good for?" Actually, I didn't say that; I just thought it.

I had been introduced to my first .30 Carbine, along with a lot of other guys that had read too many signs saying "You too can be an Aviation Cadet." We were on the qualifying range at the San Antonio Aviation Center. This was back in 1943. I looked at the little gun, hefted it, glanced at the ammo, and thought "Sure is cute, . . ."

Somewhere in a box of momentos is a little GI medal that wears a couple of bars. One says "Carbine," and the other "Marksman," which shows that even though we were introduced, we didn't get along too well. At the time I considered myself somewhat of a hotshot with a rifle. I wasn't a target shooter, but few rabbits got up and out of sight before I could put a .22 bullet into them. I felt that anyone who qualified with a .30 Carbine was just plain lucky and would have scored at least as well with a slingshot or even throwing rocks.

Since W W II, and especially in the last decade, a lot of things have happened to the M-1 Carbine and an awful lot of these guns have been sold. There are half a dozen or so firms which specialize in building brandnew versions of these halfpints, and the outfits that will sell you a stock, custom or otherwise, sights, and any other part you may want to put on your GI Surplus Carbine are so numerous as to defy an accurate count. Leaving out the civilian commercial versions for a second, the Director of Civilian Marksmanship in 1963 released 175,000 copies of the M-1. Now add to this the small lots that float in from overseas or someplace and the commercial production that's been running not too far under 100,000 for the past couple of years, and you come up with figures somewhere over half a million for the total M-1 population. Just how far over is anybody's guess, but I've heard estimates that go as high as a million from a guy who is not in business to overestimate.



*Does the M-1  
carbine have a place  
as a sporting arm?  
Here is one man's  
practical solution.*

Why all this popularity? Ballistically the gun just isn't a winner, to me at least. Although an awful lot of people have killed deer with it, 110 grains starting out of a semi-accurate barrel at 2,000 fps hardly add up to reliable deer or even varmint hunting. And the service's minimum accuracy of four inches at 100 yards just doesn't help very much either. There just isn't anything on the M-1's side except the gun's physical design: It's light, smooth handling, and easy to carry, not to mention fast shooting. And apparently those are big enough extras to satisfy over a half a million people.

Like everybody else that had ever shot, or heard, of a .30 Carbine, I put in for one when the NRA released them. In due time I was informed where to send my \$20 and some time later the little gun arrived. I was lucky and got one in extremely good condition. It wears serial number 6221210 and was made by Inland Mfg. Div., General Motors 9-44. I had acquired a bit of GI ammo and so I promptly hied myself off to the range. Just as I had suspected, it hadn't improved a bit with age. If I hit anything at 100 yards, I still felt it was strictly luck. Against my better judgement, because I knew that GI bullets are impractical for hunting, I went out anyway. I ventilated a few jackrabbits, air conditioned a couple of coyotes and a javelina before I gave up. I got some of them all right, but it was still just luck.

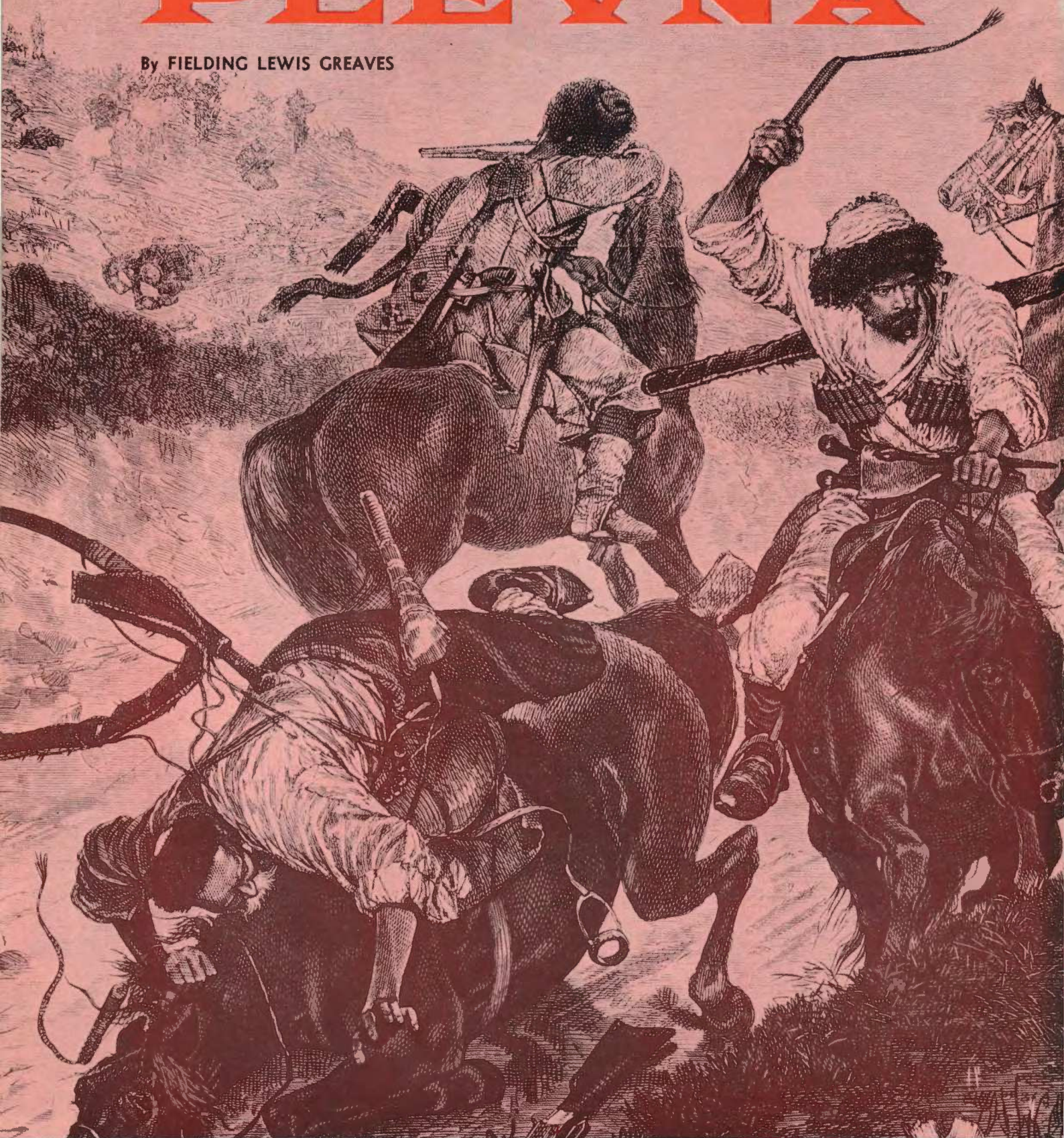
But because it was such a handy little devil, the carbine was hung behind the seat of my pickup, though it was strictly a plinker. I refused to shoot at an animal with it or to allow anyone else to use it for that purpose. A lot of people commented (Continued on page 50)



The bullets tested included GI ball, Sierra's 110 gr. soft point, and Hornady's half jacketed 100 grain.

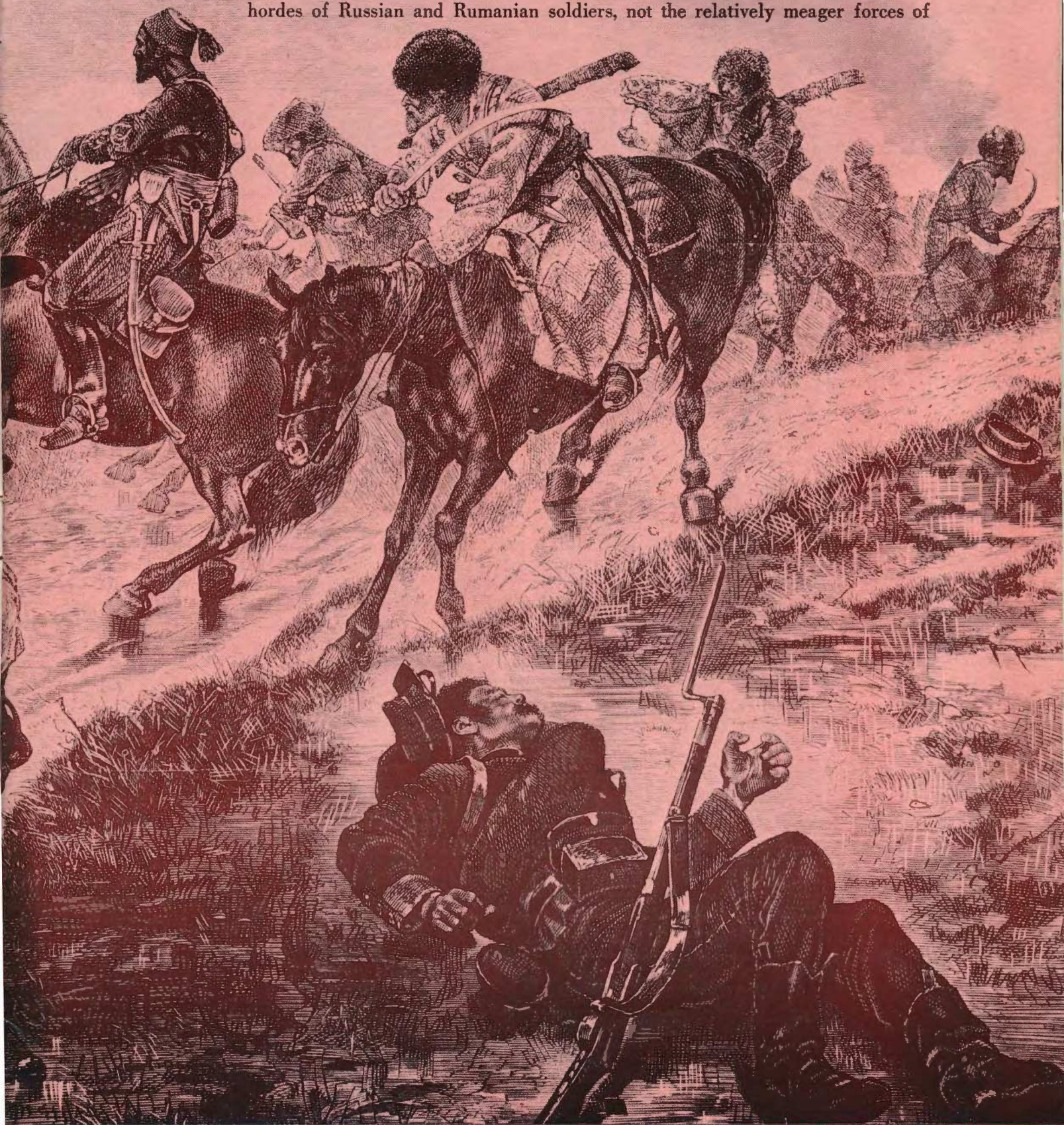
# Guns of PLEYNA

By FIELDING LEWIS GREAVES



**I**N THE SUMMER OF 1877, the American Civil War was already 12 years in the past. The observers of this war were provided with numerous lessons in combat techniques and in weapons. But the European observers, like our own, were slow to profit from the lessons learned.

For our account of the Battle of Plevna, the main characters are not the hordes of Russian and Rumanian soldiers, not the relatively meager forces of



## Guns of PLEVNA



the defending Turks—instead, they are two rifles. One of these is the single shot Peabody-Martini; the other is the fabled Winchester Model 66. But first, some background on the Russo-Turkish War.

Historic enemies of long standing, Russia and Turkey have often resorted to warfare to settle their differences. In 1876, when a Russian-backed Serbian army suffered unexpected defeats at the hands of the Ottoman Empire, the Czar felt constrained to intervene. Diplomatic pressure and threats proved unavailing, so direct military action was decided upon. In April, 1877, the great double eagle atop the Russian embassy near Constantinople was folded back behind the parapet, the Russian diplomats went home, and another Russian war came to Turkey.

The Russian forces struck on both flanks—at the eastern end of Turkey through the Caucasus, and at Bulgaria, then a part of the Ottoman Empire, through Rumania. The latter attack was intended to drive through Bulgaria to Turkey's capital, Constantinople, situated on the straits of the Bosphorus. The ultimate goal, Russia's consistent aim over the centuries, was to gain control over those strategic straits through which the Black Sea empties into the Mediterranean.

Grand Duke Nicholas, the Russian commander in chief, put his combined Russo-Rumanian forces across the Danube at Svishtov and moved them south across the Balkan Mountains, seizing the Shipka Pass and occupying Kazanluk and Nova Zagora preparatory to continuing southeastward to Adrianople and Constantinople.

Suddenly, seemingly out of nowhere, a force of Turks led by Osman Pasha appeared on the flank of the Russian line of communications. Osman, thought to be still some hundred miles away at Vidin on the western Danube, had led his 10,000 hard marching Turks to seize the strategic crossroads town of Plevna (today's Pleven), and thus pose a solid threat to the rear of the Russian forces across the Balkan Mountains. Recognizing that threat, Nicholas ordered General Krudener and Prince Shakovski to take the city. Thus began the epic battle of Plevna.

It was, in reality, three battles, which—on July 30, August 31, and September 11-12—startled the world, as three successive times the mighty Russian army launched all-out attacks on the city's defenses, only to be thrown back with staggering losses.

In the first assault, on July 30, 1877, the attacking Russians lost over 7,000 men from a total force of some 40,000. The Turks, their number now swelled to 50,000 and settled behind formidable earthworks, suffered some 1,200 casualties.

With remarkable lack of imagination, the Russian force repeated its head-on assault one month later, by which time the Turks had both increased the number and improved the quality of their redoubts and trenches. Again the attackers were thrown back.

Having suffered so greatly in the two earlier reverses, the Russian high command was determined once and for all to reduce the defenses of Plevna. A massive artillery preparation was commenced on September 7th

and continued for five days.

The great assault was launched on September 11, that date being selected because it was the name day of the Czar. And, like Xerxes at Salamis, the Russian Czar came to watch from the hillside the great battle that was intended to restore Russian prestige in the eyes of the world. The assault commenced in mid-afternoon with some confusion (two regiments jumped off several hours early) and continued the following day in the face of determined Turkish resistance. Once again the result was failure, an even bloodier reverse than the two previous attempts. Russian casualties amounted to some 300 officers and 15,000 men—20 per cent of those engaged—and their Rumanian allies lost another 5,000. Turk losses totalled about 5,000. The Czar, sickened by the fruitless slaughter, at last put an end to Russian attempts to take Plevna by storm and ordered the town taken under siege.

The siege, conducted by General Todleben, a master of that art, was successful. But it was to take four more months, while Osman continued to tie down large numbers of Russian troops, until his final surrender in December, 1877.

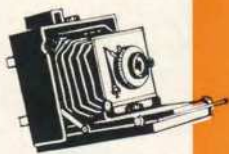
It is not, however, the ultimate fate of Osman Pasha and his troops which concerns us here, but rather the defense of Plevna in the face of three great Russian assaults, and the tools of war with which Osman did the job.

Military authorities have ascribed various causes for the poor showing the Russians made at Plevna. These have included poor use of terrain, uncoordinated attacks, faulty employment of reserves, and inadequate leadership. But all agree on the devastating effect of the fire poured out by the guns of Plevna's defenders.

One source of weapons for the Turkish army had been Oliver Winchester. In fact, it was in no small measure the contracts with Turkey which helped to es- (Continued on page 71)



Basis of the Turkish defense of Plevna was firepower supplied by the Peabody-Martini and Winchester M66.



# GUNS IN THE NEWS

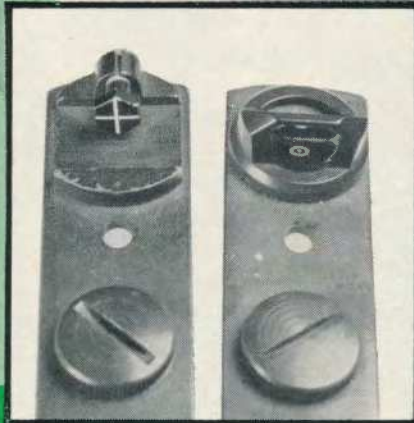


UPI photo

In addition to its use by the military and relatively limited sporting applications, the M-1 Carbine has recently gained wide favor among a number of law enforcement agencies. This Waukegan, Ill., officer holds a Carbine ready while searching suspects during disturbances.

# THE RETURN OF THE *Nydar* SIGHT

By R. A. STEINDLER



Left: two reticle designs; the circle-dot is standard. Right: The shooter gets a picture much like this one.



**R**EMEMBER THE NYDAR SIGHT? If you do, your shooting career probably dates back to the 1940's. But what you probably don't know is that the Swain Nelson Company, makers of the Nydar sight, is developing the sight for use on revolvers and rifles.

Originally the Nydar sight was intended for shotgunners and the sight did—and still does—enjoy a certain measure of popularity, though it was never a booming success. Although advertising claims were not any wilder than much of today's ballyhoo, shotgunners at first sat on their hands, waiting to find out what was so different about those new-fangled gadgets that were supposed to improve their claybird and field performance on live birds.

Basically the optical system of the Nydar sight is an adaption of the sights used on aerial machine guns during WW II. To use the Nydar sight, the shooter looks through a glass plate that appears to contain a dot and circle "reticle." Actually the dot and circle are housed in a prism mounted to the rear of the sight and are reflected on the plate by means of the overhead or incident light that the prism gathers. Roughly this

is like looking into a store window and seeing the display items and your mirrored image at the same time. Further, because the reflecting part of the Nydar sight is curved in such a way that the reflected light rays are made parallel, the dot-circle reticle is always in focus, as long as your eye is behind the reflecting lens. This gives the same single plane sighting as is found in scope sights. But unlike most scope sights, eye relief is not critical, nor is head positioning critical as long as the eye is somewhere behind the 1.5 inch reflector lens. The net effect of all this is that you focus on your target and see a semi-transparent reticle appearing to float over it, without the black, blocked-out circle around the target present with scope sights or the intervening fuzziness of metallic sights.

Though more than 40,000 Nydar sights have been sold to shotgunners, the adaption of the sight to revolvers and rifles has really tremendous potential. Using the Nydar sight for several months, I found it to be a revelation. There has been a great deal written and said about assuming the same head position behind the sights for each shot, but the fact of the matter is that head position must alter to a certain extent in any outdoor shooting since the shooter adds or removes clothing according to the temperature. Accordingly I varied my head position from side to side and back and forth on shotguns, rifles, and at the bench when firing the handguns. I found that I scored well regardless of head position, verifying the company's claim that head position is not critical with the Nydar sight because there are no sight picture problems.

Shooting a Nydar sighted gun at clay pigeons was really something. I found that sighting the gun was quite simple and perhaps slightly faster than conventionally sighted shotguns. Once the dot-circle picture has settled on the

bird, it was merely a matter of keeping the gun moving in line. In many respects, shooting the clays with the Nydar sight was reminiscent of shooting at the running deer target, and I feel that there would be some very interesting results if the Nydar sight was used on the running deer setup.

I'm completely sold on the Nydar sight when it comes to shooting handguns. The single plane sighting simply eliminates the fuzzy sights that bug many handgun shooters. Unfortunately the big game season had closed and the varmints were still under a foot of snow when Al Nelson, who with his father head up the Swain Nelson Company, loaned me his Colt .357 Magnum and a S&W .22 RF, both equipped with special bases and Nydar sights. To test the effectiveness of the Nydar sight, I shot my own Python with its factory iron sights and then the Nydar sighted Colt revolver. Right out to 100 yards, the hits recorded on the target with the Nydar sighted Colt made the scores with the normal Python look really sick. Here the Nydar sight provides single plane sighting which lets both the novice and the experienced shooter retain a good sight picture with both eyes open.

Although revolver bases for the Nydar sights are at present custom jobs, each individually fitted to the gun, I am confident that Swain Nelson will in the not too distant future tool up sufficiently to supply bases for most currently produced revolvers. Holsters for Nydar equipped handguns will probably not be too big a problem either, since the two holsters that Al Nelson had Cliff Shau of Cliff's Leathercraft make up are more than adequate. Cliff is now making up such a holster for my .22 Jet revolver that I've equipped with Nydar sights. The recoil of the .357 Magnum

*(Continued on page 60)*



Using the Nydar's experimental polarizing attachment, the author found that it kept the reticle from fading in spite of the extremely bright sunlight and background.

Though the bases for revolvers are still custom made, the makers of the Nydar sight are considering adding them to their line.



## SMALL AUTOMATICS WERE MADE IN MANY ODD STYLES AND OFFER A WIDE FIELD FOR THE GUN COLLECTOR

By C. ELDON SHOMBER

**W**HAT SHALL I COLLECT?" This is a perplexing question encountered by most collectors at one time or another. It seems that everyone has an answer to this puzzler, and too often the answer given coincides with the veteran collector's preferences and is decidedly prejudiced. The Colt collector recommends his Colts, the S&W collector extolls the virtues of his favorites, and so on down the line. While this is to be expected, it still leaves the novice in the dark as to what would be the best choice for him.

One collecting field, however, which has either been ignored, bypassed, or laughed off by many gun fanciers is the small .22, .25, and .32 caliber semi-automatic or self-loader pistol. (Although technically incorrect, the term "automatic" is common usage for this type of gun and will be used throughout this article.) While there may be valid objections to collecting this type of gun, its potential as a collector's item has often been hidden by the glamour of more exotic pieces. These guns are a fine answer to the problem for a variety of reasons, not the least of which are the currently reasonable price tags and low collector interest. While the exotic pieces usually command similarly exotic prices, the result is that considerably fewer can be bought for a budding collection. Assuming that our novice is forced to be somewhat selective in his gun buying, the desirability of the small automatics as a field for collection is not to be denied. Prices are almost tailor-made for him, with some guns selling for \$15 or less and others in the neighborhood of about \$30 or so. For these prices, one can find few other fields which will provide the enjoyment and stimulation of knowledge which these guns afford.

Another advantage to a collection of this sort is their current availability. One can hardly enter a place where guns are sold, be it a gun show, dealer's store, or pawn shop, without encountering the small automatic in considerable numbers. Collector interest in this field has been relatively slight, this being the main reason for the low prices and vast numbers of them on the market. In view of their abundance, it is highly unlikely that their presence will decrease appreciably for some time to come.

A third advantage to the automatic is that a large number of the specimens one will find for sale are in excellent condition and can double as "shooters." These guns were originally designed for close-range, self-defense shooting and with their size and compactness, proved immensely popular. It is not recommended, however, that the novice shoot any of these

guns immediately. It is far preferable to have some knowledgeable person inspect the gun, point out any intricacies or frailties and pronounce it safe before any shooting is done. A few of the small autos have quirks, which to the unwary, can mean danger.

The history of the automatic pistol is a relatively short one, however, the idea is far from being novel. The principle of the self-loader dates back several centuries, but it was not until the proper combination of ammunition and components had been worked out that the automatic pistol was practicable. The identity of the first man to conceive of the idea of a self-loading repeating pistol is lost, but some sources state that mention is made of this type of weapon as far back as 1664! The Austrian Schonberger was the first commercial pistol to be made: Subsequent modifications and improvements however quickly rendered this gun obsolete. It was not until 1893 that a really successful commercial model was introduced. The inventor, Hugo Borchardt, an American, being unable to finance his invention in his own country, took it to Germany where it was manufactured. The gun was an extremely clumsy piece, but it was instrumental in the later development of the famous Luger.

A hodgepodge of activity followed in the next decade, with everyone seemingly trying to board the bandwagon. Many pistols were introduced; some were instantly popular and others faded rapidly from the scene. (Continued on page 52)



Mann Vest Pocket Model  
in 6.35 mm caliber.



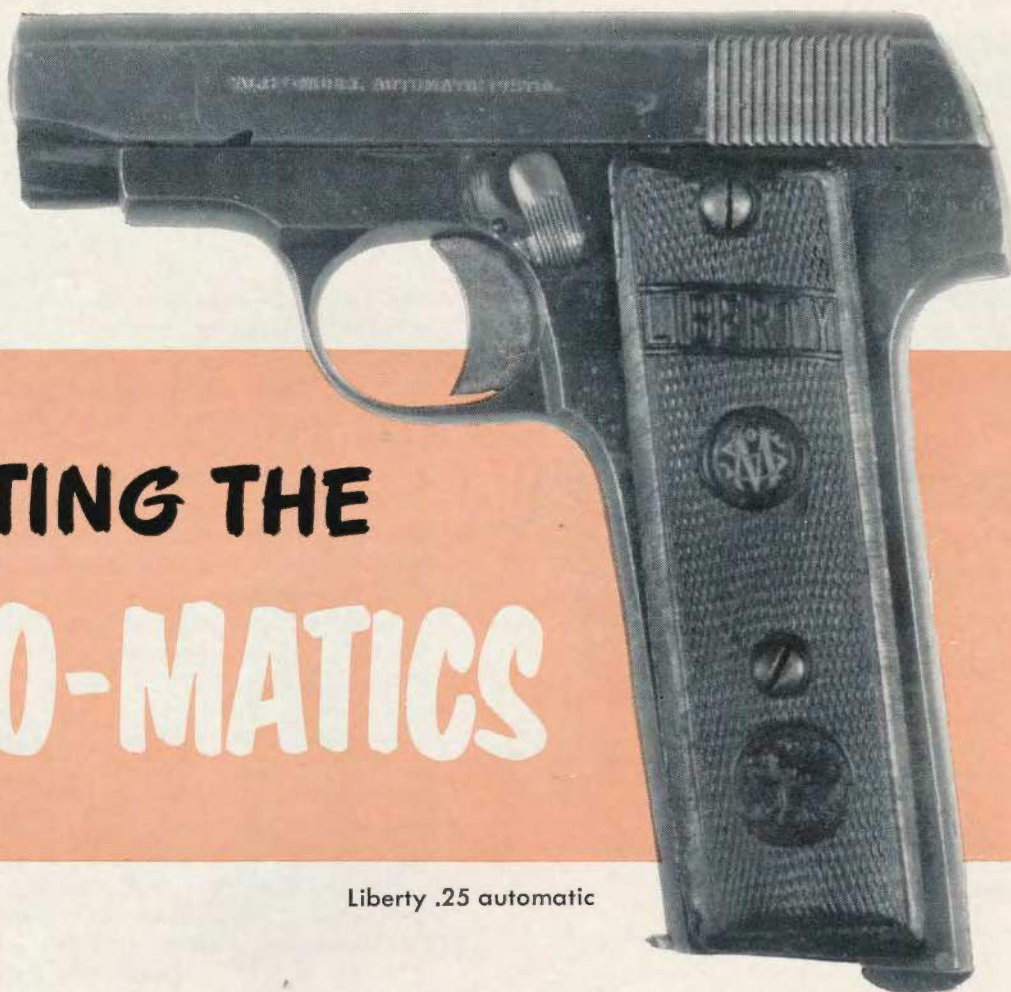
Star  
Pocket Model  
in 6.35 mm.



Lignose  
Einhand  
in 6.35 mm.



Mauser  
Model 1910  
in 7.65 mm.



Liberty .25 automatic

# COLLECTING THE ODD-O-MATICS



Czech-made Cz  
in 6.35 mm.



Colt  
.25 automatic



Schmeisser  
Model 1 in 6.35 mm.

# Duelling Pistols



The Burr-Hamilton affair was the most famous duel to occur on American soil.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The following excerpts are from the book "Duelling Pistols," by John A. Atkinson. This is one of the most enjoyable "gun" books I have read in a long time; as fascinating as a novel, yet filled with valuable technical information. Published in the U.S. by Stackpole, it is available from your local dealer or through the book department of Guns Magazine. Price, \$12.95. Color plates on pages 39 and 42 reproduced with permission of the publishers.



IT HAS A STRANGE, QUICK JAR UPON THE EAR,  
THAT COCKING OF A PISTOL, WHEN YOU KNOW  
A MOMENT MORE WILL BRING THE SIGHT TO BEAR  
UPON YOUR PERSON, TWELVE YARDS OFF OR SO.

*Byron*

NO GUN brought more elegance to the business of killing than the English duelling pistol. No member of the universal family of firearms stood out more proudly in any company or dropped a man with such easy grace and raffish wickedness. Duellers are the prince of pistols. They reached perfection in an age of great gunmaking and their quality ranged from excellent to superlative. Nothing else was acceptable to the clientele or suitable for their purpose. Thus the duelling pistol was the first recourse of a gentleman who took up a gun to defend his honour or to put down a rival in the politest possible way. Peers and prime ministers, dukes and dandies, generals, colonels and captains galore, judges and lawyers, M.P.s and actors, editors, poets and parsons extraordinary, congressmen of the United States, even a vice-president . . . they all used the prince of pistols to settle their disputes. These men were disciplined by the Code of Duel to kill or be killed. They put the Code above themselves, above their wives and above their children. They went out to defend their honour and to gain satisfaction—or to give satisfaction to their opponent—and they offered their lives as a pledge of good intent.

The duelling pistol was introduced to Englishmen in the years around 1770. It was 16 to 18 inches long, weighed approximately two pounds, could fire a lead ball 250 yards and, according to Joseph Hamilton, a duellist and writer on duelling, 'it will inflict a mortal wound at more than 40 yards'. This new specialized weapon was developed by the best of the nation's gunmakers at a time when the ordinary muzzle-loading flintlock pistol was notoriously inaccurate. But with the new dueller—built around refinements which on some of the best

Left to right: Duelling pistol with left hand lock by Isaac Riviere, 1830; duelling or target pistol by Charles Moore, 1840; and a dueller made by James Purdey, 1845. From "Duelling Pistols," by John A. Atkinson.





## Duelling Pistols

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This fine pair of English percussion duelling pistols were made by T. J. Mortimer of 34 St. James Street, London, circa 1855. They rest on the original case, which, as usual, was completely fitted with all accessories. Photo by Dick Friske; pistols from the collection of M.C. Clark



# Duelling Pistols

weapons included a gold-lined priming pan, a gold-lined touch hole, a patent breech and a hair trigger—the man who ‘knew his pistols’ and made allowance for their fractional dispart or throw of the ball could drill the ace out of a card at twenty paces, shatter the stem of a wine glass at the same distance and drop with impunity the opponent he had called out with seconds (and surgeons) to a quiet rendezvous. The encounter which started with pistols for two and ended with coffee for one . . . was much more common then than action for libel is in the courts today and it was much more quickly settled. Indeed, when a quarrel was kept beyond the arm of the law and settled on the duelling ground lawyers sometimes referred to it as Wogdon’s Case—Robert Wogdon in London’s Haymarket being a celebrated maker of duelling pistols. These were always sold in pairs and fitted in a case made of oak, polished mahogany or other quality wood.

Whenever men met and controversy raged—or the bottle passed once too often—a challenge was always possible. So of necessity a gentleman ‘knew his pistols’ and by choice they were weapons which reached their supreme powers of execution through the skill and artistry of successive makers such as Joseph Griffin and John Tow, John Twigg and Henry Nock, Durs Egg and the prolific H. W. Mortimer, Robert Wogdon, John and Joseph Manton and James Purdey—all in London. John Rigby was supreme in Dublin; Innes was outstanding in Edinburgh; Patrick graced the craft in Liverpool; Westley Richards brought new fame to Birmingham. All these masters of gunmaking produced duelling pistols so beautifully balanced that a marksman had only to raise his arm and ‘feel’ the weapon dead on target. With just such a pistol as this:

The Duke of York, second son of King George III, faced Colonel Lennox of the Coldstream Guards on Wimbledon Common and the Colonel’s bullet grazed the Royal curl. Their quarrel arose because the Duke said in public: ‘Colonel Lennox heard words spoken of him at Daubigny’s Club to which no gentleman should submit.’ Prime Minister William Pitt went out on Putney Heath and met the challenge of George Tierney, a hot-tempered man of Irish blood and M.P. for Southwark, who attacked Pitt’s financial plans for strengthening the Navy against the threat of invasion by Napoleon. Pitt virtually branded Tierney as a traitor.. The two men fired twice ‘and gave satisfaction’. The Rev. Henry Bate, Editor of the *Morning Post*, stumped off along Fleet Street to draw blood from Captain Andrew Robinson Stoney in a duel fought over the young and wealthy Countess of Strathmore, lately widowed. In this encounter, at the Adelphi Tavern, Captain Stoney was badly wounded, but lived to marry the lady. She had promised to wed the first gentleman who would defend her reputation against Editor Bate’s scandal-mongering attacks in his newspaper. James Thomas Brudenell, (Continued on page 56)



Riviere's label noted that he held the patent for enclosed lock guns.



This silver lion-head mask graced the grip of Charles Moore pistols.



Top left: Saw handle duelling pistol by Patrick, 1830. Top right: Duelling or target pistol by William and John Rigby, 1829. Bottom: Another dueller by William and John Rigby, 1843. From "Duelling Pistols."

**MANUFACTURERS OF  
.455 REVOLVER CARTRIDGES  
AND THEIR HEADSTAMP CODE**

Arsenal Artilleria Zarate, Argentina—AAZ  
BSA, Birmingham, England—B  
Canadian Industries Ltd., Montreal—DOMINION  
Deutsche Waffen - Und Munitions Fabriken,  
Berlin, Germany—DWM  
Defense Industries Ltd., Brownsbery, Can.—DC  
Dominion Arsenal, Brownsbery, Canada—DAC  
Dominion Cartridge Co., Montreal—D.C.Co.  
Eley Bros. Ltd., London—E, ELEY, ELEY'S,  
ELEY LONDON, ELEY NITRO, WEBLEY EB  
Government Arsenal, Dum Dum, India—DD, DF  
Grenfell & Accles, Birmingham, England—GA  
Greenwood & Batley, Leeds, England—GB  
Kirkee Ammunition Factory, Kirkee, India—KF  
Kynoch Ltd., England—K, KYNOCH,  
WILKINSON, WSC  
Remington Co., Bridgeport, Conn.—REM-UMC  
Rheinisch Westfalsche Sprengstoff,  
Nuremburg, Germany—RWS  
G. Roth, Vienna, Austria—GR  
Royal Laboratory, Woolwich, England—RL  
Small Arms Ammunition Factory,  
Footscray, Australia—AF  
Small Arms Ammunition Factory #1,  
Footscray, Australia—MF  
Small Arms Ammunition Factory #5,  
Rocklea, Australia—MQ  
Union Metallic Cartridge Co.,  
Bridgeport, Conn.—UMC  
Winchester, New Haven, Conn.—WRACo.

# Development of the .455 REVOLVER CARTRIDGE

By ROBERT A. GUSSMAN and ROGER E. LADD

SOME FORM of the .455 Revolver was in use by the British Government from 1880 until after World War II, a total service life of some 69 years. Throughout that period, the cartridges for use in these weapons underwent several stages of evolution. Ball cartridges developed under the military system of designation were numbered from Mark I through Mark VI. That the service revolvers were also numbered from I to VI is coincidental and has no direct relationship to the Mark numbers of the cartridges. Ignoring for the moment the .476 Enfield cartridge which was the direct predecessor of the .455 Webley series, the first Mark I cartridge was introduced in 1891. It had a brass case 0.875 inch long and a boxer type primer. The bullet was solid lead with a hollow base of cylindrical-conical shape, weighing approximately 265 grains. These cartridges were filled with black powder by the English manufacturer, Kynoch.



There are wide variations in the .455 packaging as illustrated by the domestic (above), military (left), and Canadian versions.





### TYPICAL EXAMPLES OF .455 WEBLEY REVOLVER CARTRIDGES

- A. Mark I
- B. Mark II
- C. Mark III
- D. Mark IV and V
- E. Mark VI
- F. Naval Mark I dummy
- G. Dummy made from reject
- H. Dummy with plated case
- I. Commercial dummy round
- J. U.S. Commercial dummy
- K. Rare U.S. proof round
- L. Canadian target wadcutter
- M. British shot cartridge
- N. Blank with rose crimp
- O. Blank with roll crimp over card wads
- P. Blank with composition seal.

The Mark I was produced from 1891 until 1898, although in 1894 a change was made to utilize cordite as the propellant. Military Mark I cartridges loaded with cordite have a C added to the headstamp. This cordite, developed at the royal gunpowder factory, Waltham Abbey, was again coincidentally designated Mark I.

With the adoption of cordite as a propellant, it was found that more efficient combustion was obtained in a shorter ( $\frac{3}{4}$ " ) case. This design was officially adopted in 1898 as Mark II. The bullet, although still of the cylindrical conical type and of the same weight, was slightly changed in shape to what is now considered the standard or characteristic Webley shape. (Continued on page 74)

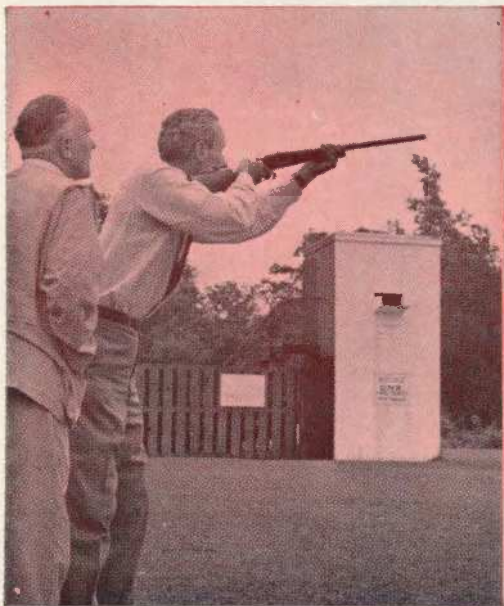
# As Others See Us...

A HARD LOOK AT AMERICAN SHOTGUNNING STYLES  
AS SEEN BY SOME OF THE BEST  
BRITISH SHOOTING COACHES

By JOHN WOOTTERS



Norman Clarke takes measurement from a try-gun after fitting it to shooter.



Clarke watches flight of shot pattern during instruction of British shooter.



Left: Classic American shooting style shows advanced left foot, left elbow bent, right arm tucked down, and head bent down on stock. Compare these points with typical British shotgunning style above.

IF THE UNITED STATES is the nation of riflemen, then Britain must be called the nation of shotgunners. No other people take their gunning quite so seriously, and no other nation has brought the painstaking art of handcrafting double guns to quite the same pinnacle of perfection. A "best" English shotgun is precisely that—the best. A Purdey, Holland & Holland, or Boss gun is literally a treasure, an incredible melding of restrained beauty with deadly efficiency, of fit and finish and feel.

It's not surprising that the men who make such guns should admire good shooting. For the *pukka* English gentleman, good shooting form is as much a social necessity as good table manners. To this end, there are such things in London as shooting schools and shooting coaches, whose business is not exactly duplicated in this country.

Take Norman Clarke, for example. He's the senior instructor at Holland & Holland's shooting school at Northwood, on the outskirts of London. Mr. Clarke has practiced his profession of coach and gun-fitter

for more than three decades, having been trained by the immortal Robert Churchill. Clarke instructs some 1,500 students each year, and his eye is so practiced that he can, by squinting over a gunner's shoulder, see the shot charge—not merely the wad—in the air and can call misses as precisely as I can with a tracer shell.

I recently quizzed Norman Clarke about the difference between British and American shooters, and particularly about American technique, equipment and shooting habits. I also asked my questions of Mr. Malcolm Lyell, managing director of Holland & Holland, and of Mr. Harry Lawrence, managing director of the firm of James Purdey & Son, Ltd., London.

While I do not advocate total acceptance of the shotgunning gospel according to Clarke, Lyell, and Lawrence, it would be very difficult to assemble three more knowledgeable men on the total subjects of shotguns.

None of these gentlemen was anxious to criticize American shooting, but they were unanimous in four opinions: 1. Americans handicap themselves too often with smallbore guns (especially 28-gauge and .410s), 2. They tend to overchoke their barrels, 3. They admire heavy charges and high velocity in our ammunition too much, 4. They are naive in matters of gun-fitting.

The first three points—about small-bores, over-choking, and heavy loads—are probably quite valid. We do tend to equip youngsters and ladies with 28s and .410s, yet these are guns for the finished expert, not the beginner. They are harder to hit with, thus harder to learn with, than bigger bores.

The Britisher is still quite satisfied with a 2½-inch 12-gauge shell throwing no more than one ounce of shot at moderate velocities. With this load he may not blink at making 50-yard kills, even on large, tough birds, out of an improved cylinder or modified barrel. The difference is precise gun-pointing, and I think the American shooter could well afford to spend more time learning to practice this and less time packing more power into shot-shell hulls in an attempt to compensate for poor pointing.

The same reasoning applies to tight chokes. They handicap the average shooter far more than they help him, even on the so-called "long-range" shots. Even for live-pigeon and trap-shooting, many gunners would be

amazed at what they could do if they would only try a more open choke.

Now we come to the vital matter of gun fit. The American genius in gun-building lies in our ability to manufacture durable, functional weapons by mass-production methods which place them within financial reach of just about anybody who's interested in owning one. These American shotguns are stocked to standard "average" dimensions, and since few of us are of "average" physique or have "average" shooting habits, when we must adapt ourselves to the gun.

The English gunmakers have pursued the opposite philosophy. They handcraft the finest guns in the world, and they charge from about \$2000 up for their products. A part of what you pay for is careful fitting. Purdey or H&H would no more consider building a shotgun without fitting than a Saville Row tailor would make a custom suit without taking measurements.

I was recently fitted for a shotgun by Harry Lawrence of Purdey, with a try-gun on which every dimension can be altered. During the extended process, Mr. Lawrence jotted down no fewer than eight different measurements. These included length of pull at

heel, center, and toe of butt (which automatically establishes pitch), drop at comb and heel, and cast-off at comb, heel, and toe. The cast-off at the toe, incidentally, is greater at the heel of the stock, which means that the stock will actually be slightly twisted, counterclockwise, to allow the buttplate to better lie in the diagonal pocket between pectoral and shoulder muscles. Such meticulous refinements are typical of the makers of "best" London guns.

When the try-gun had been adjusted to my correct dimensions, I was astonished to discover that that pull was at least one inch greater than on any shotgun I've ever owned, and that I could see more barrel than seemed normal. Yet the try-gun performed perfectly for me, putting its pattern precisely where I looked, and giving an uncanny feeling of aliveness and of confidence. I quickly got the feeling that I couldn't have missed with that gun.

An American being fitted for an English gun needs to bear in mind a couple of differences between U.S. and British shooting styles. We are usually taught to get our heads down on the shotgun's (Continued on page 62)



Comparison of the two styles show British shooter leaning forward from the hips, both feet planted firmly and the weight evenly distributed on both feet. American shooter has all body weight forward, with weight on his left foot.



*Pull!*

**BY DICK MILLER**

**H**OOSIERS WERE HOT and Canucks were cold in their respective championship trapshooting events. Temperatures at Edgar Kuhlenschmidt's New Evansville Gun Club were officially in the hundred bracket, and unofficially in the "whew!" bracket, which made for torrid shooters and torrid scores. Canadians capered in rain, wind, and cold at Edmonton, Alberta, but managed to thwart the weatherman by recording some important and newsworthy firsts in Canadian trapshooting annals.

Jimmy Couse from Vancouver successfully defended his high-overall title with a come-from-behind, last day effort and 566x600 total on the 300 16-yard, 200 handicap, and 100 doubles targets. Frances Searle, a pert 19-year old miss from Burlington, Ontario, grabbed the handicap title for her sex and for a first in Canadian championship history. Earlier in the year she had lost a shoot-off to Miss Sheila Bassin of Montreal for a chance to represent Canada at the ISU World Championships in Wiesbaden, Germany. She had been shooting so poorly in regulation trap, possibly due to the concentration on International-style targets, that she almost didn't attend the Edmonton championships. It could be that the International-style practice helped in the wind, cold, and rain. No matter what the reason, the new handicap trap champion of Canada is a girl.

Another Canuck first was a perfect squad in doubles, which doesn't happen often in Canada or anywhere else. The gilt-edged quint included Russ Young, Frank Opsal (high-all-around champ, and loser to Couse for high-overall) Bob Caldwell, Earl Caldwell, and Ralph Buehler (the genial CIL

pro who also got in the record books with the Canadian pro title with 466x500). Russ Young also went on to break 97x100 for the Doubles trophy, despite a year's inactivity due to a serious automobile accident. This was indeed a doubly distinguished doubles squad, because Earl Caldwell went on to annex the Class A doubles toga.

Doug Norton, from Cooksville, Ontario, who won the singles event in 1964, broke the first hundred this year, then posted a total 296x300 under adverse conditions to repeat for the 16-yard victory. Vera Holdsworth of Calgary and Mrs. Grayce Freeman from Vancouver, B. C., were almost as hot as their Hoosier sisters on the way to Mrs. Holdsworth's ninth victory in 11 years. They were deadlocked at the end of 300 targets, and had to shoot another 75 birds before Mrs. Freeman faltered. David Wark of Mossleigh, Alberta, was junior champ, and 14-year-old Harry McCowan from Kelowna, B. C., took the subjunior title in his first try at competitive shooting, keeping alive the distinguished list of firsts in the 11th Canadian Trapshooting Championships.

Hoosiers were truly hot shots in the 72nd Annual running of their state event, which is usually the third largest trapshooting tournament in the Nation, second only to the Grand American at Vandalia, Ohio, and the Ohio tournament on the Grand American grounds. The New Evansville Gun Club trap line is only 16 traps long, as compared with the Grand's 40, but shooters felt right at home, because they could ride to and from the end of a long trap line in little tractor-drawn car, a la the Grand American at Vandalia.

One of the highlights of this year's torrid Indiana tournament was the grueling battle between George Snellenberger of Angola and Joe Fields of Anderson for the 16-yard trophy. Snellenberger is no stranger to protracted shoot-offs (ask Dan Orlich) and copped his fourth Hoosier championship by breaking 275 additional targets after deadlocking with Fields at 200 straight in the main event. Fields dropped his 267th target to end the suspense for a big crowd who were wondering when one of the gunners would lose one. Snellenberger has broken 1000 straight targets twice in 11 years of trapshooting.

Another word from Indiana is that Jack Hughes of Indianapolis is wondering how you win at trapshooting. He missed his 1091st target, after breaking 1090 without a miss, putting him in third place for long runs at tournament targets and also giving him third place in the Hoosier 16-yard event. The target he missed came while he and Clayton Bond from Liberty were shooting 500 targets to settle a 200 target event. Each broke 475 before Hughes' miss came at the wrong time.

Across the Ohio River in Kentucky there is a high school boy who surely does not know what he is missing by not taking up tournament trap. Dwaine Blakeman from Henderson, Kentucky, thrilled the crowd by breaking 125 targets in another torrid shoot-off to grab the out-of-state Class A victory. 17-year-old Blakeman had earlier won the Kentucky junior championship. But, with some embarrassment, he revealed that in a trap shoot sponsored by his school's rod & gun club, he was second to a lad who had never fired at clay targets before, only rabbits and squirrels. Maybe that's why I didn't do so well when I used to slip away from the bigtime circuit in Indiana and slip down into Kentucky to try for some meat at rural Kentucky shoots. Kentuckians just don't seem to have any respect for a shooter's reputation. He has to break the targets, just like everyone else.

The Hoosier embroglio dramatically demonstrated the age range of competitive trapshooters. Clarence Hines of Kokomo, who will be 82 in December, shot at the Izaak Walton club in Kokomo until midnight then drove his own car to Evansville to shoot the program. Ten-year-old Freddie Frisse IV fired the program, and received an ATA Life Membership from glamorous Punkin Flock, the queen of Florida, who notched her usual stellar performance in breaking 198x200 for the out-of-state Ladies crown, and teamed with husband Carl to annex the husband-wife trophy for their combined 197x200.

Mary Sullivan of the capitol city was the feminine singles champ, and Brazil's Doug Bedwell was the junior trophy winner. David Isely from Gaston took sub-junior singles honors. Ralph Maier of Columbus topped the Seniors (over 70) with his 192x200. High non-resident was Jim Krughoff from Downer's Grove, Illinois, who shattered the 200 regulation targets.

Even the handicap title required extra innings, when Paul Spangler of Decatur and John Moster from Seymour blasted 99 from 23 yards. Both missed two birds in the first extra 25, then Moster faltered in the second 25. Gerry Nuckolls broke the perfect



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hundred to take the out-of-state title home to Grayville, Illinois, and dad Gale Nuckolls whom I can attest from bitter experience is also a good handicap gunner. The son has learned well from the father.

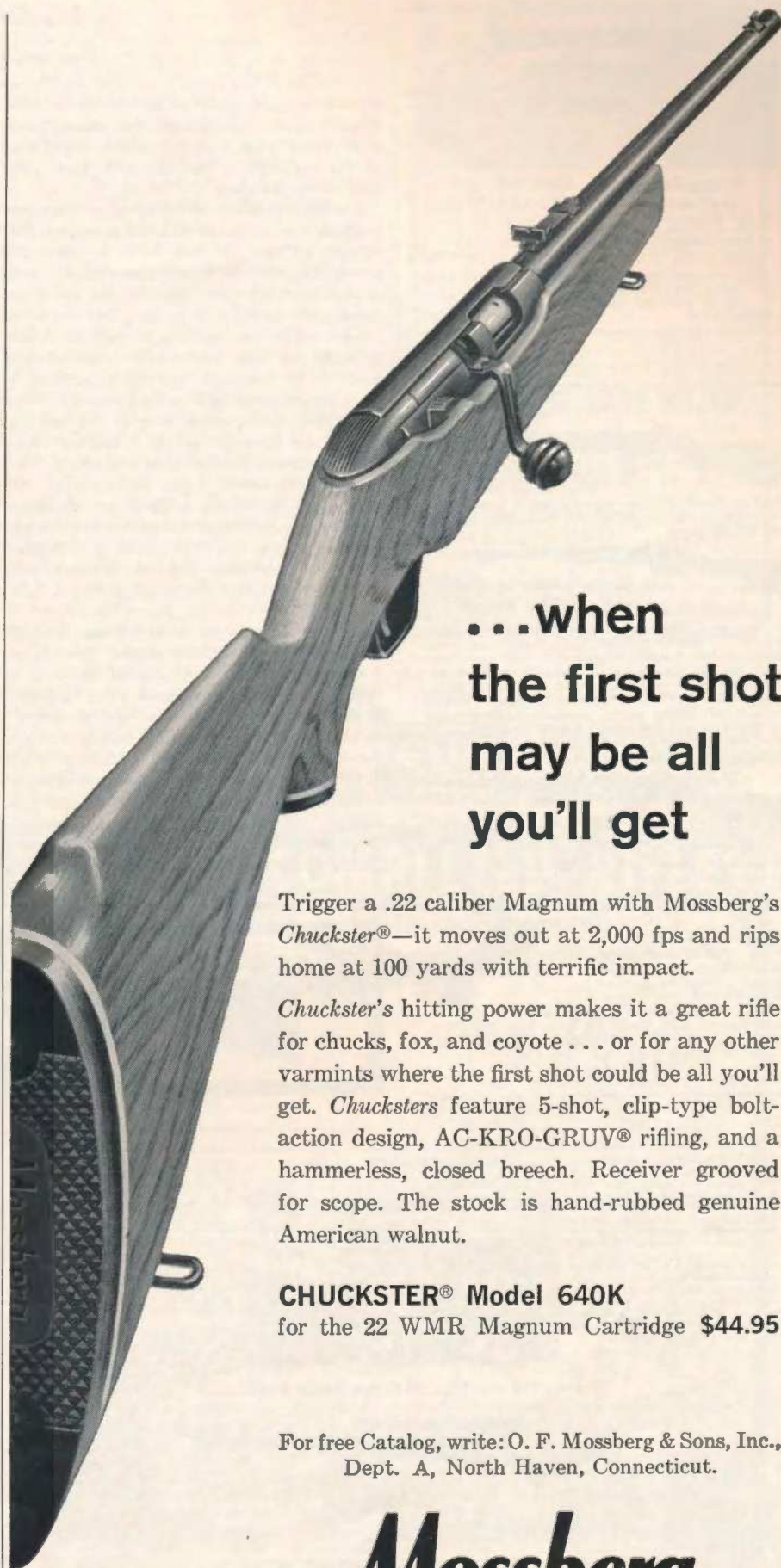
Leah Jenkins from Indianapolis was the Ladies titlist, with a fine 97x100. Mark Burgess, also from a fine shooting family, took the junior trophy with his 97x100. The sub-junior victory went to John McKey from Vevay at 93. The open high gun trophy was copped by H. W. Hines from Carmi, Illinois, who dropped only one of the 100 handicap targets. Ron Ashcraft from Dyer continued his mastery of Indiana doubles competition but had to take the shoot-off route for the victory. Ashcraft was runner-up in 1964, took the title last year, and nailed it down again this year when he fired a perfect 20 in the extra inning after he had deadlocked at 98 with Doug Bedwell of Brazil. Bedwell consoled himself with the junior trophy.

Dorothy McLaughlin, Terre Haute, topped the ladies with 91, and the high nonresident lady, Randy Hapgood of Henrietta, Texas, took the nonresident ladies title with the same score. The nonresident doubles trophy was hotly contested and taken by Hiram Bradley with 100 straight over C. E. Barnhart's 99. Bradley, from Greenville, Ohio, joins an exclusive club of two dozen shooters who have broken 100 straight at doubles in registered competition.

Jack Hughes again learned the perils of trying to keep a long streak alive in Class Day 16-yard events at Evansville. He had put together a long run of 1090 targets while winning victories in Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan, then lost two trophies in Hoosierland by dropping one bird each of two tries. Hughes scored 199x200 on Class Day, but lost the trophy when Derrill Hottel of Mooresville broke the 200. Only four men have broken 1000 or more without a miss. Jack Hughes, if he gave an interview, probably said that targets are not hard to hit, they are just easy to miss. At Evansville, he broke 698 out of 700 targets and had to settle for a second and a third.

Doug Bedwell kept up his winning ways with a junior championship on Class Day to pair with his doubles trophy, and the sub-junior trophy was again paired when W. David Isely copped both ends of the day with 93 in doubles and 190 class singles. C. E. Barnhart took the non-resident Class singles with a perfect 200, which is not the man-bites-dog category in shooting news. Randy Hapgood was the high non-resident lady, with 194x200. She took the Women's High Overall with 840x900 when Mary Sullivan did not shoot-off. Barnhart won the Ralph Jenkins trophy for singles targets. John Pasquinnelli, Highland, Ind., took the C. T. Foxworthy Trophy, as a subjunior, and Doug Bedwell added once more to his impressive laurels with the Presidents Cup, with 294x300, based on the 200 championship singles targets at 16-yards, and the 100 championship handicap targets.

Hot or cold, wet or dry, calm or windy, there was a lot of excitement, color, competition, human interest, and record breaking at both Edmonton and Evansville, which are far apart in miles, but very close when trapshooters take the field. PULL! additionally awards a big "E" for excellent to both clubs for a job well done.



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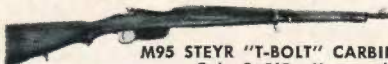
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## M1 CARBINE

(Continued from page 29)

for that purpose. A lot of people commented about it, just sitting there, but when I told them about what I did, or rather didn't do, to the animals I had hunted, they just shook their heads.

One fast solution to the accuracy/energy problem was to go out and buy a commercial version of the Carbine. With a fresh 12 groove barrel, a nice, new stock, and maybe a new receiver, the M-1 can and does shoot some pretty fair groups. But the only trouble with that solution is that you wind up with two guns and a bill. It just didn't seem to be the path for me, though as I say a lot of people did go that way.

The half dozen companies producing the commercial Carbine include Universal Firearms, Johnston-Tucker Arms, Plainfield Machine Co., Johnson Arms, and a couple of others. Using either forgings or castings, which are then machined, plus a new barrel & stock these fellas turn out pretty fair guns, but I already had one carbine and didn't need another, even if it was a hot-shot.

Another way to go is to wildcat the .30 cartridge and there are several companies doing just this on a commercial basis. This makes more sense in my book since GI brass is plentiful and cheap. Most of the conversions are to either .22 or .25 caliber and up the muzzle velocity about 1,000 fps. With their higher velocities these are considerably better than the .30 Carbine as varmint cartridges. Though in truth wildcats, many of these cartridges are being produced commercially by the smaller outfits, but have

not as yet attracted enough attention to get the big boys interested.

Finally, I got to thinking that with all these people doing this with their Carbines, maybe mine was good for something besides hanging behind the seat of my pickup. I pulled a bunch of GI bullets, dumped the powder out on the pan of my scales, then put the case in my carbine and fired the primer. That way I had empty cases to start with, from scratch. Weighing those powder charges gave me a boost. It was obvious, real-quick, that all the inaccuracy was not due to the gun alone. Powder charges varied from light to heavy with nothing consistent in any that I measured: A real hodgepodge.

Installing a set of Carbine dies in my three station C-H press, I placed my Lyman Handbook and Speer Manual for easy viewing and settled down to work. I used Sierra 110 gr. soft pointed bullets, CCI Magnum primers, and 4227, 2400, and AL-7 powders. I loaded five with each powder at maximum and five one grain under maximum, making a total of thirty cartridges to test. At the range I first tried the one grain under loads, then the maximum loads. At 50 yards, I ruled out 4227 quickly, while 2400 did just so-so, but AL-7 kept both groups at less than an inch and a half. I loaded ten more with 12.5 grains of AL-7 and tried again. One five shot group, at fifty yards, was 1¼ inches and the other 1½ inches. These were center to center groups. I felt this this was good enough for called coyotes, so I took my little Carbine hunting.

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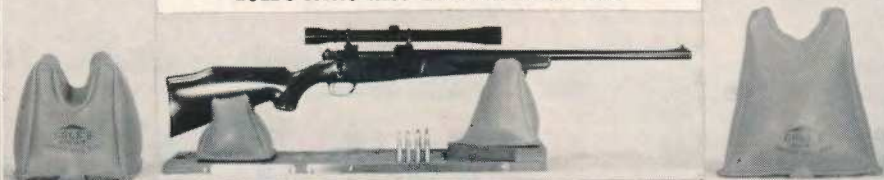
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I killed some coyotes all right, and I killed some jackrabbits. I also had some coyotes get up and run off after they were hit and knocked down. The bullet was simply going on through and not opening enough to expend sufficient energy. I went back to looking for a varmint gun.

A box of .30 caliber Hornady short jackets had been moved from one spot to another for a couple of years on my loading bench. They got there by way of being tried in my .300 H&H but I was never able to get them to shoot right. One night, for lack of something better to do I picked them up, inserted one in an empty Carbine case and thought it looked like a pretty good arrangement. In the meantime I had also obtained some H110 powder to try in that Carbine. I loaded up ten of the Hornady short jackets with CCI magnum primers and 15 grains of H110 powder. Stranger things have happened but on the range, at fifty yards, I got the same group as before with the 110 gr. Sierra soft point and 12.5 grains of AL-7. In fact, one was only very slightly more than an inch, edge to edge.

I put together a batch and went to visit a friend, Bernie Dresden, who also had a Carbine. He was having the same kind of luck I was with coyotes hit with the soft point bullet who wouldn't always stay dead. We shot those Hornady short jackets through a board along side the Sierra soft point and a GI ball. It was fantastic, the difference in the size of the exit holes. I got some bars of P and G soap. The GI ball pierced it, left a .30 caliber hole, and didn't even break it in half. The 110 grain Sierra broke the bar up, as can be seen in the pictures accompanying this piece. The 100 grain Hornady short jacket practically shattered the bar. This did it, so far as Bernie and I were concerned.

It wasn't long before we succeeded in getting two coyotes, a bobcat, a javelina, and nine jackrabbits. Neither of us have had a single animal get up that was hit with this last load, if it was hit anyplace in the chest at distances of sixty-five yards or less.

The first opportunity I had to use the load on an animal was at a called coyote running directly towards me. The bullet entered his chest and he collapsed, just as dead as any I have ever killed with my .243 using 40 grains of 4064 behind a 75 grain Sierra hollow point. That same morning, I shot another called coyote behind the shoulder at thirty-seven steps. That coyote also dropped in his tracks, made one feeble effort to get up, and was dead before I got to him.

Bernie Dresden, whom I had given some of these loads, dropped a bobcat at slightly more than forty yards, with a chest shot. According to Bernie, the cat was dead before it hit the ground. That one shot sold him completely on these bullets. He lives in deep south Texas. In fact if you get any deeper you're in Mexico. He is retired and his sole aim in life is to help keep south Texas coyotes under control. He tries to go hunting at least once a day. He is a very excellent caller and has been hunting coyotes some fifteen or eighteen years. He uses a .243 for long shots, but in the deep, dense cactus, blackbrush, etc. of south Texas, he has found that his little carbine is real handy on these close called coyotes. Like a lot of other people, he hadn't been able to get reliable kills with the bullets he was using in the carbine. Now, with this Hornady short jacket we feel our problem is solved.

I don't want anybody to take my word that these bullets ahead of 15 grains of H110 powder will kill game for them. If you are using a stock Carbine on game, I do think you owe it to yourself to give them a try. Keep your shots under sixty-five yards so your bullet will have a chance to prove itself. I don't think you will have any coyotes, jackrabbits, or javelinas get up and run off.

Unless you are a good man with a call this won't be much use to you because I still can't make a .30 Carbine into a 100 yard plus gun, at least not conscientiously.

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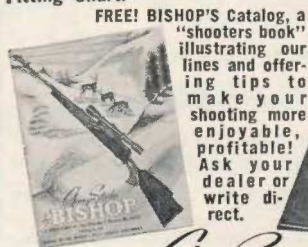
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All of this activity, from the very first to the present, was necessary as a prelude to the fine quality firearms we enjoy today. If one traces the history of the automatic pistol in detail, he will find that these guns boast considerably more history than would perhaps appear at first glance.

The diminutive vest or pocket pistol usually has one or more unique design features. Some of these are remarkable for their functional simplicity and others for the ingenuity displayed. While some of these innovations were carried over for use in our present-day automatic pistols, many more were discarded as the wheels of progress rolled on. A collection of only those guns which are extraordinary in some respect could also prove quite interesting to the student of firearms or of the automatic. The following are a few of the pistols one may expect to encounter in this field.

The Little Tom pistols in 6.35 mm and 7.65 mm were produced in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, around 1908. This gun in 6.35 mm has a barrel length of 2", overall length of 4" and a magazine capacity of 6 rounds. It was one of the first of this type produced to utilize the double-action principle. Some of these guns also have a unique method of inserting the magazine. Unlike the majority of the small automatics, the Little Tom is

loaded by pushing the magazine down from the top, through the slide opening, while the slide is locked to the rear. The magazines of this pistol can be easily recognized by the brass color and the fact that there are no finger grips or other protrusions on the floorplate. Sometime around 1930, manufacture of the Little Tom was begun at the Wiener Waffenfabrik of Vienna, Austria, with only a few minor changes.

The Le Francais Policeman Model is one .25 caliber pistol which is certainly original in design. It was first manufactured around 1914 by Manufacture Francaise d'Armes et Cycles de St. Etienne, France. The gun has a barrel length of about 3", overall length of slightly more than 6" and a magazine capacity of 7 rounds. This pistol is blowback-operated and has a stationary hinged barrel which tips up to load the first round, which on some models is carried in a loop on the bottom of the floor-plate. A unique safety feature of this arm is that when the magazine is withdrawn, the barrel automatically opens, preventing it from being fired without reinsertion of the magazine. The action of the trigger being pulled to the rear cocks and fires the weapon, in itself a safety feature since there is no danger of an accidental discharge even when a round is carried in the chamber. This trigger action is more like that of a revolver than an automatic. No extractor is provided on this gun since the expended cartridges are ejected by gas pressure alone. This was probably one of the safest automatic pistols ever made. In addition to the Policeman Model, there were also a Pocket Model in 6.35 mm, a 9 mm Browning Long Military Model and a 7.65 mm Model. The Military or "Army" model is most often noted to have the cartridge loop on the floorplate.

The 4.25 mm Lilliput automatic is considerably smaller than the majority of the pint-size autos one will see. It is only 3½" long, weighs a mere 6 ounces and has a magazine capacity of 6 rounds. The Lilliput pistols were first manufactured in 1920 by August Menz of Suhl, Germany, but did not enjoy any great degree of popularity because of the then-current depression and the relative impotency of the cartridge. The gun was introduced to this country as more of a novelty than for any useful purpose. It is straight blowback-operated and is extremely well made and neat appearing. Any necessary repairs on the gun can be accomplished with ease due to the fact that removal of the right grip exposes all of the operating parts. Another Lilliput in caliber .25 ACP was also manufactured in 1925. These guns make excellent additions to a firearms collection.

The Model 1910 Mauser in 7.65 mm (.32 ACP) is a favorite with many homeowners as a defense arm. It is blowback-operated, weighs about 20 ounces and has a barrel length of 3 7/16". Overall length is about 6½" and the magazine capacity is 8 rounds. This pistol is unusual in several respects. It has three safety features, one of which is a thumbpiece located on the left side below the slide. This safety is released by pressing

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a button just beneath the thumbpiece. Another feature is a magazine disconnect located inside the magazine well. When the magazine is withdrawn, this disconnect is actuated and prevents firing even if there is a round in the chamber at the time. Insertion of the magazine, whether loaded or not, releases the slide immediately. If trigger is pulled when the slide unexpectedly runs home, it is possible that the gun could accidentally discharge. The third safety is a pin which protrudes through a hole in the rear of the slide when the gun is cocked. The 1934 Pocket Mauser, which is quite similar to the 1910 in operation and appearance, and the Mauser HSc both have the same safety features as the 1910, with the exception of the warning indicator in the rear of the slide in the latter gun.

An interesting feature of the Lignose Einhand (One-hand) model, made in Germany in the 1930's, is the method of slide retraction. Normally, automatic pistols must be held in one hand while the other draws the slide back to load and cock. This operation may be performed on the Einhand by using only the trigger finger of the shooting hand. Immediately ahead of the trigger is another curved trigger which is actually a part of the slide. The slide is retracted by extending the trigger finger, curling it around the trigger-like extension of the slide and pulling to the rear as though firing the weapon. Slide retraction in this manner accomplishes loading and cocking in the same way as when the free hand is used. While this arrangement is awkward at first, proficiency can be attained

in only a short time. An identical arrangement will be noted on the Chylewski Vest Pocket pistol made in Switzerland; of the same caliber and approximate size as the Lignose. (This pistol was actually the fore-runner of the Lignose.) The feature is also prominent on the Bergmann Pocket Pistol.

The Liberty .25 automatic, of Spanish manufacture, has little to recommend it except an elongated 12-shot magazine and a very close resemblance to the Colt .25 Auto. Barrel length of the Liberty is about 2" and overall length is about 4". With the exception of the longer magazine, this gun is fairly typical of most automatics of Spanish make.

The little 6.35 mm Steyr Model 1909 was manufactured in Steyr, Austria, under N. Pieper's patent. The barrel of the Steyr is 2" in length and tips up for cleaning or for single-shot loading. Overall length of the weapon is 4½" and the magazine capacity is 6 rounds. Like the Le Francais previously mentioned, this gun has no extractor but depends on gas pressure for ejection of spent cartridges. The magazine for this pistol has a reversed tail which, when the magazine is inserted, is positioned directly below the magazine release located on the back of the grip.

"Ugly but intriguing" best describes the Mann 6.35 mm pistol. This gun has a barrel length of 1¾", an overall length of 4" and a magazine capacity of 5 rounds. Manufactured by Fritz Mann of Suhl, Germany, in 1920, it was an original design and was not copied from Browning's designs as so many of the period were. The Mann was only in

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production for 2 or 3 years, its peculiar appearance probably contributing greatly to its failure.

The 6.35 mm Schmeisser Model 1 was produced in 1920 by the C. G. Haenel Waffen und Fahrradfabrik in Suhl, Germany. Hugo Schmeisser was a designer-engineer at the Haenel factory and was also responsible for the design of several machine pistols. The Model 1 is of the blow-back type and has a unique safety feature seldom seen on this type of arm. Many automatic pistols were constructed so that the weapon cannot be fired when the magazine is withdrawn. In the Model 1, the magazine cannot be withdrawn until the safety lever is

"on," and because it remains in the "on" position, the pistol cannot be fired while the magazine is out. When the magazine is inserted, the gun still cannot be fired until the safety is moved to the "off" position. On other automatics, mere insertion of the magazine serves to render it ready for firing. The Model 1 also has a pin indicator which protrudes from the rear of the slide when the gun is cocked. Barrel length of the Model 1 is 2", overall length is 4½" and the magazine capacity is 6 rounds.

The beginning collector of this type of weapon will no doubt be amazed at the overwhelming number of .25 auto pistols which are practically carbon copies of the Colt. It has been estimated, and perhaps conservatively, that there are well over 100 small pistols which bear more than a passing resemblance to the Colt and as many or more different models. It would then appear that this particular collecting field is wide open to anyone desiring to collect something just a little different. As examples, the following are names found only on those .25 autos which are copies of the Colt:

Apache	Destroyer
Alkar	Dreyse
Action	Duo
Astra	"E.A."
"Automatic Pistol"	"EBAC"
Aurora	Express
Avion	"Fiel No. 1"
Benemerita	Gecado
Bergmann	Kaba Spezial
Broncho	Kommer
Bufalo	Le Sans Pariel
Bulwark	Libia
J. Cesar	MAB
Colon	Martian
Colonial	Marina

Almost all of the guns listed are of Spanish manufacture, with a few exceptions. The

few shown here are only a small percentage of the total number available, therefore a potential collector should experience no difficulty in adding new specimens to a collection.

A word of caution is perhaps appropriate at this point. It is not considered wise to purchase any of these guns from which a major part is missing due to the fact that the majority of the .25 autos currently encountered are no longer manufactured. Hence, the possibility of obtaining replacement parts is slight. It is preferable to buy only working specimens if at all possible.

It would behoove anyone interested in starting a collection of this sort to first invest in a few books on the subject. While it may appear a waste of time and money to buy books when one could be building a collection with the same money, the investment will pay dividends in saving time and trouble. The prepared buyer is seldom fooled by an over-anxious seller. Some of the better books on the subject are: "Textbook of Automatic Pistols," by R. K. Wilson; "Book of Pistols and Revolvers," by W. H. B. Smith; "Mauser Rifles and Pistols," by W. H. B. Smith; "Small Arms of the World," by W. H. B. Smith, and "Firearms Identifications, Vol. 1," by J. H. Mathews. These books can be purchased from a number of sources or may be borrowed from the local library.

A collection of semi-automatic pistols can be both a financial investment and, at the same time, a source of enjoyment in ownership. So if you're a new collector and haven't yet decided on the exact field in which to specialize, consider this category. Look them over, research them, and if you decide they're what you want, good luck and happy collecting. The rewards are practically guaranteed.



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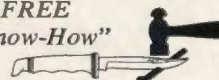
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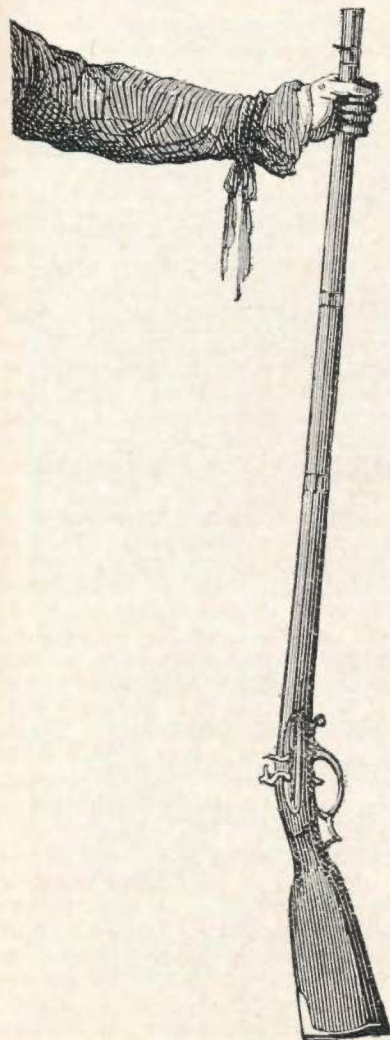
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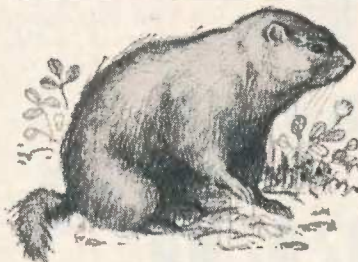
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## DUELLING PISTOLS

(Continued from page 43)

seventh Earl of Cardigan, the man who led the Charge of the Light Brigade against the Russian guns at Balaclava, wounded Captain Harvey Tuckett on Wimbledon Common, their duel arising from the fact that Moselle wine served to an officer at dinner in the 11th Hussars mess at Canterbury appeared on the table in its black bottle instead of a glass decanter, which the Earl deemed a necessary element of etiquette.

The Duke of Wellington, at the age of 61 and in office as Prime Minister, exchanged fire with the Earl of Winchelsea at Battersea Fields in the controversy over Roman Catholics being allowed to sit in Parliament, act as judge and hold other high public office. Neither opponent was hurt. The Rev. Bennet Allen, graduate of Wadham College, Oxford, writer of *Modern Chastity or the Agreeable Rape* and other shilling-a-time pamphlets, killed Lloyd Dulany, an American who crossed the Atlantic to defend his brother against the parson's defamatory attacks. Sir John Jeffcott, a judge in the Colonial Service, killed Dr. Peter Hennis while home on leave at Exeter in a row 'over a certain affair connected with a respectable family which was broken off'. A jury found the judge not guilty of wilful murder and he was acquitted. Captain Tollemache of the Coldstream Guards exchanged shots with Captain Pennington whom he challenged because Pennington was writing a sonnet which Tollemache 'took up as reflecting on the wit of his wife, Lady Bridget'. This encounter developed into swordplay and Tollemache was killed. Mr. George Payne, father of four children and heir to a fortune of £14,000 a year, died in the Red Lion at Putney after a duel fought on Wimbledon Common with a Mr. Clark from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the son of a doctor there. Mr. Clark resented an 'unfortunate attachment' which Mr. Payne had formed with his sister, a friend of Mrs. Payne and a frequent visitor to their home. The Earl of Kingston killed Colonel Fitzgerald at Kilworth, Co. Cork, after the Colonel had seduced the Earl's daughter in England and followed the family to Ireland with the intention of pursuing the affair further.

In the last notable duel recorded between Englishmen on English soil First Lieutenant Henry Charles Moorhead Hawkey of the Royal Marines fatally wounded Mr. James Alexander Seton, a former captain of the 11th Hussars. Mr. Seton, who was 26 and married, had pressed his attentions on the lovely Isabella, Lieutenant Hawkey's wife. The two men quarrelled at 11 p.m. after the last quadrille of a dance held in the King's Rooms, Southsea. Next day they exchanged shots. Time, 7 p.m.; date, 20th May, 1845; place, Brown Down on Stokes Bay, six miles from Portsmouth. Lieut. Hawkey ran from the duelling ground shouting "I'm off to France." Mr. Seton died from his wound ten days later.

No chronicle of duels would be complete without mention of a remarkable affair fought in balloons over Paris. A lady was

the cause of the dispute—a celebrated opera dancer known on the stage as Mademoiselle Tirevit. Mademoiselle was the close friend of M. de Granpree until he found her showing favour to his rival, M. le Pique. Such was the charm of the lady that the two contenders for her affections agreed to fight in a new and unorthodox way—in balloons, and with blunderbusses.

The balloons were prepared in a field adjoining the Tuileries and the two gentlemen, each with a second, climbed into the basket of their respective 'kite'. At 9 a.m. the cords were cut and the balloons ascended majestically before a vast crowd of spectators. The Annual Register quotes a Paris newspaper of 22nd June, 1808, as reporting:

"A very moderate wind was blowing from the nor-nor-west and so far as could be judged the balloons kept about 30 metres from each other. When they mounted to a height of about 900 metres M. le Pique fired his blunderbuss ineffectually. Almost immediately the fire was returned from M. Granpree and penetrated his adversary's balloon, the consequence of which was its rapid descent and M. le Pique and his second were both dashed to pieces on a house."

The victorious M. Granpree descended safely about seven miles away and one hopes that the beautiful Mademoiselle Tirevit hurried out to give him the welcome which his originality and firepower deserved.

Percussion duelling pistols were made in three forms: full-stocked to the muzzle and carrying a ramrod; half-stocked and carrying a ramrod pipe on the under-rib of the barrel; and half-stocked without the rib or ramrod and leaving the barrel projecting on its own. All these pistols were developed in an era which saw peace established between the nations thanks to the strength of British arms and the final victory over Napoleon at Waterloo. But peace abroad meant more officers and ex-officers at home. A mass of 'gentlemen' who had held commissions in the wars, or said they had held commissions, were now reduced to foraging for a living on the fringes of society and trying their hand at cards in gaming clubs which sprang up to relieve them of whatever assets they had. To such characters as these the duel was more than an honoured institution. It was an instrument which enabled the sharp-practice man to manoeuvre a dupe into the position of accepting unfair card play and being fleeced, or protesting, and receiving a challenge for questioning the honour of a 'gentleman'. In and around London especially duelling flourished in defiance of the capital's first police force set up by Sir Robert Peel's Act of 1829.

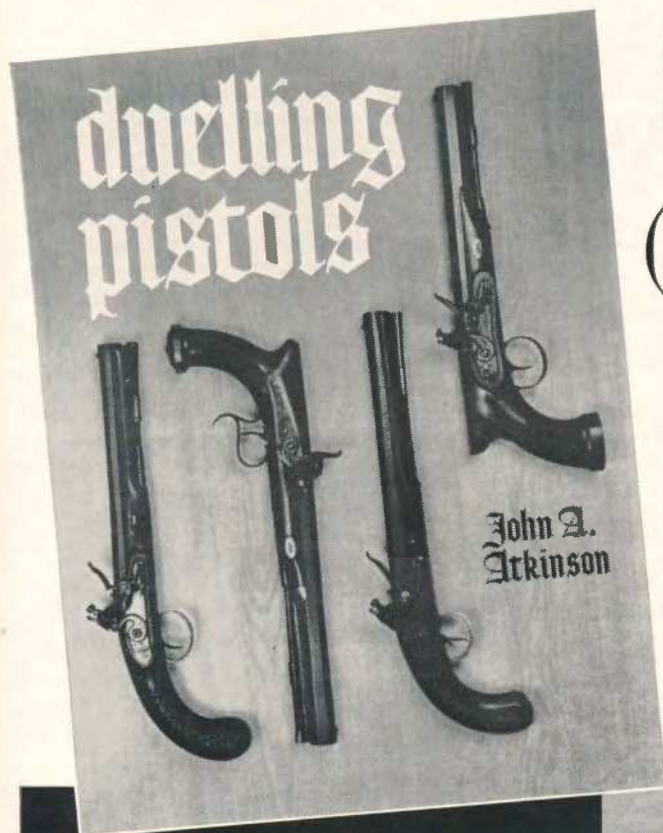
A duelling pistol made by John Manton about that time has a platinum vent plug corresponding in position to the touch hole on flintlocks. The plug is pierced through its centre by a minute hole communicating with the powder chamber. This device was designed to prevent fouling in the passage between nipple and chamber by allowing

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## DUELLING PISTOLS

by JOHN A. ATKINSON

Here are facts about great pistol makers such as Joseph Griffin and his partner John Tow, about John Twigg—who is credited with introducing the octagonal barrel to English duelling weapons—Henry Nock, Durs Egg, Robert Wogdon, H. W. Mortimer, John and Joe Manton, John Rigby of Dublin, and many more. The barrel-making methods of Robert Wogdon, Joe Manton and the Rigby firm are discussed by John Rigby Jr. in an address delivered to the Royal Dublin Society in 1838. Don't delay, obtain this superb volume today!

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(Continued from page 56)

any accumulation of spent powder to be blown out by the explosion.

This form of platinum vent plug was in use, particularly on best quality sporting guns, right up to 1855 and even later and it was regarded as being more important on guns than on pistols. It allowed some air to escape when the gun was being loaded—thus preventing suction driving back the wad through creation of a vacuum—and it also allowed some air to mix with the charge, which was believed to be beneficial.

The butt of the John Manton pistol has decidedly less curve than was traditional on his duelling weapons of flintlock days. Indeed, some makers of percussion duelling and target pistols came to favour a butt which was made almost straight and tilted from the stock at an angle of nearly 45 degrees. James Purdey used this style on some of the duelling weapons he produced between 1840-1845 and another maker who favoured it was James Beattie at 205 Regent Street. It gives an extremely rakish and macabre appearance to the pistols, as will be seen from the weapon by Purdey shown on page 39. This maker's pistols were regarded by marksmen as the top of the tops. In a skilled hand they would put all their shots into a two-inch group at 15 yards. Purdey finished his later barrels in a fine charcoal blue, which, combined with an ebonized finish to the stocks, produced most handsome weapons.

Charles Moore, the maker in St. James's Street who produced pellet lock duellers, later turned out conventional percussion

duelling and target weapons and capped the butts of some of his finer pairs with silver lion masks. One of these pistols is on page 39. On the same page is illustrated a duelling weapon made by Isaac Riviere of Oxford Street. Riviere enclosed his lock in the stock and when the copper cap was splintered by the hammer blow fragments flying off could not hit the eye of the man holding the gun.

As to prices of percussion duelling pistols when new, Messrs. Purdey tell me they sold a pair of their best in 1829 for £31 10s. Messrs. Westley Richards says that in 1839 they sold a similar pair, cased for £27 10s.

Westley Richards was among the makers who made pistols with butt traps. The end of the butt was hollowed and fitted with a snap-shutting lid. In the cavity or 'trap' the owner could carry one or two extra bullets or an emergency supply of percussion caps. The butt trap was used sometimes on pistols made primarily for target shooting. It was also fitted occasionally on the heavier style of pistol designed principally for military service but which might just now and again be taken to the duelling ground. The 'trap' was an ideal extra for the officer who felt that one day he might have to fight, literally, to the last round. The last round was there in his pistol and with a flick of the thumb-nail he could open the lid of the butt trap and get it out.

In Liverpool, Jeremiah Patrick's family carried his business into the percussion era. The last entry for Jeremiah in the city directory says he was working at 44 Strand Street in the year 1814. In 1816 Edward Patrick is listed at that address and in 1821

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Ann Patrick is mentioned as 'Gunsmith, 45 Strand Street'. Presumably she was Jeremiah's widow, daughter or niece. The Liverpool directory lists her for the last time in 1832 with a shop at 10 Pool Lane.

The family inherited Jeremiah's fondness and flair for saw-handle pistols and their percussion duellers in that style were every bit as distinctive as his flintlocks. Some of the percussion weapons made by the firm about 1830 have 10-inch barrels which flare slightly at the muzzle and have four lines of platinum decoration inlaid at the breech. The end of the butt is grooved with just a suggestion of the Mortimer touch and encircled by a narrow silver band engraved with a leaf pattern. The spur projecting from the saw-handle butt is grooved right to the point in Mortimer style to give a longer and quicker sighting line. The left-hand end of the back action lockplate fits into a hook on the stock. One of these elegant duelling weapons of a pair made about 1830—when Ann Patrick was in charge of the firm—is shown on page 42. The pistol weighs 2½ lb. exactly. The barrel weighs 1 lb. 10 oz. and is No. 40 bore—the Joe Manton style for duelling—and it is a quarter inch thick at the muzzle. These fine pistols are in the collection of Mr. George Grabham.

In Dublin, William and John Rigby took over the firm at No. 24 Suffolk Street on the death of their father, John senior, in 1819. He had rounded off his career as Ireland's premier gunmaker by introducing in the penultimate year of his life the Damascus barrels of mingled iron and steel which his sons were to mount on the finest percussion firearms which their firm—and thus their country—produced.

Another innovation for which the Rigby firm claimed credit early in the percussion era was a tumbler with three bents or notches instead of the usual two so that there are three distinct clicks when the piece is being cocked. Besides the customary 'half cock' and 'full cock' the hammer can also be positioned with its nose just clear of the nipple. The Rigbys claimed that in this way the percussion cap could be prevented from falling off the nipple should the pistol or gun be roughly handled or jolted—as might happen to a sporting gun when the owner was hurrying over a fence or jumping a ditch. The tumbler with the three bents fell into disuse when percussion caps were eventually made to fit so tightly on the nipple that the risk of their being dislodged was very slight.

Yet another feature favoured by the Rigby firm and some of its contemporaries in early percussion days was a nut which screwed on

to a small rounded extension of the 'square' or spindle of the tumbler. This nut secured the hammer on the 'square' and was popular in the 1820s and the first half of the 1830s. The Rigbys were still using it in 1843. It meant that the 'square' did not have to be pierced to allow a screw to secure the hammer. Therefore the 'square' remained solid and, it was argued, stronger.

The nut is used with the hammer of the Rigby pistol shown on page 42 (top right). This pistol is one of a pair with serial numbers 6558 and 6559 on the barrels. The present Rigby firm traced the numbers in their books and tell me that the pistols were made in 1829, used in a shooting gallery and bought by Lord Howth on 3rd March, 1838. The shooting gallery was probably Rigby's own and one can imagine his lordship practising with the pistols, finding that they suited him and striking a shrewd bargain—the weapons having been in use for nine years. They are still in excellent condition today.

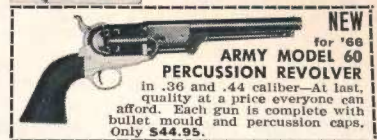
The deep engraving on the hammer and on the back-action lockplate is typical of the Rigby workmanship. In the back-action lock the mainspring is placed behind instead of in front of the hammer and exercises an upward pull instead of downward pressure on the tumbler. The Rigby brothers claimed that they were using this type of lock before most of the English gunmakers. The barrel of the pistol illustrated is browned Damascus, No. 32 bore and 8¾ inches long. Collectors now would regard the weapon as one made for target shooting rather than duelling. But the contemporary Rigby records describe the pistol and its companion in the pair as 'best duelling pistols'.

A still finer pistol by Rigby made in full-blooded duelling style is in the bottom position on page 42. This is one of a pair of saw-handle pistols with back-action locks. They measure 13½ inches from the muzzle to the tip of the boldly designed spur which extends backwards in line with the barrel. Each pistol weighs 1 lb. 14 oz. and each barrel alone weighs exactly 1 lb. The fore ends of the stocks are capped with steel, a change from the more familiar horn or silver, and the Damascus barrels were burnished bright after the acid etching process. They were made in 1843, the exact year being found once again by means of the serial number on the barrels. Taking this pair of pistols in conjunction with the silver-mounted Rigby flintlocks of 1788 described earlier in the text we have the fairly early and the very late product which the Rigby family contributed to the art of duelling.

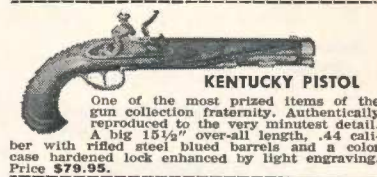


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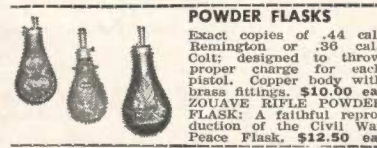


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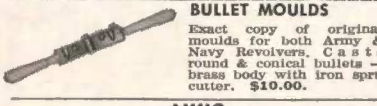
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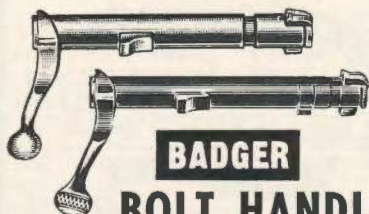
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## NYDAR SIGHT

(Continued from page 35)

apparently does not affect the sight's or the base's zero, and even removing the sight between shots did not alter the point of impact in my tests.

In comparison tests with scoped and unscoped rifles, I found that the Nydar equipped gun gave a quicker sight picture than a gun with a 4 power scope. Getting the sight picture clearly with an iron sighted Model 94 was perhaps a fraction faster than with the same gun topped with the Nydar sight. Over the years I have taught a number of novices how to handle a rifle and the greatest obstacle to good shooting by these beginners has always been the tendency to squeeze the non-master eye shut when the gun is mounted. The Nydar Gunsight very definitely encourages the shooter to keep both eyes open, and this, to my mind, is a decided advantage. Though the Nydar sight is not for those 400 yard, cross canyon shots, it can be a real boon to brush country hunters. Again, the single plane sighting and the almost luminous reticle are advantages too real to be overlooked.

The Nelsons are now planning to make bases for most domestic rifles, and the bases for the majority of domestic shotguns are currently in stock. Prototype bases for various revolvers are being made now. Shotgun

bases must be mounted either by the factory or by a competent gunsmith since shotguns are not normally drilled and tapped. The rifle bases, however, once they become available, can be installed by anyone who can manipulate a screwdriver and read sighting-in directions. Adjustments for windage and elevation are located in the bases, and the Nydar sight is simply slipped onto the base and fastened with one large screw.

Al Nelson is the first to admit that the Nydar sight got a black eye some 18 years ago when the first production models began to leak and the lens coatings began to wear off. But this was a long time ago and today's Nydar sight, though basically of the same design as in 1948, is a lot better and more versatile. Actually the lens coatings on the 1948 Nydars were the best available at that time, and since then optical coatings have improved vastly. No longer do the Nydar lenses leak or peel, and the lenses you find in today's Nydar sights are a far cry from those of the early postwar years. (Swain Nelson will replace any lens for only \$5.00) The lens coating has been improved and the image is now some 50 per cent brighter. The entire system is now completely waterproof and there is a streamlined base in the works. This new base gives extra strength to the reflector lens housing, even though company records indicate that accidental breakage of the housing is extremely rare.

Another problem, and one which is not exclusive to the Nydar sight, is the disappearance of the reticle when sighting into a bright background, such as the sun or a snowbank. To some extent, sighting into the sun is difficult with any kind of sight and the Nydar should not be greatly faulted if it still has the tendency to fade out when used against a bright background. To overcome this problem, Al Nelson is developing a polarizing system which seems to be the answer. I have tested a prototype model and suffice to say that I have high hopes of getting one of the first production models when they are available.

I also tested several new reticle designs which might eventually replace the dot and circle arrangement. There is a somewhat modified Maltese cross which would be the one which I would select for handgun use and possibly for use on a rifle. But for the shotgun, I think I'd stick to the dot and circle—it's stood the test of time and the range finding qualities seem to help in the estimation of lead.

Since a Nydar base retails for only \$6.75 and the complete Nydar Gunsight with one base retails for one nickel less than 20 bucks, anyone can easily equip more than one gun with the Nydar sight and shift the sight between guns by simply loosening and tightening one screw. The Nydar Gunsights are unconditionally guaranteed and this guarantee even holds for the old units which were sold back in the late forties and fifties. However that guarantee doesn't cover not busting 25x25 and crying towels are not included—those you'll have to supply yourself.



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## AS OTHERS SEE US

(Continued from page 47)

comb, to fire across our bodies with toes pointing perhaps 40 degrees to the right of the line of fire, and get our weight well forward on the left (for the right-hander) foot. The English gunner, on the other hand, squares around more to face his target, tends to keep his head more erect and to bring the gun to his face rather than his cheek to the comb, and to distribute his weight more evenly between his two feet. Thus, the American will require a longer buttstock, lower comb, and less cast-off than his English cousin. It is my impression that the English gun-fitters have a slight tendency to overlook these differences, and to fit an American in such a way that he may need to alter his shooting slightly to accommodate himself to the gun.

In all fairness, a very good case can be made for the English style of shooting. You can try it in your living room. Pick up your favorite shotgun and assume your usual stance, feet well apart and toes at a wide angle away from the target. Then "lock up" your upper body—head, shoulders, arms, and gun—and image a bird tracking fast and level to your left. You can swing on this bird without difficulty, with your weight on the forward foot as it should be.

Now return to center and imagine the same bird tracking fast and level to your

right (all this assumes a right-handed shooter; lefties should reverse the procedure). You will find that as you swing to the right, maintaining proper relationships of eyes, body and gun, your muzzle will inevitably track downward. To avoid this, you'll have to shift some weight back onto the right foot, and swinging from the hips will be almost impossible.

Now try it the English way. It will feel awkward if you're an experienced shotgunner, but face around more toward the front, with your shoulders almost squared to the line of fire, your feet no more than 12 inches apart, and your weight almost equally distributed. Now, as you track the imaginary bird to the left, shift weight to the left foot, lifting the right heel clear of the floor if necessary. As you swing to the right, reverse the procedure, shifting weight to the right foot and lifting the left heel. You'll discover that your hips remain free to pivot in either direction, and that there is no tendency to drag the muzzle downward as you track around to your right.

Differences in the ways in which the American and English styles developed are probably due to the differences in game birds and shooting in the two countries. The English are almost certainly the world's best shots on high, incoming birds, whereas,

much of our upland gunning is on birds going away and rising sharply, usually beginning at a point indicated by a bird dog.

They have nothing over there which quite duplicates our quail hunting, and certainly nothing like our wild turkey. The English shooter is long on form, emphasizes close, quick pointing, and is content with open chokes and light loads. Much of our shooting—on quail, woodcock, snipe, and ruffed grouse—calls for fast gun-handling at short range, frequently in heavy cover. The dog has shown us where the bird will come from and we have time to get set. In contrast to the form which prepares us for such shots, the English coaches emphasize a stance which allows for the unexpected, a shot at any azimuth or elevation.

The English preference for light loads is another factor in the matter of cast-off in a gunstock. Cast-off tends to increase recoil sensation in the cheek area, although a well-fitted gun reduces overall recoil sensations. The American who intends to shoot magnum ammo in his fine English double, or who plans to pound away all day at traps, should bring this to the attention of his gun-fitter.

A major difference in U.S. and British preferences in shotgun stocks lies in the areas of forearms and grips. We like the beavertail styles, possibly because we tend to bend the left elbow more, to grip the gun closer to its balance-point. The Britisher likes to keep his left elbow almost straight, and he actually grips the barrels of a double rather than the forearm. When the shooting is hot and heavy, he wears a shooting glove on his left hand, or has a hand-guard installed on the gun to protect his fingers from the hot barrels.

Americans are in the habit of seeing pistol-grips on their shotguns, while on the other side of the Atlantic they like a straight grip.

We colonials also seem to desire the single trigger, selective or not, even though this optional feature will add more than \$200 to the cost of a best-grade London gun. Europeans are perfectly satisfied with double triggers. Norman Clarke feels that this is largely a matter of fashion and that it—like many other American preferences—arises from our familiarity with the single-barreled repeater shotgun.

Englishmen, quite frankly, regard our pumps and semi-autos with disdain (as do many Americans, for that matter, who have become familiar with a fine double).

Even the working man in Great Britain, who never even dreams of owning a Purdey, shoots a side-by-side double. He buys a Webley & Scott, a Holland & Holland box-lock gun, or perhaps a used best-grade gun—and he has it fitted to him. Today the Spanish, Italian, Belgian, and French manufacturers are gaining a definite foothold in merrie olde England, selling copies of the gun mechanisms designed by such men as Anson, Deeley, Greener, Purdey, and Woodward to the countrymen of these immortals. It's a left-handed sort of compliment, but the cagey foreigners are carrying coals to Newcastle and making a nice profit at it!

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Much emphasis is placed upon gun safety and gun manners, especially with beginners. It is interesting to note, however, that many of the world's established great shooters come to Northwood to brush up, so to speak, or to get professional help in breaking a "slump." Any serious American shotgunner who finds himself in London should regard a visit to Northwood or one of the other schools (Purdey maintains one) as an essential part of his itinerary.

Perhaps the most surprising single thing taught by Norman Clarke involves the handling of a gun while attempting a quick second shot—a "left and right" with a double gun. He advocates that the butt of the gun be dropped away from the shoulder after the first shot has been fired and re-checked for the second round. This is a very slight movement, covered up by recoil-recovery so that it would be difficult for an alert observer to spot. The butt moves hardly more than an inch or two. The theory is that recoil drives the butt out of position on the shoulder. It slips lower as a result of muzzle-jump, and it then becomes necessary for the gunner to follow it down, so to speak, with his cheek for a second shot. This gets his head out of position and his eye lower relative to the breech of the gun—and makes him undershoot.

Clarke urges his students to take the gun away from the shoulder during the moment required to recover from recoil, and re-check it and fire the second barrel the instant the gun lines up. Throughout the procedure, the shooter's eyes should be tracking the target. It seems an odd idea to us, but it makes sense really, and I'm going to give it a try on skeet doubles.

Nobody has yet learned all there is to know about wingshooting, including our expert British friends, but they were building magnificent shotguns since we were still fighting Indians, and shooting those guns in a style that matched their quality. We need not slavishly imitate the British in shotgunning, but even the best of us may benefit from seeing ourselves through the eyes of such men as Clarke, Lyell, and Lawrence.



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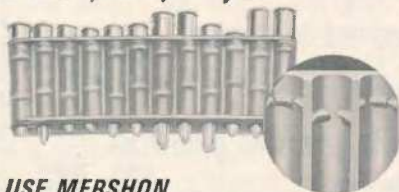
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## HALF AN OUNCE OF LEAD

(Continued from page 27)

I have it reblued. I don't monkey with trigger pulls, or attempt to do a kitchen table "accuracy job." My loads are heavy enough to work the slide with an issue recoil spring. That's all.

Since the auto is a fast-shooting gun, and since I lose many cases, I prefer to buy once-fired brass by the thousand and load large lots of ammo at the same time.

My standard load more or less duplicates factory ammo. I load 6.0 grains Unique behind Lyman's 230 grain, round-nose cast bullet, #452374, sized to .451 inch and seated without crimp to the same length as factory ammo. The first few are tried in a pistol magazine at the bench, before running the whole works through the seating die. Nuisance to run the whole thousand through the die again because you didn't get 'em quite deep enough the first time!

The Keith 245 grain bullet caused too many jams in my auto to satisfy me, which is why I got the round-nose mould, but the Keith is still the best for a revolver. The various 185 grain slugs aren't much good in my opinion, as they are too short for proper feeding in an auto when correctly seated, and inaccurate in a revolver due to the long jump from case to rifling.

Best semi-wadcutter for use in an automatic is the 200 grain Lyman #452460. I load large quantities of these with 6.0 grains Unique, and like them better than the standard round-nose bullet. I load without crimp, with all the grooves and bands inside the case, and the shoulder even with the case mouth. All semi-wadcutters should be loaded in this manner when used in an auto. This load gives excellent accuracy, and feeds almost as well as the round-nose slug.

The man who prefers revolvers in this caliber can pick up a Colt or Smith & Wesson M1917 revolver, and work it over into a darned nice gun. My Colt M1917 was a good gun, as issued, but the dull grey finish did nothing for it. I had it reblued, and equipped it with a set of Jay Scott pearl grips.

A good gun deserves good ammunition, and the half-moon clips are a sloppy makeshift at best. For the M1917, and even more so for the newer Smith & Wesson 1950 Army and 1955 Target revolvers, I would prefer to use the .45 Auto Rim cases. By the same token, a really good .455 revolver is deserving of the Dominion .455 Colt ammo. Loaded in Canada using regular American-type Boxer primers, it is hard to come by, but worth the effort for a good gun.

I would not recommend converting Smith & Wesson or Colt .455's to take .45 Automatic. If you want a .45 Auto Rim revolver, better to trade for a regular M1917, or buy one in the first place. Guns in .455 were designed for that cartridge, with larger chambers and a higher front sight to handle 265 grain bullets. The Smith & Wesson is even rifled for this round, with groove diameter of .457 to .458 inch. In my opinion, the .455 Colt round is a better one than .45 Auto Rim, and I would rather have an unaltered Smith & Wesson .455 Triple Lock than any M1917!

It makes sense to convert a Webley, despite the above mentioned drawbacks, because you need cheap ammo for a low-priced revolver, and old G. I. surplus ammo is cheaper and easier to come by than .455 ammo.

I think any good Colt or S & W .455 revolver should be rechambered for the .45 Colt cartridge. This round is readily available, more powerful, and the 250 grain bullet will shoot to the sights. The .455 may be used as a low-powered "short" when desired, and the outward appearance of gun remains the same. I think you will find that the .45 is more accurate, however, since its bullet need not make such a long jump to the rifling. Smith & Wesson rifling will handle the smaller bullet O.K., since the lands upset the bullet slightly to fill the grooves. Smith & Wesson made a few .45 Colts, though not many, using same barrel specs as the .455 Eley. Colt used .45 Colt specs for the .455 Eley.

My Smith & Wesson .455 Hand Ejector with a 6 1/2 inch barrel was rechambered by Ward Koozer, of Waterville, Oregon, and he did excellent work. The whole gun was polished, and it was then sent to the Smith & Wesson factory to be finished in nickel, and equipped with a set of Smith & Wesson Magna grips. It now looks like a new gun.

My favorite handload for this gun is the Lyman Keith 260 grain #454424 sized .457 inch, seated with all the bands in the case and a fairly heavy crimp over the shoulder, and charged with 8.0 grs. of Unique.

The 300 grain load uses a bullet intended for .45-70 rifles, Lyman Ideal #457191, sized .457 inch and seated to the same length as the factory load, ahead of 7.0 grs. Unique. I doubt if the velocity is over 600 feet, and it shoots a foot high at fifty yards, but it's right on at about a hundred, and it's quite accurate. I can get hits clear across the canyon with it, and it has my utmost respect.

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I see little point in rechambering a Webley, as a rule, but I did once buy a spare .455 cylinder for my Mark VI and have it rechambered to .45 Colt. Later, I obtained a Mark IV blackpowder Webley with a ruined cylinder and by pure luck the Mark VI cylinder fit, worked properly, and all the chambers line up. This turned out to be a darned nice handgun.

Factory .45 Colt ammo is too long for the Webley cylinder, unless you file down the bullet tips, but I came up with handloads that would work. I used the 245 grain Keith, #452423 sized to .452 inch and loaded in front of 7.5 grains of Unique. Later I tried the 200 grain #452460 with 6.0 grains Unique, which is more of a plinking load. Both work well as long as you seat all the bands inside the case, and crimp over the shoulder.

I tried my 245 grain loads in a Colt New Service, and also a load with 230 grain #452374, but both shoot low, with the lightest bullet going lower. Accuracy was good. I found that the Webley kicks less than the Colt, with the same load, because it rolls back in the hand like a Peacemaker. Were it not for this fact, the little "pocket revolver" would be a wrist-breaker with any but the mildest of loads.

I confess that I, like most gun nuts, have a craving for "just one more gun," and the good Lord willing and my wife don't balk, I will probably come into a good single-action one of these days. I would like a .45 Colt, preferably with a 7½ inch barrel. If it were available, I would also want an interchangeable cylinder in .45 ACP caliber. This would give me an opportunity to use the lighter loads in the same gun for practice, and I would not need to fool around

with those pesky clips at all. As long as the cylinder is chambered so the cartridge seats on the case mouth, the Peacemaker would handle rimless ammo as easily as rimmed. I fail to see why no one offers .45 single-actions in a dual-cylinder version.

I would also like to see the .455 Colt ammunition on dealer's shelves. There are an awful lot of good .455 revolvers floating around, not only Webleys, but Smith & Wessons and Colts. The .455 would make a better target load for revolvers than the .45 Auto Rim, and is a good defense load as well. It is also a good light subload for use in any .45 Colt revolver. A very useful load, it should have been produced in the U. S. for years.

The heavy .45 is a good choice for any man. Like the .30-06 rifle, it is plenty powerful enough for most purposes, but not so big the average man cannot master it with a little work. These big-frame guns fit a big man's hand in a way no smaller gun can and have the weight for steady holding. They are first rate for target, trail, or self-defense.

I always pack the Big Six whenever I'm out hunting. If I should see a jack or a coyote, I've then got a gun with much greater reach than my 12 gauge. I can testify that it is great fun to chase a frightened jackrabbit with heavy revolver slugs, trying to establish the correct elevation and lead out at a hundred yards or so by the large puffs of dirt a .45 kicks up. More fun than success, usually, I might add!

If you want some real fun, try the .45. Get a good one, lots of ammunition, and give it a try. You may become an addict. After all, the .45 delivers the goods—half an ounce of lead!

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(Continued from page 22)

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It has been determined that the accuracy of this rifle is fully comparable to that of factory built bolt rifles; and it is not unreasonable to assume that, as in the case of other types of actions, the finest accuracy will be the product of the custom gunsmith. The point I am trying to make is that there is nothing about the Ruger single shot action to prevent its being made into a rifle as accurate as any other known type. This is the important consideration.

From the above it will be seen that all of the design criteria which I suggested have been met and that the designer has gone further and incorporated even more good features. The scope mounts will attach, for example, to a semi-rib on the barrel. Expensive, but absolutely the best possible method for a single shot.

Iron sights will not be standard equip-

ment but will be furnished on demand for an extra consideration. I might add that my rifle or rifles will have both types of sight since a rifle without a front sight looks indecently naked to these old eyes.

The idea of a single shot rifle is, of course, a very old one. It was the first rifle action for the simple reason that in the beginning no one knew how to design a repeater. It is interesting and enlightening to consider, however, the buffalo hunters. By the time our great herds of bison were being slaughtered we had several perfectly reliable repeaters among which may be mentioned the Spencer, the Henry, and the Winchester. These repeaters were not, however, used to any great extent by the serious, professional buffalo hunters for the simple reason that they were insufficiently powerful to permit consistent, one-shot kills—and those old boys could not afford to waste lead. A repeater could not be made as powerful as a single shot—or, at least, was not—because it could not handle cartridges of the length of those of the single shot. In 1876 Winchester brought out its "Centennial" Model chambered for the .40-60, the .45-60 and the .45-75 WCF cartridges; all three had an overall length of under 2 1/4". There were many single shots chambered for the .40, .45 and

(Continued on page 70)

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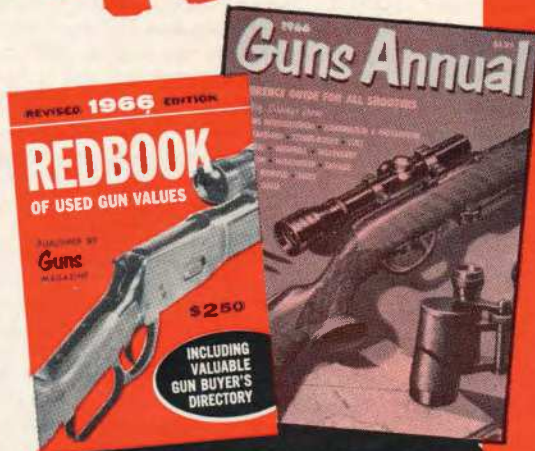
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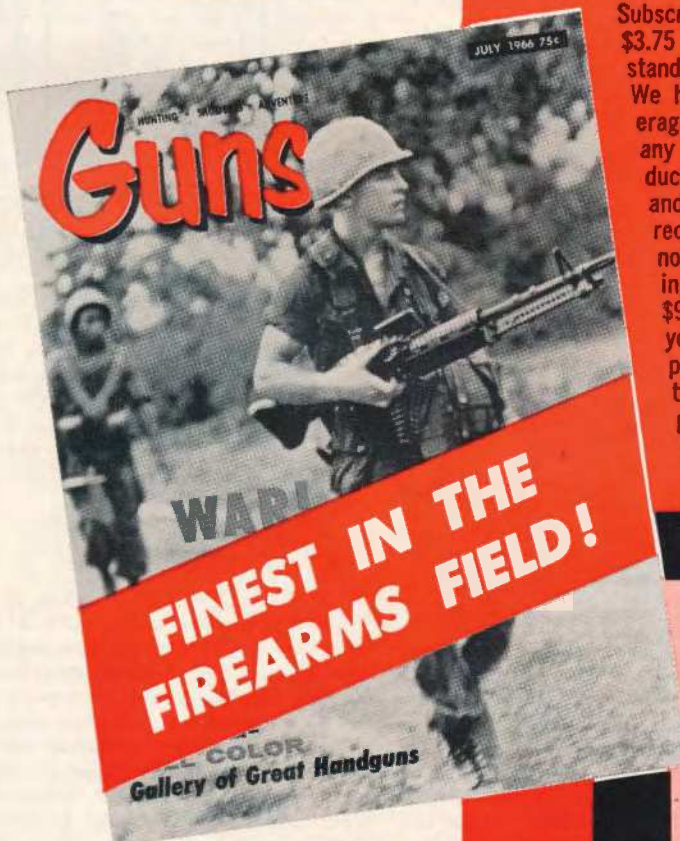
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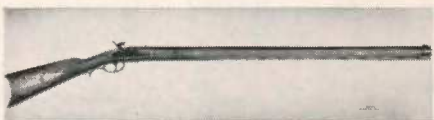
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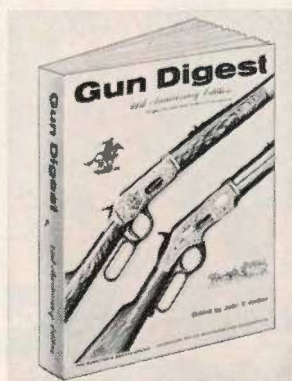
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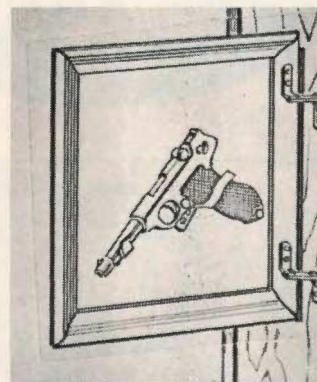


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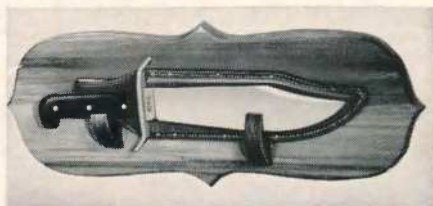


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A NEW WINCHESTER MODEL 101 over-and-under shotgun chambered for three inch Magnum shotshells will be available to waterfowl hunters for the 1966-67 season. Shooters who prefer the balance and natural pointing qualities of the double barrel over-and-under will find the Magnum Model 101 to be perfect in the duck blind. The new Model 101 field gun embodies all the features of the original version: Proof steel barrels, polished chrome bores, ventilated rib, metal bead front sight, French Walnut stock, hand checkering on both pistol grip and beavertail fore-end, and a recoil pad. All are standard equipment. Each receiver is decorated with hand-executed engraving, and incorporates an inertia type trigger system, controlled by a tang safety that also doubles as a barrel selector. The new 12 gauge Magnum Model 101 will be available only with 30 inch barrels, both choked full, and weighing approximately 7¾ pounds. This fine shotgun may be seen at Winchester dealers.

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(Continued from page 66)

.50 calibre Sharps cartridges the cases alone of which measured  $3\frac{1}{4}$ ". The muzzle energy of the .45-75 was 1485 ft. lbs. That of the .45-120-550 Sharps was 2561 ft. lbs.—a big difference.

Oddly enough, today's reason for a single shot is strangely analogous to those of the 1870's. Once again it is a more efficient long range rifle—but for a different reason. In the last century the single shot was the more powerful because of its ability to digest outsized cartridges. Today it has a definite edge because of the *length of its action*. The Ruger single shot action is roughly  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " shorter than that of a standard length bolt action. Hence, the single shot is going to be  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " shorter overall than a bolt gun if they both have the same length of barrel; and what to me is of far greater importance, I can have a  $26\frac{1}{2}$ " barrel on my single shot and the overall length will not be any greater than my 22" bolt rifles. Assuming that velocity varies about 40 fps per inch of barrel, this means that you pick up 260 fps by using a  $26\frac{1}{2}$ " barrel rather than a 22-incher. I might add parenthetically that 40 fps variation is not unreasonable in the case of bottlenecked cartridges of approximately bore or over-bore capacity. The variation with the .458 on the other hand was found after careful tests by Winchester to be about 13 ft. secs.

In a certain 7 mm Remington Magnum rifle I once owned I was getting just over 3000 ft. secs. with 175 grain Noslers out of a 22" barrel. If 3260 ft. secs. may be reached with the  $26\frac{1}{2}$ " barrel possible if the new single shot with the new Remington and Hornady pointed soft point bullets, then I venture to say that we shall have a rifle with which we may virtually forget range out to close to 400 yards. This is for me the main reason for the single shot.

There are, however, other reasons why the single shot is advantageous. It is, for instance, a far more graceful rifle than any

other I know of. Going the opposite direction from the one I described in the last paragraph, if one were to have a single shot made up in let us say .270 WCF with about a 19 or 20 inch barrel, wouldn't that make a great saddle gun for a western rancher and wouldn't it be a handy little rifle to carry in the cab of a pick-up truck? That tawny coyote or grey lobo wouldn't have much chance against that outfit.

Finally, but by no means of least importance, is a comparative intangible. This is the consideration of hunting skill, of conservation, and of sportsmanship. I am thoroughly convinced that the user of a single shot rifle is going to go to far more trouble to make his first shot count than the man with the many-shooter. Making the first shot count is, essentially, what all good hunters and sportsmen strive to do. It does several things aside from making the hunter feel about ten feet tall in his stocking feet. It contributes to closer stalking, to the positive identification of the sex of the animal, to the proper evaluation of the head—to say nothing of the certainty of identification of the specie.

The United States is once again becoming a nation of riflemen and my old friend, Col. Townsend Whelen—may he rest in peace—would rejoice to see his dream coming true. The widespread acceptance of handloading has contributed much to increased rifleshooting. Any handloader is automatically going to shoot more. These handloaders, who more and more become keen students of the rifle, are the ones who will welcome the advent of the single shot Ruger. It is the tool of the dedicated rifleman, the sincere conservationist, and the sportsman, and I foresee the time when men will carry single shots as a badge of these three attributes.

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## GUNS OF PLEVNA

(Continued from page 32)

establish the Winchester firm on a sound footing. Winchester's first Turkish contract, signed November 9, 1870, was for 15,000 Model 1866 muskets (at \$28 each) and 5,000 Model 1866 carbines (\$20 apiece). On August 19, 1871 a second contract was let for an additional 30,000 muskets at the same price. These weapons were chambered for the .44 rimfire cartridge loaded with a 200 grain bullet ahead of 28 grains of black powder.

Later, in 1872, Winchester himself visited Turkey, and although not successful in selling more of his own product, he did get a contract to furnish 200,000 Martini-Henry rifles to the Ottoman Empire. This contract was subsequently sold to the Providence Tool Company of Providence, Rhode Island, which had purchased the original Peabody patent.

At the start of the war in 1877, according to Ahmed Mithad Effendi, official annalist of the Turkish Empire, the Turkish army had, in arsenals or in the hands of troops, some 334,000 Peabody-Martini rifles, 323,000 Snider rifles, and 39,000 Winchester repeating rifles. How many of these weapons were with Osman's troops at Plevna is not known. At least some of the Winchesters, for example, were used to arm the police in Constantinople.

By contrast, the Russian foot soldier was armed with what Lt. Col. Price of the 5th U. S. Infantry, after a visit to Plevna, characterized as probably the worst small arms in Europe. One of these was the old Krenk (Krnka) breechloader, a .60 caliber rifle with a muzzle velocity of 1,082 feet per second, which had been converted from a muzzle loader. The other was a more modern weapon, the .42 caliber Berdan breechloader with a muzzle velocity of 1,450 fps.

The chief comments by foreign observers of the Russo-Turkish clash had to do with the long range effectiveness and the speed of reloading of the .45 caliber Peabody-Martini rifles, and the murderous fire at short range by the Winchester repeating weapons in the hands of Plevna's defenders.

William V. Herbert, a German who participated as a lieutenant of infantry with the Turks at Plevna, had this comment about the nature of that long range fire: "A feature of the Turkish tactics which stamped

the war of 1877 with a character of its own, a feature evident in all actions I took part in (was) the quickfire of the Turkish infantry, of such power, duration and effect as had never before been dreamt of. General Todleben wrote later: 'Such a shower of lead as that with which the Turks hailed our troops has never before been employed as a mode of warfare by any European army.'" Herbert explained that "Our orders were briefly as follows: 'As soon as you know or suppose the enemy to be within range of your rifles, cover the space presumably occupied by him, or presumably to be traversed by him, with quickfire, independent of distance, duration, difficulty of aim, probability of hitting, and consumption of cartridges.' The awful effect of this rule . . . is apparent in the Russian losses." Regarding ammunition, Herbert added that "To carry out this mode of warfare the organization of the cartridge-supply must be as perfect as it was in Plevna camp. Not only had we an immense central stock, housed in a mosque, which was replenished from Orkanye at regular intervals, but each redoubt had its own reserve store, each battalion its mobile stock, each trench its numerous boxes placed in convenient positions for the men to help themselves freely . . ."

The authoritative "Army & Navy Journal" in a contemporary article reported that the Turks habitually opened fire with their Peabody-Martini at ranges of 500 to 800 yards, and sometimes out to a mile or more. Mr. Graham, the "London Times" correspondent with the Russian forces, said he was occasionally taken under fire at that extreme range, and added that when he dug up some Peabody bullets out of the dirt, he found them buried to a depth of 16 inches in the hard clay road, and showing scarcely any deformation.

Captain H. M. Hozier in his history of *The Russo-Turkish War* characterized the repeated Russian frontal attacks on the Turk positions as "sending wave after wave of infantry down one slope and up another, in swarms, decimated by a rolling fire from Peabody and Winchester rifles for 1,500 yards, to be at last withered and scorched to death at close range without even the possibility of success." Elsewhere he mentions that the Turkish defenders of Redoubt No. 5, in three tiers of rifle pits, poured out 20,



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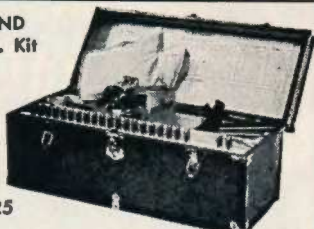
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000 shots per minute on the attacking Rumanians, killing or wounding 1,000 in twenty minutes.

In describing the Russian September 11 attack on one of the redoubts, Professor A. J. Schem, in his "The War in the East," remarks that "at 4:45 o'clock they were actually in the redoubt, but nothing mortal could face the fire from the repeating rifles. They were destroyed by hundreds at a few paces. At 4:52 the remaining survivors fell slowly back..."

Interestingly enough, in spite of the effectiveness of the Turkish long range fire, the defenders did not make maximum use of the long range capabilities of their weapons. They apparently were not adequately trained in the use of the adjustable rear sight of the Peabody-Martini, and often merely elevated the muzzle by guess when firing at extreme ranges. Nonetheless, devastating is the word for the effect achieved by the drop-block action single shot Peabody-Martini, the toll multiplying as the range decreased, until at about 200 yards the defenders laid aside their breechloaders and commenced the continuous hail of fire from the Winchester 1866 muskets and carbines.

With absolute finality, Plevna demonstrated the futility of massed attacks by marching infantry against dug in troops armed with modern weapons.

The totally unexpected success of Osman in repulsing the three massive assaults of the formidable Russian army had a profound effect on the armies of Europe. Two great lessons were driven home. First was the effectiveness of long range accurate and sustained fire from quick loading breechloaders in the hands of dug-in defenders well supplied with ammunition. No longer was it feasible to send massed formations of infantrymen to the assault in the face of such a decimating power.

The second lesson was more profound. Although the sustained fire of the single shot breechloading Peabody-Martini took a heavy toll of the Russians in all three assaults, it was the havoc wrought by the rap-

id firing Winchesters at close range which captured the attention of Europe. The long era of the single shot infantry weapon was at an end. One after another the armies of the world converted to repeating firearms. It is ironic that the United States, which supplied both the Peabody-Martini and the 1866 Winchester to the valiant Turkish defenders of Plevna, should have been among the last to make the change.



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## NEW POLICE LOAD

(Continued from page 25)

graphed as having an MV of 1155 fps and 1163 fps respectively, while the 6 inch pressure barrel indicated that the standard 158 gr. bullet had an MV of 1449 fps. The Super Vel bullet, in the same order, had the following MV's: 1485 fps, 1393 fps, and 1690 fps.

Super Vel ammo is loaded in accordance with standard ammunition manufacturing methods; that is, the ammo is loaded to pressure/velocity levels, and each batch coming from the machines is checked in the lab for pressures and velocities. Velocities are measured by means of an Avtron and a Berkeley counter chronograph, while pressures are determined not only by the usual copper crusher system, but also by an adaptation of the Brownell strain gauge system. At the present, Lee and Corris Van Way, a tool and die designer, are working on a primer tester that will hook directly into the

cathode ray oscilloscope that Lee now uses for pressure determinations. Incidentally, while I was working with Lee on some of these tests, we discovered that the copper crusher system will give lower psi readings than the strain gauges.

The bullet, known as Jurras Jacketed Bullet, has a relatively small bearing surface. The bullets have a diameter of 0.3562", and the core is cut so that maximum weight variation is  $\pm 0.5$  gr. Length of the jacket is 0.400", and jacket wall thickness is 0.1300", while the base has a thickness of 0.1500". Besides checking each lot in the lab, the ammo is also tested for accuracy in a Broadway machine rest. Currently, Super Vel ammo is primed with CCI 500 caps, and primers as well as primer pockets are waterproofed by a special process. I can attest to the fact that this waterproofing works since I soaked the ammo I was going

to shoot overnight—it fired perfectly, and neither velocity nor pressure was affected.

The maximum velocity and reduced recoil, which permits more accurate double action shooting, is due to the lighter bullet weight, and the pure lead core coupled with the light jacket gives the bullet its almost incredible expansion qualities. In repeated expansion tests, the .38 Special Super Vel 110 gr. bullet, when fired into moist sand from a distance of 20 feet, had an average retained weight of 107 gr., which is 97.2 per cent of the original weight. As our tests progressed we found the bullet held together extremely well and the recovered bullet had the classic mushroom shape. Bullets fired into moist sand from a 6 inch barrel Python retained an average of 81.0 gr., or 73.6 per cent of the original weight. In these recovery tests it was noted that bullet fragmentation was greater, and that jacket and core separation occurred more frequently in the .357 than in the .38 loads.

Destruction and penetration were tested with .38's and .357's, on empty and full gallon cans, on plastic bleach bottles, and a couple of beef neck roasts, as well as on tires, car bodies, and car windows. In all of these tests, many of them witnessed by police officers, the tremendous shocking power of the Super Vel ammo was impressive. Cans up to five gallon size with lightly folded seams simply were turned inside out, plastic bleach bottles burst into halves. In three out of five cases, the plastic screw tops of bottles, tightly fastened so that the colored water would not spill out too easily, stripped the threads on the bottle necks and the caps themselves disappeared completely. Five-gallon oil drums, filled with waste oil, rose about a foot into the air and opened up, and none of those "targets" could be used for more than one shot. Fired into the neck roasts, destruction was great, and wound channels were about 0.75". In my last test, I was lucky enough to place my shot exactly the way I wanted it—at the top of the meat to show the bullet path. The bullet, a .38 HP, cut a half-inch wide furrow into the meat, while a shot in the direct center of the meat made an exit hole that measured about an inch.

A standard .38 Police load fired at a tire at the distance of 20 feet did not puncture the tire, while a .38 Special Super Vel load deflated the tire in less than 10 seconds. Shooting at car windows at a 25 degree angle, I found that the Jurras Jacketed Bullets not only went through the glass, but

that about 40 per cent of the bullet weight was retained, with the rest of the weight being lost in fragments, some in the car interior, some core particles hitting and extensively damaging the horn ring and wheel, the dashboard. Some bullet fragments were splattered on the forward door frames as the bullet hit the glass obliquely and began to open up.

Shooting through the car door of a '49 Dodge, the Jurras bullets went clear through one door, penetrated through the upholstery of the opposite door, and dimpled the outside of the opposite door, with the .357 Magnum bullet showing almost complete penetration. Shooting through a car lengthwise, that is through the trunk lid and the rear seat, penetration tests indicated that most of the bullet breakup occurred in the rear seat, although the .357 loads showed considerable destruction of the front seat, with small pieces of lead being found imbedded in the upholstery of the two front doors.

In shooting into and through a wide variety of cans, boxes, blocks of wood, plastic bottles, and cars, I fired a Super Vel load and immediately thereafter, fired a standard police load so that a valid comparison could be made. In empty five-gallon buckets which I used for penetration tests without covers or contents, I found that in better than 80 per cent of the tests, the standard police bullet apparently did not exit straight, but keyholed. The Super Vel loads expanded very well, and recovered bullets, caught in a sand trap behind the target, showed the classic mushrooming.

"Will this ammo become available for hunters?" I asked Lee. "At the present, there's little chance for this," he told me. "First of all, there is some shortage of jackets, although we are not affected too much by it, since the Super Vel Cartridge Corporation serves the police business and thus we have a good allocation of jacket metal. Moreover, there is such a heavy demand for the ammunition from police departments all over the country, and even from federal law enforcement agencies, that we are hard pressed at the present to produce enough ammo for those customers."

The company Lee heads up is less than a year old, but the Jurras bullets have been in the developmental stages for five or six years. Now that Lee has a proved-performance bullet, gun-savvy cops are beating a trail to his door... seems like Lee *did* build that better mousetrap!

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(Continued from page ?)

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The Mark II case, in addition to being shorter, was also fitted with the Berdan type primer as were all subsequent types. The Mark II became obsolete in 1898 with the introduction of the Mark III, but was reintroduced in 1900. It was obsoleted again in 1913 with the introduction of the Mark IV and reintroduced in 1914, this time to be produced until 1939 when it was finally completely superceded by the Mark VI.

The Mark III and all subsequent types are actually variations of the Mark II cartridge, since they use the same short case, the only differences being in the bullet form. The Mark III bullet looks like a hollow point wad cutter at both ends, since it has a hollow base as well as a hollow nose. This is the so-called Manstopper bullet. The Mark IV is a wad cutter bullet which maintains the hollow base and has a flat nose.

The Mark V is exactly the same shape as the Mark IV except that instead of being made from the usual 12:1 lead-tin alloy, it is made from 99:1 lead-antimony. Issued only from April to November 1914, and apparently concurrently with the Mark IV, the Mark V is one of the rarest of the military .455 series. Specimens are known in only two collections.

The Mark VI duplicates in shape the Mark II, but is a full metal jacketed bullet adopted in order to conform with the rules of the Geneva convention. The jacket mate-

rial is either cupro-nickel or gliding metal.

Blank cartridges were first approved for service use in 1897 and from the start were always of the shorter (Mark II) case length. The blanks fall into three basic types. The earliest has a straight case with practically no crimp, the powder charge being held in by shellacked cards or a composition seal. Later, a rose crimp style was adopted which was also used extensively in the Canadian service. A third commercial type of blank has the case completely filled and topped with a glazed paper wad, held in place by a heavy, rolled crimp. Although British service blanks were evolved as Mark I and Mark II, the differences were all internal and had to do with flash hole dimensions, powder type, and the number of wads. Blank cartridges were also made up from second grade cases but the head stamps were not altered so that the marking on a blank case may not indicate its type.

Drill Cartridges for practice were first approved in 1920 and were quite distinctive in appearance, being made of white metal with three longitudinal grooves impressed into the case and filled with a red varnish. The primer pocket was fabricated without an anvil or flash hole and filled with a red fiber wad held in place by three stab crimps. This cartridge also received its own distinctive head stamp, having a "D" prefixing the Mark number (after 1929). It should be noted that although the cartridges usually have the "I" head stamp indicating a Mark I, this means "Mark I Drill Dummy" and actually has the Mark II case length. Later dummies made as a war-time expediency were fabricated from rejected ball cartridge cases and to all appearances are a normal round, fabricated without powder or primer. This is the same style used on commercial dummies.

While the drill cartridges described above are extremely rare, proof cartridges are almost non-existent. The proof cartridge, Mark I, had the Mark II case length and in some instances was completely copper plated with the base marking containing the word "proof." After 1927, the head stamp contained the letter "Q" and the mark number. The lead bullet used in this type was of the Mark II pattern.

If the above text and accompanying figures leaves one somewhat relieved at having an understanding of the intricacies of the .455 service cartridge nomenclature, this feeling of relief is destined to be utterly destroyed when we turn to the commercial variations of this cartridge. Suffice to say that all bullets were loaded in both case lengths. If the military used the Marks II through V bullets only in the Mark II case, not so the commercial suppliers, as all these bullets were furnished in the Mark I case length as well.

The most popular of the commercial loads is known as the .455 Colt and is still manufactured today by "Dominion" in Canada. This cartridge has the Mark II bullet loaded in the Mark I case and uses a boxer type

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primer. Two other interesting .455 variations are the Canadian target bullet which is essentially a flush seated wad cutter but with a small lead teat projecting forward, and the shot cartridge which has a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " long paper extension. It is not known whether tracer cartridges were manufactured in .455 caliber but a personal communication indicates that at least one small lot was possibly made up for test purposes.

The military package for .455 cartridges is usually 6 or 12 round tied bundles and later 12 or 48 round cartons. As far as can

## Two Grand Slams at Texas Fair

Two grand slams in North American sheep will be the centerpiece of the "Sheep of the World" exhibit at the Texas State Fair October 8 through 23. Shot by one man, H. W. "Herb" Klein, who is one sheep away from an unprecedented eighth slam, these sheep will be joined by nine other of his trophy heads from Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Located in the Museum of Natural History in State Fair Park in Dallas, the exhibit will also feature approximately 16 of Klein's rifles and shotguns, many of which are custom made Weatherby's. The collection is valued at \$50,000.

The Boone & Crockett Club, official scorekeepers for North American game, lists 16 of Klein's 34 North American sheep in its record books. Like his North American sheep, Klein's other trophies are all excellent specimens. Only one of the 14 major species of sheep has evaded Klein, the Siberian Argali. Extremely rare, the sheep makes its home behind the Iron Curtain, thus having diplomatic immunity from Klein's hunting prowess.

be determined, the commercial package has always been the usual box of 50 cartridges.

While this concludes the basic discussion on the types of .455 cartridges and their packaging, it is well to realize that the variations open to the collector are quite extensive. It can be a great source of personal interest and satisfaction to track down the reasons for peculiar incongruities which arise when new specimens are acquired. An outstanding example of this is illustrated by the apparent Mark IV Cartridge which bears the KCII head stamp, indicating that it is a Mark II cartridge loaded with cordite.

In January of 1913, an instruction was issued for existing supplies of certain Mark II cartridges to be remade to the Mark IV pattern. Two months later, in March of 1913, further orders were given for the head stamp numbers to be barred out and the cases restamped IV. Therefore, a cartridge whose existence seems only slightly incongruous becomes a major rarity when one realizes that only a small quantity was manufactured (perhaps reprocessed is the correct word) and then only for a period of two months.

As a further aid to deciphering cartridge head stamps, a list of manufacturers and the head stamp designations used by them, is included in this article. It should also be noted that where the letter "Z" is used on a head stamp it merely indicates that nitrocellulose powder has been used instead of the customary cordite. The letter "I" on a head stamp, in addition to the Mark number, indicates that the cartridge was manufactured in India. Also, after 1914, cartridges manufactured in India included the last two figures of the year of manufacture in the head stamp. This feature was applied to English production around 1928.

No discussion of the .455 cartridge could be considered complete without mentioning the cartridge from which it was developed, the .476 Enfield. Actually, the .476 designation applies only to the last of the series of three "Enfield" cartridges. The Marks I and II Enfield cartridges had .455 diameter bullets and were first introduced around 1880. Very little is known about the Mark I and no specimens have been positively identified. All types of Enfield ammunition used a case length similar to the .455 Webley Mark I, but had a deeper, boxer type primer pocket. The Enfield Mark II cartridge did not enjoy extensive production and was replaced by the Mark III type. Although this final style used a .476 diameter bullet, it was still used in a .455 Revolver barrel and merely swaged down upon firing. The bullet is very distinctive, being somewhat bulbous in appearance and having a large outside groove which contains the lubricant.

It is hoped that we have demonstrated the interest and fascination of the .455 Revolver Cartridge. Well over 100 head stamp variations have been recorded and catalogued, and it is sincerely regretted that space does not permit their reproduction.

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# Panel of Experts

## Colt Alaskan

I have just acquired a pistol in .45 caliber, nickel plated, called the Alaskan. It has an exceptionally large trigger guard. On the left side of the frame, it has a round circle which when taken out reveals the works inside. On the left side of the trigger guard, and on top, it has the initials R.A.C. The inscription on top of the barrel reads, "Colt's Pt. F. A. Mfg. Co. Hartford, Ct. U.S.A." On the right side of the frame, it has the initials under the cylinder, "U.S." Also it has the initials "ITT" appearing near the upper left hand part of the grips on the frame. The grips have a rampant colt and are made of black hard rubber. The butt has a lanyard swivel. This pistol is missing the entire ejection system. Have you any idea where one may pick up the parts? I was told by the former owner only 2,000 of these pistols were made. Is this correct? Can this pistol be fired with the .45 Colt cartridges being made now? It is double action. I paid \$50 for it, being told that it was a martial and that the initials of the inspector R. A. C. made it a fairly valuable firearm. What, if any, is its present value in a restored condition that is if I can restore it with missing parts?

Edward H. Guinazzo  
Dorchester, Mass.

The revolver you describe is known as the "Alaskan" or "Philippine" variant of the Colt Double Action Army model. The variant differs from the basic model by virtue of a larger trigger guard and longer trigger. Factory records indicate that about 5,000 were made; serial numbers running between 43,000 and 48,000. The initials "R. A. C."

represents the inspector's mark of Rinaldo A. Carr. I would not advise shooting this gun with modern ammunition. In good condition it is worth \$80 to \$120. The other marks were probably added by owners.—S.B.

## Special Reticle

Having recently purchased a 7 mm Rem. Magnum, I am looking forward to purchasing a scope to mount on it. I am interested in obtaining a variable with a peep type reticle, preferably two circles, one inside the other, positioned above a vertical line. Any information you may forward to me as to where such scopes may be purchased would be appreciated.

George E. Gambonini  
Petaluma, Calif.

There are, of course, highly specialized reticles available for telescopic sights—but such entail commensurate expenses. Phil Johnstone of Abercrombie & Fitch, 45th Street & Madison Ave., New York City, and Lyman Brothers, Middlefield, Conn., are two specific sources for the specific satisfaction of your request. However, I would urge you to write the more prominent scope manufacturers for a list of standard reticles. There are collateral advantages, such as range determination, that are important. These you will need for the full application of the use of telescopic sights.—S.B.

## Browning Hi-Power

I have a 9 mm Browning Parabellum (Hi-Power). The gun is less than a year old and in excellent condition. Recently I had it

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professionally checked for sighting and it is as accurate as this particular gun can be (aside from the shooter, that is).

In a recent article in GUNS Magazine it was indicated that by certain alterations the unusually heavy trigger pull could be lightened. However, I brought this up at Pachmayr's in Los Angeles, where I purchased the gun and had it checked, and I was informed that to lighten the trigger pull would weaken the safety mechanism in the gun. They could only lighten the pull a few pounds at most, and the weakening of the gun might cause it to go into virtually full automatic.

My knowledge is limited in terms of the mechanics of guns and I have to depend on the opinions of experts, but I like to have information verified to satisfy myself that it is essentially accurate.

Can the trigger pull on my Browning 9 mm be lightened appreciably without weakening the gun or having it possibly snap into full automatic?

Also, can micro sights be installed?

Jim Joelson  
Van Nuys, Calif.

The Browning Model M-35 (or 9 mm Parabellum) has a "traveling-disconnector" in the slide; this requires reliable engagement of a higher than usual order between the hammer notch and sear nose. "Lightened" is a relative term; there is no reason why your trigger pull should not be smooth, but I would not attempt to have it lightened unless it is heavy due to some mechanical defect. Your local gunsmith should be able to install sights without difficulty.—S.B.

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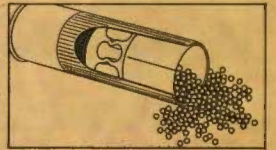
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