

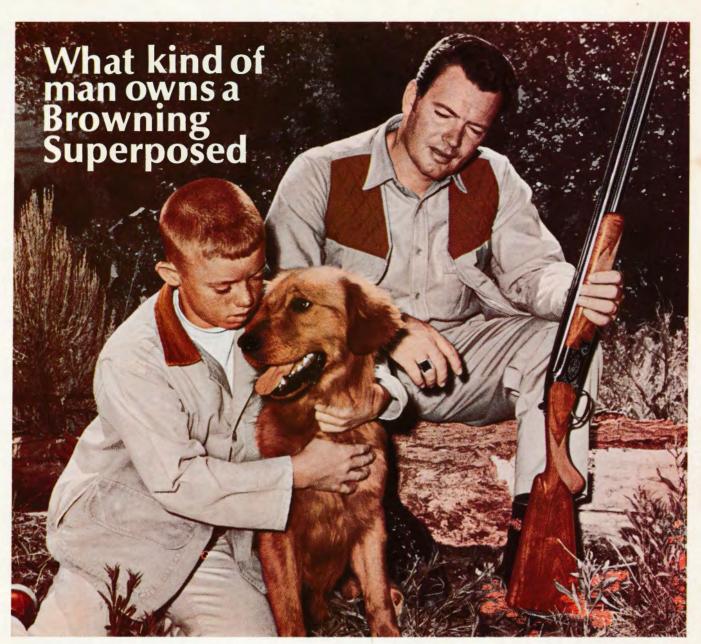


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what he wants. And gets it.



You probably couldn't pick a Superposed owner out of a random crowd. They don't dress, talk, or act differently than most other men. But when you get to know a Superposed owner, you'll find some distinctions. He is a knowledgeable citizen concerned about all aspects of our complex society. He's probably been a hunter and target sport enthusiast for many years and appreciates the wholesome recreation and companionship it affords.

He knows a lot about the irreplaceable outdoors and by his own actions passes on to his son the importance of sound conservation, safe gun handling, and respect for the property of others - just as his dad did for him. He supports workable legislation that will curb the misuse of firearms by those who do not honor the responsibilities of a sane society. And just as strongly he hopes ineffective laws are not imposed that only hinder the law-abiding citizen.

Yes, a Superposed man is a pretty regular guy and not really too different from most hunters and target shooters. He does enjoy using a superbly crafted shotgun and knows his Superposed will serve him dependably for his lifetime and probably his son's, too, building a sentimental value that any gun acquires from hunts with fine companions and a good dog . . . especially a man to man talk with a son while resting on a weathered log that's seen many hunters pass by.

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TRIGGER TALK

WE ARE PROUD to present, in this issue, one of the finest full color posters we have seen. Our center spread shows the Kentucky rifle in one of the most exciting color photos we have seen. I'll bet that this is popular with everyone who enjoys fine guns and fine gun photos.

Speaking of color photos, be sure to get next month's issue of GUNS. We will have five of the most popular color covers—without the type—ready for framing. If your favorite is not among those selected, get your votes in; we plan to do this again in the near future.

Everyone who enjoys firearms has heard some anti-gun busybody quote statistics from Carl Bakal's book "The Right to Bear Arms." It seems to be the basic tool of all who react to the crime problem by calling for more gun laws. On page 28, we present one of the finest replies to this book we have ever read. Our thanks to Sheriff Holzman and The Wisconsin Law Review for permission to reprint this.

ANNOUNCING!

Another GUNS Winner: Mr. Jon J. Busack of Rainier, Washington, was chosen as the winner of the Remington Model 700 BDL rifle offered in the August issue. If your winning ticket has not yet come up, try again.

On page 53 we are offering a new Navy Arms "66" .22 rifle.

Election time is drawing near, and I hope that every reader has checked his local party members for their stand on gun legislation. Think back on how many hours you spent with your guns last month, and if you didn't spend an equal amount of time writing letters, asking opinions, and putting in a word that's pro-gun, then you will have little to gripe about if the next batch of lawmakers take up the cry of "We need more gun laws."

THE COVER

The photographer, Edward McKin, is right on target with this excellent photo of a Colt Woodsman. Nothing spectacular about this gun, but I'll bet that one just like it started a lot of pistol shooters off on their shooting endeavors.

NOVEMBER, 1968

Vol. XIV, No. 8-11

George E. von Rosen Publisher



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CROSSFIRE

Happy Winner

I am very pleased, to say the least, about winning the Universal M-1 Carbine. It is the first thing I have ever won and I consider myself extremely lucky.

Additionally, I want to take the opportunity of commending your magazine on the timely articles referring to "gun control laws." These articles are well written and most enlightening. It is only a pity that more people don't have access to these articles.

Willard R. Heidig Fairfax, Virginia

FN Autoloader

I have just finished reading your most informative article concerning the FN self-loading rifle (Sept.), and for the first time I think I fully understand how it works. Your explanation of how to field-strip the weapon was well-written and the directions easy to follow.

As a recent subscriber to GUNS Magazine, I have found the articles contained therein of a higher quality and of a more practical value than any other magazine I have seen.

Kenneth R. DeVoe, M.D. South Bend, Indiana

"Right To Bear Arms, Inc."

In your August issue there is an article on p. 32 titled "Guns and the Law" written by Col. Rex Applegate.

On p. 73 of this article he mentions an organization named "Association to Preserve Our Right to Bear Arms, Inc." and mentioned also that it seems to be growing by leaps and bounds.

I should appreciate it very much if you could please send me the address of this organization in order that I may become a member. There is going to be a long and hard fight for us gun owners starting next year with the new congress, and we will need all the help and organization that we can get.

Anthony F. Angerer Oak Park, Illinois

Address: Association to Preserve Our Right to Bear Arms, Inc., P. O. Box 1391, Medford, Oregon 97501. We at S & K Manufacturing Co. have developed a new "Insta" mount which attaches instantly to military surplus rifles without drilling and tapping. This is a complete mount, including 1.000 rings, and retails at \$36.00. Similarly, we have a fine new Insta-mount for the AR-15 that is



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Finding Your Master Eye

As much as I hate to admit it I made an error in my "Quick Skill" article (Aug. 68). It's on finding the master eye. I described it exactly backwards and I don't know why because I know better. It should read: The easiest way to find your master

(Continued on page 8)



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CROSSFIRE

(Contnued from page 6)



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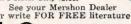
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eye is to point at something with your master hand. Close the eye corresponding to your master hand. If you don't remain on target, the closed eye is your master eye. If you do, the open eye is.

By now, if the readers aren't confused, they are probably cross-eyed.

Joel M. Vance Mexico, Missouri

GUNS Goes To Marines

I enjoyed your June issue. It is now enroute to a small detachment of the 3rd Marine Division out of Da Nang along with various other "mags."

Thanks for the "fringe benefits"i.e. the opportunity to get in on the drawing for the Universal .30 cal. Carbine with scope.

> F. M. Estep Billings, Mont.

The True Story of the AK-47

I have been curiously awaiting your article by Major Nonte on the AK-47. Having just completed seven months on line here in the Mekong Delta (and I have "immersion foot" to prove it), I feel qualified as anyone to comment on the AK, as seen from the wrong side of the sights.

First, let me say that in the last seven months, the only persons that I have seen carrying the AK-47 (other than the VC) have been rear echelon commandos (and most of them were officers) who tote them, in a rather loose figure of speech, as personal weapons in lieu of the more usual M-16 or M-14, for the curiosity or "war story" value, and a few advisors to the RVN forces on the Regional and Popular Forces level who carry them rather than the .30 carbine which is issued. I have never seen any American combat troops carry them. This is for three good reasons: one, the AK is roughly two pounds heavier than the M-16 (and its ammo too), cutting down on the amount of ammo carried, when the total weight of equipment is considered (usually 2 or 3 canteens, 200 rounds of M-60 link ammo, one Claymore mine, 4 frag grenades, 2 smoke grenades, 2 concussion grenades, one pound of C-4 explosive, 3 meals of C rations, plus personal goodies). Two, ammo resupply and spare magazines for the AK is strictly limited to captured stocks,

and it is a hell of a lot more important in a big firefight to know that 5.56mm ball is on the resupply chopper. Third, as anyone who has been in the line knows, the AK-47 has a very distinctive sound. As far as I or anyone I know of are concerned, if we are in a fight where we cannot see Charlie and hear an AK banging away, we'll shoot first and ask questions later. If the poor slob was a G.I., well, sorry about that, Jack. He should have had his issue weapon.

As far as malfunctions, as a platoon leader, I carried a new XM177E2 submachinegun and was happy with it. It was not much lighter than its brother the M-16, nor as accurate, but it served its purpose well. I had only four or five stoppages in the whole seven months and all were from dirty ammo in the mud, muck, and salt water of the Delta and the Plain of Reeds.

> James W. Kirk 1st Lt., Infantry APO San Francisco

Maj. Nonte Demoted?

In reading the article "The Mysterious AK-47" (July '68) a question about Maj. Nonte's rank arose. If the author is a major (retired), why is he wearing the insignia for the rank of a captain in the picture on p. 18?

T. J. Lee Detroit, Mich.

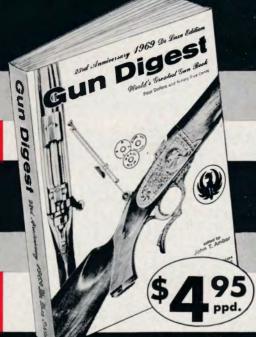
The answer is simple: the photo in question was taken before Nonte became a major .-- ed.

Someone Out There Likes Us

I would like to inform you and your staff of the fine job you do with GUNS Magazine. I feel that GUNS is one of the best in the firearms field. It keeps up the interest of all types of shooter and firearms. Your writers are the best in their fields. Keep up the good work. You also keep the reader abreast of the gun control legislation which at the present time is a threat to the right to keep and bear arms. It is very important to inform the public of how important this right

> Brian F. Fisher USS Delta (AR-9) R-3 Div.

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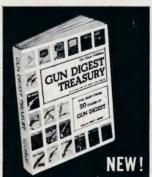
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Panel of Experts

Vernier Tang Sight

I have a .32-40 Marlin rifle which I believe had a peep sight mounted behind the hammer as it is drilled and tapped. Do you now where I can get a peep sight for the gun like the original?

Gerald F. Sheridan Brunswick, Maine

The old-time Vernier Tang Sight you are looking for is being reproduced by the Dixie Gun Works, Union City, Tennessee, for about \$17.95. If this is the type originally installed on your Marlin single shot, the hole spacing will probably match the drilling and there should be no problems.—W.S.

MAB P-15 Problems

I have recently purchased an MAB P-15 9mm. automatic pistol and my target results have left much to be desired. Shooting some 200 rounds with a two-hand hold at 25 yards, the best grouping I can get is seven or eight inches across. My war souvenir Browning Hi-Power with tangent sight then shot two or three inch groups using the same ammo, Canadian surplus. Will the MAB "break in" and eventually shoot tighter? Or is it ripe for some accurizing and who would you recommend to do the job?

G. B. Eichorn Butler, Pennsylvania

Your experiences with the MAB P-15 only serve to support my own. I suspect that the mediocre accuracy you have obtained might be due to ammunition used. At least two lots of the Canadian military ammo have produced very poor accuracy in my S&W test guns. Investigation of the problem showed that the bullets were often somewhat over-sized and permitted considerable gas cutting.

Jumping the same bullets up to a full .3555" diameter produced marked improvement. I suggest that you try some Remington commercial ammo and compare results obtained.—G.N.

Williamson Derringer

I have acquired a .41 caliber Williamson derringer as shown on page 43 of your March, 1968, issue. Please tell me something about the history, rarity, and worth of this gun.

Louis J. Clement Plaquemine, Louisiana

Except for its late patent date (1866), the Williamson might well be taken for an adaptation of the Henry Deringer design. The two versions resemble each other closely, except for the Williamson's dual-purpose hammer for using the standard .41 rimfire cartridge, and also the special case which could be loaded and capped independently. Collector value for a fine condition Williamson Derringer would be from \$85 to near \$150.—R.M.

Ein Deutscher Drilling

Recently I bought a combination shotgun rifle, which I think is a German-made Drilling. It is in excellent shape, other than a professionally replaced forearm and is supposedly chambered for "9.3 x 72 N" rifle cartridges but clearly marked 8.8 x 72mm. on the bottom of the barrel. Have I been ruining this fine gun by firing the incorrect cartridge? Also, could I get an original forearm, and what is it worth?

Spencer Legaard Hopkins, Minnesota

The "8.8 x 72 mm" mark indicates the 9.3 x 72R cartridge; the first set indicates the actual bore diameter and



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case length while the second set indicates the bullet diameter, the case length, and the rimmed form. Some German Drillings were made without manufacturer's identification for resale by distributors and independent gunsmiths who usually put their own names or trademarks on; when this is not the case, it becomes nearly impossible to track down the maker. It would appear that yours was made about fifty years ago. It is extremely unlikely that you could locate the proper forearm, and the gun with a replacement part has little of interest to collectors. Unless the engraving is unusually attractive, your Drilling might not command more than \$50 or \$60.—S.B.

.357 Winchester '92

I recently purchased a converted Winchester lever-action Model 1892. It was a caliber .32-20 and is now rebarreled to fire modern .357's. Is this gun really safe to shoot?

> Charles Martin Cleveland, Tenn.

Assuming that the bolt was rebushed, a smaller tipped firing pin was substituted, and that the barrel was properly headspaced, your rebarreled Model 1892 Winchester rifle should be perfectly safe to shoot. This is a very common change-over, and as far as we know the new barrels made up for the purpose are of adequate strength. To eliminate barrel leading problems, I might suggest using jacketed soft-point high-speed ammunition. Even though a "pistol" cartridge, the .357 magnum is good on deer and similar-sized game at close and medium ranges .- W.S.

Beholla Auto-Pistol

Please identify this pistol: serial #10767, 2¾ inch barrel, total length of 5½ inches, right side of barrel marked "Becker & Hollander. Waffenbau Suhl." Left side of the barrel is inscribed "Selbstlade—Pistole "Beholla" Cal. 7.65 D.R.P." It is also stamped in several places with a crown over N.

Robert S. Miller Seattle, Washington

The gun you describe is a Beholla .32 ACP pistol made by Becker & Hollander and another concern, Leonhardt, Menta and Stenda, in Germany

and used in both World Wars as a personal sidearm. Your local gunsmith should be able to provide both ammunition and a safety check for your gun.—S.B.

Experimental Colt SA

I recently obtained a single action Colt revolver that is rather unusual. The barrel is a normal 71/2 inches with the correct legend, the frame has the usual three line patent dates, and there is no rampant colt, but back of the patents is marked 44 CAL. The only serial number is E88, with the E appearing also in front of the trigger guard and on the backstrap in the proper position. There are no evidences of alteration, and the gun, I know, has been out of circulation since circa 1910. Even though marked for .44's, the barrel and cylinder chambers are larger. Could the E mean Eley or Experimental and the proper cartridge be the .476 Eley? Does this piece have any special value?

> J. F. Todd, M.D. El Reno, Oklahoma

As yet, I have never seen a Colt SA with a prefix letter on the serial number. If the E were meant to denote an experimental weapon, and the 88 were the gun's number, then it would have to be one of the first models, and would have the two line markings on the left side. Without examining this odd item, I would venture to say that it is probably a loser, but one never knows. Until being sure just what it is, an honest appraisal cannot be made.—R.M.

Remington Conversions

Enclosed please find photographs and sketches of a pair of Remington Army revolvers I own. Both are evidently converted to fire metallic cartridges, but differently.

> Peter R. Zucco Wheeling, W. Va.

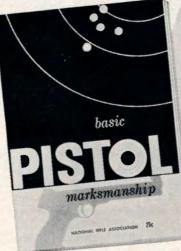
The Remington Arms Company developed two different methods of converting their percussion Army service revolver. The old cylinder was discarded and a new one recessed for the cartridge rim was installed (the .46 rimfire shell). In the other type, the new cylinder was again installed and the entire recoil shield was removed from both sides of the frame, and a deep loading groove cut into the right

(Continued on page 86)

GUNS . NOVEMBER 1968

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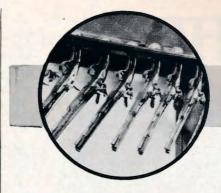
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GUN RACK

Carl Gustaf Model 63

The Swedish Model 96 military rifle is chambered for the 6.5X55 cartridge. Century Arms, St. Albans, Vt. sent me down a different one the other day. It is chambered for the .308. The M96 rifle has a 29.1" barrel and in the as-issue version is a pretty rough article. This Carl Gustaf Model 63 is at right angles to the action. The rifle sent for test was made at Carl Gustafs Stads Gevorsfaktori, Eskilstuna, Sweden, the receiver in 1918 but the barrel, quite obviously, more recently. This is the Swedish governmental arsenal

Fired at 200 yards with .308 issue ammunition, 165-grain full metal



something else again. It has a brand new half-stock, a completely refinished and blued action, a new barrel, and micrometer sights. The Swedes had a sniper's rifle which was dubbed the M-41 and this version now presented by Century resembles this rifle.

The rifle is offered as a target gun. It weighs 11 pounds, with 11/4 inch leather sling. The barrel is fullfloated, is medium weight, shows .3085 across the lands and refused the "No Go" gauge for headspace. The target sights consist of a micrometered receiver aperture sight mounted on the bridge. The front sight is a hooded aperture with inserts. Sighting radius is 33 inches what with the 29.1" barrel.

The trigger pull is clean and sharp-breaking. There is a 4 lb. 2 oz. let-off and no appreciable overtravel. The rifle cocks on the closing motion of the bolt. The striker fall is slow and very long. It falls a full one inch, firing trials at 200 yards from the regulation prone position indicate this hurts scores. There is the conventional Mauser type safety.

The Model 96 rifle is a close copy of the Spanish Mauser 1893. It has two locking lugs, no third. It has a bolt guide rib to prevent the bolt from cramping, a thumb cut out in the left side of the receiver to facilitate clip loading. There is a gas escape hole in the bolt body just forward of the extractor collar, and the bolt stands out

patch bullet, it was found the micrometered sight moved the point of impact approx 11/2 MOA per click. Five five-shot groups, from regulation prone position, with sling, scored 9s and 10s. The slow lock time was noticeable when calling the shot. The hit did not always coincide with the call. The rifle functioned perfectly. Pressures were normal and cases showed proper headspace. The recoil is mild because of the considerable weight. The stock has a broad butt and a thick comb which tend to further mitigate the recoil. This is a well finished and good-looking rifle, with a smoothly operating bolt, an excellent trigger, and precision sights.

Winchester Footwear

Now with your Model 101 Winchester over/under scattergun you can have a pair of matching footgear. Winchester has gotten into the boot business! The company, in cooperation with the Weinbrenner Shoe Corporation, now has ready four different styles of hunting boots. These will be sold under the name of "Winchester Boots by Wood N' Stream."

Named after the better known W-W firearms there will be a Model 1400 for the auto shotgun, the Model 1200

(Continued on page 16)

TAL

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(Continued from page 14)

for the pump repeater, the Model 101 for the over/under shotgun, and lastly the Model 100 for the auto rifle by that designation. Each boot will be lined with the Winchester plaid, a silken Winchester label inside and along the outside top edge will be the boot model number.

The boots range from the Model 100



Chukka type to the 9-inch Model 1200. This boot has a moccasin type toe, is fashioned of dark brown oiled Buffalo print leather, and is fitted with a tank tread outsole and heel. This is a lightweight flexible boot with a broad toe and hexagonal brass eyelets. It has been especially designed for uplands shooting.

New Speer Bullet

Dave Andrews of Speer, Inc., says that the new .357 bullet, the 125-gr. SP, is in great demand. These are selling in great quantities. And as a matter of fact there is a heavy sale of all handgun bullets, especially the jacketed numbers. Speer is now working two shifts in an attempt to catch up with back orders. They are in pretty good shape on the delivery of rifle bullets.

Speer, Inc. are North American agents for DWM ammunition. The .222 Rem, 7X57, 7 mm magnum and .300 Win. magnum will be available later in the year. The 8X57 (Boxer primed) will not be offered until sometime early in 1969. There is a good supply of '06 and .270 empty primed brass. Dave believed that other caliber cases, along with plenty of metric caliber ammunition, will be available very shortly. He is up to his ears in testing new powders and new bullets for data to be included in the forthcoming Speer Loading Manual. This will be No. 8. He says not to look for it for another year!

Federal 12ga. Load

The new Federal Plastic Champion 12 gauge target load is a duzy at skeet! With the first 100 of the new cartridges I busted 99 targets! This is about 4 or 5 birds over my head! The new shells function through the Remington M1100 auto, the Winchester M1200 pump repeater, the Franchi over/under and the High Standard Supermatic autoloader smoothly and efficiently, with nary a bobble. Unlike some plastics these do not leave a sticky residue in the chamber. This gummy substance builds up over a time and finally gives a lot of extraction troubles.

The new Federal plastic has no base wad. The casing is made in one piece. The mouth is chamfered for easy recrimping. The tube is semitransparent and the shots are held in the Pellet Protector wad column. Federal makes the hardest shot (more antimony) of any shotshell manufacturer. This accounts for less mutilation and on game the shot kills better because it has more penetration. On clay targets it probably isn't so important but it may break an occasional target more at the long ranges.

Ten patterns fired at 25 yards, the regulation patterning yardage for skeet, showed that the spread was extremely uniform. There is no bunchiness, no balling of the shot, indeed there is no evidence of even as many as two pellets sticking together. Out of two different guns fired performance was excellent.

-Col. Chas. Askins

Ruger Model 77

In the ranch country, off the public roads, we pack a rifle. Shots when taken are out of the pickup truck. The new Ruger Model 77 bolt action highpower because it is only 42 inches long, proves a dandy ranch gun. It is likewise a good saddle gun. The light-



ness and its lack of projections makes it a natural for the horse hunter. I have found that sans the sling and with the low-mounted scope it is fine for the brush too.

The M-77 I have is in .308 caliber. Mounted with the new Redfield 3x-9x scope in Ruger's special mounts, the rifle balances 4 inches ahead of the trigger guard. The short action, made for the .308 family of cartridges (the .243, .308 and .358) accounts for this balance point. Trigger pull is 3 lb. 14 oz. and is clean and sweet. It is adjustable. The clean lines of the 77 give it a beauty and elegance that is enhanced by the simplicity of the wood. There is no Monte Carlo, no roll-over comb, no exaggerated pistol grip. The recoil pad is the English style, solid, non-ventilated and smooth rounded on all its edges. There are no white line spacers and no forend tip.

Sighted in at 200 yards with Federal 150-gr Hi-Shok loading, which gave 2818 fps MV on the Oehler chronograph, the rifle printed 3.20" groups. A check showed it was hitting 2 inches high at 100 yards. No game was in season but the rifle performed most pleasingly on varmints. A coyote at 176 yards, another at 92 yards and a third at 296 yards, all dropped at one shot each. A jack tried offhand at 90



yards was killed. A single javelina, scurrying through the mesquite at 75 yards was knocked kicking. These were all one shot kills.

This is a country filled with armadillos. These throwbacks to the Pleistocene age scurry about on the open hillsides devouring grass and bugs. I got settled down into a comfortable position and at 230 yards had a field day busting these armored critters. Dull and stupid like anteaters, the armadillos would scatter for cover when a shot rang out but they would come out again and through the Redfield glass I'd select a new target. The firing was from the game fields position. Sitting. The Ruger holds almighty steady from this stance.

Groups with the Speer 150-gr Spitzer 53 grains 4350 powder, Federal brass and primers, ran 3.15" at 200 yards. Velocity was 2764 fps MV. With the 180-gr Speer and 43 grains 4064 powder, groups went 4.10" at 200 yards. With the 130-gr Hornady Spire Point and 41.4 grains 4198 powder, groups at 100 yards measured 1.45". Velocity was 3078 fps MV. With the 165-gr Hornady Spire Point and 45 grains 4895 powder, 100 yard groups averaged 1.30 inches. Muzzle velocity was 2670 fps.

-Col. Chas. Askins

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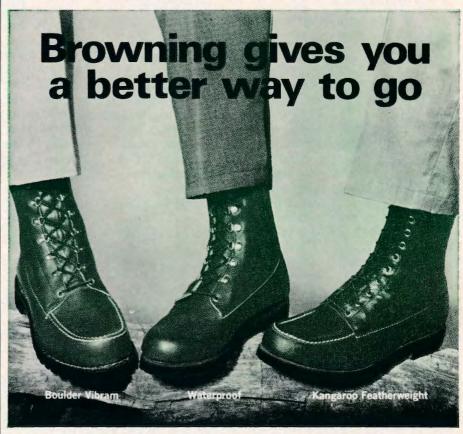
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OUR MAN IN

WASHINGTON







By CARL WOLFF

WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR

An old news reporter sat among his fellow practitioners, awaiting the House side of Congress' consideration of "Presidential Gun Bill Number Two," as it had become known. The measure bans all interstate commerce and the out-of-state sale of firearms and handgun ammunition among citizens.

The reporters, looking down upon the House members from the press gallery, talked while awaiting the legislation to be taken under consideration. The subject was, of course, gun legislation.

"I have never seen anything like it," the old reporter commented. "Even when 'those people' stood over there and shot up this chamber, there was not the antigun feeling that now grips Congress." He was right. There had already been enacted three different federal laws on the subject in one year. One, "Presidential Gun Bill Number One, " provided for a national registration of gun purchasers (see the August issue of GUNS. page 17) who bought from dealers, and outlawed interstate sales of handguns. Another measure, out of the Senate, bans firearms ownership by criminals and other undesirables. It was a duplication of the old Federal Firearms Law. Still another, also out of the Senate, penalized anyone contributing to the use of firearms in civil disorders.

The reporters in the Gallery talked it over. It was because of the two Kennedy assassinations most agreed. But, even more in the minds of the lawmakers, according to inside sources, was the King shooting with its implications. Extremists were calling for Negroes to "shoot back at whitey."

It is a different breed of cat that now controls Congress compared to the days when a group of Puerto Ricans shot up the House. Congress is now controlled by the big-city representatives. Asking not to be identified, one leader of Congress puts it this way for GUNS: "You read these intelligence reports about what those black extremists plan to do. If that don't make you want gun controls. you have a closed mind on the subject. Sure we are clutching at straws but, we have to do something. This is an election year. Crime is the major issue, and nearly every member of the House is running against a man who is back home blaming Washington for the crime and violence." Some two weeks later there was the organized shooting of police in Cleveland. There was advance notice by informers within the movement that the shooting was to spark new rioting.

The question reporters wanted answered that day in the House gallery was how much anti-gun feeling was there among Congressmen. Most notably, the bill pending before the lawmakers bans the so-called "mail-order of long guns." Previously, the House had voted to ban such sales of handguns as part of the anti-crime package bill. But, there had been only one vote on the whole complicated bill in the House.

Here were the options: The new measure could be rejected, which seemed very unlikly. This would leave "Presidential Gun Bill Number One" as law. Or the House could enact the long gun bill, "Presidential Gun Bill Number Two." Another possibility was an amendment, "Presidential Gun Bill Number Three."
Only a few (Continued on page 62)

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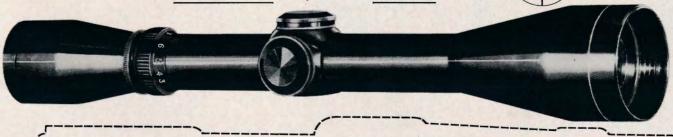
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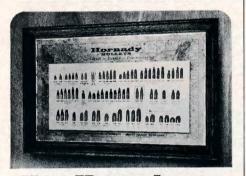


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HANDLOADING BENCH

By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

TIME OR TWO BACK in this column we recommended the use of the Powley Computer to establish starting loads for the pre-war wildcats, since today's manuals don't list most of them. Discussing that subject with a couple of local gun buffs brought out the fact (which I should have remembered) that many of the older .22 wildcats are of rather small case capacity. Consequently, they don't hold enough powder to be handled by the computer. It is set up to function only with those cases holding over 30 grains of powder, and many of those old wildcats don't exceed that, though a few do go as high as 35 grains. Many are in the 20-30 grain range.

Consequently, we've done a bit of research in the older books and magazines and dug out loading data on some of the more popular wildcats of the 1920's and 30's. You'll note some data is complete with both pressures and velocities, while some don't even include velocities. Thirty-five years ago chronographs were damn few and far between, and pressure guns virtually non-existent, so its easy to understand why the information is missing. For some calibers literally hundreds of loads have been published. For others, only a few can be found. Basic loads are all we'll show herejust enough to get you started.

.22 NEWTON: Developed before WWI by Charles Newton, of Newton rifle and cartridge fame, this is simply the 7x57mm Mauser case necked down for .227"-.228" bullets without any other change. Use Sisk .227", 70 grain bullets and 35.0 grains of IMR 3031; or 55 grain .224" bullets and 40 grains of IMR 4064. The smaller bullet upsets ok to fill the rifling grooves.

.22/4000 SEDGLEY-SCHNERRING: Designed by George Schnerring, onetime proof house foreman of Frankford Arsenal. This is also the 7mm Mauser case simply necked to accept .224" bullets. Schnerring also used .257 cases, which are easier to neck down. Some accounts imply that the .22/4000 is different from the .22 Newton, but the difference may be measured in very few thousandths of an

inch-so little that they are ballistically identical-reminding us of the similarity existing among today's wildcats.

.220 WILSON ARROW: The .220 Swift reshaped by L. E. Wilson to reduce case stretching, utilizing a slightly sharper shoulder and greater powder capacity.

.22/3000 LOVELL: The old .25-20 Winchester Single Shot case necked down-and if you have any cases for this one, you're luckier than most,

R-2 LOVELL: The above .22/3000 Lovell as revised with slightly greater powder capacity by Risley.

.22 NIEDNER MAGNUM RIMLESS: This is the .25 (or .30 or .32) Remington rimless case (as made for the M8 and M81 self-loading rifles) necked down to .224" and shortened to 1.90". Shoulder angle is 22° and body length (head to shoulder) is 1.40". It was developed by the old Niedner Rifle Corp. of Dowagiac, Michigan in the late 1920's or early 1930's and virtually duplicates .222 Rem. performance.

.22/303 CRANDALL VARMINT-R: A Canadian development of the late 1930's by G. B. Crandall, apparently intended to duplicate .22/250 Varminter capacity and performance in a rimmed case for single shot rifles. This it does very closely. The main reason for its development is simply that the .303 brass was far more plentiful in Canada than the calibers used for wildcatting in this country. The case is shortened to 2.0", necked down for .224" bullets, and given a relatively sharp shoulder.

.22 MARCIANTE BLUE STREAK: Developed in the late 1930's by Al Marcionte. It is the .22 Savage Hi-Power case with its shoulder moved forward to give a body length of 1.70" and a 25° shoulder. Neck is relatively short at .22". It greatly resembles the several versions of the Improved .2192 Zipper, but may hold less powder.

.22 LINDAHL CHUCKER: Shortest of the Lindahl .22's based on the .25 Remington case. Length is 1.70", body length 1.20", shoulder angle 28°, neck length .27".

(Continued on page 91)

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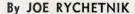
5814 East Jewell, Denver, Colo. 80222



The Ultimate IN COMBAT AUTO PISTOLS



Master pistolsmith Armand Swenson (left) poses with a fresh combat .45. Bobcat and standard custom Colts show squared trigger guards and lavish checkering (above). Author demonstrates rapidfire handhold and reloading procedure, with empty magazine in mid-air (right).



H OW ABOUT A COMBAT HANDGUN that can get off 56 shots accurately in twenty-two and a half seconds? The holes will be about a half inch wide and all of them will be in the K-5 area of the police pistol course man-sized target. And the gun will shoot on demand five-shot groups one inch from center to center. Nothing magical about this gun—it's been around a long time in one form or another. In the estimation of one California pistol-smith and hundreds of combat shooters around the world, it is the best combat weapon in business.

The gun that will do all the nice things mentioned above is a .45 auto that has had its face lifted, guts revamped, and morale rejuvenated by Armand Swenson of Gardena, California. This Los Angeleno has been at the gun business for 23 years (the first half of his firearms career was spent in Alaska and Seattle) but for the past ten years he has specialized in the .45 auto and nothing but.





GUNS . NOVEMBER 1968

45 AUTO PISTOLS

Swenson, 52, runs his one-man shop as no one else could. At any time there will be nearly 100 pistols awaiting work or in the process of being accurized and rebuilt. Each one has a cigar box that seems to move from one step in the Swenson works to another as if by magic. He keeps all the jobs in his head (the paper orders are filed away but he seldom refers to them—he knows the gun and the guy shooting it). Although he does do some revolver and rifle work for close friends who are willing to wait the months (sometimes years) for his craftsmanship, 99.99% of his shop work is with the .45 automatic.

Swenson says of the .45 auto, "Everywhere shooters are beginning to realize that the .45 is an inherently accurate cartridge. For the combat shooter and the policeman the .45 is in a class by itself. It's the most functional auto pistol made, bar none. And it can be adapted so easily. It's a simple and very efficient weapon—fast firing and deadly. No other handgun can be fired as fast, reloaded and fired again. My guns have been demonstrated on the combat ranges around here and fired accurately 56 times in 22.5 seconds—that's seven magazines—and all the shots were in the K-zone."

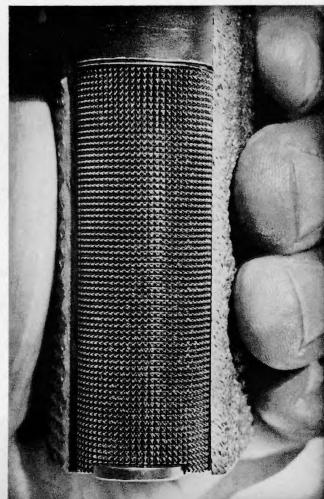
There is no doubt that shooters and the police forces are awakening to the .45 as never before. It's been around a long time (since 1911) but has offered little inducement for many because in its fresh-from-the-factory-form it is hard to shoot and harder to get accuracy.

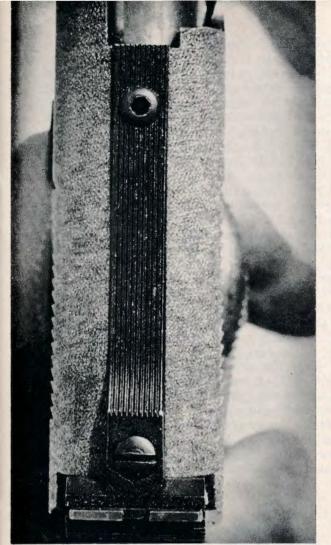
With new techniques in shooting and using a gun "combatized" and "accurized" by Swenson, the .45 auto comes into its own as the prime weapon in a combat match—real or paper. The .45 auto seems to have swept all other weapons from the combat shooting ranges in California, leaving the .38 super and the 9m/m autos well behind. Swenson feels the two-hand grip had much to do with its success.

Because the two-handed method made popular by Jeff Cooper has evolved as the best way to handle the big auto, Swenson has created the square trigger guard with 30 lines to the inch checkering on the forward edge to aid the left hand index finger in pulling back the gun against the right arm of the shooter. This way the two-shot bursts, the combat style of the .45 men, never leave the kill zone. The gun does not recoil up and away. Its like shooting a light rifle. Gene Shuey, a top combat shooter in Los Angeles, had Swenson make the first square guard.

It's hard to say whether combat shooting in Southern California, perhaps the most combat-shooting conscious part of the nation right now, was influenced by the adoption of







Swenson's crowning touches are well shown in these detail photos. Note ambidextrous safety switch, fine metal-checkered front strap, sighting ramp, and leather cushion on magazine bottom.



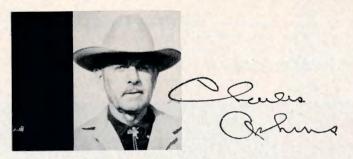


Like many a Western combat shooting great, Gene Shuey often spends an afternoon kibitzing with Swenson in the back-logged workshop.

the .45 by many police departments or the other way around. In addition to being the prime weapon of many special agencies (Swenson coaches the California Narcotics Bureau agents in .45 technique), the Los Alimitos, El Monte, Montebello, Hermosa Beach, and Vernon City, California police departments have dumped the .357 Magnum-.38 Special, and have gone to the .45 auto pistol.

The cops who carry the big auto have streamed through the Swenson shop with nothing but raves for his combat and accuracy work. Once mastered, the .45 auto is the supreme police handgun. It is accurate, shoots fast, can be reloaded faster than any revolver, packs both a physical and psychological punch, and the policemen who have them like them. The Vernon Police Department motorcycle officers are a self-sufficient unit when it comes to fire power—.45 auto handweapons and 12 gauge shotguns.

One of the fringe benefits of the officer armed with a .45 is that spare ammunition is in bunches of seven shots—no fumbling for each cartridge in a tight spot, and a magazine can be passed or (Continued on page 58)



By CHARLES ASKINS

WHEN I REFLECT on the gains in sporting firearms of late, I am convinced that the upsurge of the autoloaders, the emergence of the magnum calibers, nor the improvements in actions, barrels and stocks is not quite as remarkable as the evolvement of a pretty simple shooting accessory; the glass sight.

The riflescope is a sort of wonder gadget. It has been coming along since the turn of the century, but it really got a big push right after World War II. Since then, its popularity has skyrocketed, and these days you seldom see a bigbore rifleman in the game fields who does not sport one of these geegaws.

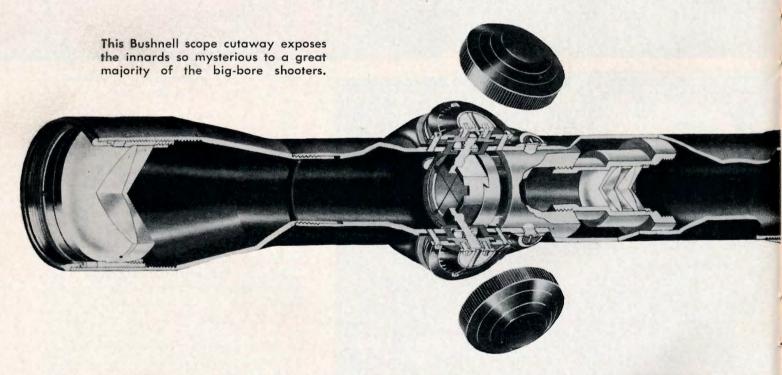
The glass-and-tubing arrangement is the answer to "Mr. Average Shot's" prayer. It seems to suck the target up closer and makes it look easier to hit. It isn't, really, but it looks like it is—and that's what counts! The scope makes a cracking good shooter out of the run-of-mill gunner and

permits the only-fair-to-middlin' marksman to shoot like a real gee-whiz expert.

It's a boon to the gent who has to wear bifocals, or the one who is far-sighted, cockeyed, cross-eyed, one-eyed, or so old and doddery he can't see iron sights. It enlarges, brightens, clarifies, illuminates and adds definition. Too, it disconcertedly reveals all our wobbles, all our poor holding, and trigger jerks! It provides an additional 30 minutes of shooting light at the beginning of the hunting day, and in the deep dusk of the eve it gives the gunner a stretch-out of 30 minutes. And along with this it oftimes reveals the trophy as a runty junior member with horns too small to be legal. No one has kept the data, but the scope accounts for more clean kills, less wounding and crippling. It does this because it improves the marksmanship of all its users.

More often these days we see rifles come off the final assembly "slick" barreled—that is to say sans iron sights—the manufacturer knows full well that the buyer is going to attach optical sighting gear. Three of our major gunmakers will sell you a rifle with a scope attached at the factory, and you may be sure there will be more and more of this sort of thing. The recent purchase of the Weaver scopesight outfit by Winchester leads to the perfectly logical assumption that pretty quick we can have our Model 70 complete with the Weaver sights.

Despite the abundance of these magnifying sights among shooters, the average owner knows precious little about how they work. What goes on within the pipe is largely a mystery to him. To get all the good out of the glass that it con-



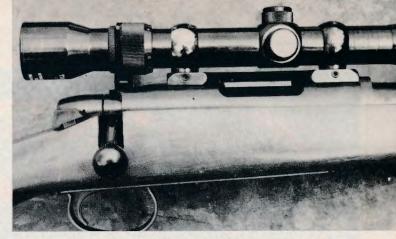
THE BIGBORE HUNTING

tains there are a few facts that ought to be understood.

Take the business of crosshairs. A survey of four of the leading scope makers indicates the crosswire reticle is by far the most popular, accounting for 73 per cent of all sales. The other 27 per cent goes to post-type reticles, center-dot, and the miscellany of other styles. Crosshairs cover a little less than one minute of angle (1") at 100 yards; the Weaver K4, for instance, spans $\frac{7}{10}$ " at 100 yards and is .0015" in diameter. The Bushnell standard wire is .0007", and in the 4X ScopeChief covers .64" at 100 yards. The Lyman All American 4X has crosswires a little bigger, these run .001" and span over one MOA at 100 yards.

All it takes is an inspection of a half-dozen scopes at the local sporting goods emporium to disclose that there are various sizes of crosshairs. My choice is a coarse wire; crosshairs fade out in dark heavy cover, during rain storms, and cannot be seen early in the morning nor late of an evening. The bigger heavier and more apparent the crosswire reticle, the better I like it.

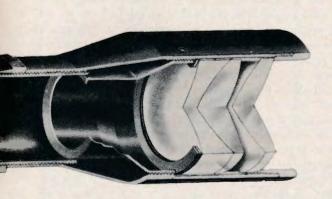
The post type reticle usually spans 3 minutes of angle at 100 yards and is tapered toward the top. It has a horizontal crosswire to prevent canting the rifle. This may be the most practical of all reticles for use on the bigbore hunting rifle. It can be seen in poor light—in the jungle, during monsoon rains, in the alders of Kodiak Island or the bush of the Okavango. It permits shots during the first light of the morning and in the deep of the early night. It is not a target type reticle, nor is it desirable for small game like our average predator or varmint. It has its disadvantages for that class of chance-takers who

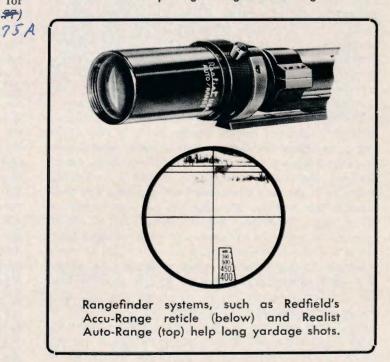


Vari-power scope (Tasco 3-9X shown on Conetrol mount) adds versatility, but some field is lost.



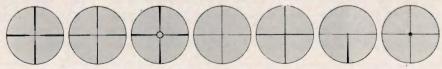
Sako Vixen action boasts integral scope base dovetails for simpler glass-sight mounting.





SCOPE

The Colonel lets the chips fall where they may as he sights in on scopes





GUNS and the LAW

A LAW OFFICER REVIEWS

THIS BOOK is an outgrowth of a magazine article by the author entitled, "This Very Day A Gun May Kill You." Carl Bakal has expanded that frightening theme to include the tale of a supposed conspiracy of gunmakers, gun dealers, gun owners, and gunlaw-shy legislators, all of whom he claims bear responsibility for the nearly 17,000 deaths from firearms in the United States each year. We learn that at least 40 million of our fellow citizens are not only armed but apparently weighted down with anywhere from 50 million to a billion privately owned weapons.

The book is replete with informative statistics and digests of existing local and federal firearms laws. In view of the lack of any other text that purports to assess what the author calls a "strange and peculiarly American plague (that) has long swept our land-a plague of guns," this book is undoubtedly the most documented anti-gun tract ever published in this country. But after 326 pages of recounting bloody firearms deaths, after the unearthing of alleged conspiracies, after the destruction of cliche pro-gun arguments and the extensive quoting of authorities, it seems reasonable to expect that the author would, in a logical and thorough manner, disclose what can be done about the misuse of firearms that he has so luridly documented. It is disappointing that the recommendations for controls on firearms are presented in very general terms-merely entitled registration, seizure, or taxes-without a concrete clearly presented program of legislation, education, or other action that would end the "plague." Recommendations such as "banning guns from the home" seem unrealistic and unenforceable. In fact a host of firearms restrictions suggested by a host of persons are presented without any synthesis or apparent discrimination by the author.

It is not surprising to encounter a book devoted to the problem of firearms misuse at a time when the public is so concerned with crime and a recent presidential assassination. It is a polished and, in some areas, extensively researched work, but one married by twisting facts to fit ends.

For example, on the very first page, the author states that "every year firearms claim more and more lives in this country." This contention is basic to his argument that we must now take extreme measures to control firearms. Yet in Appendix III we find that the statistical table of homicides, suicides, and fatal firearms accidents indicates a relatively progressive decline in the actual number of such incidents. There were 18,687 such fatalities in 1933. And, despite a tremendous population increase, there were 16,984 fatalities in 1963. While this is hardly an encouraging figure, it is hardly support, as the author seems to suggest, for the declaration of a crisis and the adoption of emergency legislation. In 1963, the last year fully reported in Bakal's tables, there were 5126 homicides with firearms. In 1933 there were 7863. The astounding change is in the rate per 100 thousand of the population: a drop from 6.3 to 2.7 in 30 years. In short, the fatal firearms accident rate has declined to half of what it was before 1934. Apparently fearful of his own statistics, the author partially attributes the decline to improved medical attention and the book's last lines become an emotional appeal: "Would controls of any kind be worthwhile to save 100 lives? Or even just one life, that of another president? Or perhaps even your own?" The reader is left to ponder whether "controls of any kind" are the answer or whether they might be but the beginning of a "control" problem rather than the end of a gun problem. The Prohibition era, for example, established in the minds of most Americans a firm belief that liquor controls can be worse than liquor's effects. Many today are coming to the same conclusions about narcotics.

Carl Bakal intimates that he is "familiar with the machinations of the collective NRA mind," when he refers to the National Rifle Association with headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Association stands accused of: successfully influencing congressmen (while representing the interests of millions of hunters, collectors, and target shooters); conducting an extensive nationwide firearms safety campaign (which Bakal appraises as a means of obscuring



By COL. REX APPLEGATE

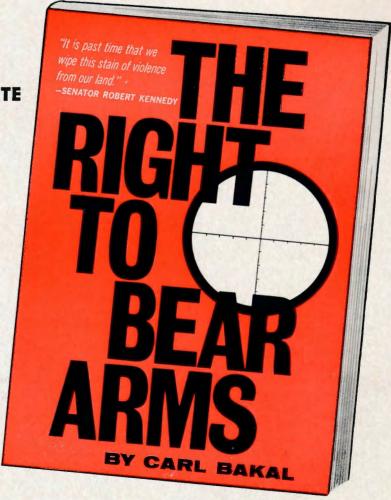
THE BOOK...

EDITOR'S NOTE

For the past several years, the book "The Right To Bear Arms" by Carl Bakal has been used as a reference by every media in their struggle to boost the cause of anti-gun legislation. This review is published, not to give publicity to the book, but to give our readers an authoritative rebuttal to those who use the book to further the cause of anti-gun legislation.

The author of this review, Sheriff James C. Holzman, is well known in law enforcement, and is presently serving as Director, Department of Public Safety, Portland, Oregon. Our thanks to Col. Rex Applegate for bringing this review to our attention.

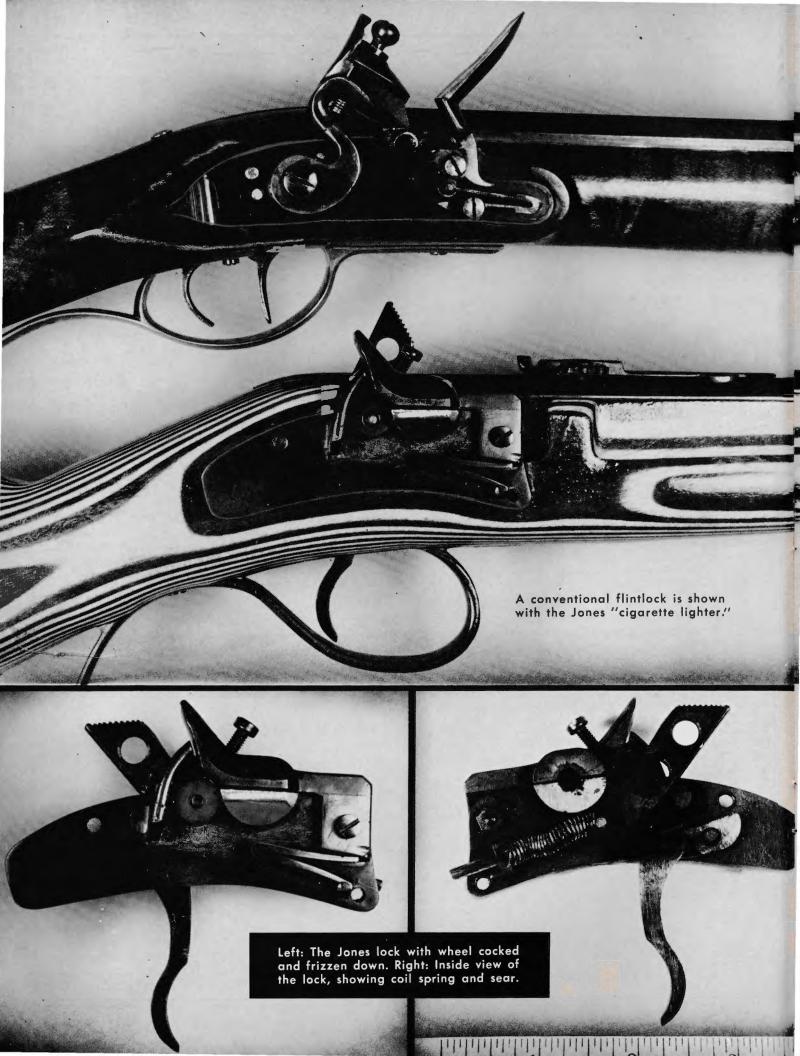
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and insufficiently diminishing the problem of guns through education rather than by what he seems to view as the simple expedient of government controls); having a different view of a clause in the Bill of Rights than do some other groups (hence the book's title, The Right To Bear Arms); and finally, numbering among its hundreds of thousands of members, which included five United States Presidents, an undisclosed number of crackpots and persons with extremist political views (a membership which might suggest to some that it is representative of the general public). The author then suggests: (1) that organizations such as the League of Women Voters can defeat this NRA plot by combining with like groups and instituting a pressure campaign for gun controls, and (2) that people write their legislators about the gun problem. Both tactics are the same as those he vilifies the NRA for having used with such success.

Bakal cites a host of persons as authorities on law enforcement. One sees as "the ultimate" in firearms control an excise tax on the owners of guns "so that police could trace any that they found had been used in the commission of a crime." This would be done by a "data processing machine." Such a simplistic, if not magical, approach to the problem of identification and evidence are impressive to the uninformed. I have spent several years in a police crime laboratory examining firearms evidence and a much greater period as a detective investigating crimes of violence. While I can conceive that a record of gun ownership might be of assistance in a few cases, the expenditure of resources in maintaining such a system would be unwarranted. One legal authority is introduced to the reader as an expert on constitutional law. He is quoted as saying: "If I were a dictator I would eliminate hand guns from the American way of life." To be (Continued on page 68)

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TEST REPORT:

New Hintlock Rifle



Col. Ackerman found the Jones flinter had a fast, sure action, good handling qualities, and looks.

By MAJOR R. O. ACKERMAN

In the February 1968 issue of GUNS magazine, there appeared an announcement of an ultra-modern version of our forefathers' flintlock. The full-page color photograph showed it to be short and compact, with modern lines and a laminated stock. The most radical departure from tradition, however, was in the design of the ignition system.

To answer some of the questions in readers' minds, the editor asked me to test-fire it

under various conditions and make a report. It was an interesting assignment.

I must say that I found points of disagreement with previous articles upon this gun. The first is purely academic, but it would seem more accurate to call it a modern wheellock, rather than a modern flintlock. The designer, gunsmith John Jones of Brisbane, Australia, received his inspiration from a cigarette lighter. This is obvious in the design of a serrated wheel spinning against a conventional lighter flint, to throw a shower of sparks into the pan.

The second point is more practical—a question of performance. On the plus side of the ledger, this updated flinter is as sure-fire as has been claimed, after a brief "familiarization" helps one to adopt the proper technique of priming, etc. Therefore, the American firm which is planning commercial production should experience no problems with their mechanism. On the other hand, the assertion is debatable that this prototype test-gun makes a dandy shotgun for rabbits, although its smooth bore would give no accuracy with solid ball. My experience indicated just the opposite.

Patterning shot charges with the loads recommended, I found as I expected that a gauge larger than the prototype's .410 would greatly increase its efficiency as a shotgun. This presents no problem, as future production will probably offer a choice of smoothbore gauges and rifle calibers. The preference of the American muzzle-loading shotgunner is always toward larger gauges, and my recommendations to the manufacturer will mention that.

Since the pilot model gun arrived in this country from "down under," I am evidently the first to try it with round ball loads. Patience in working out the (Continued on Page 63)



The Unique stock of the Jones muzzleloader is made of laminated walnut and oak.

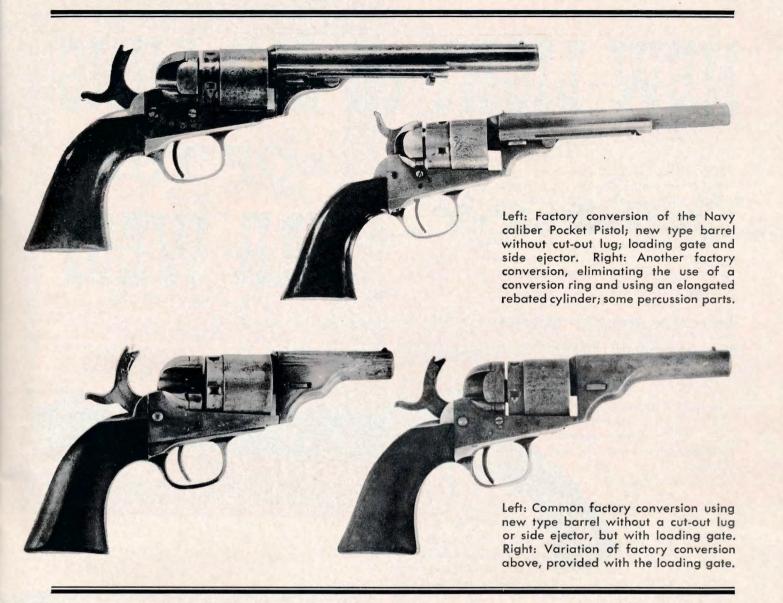
In the world of today, with its accelerated pace for research and technology, it is refreshing to discover new information on such a well-covered subject as Colt models. Frequently, information known by seasoned collectors is too often treated as a closely guarded trade secret. This is unfortunate, as it reduces the possibility of a novice enthusiast enjoying the thrill of discovering an unusual or scarce piece. Such thrills as these help add new, muchneeded members to the arms collecting fraternity.

The results of a four-year survey, conducted primarily with the intention of researching the conversion of percussion Colt models to the firing of the metallic cartridge, has revealed some models that I have not seen written up. In most instances the owners have failed to recognize the models as significantly different, distinct models, and therefore have failed to bring them to the attention of the collectors, enthusiasts, or authors. Three distinct production models are shown. One is a conversion of the pocket revolver of Navy caliber, different than is usually seen, while the other two models are early cartridge production models. The three different models have—in my opinion

—a definite status in the complete Colt family and their production is completely logical. Figure 1 is the common factory conversion of the 1853 pocket pistol of Navy caliber, utilizing left-over percussion parts, but employing a new barrel without a cut-out lug and made without a loading gate or side ejector; caliber .38 RF or .38 CF. This is probably the most common of all Colt factory conversions, as several thousand of this model were produced.

Figure 2 shows conversion of the same basic model, except utilizing a loading gate and outside gate spring, which of course makes it a different model of the factory conversion or the pocket revolver of Navy caliber. All five of this type of conversion examined were stamped and numbered, "Quincy Police" on the left side, indicating the possibility of a special order. As the highest inventory number observed was 25, it can be assumed at least 25 were inventoried by the purchaser and without reservation, some may exist without this engraving. All five examined were in the four digit 5000 serial range. In order to verify the authenticity of this model, the gate number, which is the order number, must match the number under





the trigger guard on the frame proper. All order numbers observed were in the 500's.

Figure 4 shows the somewhat scarce factory conversion of the pocket pistol of Navy caliber which utilizes the new type barrel without the cut-out lug, side ejector and loading gate—referred to by many as the "Baby Open Top Frontier."

Figure 5 at first glance appears the same as Figure 4. A closer observation reveals that no conversion ring is present. The cylinder and barrel transition is longer, showing that this model has a different identity, a model that could be referred to more correctly than Figure 4 as the "Baby Open Top Frontier." It is readily apparent that the conversion as shown in Figure 4 served as the prototype for this model, replacing the conversion ring with an elongated rebated cylinder and increasing the barrel transition to compensate for the space that would ordinarily be taken up with the conversion ring. This was probably one of the last attempts by the Colt factory to utilize all surplus percussion parts by adapting them to a producion cartridge model utilizing a new-type cylinder, barrel, and eliminating the need for a conversion ring. Therefore, chronologically, these models could be termed as "Cartridge Pocket Models of 1872." Of the six known pieces, two have British proof marks, all have rebated cylinders indigenous with the conversions except $\frac{3}{16}$ " longer and with the typical rolled-on stagecoach scene. All were .38 caliber and provided with the rear barrel sight.

Figure 6 represents the final transition step of the effort of the Colt Company to market a production cartridge model utilizing left-over percussion parts. This model utilizes a new frame, a new barrel without a cut-out lug, and a straight unrebated cylinder, made a 6-shot, .32 caliber. This model also has the longer barrel transition which is also characteristic of the large frame .44 rimfire model of 1872. This may also have been an exploritory model intended to utilize percussion .31 caliber barrels, frames, and production dies. Only two of these models have been examined during the four-year conversion study, this could either indicate a very limited production, experimental models, or that several others exist that were not uncovered during the survey.

Even though the three unusual models are little known and unpublicized, they are definitely authentic Colt production models and it is anyone's guess how many of these may still be around waiting discovery.

NEW LIGHT on OLD GUNS



OF THE FAR WEST

THE GOLD RUSH OF '49 DREW TO THE PACIFIC SLOPE SOME OF THE NATION'S FINEST GUNMAKERS OF THE CAPLOCK ERA



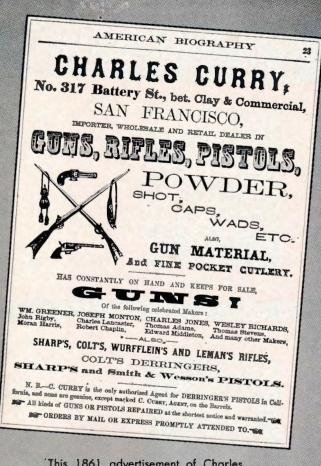
From the busy overland travel terminus of Sacramento, Cal., Adolph Koppikus offered this reliable half-stocked hunting rifle.

WHEN COLLECTORS SPEAK of high quality caplock rifles, the tendency is to single out Edwin Wesson, Norman Brockway, Nathaniel Whitmore, William Billinghurst, Andrew Wurfflein or other skilled craftsmen of New England, New York and Pennsylvania.

It is undeniable that these areas produced some of the world's best gunmakers, but the East could not hold them all. Some of the best craftsmen headed west where they put together guns that were second to none. Because the quantity produced in the West was relatively small and specimens are scarce, western gunmakers have not been given much attention in the standard works dealing with caplock muzzle-loaders of the 1800s.

During a twenty year residence in California the products of western gunmakers were of special interest to me and I explored many sources for information, accumulating in the process some excellent western-made guns. Illustrating the often quoted phrase that "old guns are where you find them," the largest group of western-made guns I ever acquired was found in the Philadelphia warehouse of W. Stokes Kirk. Mr. Kirk, Sr., a

By JAMES E. SERVEN



This 1861 advertisement of Charles Curry show variety of guns handled.

competitor of Francis Bannerman in the old-gun trade, had accumulated these guns for his private collection when he had branch gun stores in Los Angeles and San Francisco. The collection was dispersed after the death of Mr. Kirk, Sr., and his son. This put many rare guns back in circulation.

A roster which I compiled in 1950 contains the names of over two hundred and fifty nineteenth century Far-West gunmakers and arms dealers. The work of many is relatively obscure, but a few names stand out as leaders in the arms-making craft on the west coast and in the nation. Some of these leaders became prominent in a particular area of gunmaking. Benjamin Bigelow is known for cylinder rifles; H. Rowell, August Browning, Louis

Moller made high grade match rifles; the Curry brothers, and I. C. E. Klepzig featured derringers; L. C. Kersey excelled in multi-barrel rifles. The names of A. J. Plate and Charles Slotterbek, however, may be found on a variety of arms including pistols, shotguns and rifles.

San Francisco was the hub of the western gun trade. Here were the major dealers as well as a sprinkling of the better gunmakers. But an appreciable number of the most versatile gunmakers packed their tools and ventured out into the countryside, locating in the vicinity of the gold strikes. Several men who made names for themselves journeyed up toward the Trinity Alps in the northern part of the state, not far from the famous Weaverville diggings and other strikes. Among these was Levi C. Kersey. Frank Wesson is reported to have built the first brick building in Shasta and operated a gun shop there in the 1850s before returning to his native Massachusetts.

As a general rule, the men who moved out into the hinterlands were riflesmiths in the full sense. Most of them could build a complete gun, and custom rifles from the workbenches of some are among the finest weapons ever seen on the Pacific Slope.

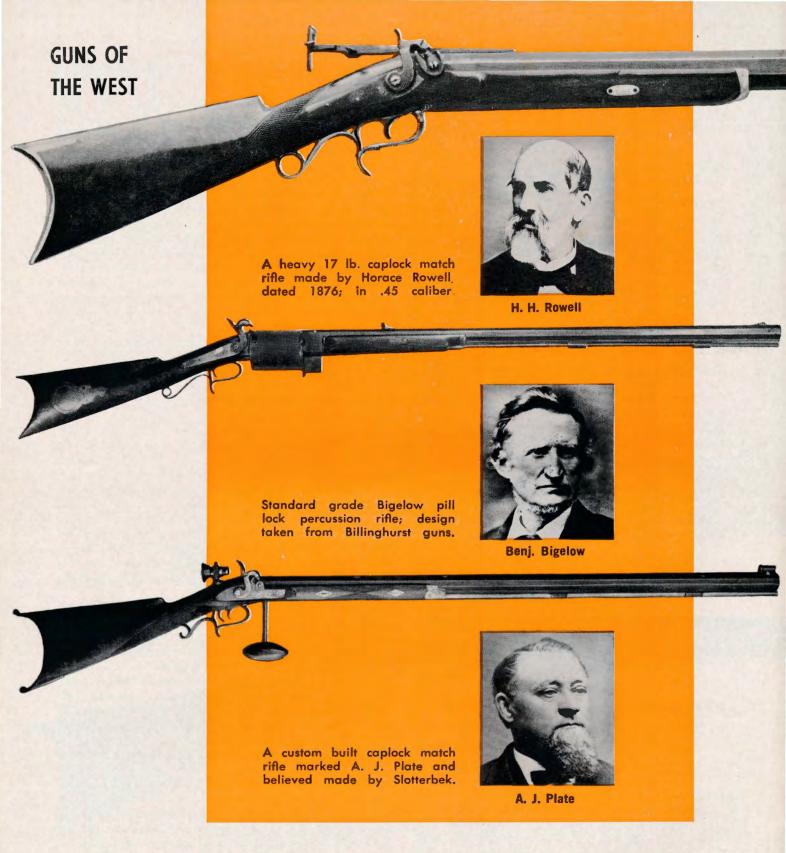
One of the first gunmakers to enter San Francisco bay was Frank Bekeart, who was aboard the *Oregon* when it nosed into that sheltered harbor on April 1, 1849. Bekeart soon headed for Coloma where gold was first discovered at Sutter's mill. It was not long, however, before he returned to San Francisco and started a gun store that was operated by three generations of Bekearts and which ceased operations only a few years past. The Bekeart fame was based more on an ability to import and sell good guns than in their manufacture. The same was true of many who followed, although some employed expert gunsmiths to make guns to order or to make repairs.

A man who operated on that basis was Adolphus Joseph Plate. A native of Westphalia, Plate arrived in San Francisco late in 1849 and in May of the next year opened a little shop where he sold ammunition and second-hand guns.

In 1851 he moved to better quarters on Leidesdorff Street, moving again in 1855 to a larger building at 103 Commercial Street and then again to 411 Sansome Street. In 1866 he purchased the old Knickerbocker fire-engine building at 510 Sacramento Street which he occupied until his death in 1878. Two sons continued the business and in 1880 the firm moved to a three-story building on Market Street.

This informative comment on the Plate operations was contained in *The Commerce and Industries of the Pacific Coast of North America*: "Besides manufacturing fine rifles and guns to order, they do a general jobbing and repairing business and employ a number of hands in their shops, at wages ranging from \$5 to \$25 a week . . . Mr. Plate was among the first to import arms from Europe direct to the Pacific Coast, and he built up a prosperous trade with our entire slope, from Mexico northward."

Charles Slotterbek, of whom more will be learned later, was one of those who made custom guns for Plate in the 1860s, and considering the wages mentioned above it is not strange that Slotterbek soon set up in business for himself. Several very good caplock half-stock rifles of custom quality bearing the Plate name have come to attention and



these probably came from Slotterbek's workbench.

The arms most frequently found in collections bearing the A. J. Plate—San Francisco, Cal. marking are double barrel caplock shotguns, a standard pattern half-stock caplock rifle (made by Slotter & Co. of Philadelphia), small derringer pocket pistols, and Spencer sporting rifles. It is assumed that Plate obtained a number of the old Spencer military carbines and rifles and sporterized them by installing a new octagon barrel and a new forestock. Found in lesser number are some duelling or long barrel traveler's

pistols, these being imports on which Plate stamped his name. Plate advertised "Deringer and Duelling Pistols" among a long list of available weapons in the 1864-65 San Francisco directory. Sharps rifles, Colt pistols and the products of other well-known manufacturers swelled the Plate offerings to a large and varied inventory.

Among Plate's early competitors were Charles, Nathaniel, and John Curry. Pocket pistols were in great demand during the 1850s and 1860s, and there was great rivalry in their sale. Out of the rivalry between Plate and the Curry



brothers has come a rather amusing story. The fuse was lighted when Curry managed to get the sole agency in California for sale of the popular Henry Deringer pocket pistols. Immediately an advertisement appeared stating, "N. Curry & Bro. are the only authorized agents for Deringer pistols in California, and none is genuine except marked Curry, Agent on the barrel."

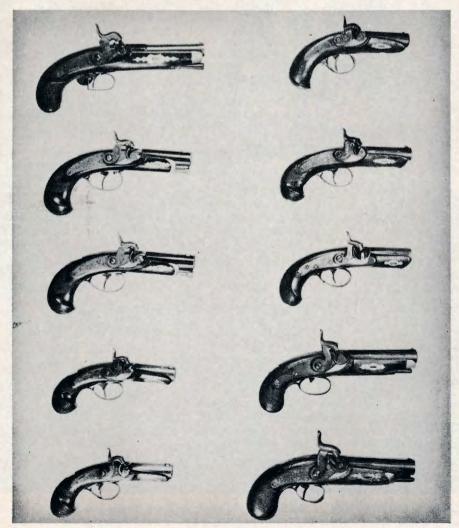
When Plate saw that advertisement his blood pressure took a jump! When he had his Dutch up he was not one to fool with, and he vowed to sell Deringer pistols or know the reason why. The device by which he managed this, it is claimed, was to have a number of pistols made up of the Henry Deringer pattern (on which there was no protective patent). Locating a resident of San Francisco named Jeremiah Derringer, Plate made a contract whereby he obtained the right to stamp J. Deringer on his pocket pistols. Some liberty was taken in the spelling of the name. This in turn raised Henry Deringer's blood pressure as well as that of the Currys and a lawsuit resulted, unsettled at Henry Deringer's death. On the other side of the coin, Plate held the sole agency for Remington arms on the Pacific Coast for

a profitable period of time.

Those were lusty days in San Francisco, when you could buy about anything you wanted along the "Barbary Coast" and nobody wore kid gloves when it came to treating a troublesome competitor.

As for the Curry brothers, they could hold their own. Charles Curry, a native of Ireland and a beneficiary of Philadelphia apprenticeship in the gun trade, arrived in San Francisco in 1852. His Irish wit, gunmaking experience, and eastern connections served him well. Like Plate, Curry stepped up from smaller to larger quarters, first establishing his gun shop on Commercial Street, then at 317 Battery Street. Charles died in 1863 and the brothers, Nathaniel and John, continued the business, moving in 1869 to 113 Sansome Street where they prospered for over twenty years thereafter.

Derringer pistols were among the best-sellers in Curry's stock, but Curry's inventory was also very extensive. For them the historian John S. Hittell claimed: "Every variety and style of guns and pistols, from celebrated manufacturers in England, France. (Continued on page 77)





A collector from Sacremento obtained Bigelow's deluxe personal double-barrel cylinder rifle from gunmaker's nephew.

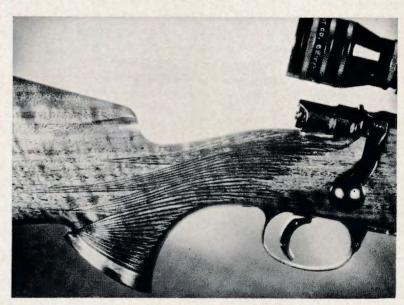
Caplock pocket pistols were popular in the Far West. The barrel stamp of A. J. Plate, N. Curry & Bro., Klepzig & Co., and A. J. Taylor Co. (all of San Francisco) are on all of these derringers.



From just after WW II until today, the author Glenn Slade has concentrated on finding a set of functionally perfect rifles of dimensions capable of handling the entire arena of game.

THOUGH THERE IS NO "ALL AROUND RIFLE," SLADE HAS DISCOVERED A WELL ROUNDED QUARTET





Slade receives favorable comments about stocks carved by Linde.

THE EVOLUTION OF a completely satisfactory personal collection of rifles suitable for any big game animal in any part of the world is without a doubt a complicated process. While the choice is certainly a matter of personal preference, my selection should serve as a guide to others building their collection.

After the war, rifles were in extremely short supply and, being interested in both target and game shooting, my rifle was a .30-06 FN Mauser. So that it might serve the dual role of target and hunting gun, I milled a clip slot in the ring, permitting clip charging for rapid fire. Also, I installed 77 Lyman front and 48 Lyman rear sights. For hunting, I had an Alaskan 2½x scope with Echo mount for easy removal. I later added an 8x Litchert adapter to this scope for the Texas plains and Rocky Mountain country.

I polished the already-smooth Mauser action and got a rapid-fire gun that shot many three and four inch groups at both two and three hundred yards. My handloads for the short ranges were pushing the old nickel-plated Norma 180 gr. match bullets with 36.4 grains of Hi Vel #2 powder, and for long ranges with 57 grains of 4350. Both of these loads were extremely accurate at their ranges.

After a few years with this one gun, my good friend

V. J. Tiefenbrunn at Winchester selected two Model 70's for me—a M-70 National Match, and a M-70 Bull gun in .300 H&H—to take the place of the FN. While the .30-06 was never found wanting against deer, elk, antelope, bear, or moose, now that I had a Model 70 in .300 H&H for target use, I turned to the same caliber for a hunting rifle. We had a Sako .300 H&H Magnum come through our shop which struck my fancy. After checking it for accuracy, removing the sights, adding one-half inch to the buttstock, and fitting it with a Nickel Supra 4x-10x scope on a Leupold Adjusto mount, I had a gun which was to go on to collect all 25 North American big game animals (with the exception of the two cats which were taken with a .357 S&W Combat Magnum), as well as 15 African trophies including elephant, buffalo, and eland.

After taking that wide collection of game with the one rifle, I retired the gun for sentimental reasons. Then I began thinking seriously of a new gun to replace the Sako. Temple Linde, the renowned stockmaker from Texas City, had offered to stock a gun for me as a return favor for our obtaining or building a wide assortment of engraved barreled actions for him. Temple would stock these guns and then donate them to the Lions Club, which would then raffle them off for charity. At first I told Temple that if

PHYSICAL SPECIFICATIONS OF RIFLES

Caliber	Weight Including Scope	Overall Length	Length Pull	Barrel Length	Muzzle Diameter	Magazine Capacity	Twist	Recoil in Ft/#
257	8#, 4 ozs.	395/8"	141/2"	18"	.595	3	12	17.46
300	8#, 2 ozs.	"	"		.605	3	12	35.39
375	8#, 4 ozs.	"	"	"	.607	3	12	56.41
450	8#, 14 ozs.	"	"	"	.680	3	14	87.42

GUNS • NOVEMBER 1968

he could stock the guns for so noble a purpose, the least we could do was get the actions.

My problem was to pick the caliber, and I recalled the great success of the .300 H&H and the .30-06. I ruled out the .30-06 for the same reasons that I had originally moved on to the .300. The only fault with the .300 was some case separation after repeated use of brass. Since cases with less taper, like the .300 Weatherby, were less prone to separation, this was the caliber. But this was going a bit strong for some of our local game and the smaller African variety. In the past I had felt overgunned on occasion with the H&H.

Why not a pair of rifles, one each of light and medium caliber, built on the same action to exactly the same stock dimensions? I had always stuck to one gun, figuring that when the chips were down, the more familiar one is with his rifle, the less chance of something preventing his collecting the pot. This had paid off on a few shots where everything could not be attributed to luck. But how can you really develop that familiarity if you are always changing guns?

The answer would seem to be that if one were to have more than one gun, they should be matched. So much so that there can be no difference when thrown to the shoulder and the actions operated. This means matching weight, stock dimensions, actions, and sighting equipment. Carrying this further can reap added advantages. On long hunts I usually carried a spare rifle, plus a few spare parts. If one were to have two identically formed rifles, why not



Glenn's group: the .257 Weatherby, .300 Weatherby, .357 Weatherby, .450 Watts Improved "Tex-Gun Special." These "four of a kind" are similar in weight, actions, stock dimensions and sights. have them headspaced so that the bolts would be interchangeable? This should present no problem—just a case of picking two bolts which would headspace equally in the two different actions. Then, in case of failure of one in the field, it would be possible to slide in the other bolt.

But, since I had decided on .300 Weatherby for one, I would need a cartridge for the lighter caliber rifle with the same belted head. Quite logically, the choice was the .257 Weatherby. This was a caliber ample for smaller game such as deer and antelope. It might also qualify as a varmint cartridge when necessary and yet be heavy enough to use in a pinch against the likes of bear, elk, and moose.

Long ago I decided that lightness was a prime asset in a sporting firearm. My reasoning was that many hours are spent carrying, and quite often in extremely difficult terrain. Unless a hunter is especially sensitive to recoil, his rifle should be as light as possible. We therefore chose Llamawood from which to fashion a pair of stocks. One could hardly find two better matched stocks than those, cut side by side from the same piece of wood!

Before we dismiss the subject of lightness in a sporting rifle, I might mention that recoil has never bothered me. My heavy caliber rifle today is a .450 TexGun. Improved (an improved Watts) which weighs only eight pounds fourteen ounces, scope and all. This gun is pushing a 500 grain bullet with a muzzle energy of 5975 ft/lbs.

Originally, we built both guns with a barrel length of 22 inches and a muzzle diameter of .595" on the .257 and .605" on the .300. I like a short barrel for ease of handling, speed, and lightness. Later we shall see what happened here. The barrels were tapered to be as light as could be, and were made from Douglas premium blanks. These were screwed into FN actions with matching bolts.

For sighting gear I picked out Redfield 3x-9x scopes with 1-3 inch dots. These reticles were later changed for the Tex-Gun Specials we whipped up. The scopes were mounted with Buehler Fl-S bases and #6 low rings. This combination gave me the only mount I could find which would put the rear of the scope ahead of the cocking piece (where it belongs) and low, without adding weight for extension rings, et cetera.

The scope choice was not a simple one in those days. Long ago I knew that a variable scope was the logical solution for the hunter who will be hunting under a wide range of conditions. The high powers are useful for long shots and I even prefer them for the relatively short ones, as well as for running shots. The low power is useful for moving against dangerous game, and also for early and late shooting when sunlight is poor.

Having tried several brands (Continued on Page 72)

AMMUNITION TABLE

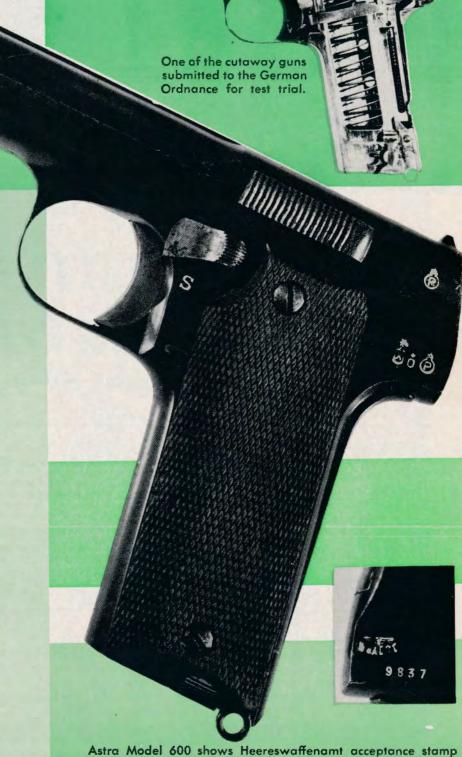
Cart- ridge	Case	Primer	r Pou Grains			Muzzle Energy	Bullet @	Group 100 yds	Mid-Range Trajectory
257	Weath- erby	Fed. 215	66	4831	3180	2622	Sierra 117 gr. BT	.67"	6.8"—300 yds.
300		U	83	"	3110	3857	Nosler 180 gr.	.64"	5.4"—300 yds.
375		U	86	"	2680	4788	Hornady 300 gr.	.69"	7.2"—300 yds.
450	Formed Norma	U	86	Ball-C	2320	5975	Hornady 500 gr.	.65"	10.8"—300 yds.

ASTRA PISTOLS IN THE GERMAN ARMY

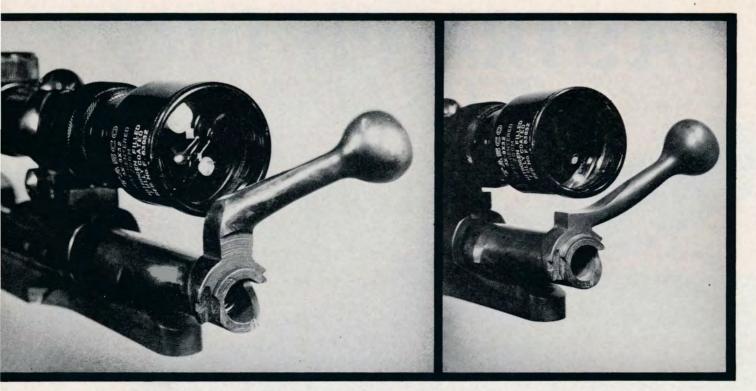
By CAPTAIN
ROBERT D. WHITTINGTON III

NE OF THE MOST significant and interesting facts regarding the numbers of semi-automatic pistols procured by the German military forces during World War Two is that over 45 per cent of these collectors' favorites actually originated outside the borders of the German Reich. Though the majority were manufactured in countries that Hitler had conquered by either the diplomatic pen or the warrior sword, over 200,000 of these pistols were procured from neutral sources as well. Perhaps the leader of the non-belligerent countries that served as sources for the German war machine was Spain. At Guernica in Spain, the Astra concern, Unceta Y Compania S.A. turned out some of the peculiar Nazi issued handguns.

It was the Spaniards who first instigated the purchase of their wares by the Germans. On the 18th of April, 1941, the Astra factory tendered an offer to sell pistols to the German wholesale firm of Sudost-Handelgesellschaft von Ramin of Berlin. A working agreement was reached between the parties and the initial contract was sent to Berlin for approval. The object of the contract was the delivery into von Ramin's custody of 6,000 Astra Model 400 pistols in caliber 9mm. Bergmann-Bayard and 6,000 Astra Model 300 automatics in caliber 9mm. Kurtz (.380 ACP). Also included in the deal were holsters, cleaning rods, spare magazines, and Spanish (Continued on page 88)



Astra Model 600 shows Heereswaffenamt acceptance stamp (in inset), located on the right side above the serial number.



Before reworking, the scope is poorly positioned; afterwards it sets nicely over bolt handle.

Forging the M-54 Winchester Bolt

By WILLIAM SCHUMAKER

IN SPITE OF the fact that only 50,145 bolt action Winchester M-54's were manufactured, and that they were in production only from 1925 to 1936, they show up for scoping conversion more often than is generally realized. Before modern low-mounted scopes can be installed on these rifles it is necessary to alter the bolt handle by either forging or cutting off and re-welding, much in the same manner as 1903 Springfield and military Mauser 98 bolts must be re-shaped.

When some serious Winchester collectors will pay the price of a new M-70 for M-54's in excellent condition, it seems almost a shame to change them in any manner. However, owner attachment goes to the point of preferring a scope on the old rifle rather than a new one. Then too, collectors with ready cash are seldom standing in line, and many of the 54's are not well enough preserved to command good

EDITOR'S NOTE

This article is published as a guide for those gunsmiths who have the basic knowledge for metal work of this type. It is not intended to show the amateur tinkerer how to forge a bolt handle. Perhaps it will serve to show the gun owner how much work and care is required to alter a bolt handle, and thus increase their appreciation of the good value offered by those craftsmen, such as Badger Shooters Supply and others, in their altered bolts.

prices or be in demand.

Built in the wee hours of the scope era, the receiver ring was factory drilled and tapped on top with the same 27/32" 6/48" hole spacing still being used on M-70 Winchesters. The bridge was not top-drilled for a scope mount, but instead given a two-hole drilling and tapping on the left side to accommodate a receiver sight or a few

of the old fashioned bracket type rear rings. Scopes were therefore of necessity either mounted excessively high or with the eyepiece positioned in front of the bolt handle. Neither proved very satisfactory.

Actually no serious problems other than altering the bolt handle are encountered in scoping a M-54. There are mount bases made to fit it. In some makes two-piece M-70 bases will fit, while others are readily adaptable. Maynard P. Buehler sells a low scope safety that can be installed by anyone capable of following simple instructions. Incidentally, the original M-54 Springfield military type safety, has its "safe" and "fire" positions reversed from Springfields and Mausers.

To those who are unfamiliar with the M-54 bolt, the large reserve safety lug directly underneath its handle is a tough obstacle to overcome (when converting to a low bolt). When the bolt is closed it bottoms into a recess in the action to serve as a bolt turning stop. While most modern bolt action designs have eliminated the third safety lug feature, the bolt stop function of the M-54 lug must be retained.

Cutting off the original bolt handle and relocating by welding would expose the heavy lug and rear portion of the bolt to all the evils that accompany steel melting temperatures, plus resulting in a clumsy looking bolt shank base. Besides, I am a bitter opponent of bolt handle welding, (ever since I've learned how to forge them). I am completely through with the actual forging of a bolt by the time a welder can cut one off and position it in a holding jig. I still say, many fellows who always weld bolts, do so simply because they've failed to take the time to learn forging properly.

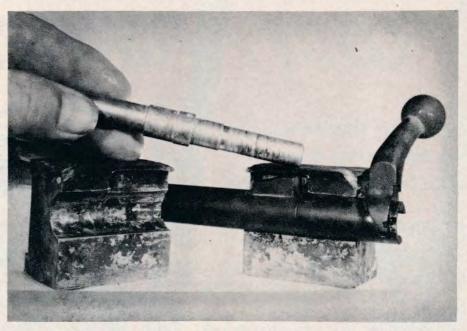
This is not to say that a good gunsmith-welder can't do a safe and artful welding job on Mauser and Springfield bolts, if heat running is controlled. Welding approach troubles stem largely from the efforts of novices who overheat, underheat, anneal, and melt down cocking cam edges, form slag, pits, oxidize the steel—and still end up with bolt handles that are too high or too

Some are merely silver soldered into position. We've seen some bolt handles that were just slightly vee'd around the outside and a weak camouflaged weld fill-in applied. Often such jobs break off during use, and in the process of welding close to the bolt body, the critically tempered locking lug end of the bolt may have been subjected to dangerous changes.

Even if a fancy checkered or knurled bolt knob is desired, the original can be forged first, then cut off about midway in the shank and the re-welding done far enough away from the bolt body to easily control heat running.

The good old M-54 Winchester bolts deserve proper forging. By simply removing about 60% of the safety stop lug, the bolt turning stop is unaffected and the remaining though unneeded safety lug still has tremendous strength. Now it is ready to be positioned in the forging blocks which are in turn locked in a heavy bench vise.

After inserting a plug into bolt, pack it with wet asbestos, heat red hot all the way around and "through" and bend the bolt knob and shank into vertical position with a wrench or soft metal hammer. Keep the approximate open area (Continued on page 74)



The bolt is positioned in forging blocks and a plug inserted to prevent collapsing. The blocks are then placed in a bench vise.





The large reserve safety lug directly beneath the bolt handle is a problem. It is reduced by about 60% as part of the conversion.







In the beginning blows must be at right angles to the bolt shank. Blows with ball of hammer are directed progressively toward body.

CODY WINCHESTER

GUNS Hunting Editor recalls his days with Buffalo Bill and reports on the Cody/Winchester 4th of July



Des Broman

By LES BOWMAN

CODY, WYOMING, a small western town, (population, under 5,000), whose main street is also the highway that leads to the East Gate of Yellowstone National Park, owes a great deal to the legendary William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody. He had a big hand in establishing this small town which he always considered to be his real home, and to which he gave his name. I am sure that many youngsters who have never heard of Cody, Wyoming, are very familiar with the name "Buffalo Bill", which stands for early adventure, Indians, cowboys, the pony express, buffalo hunting, and many other things that were a definite part of living in the days when we were settling the west.

William F. Cody was born February 26th, 1846 and he died in 1917. During the years of his life he managed to crowd in more adventurous living than most men can dream of. He was a plainsman, Army scout, a friend to the Indians—and a fighter against them when necessary—a Buffalo hunter and a meat hunter. He was also, and this is something that is often forgotten when remembering Buffalo Bill, a great conservationist. And last, he was one of the





BUFFALO BILL

The legend of William F. Cody will live on in the new wing of the Buffalo Bill museum.





world's greatest showmen. There is little doubt but that the tremendous publicity build-up he received from his friend Ned Buntline was responsible for a great deal of his success as a western showman.

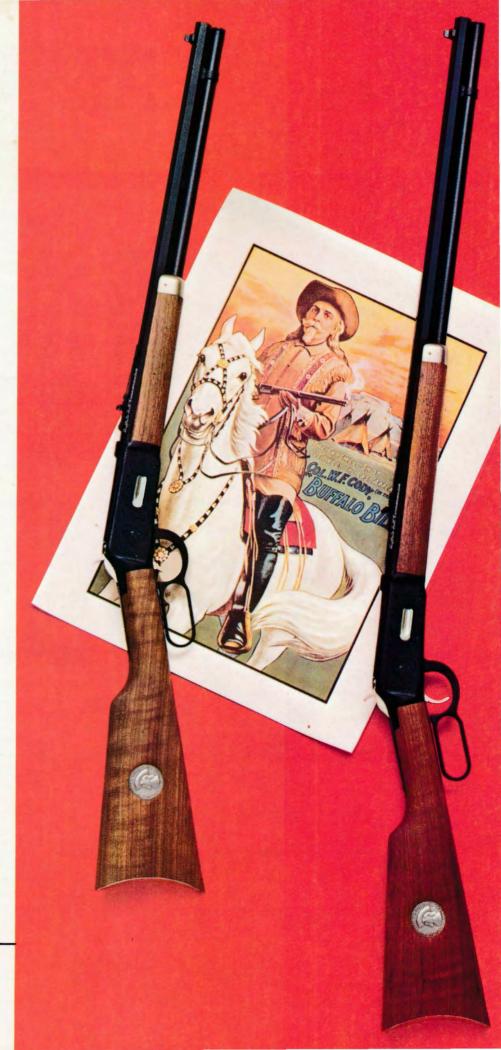
I was born before the turn of the century, on the west coast of California. This area was settled by people who had come west by the northern route, through territory that is now Wyoming and the northwestern states. The Big Horn Basin of Wyoming was on this route. My mother, born in an Indian fort in the redwood belt of Northern California, often told me stories of the exploits of Buffalo Bill, as a scout and Indian fighter. He was already a legendary figure, although still living.

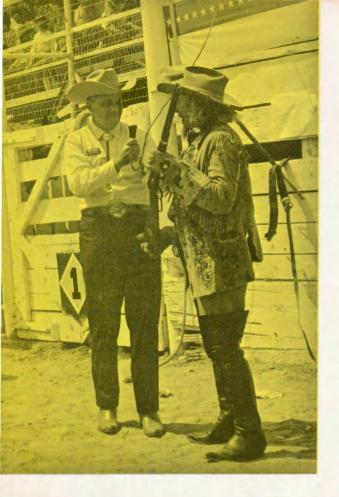
In 1908 or 1909, while we were living in St. Helena, California, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show made a two day, two night stop in our town. I, with most everyone else in town, was down at the depot to watch the unloading of the rodeo equipment and stock. They were to group and parade up the main street to the temporary arena, where the show was to be held. I very well remember the impressive picture Buffalo Bill made astride his white horse, as he supervised the unloading and led the parade up the street.

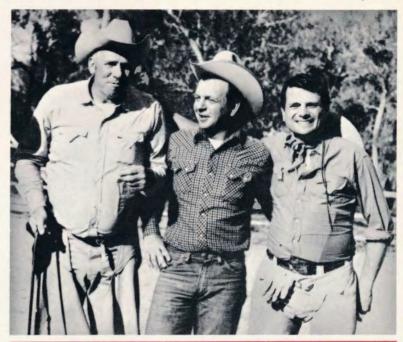
Like most boys of this age I had a dog, a mixed breed, mostly St. Bernard, but I also had a goat that went with the dog. I had been given one of the excellent wooden replica's of the old Studebaker wagons. My mother had a friend make me a set of harness for my dog and goat, and I had taught them to pull my little Studebaker wagon for me. Every one had at least one wood stove at this time and I would take my "team" and go get a load of wood boxes that I broke up into kindling wood and peddled from door to door for 10 cents a load. I could always make me a bit of spending money this way.

Of course, I had my wagon and team down at the depot when Buffalo Bill's show was unloading. He rode by me on his big white horse and immediately spotted the dog and goat "team", hitched up to the good-looking little wagon. He came over and asked me if I would like a job; he said he would

Destined to become rare collector's items; the limited edition "Buffalo Bill" Winchester rifle and carbine.







William Wallace of Winchester presents commemorative rifle to Fred Garlow, Grandson of Buffalo Bill Cody. Slim Pickens, "Skip" Cody, Jim Rickoff of Winchester at end of ride from Cheyenne to Cody. Paul Bunyan sized Cody Commemorative rides atop float at show.

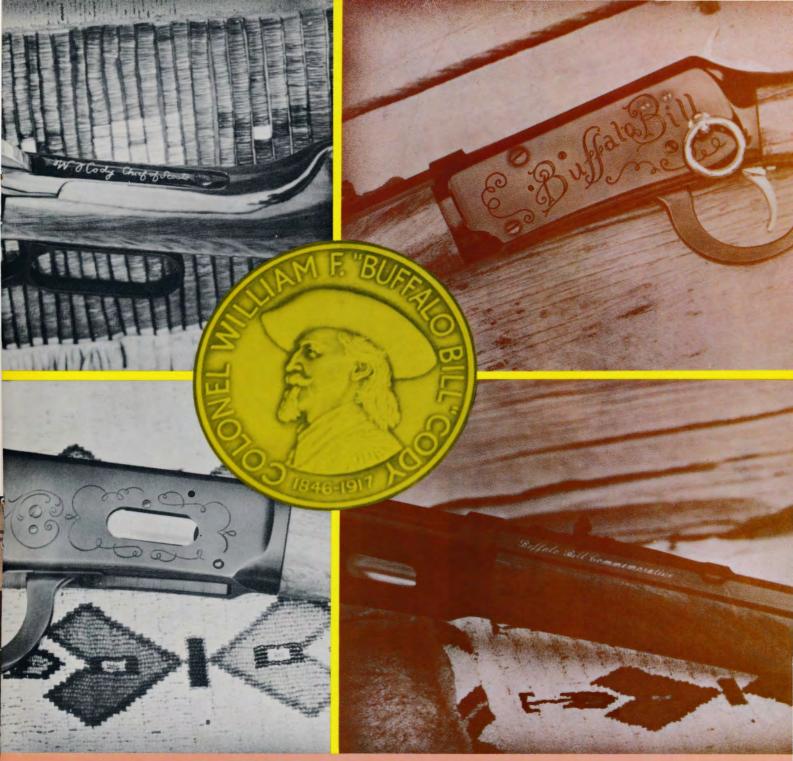


CODY WINCHESTER

like me to use my outfit to pick up rocks in the rodeo arena after it had been harrowed before each show. He said he would pay me a dollar and give me two tickets to each performance if I did a good job. Well, you can imagine just how quickly I agreed. He told me to follow the parade to the show grounds and I start work immediately. I had no trouble getting a helper and we went to work. After I got my four tickets, two for the afternoon show and two for that night, I paid my "helper" off with a ticket for the day show and saved the extra night one for my mother. That night, after Buffalo Bill had ridden

around the arena, swinging his rope in a bit of trick roping, which was all the act he performed then, he dismounted and started out of the arena on foot. I was setting with my mother in the front row of the temporary grandstands and he spotted me. He stopped, introduced himself to my mother and told her what a good job I had done that day. I don't know if hero's are born or made, but I acquired one that night; along with the envy of every boy in town as the "guy who worked for Buffalo Bill."

About 40 years later my wife and I bought a small ranch southwest of Cody, adjacent to Buffalo Bill's old TE ranch



Decorative features of the Winchester "Buffalo Bill" commemorate lever action are shown, including medallion in the stock and inscriptions on barrel and tang.

on the South Fork of the Shoshone River. This was the place he always called home. For nearly twenty years we had an outfitting business in this country, and two of our principal hunting camp sites took in the area where Buffalo Bill had his secret hunting camp, called Camp Bob, to which he took many of his famous friends for hunts. Teddy Roosevelt hunted there a number of times. I have often looked at the remnants of pegs that held rope ladders that they used to climb the rimrock and get up to the open country where sheep, elk, deer and grizzly were easily found. There was no trail up there in those days; they

hunted this country on foot and had Indian guides who carried the trophies and game down the rope ladders to the camp below.

The name "Buffalo Bill" is pretty well known most everywhere. Last winter, when I was in Italy with the Winchester Safari group, we were watching a western movie being made Italian style. I asked a small boy if he knew who Bill Cody was and he just looked blank, but when I said Buffalo Bill, he grinned and pretended to pull out two six-guns, while making motions like riding a horse. Many times I am asked (Continued on page 70)

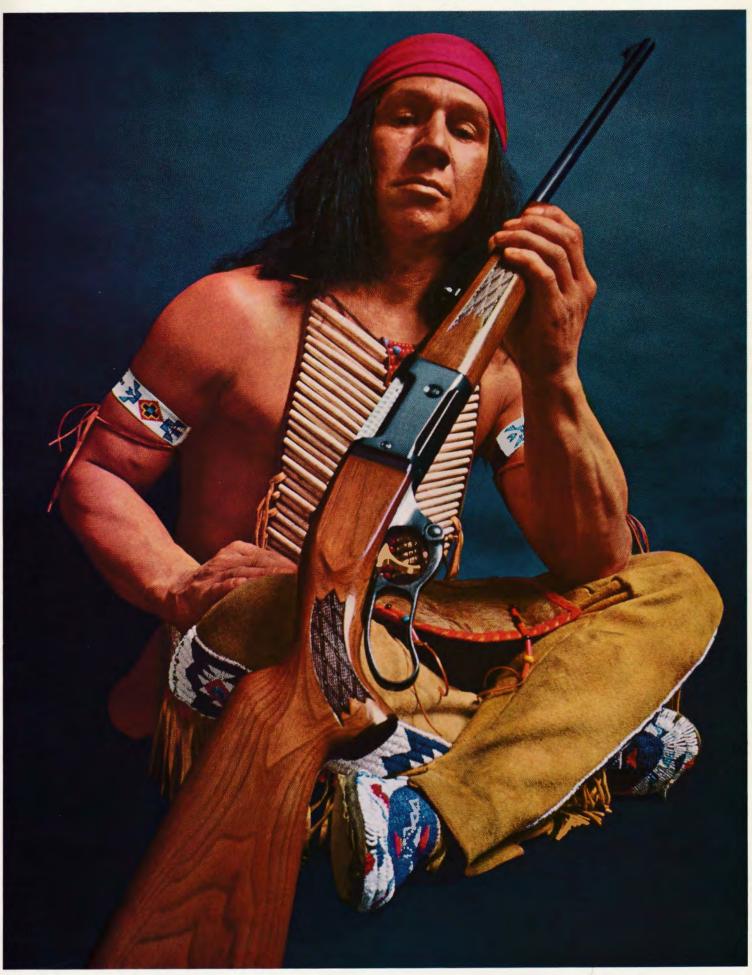
GUNS COLOR GALLERY

THE KENTUCKY RIFLE

Originating as a distinct type near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, between 1725 and 1728, the "Kentucky" rifle—historians say it should be called the "Pennsylvania" rifle—is the one firearm most closely associated with early American frontiersmen. The originals are highly prized collector's items, and reproductions are becoming popular. This "Kentucky" was crafted recently by Bill Volz of California. Photo by Dick Friske.







A classic lever action should handle today's big game loads.

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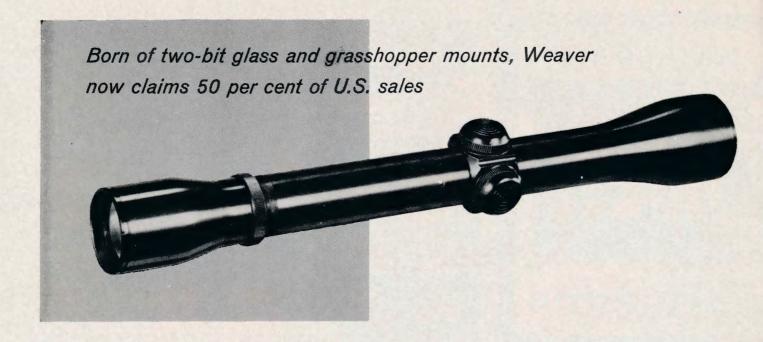
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GUNS . NOVEMBER 1968



THE OTHER DAY I went by to see the W. R. Weaver Company in El Paso, Texas. Since 1934, when Bill Weaver came to town, the outfit has moved five times and now occupies a brand new headquarters on the eastern flank of the town. Where once the whole operation occupied two small rooms and had a total of eight employees, it now requires 100,000 feet of floor space in a brand new air-conditioned building with about 400 employees. With better than 50 per cent of all the rifle scope business corralled it isn't to be marveled at that the operation is spread around quite a bit.

Weaver, born William Ralph, hails from Louisville, Kentucky, and commenced to make his telescopic sights about the time of the stock market debacle of 1929. The first scope was pretty crude, and was intended for .22 rifles. Right after that he beefed up the original and offered this second one for high-powered rifles. Along with this scope was a mount that the inventor liked to call his "Grasshopper." It had more springs on it than a kitchen door and did not last very long.

In the beginning, Weaver had launched his business in the east but by 1934, he had upped stakes near Cincinnati and moved to El Paso. He set up shop on Franklin Street. A century ago the town had been called Franklin after an old pioneer and later it was renamed El Paso del Norte. There is a range of mountains directly north of the town which, to this day, are called the Franklins.

Now Franklin Street is not one of the more poosh arteries, as a matter EDITOR'S NOTE: The Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation (Winchester-Western a subsidiary) has acquired the W. R. Weaver Company, the world's largest producer of telescopic sights. The Weaver concern was acquired for an undisclosed amount of Olin stock. Under its present name and management it will be a wholly owned Olin subsidiary responsible to the vice president and general manager of the Winchester-Western Division.

We do not anticipate that the Weaver image will disappear in the maze of Olin's vast interests, rather the mating of Weaver to this mammoth corporation brings to mind the humble origin of this Texas based scope outfit. Col. Askins knew Weaver from that company's very beginning.

of fact it is pretty down-at-heel. It is just off the railroad tracks and passing freight trains used to rattle the windows in the Weaver emporium until you sometimes had to wait them out before the conversation could be resumed. Despite the fact that there was a full blown depression on in those parlous times, Weaver prospered. The shooting fraternity was decidedly on the naive side where glass sights were concerned, and maybe because of this (but more probably because the Franklin Street product was a good one) the shooting nation took William Ralph, his two-bit glass, and his grasshopper mount to its bosom. In no time at all the company moved, and moved again.

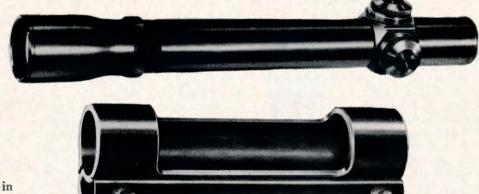
A little more than three decades later we find the Weaver House in its fifth plant, its original labor force grown from eight technicians to almost 400, the business expanded from a few hundred scopes annually to such proportions as to see Weaver control more than 50 per cent of all the scope sales in the United States today.

Not only does he have more business than all the other manufacturers, assembly people, importers, etc., but he will probably continue to dominate the field. The Weaver scope birthed during the height of our most catastrophic depression has ever been the widemargin choice of the budget-hampered shooting man. Not only his choice when a buck looked as big as a double eagle but now days when according to the Great Society we are enjoying unbounded prosperity.

The steady growth of the Weaver Company has been due to a number of factors. First among these has been the goodness of design of the entire line of Weaver optics. The scopes are basically sound, engineered along lines which experience has proven correct. Secondly, the business has been administered with a canny knack for attaining top efficiency and yet with an avoidance of splurging, frills, or extravagance. The shops are organized along strict lines of economy. There is no lost motion, no idleness, and everyone produces at peak level throughout the work day. There has never been a strike at the Weaver Company.

The purchase of materials is stringently supervised. In the beginning many of these materials were so scarce or next to non-existent that Weaver had to search out and build up his own suppliers. The proper tubing for scope

The Weaver Scope Story



The Model K1 scope and the Weaver Tip-Off mount.

bodies (the Weaver is still put up in an all-steel tubing), reticle wire, optical glass, sealing compounds, and tools were a terrific problem.

Jobber outlets were carefully nurtured. Advertising was pushed with an energy and a budget which ran into the thousands of dollars annually. There has never been a manufacturer of firearms accessories who over a thirty year period has poured forth the cash for advertising space as compared to this concern. Weaver has always maintained good relations with all the leading guns writers and authorities. Scarce a hack among 'em who does not have a bevy of the latest Weaver models.

Research and developmental work has kept well ahead of the steadily booming production. The House of Weaver has never been content to rest on its oars. There are always new scopes and mounts on the drawing board.

The remarkable organization of top brass that has carried this outfit from the 8-man force in 1934, to the position of the dominant company in the field today is worthy of introduction. Besides Bill Weaver who is the chief guru, and who we will get around to introducing in a moment, there is Joe Heinzel, who is the chief engineer and plant supt.; there is Clark Kingsbury, who is also a designing engineer and the purchasing agent, together with Paul Olson who is auditor for the firm. Lily Mae Kelly, who has been with Bill since the old days on Franklin St., has just retired. Lily Mae was office chief, secretary to the boss, supervised the shipping room, (Continued on page 64)





Each Weaver scope is inspected again and again, a total of 142 times, before it is given an OK. Above is William Weaver, founder of the firm.



T HERE IS NEW HOPE for all trap and skeet shooters! Champions are made, not born! So says Bob Rodale in a very interesting column on physical and mental conditioning for tournament shooters, in the July issue of "Skeet Shooting Review."

And Rodale apparently practices what he preaches, because he has since capped another great season by winning the United States International Skeet championship, and the #1 place on the United States Olympic Shooting Team.

Rodale, from Emmaus, Pennsylvania, broke 296 of 300 International-style skeet birds at the San Antonio championships and final try-out for places on the Olympic team. He survived a bad start on the final hundred targets (which could be a tribute to excellent conditioning) to win the uncontested championship, with events of 99-99-98, going out with a finale of fifty straight to fashion the 98.

Second place, and #2 spot on the 1968 Olympic team, came much harder for Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Earl Herring from San Antonio. He smashed 100 straight to set up a three-way tie for second place, with Bob Schuehle from Rochelle, Illinois, and air force teammate, S/St Gaynor Thinglum, of Beresford, South Dakota, all at 293x300.

Sgt. Herring left the door open in the first round of the shoot-off when he missed his 9th target, but Schuehle obliged by missing his tenth shot, and Thinglum bobbled on the 15th and 23rd birds. Schuehle missed #8 and #10 (again) in the second stanza, while Herring decided that things had gone far enough and ground out the straight, giving him the runner-up spot and #2 place on the Olympic team. Schuehle becomes first alternate for the Olympics, and Thinglum second alternate.

Betty Myers, the fine woman skeet competitor from San Antonio, was high lady with 250x300. Michael V. Keithey, from Northridge, California was junior champ with rounds of 93-97-93 for a 283 total. Peter Geraci, Lutz, Florida was junior runner-up,

with 276 of the 300 low-gun targets. Mayor Walter W. McAllister of San Antonio and his family were interested spectators. Mayor McAllister presented a gold medal to Bob Rodale at the awards ceremony upon completion of the match. It is refreshing to see that not all of the Nation's mayors are bleating for citizens to surrender their personal firearms, but instead are spectators at stirring competitive shooting events.

Another breath of fresh air was provided when Governor Charles L. Terry of Delaware cited the wholesome competition and fellowship of such events as a strengthening factor in the community in his remarks while greeting shooters at the Delaware State Skeet Shoot, hosted by Dover Air Force Base for the third straight year. Brigadier General J. B. Wallace, Commander 436th Military Airlift Wing in his welcoming remarks gave credit to the place of sportsmen and marksmanship in our national heritage.

Captain Malcolm "Chip" Young was high-over-all in the Delaware event, with 390 of the 400 four-gun targets. Dr. Bruce S. Farquhar, Delaware NSSA Director, was runner-up, with 377x400. Other than Dr. Farquhar's sub-senior victory with a 99 in 12-gauge events, the Miller family (no relation, but of the same "pull-persuasion") dominated the scene.

Robert Miller was sub-junior champ with his 85, John H. Miller, Jr.'s 98 took the junior trophy, and Rosemary Miller topped the ladies with her 98. Then, in the 28-gauge race John H. Miller, Jr. with a 99 topped John H. Miller, Sr. with a 98.

N. H. Thomas broke the hundred to top Louis Busby's early 99 for the 20-gauge trophy, and Capt. M. H. Young's 95 outranked T/Sgt's V. Richards 91 in the 410 race.

Captain Young and Sgt. Richards teamed to win the two-man 410 event. Millers were prominent in the two-man races, as J. H. Miller Jr. and Busby took the 20 gauge trophy. The 28 gauge honors went to V. McCabe and F. Murray.

The all-bore two man (?) team victors—who else—Rosemary Miller and J. H. Miller, Jr.!

The host Dover Air Force Base five-man team of Capt. Young, Major Oberdier, T/Sgt. Richards, Col. Patch, and Capt. Ericson was too tough with a 477x500 in that event. But, with enough Millers to reckon with, this trophy may be up for grabs next year.

One morning this week, as I was standing in a sporting goods store, a young mother tried to shepherd her two small sons past the gun department. The boys wiggled from her grasp and pointed excitedly at the gun display. She grabbed them once more and said "No guns! Guns are only for killing. I don't want you boys to have anything to do with guns."

I could not help but reflect on the possible results of her attitude, when the boys were grown and still had the inherent and obvious interest in guns. With proper training, they could gain much in the way of recreation and discipline. Without training, the results could be tragic.

How much better, I thought, if the boys could participate in the Father-Son Shotgun Seminars, tailored for introducing families to the shooting sports of trap and skeet, which will begin at Winchester Public Shooting Centers all over the nation this year. The Father-Son Seminars concentrate into one day a "Learn To Shoot" program, stressing gun safety and the fundamentals of clay bird shooting. Goal of the seminars is to provide a proper introduction to shooting for thousands of parents and youngsters who are interested, but who don't quite know how or where to seek instruction. Fathers and sons will work as teams, both receiving equal instruction. In the shooting, the fatherson teams will take turns in both skeet and trap and their scores will be added for a team score on each round. The number of participants will be limited at each seminar to about 40 fathers and sons. One instructor will handle no more than five teams, insuring individual attention. For more information, contact your nearest Winchester Public Shooting Center or write Winchester Franchise operations, 275 Winchester Avenue, New Haven, Conn., 06504.

It occurs to me that when fathers and sons take part in activities such as these, there is considerably less chance that later in life there will be the much-publicized communications gap between generations. During my days with the old Sportsmen's Service Bureau program of SAAMI I've seen parents, both fathers and mothers, together with their youngsters at programs such as the Winchester Fa-

ther-Son Seminars, and there is not space enough in this or any other magazine to describe the real family togetherness that these activities produce. If you haven't been there, you have no idea of how much you are missing!

Bob Rodale and the United States are hopeful that he will fare better South of the border than he did North of the border in the Second Canadian ternational Championships won by Montreal. In the Canuck event, Bob deadlocked with Paul Laporte of Montreal in the hundred target events with a 97 effort. Laporte, last year's Canadian champ, shattered fifty straight in the shoot-off to take the hardware.

In the 13th Canadian Open Skeet Championships, hosted by the Montreal Skeet Club at St. Janvier, Quebec, on the two days prior to the International Championships won by Laporte, Doug Reed of East Amherst, New York, took the 12 gauge title after an eight-man shootoff. Frank Ditomasso, of Brooklyn, New York, shooting for the Grouse Ridge, New Jersey Gun Club, missed his 80th target for the runner-up spot. Aldy Williams of Rancocas, N. J. won the State Championship in the Third New Jersey International Skeet Shoot held at

the Grouse Ridge Gun Club, Clinton, New Jersey.

Williams won the title in a fiftybird shoot-off with Don Beddiges, of Bloomsbury, N. J., who was the 1968 New Jersey All-Bore winner in conventional skeet.

Ray Corper of Ambler, Pa. was the out-of-state International champion. Back to conventional skeet in New Jersey, in addition to Beddiges' 12 gauge title, Ted Genola, Sr. took the 20-gauge crown, also via the shoot-off route, after both he and John D'Alessio broke the hundred. Pete Kroeger's perfect 100 in 28 gauge was uncontested, as was Warren Horre's 97 in the 410 event.

The Ladies race was all Betty Roschen, who was champ in all four guns, and high-overall.

Ted Genola, Jr. was top junior, with the Senior trophy for high-overall going to Norman Schlaak of Holmdel. Harold Kaufman from Elizabeth took home the sub-senior high-overall hardware.

The Wayside Gun Club five-man team of Warren Horre, Betty Roschen, Timmy Roschen, Dick Peck, and Ted Genola, Sr. set a new state record with their 494x500, topping the 1967 score of 493x500 set by the Union County Team.



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Proceedings

Proc. BOX 12368-G**

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SWENSON COMBAT AUTO

(Continued from page 25)

tossed easily.

Swenson has developed a more compact .45 that shoots just as well as the old original Model 1911. Using the old gun, he removes from one to one-and-a-half inches from the muzzle end. The one inch shortened version, called the "Bobcat" resembles the Commander model. There is nothing on the market like his "Super Bobcat" with the three and threefourths inch barrel. In tests from a machine rest and from actual range firing, Swenson learned that taking an inch to an inch and a half off the muzzle does not deter the accuracy of the gun. No gun leaves his shop following an accuracy job that will not put five shots into one inch at 25 yards.

Swenson often spends two hours of each working day at the Larsen Range in Torrance, shooting-in his customers' pistols. He claims to fire at least 150 rounds through each guneither his own pet load of 3.6 grains of Bullseye with the 200 grain Speer bullet and CCI primers, or the customer's choice. My "Bobcat" .45 was expected to perform with hardball ammo, so he bought two boxes of factory ammo and proved that the pistol would do as well with either hardball or lead bullets. He shoots at least 200 rounds every day at the range, testing his guns. He is an excellent target and combat shot, preferring combat shooting for its practical value.

One of the problems with a fine gunsmith is that he is normally a very busy person. Swenson does not list his address on his business card for that reason, and he has stopped advertising as he is so far behind in his work. There were nearly a hundred pistols in his shop when I visited. About thirty of them were "in the works"being worked on in stages. The other seventy were waiting for his attention. One rack held 32 handguns, nearly all .45's. He occasionally will loan one of his .45's out to a shooter he knows, but more often than not he will work 'til two in the morning getting that man's gun out of the shop for a match later that day. Watching him work, watching him check everything he does, and later in the day watching him range-test a gun as the work progresses, leads me to believe that he treats every pistol as if it were his own. It doesn't leave his shop unless he is satisfied, and this is generally several steps of satisfaction above that of the owner.

As the "Bobcat" version of the .45

becomes more popular with shooters everywhere (he has had orders from all fifty states and France, Belgium, West Germany, Formosa, Australia, Canada, the Philippines and Mexico), he expects to see the shorter gun take over the combat shooting field. Unlike the Commander, which is a shortened and lightened model of the government model .45, the "Bobcat" has a 41/4" barrel and weighs 34 ounces without loaded magazine. The "Super Bobcat" has a 33/4" barrel and weighs 30 ounces. It retains the heft and strength and balance of the big auto, yet has trim lines, and to most shooters handles and carries a lot better



Swenson .45 combat auto shown in a Bianchi-Cooper holster, shown with safety strap in place. The holster-belt rig carries matching magazine pouch on the left side.

than the full-blown government model.

To make a Bobcat from a customer-provided .45 auto (Swenson does not sell guns, nor does he have any clunkers around his shop for conversion), Swenson claims it takes two solid days of work plus another half day at the range. All of this is spread out over a two or three month period of time, which is about as fast as one can get a gun in and out of the Swenson .45 shop. He does not take on rush orders, other than those guns going to Vietnam. He will repair a sour .45 if a competition shooter finds himself with a match coming up and his gun on the fritz. Normally, it's three months and

if you keep adding on detail work (as I did) it's six months to get your gun back out on the range. Swenson is not slow—he is meticulous. This is what used to be called craftsmanship.

Although any .45 will do (he has seen just about every variety of .45 auto pistol there is, and in every conceivable condition), he prefers to work on a factory-fresh, from the box, standard government model. Depending on sights and frills, the job will run from \$130 to \$250 for a Bobcat model. This does not involve any engraving. My NRA clunker was made into a sleek Bobcat for \$250, which involved the following operations

Shortening and accurizing	\$130.00					
Squaring and checkering						
trigger guard	17.50					
Checkering front strap	23.00					
Matte top of slide	7.50					
Install combat non-adjust-						
able front and rear sights	11.75					
Bevel and polish clip chute	7.00					
Install long safety	14.50					
Install National Match trigger	9.75					
Install Herretts sharp						
checkered walnut grips	4.00					
Hard blue chrome pistol,						
white chrome two maga-						
zines equipped with leather						
base pads	25.00					

As many Swenson jobs turn out, my gun had little touches of crafts-manship—checkering on the backstrap and rear of slide, for one thing—everywhere I looked. His other customers fare no worse—they always end up with more than they expected or paid for. And the Bbobcat shoots like it looks—perfectly.

As soon as a gun comes into the shop, Swenson looks it over and checks the order sheet with it, making his own little marginal notes. If all is in order, the gun goes into a cigar box and gets laid with a pile of others. If the order lacks some details, or he thinks it can be improved beyond what the customer desired, Swenson will immediately write a letter explaining what should be done and gets it to the corner mailbox right away. He may not look at that gun again for a month, depending on the work load. But when he begins (and he usually runs a half dozen or more guns through the shop at once), here is what happens in the Bobcat process.

Swenson first mills the internal parts of the frame to extend the slide travel. Next he cuts nearly an inch from the muzzle of the slide and remachines the end for a precision barrel bushing. He uses a special tool of his own design for this job. The slide is then precisely fitted to the frame. The slide has two barrel positioners

added to the breech area. These work with the seven barrel positioners he later Heli-arcs to the barrel, using chill plates to keep distortion down. The muzzle of the barrel has a sleeve sweated-on which will later be precision machined to fit the new bushing tightly and perfectly.

Now he works over the trigger and hammer parts, removing all side and vertical play. In goes the National Match trigger, if ordered. He then mills the slots and keyways for the low mounted micro adjustable or micro fixed sight-or the most popular, the K-38 S&W rear sight. If a matte job is called for (and Swenson is insistent that the top of the slide be dulled in some way) he either sand blasts, roll-mattes, or hand hammer mattes the slide top, putting in longitudinal serrations from sight to sight. The hand-hammered matte job, at \$20, is the best looking.

Back to the frame, Swenson turns out nearly all his combat autos with the squared trigger guard. The area is brought to forge heat and the guard reformed and thinned. Later, thirty lines to the inch checkering is applied to the front of the guard for finer finger purchase. The front and back strap are then checkered the same

way. The clip chute is beveled and polished for fast magazine loading. Each magazine provided by the customer is mated to the gun to insure fast loading, and equally important, free release. The clip, when empty, should drop from the gun. In combat matches the empty magazine is never touched—it drops to the ground. Swenson will add leather pads to the base of each magazine to prevent damage when magazines are dropped.

The Bobcat, still in the rough, is given an early range test. Swenson reports nearly all his guns pass the first range test, or need very little additional work. After he gets several five-shot one inch groups at the indoor range nearby, he detail-strips the gun and refinishes and polishes all surfaces prior to bluing or hard chroming. He advises the chroming as it wears better than blue.

After final finishing, the gun goes back for final firing. Perhaps fifty rounds will go through it now before he is satisfied. After the range test the gun goes back into the shop, gets a thorough cleaning, and all the wear surfaces are lubricated with Led-Plate, a compound which allows the gun to wear itself in slowly. Swenson asks that the shooter not clean the

gun or strip it for 500 rounds. Regular gun cleaning solutions would wash away the Led-Plate compound. After 500 rounds, the gun should be field stripped, washed with Hoppes or Anderol and lubed with Dri-Slide or Anderol. He likes Dri-Slide for the closely fitting parts, feels that too many handguns are worn out by excessive take-down jobs and too much cleaning. "Modern ammo doesn't foul the gun like it used to."

Shooters well known in Southern California and the national combat shooting world use Swenson autos.

Gene Shuey, 34, an electronics components sales engineer, is a good example of the typical combat shooter. Shuey has been shooting since he was six years old, and has been specializing in the .45 auto for the past ten years. It was Shuey who had Swenson create the first squared trigger guard with checkering. A two handed shooter, as nearly every one of the .45 auto combat men are, Shuey has taken top honors at nearly every match in southern California, and was a combat pistol demonstrator in Hartford in the Northeast Combat Pistol League sponsored by Colt. Drawing and firing his Swenson .45 and hitting a target twice in about half a second

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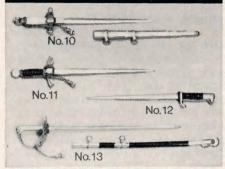
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is standard for him. For fun, he tosses .45 cases into the air and hits them with his two-handed hold.

Shuev has a main battery of ten .45 autos. Three of them are Swenson combat versions of the Colt, one of which is electro nickel plated. He keeps in reserve seven other .45'sthree of them Gold Cups and four government models-for later modification. The three Swenson guns get Shuey through any match. A typical Shuey handgun will have the following modifications. Swenson accuracy job, standard hammer replaced with Colt Commander hammer, K-38 sight and 1/8th inch front sight installed, a Swenson long safety put in, squared and checkered trigger guard, and back strap checkering.

In talking to many combat shooters in Southern California and watching both Shuey and Swenson fire for several days, it appeared that a few cardinal rules for combat shooters could be extracted. Both Shuey and Swenson agree that a person new to the game should start with a .45 auto right away, although the 9mm and Super .38 were not underrated. The point was that the .45 is a superb killer and is as accurate as the other calibres. The guns tend generally to be the same size, hence the .45 should be the first choice.

A combat shooter should use a two-hand hold, wrapping the index finger of the non-trigger finger hand around the trigger guard for a rigid hold. The arms should be pushed as far from the eye as possible, the trigger hand pushing against the restraining other hand. The shooter should develop a two shot burst system as soon as possible. Since the gun moves only slightly from the target, the two shot burst is easy to learn.

The drawing from the holster should follow the basic shooting technique training. Both men advocate several dry fire sessions every day with the .45. Both men keep a .45 handy, equipped with a leather strip over the firing pin, for use in dry firing. Swenson says that a blank surface is best for learning to line-up sights.

Both men use reloading machines to keep themselves in ammo and the favorite 25 yard range load is 3.6 grains of Bullseve with a 200 grain Speer or Hensley and Gibbs No. 68 bullet. For combat loads, Swenson likes 4.3 grains of Bullseye with the Speer and Shuey uses 4.6 grains with the H&G bullet.

A combat gun by Swenson is quite useful on the standard NRA target range, as the accurizing is built in and all that would need changing would be the grips for more control in single hand slow fire shooting.

Along with a fine Swenson .45 combat auto, Swenson strongly advises the shooter to buy the best gun leather he can and nearly always specifies Bianchi Holsters and gun belts. He uses a Bianchi-Cooper combat rig himself, with thigh strap. His loaded .45 is never far from his reach in his shop or home, and I suspect that a robber stumbling into the Swenson shop or home would never get past the "stick" of stick 'em up.

A call to Swenson is always an animated one from his end of the line. He hates to be pulled from the work bench, but he gets easily involved in your gun problem and often the enthusiasm bubbles over into an invite out to the shop. There you will sit amid the confusion of perhaps 100 handguns in various conditions of repair, listening to him recount the 'good times" when he ran the mail boat on Lake Tahoe, or how he met his present wife.

When picking up a .45 auto, Swenson's hands automatically fondle the big gun with loving caresses. The fingers squeeze the slide from the front end to open the action, and he has the touch to tell you just what your gun will do and how he can make it better. He is the opposite of the temperamental craftsman, laying aside a piece of work that is not turning out the way he wants. He will leave the shop and get a glass of milk from the refrigerator or, when the milk is gone, and he drinks two quarts a day this way, he will open a can of pop. During the break, the problem will resolve itself, and he goes back to finish

About two thirty or three in the afternoon he locks up and jumps into his old car, carrying his pistol case, a cardboard carton of pistols to be tested, and several hundred rounds of loose .45 ammo. Swenson pays his dollar at the range, puts on ear protectors and starts with several groups from his own .45 to set a standard for the day. Then come the customers' guns. He brings enough tools to make minor adjustments, but mainly makes mental notes on how each gun acts. When one gun works out especially well, Swenson saves the group for the owner. Often the very good gun is passed around to other shooters to try. He listens for opinions from these men. After several hundred rounds Swenson sweeps up the brass, packs the guns, and heads back to the shop.

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MAN IN WASHINGTON

(Continued from page 18)

days before, the President had proposed to Congress, "the national registration of every gun in America . . . (and) every individual in this country be required to obtain a license before he is entrusted with a gun."

And, there was an outside chance that "Presidential Gun Bill Number Four" would come up. Bill Number Four dealt with outlawing certain kinds of firearms. The measure had been sent to Congress on both the Senate and House sides but had not been introduced or made public. Just what the bill does is still subject to speculation.

The reporters did not have long to wait for the anti-gun sentiment to show itself. Understand, the leaders of the House act in accordance with the wishes of the majority of members. The first eye opener came when Speaker of the House, John W. Mc-Cormack (D., Mass.), turned the gavel over to Congressman John Rooney (D., N. Y.), from Brooklyn, an outspoken anti-gunner.

Two of the real shooting sportsmen of the House lead the pro-gun forces, Congressman John Dingell Mich.), Chairman of the House Wildlife Subcommittee, and Bob Sikes, (D., Fla.), high-ranking member of the very important House Appropriations Committee.

Congressman Rooney was to act as the Administration's hatchet man, rushing the legislation through the House. The first plan of pro-gun lawmakers was to call for a head count with the friendly Congressmen leaving the floor. The rules under which the House was operating stated that if the Acting Speaker could not count a minimum of 100 members the House would be forced to adjourn.

Reporters could count only some 75 members present when the Acting Speaker twice declared a "sufficient number of members present." Later, official head counts would be recorded in the Congressional Record on amendments, the total number of which was less than 100 members. Still the acting chairman kept the House in session. Meanwhile the pro-gun lawmakers chipped away at the legislation with amendments. The Chair could not overlook head count votes with pro-gun people present.

Finally, this remark on the final passage of the bill appearing later in the Congressional Record by Congressman Howard Pollock (R., Alaska), demonstrated the quick

counts by the House officials: "I was that, notwithstanding my aware strong opposition to the passage of the legislation there was a strong desire in this body to enact some kind of gun law. But I did not realize how strong the support for the bill was. I note on pages H7386 and H7387 of the Record there were 350 "ayes", 118 "nays", and nine not voting, which gives us a total of 477 votes. I was under the impression we had only 433 Members of the House present at the time."

Much has been made of the fact that the licensing and registration amendments proposed from the floor went down by a majority of two to one vote. This is not an indication of what took place. The number of votes is more important. Registration went down to a 68 "ayes" and 172 "nays" and licensing fell to 89 "ayes" to 168 "navs".

Only about half the members voted on licensing and registration. Further, just before the House passed the measures, there could have been a name-call vote proposed on these two amendments; there was not. There were on other amendments accepted or rejected on "ayes" and "nays".

Why? The reason for the no roll call vote was that a large number of the House members told both the supporters and objectors of the licensing registration amendments that they did not want to be recorded on any such amendments. As one Eastern Congressman put it to Guns, "We haven't time to consider this kind of legislation. There have been no committee hearings. There have been no supporting statements from the Administration."

Congressman Bob Sikes pointed out that the President, in making his request to Congress, had made it clear (if you read between the lines) that what the Administration wanted was first the outlawing of interstate movement of firearms between citizens. Then it wanted Congress to consider licensing and registration.

A member of one of the anti-gun groups watching the House consideration of the legislation summed it up best. We had crossed words before in friendly combat.

"See, you do-gooders didn't really get what you wanted," I said.

"Wait until next year," he responded.

"Depending on the election," I returned.



MODERN FLINTLOCK

(Contnued from page 31)

most accurate load largely overcame the handicap of the unrifled tube, as will be seen. Testing commenced with shot patterning on large sheets of butcher paper. Because of the small gauge, both the distance and the size of the circle were reduced slightly below standard procedure. Both Curtis & Harvey and DuPont FFFg black powders were used in these tests, with Du Pont FFFFg as priming.

The Australians who first used the flintlock recommended 25 grains of FFFg as the most efficient powder charge. I tried both 25 and 30 grains, with no apparent difference, but still feel their load might be improved by increasing it. The bored-out Winchester Model 69 barrel was proof-



Five shot group with round ball at 25 yards show shots in the black.

fired with 100 grains of excellent English powder.

Using No. 6 shot at 20 yards, the spread was almost 2 feet; at 30 yards, only 69 per cent of the pellets went

into a 24 inch circle. Using 32 No. 2 shot, all of the pellets went into the 24" circle, but the spread was again almost 2 feet.

Round ball loads were then tried, starting with a .395 ball from a Lyman mould and .008 patching (with the mike turned down firmly). Improvement was gained with a .400 ball and .005 patching of closely-woven cotton broadcloth. Again, 25 and 30 grain charges were tried, 30 being preferred in this case. Note that a different approach was deemed advisable with this .41 smoothbore than would be used with a rifle.

The load having been worked out, a five-shot group was fired and witnessed. Although from a rest at only 25 yards, the group was still better than expected—all within one quadrant of the black. For a round ball in a smoothbore, this could indicate good potential hunting accuracy within reasonable range. However, one can expect a rifled barrel to become available, and this would be preferable for solid ball,

To sum up, this absolutely unique flintlock has a lot going for it—fast and sure ignition on an improved principle, good handling qualities and sleek good looks. The only problems encountered with the pilot model will, I'm sure, be solved with additional barrels in regular production. One thing is sure—show up on the firing line with one of these and you'll be the center of attention!

MCG Industries, P. O. Box 566, Red Bank, New Jersey, is the sole licensee for the flintlock in the United States. Information concerning prices and delivery can be obtained from them.

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The International Association for Identification recently took to task those who propose that a test bullet be fired from every gun manufactured or every gun possessed by an individual, and that each test bullet be retained for possible use in crime detection. This organization said, in part:

"There is no practical system for classifying and coding the individual characteristics of a fired bullet as there is in fingerprints.

"The characteristics of a rifled barrel that impart the identifying marks to a bullet may change through continued use and abuse of the firearm.

"Therefore, be it resolved that the I.A.I., assembled in its 53rd Annual Conference at Hartford, Conn., on August 1, 1968, is opposed to any law or regulation requiring a mass test bullet scheme, because such a requirement will not aid law enforcement and will be deterimental to crime investigation."

THE WEAVER STORY

(Continued from page 55)

answered all the mail Bill did not want to be bothered with, mailed out catalogs and literature, and hired and fired. Jack-of-all-jobs and master of them all, Lily Mae has finally turned in her suit.

Finally there is Dick Shaw who is sales manager and also the advertising manager. Dick has seven live wire salesmen on the road, covering all the USA and Canada 12 months of the year. He travels a quarter million miles yearly himself, not only to give an energetic goose to his boys in the field but also to see scores of accounts himself. He makes all the big sports shows and is by far the best known of all the Weaver brass.

Bill Weaver himself is the original man of mystery. He never visits a customer, never attends a sports show, gives out no interviews and those aficionados of the Weaver scope who plan the annual vacation swing to include a delay in El Paso, so that a lively half-day can be enjoyably killed pow-wowing with the manufacturer, are doomed to disappointment. Weaver just don't operate that way.

Weaver and John Browning have a lot in common. Neither are engineers—that is with a sheepskin from Old Siwash to prove it. Both, from the practical standpoint, are some of the most brilliant designing engineers we have ever known. One day, a long time ago, I dropped around to visit the Weaver shops and searching out the owner, I had him beckon to me in a mysterious fashion. "Come on back, I want to show you something," he said. We moved into the back of the shop and there before my eyes were two long rows of optical grinding machines.

I had not been in the plant in three months or so and I was more than a little startled at the sight of the lense grinding going on. This was in the comparatively early days of the Weaver venture and up until this time Bill had bought all his lenses.

"When did you buy the machines, Bill? And who set them up for you?" I was completely surprised.

"I developed them and set them up myself," said the remarkable man at my side. "As for the machines, if you will take a look at them you will see they are pretty crude. This is just a pilot layout. I am learning."

Learn he did. And quite well, too. The Weaver Company has been grinding its own lenses for the past 28 years. Only one other scope manufacturer in the country today grinds its own lenses. All the rest of the boys buy 'em from someone else.

Bill Weaver is 6 ft. tall, as thin as a whiplash, and looks enough like Gregory Peck to stand in for him. His most compelling features are his eyes. Leveled on you, they hold as steady as a pair of cocked .45's. Backed by the incisive logic of the speaker's words they persuade you that here is a man who has thought out everything he intends to say long before the necessity arose to speak at all.

Weaver is an economist in the use of the English language. He can convey more with two well chosen sentences than most of us can sum up in 10 minutes of pow-wow. He is master of the understatement. If he says,



"That looks good," mark it down as high praise. Displeasure is registered just as tersely. I have yet to see him angry. He could teach Hoyle things about poker, not the game actually, but the calm unruffled attitude of the man, his reaction to whatever turns up, whether good or bad, his ability to think clearly and incisively, to react instantly—and inevitably in the right direction—bespeak the genius that is W. R. Weaver.

Friends contend that Weaver is shy. Even aloof. I do not agree with this. He is the sort of a man who is content with a bare handful of friends. He isn't shy, he has simply learned that to say little is to discourage intimacy with people who he does not want to know better. He selects his intimates slowly, carefully, and after long analysis. Then he seldom makes small talk even with close amigos and if maneuvered into a conversation is apt to leave it dangling on an unfinished sentence.

He makes few if any overtures to-

ward people, and as I have said, those touring gun nuts who draw up an itinerary aimed at plopping themselves squarely in the middle of the Weaver headquarters expecting to spend a half-day hashing over optical opinion with the chief cockalorum are due for disillusionment.

In 1933, Weaver made the scope which the shooting world knew as the 3-30. This glass had a twin, the "Wee Weaver," which came along in 1935. The following year, the 3-29S was introduced and it was this scope which really established the company as a frontrunner with the hunters.

In 1939, the somewhat radical 1X was bowed onto the scene. It was really intended in the first place as a scope for shotgun useage. It did not take very long for a great many riflemen to find it was ideal for use in heavy cover and at close range. With its lack of magnification and its broad field it was a real boon for woods useage. When the war struck the army came to Weaver and asked for a sniper's scope. Despite the fact that the U. S. army had no snipers, no sniping school, no doctrine that included the use of snipers in combat, it was decided that one trooper in every squad would be provided with the A3 Springfield equipped with a telescopic sight. Weaver and Lyman got the lion's share of this pie.

The Model 3-29S was quickly dubbed the M73B1 by the military and saw a lot of service. It had been thoroughly proven in the game fields of North America, but in the hands of our soldiery it was something else again. Few if any marksmanship instructors knew anything about a scope sight. Some thought the scope had been zeroed at the factory and all you had to do was slap it on the rifle and it would hit where you looked from a hundred yards out to a thousand. Others proceeded to tear the instrument apart to see what made it tick; while still others twisted the elevation and windage knobs until these were screwed out of the turret. The rifle, like all military weapons, was subjected to the hard useage that comes to all ordnance during combat, and the scopes suffered. They filled with moisture in Europe and developed fungus in the Pacific. Weaver was harrassed from all sides, but out of this wartime experience came a fine new family of scopes. The K series. These we have with us today.

The war behind him, Weaver introduced the K-4 scope, a 4X hunting glass in 1946, the year following there was a 6X in the same sturdy design. Later in '46 he had a less costly line of optics, the "G" series. These scopes

(Continued on page 67)



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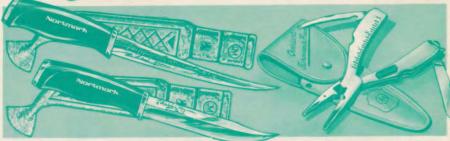
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were in 4X and 6X magnifications. In 1947, there was a detachable mount for the K series and during the same year he offered the "J" series.

In 1949 the versatile El Pasoan shook up the scope world with the first really workable vari-power scope sight. This was his KV model, a handsome glass which gave the hunting man a range of magnification from 2-3/4X to 5X. The year after that, 1950, the K-8 was introduced. This was a strong gesture in the direction of the varmint shooters who had been crying for a long time for more magnification in a rugged and simple optical piece. In 1952, Weaver again rang the bell with a new sort of mount which today is accepted as commonplace by .22 shooters everywhere. This is the "Tip-On" mount. In the beginning it was dubbed the "Tip-Off" and the laddy-o who put this one together is the inimitable Weaver.

In 1952, the Weaver Company came along with the "B" series of inexpensive optics. The "B" series coupled with the "J" series (which had appeared in '47) completed the line of modestly priced scopes. Both Sears and Wards bought them in quantity. Both have since disappeared, being replaced by the "A" and "C" series. But this is a bit beside the point. Weaver provided good mounts for his "B" and "J" glasses but he was not satisfied with them.

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What he wanted to do was eliminate the base mount altogether. He struck on the simplest design imaginable. He machined two long grooves in the top of the .22 rifle receiver. These grooves were undercut slightly. To the scope, he attached a mount which was designed with the conventional support ring. This ring clamped into the grooves in the top of the receiver. Once in place a tension screw was tightened to hold the scope in place.

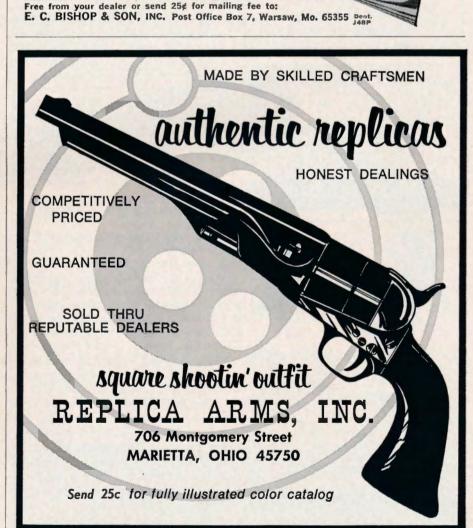
The new mount was christened the "Tip-Off" mount. Sears and Wards were, I believe, the first to accept it -but not the last. Weaver had no sooner sold his two big customers on the idea when he loaded up and made a round of visits to all the firearms manufacturers. Without exception all were quick to see the fine advantages of this extraordinarily simply mount. All agreed to mill the necessary mounting grooves in the receivers of their plinking models. Then the rifle, as it passed over the counter to its new owner, would be immediately ready to accept the Weaver scope in its "Tip-Off" mount. This was something of a triumph, not only for the design ability of our scope-maker, but a tribute to the salesmanship of this genius from down on the Rio Grande.



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GUNS AND THE LAW

(Continued from page 29)

effective, such a ban would require a change in the United States Constitution to allow homes to be searched for firearms without the present stringent warrant requirements. No dictator of course would find this an obstacle. Such statements, quoted with obvious approval by the author, might be more alarming to some readers than the gory accounts of firearms deaths. Police officials are quoted as favoring the most restrictive of firearms laws. The lack of success in dealing with the traffic in narcotics and the failure of the Volstead Act have apparently provided no lesson.

In examining conditions in other countries, the author intimates, with ineffective or would be enforceable for the most part against only those who have a legitimate use for firearms. It may be a mark of the maturity of our lawmaking process that most legislative bodies have chosen to defer adopting firearms restrictions, hastily drafted, often ill conceived. and almost invariably unenforceable. But no one reading Carl Bakal's book or the daily newspaper can doubt either that additional control over firearms at the national level is a certainty or that there will be increasingly restrictive measures adopted by the states. Unfortunately if sensationalism, misstatement, and ill-considered haste characterize many who

Violence depends more on motivation

than some means which is always found

little caution, that a correlation between restrictions on firearms and firearms deaths is a cause and effect relationship. At best this is inconclusive and opens a whole area of the relative values of various societies and their methods of controlling behavior. But even further there is little indication that restrictive firearms laws, of which there are many in this country, can be shown to have a direct effect in diminishing firearms misuse. The author does document many areas of firearms misuse that require attention. For example, hunters are often licensed without any test. They may or may not know from which end the bullet emerges. They could be infirm, visually handicapped. or so unstable that they would be rejected for drivers' licenses. Yet it would take a gigantic bureaucracy to adequately screen the approximately 30 million persons who annually arise. at least one morning each year, with joy in their heart, to go out and kill a wild creature. Many are rotten shots and miss. Some, though, kill another hunter, or themselves. Bakal does not have the answer to this problem but castigates the National Rifle Association which has attempted some solution through educational programs.

The mail-order sale of guns is, of course, described and deplored. The mail certainly seems an inappropriate medium through which to sell deadly weapons without reasonable identification of the recipient. Yet proposals to close this channel to criminals, the insane, or juveniles have urged unsuitable legislation that would be

favor such unworkable panaceas as registration or complete prohibition of privately owned weapons, a seeming paranoia is evident in the ranks of pro-gunners. Right wing extremist groups, some less-than-public-spirited arms dealers, and many who can apparently see no further than the hunter described by Bakal who shot a boy mistaking him for a squirrel, have banded together in intemperate resistance to even reasonable firearms controls. While sometimes petty if not unfair in his characterization of those who see unlimited or as yet ill defined "controls" as unacceptable, Bakal has certainly pointed out much that is absurd in what he refers to as "The Firearms Mystique." Our frontier nostalgia does not support a horse in every garage but does, unfortunately, help to perpetuate a dangerous myth of armed manliness.

The present hodgepodge of local and some federal legislation-with each state and many cities having their disparate, usually antiquated firearms permissions and prohibitions -is well presented in two of the book's appendices. Here, if ever, is an opportunity to bring order to the law and good judgment to an area of economic and recreational interest to many millions of our people. Carl Bakal has done an excellent job of presenting the case against the supposed constitutional limitation on firearms controls, assumed by many from the phrase "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms . . ." He has mentioned the difficulties, not identified as constitutional questions, that now make relatively ineffective

such laws as those designed to keep people from carrying concealed weapons. However he fails to perceive that the same disabilities accrue to any new control legislation intended to disarm such ill-defined groups of persons as the irrational, vicious, or criminal. How new legislation can overcome this dilemma without giving rise to what many would consider a more serious danger does not receive the attention that it must before a viable legislative approach can be made.

Bakal never explains the operational systems by which registration or other "controls" can actually decrease misuse. The processes would thus be left to the imagination before legislative enactment and, afterwards, to what many think already is a dysfunctional and differential criminal justice system. It may be a valid assumption that the great majority of American firearms owners would respond to registration requirements or even a confiscatory law. These are the compliant people and theirs are the weapons which would be "controlled." For it is the law-abiding who obey regulatory laws. But the irrational and the criminal are as unlikely to comply with further restrictive firearms laws as with any other laws. Bakal's many authorities seem to have a view of the effectiveness of police vigilance and the effectiveness of prohibitions and punishments that has little basis in experience.

It would seem at least as difficult to locate, record, and control millions of guns as it would be to identify and provide help for many of the disturbed, disaffected, and discarded of our society. In undertaking the latter, there might be less risk to the individual rights of our citizens and a greater likelihood of achieving a semblance of public safety. Ultimately violence depends more on motivation than some means, which is always to be found. But even further, any prohibition vastly increases the value of the prohibited items and tends to establish a criminal monopoly with the resultant official corruption funded from vast illegal profits. Just as it was impossible to enforce the Volstead Act and it is now impossible to enforce the narcotics laws, so overly restrictive firearms regulation might well bear its own curse and, if past examples are analogous, worsen an existing problem. As for firearms, whether it is suicide, murder, or the danger that any mechanical contrivance presents in the hands of the distraught, the vicious, or the unskilled, neither this book nor the lawmakers have yet gone beyond what has always ultimately proved ineffective.

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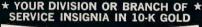
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BUFFALO BILL

(Contnued from page 47)

where I live and the name Cody, Wyoming brings no response, but if I just say Buffalo Bill's town of Cody, most every one knows it immediately.

In 1924 the large equestrian statue of Buffalo Bill, made by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, was placed at the end of Cody's main street and became an immediate tourist attraction: the Buffalo Bill Museum was another interesting spot for tourists, and with the addition of the now very well known Whitney Gallery of Western Art, built in 1958, Cody has become one of the places for the visiting tourist to definitely put on their itinerary.

When it became evident that the first building designed and built for the Art Gallery was not big enough, plans were made to enlarge it and at the same time to make a structure big enough to also house the contents of the old Buffalo Bill Museum. The old buildings were becoming unsafe, and a hazard to the priceless collection they contained. This would mean that the Gallery must, in some manner, raise a considerable sum of money, and this is about where Winchester entered this story.

Buffalo Bill was a confirmed user of Winchester products, and Cody needed help to enlarge their Gallery of Western Art, so it was a natural that both the town and Winchester get together to raise the necessary cash to finish a most worthy project. Winchester had a good product to sell and the advertising built around Buffalo Bill's name would pay off for both participants.

The Winchester rifles of the buffalo hunting days were really better adapted to and more generally used for Indian fighting, game killing and general use, than they were for use by the commercial buffalo hunter, but as the large herds were killed off and the hide hunting diminished, the Winchester rifle really became the working gun of the entire West. The wellknown Winchester Model '94, in .30-30 caliber, actually came out several years before the town of Cody was organized. The caliber is today number one in ammunition sales. Winchester's popularity had started years

before this with the Models '66 and '73, but it was the Model '76 that really made Winchester popular. The Model 94 was the first of the smokeless powder rifles and the first rifle with nickel steel barrels. It is a plain, rugged, fast-handling rifle, accurate for the ranges and use for which it was intended.

The 4th of July is always a big time for Cody, Wyoming. Cody has held a big rodeo and celebration in this small town for over forty years, never missing except during the war years. This year, Cody really went all out to make this celebration an outstanding success. Winchester Arms Company worked with the local people in every way they could, and between them they certainly put on a show.

Winchester made another of their popular fine commemorative rifles in the Model 94 Rifle and Carbine. This gun was designed as much like the original Winchester of Buffalo Bill as possible. The company made 300 special, gold-plated models that were given to any donor contributing at least \$1,000 to the new Buffalo Bill Museum building. In addition, there is a Buffalo Bill Commemorative Model 94 that sells for \$129.95, and during the big celebration in Cody they were selling like the proverbial hot-cakes. There is little doubt but that the Winchester name will always be closely associated with that of Buffalo Bill.

To top off this big celebration in Cody, and to help put the money drive over in a successful manner, Winchester brought to the town of Cody over 150 guests; company personel, newspaper and magazine writers, and well known picture and TV stars. These guests were treated to that good old Western hospitality that towns like Cody know how to dispense so well. Parties, trail rides, barbecues, fishing parties, and outdoor cook outs were only some of the entertainment provided by Winchester and the Cody people. The celebration was a huge success, and tourists and guests will not soon forget this commemorative celebration.

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THOMPSON/CENTER ARMS has given in to popular demand from the shooting fraternity and is now manufacturing the popular Contender sport pistol with a six-inch barrel. Each Contender is truly a tribute to the American gunsmithing art and carries a life-time warranty to the



original purchaser. Specifications are: Tapered 10, 83/4, and 6 inch precision rifled barrels with fixed front sights. Rear sights are click adjustable for windage and elevation. The trigger is easily adjusted for let-off travel. Right and left handed grips are available in rim fire .22 (all lengths), .22 Jet, .22 Hornet, 256 Magnum, .38 Special, and .45 Auto. The price of the Contender with one barrel is \$135, additional barrels priced at \$36 each. For further information about this exciting all-American handgun write Thompson/Center Arms, Rochester, New Hampshire 03867.

THE COLORFUL ITHACA multitoned patch designed especially to decorate shooting vests and jackets is now available to gun buffs all over the country from the Ithaca Gun Company. Ideal for hunters and collectors of all ages, this eye-catching round patch depicts a hunter with a gun slung over his shoulder and the words "Ithaca Great Guns Since 1880"



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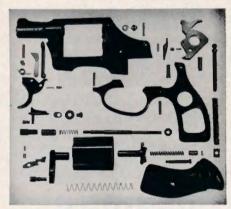
WARMER THAN DOWN, pound for pound, is the new selection of Red Streak sleeping bags which are said to be far less costly than the down filled types. Red Streaks are insulated with a multi-layer bonded Strata-Therm Dacron 88 material, left unquilted to eliminate troublesome cold spots and air holes. The resilient smooth insulation will not crush or mat down with prolonged use. The whole bag is carried in its zippered removable head flap-bag. All five models of the Red Streak bags are temperature rated from 10° below to 25° above zero and may be zipped together to form a double bag. Additional details and names of local dealers may be obtained from Sportline, 3300 Franklin Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60624.

THE VOERE O/U rifle-shotgun combo has been brought to Yankee shores now by L.A. Distributors of New York. Available in center-fire rifle calibers, .222, .222 Magnum or .223 for far-out shots at varmints, foxes, and other thin-skinned game animals, paired with the three-inch 20 gauge magnum shot barrel, the Voere has a nifty 23%" tube with cartridge extractor and folding rear sight. The receiver is cut for scope mounting. The stocks are genuine hand-rubbed walnut with handsome checkering and handsome white inserts at grip cap and butt plate. The stock offers a



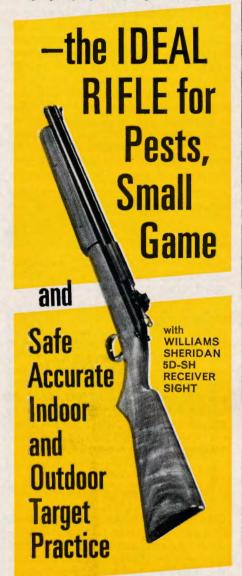
cheekpiece and small comb as standard, as are sling swivels. The Voere combination gun boasts a non-self-cocking single-lock action with a single trigger. The locking lever is pushed to the left for locking and to the right for opening the breech. When cocked, the weapon cannot be opened due to an added safety device. The Voere tips the scales at a feathery 6½ pounds and is just about 40 inches long. The tab for the Voere is \$199.95 from L.A. Distributors, 4 Centre Market Place, New York, New York 10013.

CHARTER ARMS of Bridgeport, Connecticut, tells us that their Undercover, the smallest, lightest .38 Special caliber steel framed revolver made, has fewer critical moving parts in it than any other comparable handgun on the market, bar none. The Undercover incorporates exactly 54 separate



components with three of the parts serving two functions each. The firing pin retainer pin, hammer pawl plunger, and hammer pawl spring all do double duty, thereby making for better odds against mechanical failure than competitors.

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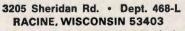


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FOUR OF A KIND

(Continued from page 40)

of scopes, I did find some fault with a couple which could be classified as normal defects, found in any brand occasionally, but enough to produce a mental block against them. When questioned about brand or caliber, I have always recommended that shooters dig up all the data available covering the subject and make their own choices. It is difficult to reach one's peak with a gun that someone else engineered when you really feel another would have done better. I apply this rule to my own buying. While I like the benefits of the etched-onglass reticle of the Bausch & Lomb, I still do not find an adjustable mount for it to my liking.

All points considered, I chose the Redfield, mainly because its system of varying power does not increase the size of the dot reticle. I do not believe that this way lends itself to an exact point of impact holding unchanged throughout the magnification range, but this mechanical function can be checked by the individual. Any scope found wanting in this respect can be quickly corrected by the manufacturer, whose acceptable tolerances may not be as narrow as the hunter's.

The stocks by Temple were carved, rather than checkered, a change from the usual which caused many a favorable comment. The length of pull was 14½", the minimum for keeping my eye from becoming a Weatherby trademark. The final garnish was Ace trigger shoes for a better trigger feel. This pair of Weatherby-Mausers were to accompany me on my second African safari. Both the .257 and the .300 were loaded with Sierra bullets, the 117 gr. BT ahead of 49 gr. of 4831 and Federal 215 primers, and the 190 gr. HP BT ahead of 83 gr. of 4831 and Federal primers. While on safari I was much more impressed with the results of the .257 than with the .300. With the .257 I had many one-shot kills on zebra, waterbuck, impala, duiker, hartebeest, oribi, and so on. The .300 gave me one-shots with sable, hippo, and buffalo. It failed on zebra, hartebeest, and waterbuck with shots that should have done the job and called for a tracking followup in each instance. This is quite a chore which every hunter tries his best to eliminate, but must always be

This failure of the .300, while not tremendous, caused two reactions on my part. First, I tried different bullets. I had excellent luck with the

180 gr. BT of Sierra's, and even though Sierra had advised me against using their 190 gr. match slug on game, I found it very effective for a while. Whether this reversal in later results was due to a manufacturing modification in the bullet, or just circumstance, I do not know. I have now switched to Nosler 180 gr. bullets in the .300 and have been greatly pleased with the results.

African game generally is more difficult to kill than their American cousins. If you usually try to place your broadside shot just behind the shoulder to save those front quarters, forget it. I have chased impala for two miles, even though they were hit there. Before departing for the Dark Continent, practice shooting directly through the shoulder. Do this



Dale Layne (left) and Glenn Slade check the .450 Watts F.N. action.

until it comes automatically. I promise you that you will save yourself much time and energy spent in tracking wounded animals.

I must explain that we had given the matched rifles serial numbers 1 and 2. If you doubt that these numbers threw customs and police of some countries into a tizzy, you have another think coming! One zealous official insisted on recording the number of the scope as the rifle's and Beuhler as the make, despite my violent objections.

At any rate, with numbers One and Two behind us, we settled on .375 Weatherby for a Number Three. Again we used a Douglas barrel, this time shortened to 20" and with a muzzle diameter of .605". The barrels of One and Two were also cut back at this time. The action was again FN with an interchangeable

bolt. I called on Dale Layne, one of the finest stockmakers in the business, to duplicate Temple Linde's previous efforts in a Llamawood stock. In the process, Dale cut out any rollover in the buttstock of all three guns so they could be shot right or left handed, without producing a battered cheekbone. Especially in Indian hunting from a machan, one either could not change position quickly enough or would make too much noise in changing position. Dale also refinished the stocks to a dark walnut color. Originally blonde, I had since gotten tired of them and realized that a light-colored stock has no place in the field. For the same reason, I had all of my bolts blued.

Since this gun might be used in close-quarter work against dangerous game, as well as for night hunting in India, we decided to try a different reticle. A dot can hardly be suitable for either of these purposes. The Redfield 3 Post was the answer. This solution was amply backed by all of the professional hunters I have encountered and to whom I have shown it in India and Africa. The fine XH is nice for distance shooting. For close work and running shots, when you sight the vital spot between the three posts, you have a dead trophy.

Since this was to be a close-quarter gun, we equipped it with a Lyman band ramp front sight, with a Redfield sourdough blade and a Lyman 25 rear ramp with a 66 folding leaf. After three hunts in India and Africa, which showed no call for these iron sights, and after learning that front sights are at best good brush catchers, the irons were removed. I'll rely on scope sights for close-quarter work anywhere, as well as for night hunting.

For the load of the .375, we stuck a 300 gr. Hornady bullet ahead of 86 gr. of 4831 and a CCI Magnum primer. This combination gave us tough 50 yards shots and very good results on lion, zebra, impala, oryx, boar, leopard, and other animals.

On my previous trip to Africa, I had hunted Bongo on the slopes of Mount Kenya, where the thick bamboo forest serves as game cover. Most of the time you are literally crawling through this brush, and constantly looking down at fresh elephant, rhino. and buffalo tracks. After a week or more of this, it is little wonder that I returned home looking for a larger weapon-something that would plow through the bamboo and stop an elephant or similar beast at short range. In fact, I was ready for the largest rifle made. I have seen a few professionals with their lion scars and bones broken by buffalo or elephant, and have known some who have gone to the Great Beyond. While not a



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Lee Jurras, Indiana sportsman, shown with a Mouflon Sheep he took at the Burnham Bros. Ranch in Southern Texas. Lee dropped his sheep at 113 yards with a Super Vel .44 Magnum, 180 grain Jacketed Soft Point.

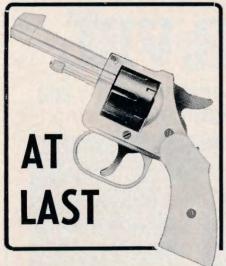
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As maximum interchangeability among weapons was still desired, this ruled out the .460 Weatherby and one or two others. Also, with a short barrel, there would be only so much case capacity available for use without creating a great overbore condition.

Experimentation and research led us to select a .450 Watts Improved, which we call the Tex-Gun .450 Special. This is a slightly blown-out Norma cylindrical case, necked down to a .45 cal. bullet. We have in this cartridge the largest .300 H&H headsize which can be used in a slightly altered Mauser action and one which will give .458 performance from an 18" barrel! Yes, I now have all four of the guns cut down to 18 inches for maximum ease in carrying and handling. The muzzle blast is terrific when shooting guns such as these and for safety reasons alone, one shouldn't have anyone near him.

Now we began Number Four. Again, we used a Douglas barrel premium .45 caliber, with a 14" twist and a muzzle diameter of .680. This meant that with a cartridge the length of the .450, we had only 14" of bore in which to achieve velocity. In order to accommodate the longer cartridge, we extended the magazine box rearward about .155" and forward about .030". We cut the bolt stop and the ejector back to make a longer bolt throw, and cut out a little of the righthand inside part of the front receiver ring to clear ejection of live cartridges. Incidentally, the altered bolt stop and ejector are two spare parts I still carry, as well as one each for the second gun. One further step was to leave about 1/16" gap between the action and the magazine box, so the magazine would acommodate three of these large cartridges. Many have said that the regular Mauser action is too small for this large round, but we have a workable example showing that it can be done.

For the stock, we went to walnut, figuring we would need a stronger wood to take the terrific recoil of such a lightweight, heavy-caliber, action. We also had placed a secondary recoil lug on the barrel and had amply bedded all bearing points in fiberglass. After using the .450 on several hunts, I believe that the Llamawood, with bedding, would have held.

Dale Layne again did a marvelous job in duplicating the previous stocks, so I then had four rifles, all with 18" barrels, and all of which had the same feel when thrown to the shoulder.

The .450 was loaded with a 500 gr. Hornady bullet, 87 gr. of Ball C 2, with a Federal 215 primer, at 2320 fps. Thus, we obtained better-than-published .458 velocities, with only 14" of barrel. We have had excellent results on tiger, elephant, buffalo, giraffe, rhino, and so forth.

I then rescoped all the guns with what we term the Texas Gun Clinic Special Reticle, a Redfield 3x-9x with 3 post reticle, but a dot added to it for quick centering on distant and moving targets. To illustrate loads, accuracy, and velocities we have attained with the four guns, see the table.

Starting with the premise that there is no such thing as one all-around rifle, I began, soon after World War II, to build my collection of functional rifles; a collection which would offer me the right combination of gun and caliber for use at any time, in any place, on any game animal on earth. Of course, the selection of a rifle, or rifles, is a very personal thing, I hope that the story of how my collection grew will guide others in their selection.

FORGING BOLTS

(Continued from page 43)

(between wrench nose and packing) red hot. Rapidly remove the wrench, and deliver fast firm blows with the flat face of the hammer, to approximate "bend" stage. Switch to the ball end of the hammer, keep pounding (while metal is kept red hot), until the bolt handle reaches approximate position shown in photo.

Striking angle of the hammer is important. In the very beginning the blows *must* be directed at right angles to the bolt shank which we've bent up vertical prior to commencing the

forging. Under no circumstances should initial hammer blows be directed downward. This is a mistake many beginners make. The hammer's striking face should be held almost parallel with the bolt handle shank, and follow it downward in approximately this relationship. As the top of the remaining vertical section of the bolt handle, (the shank base), is shaped out flat, it is always necessary to direct the striking angle away from the bolt knob, (toward you). This mushrooms metal out over the edges

of the newly formed bolt shank vertical base and permits attractive squaring up during final shaping.

At this stage of the forging (and do remember that the metal must be kept at a working red), the bolt handle knob responds to hammer blow inertia and positions itself too high. Correction can be made by momentarily withdrawing the acetylene torch flame from the forging area, grasping bolt knob and shank with the wrench, re-heating bolt shank bright red at its extreme bend and shifting its swingout angle. The bolt should be allowed to cool slowly in the blocks and bench vise with plug and packing in place.

The torch should be turned down and played around the work at increasing distance to assure slow cooling, leaving the newly formed bolt handle and knob annealed for easier grinding and filing that is required for final external shaping prior to finish polishing. After you've learned to work rapidly (not over 7 minutes), the wet asbestos has retained the temper in the cocking cam, and the heat color will have run only about 1/4" from the bolt shank base.

Proficiency takes some intelligent practice. Too large a welding tip heats too fast, has a tendency to melt the outside before the inner steel is hot enough to work. Too small a tip allows heat to creep slowly up the bolt body through the blocks while still not keeping the steel working hot. (I use a T-5 torch tip). The forging hammer weight is also a somewhat selective factor. Too heavy a hammer has a tendency to collapse the bolt body onto the support core, and it does not speed up the work. An eight to ten-ounce ball peen hammer seems to work out most satisfactorily.

Except for the preliminary altering of the M-54 bolt turning stop and safety lug, forging of Springfield and Mauser 98 rifle bolts is done in an almost identical manner. Once you have learned to apply and control the acetylene torch flame properly and deliver accurate, firm fast forging hammer blows, you can be all through with the actual forging stages of a bolt handle, while that other fellow, the bolt handle welder, is still dulling his hack saw blade or tinkering with his jig to realign it for welding.

Furthermore, the low-forged M-54 Winchester bolt handle can be outside shaped to closely resemble the older M-70's. The action does not require a notch for its new bolt position, but the stock must be inletted for the changed bolt shank. In spite of its major reshaping it is still all parent steel, has no slag, pits, fractures or welded fillin, and is now far more graceful than originally.

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BIG BORE HUNTING SCOPES

(Continued from page 27)

shoot at game at ranges of 500 and 600 yards. The post will cover big parts of the animal's body and make guesswork of the over hold. For running shots at sensible game-taking distances, it is by far the best. I seldom hunt seriously for any kind of big game but that my scope contains a post, a tapered-top number with a top which subtends 2.5 or 3 MOA.

Thirty-five years ago, T. K. Lee, a ranking smallbore marksman developed the center-dot reticle. The dot is suspended on extremely minute crosshairs and usually subtends only one minute of angle. The crosshairs are made from the natural filament from the belly of the black widow spider; originally composed of four strands all wound together, the strands are separated and only a single one is used in the construction of the reticle. It is so fine, about 1/4-MOA, it can scarcely be seen. The dot itself is made of plastic and glued to the juncture of the crosshairs. This reticle is fine for such targets as a hawk or crow against the bright blue sky. I question its place on the bigbore hunting rifle. It is visible in perfect light and with an ideal background, but more often than not big game does not provide these optimum circumstances.

The most popular size hunting scope these days is the 4X. This glass provides a field at 100 yards of from 29 to 35 feet, depending on the maker. It used to be the 2½X and 3X were getting the nod. The 2.5X has a field of 43 to 50 feet and the 3X has 36 to 42 feet. The wider the field, the greater the utility, but some concessions have to be made to magnification; for that reason the popularity of the 4X has steadly improved.

If you can get your hunting guide to tie down the game before you arrive, the 6X scope has a lot of utility; it is easier to use if the critter is standing stockstill. The 6X has only from 20 to 24 feet of field. This is altogether too scanty for anything but standing shots.

There is a veritable craze here of late for the variable-powered scope. The vari-powers provides the user with a range of magnifications running from 3X up to 9X. In some target glasses the power may go as high as 30X. The idea is that when the hunter wants to study the old buck standing there in the deep shadows he cranks up the magnification from 3X to 9 diameters. Thus he does not have

to resort to binoculars to make the evaluation. Too, the variable is supposed to be the all-year all-game scope. It can be pinched down to 3X for grizzly-taking in the willows and switched to 9X for shooting marmots off the rock slides.

This may all be true but in actual practice it does not work out that way. The gunner has the power set on 4X or 6X and when the shot offers he forgets to twist the adjusting collar up or down. As for using the scope as a replacement for the binoculars, this may be done by some, but for sweeping likely game country from a vantage point, hour after hour, I'll just stick by the wide-angle binocs, thank

The feller who invests in a variscope loses some field of view. While the standard 4X has a field of 32 feet the vari-glass, from the same maker, has only 26 feet when set on 4X. And when set on 8X the field is 12 feet while the regular eight-power standard glass has 17 feet of field. Variables are generally heavier, longer, and more bulky than standard scopes and there are some that will change zero with each shift in power; in other words, the rifle would shoot to one center with the glass set at 6X and to another place when swung back to only 3X; or goosed up to 9X. Often, the reticle changes in apparent size when the power is revved up. I think the multiple-power scope has a lot more going for it in theory than in practice.

A scope has two ends, the one near your eye is called the "ocular," and the one nearest the target is the "objective." If that far end, the objective, is made too small for the power of the scope it will not gather enough light and the field will appear dark and indistinct when the day is dim and gloomy. Hunting scopes for big-bore rifles have objectives which run from \%" to almost 2 inches. If there is a normal or more common objective size it is 1\% inches.

The objective lens of a hunting scope must have a diameter (in millimeters) not less than the power of the scope multiplied by 5, with 6 times the magnifying power as maybe even better. The larger the objective lens the more light it will gather and the larger the exit pupil will be. And, by the same token, the greater the magnification, with any given size of objective lens, the smaller will be the exit

pupil. The diameter of the exit pupil is equal to the diameter of the objective divided by the magnifying power of the scope.

The optimum size for the exit pupil should be 5 mm. This corresponds to the pupil of the human eve. Ordinarily, in good light, the human pupil has a diameter of 3 mm; it may enlarge to 6 or 7 mm in darkness. A scope with an exit pupil of only 3 mm will perform satisfactorily during midday; however, as the light fades it will fail abruptly. Scope makers, at least some of 'em, make some pretty fantastic claims for the relative brightness of their product. Now relative brightness is tied directly to the exit pupil and tests performed by the government during WW-2 have established beyond any reasonable doubt that the human eye cannot accept light rays beyond a diameter of 5 mm. An exit pupil no greater than 5 or 6 mm is thus the optimum.

The term "relative brightness" is kicked around pretty freely by the scope manufacturers. Relative brightness is found by dividing the free aperture of the objective lens by the power of the scope and then squaring the result. Thus a 4X hunting scope with a 20 mm objective has an exit pupil of 5 mm, and would have a relative brightness of 25.

Another important factor in establishing the goodness of the scope is its ability to transmit light. This depends to great extent on reflection losses at air-to-glass surfaces. Anti-reflection coating, usually magnesium fluoride deposited by molecular bombardment, now accepted as commonplace, increases by as much as 50 per cent the amount of light transmitted through the optical system. Not only are these gains very real but image contrast is stepped up by reducing reflected scatter light or flare, which serves to grey the image and reduce definition.

One of the standard specs always mentioned in the hunting scope literature is eye relief. This is the distance from the eye to the face of the ocular lens. It is usually stated as 3 to 5 inches on our better scopes. This is a critically important point, because the aiming eye must be located very precisely to realize the full field of view. One of the biggest scope manufacturers told me that while his advertising stated that the eye relief on his better scopes was from 3 to 5 inches the truth was that the relief was only 1 inch! Not the 3 to 5 inches advertised!

A checkout on one of our best hunting scopes, indicated the eye relief is 3½ inches. At 3 inches, I found in experimenting, the field commences to

close down; and going in the other direction at 4 inches it has narrowed just enough to be noticeable. At 5 inches there is scarcely half the field visible. At the other end of the spectrum, at 2½ inches it is equally narrow. The company that makes this scope states in their catalog, "3 to 5 inches eye relief." The hell there is!

Because scopes are put on hardkicking magnum rifles, the eye relief should be 3 to 31/2 inches. The rifle with recoil over 30 pounds not only moves backward smartly but it rises. too. This combination is dangerously apt to cut the unwary shooter over the eve. The manufacturer measures relief from the shooter's eve to the face of the ocular lens; the shooter had better measure the relief from his eve to the rim of the scope tube. Many scopes have the ocular lens inset, with quite an overhang of the tubing; the relief should be measured to that part of the scope most apt to wallop you!

Eye relief can be pretty inflexible, only about one inch, but the shooter can find the right position with the adjustments possible in a good mount. Don't adjust the scope-to-eye distance during the hot summer months when your shirttail is out; mount the scope with all the clothing you wear when you hunt during the fall and winter.

If you hunt with some of Bean's long red underwear, two of Norm Thompson's Arctic woolen shirts and one of Eddie Bauer's goosedown jackets, then be sure and get into this attire when you locate the scope in its mount. If you don't do this you will find that your eye is a lot too close to the glass for comfort. You will only get a portion of the field and also may get the upper rim of the tubing through your eyebrow.

It has been the dream of shooting men for lo these many years to have a range finder, so that when the critter is out there to hell and gone the marksman can look through his yardage measurement device, and after twirling a couple of knobs, get the reading in feet and inches to the target. Scope makers have been making some stabs at this of late.

Redfield has a scope which has a built-in rangefinder; Realist has another; and Bill Weaver for a dozen years has had a sort of range guesstimation reticle. While the Redfield and the Realist differ in their final approach to the problem, they both start off in the same direction. Each has two horizontal stadia which are movable, and these horizontal wires are jiggled about until the game animal is neatly bracketed. In the Redfield, this maneuvering of the two horizontal wires

(Continued on page 77)





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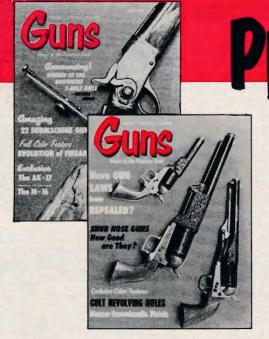
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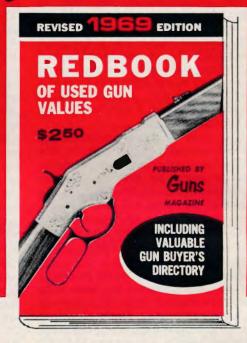


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to neatly bracket the target also moves into view a table which shows how many vards from gun to target. The shooter then holds over, or twirls the elevation adjustment, and fires.

The Realist also has the two horizontal stadia wires and these are moved until the two touch the game, at top of back and belly. In arriving at this adjustment the scope is physically elevated at the rear. There is a cam attached to the scope near the ocular lens which rides on the lower scope mount. As the cam rotates, it elevates or lowers the scope. This sort of rangefinder requires one fixed load for any given caliber. You can't shoot 100-gr bullets in your .243 one week and switch over to 90-gr. the next and expect the Realist to work. You've got to decide on one caliber and one loading of powder and ball and then send Realist some of your cartridges; in due time they will return you a cam (for ten bucks) that is guaranteed to work pretty well out to about 500 yards.

As far as rangefinder scopes are concerned they have some value. However, in the game fields the odds of a wilv old buck sticking around while you go through all the necessary corrections to finally get onto the target are time consuming. Both the Redfield and the Realist presuppose that the huntsman is going to be shooting his trophy at some godawful to-hell-and-gone vardage. I am opposed to this sort of thing. I endeavor to get so close I sometimes have to back up to get the gun to my shoulder. I like to see the whites of their eyes!

There are more scope mounts than there are Indians in Gallup, New Mexico. Some are designed to be mounted with one base, some with two, some have a bridge between the bases-and almost all fasten to the receiver with 6-48 screws. Sometimes the forward base is held with two of these little 6-48 dodads, likewise the rear base may be affixed with two more. Again the rear may depend on only one 6-48. I have seen a mount that had no front base at all. It mounted on the bridge of the receiver with two screws.

A test of a dozen different mounts on rifles in my battery indicates that all have movement in them. This movement shows up in the Site-a-Line, an optical collimator, that fits into the muzzle of the rifle with a spud attachment. With its 5X scope and calibrated grid it showed movement in some mounts as great as 5 MOA.

This movement is partly in the flimsy 6-48 screws which are far too small and too weak; partly in the bases which oftimes are a poor fit between the receiver and the base, other times are a poor fit between the base and the screws. Still a third cause of movement is in the junction between the lower base and the upper mount. If you have a rifle that groups poorly, or tends to change its zero, be suspicious of the scope mount.

A scope should be mounted, not with the worthless little 6-48 screws which are standard but, with a larger screw. I use the 10-48 screw and have my gunsmith rework the mount to provide 3 screws in front and 3 behind. A check with a mount thus firmly anchored—using the Site-a-Line collimator-reveals no movement.

Scope manufacturers do not spare the hosses in whumping up better and better glassware. There has been a steady improvement in the hunting scope, and today we have some real duzies! But these same optical peoples who put in the whole year trying to improve an already superb glass are content to go along year after year offering us 1915 type mounts.

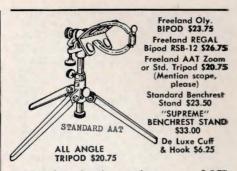
The best of all scope mounts-in my opinion-fits only two rifles. The Sako and the English BSA. These rifles have bases milled integrally with the top of the action. The bridge of the receiver and the top of the receiver ring are milled with angled cuts to accept the scope. As the rifle recoils the upper scope mount settles and wedges into these angled cuts. This type of mounting eliminates the flimsy base mount and its utterly inadequate little 6-48 screws. It is the strongest, the most modern, and the most practical.

GUNS OF THE WEST

(Continued from page 37)

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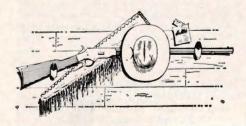


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and advertised "Rifles and Pocket Pistols with the Latest Improvements." I have seen only one Klepzig caplock rifle that had the earmarks of a custom-made gun.

Among others who gained some prominence as dealers in firearms and accessories in San Francisco were A. J. Taylor & Co. established in the mid 1850s, Wilson & Evans, and Clabrough & Golcher, Both William Golcher and John D. Clabrough were natives of England and reached California by the rugged overland route. Golcher was a member of the Golcher (or Goulcher) family especially known for the manufacture of gun locks. So far as is known, the Taylor, Wilson & Evans, and Clabrough & Golcher firms produced nothing noteworthy in the way of custom-made guns. However, Golcher made a reputation as one of the greatest marksmen in the



obert Liddle was a member of the N San Francisco gun-selling fraternity with a somewhat different background. He was apprenticed to learn the gunmaking trade at the age of twelve and followed that trade as a journeyman in Baltimore, Md., until 1853. In that year he headed west, traveling across the Isthmus of Panma and thence by steamer to San Francisco. After working in two of the city's small gun shops for several years, Liddle opened his own shop at 65 Long Wharf and advertised, "Guns and Pistols made to order, or repaired in the best manner." Some rather good caplock rifles came from Robert Liddle's workbench, and they are prized by collectors.

Better known than Liddle's custom rifles are the later guns marked Liddle & Kaeding. Robert Liddle and Charles Van Beurin Kaeding formed a partnership just prior to 1860. They operated a gun factory in addition to a gun store, and built rifles and shotguns on their own patent systems. Charles Kaeding withdrew from the business in 1889. Robert Liddle became famous not only as an armsmaker but as one of the best target shooters in the West.

The production of high grade caplock rifles in the Far West was the natural result of greatly increased interest in the old-time sport of "shooting at the mark." By the late 1860's and 1870's, the practical role of the gun as a meat-getter or defensive weapon was not as vitally important as in the earlier pioneering days.

Meeting the demand for the better quality rifles, a small group of skilled workmen in San Francisco produced match rifles that were the equal of any produced in America or abroad. August Browning was one of the best rifle makers. In 1868 he operated a shop with Alois Schneider at 651 Washington Street, and a few years later the partnership was changed to Browning & Heber. In 1877 Heber and Louis Moller operated the business—all at the Washington Street address.

Strangely enough, Schneider, Browning, Heber and Moller are not even recorded in the major books devoted to listings of American gunmakers. A gun by Louis Moller which I once owned was one of the most beautiful match rifles I have ever seen. It is illustrated here and the reader can form his own judgment as to its quality. It would be a good guess that a majority of the truly fine caplock rifles made within the city of San Francisco came from the 651-653 Washington Street addresses of Schneider, Browning, Heber, and Moller.

As fine as was the workmanship of these San Francisco artisans, there were those in outlying towns and villages who were equally skilled. In fact, three of California's best known early gunmakers (whose guns now are in great collector demand) are Benjamin Bigelow, Charles Slotterbek, and Horace Rowell.

Ben Bigelow was one of the first to venture out into the countryside, choosing to locate at Marysville, a settlement in a fertile valley within easy reach of the upper Mother Lode country. It is recorded that Bigelow made the dangerous trip around the horn aboard the *Palistine* in 1850. However, he is believed to have returned east and did not make his permanent residence in California until about 1858.

Natives of Nova Scotia, the Bigelow family migrated to the United States in 1834 when Benjamin was ten years old. When Ben was twenty-three in 1847 he moved to Rochester, N.Y., and was apprenticed to William Billinghurst, serving with Billinghurst for a number of years.

Bigelow learned his trade under a great master at Rochester, and he was an apt pupil whose work eventually matched that of the master. The rare Bigelow double barrel cylinder rifle illustrated is probably the finest specimen of this unusual rifle type in existence.

The Marysville Directory of 1878-79 carried a Bigelow advertisement which indicated that his shop had grown into what he called a "Sportsman's Emporium," and all kinds of supplies were available. In addition to breech-loading and muzzle-loading rifles, shotguns and pistols, were Eley Bros. percussion caps, Hazard and Dupont powder, cutlery, etc. In another advertisement he advertised "Billinghurst's Percussion Pills," an early ignition compound in the shape of a small round pill used with some cylinder rifles.

This celebrated Marysville gunmaker died October 23, 1888 at the age of sixty-four, leaving behind not very much in worldly goods but a commendable reputation for having built some of the best single shot rifles, shotguns and cylinder rifles ever used in the West.

Another fine craftsman who obtained his training in the Billinghurst shop was Levi C. Kersey. Kersey was employed by Billinghurst at the same time as Bigelow and no doubt his decision to seek his fortune in the West was influenced by Bigelow. In any case, Kersey went to work for George L. Kingsley of Red Bluff, California, a small town about 85 miles northwest of Marysville.

It is said that Kingsley was not a gunmaker himself but was an enterprising merchant, formerly of New York state, who saw good prospects in supplying the gun trade in north central California. Guns will be found with the barrel stamp G. L. Kingsley, Red Bluff, Cal. but the workmanship, hardware and general character is so identical to that on guns stamped L. C. Kersey, Red Bluff, Cal. little doubt can exist that they came from Kersey's hand.

Apparently there was good demand for multi-barrel guns in the Red Bluff area for, although some fine single barrel Kersey guns were made, his specialty was two and three barrel guns. In this field he excelled, using both stationary and swivel barrel systems.

Directly west of Marysville and about 80 miles north of San Francisco, the little town of Lakeport nestled on the western shore of Clear Lake. Here Charles Slotterbek chose to put down his roots and here he made some of the finest guns produced in the West.

Slotterbek was a native of Wurtemburg, Germany, where he was born in 1834. It is said he received much of his training in Philadelphia, and we

find him in 1858 at the age of twenty-five working as a master gunsmith in the establishment of A. J. Plate at 103 Commercial Street, San Francisco. Three years later he became a "naturalized" citizen.

This native of the Old Country was not only a skilled worker in metals and woods but he had an inventive turn of mind. In 1868 he was granted Patent No. 84,224 on a Drilling style of caplock gun with side-by-side shotgun barrels and a rifle barrel centered underneath. In that same year Slotterbek did what was apparently the popular thing in San Francisco-he took a partner. Together with Leopold J. Villegia, Slotterbek started manufacture of his patented three barrel gun. I have owned three of these fine guns, all with a different barrel stamp. One carried the Slotterbek & Villegia stamp, one bore only Slotterbek's name and the San Francisco address; the third showed Slotterbek's name and his address at Lakeport, Cal., to which place he removed in 1872.

It was at Lakeport that Slotterbek built the finest pair of caplock pistols made in the West. The illustration included here will speak for itself. He was the kind of genius who could build a beautiful gun from a bar of iron and a plank of wood.

From 1872 to 1883 Slotterbek turned out fine guns in his little wooden shop on Main Street in Lakeport. It was here, too, that he invented an offset telescope mount for lever action rifles in 1878 (No. 208765) and a breakopen breech-loading rifle for which patent was granted on October 5, 1880. Tiring of the troublesome details involved in self employment, Slotterbek returned to San Francisco in 1883 and was content to spend the balance of his working years as a master gunmaker for A. J. Plate & Co. and N. Curry & Bros. Apparently the pay had improved from that offered twentyfive years earlier by Plate!

If space permitted, there are some of the lesser known craftsmen whose work is quite worthy of description. Among these are William Hubbard Van Vlear of Stockton, and in Sacramento Fred Hellinghaus, the Flohr brothers, John Smith, and Adolph Koppikus. We must limit this review, however, to the leaders and turn now to one of the all-time greats in fine caplock rifle building.

About the same distance east of San Francisco, as Lakeport and Marysville were north of it, a Yankee from New Hamphire set up his shop in the mining town of Sonora. This was Horace Hall Rowell. It is suspected that Ro-

well selected this little town on the eastern slope of the Sierras because it was in good hunting and fishing country. Hunting, fishing, and match target shooting were Rowell's favorite forms of recreation, and he was expert in all.

Rowell arrived in California via the Isthmus route in 1853 at the age of twenty-three. There followed years of placer mining and several other business ventures, and it was not until 1875 that he reached Sonora and set up shop there in a sturdy-built stone building. From this location came his beautiful caplock match rifles. It is unlikely that any finer heavy bench rifles have been produced anywhere in America.

Specimens of Rowell's bench rifles examined run from 12 to 17½ pounds. All are half-stock and employ backaction locks. Most of the guns have heavy octagon barrels about 31" long. although one gun observed had a heavy round barrel. Several types of adjustable rear sights were used, one of the most unusual a long sight that is screwed to the barrel and extends backward over the tang, Screw controls permit varied windage and elevation adjustments. False muzzles. bullet starters and cross-bar barrel rests were standard. The date on a 17½ pound rifle from my own collection is 1876; other fine Rowell caplock rifles examined are dated in the 1870's and 1880's.

It should be remembered that the country west of the Rocky Mountains was little known before the conquest of California in 1846 and the gold discoveries of 1849. By that time the flintlock had been outmoded by the caplock except in some backward areas. The War between the States gave a forward thrust to development of the breech-loading cartridge arms, but the caplock did not die easily and fine caplock guns were made into the 1880's, giving to this ignition period a half century of popularity. Matches were held in New England during the late 1880's and 1890's to determine which had the greater accuracy, the caplock muzzle-loader or the metallic cartridge breech-loader. If dates on some of the rifles mentioned or illustrated seem late for the caplock ignition period, it is merely an indication of their popularity and enduring appeal.

Apart from the confines of their trade, many of the early western gunmakers became members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I. O. O. F.), a fraternal order very popular in the social life of the early West. Obituaries often revealed, too,

that gunmakers had been active in local volunteer fire companies. Community life was more closely knit in those days, and it is fully apparent that gunmakers were very useful members of the community in which they lived and in general enjoyed the respect of their fellow townsmen.

The era of the caplock is also the era of the great western migration. They say of those times that the weak died along the way and the cowards never started. It was fortunate indeed that some of our gunmakers were adventurous, strong, and skilled. They helped materially in extending our national boundaries from coast to coast.



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VAL FORGETT'S NAVY ARMS company is in full swing of production of their renowned "Army Model Percussion Revolver" replica of the Civil War era Remington .44. As was the case in the old days this fine pistol is much esteemed for the proven structural strength of its advanced design. Modern charcoal burners go for the keen accuracy of this top-strapped six-gun and its rugged de-



pendability under "battlefield" conditions. The late Alfred Georg killed wild boar and even bear while field testing the great Navy Arms replica on safari junkets in the upcountry. This exciting and faithful reproduction and the many other types produced by Navy Arms, 689 Bergen Boulevard, Ridgefield, New Jersey, will bring countless hours of enjoyment to both the hunter and the collector.

TAPCO GUN CASES have added a new traveling model to their line of rigid, low-cost containers. To protect an expensive firearm from the trauma of transfer was always an expensive proposition before Tapco introduced the Mark II, a hard gun case which is ruggedly constructed of vinyl and with steel-covered corners. The Mark II comes complete with a removable kraft board internal sleeve which holds the gun suspended between two polyurethane foam cushions which are laminated the full length of the



interface. Any gun up to 44½ inches in length can be sandwiched between the foam pads and slipped into the rigid outer case. The solid box design, opening at one end, is less costly and even stronger than the old hinged types that were so expensive. The shooting public can now get these hard cases at less than most good soft gun cases, \$14.00 plus \$1.70 shipping charges, directly from Tapco, 529 W. Moseley Street, Freeport, Illinois 61032.

SHOPPING WYLTHE GUNS

THE GENUINE SHEEPSKIN lining in Bean's Deluxe gun cases is thick, soft and long wearing, to protect rifle or shotgun. Lightly sprayed with rust inhibitor, the outside covering of stout, lightweight olive green duck is water repellent and trimmed with the best grade of leather. In this model the fabric "breathes" to prevent condensation from forming on the gun inside. A solidly-built round leather tip gives extra protection to the muz-



zle area. For rifles or shotguns without telescopic sights, in 38, 42, 46, and 50 inch lengths at \$14.50, for longarms with scopes, \$15.50 (except in the 50 inch style) from L. L. Bean, Inc., Freeport, Maine 04032.

HERTER'S PROFESSIONAL Model 18 shotshell reloading tool, a full four-station, fast-operating press made of the finest materials by experts features a shell case arrangement that never moves the shell, the tool rotating instead. Each station has



fully adjustable stops for both 2¾ and 3 inch cases. All types of crimps can be made with the Model 18. Basic and conversion kits for 12, 16, and 20 gauges are available from Herter's, Inc., Waseca, Minnesota 56093.

GREATER CHOICE for the bowhunter is the aim of Ben Pearson who recently introduced three new hunting bows in the BP-H series. The BP-H30, a full 60" bow, is the ideal length for the experienced hunter. New limb efficiency delivers smooth power and greater stability in combination with the comfort-and-control semi-pistol grip and thumb rest. For the stalker who looks for the finest, the BP-H30 costs \$85. The BP-H70, at 58" is for the hunter who prefers a shorter bow with long bow stability. It offers a



semi-pistol grip and formed handle for ease of handling. A brown Pearsonite fiberglass finish adds luxurious appearance on this, available at \$55. The BP-H90 is designed with the new bow hunter in mind. At a modest investment of only \$45 it offers many features usually found on the highest level. Further details and dealer directory available by writing Ben Pearson, Leisure Group Marketing Headquarters, Dept. GM, 2251 E. 7th Street, Los Angeles, California 90023.

DO-IT-YOURSELF ventilated ribs are now in production by Numrich Arms Corporation in both 26" and 30" lengths. Completely finished in custom blue with a matte top surface, the vent ribs have enough surplus stock to outfit any barrel 32" or under. Sol-



der and flux are also supplied with the kit, at a price tag of \$9.95. For further details and direct purchase contact Numrich Arms Corporation, 204 Broadway, West Hurley, New York.

SHOPPING WITH GUNS

INSTANT MUZZLELOADING fun can be yours with the new .45 caliber percussion conversion kit now available through Numrich Arms. By simply removing the barrel and hammer from that disused Springfield trap door model and replacing them with the Numrich counterparts, a black powder smokepole can be had. The change can be easily reversed with no

CHALLANGER MANUFACTURING introduces a big, two gun case for takedown shotguns and combination guns. The handsome 3900 model is a luggage type case of high-impact strength Rigite backed with an inner ply, providing security for your favorite firearms. The weather and scuff resistant exterior is a deep brown color with woodgrain trim, and measures a full 39½x20x4½ inches. The

WEAVER RANGE-FINDER reticle is now available on all K model (except K1.5) and V model Weaverscopes. The Range-Finder Reticle allows the shooter to estimate the target range by comparing the target image size with the distance covered by the two horizontal wires. This versatile form

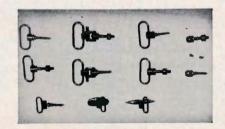
ontal wires. This versatile

of reticle also gives four distinct aiming points for positive hold-overs when shooting at extreme ranges. For your free color catalog, write W. R. Weaver Company, Dept. 43, El Paso, Texas 79915.



interior features interlocking foam cushions that hold the guns absolutely rigid in transit. All Challanger cases are made to airline specifications, and for the 3900's \$50.95 price tag, you can rest easy. For further information about this and other Challanger cases write to 105-23 New York Blvd., Jamaica, New York 11433.

SILE DISTRIBUTORS now has a swivel for every type of firearm manufactured, including the European puzzlers like the ¾ inch swivels used on pre-war German rifles and shotguns. Sile sling swivels are manufactured in Europe from the best forged steel at the same factory that has

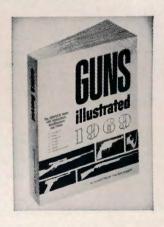


been turning them out since 1895. For most imported sporting arms, these could be said to be factory replacements. For further information about the entire line of sling swivels write to Sile Distributors, 7 Centre Market Place, New York, New York 10013.



damage to the original parts. The three minute changeover is done with an original U.S. Springfield percussion hammer and a 32 inch eight-groove ordnance steel barrel complete with plug, tang and nipple, blued with sight dovetails. Price \$29.50, by Numrich Arms Corporation.

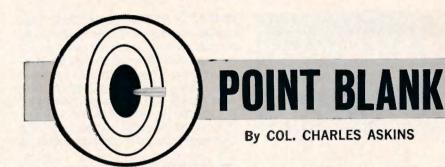
THE FIRST EDITION of the Gun Digest's new "Guns Illustrated 1969" is now off the presses. Sure to become a collectors' classic reference like the pioneer 1946 Digest, the Illustrated is a completely new guide to current model rifles, shotguns, handguns, air arms, scopes, sights and reloading equipment, components and ammunition manufactured or imported for sale in the U.S. Clear illustrations, up-to-the-minute retail



values and full specifications are given on every item backed up with the authority based on fact that every gun buff looks for. Popular military arms generally applied to sporting uses are included in detail. Perfect for anyone updating their collection, this 192 page giant format treasure trove of firearms data sells for a modest \$2.95 at gun dealers everywhere or postpaid from the Gun Digest Association, Dept. G, 4540 W. Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois 60624.

BACKYARD PLINKERS will note CCI's introduction of low-noise accurate .22 CB caps with a loud cheer. This special purpose cartridge has been especially designed for basement target shooters and serious small game hunters and boasts accuracy based on its regular short cartridge configuration with a reduced velocity of 650 f.p.s. This new very low noise level rimfire round is available from your dealer at a list price of 75 cents per box of 50.

GUNS . NOVEMBER 1968



N PRACTICE I SHOT three times weekly for a stint of six months with a High Standard .22 cal with 41/2" bullgun barrel. The pistol was equipped with target sights and trigger and weighed 40 ozs. This gun was a real whiz for getting on the target for the first shot. The short tube with its stubby sight radius was just the huckleberry for getting off a fast first shot. And follower shots were quick too. The bull gunbarrel, a bulbous affair with lots of weight in front, dampened recoil and made it possible to recover from the upflip at the muzzle very promptly. The front sight



handguns that sported barrels of 7½, 8, and 10 inches, these in .22 caliber like the High Standard. Such pistols develop a tremor in the last couple of inches of that elongated muzzle. It is not hard to understand why this occurs. The snout end is simply too far from its support. If you will pick up a rifle and extend it in one hand, to arm's length, you will note a considerable wobble at the front sight. It is too far from its support.

Pistols with barrels of 8 inches and longer should be held in two hands. The free pistol used in the Olympics requires a full year of continual prac-



Askins uses two-hand grip in test firing.

was a big 1/8" broad one, which made it quick to see and easy to pick up.

After 6 months of regular shooting with this High Standard I had made up my mind about it. The gun was really the last answer for 25 yards and under. It was quick and deadly. It shot close and it did this with a minimum of work on the part of the marksman. For rapid fire on the national course it was best. Too, it was okay for Olympic rapid fire—where you skip along putting one hit on each of 5 silhouettes. But at 50 yards it was something else again.

That 4½-inch barrel was not so hot at the longer yardages. The sighting radius was lacking. I found I could hold the sights in what looked like perfect alignment, touch off the trigger, and have something go wrong before the bullet plunked into the target. The hit invariably would not be as high scoring as I thought it should be. I laid this on that too short business end.

At the other end of the spectrum I've had considerable experience with tice before it can be held steady. These barrels run from 11 to 13 inches in length.

It used to be we thought that a 6-inch barrel was just right. The Colt Woodsman auto pistol has a barrel of this longitude and so does the .38 Officers Model Match revolver. The S&W K-22 is another with a 6" pipe and its matching number, the K-38, also comes with a 6-inch end. Is this then the best barrel or should it be longer? Or maybe only 5½ inches? What magical dimension would see the gunner hit the closest?

Besides the matter of barrel length another factor enters into the equation. This is the weight of the tube. A handgun to hold steady must be muzzle heavy. When the pistol is extended to take aim there must be a feeling that the gun is going to tip downward at the muzzle. When the shooter fights this tendency he achieves a dead steady aim. To find a muzzle heavy handgun means that there must be a lot of metal out in front. Something like 25% of the entire weight of the

piece has got to be in the forward tubing. This does a number of things, all good. Not only does it settle the gun on the target with little or no tremor but it also holds the muzzle down during recoil.

This brings us around to the matter of what the handgun should weigh to shoot good. The weight factor is not tied to caliber. A pistol to hold steady, whether it is a .22 or a .45, should tip the scales at not less than 40 ounces. I consider 42 ounces as ideal. When the gun goes over 45 ounces it becomes too heavy. A pistol that weighs 42 ounces with 25% of its weight in the barrel means that tube hefts 10½ ozs. And to carry this much metal indicates it will have to have considerable length. But how much? I determined to find out.

I had satisfied myself that the 4½" front end was okay for the closer shooting and not so hot for the longer ranges. Too, I had experimented with barrels of 8 and 10 inches until I knew full well that there was a tremor in the front end. The magic length lay somewhere in between.

To keep the business from becoming too drawn out I decided to shoot only the twenty-two calibers. Colt makes .22 handguns with 4 different barrel lengths, High Standard turns out 8 varying lengths, Ruger has 7. and Smith & Wesson 9 dimensions. I determined to test a representative cross-section of these guns, in various barrel lengths, weights and models. I was careful to select only the best target guns and that trigger pulls were all the same. Only standard factory stocks were used as I did not want to show advantage to one gun over another.

These pistols were the following:

High Standard auto 8" bbl weight 47 oz
High Standard auto 7¼" bbl weight 45 oz
High Standard auto 6¾" bbl weight 45 oz
S&W K-22
revolver 6" bbl weight 38½ oz
S&W Model 41

auto 7" bbl weight 42 oz S&W Model 46 auto 7%" bbl weight 43½ oz

Ruger Mark I auto 6%" bbl weight 42 oz Colt Woodsman

auto 6" bbl weight 40 oz

I fired these pistols at 50 yards on the Standard American pistol target. This is a tough mark and the distance is long. The 10-ring measures only 3½ inches and a score of 90 is a good one. I decided to fire at this yardage and

(Continued on page 84)

"ASPLEMINIDA

John Amber, Editor - GUN DIGEST

ONE HUNDRED

ONE HUNDRED GREAT GUNS is the most highly illustrated book on guns ever produced. More than 240 of its 400 illustrations are in full color. Each illustration was carefully chosen from a collection of more than 4,000 photographs taken especially for this book. Shown are all of the most important firearms in the museums and private collections of Europe and America.

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on this mark because I had found that the shorter barrels would not cut the mustard at this distance. I believed the shooting would serve to pin down that particular barrel length and sighting radius that was most nearly ideal.

Ten scores of 10 shots each were fired from each of the 8 pistols. This shooting took a long time and the weather wasn't always the same, neither was the light, and I have no doubt there were times when I shot better than others. Be that as it may the results are worthy of study and are set down here exactly as they developed.

S&W M46	Hi-Standard
w/7" bbl	w/6 ³ / ₄ " bbl
Av. 92.8	Av. 92.5
Colt Woodsman	S&W K-22
w/6" bbl	w/6" bbl
Av. 90.0	Av. 89.7
Hi-Standard	S&W M41
w/7¼" bbl	w/7%" bbl
Av. 94.2	Av. 93.5
Ruger Mk I	Hi-Standard
w/6%" bbl	w/8" bbl
Av. 92.4	Av. 92.1

The High Standard Supermatic Citation with 7¼-inch barrel was best. Not only did this pistol turn up the highest average for the 10 scores but it also accounted for the highest single score, a total of 98 on the 6th target. The Supermatic has a decidedly muz-



zle heavy feeling. The marksman must fight this tipped-over balance whenever he fires. This keeps the pistol steady on the target.

In second place was the Smith & Wesson Model 41. It has a barrel only one-eighth inch longer than the Supermatic. Such trifling differences aren't perceptible when firing. Only a wink behind the Model 41 was its mate, the Model 46. This pistol has a 7-inch barrel. It did not fare as well as the 7½-inch and while it may seem unreasonable to conclude that such small differences in barrel length and sighting radius could be so important the scores speak for themselves.

BONNIE & CLYDE: One of the year's hot cinema bits has been the "Bonnie and Clyde" drammer. Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were for real. He was a punk in Dallas, Texas, in the late 20s where he made a speciality of selling booze, stolen autos and women. It was only a step after that to heisting banks. Bonnie Parker was his woman. Small, red-headed, and nervy she drove the get-away car. Barrow was involved in 15 killings and in at least three of these the girl friend was identified as an active accomplice.

The movie, symptomatic of the times, seeks to portray this pair of hoodlums as not really bad. Simply victims of the Great Depression. It also goes to endless lengths to prove the law officer, Texas Ranger Frank Hamer, was a boob. He bumbles and stumbles through the whole show, outwitted by the canny outlaws. Finally, when in the end he shoots the pair, he is depicted as a monster who revelled in the slaughter. The Robin Hoods of the Louisiana piney woods were ruthlessly mowed down. The truth is somewhat at variance.

Knocking off banks generally requires a trusty pal or two and Barrow recruited a fellow heister named Floyd Hamilton. Together they averaged a bank a week in the four-state area of Texas-Louisiana-Missour-Oklahoma. Over a year or two they had shot and killed state cops, sheriffs, deputies, bank cashiers, posse members and an ordinary citizen or two. Hamilton got caught and with various robberies and several murders to his credit was tried, convicted and stowed away in the Texas state prison at Huntsville for life. He got word out to Bonnie and Clyde that the quiet life was pretty monotonous and would they do something about it. They did.

This was 35 years ago and the fastest car on the road in those days was the Ford V-8. Barrow usually drove a stolen V-8. The movie gives quite a bit of footage to the Thompson .45 submachine gun. Clyde tried the tommy gun and discarded it because it was too short-ranged, inaccurate and underpowered. He made a habit of busting into national guard armories in Texas, Missouri and Oklahoma and there helped themselves to the .30 cal. BAR-the Browning Automatic Rifle-and to the .45 auto pistol, Besides this armament Barrow also liked the automatic shotgun. He was halfpint and so preferred the 16 gauge. Bonnie Parker, who weighed 92 pounds had a 20 gauge pump gun.

Anyway, to get back to old buddy Floyd Hamilton, languishing in oldcold-and-stony up there at Huntsville, one day he, along with other prisoners, was being transferred from the main prison to Eastham Farm, when the party was ambushed. The guards were brought under fire from a .30 cal. BAR at a distance of 30 yards. In the ensuing scrap Major Crowson, a guard, was killed. Hamilton escaped.

On the 1st of April, 1934, a pair of Texas highway patrolmen approached a parked Ford V-8 in a country lane near Grapevine, Texas, to be mowed down by shotgun fire. An examination of the scene afterward turned up a whisky bottle with both Barrow's and Bonnie Parker's fingerprints on it. Witnesses said the parked car had contained a small black-headed man and a tiny red-headed woman. The duo made good their escape.

About this time Frank Hamer got into the act. Hamer stood 6' 3" and weighed 220 pounds. He had been a cowboy but got into the law game at the age of 18. He was 51 when he took up the Bonnie & Clyde trail. He was a tough one. He had been shot 7 times and it was rumored he had killed 50 lawbreakers during his 30 years as deputy, sheriff, city marshal and Texas Ranger. Some 102 days after he



saddled up he wrote finis to their career in the piney woods of Bienville Parish, in Louisiana.

Frank Hamer packed a .45 auto and his favorite rifle was the old Remington Model 8 auto rifle in .35 caliber. Raised during an era when it was considered sacrilegious to holster anything except the old .45 Single Action and swing the .30-30 carbine on the saddle, Hamer would have neither.

Like the outlaws, Hamer traveled in a Ford V-8. He lived in the car while he was on their trail. A seasoned investigator, he soon found that Bonnie & Clyde never holed up anywhere. They moved continuously. Some times traveled a thousand miles before stopping. He also learned they had a regular circuit which included northern Louisiana, thence to Missouri, then across Oklahoma and into Dallas. He learned all their habits. What they ate, what they drank, the clothes they wore down to sizes, colors and styles. He found they had a hideout in Louisiana. Twice he visited

this hideout alone and in his account afterward said he planned to walk in and tap the both of them over the head with his .45 auto, snap the cuffs on them and cart the pair off to jail. He did not find them in.

The sheriff in this parish was unreliable. Hamer had by this time won the confidence of his informants to such extent that he persuaded them to persuade Barrow and his girl friend to move their hideout to an adjoining parish. Here the sheriff was honest and he and Hamer worked closely to-

Like all pro criminals Barrow had a mail delivery system. To keep account of confidants, stoolies and others and to get messages he had a "mail box" in Bienville Parish. It was under a loose board lying near a stump on a logging road some eight miles from the village of Plain Dealing.

A letter was planted in the "mail box" and the trap was laid. The local sheriff and his deputy, together with Manny Gault, who had been in the Rangers with Hamer, and a Dallas deputy sheriff, lay in the bar pit alongside the country road. They were within 30 feet of the "mail box."

At about 9:30 in the morning, the lawmen heard the whine of a car driven at terrific speed. It drew closer and finally came into view over a slight rise. It fitted the description of the stolen V-8 Barrow was driving. The car slowed, both Clyde and Bonnie in the front seat. Abreast of the letter Barrow stopped but kept the auto in gear.

On the command from Hamer to "Stick 'em up" both outlaws snatched up pistols lying on the seat between them. The lawmen opened up.

Frank Hamer, despite his penchant for the Model 8 auto rifle that morning had a Remington 12 gauge automatic shotgun. His partners had .30-30 rifles and another shotgun, a 12 gauge autoloader.

Bonnie and Clyde were killed. Literally shot to doll rags. The car on the driver's side was riddled. In the backseat and on the floor, according to Hamer, were three BAR riflles, two sawed-off shotguns, one a 16 and the other a 20, seven Model 1911 .45 automatic pistols and in the front seat with Barrow was a .45 Colt New Service revolver and Bonnie had a .32 Colt auto. There were 100 BAR clips, all loaded, plus 3,000 rounds of assorted cartridges.

Hamer was paid \$186 monthly as his regular salary and when he submitted an expense account for the many telephone conversations he had made with informants and others these were disallowed because he had no receipts for them.

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CLEAR SIGHT SCOPE CAPS

PANEL OF EXPERTS

(Continued from page 12)

side. A spacer plate was fitted between the breech end of the cylinder and the frame. The right half of the plate contained a latched loading gate, and a side ejector was installed on the right .- R.M.

Iver Johnson Parts

I have an Iver Johnson seven-shot hinged frame revolver with an internal hammer in very good condition but the cylinder stop spring is broken. I hope that you can help me find available parts.

> Gunnar Haugen Kongsberg, Norway

Forward your revolver's model and serial numbers to the Iver Johnson Arms & Cycle Works, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, 01420, U.S.A. Explain to them what you need. If there is some question, it may be necessary for them to send you a parts sheet for that particular gun. If you have a good gun repairman in your area it is possible that he could fashion a spring for it. Aside from your query, if you have the time and would care to write us regarding the laws and requirements for owning handguns in Norway, I'm sure it would be of interest to our many readers.-W.S.

Legal Machine Guns

I am a gun collector and I would like to know if it is at all possible to buy a Browning Automatic Rifle or Thompson sub-machine gun from a legitimate dealer or government agency. If restrictions on automatic arms do not make this impossible, how do I go about getting a government permit for these arms?

> Joseph Wald Brookline, Mass.

The weapons mentioned are available for legitimate sale to properly qualified and licensed individuals where local statutes do not preclude ownership. In order to purchase them, one must obtain the required permit from the Alcohol & Tobacco Tax Unit branch of the Treasury Department. A representative of this branch should be available at your local U.S. treasury office, and should be contacted in regard to applications. Under no circumstances should you attempt to purchase such weapons without first obtaining the necessary permits, paying the taxes, and following the legal procedures involved. You will note that we have various dealers advertising automatic weapons in the different shooting publications. Though their wares are usually advertised as deactivated specimens, many are prepared to offer the same guns in operational condition to qualified purchasers.—G.N.

.300 Weatherby-F.N. Action

I am planning to have a .300 Weatherby custom rifle made and am thinking of using an F.N. Supreme action. Would this action be suitable for such a heavy caliber? I would also like your opinion on use of a 26" target barrel on a hunting gun, what with the added weight.

> Ron Blakemore Manteca, California

Many .300 Weatherby magnums have been built on those F.N. actions. For this length cartridge the magazine is lengthened and some of the backup metal behind the lower locking lug is ground away. For velocity's sake, a 26" barrel such as a premium Douglas or a select match grade from other makers such as J. Hall Sharon is well worth the slight extra cost. It doesn't necessarily have to be of a "target" weight. We get excellent accuracy with barrels of approximately '03 Springfield taper style and dimensions. I like to run these about .010 to .015" larger than the '03 all the way, ending up with about .650" muzzle diameter at 26". If you crave accuracy, have your gunsmith avoid the fast light sporter taper-in just forward of the chamber area. Rigidity in the rear third of the barrel is very important! --W.S.

Mauser Sports-Target Model

I have recently acquired a rifle marked with the Mauser emblem on the receiver ring I would like identified. On the left side of the barrel it is marked "Patrone .22 Long Rifle. 38220 450" plus several crown over

initial proofmarks. The other side is stamped "Mauser-Werke A.G. Obern-dorfan." The buttstock is stamped with a large wheel or cloverleaf design and "Mauser", and has sling swivels.

> Vernon A. Smith Lakewood, Colorado

The gun you have is the pre-WW II Mauser Sports-Target Model, a highly prized rifle. These were widely used in Nazi Germany between the World Wars by "Sports" clubs of quasi-military nature. In good condition your Mauser .22 is worth \$100 or more on today's market.—S.B.

.30 Ruger Soft Loads

I wonder if you have information on a safe and practical reload for the caliber .30 M1 carbine cartridge for a Ruger Blackhawk handgun. All my references are for "hot" rifle loads.

> Lester J. Griffith San Mateo, California

If you desire relatively low-velocity .30 caliber carbine loads for use in a handgun, simply use those loads recommended for the .32-20 Winchester cartridge in revolvers .- G.N.

Viet Cong Sporter?

I have a Russian SKS rifle in excellent condition, minus the stock, which I am bringing home as a souvenir. Because of its good condition, features and potential I believe the weapon would be worth bringing to its peak as a custom hunting rifle. I would appreciate any information from ballistics to customizing instructions, a source for a custom stock and ammunition. Your magazine is very well received over here and many of us are interested in the weapons used by the other side, as well as our own.

Sp/4 Glenn Peterson APO San Francisco

The Soviet SKS is quite scarce in the U.S. Consequently, and because of its purpose as a short, rapidfire mankiller, it has found little acceptance as a sporting arm. No accessories, particularly semi-finished sporter stocks, have been offered. This carbine is chambered for the Russian 7.62mm M1943 short cartridge. Ammunition is not loaded in this country, but fresh Finnish-production ammo can be obtained from Hunters Lodge. Only the military style is available, but there would (hypothetically) be no problem in pulling the military bullets and replacing them with soft-point .30 caliber hunting bullets of the same weight. This ammunition is loaded in Berdan-primed cases and is difficult to reload. Cases may be formed from Boxer-primed Norma 6.5 mm. Carcano brass. RCBS, Inc., Box 729, Oroville, California, can supply forming dies for this job. Frankly, I cannot recommend this cartridge as a reliable hunting load. It utilizes a 122 gr. bullet at only 2330 fps which places it only slightly above the .30 U.S. Carbine in effectiveness .- G.N.

Hotloading Remington's .222

Having bought a Remington .222 Varminter Model 700 and worked up some loads for crows and groundhogs (Speer 52 gr. HP bullet, CCI magnum primer, 18.5 gr. 4198 and 25.0 gr. 4895). I find the recommended loading crushes the powder. Does this crushing harm the powder? Also, can you suggest any more accurate combination? What is the effective range of this cartridge used with a 6x scope? How can I sight in the scope at 25 yards so that it is on at 200?

> Dr. W. J. Goschalk Hartford City, Maryland

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Subscription in US & Canada 1 Yr \$7.50 charges will cause no harm, providing too-fast-burning a powder is not being used. Insofar as the .222 Remington is concerned, 4895 may be considered a slow powder, and compressed loads are not uncommon. If the powder were actually crushed (granules broken up) the condition would be dangerous, since the burning rate would be increased. However, moderate compression by bullet seating merely compacts the loose granules without breaking them. The 50

or 52 gr. bullet is usually best in the .222 Rem. Both 4895 and Ball C (2) usually produce best accuracy with good pressure-velocity ratio. But to be sure which is best in your particular gun, try other suitable powders and loads from the Speer book. Sighted to hit point of aim at 25 yards, the .222 Rem. with 50 gr. factory load will be "on" again at slightly over 200 yards, and will be 2 to 21/4" high at 100 yards—G.N.

ASTRA PISTOLS

(Continued from page 41)

made ammunition.

The von Ramin firm made arrangements to resell the Spanish pistols to the German Heereswaffenamt (Army weapons office), the German counterpart of our own Ordnance Department. From there the pistols were to be issued to Heer, Luftwaffe, and Waffen-SS for use in the field.

On the 13th of October of the same year the Astra company informed the Oberkommando Des Heeres-Heeres-waffenamt by cable that the first lot of Astra pistols would be leaving the factory by the 20th of October. On the 18th, 4,500 of the Model 400, 5,500 of the Model 300, and 217,000 rounds of ammunition for them were in fact sent on their way to Berlin. An additional lot of 1,500 Model 400's and 500 Model 300's was shipped from Guernica on the 11th of November.

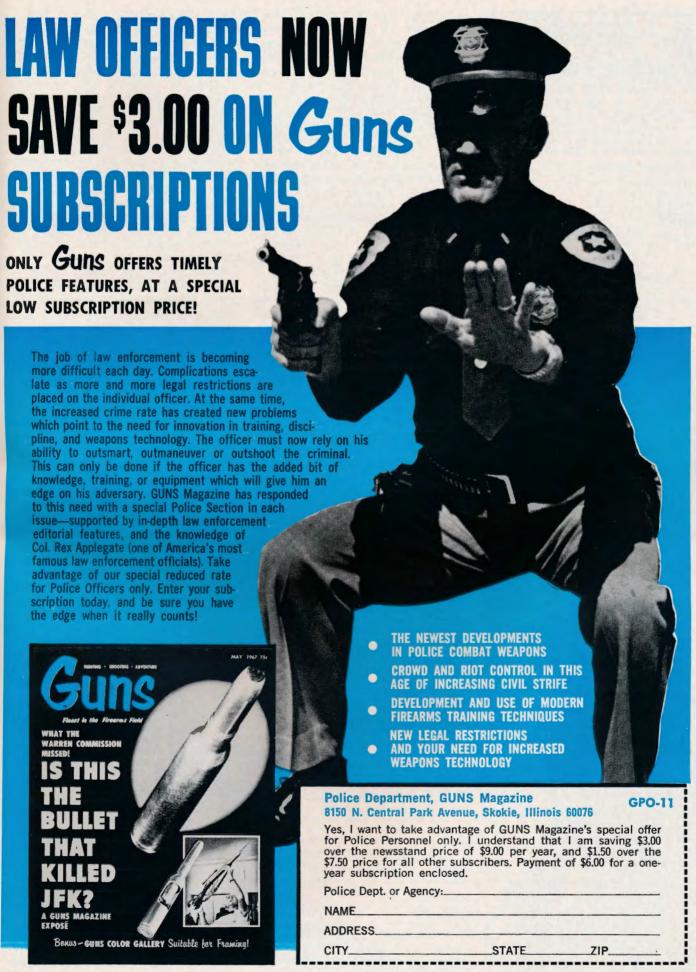
Deliveries of Astra Model 300 pistols in 9mm. Kurtz continued on, but the 6,000 Astras in the Bergmann-Bayard were the first and the last ever purchased for German military use. Evidently the German experts had by then realized that the 9mm. Bergmann-Bayard ammunition, though a favorite south of the Pyrenees, had no place in their already muddled supply system. But what they did need was a pistol more compact than the Model 400, and in their standard 9mm. Parabellum caliber.

To meet this demand, Astra engineers managed to take a full year to accomplish the relatively simple task and completed sometime during 1943 a new version called the Model 600. Fifty of the new model were manufactured as prototypes and test series pieces and were submitted to the Heereswaffenamt for service trials. The serial numbers of these pistols ran from 1 through 50. The German ordnance experts decided to accept

the pistols and between May 21, 1943. and July 21, 1944, shipments totalling 10,450 pistols were delivered to the Spanish town of Irun on the French border for German troops then on duty in France. The serial number range of these pistols was 51 through 10500. A short while later, an additional quantity of 28,000 Model 600's were sent to the border but could not be accepted. The German authorities were otherwise engaged with evacuation of troops as a result of the threat posed by the Allied armies in the north which had invaded Normandy. The serial number range of these unaccepted pistols ran from 10501 through 38500. With no place to go, they were impressed as alien property by the Spanish government and sent to the Park of Artillery at Burgos. So ended the deliveries of Astra pistols to Hitler's armies.



The sudden collapse of the German market did not immediately affect production. Production continued and finally ceased during 1945 with pistol number 59546. This last lot (numbers 38501 through 59546) was placed in



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stock by the factory. It has been suggested that the Astra planners were looking ahead to reestablishing contact with the Third Reich and felt that they should be prepared to sell it pistols. When the fate of Germany was obviously sealed in 1945, they stopped production. The third lot was to remain in storage for some years, until they were eventually sold to the West German government for police use.

In addition to the serial numbers and proof marks found on the initial batch of the German Model 600 pistols, the Astra trademark appeared on the base of the magazine and on the upper front of the slide. On the rear of the slide was the inscription UNCETA Y COMPANIA S.A. and GUERNICA ESPANA, UNCETA Y COMPANIA also was stamped on the left side of the frame beneath the grip. The German Waffenamt acceptance mark was applied only above the serial number at the rear of the frame on the right side. On the chamber, readable through the ejection port, the caliber was identified as PIST. PATR. 08. Pistole patrone 1908 was the German terminology for what we commonly call the 9mm. Luger or

Parabellum cartridge. These same markings, with the exception of the Waffenamt acceptance stamp, were applied to the second lot of pistols that was seized by the Spanish government. Commencing with the third and last group of these pistols, which was eventually delivered to the new German government, the markings were modified. The Astra trademark on the slide and the caliber marking on the barrel were omitted. The slide inscription now read UNCETA Y COMPANIA S.A., GUERNICA ES-PANA, "ASTRA" MOD.600/43, 9m/m PARABELLUM. Large quantities of the last lot were recently imported into the United States and are available commercially.

When given the chance, the Germans held the Model 600 in high regard, judging from the evidence of their prompting its development and the fact that the West German government bought up the final production run without hesitation. Altogether, delivery of Astra pistols in the three calibers to the Germans between 18 October, 1941, and 21 July 1944, totalled 103,350 units.



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HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 20)

.22 LINDAHL SUPER CHUCKER: Designed as one of a series by Leslie M. Lindhal, Nebraska, in 1940. This, too, is the .25 Remington case. It is shortened to 1.82", given a 28° shoulder, 1.42" body length, and a neck length of .250". A rimmed version was made from the .219 Zipper case for single shot rifles and will handle the same loads.

.22 SENIOR VARMINTER: Another development by Jerry Gebby in attempting to improve upon the performance of his original .22/250 Varminter. It is based upon the .257 Roberts case necked to use .224" bullets. Case length is 2.20", head to shoulder length 1.66", shoulder diameter .469" with a shoulder angle of 25°. This makes it a minimum-taper case of "improved" form.

.22 NEIDNER LIGHTNING: Made up by A. O. Neidner for J. Bushnell Smith, utilizing the .30-40 Krag case necked to .22 caliber. The resulting case was 2.166" long, .375" shoulder diameter, and used a 14° shoulder. Capacity is nearly the same as the .220 Swift.

.22 K-MAGNUM RIMLESS: A Lyle Kilborn development of the .25 Remington case intended to produce essentially the same velocities as the .22/250. Case length is 1.90", length to shoulder 1.65", with a shoulder angle of 25°.

LOADING DATA

.22 NEWTON

Sisk .227" 70 gr. bullet—35.0 gr. 3031—NK Sisk .224" 55 gr. bullet—40.0 gr. 4064—NK

22/4000 SEDGLEY-SCHNERRING

Sisk 46 gr.	bullet-42.0 gr. 3031-3890 fps
Sisk 46 gr.	bullet-44.0 gr. 4064-3910 fps
	bullet-41.0 gr. 3031-3658 fps
	bullet—44.0 gr. 4064—3783 fps
W-W 46 gr	. bullet—42.0 gr. 3031—3826 fps
W-W 56 gr	. bullet—43.0 gr. 4064—3687 fps

.220 WILSON ARROW

Sisk	55	gr.	bullet-36.0	gr.	4064-NK
Sisk	55	gr.	bullet—38.0	gr.	4064-NK
Sisk	55	gr.	bullet—37.0	gr.	4320-NK

.22/3000 LOVELL

Sisk	55	gr.	bullet-15.5	gr.	4198-NK
Sisk	55	gr.	bullet—15.5	gr.	4227-NK

R-Z LOVELL

				4227—NK 4198—NK
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22 NEIDNER MAGNUM RIMLESS

		TATAL TITLE TITLE		TIL SULLIFICATION	~
45	gr.	bullet-26.0	gr.	30313035	fps
55	gr.	bullet—26.5	gr.	3031-3305	fps
63	gr.	bullet—25.0	gr.	4064—2687	fps
63	gr.	bullet-25.0	gr.	3031 - 2919	fps

22/303 CRANDALL VARMINT-R

Sisk	40	gr.	bullet-38.0	gr.	4320—3864 fps
Sisk	50	gr.	bullet-34.0	gr.	3031—3532 fps
Sisk	55	gr.	bullet-35.0	gr.	4320—3530 fps
Sisk	63	gr.	bullet-34.0	gr.	4320—3373 fps

.22 MARCIANTE BLUE STREAK

W-M 50 gr. bullet 31.5 g	gr. 3031-4001 fps
Sisk 40 gr. bullet-30.0 g	gr. 4198-4295 fps
Sisk 40 gr. bullet-34.0 g	
Sisk 55 gr. bullet-31.0 g	
Sisk 55 gr. bullet—30.0 g	gr. 3031—3780 fps

.22 LINDAHL CHUCKER

W-M	47	gr.	bullet-15.5	gr.	4227-NK
Rem.	45	gr.	bullet—16.7	gr.	4198-NK
Rem.	48	gr.	bullet—17.0	gr.	4227—NK
Rem.	48	gr.	bullett-24.0	gr.	3031-NK

22 LINDAHL SUPER CHUCKER

		DILLI	201		OTTO!	
45	gr.	bullet-	-31.0	gr.	3031-	-NK
45	gr.	bullet-	-32.0	gr.	3032-	-NK
50	gr.	bullet-	-35.00	gr.	4320-	-NK
55	gr.	bullet-	-33.0	gr.	4064	-NK

22 SENIOR VARMINTER

W-M	45	gr.	bullet-	47.0	gr.	4064-	-4500	fps
W-M	55	gr.	bullet-	-47.0	gr.	4350-	4200	fps
			bullet-					

22 MEIDNED LICHTNING

		THE TANKS TANKS		*****	
		bullet-39.0			
		bullet—39.0			
55	or	bullet_38.0	OT	4064-3830	fns

.22 K-MAGNUM RIMLESS

Rem. 4	5 gr.	bullet-	-33.0	gr.	4320-	-3500	fps
Rem. 4	5 gr.	bullet-	-33.0	gr.	3031-	-3620	fps
W-M 5	i0 gr.	bullet-	-34.0	gr.	3031 -	-3735	fps
		bullet-					
Sisk 5	gr.	bullet-	-34.0	gr.	4064-	-3453	fps

Rem: Remington W-W: Winchester-Western W-M: Wotkyns-Morse NK: Not known

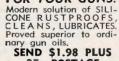
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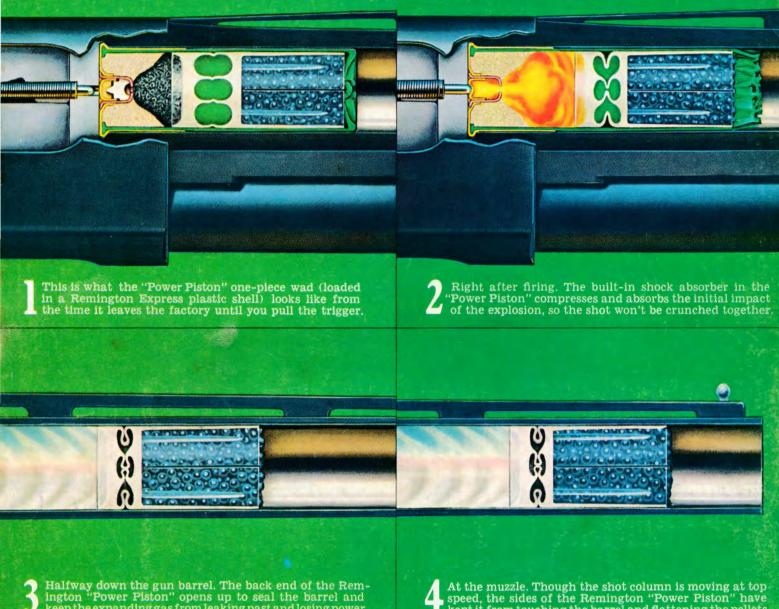
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