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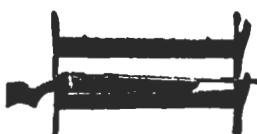
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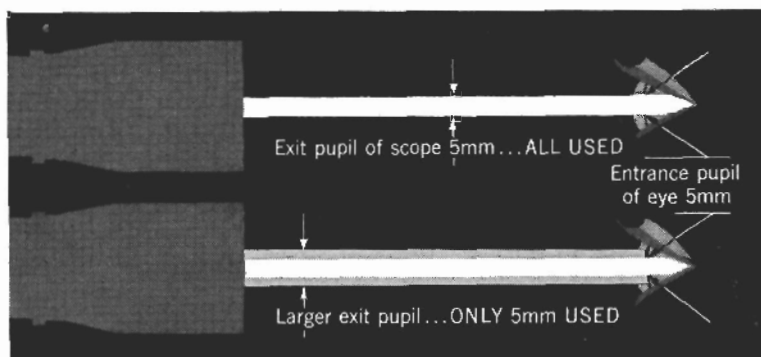
in a Rifle Sight?

No matter what you buy, you make your final decision on the basis that you feel you are "getting your money's worth." In a hunting sight, brightness of image costs you money. A scope with a high relative brightness costs you more than that same scope would have cost with less relative brightness. It is certainly a legitimate question to ask, "Am I getting my money's worth?"

When the user of a rifle sight, or other telescopic optical instrument, speaks of "image brightness," he usually is referring to a combination of two things—*relative brightness* (which refers to the area of the exit pupil of the instrument) and *light transmission* (which is the percentage of light entering the instrument which actually gets through).

Relative brightness is a numerical index for the area of the disc of bright light which can be seen in the eyepiece of an instrument by holding it at arm's length. (It is arrived at by dividing the free aperture of the objective by the actual power of the telescope, and squaring the result. A 4-power scope, for example, with a 20mm objective, has an exit pupil of 5mm, and a "relative brightness" of 25.) This is the pencil of light which is directed toward the eye of the user. But the amount of that light which can enter the eye depends on the diameter of the iris diaphragm, or pupil, of the eye—which dilates and contracts under conditions of light intensity.

What is the diameter of the pupil of the eye in light conditions under which a hunting sight would be used? Many research programs have been undertaken to measure the pupil opening of the human eye under varying light conditions—most recently and most exhaustively by the U.S. Government during World War II, in connection with design of visual optical fire-control instruments. The consistent result of these scientific findings is that in normal daylight, the pupil has an opening of 3mm or less; only in almost complete darkness does it open to as much as 7mm. At dawn, or deep dusk, the pupil opens to no more than 5mm.



It is evident, therefore, that the *maximum exit pupil which can be utilized under any conditions in which a hunting rifle would be used is 5mm* (a "relative brightness" of 25). Any scope which gives a higher brightness is projecting "waste" light toward the eye.

The Bausch & Lomb Hunting Sight has a maximum power of 4X. It has been designed, therefore, with an objective of 20mm free aperture. This provides all the light your eye will ever accept when you are hunting, and makes possible a scope of minimum size and weight.

Light transmission, the other factor, depends on efficiency of optical design, and to a very large degree on reflection losses at air-to-glass surfaces. Anti-reflection coating, probably the major accomplishment of optical science of the cen-

tury, and first used by Bausch & Lomb, effects a great saving in reflection losses. Balcote anti-reflection coating on optical surfaces of the B&L Sight increases its light transmission by about 50%; but even more importantly, it improves image contrast by reducing reflected scatter light or flare which serves to "grey" the image and degrade definition.

When you own a Bausch & Lomb Hunting Sight, you have the satisfaction of a lifetime of use, and pleasure in the knowledge that its design, its performance, and its dependability class it as the finest instrument of its kind you can own. Balvar, the Variable Power (2½X-4X) Bausch & Lomb Hunting Sight is \$80. Baltur (2½X fixed power) and Balfor (4X fixed power) are \$65. Mounts for all popular big game rifles are \$25.

A new manual by Bausch & Lomb, includes a more complete discussion of image brightness; also a complete and previously untold story about optical performance, windage and elevation adjustment and mechanical reliability. You'll find it interesting and instructive—and will want to keep it in your technical library . . . write Bausch & Lomb Optical Co., 20648 Lomb Park, Rochester 2, N. Y.





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CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Too Many Colts

I like your publication GUNS very much and I think it picks up where all other such magazines leave off. However as of late, I have noticed that there is a tendency to devote too much of the magazine to the single action Colt revolver. It is very monotonous to read about the same gun in every issue and to have to go through page after page of photos of the single action. Obviously most of the writers of the magazine are prone to this gun but I believe an effort should be made to curb personal tastes when writing articles. There are a lot of gun editors for a lot of sporting magazines and 90 per cent of them have the bad habit of emphasizing their own favorite gun and cartridge. Don't let this happen to GUNS magazine.

As far as the Colt single action goes, I think it is a fine gun which typifies the ingenuity of American gun makers and it shall forever remain the symbol of the era in which America saw its most colorful and stimulating days but let's not overdo it. We know it is a nice piece but let's have some variety. How about a nice big article on something like the Luger and all its variations or an article on the mysterious Mars auto pistol, the world's most powerful, or the little known Walther 9-mm ultra caseless cartridge auto.

Stephen B. Ickes
New York, N. Y.

ED.: One Luger story coming up. See January issue.

Kudos For the Royal Colts

Congratulations on your story about the "Finest Colts Ever Made." I have seen those guns, the pair in Sweden, and they are everything you say they are. Give us more stories about these old guns. I like to collect guns and have about ten Colts of different kinds, but I know anything as fine as those guns in your story are way out of my line, even if they were for sale. But I still like to read about them, and the people who used them. Enclosed is my \$5 for a year's subscription starting with October. I bought all the others on the newsstand, but now I'm "sold."

Richard Cruickshank
Hempstead, Long Island

Wants Articles About .22

Last August I started in reading your magazine, but so far you seem to have nothing but big game hunting or shotgunning stories. What's the matter? I'm a .22 shooter—get over to my club about once a week, and shoot Sundays sometimes in competition with other teams around town. But I see

nothing in your mag about small bore shooting. Don't people shoot .22's anymore out there in Chicago? I'd like to see more on accuracy, working over .22's, sighting in and everything about small bore shooting. You'd have my subscription for sure if you'd have a feature on small-bore range or hunting shooting every so often.

Walter H. Donnell
Washington, D.C.

20 Gauge Not For Ducks

I just got your October issue on the stands and boy am I burned up. That article by Francis Sell was one of the silliest things I have ever read in a long time. Boy, why doesn't he take a rifle and shoot ducks on the wing? I wouldn't waste my time in a cold, wet blind with nothing bigger than a 20-gauge to reach out and get them. I thought these 20-gauge magnums which were talked about a year or so ago might be the thing, but never have seen any around so for the time being I'll stick to my old 12. And maybe go over to a Magnum 10 if I can scrape up the dough.

Charlie Johnstone
Carson's Landing, Mo.

Sears Gas Shotgun

Over at our Sears Roebuck store I saw a copy of your November GUNS. Was at the store in fact to buy a shotgun, and when I saw the new gas-operated autoloader sample which they had, I started asking questions about it. The fellow there didn't know much about guns, so he handed me a copy of your magazine with a story by Colonel Charles Askins in it. There was a picture of some funny gas spring affair inside the gun, and I took off the fore end of the Sears sample gun and looked for the "cushion spring." There wasn't anything like that in the sample gun—what gives? I want to buy the right gun, not something that will jam or give trouble.

Don Burnett
Philadelphia, Pa.

Checked with the Sears main office here, and it seems that some of the early "cushion spring-less" guns were shipped out to stores as samples to show the public just what sort of gun they would be getting. Meanwhile, development was still going on at High Standard to make the best possible gun which this new gas system permits. The cushion spring is the later design, not essential to the functioning but still important enough to warrant changing the manufacture over to the cushion spring. Both kinds of gas operation will perform satisfactorily.—Editor.

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MY FAVORITE GUN

BY JOCK MAHONEY,
star of the TV show, "The
Range Rider."

A particular favorite of mine is the Frontier Colt Single Action which I have used in more than 78 "Range Rider" shows on television. I have honed down the spring to get a lighter, smoother crown action. With only 1½ pound pull on the trigger, it enables me to shoot fast. This gun is also a favorite of youngsters and even gun fanciers who always want to see the gun in my films and personal appearances.



BY GAIL DAVIS, star of the Annie Oakley television show.

My favorite gun is a rifle that was one of Annie Oakley's originals. I guess I probably won't be able to use it on the Annie Oakley show, for it is too valuable a gun to wear out by shooting it now. But I intend to model my guns after this one and will be satisfied with nothing else.

Annie shot this Model 1892 Winchester in her act with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. In Germany it was this rifle that she used to shoot the ashes off Crown Prince Wilhelm's cigarette. A fancy grade .32/20 with special half-octagon barrel, gold-plated receiver, and beautiful walnut stock, this weapon was used by Annie while touring more than 14 foreign countries. Many crowned heads tried their luck with this rifle including King Edward V of England. With this Winchester, the original Annie Oakley proved her expert marksmanship in straight shooting, mirror tricks. I hope I can do a third as well in my TV show.

Here's How Husqvarna Has Improved the Mauser Action!



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

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

Naturally any refinement could not be made at the sacrifice of the great strength for which the '98 Mauser had long been famous. It was here that the problem lay for years—for to reduce size and weight normally would mean a proportionate loss in strength. Yet, in the very heart of the problem Husqvarna found the answer. Through their incomparable world-famous high quality Swedish steel, they were able to produce a completely redesigned action—smaller, lighter, with even superior strength than existing Mauser-type actions. The excellence of this steel is due to the extremely low content of sulphur and phosphorous and very small variations in the quantities of carbon and manganese. By using high-grade iron ore and a special smelting process using charcoal instead of coke, this is achieved. This, together with a well-developed hardening process, results in steel that has no peer.

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

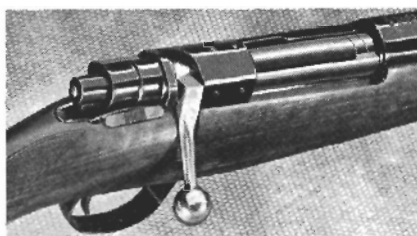
This reduction in size and weight resulted in a more streamlined receiver and smaller diameter receiver rings... a feature which permits a thinner stock at this point with a further decrease in weight, and a much better gripping surface both in handling and carrying.

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

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

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

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

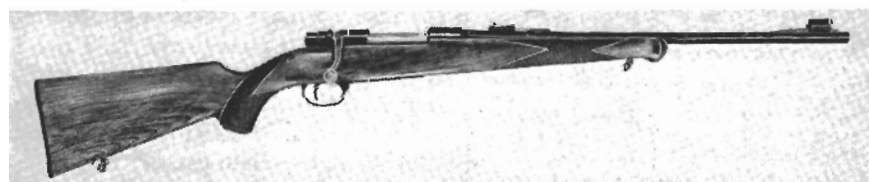


Absolute precision in workmanship is evident in these closeups of the HVA Improved Mauser Action. Notice the streamlined receiver with front ring and rear bridge of same diameter. Stock is slim and fits neatly around receiver for ease in handling and carrying. Both gunsmith and shooter are assured maximum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

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

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

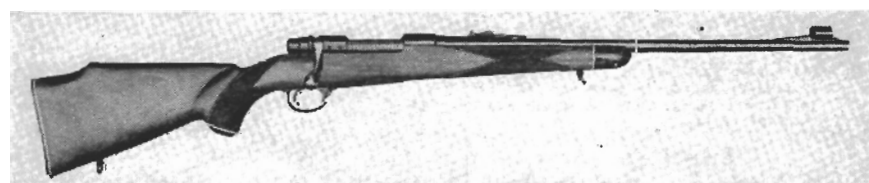
THIS IS HOW Husqvarna has improved the LIGHTWEIGHT



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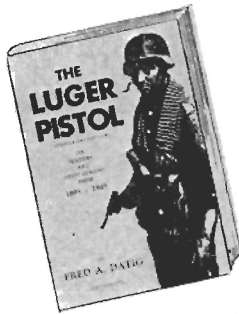


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by Fred A. Datis

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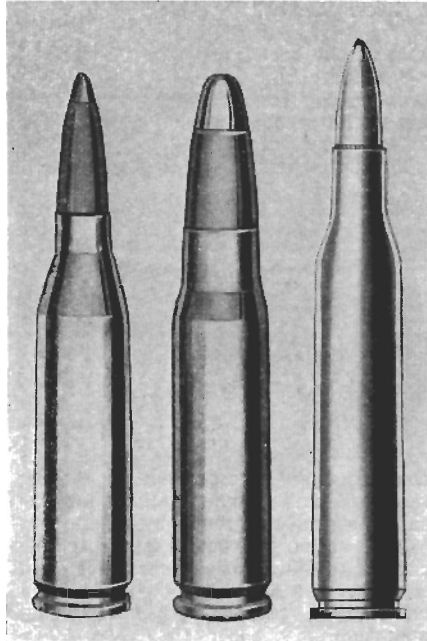
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GUN RACK

Two Varmint-Big Game Rifles

FACETIOUSLY I started to call this "The Battle of the Pip Squeaks," for both Remington and Winchester seem to have become tangled in a battle for small-bore, high velocity rifle su-



.243 .358 .244

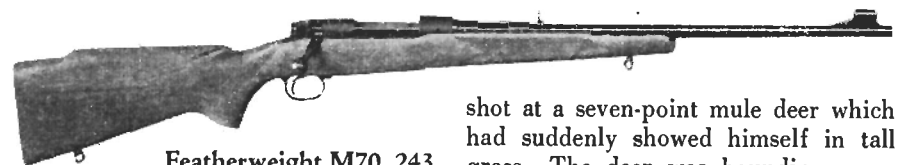
premacy. First Winchester tipped it off a few years ago with the .220 Swift, that impressive cannon shell which hurled a tiny 48 grain .22 bullet along at better than 4,000 foot per second. But the light weight caused this slug to shed velocity like a pooped-out skyrocket. So Remington started their .222 bullet of 50 grains a little slower, 3200, and achieved a proportionately smaller percentage decrease in velocity over the same ranges where the Swift falls off

series of wildcat experiments which resulted in the .243 Winchester, based on the .308 case, and the .244 Remington which is squeezed into a little longer case about the same size as the old .220 Swift.

On the target range, both these cartridges have shown up well. Less than "minute of angle" accuracy can be maintained by the 90 to 100 grain bullets with inch groups at 200 yards and beyond. Both cases will be eagerly seized on by the bench rest shooters, probably, although the shorter .243 case may be preferred as the short length allows a shorter rifle action, with consequent greater stiffness and resistance to vibration. Good energy is maintained by the bullets along with chuck-hitting accuracy to 400 and 500 yards.

The comparative figures on these two new loads with four bullet weights show little significant difference. The listed figures show the Remington load as a shade lower in velocity and energy compared with the .243. It must be considered that the Winchester bullet of 100 grains is the better one for deer and medium game than the 90-grain Remington pointed soft-point, though the differences seems mostly splitting hairs.

I wanted to wait until a few reports came back from "field testing" of the two new guns, since there is little shooting to be done around Chicago except targets. Then John T. Amber phoned me, after coming back in town from a very successful hunt with L. M. Brownell, the gunstock maker of Sheridan, Wyoming. It seems that at about 200 yards he had taken an offhand snap



Featherweight M70 .243

shot at a seven-point mule deer which had suddenly showed himself in tall grass. The deer was bounding away from him, and John drew down on him with the .243 Featherweight Model 70 and one of Roy Weatherby's 4X Imperial scopes to make his weak old eyes see that far.

The deer was entering some pines and John's (Continued on page 73)

shot at a seven-point mule deer which had suddenly showed himself in tall grass. The deer was bounding away from him, and John drew down on him with the .243 Featherweight Model 70 and one of Roy Weatherby's 4X Imperial scopes to make his weak old eyes see that far.

The deer was entering some pines and John's (Continued on page 73)

NEW WALTHER ITEMS

1. **Double Action Feature:** Simply release the safety lever and pull trigger as with a revolver. After the first shot, the Walther performs automatically, ejecting a fired shell, loading a new cartridge in the chamber and leaving the hammer cocked for continuous single action shooting. (If double-action is not needed on first shot, the hammer is cocked in usual way).

2. **Signal Safety, Too:** Walther .32 and .380 pistols are also equipped with a 'signal pin', which protrudes from back of slide, to signal—even in the dark—when a cartridge is in the chamber. Thus, you can even *feel* when gun is loaded!

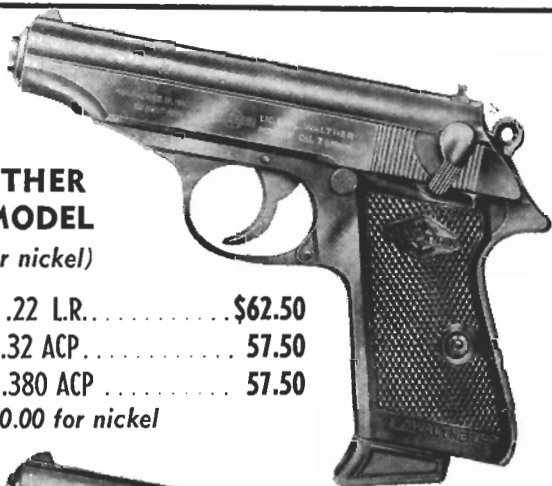
3. **Inside Safety:** Made of SOLID STEEL and stays between hammer and firing pin until the very last split-second of the trigger pull, when it unblocks the hammer, allowing it to strike firing pin. This safety works whether the outside safety is 'on' or 'off', thus preventing the possibility of many 'accidental firings'.

4. **Outside Safety:** Lever safety which can be moved easily with thumb of shooting hand. Locks firing pin, and makes it safe to load pistol with safety 'on'—by working the slide without necessarily cocking the hammer—for possible double-action optional firing.

WALTHER PP MODEL

(blue or nickel)

Calibre .22 L.R. \$62.50
Calibre .32 ACP 57.50
Calibre .380 ACP 57.50
add \$10.00 for nickel



WALTHER PPK MODEL

(blue only)

Calibre .22 L.R. (blue) \$64.00
Calibre .32 L.R. (Lightweight) .. 74.00
Calibre .32 or .380 (blue) 60.00
Calibre .32 (Lightweight) 70.00



WALTHER PP "SPORTER"

(blue only)

Cal. .22 L.R. \$74.75

Unexcelled accuracy. Choice of 6" or 8" barrel. Adjustable target sights. Matted receiver. Same absolute safeties as with all Walthers. Extended pistol grip with thumb rest. Ready - Reliable - Safe! Ideal for target, game & plinking.



THE P. P. means Polizei Pistole, originally designed for police use. Used by many Law Enforcement Officers, Special Guards, Hunters, Campers, Home Protection as a Side Arm, either concealed or exposed.

"Note the above unsurpassed safety features of these world-renowned pistols before you buy any pistols."

WALTHER PISTOLS by Smith

This book is a must for owners of Walther Pistols. The P.P., P.P.K., famed P-38, etc. are fully covered. Detailed functioning, stripping and operation, with full ammunition and safety dope and a short history of the Walther works makes this the standard reference on Walthers. **\$3**

P.P.K. means Polizei Pistole Kriminal, indicating that the P.P.K. is generally used by Law Enforcement Officers when not in uniform who need a smaller version of the P.P. which can be readily concealed. Same features as P.P.

LOOK! LOOK!

Phoenix has designed and now offers the below leather Walther belt pouches. These pouches will be desired by all owners of Walther Pistols as well as those now buying Walther Pistols. Phoenix makes it possible for you to carry extra mags. and ammo on your belt.



No. 33

Magazine Belt Pouch to hold two PP or PPK extension mags. (Can also be used to hold standard mags.)

Price \$3.60 each

No. 35 same as above but for "PP" Sporter mags.

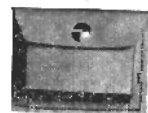
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No. 25

"Ammo Belt Pouch to hold one 50-rd commercial box of either .32 Auto or .380 Auto ammunition.

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No. 23

"Ammo Belt Pouch to hold three (3) boxes (50 rds per box) of .22 calibre Long Rifle Ammunition.

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Holster Belts, each 3.95
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Mags for "PP" Sporter Model, each 8.70

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.22 LR, solid point \$.70
.22 LR hollow point80
.32 Auto 3.70
.380 Auto 3.80

All prices F.O.B. College Park

Md. Residents Add 2% Sales Tax

Send 25c for illustrated booklet on WALTHER PISTOLS and for complete list of Phoenix Weapons, etc.



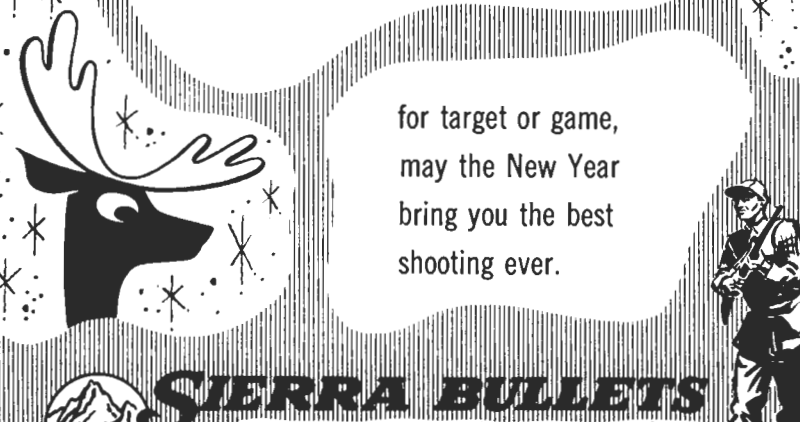
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for target or game,
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bring you the best
shooting ever.



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BOX 543-GU — BROWNWOOD, TEXAS

Phono record, \$1.50.

ORDER TODAY

GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

□ In Mulhouse, France, a man named Joseph Pradier filed suit against a local gunsmith, complaining that the gun sold to him would not fire. When questioned more about his suit, he told police that the gun proved defective when he tried to shoot his wife and her lover on catching them together. Police filed a murder charge against him.

□ Waynesville, N. C., holds a Beef Shoot Day for muzzle-loaders only. Some of the rifles in the contest are usually well over 100 years old and most are heirlooms. The mountaineers shoot in four classes divided by ages, from 20 to 80 and up. No stances are barred. A prone firing position on a bearskin is the favorite, but some old timers prefer to lie flat on their back while they draw their bead.

□ When Robert Short reported for national service training in New South Wales, Australia, he was handed his rifle in the usual routine sort of way—but the young man kept staring at it in more than just a routine fashion. It was the same rifle that his father had been issued a decade and a half ago during World War II days. Short, senior, had marked his name on the rifle when called up.

□ Willis Kroll in Helena, Montana, was charged with shooting a bear out of season. At first claiming self-defense, Kroll changed his plea and was fined \$52.50 when Game Warden William Eckerson testified that the animal had been shot in the rump.

□ Ever since a whiskey advertisement appeared with three men looking at some old guns, the ad agencies have been cashing in on the popular antique-gun interest. Latest is the naming of one of Van Heusen's latest sport shirt designs "Flintlock Checks." Ad shows a horn-rimmed gent with carefully waxed mustache gingerly handling a gold-garnished flintlock horse pistol.

"I HORSETRADED A STABLE FULL OF GUNS FROM SCOTLAND YARD"

"Now here's my deal for you. Some time ago I got word that Scotland Yard wanted to unload a rogue's gallery full of pistols and revolvers that they've been lifting off of thugs and scalawags over there for the last fifty years. I bought the whole batch and they're sitting out back right now."



"Some of these guns are so old they look like they had bows and arrows traded in on them. Some of them are guns I never even heard of. They aren't in mint condition but I can guarantee that they were kept inside all this time (not out in the yard)."

"I'll ship you 2 of these guns to hang on your wall for \$17.00 or three for \$23.00 together with a notarized personal letter from me verifying their origin. If you don't like 'em you can ship 'em back and I will refund your money."

**TWO DIFFERENT
SCOTLAND YARD GUNS
1700
THREE DIFFERENT
SCOTLAND YARD GUNS
2300**
FOB BURBANK



Brand new Frontier Sixshooters "The Gun that won the West"

Exact duplication of the famous Colt gun in feel, appearance and action. Made of highest quality aircraft type steel. Hand, bolt and trigger are made of Beryllium copper. All parts highly polished blue or case hardened color on frames. (Fitted with micro target adjustable sights, \$20 extra.) All Frames 45 caliber. The 22 cal in 5 1/2" bbl only. 45 Colt Sheriff's Model, in 3" or 3 1/2" bbl only. All other calibers in bbl lengths of 4 1/4", 5 1/2", 7 1/2". No ext charge. Unconditionally guaranteed for 1 year against defects in workmanship and material.



**NEW MIGHTY
MIDGET REVOLVER \$19.95**
One of the smallest revolvers in the world. Excellent for home, long trips, target practice, etc. Precision made of finest material. Fires new 22 Remington Rocket or standard .22 short or long ammo. Single and double high speed action. Overall length 5 1/2" with 2" bbl. 6 shot. Wt 11 oz. Solid frame. Built in ramrod. Large target hammer. Crisp trigger pull. Limited supply. Pearl grips \$8.50. Leather Holster \$6.50.

**NEW CO2
AMERICAN LUGER
Repeating Pistol \$29.95**
Beautiful reproduction with perfect balance of the old German Luger. Liquid gas operated, new high velocity. 22 Caliber 8-shot repeater. Fires all standard CO2 Caliber cartridges with an entirely revolutionary new principle. Automatic residue drain. Molded stag grips, genuine dark gun blue. Wt 38 oz.

ENFIELD .410 SHOTGUNS \$38.50
Very rare and unusual. Looks exactly like an Enfield 303, but really a 410 gauge single shot. Used by British officers in India for bird shooting.

**DEN SPECIAL
LONG GUNS 3 for \$25.00**
I just corralled 5000 guns from all over the world, representing darn near every country you ever heard of. While they last. I'll ship you—1 for \$12.50 2 for \$20, 3 for \$25. No two alike.

**6 ft. Long African-Arab
Trade Musket \$19.95**
These were made up by the Hollywood Studios for use in their African Motion Pictures. An unusual item for a man's den or cabin. A real collector's item.

ENFIELD .303 CAL. RIFLE \$24.95
Bolt action rifles, in good condition. Used by the British Govt. as their standard Military Rifle. Makes a very nice sporter and ammo, is reasonable. Good for all big game hunting.

MAUSER RIFLES 8 MM \$37.50
8 MM Cal. in fair to good condition. An excellent hunting rifle. Used by the Germans in the 2nd World War. One of the finest of the high powered rifles.

**\$18.50
PANCHE VILLA CARBINE**
These guns cracked with conquest in the hands of Pancho Villa and his raiders in the Mexican uprisings against Diaz. 7 MM rolling block. Fair condition. A great collector's item.

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Brand new 455 Cal. Very rare ordnance model. A must for all military collectors.

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357 Mag. \$59.50
num. 6 bbl. The world's most powerful handgun. When this one talks there's thunder in the hills. Excellent condition.

**Webley & Fosbury
.455 Cal. Automatic Revolver \$49.95**
The only true automatic Revolver. A very rare gun. After each shot the cylinder automatically revolves and hammer comes back for next shot. A beautiful Target Revolver with a very fine action.

**FRENCH LEBEL
8mm. \$14.95**
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COLT NO. 3 DERRINGERS \$49.95
A highly prized collector's item. Unbelievable as it may seem. I stumbled on a whole cache of them. All in good condition. 41 Cal., some in blue finish, some nickel. At a low price.

CZECH AUTO PISTOL \$24.95
Used by Czech secret police. One of the few modern Auto Pistols with an exposed hammer. Lightning fast and you always know when Automatic is cocked because of the exposed hammer.

**BRAND NEW! \$49.95
Double Barrel Derringer**
Appearance is exactly like old Remington Derringer but made of fine chrome Molybdenum steel. Completely re-designed action eliminating all objectionable features in the old model. Fires 38 S&W Caliber. In standard blue satin finish, with black checkered grips.

**WEBLEY & SCOTT
.455 Auto Pistol \$24.95**
Model 1913. One of the largest and most powerful handguns in history. Very rare, only a few on hand. Used by British Navy in World War I.

**MAUSER 98
ACTION \$18.95**
Here's the standard long action that is used to build sporting rifles in the following calibers: 30-06 Springfield, 270 Winchester, 300 Savage, 308 Winchester, 7 MM Mauser and many other popular calibers. With this complete action, all you need is a chambered barrel in the caliber you desire, and a good stock to assemble your own custom sporter. Add 50c for each action ordered to cover postage.

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SPECIAL**
Special purchase of antique European military pistols. In rare and unusual calibers. Each one from a different country. Fair condition.

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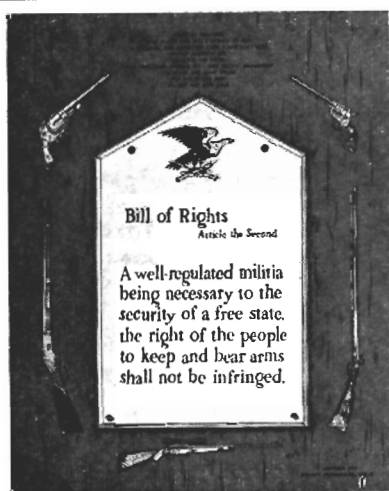
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STREET.....
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DECEMBER
1955
Vol. 1
No. 12-12

Guns



MAGAZINE

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Light Mossberg .22 with scope used by Laverne Young is one of several "junior" rifles made today which are ideal for young shooters to train with or take hunting.

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Christmas Suggestions from Wisler's

Swivel-Seat Shell Box

Combination shell carrying case and sponge rubber seat. Seat adjusts to any height, and is held firm by automatic catch bolt. Seat pivots for swing shots. Heavy leather handle. 13" x 6" x 10". Holds 6 to 8 boxes of shells. Finished in non-reflecting olive green baked enamel. **\$9.95**



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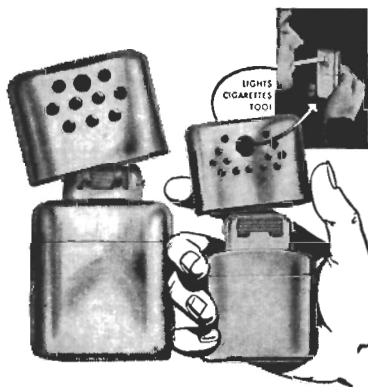
2 Guns	\$ 8.00
3 Guns	10.00
4 Guns	12.00
5 Guns	14.00
6 Guns	16.00



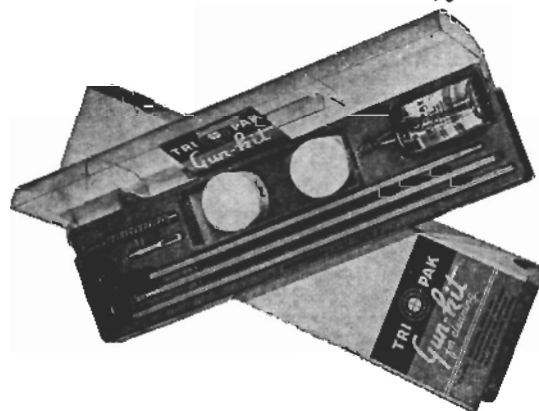
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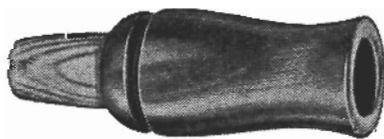
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Flashing red-top beam for safety. Powerful searchlight beam for light with pivot base for easy angle adjustment. Independent switch controls. Finished in red enamel with grey trim. **\$6.75**



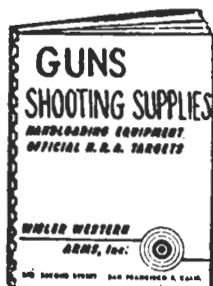
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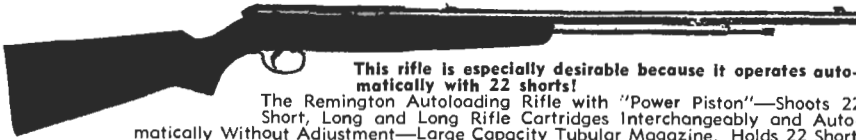
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.22 Caliber Short, Long & Long Rifle, standard velocity or higher speed without adjustment; Receiver Grooved for "Tip-Off" Telescope Mounts No. 550A Grade—Open Sights



This rifle is especially desirable because it operates automatically with 22 shorts!

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An amazing value in a streamlined autoloading rifle. 24-inch round, tapered barrel, crowned at muzzle. Genuine American walnut one-piece sporting stock; pistol grip. Semi-beavertail fore-end. Corrugated trigger. Convenient, positive thumb safety. Positive feeding and ejection. Shotgun style Bakelite butt plate checkered to prevent slipping. Length over-all 43½ inches—taken down 31½ inches. Weight, about 6¼ pounds. No. 550A—Remington step-adjustable rear sight. Concealed dovetail slot for other rear sights if desired. White metal bead front sight.

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Packed in original German 15-round cartons and made in Germany's finest factories—some bear labels such as RWS and DWM. The bullets are a true 0.323 diameter, 175-gr. boat-tail design. Components alone worth our special price! This ammo is the very best quality German Military Issue, made when standards were high. Only \$6.00 per 100 rounds. Or, a Super-Special price of only \$81.00 per wooden case, (superb ammo cases), lot of 1500 rounds.

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Military Ammo Sold only in 100-round units. Your choice of American-Made Commercial Hunting Ammunition in any of the following calibers and bullet-weights—Only \$3.90 per box of 20 rounds:

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Soft Point, SUPER SPEED—110-gr., 150-gr., 180-gr.

30-06 CALIBER—

110-gr. Soft Point, SUPER SPEED
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180-gr. Silvertip Exp. SUPER SPEED
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Rare MG34 and 42 50-round side

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Special Double set for above..... 7.95

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22 Short, per 50	.46
22 Short, Hollow Point, per 50	.54
22 Short, ROCKET, per 28	.28
22 Long, per 50	.64
22 Long Rifle, per 50	.70
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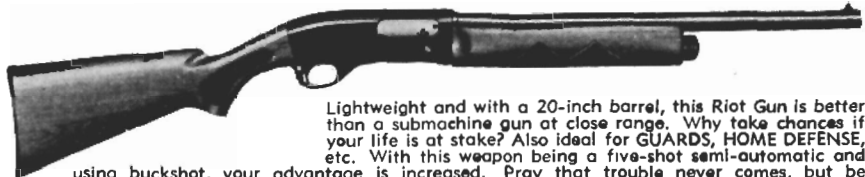
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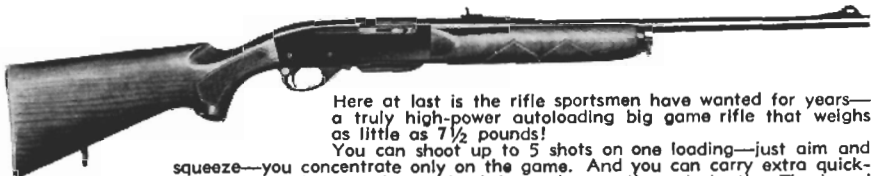
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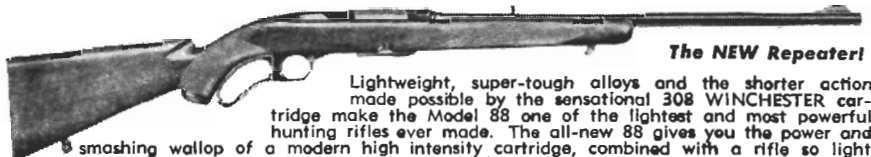
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TRIGGER TALK

THIS ISSUE of GUNS Magazine marks the completion of our first year and we should like to take the occasion to report to our readers on our progress. Started to fill a void in the gun publication field, GUNS has devoted its first 12 issues to a popular, highly-readable, attractive presentation of all phases of gun sport. Recognizing that the field of firearms is more than just a highly-technical specialty but rather a popular pastime for millions of Americans, GUNS has endeavored to dramatize and popularize all phases from collecting to Western interest, from pistol target shooting to trap and skeet.

The editors of GUNS see in the growth of the sport a healthy trend back towards the day when the U.S.A. was truly a nation of marksmen. We have attempted to counter the do-gooder, namby-pamby crowd who views every target shooter as a potential criminal. To us the freedom to indulge in gun sport is a basic concept of the founding fathers written into the Constitution and GUNS intends to do its utmost to defend that principle not only in these pages but in every other way possible.

Certainly the 25 million Americans who own firearms are also anxious to defend their rights. To them guns are an exciting, intriguing sport. The interest in gun sport is reflected in the remarkable growth of GUNS Magazine in a single year. Our circulation has doubled since our first issue. Thousands of gun enthusiasts have indicated their faith in our future by subscribing for periods anywhere from one to three years. Our subscribers are found all over the earth, from Sweden to Indo-China, from Argentina to Egypt.

Most heartening has been the response not only of advertisers but of readers to ads. Many gun dealers have reported that they have had a phenomenal number of inquiries and sales as a result of their advertisements in GUNS Magazine.

On the occasion of the completion of our first year in business, GUNS wishes to thank every one of its readers and advertisers for their wonderful support and express the hope that we can continue to merit that loyalty in future years to come.

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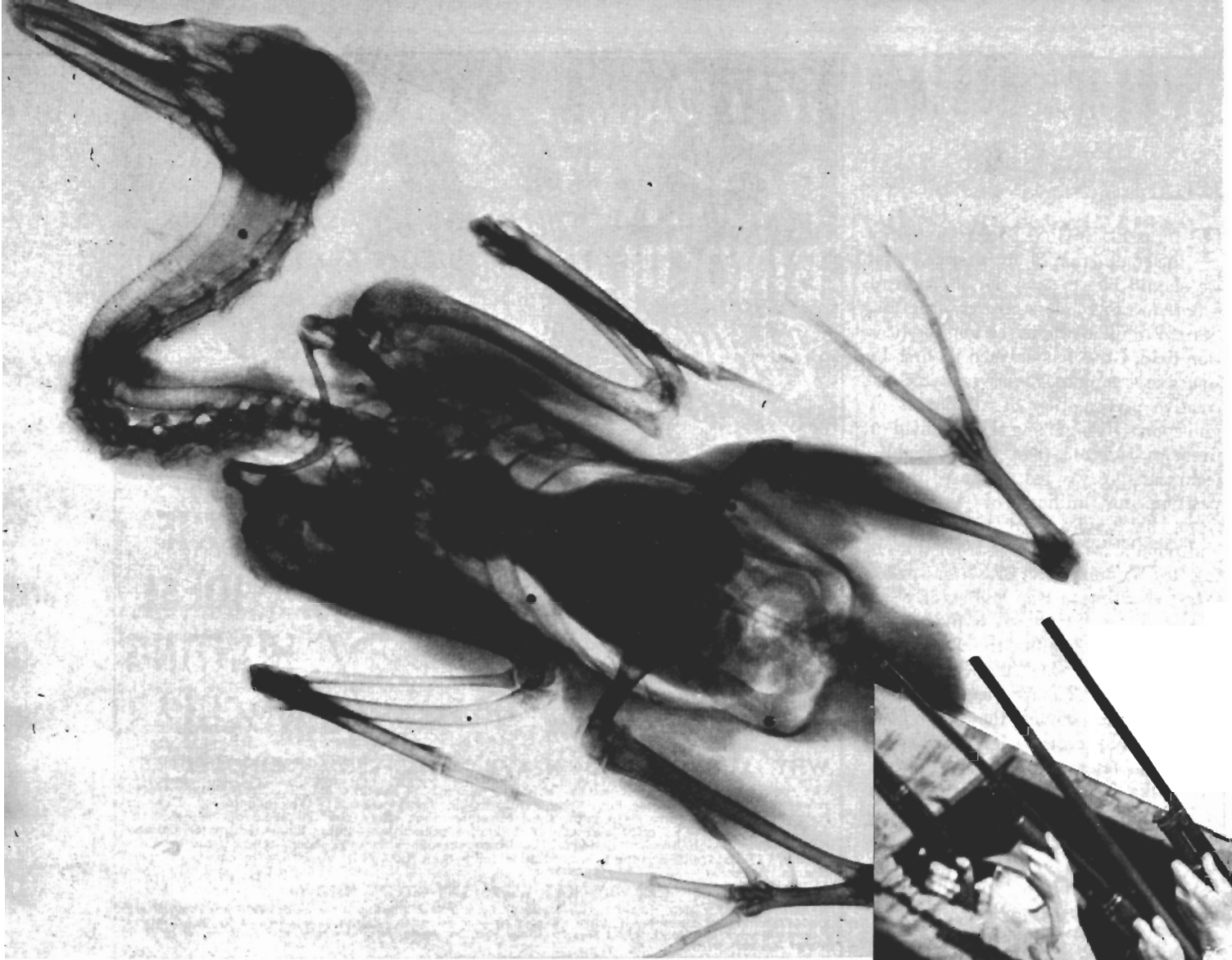
FROM 3 CONTINENTS

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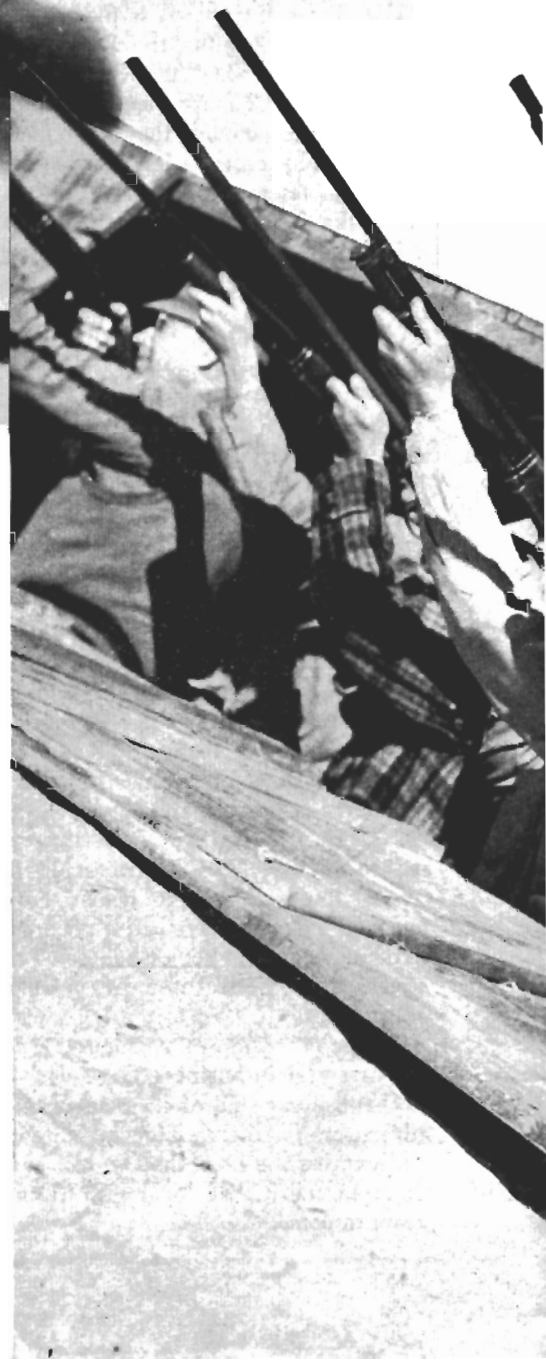
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Fluoroscope photo of drake mallard with five shot pellets in body, but still kicking and alive, proves importance of heavier shot for sure kills out in field.

Extreme range at which ducks are shot at, rarely killed, is emphasized by drawing of ducks in various enlargements seen through glasses.



AS SEEN
WITH UNAIDED EYE



6 DIAMETERS
MAGNIFICATION



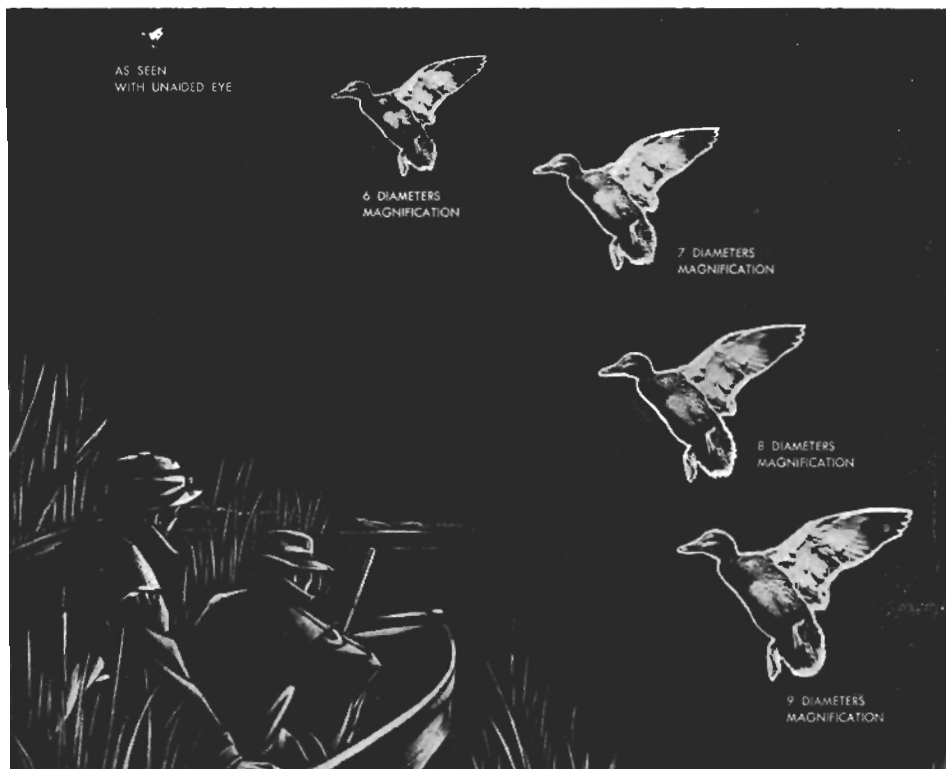
7 DIAMETERS
MAGNIFICATION



8 DIAMETERS
MAGNIFICATION



9 DIAMETERS
MAGNIFICATION



WHY DUCKS DON'T STAY SHOT

AMAZING ABILITY OF MALLARDS TO ABSORB PELLETS AND KEEP FLYING
PROVED BY X-RAY STUDIES WHICH SHOW NEED FOR BIGGER SHOT IN GUNS

By WILLIAM ELDER AND LOUIS CORBEAU

SNOWY DAYS and icy nights always bring on bull sessions among hunters, hashing over the season just passed and echoing post-mortems on the ducks that got away. Always there is the puzzle about that time when you swung ahead of a big greenhead, pressed the trigger of your trusty 12-gauge maggie—and still, she failed you, for the duck maybe wobbled a little in the air but kept on flying.

Most of us who went out on the marshes last fall shot a lot of holes in the sky, an average of five shots for every one that brought down a duck! Ducks are tough to kill; why don't they stay shot? Many a duck and a lot of geese,

yes, especially geese, that seem to be in range are going to go right by, unscathed, even though four or five shots have been fired. Even worse, a good many are going to wobble in their flight like that one you recall.

Among these wobblers that get tickled, 35 per cent will die, slowly, painfully, needlessly—sheer waste of wild-life. All hunters always bring up the old question: how many pellets how big does it take to stop a duck, to kill him cleanly so he doesn't wobble and go on? That's an important question, and it ties in directly with this crippling of birds who fly on to die alone.


Just how bad is this crippling loss we hear about and why does it happen? These are the \$64,000 questions. I could quote a dozen recent studies by well-trained men showing from actual observation that crippling loss, as measured by birds knocked down but not found, varies from 11 per cent under the best of conditions to 40 per cent in some of the public shooting marshes in Illinois. And Al Hochbaum of the Delta Waterfowl Research Station points out that for every diving duck bagged in his section of Manitoba, one is downed and lost. Just think what this means on a national scale: if these birds hadn't been lost they would have provided limits for one out of every three men who went hunting last year! That's worth doing something about.

How tough is a duck? Almost one-third of all the mallards cruising south after the hunting season is over carry at least one shotgun pellet tucked into their durable little dermis. These figures have been turned in by X-ray studies of ducks while banding them in the field.

Proof of the mallard's ability to carry lead was found when a fluoroscope study showed a big drake to be toting a .38 wadcutter slug in his breast. Despite the 155 grains (equal in weight to your favorite .30-'06 deer load), he was fat and in good spirits when examined.

While your hunting season for the individual hunter may be only 60 days, for the individual duck it is from August to January. That flight south is a tough one, and about 33 per cent of the drakes and 21 per cent of the susies carry pellets to prove it. We saw one drake with two .22 caliber bullets neatly tucked away in his big flight muscles. External examination showed that the entry holes had long since healed and Mr. Mallard had fully recovered.

A susie carried 13 pellets scattered in various parts of her underside. While most were in the heavy muscles, a few were just inside the abdominal wall and near the tail, showing that they just barely caught up to her as she made her getaway.



Long lineups of hunters with free shooting at ducks has resulted in one out of three mallards having shot in body.



Too-short lead like error of double-gunners (left) produces ducks with shot in tail but few actual ducks in roaster. Load of No. 4's from hunter's old Browning automatic packs power to get ducks at longer ranges and not result in cripples.

Naturally, the most common place for pellets is in the tail end, which proves only that most ducks are moving away when shot. But they are found all over the carcass. One day's work on the fluoroscope recently found three ducks carrying pellets in the thin webbing between the toes. We found one hen with a pellet neatly inserted in the joint of one leg, which gave her somewhat of a seductive wiggle as she walked across the ice.

Another had a pellet in the beak, making a second nostril on the starboard side. Although that duck snored when it breathed, it didn't show any signs of distress.

Shortly after the man at the fluoroscope found the .38 slug in a duck, one of his co-workers placed a six inch wood twist drill in with the duck in the next box. It brought a howl of surprise from the darkened booth, then a string of cuss words as the operator realized that while ducks may be tough, very few people are shooting drills in their shotguns these days. Despite an occasional bit of horseplay, this fluoroscoping of ducks is a serious business. It may be one of the most important tools in deciding whether or not the duck in your flyway is subjected to too much gun pressure, and if so, the state season will be varied accordingly.

Let's look at the factors which cause crippled ducks. First comes inadequate equipment. You may have a high-priced gun, newest and fanciest decoys, a pocket full of duck calls and still be too poorly prepared to go hunting waterfowl. What counts first in equipment for this type of shooting is the gun, and next comes the right ammo. The 12 gauge is the choice of most experienced waterfowlers the world over. Of course 16's and even 20's are used. One of the deadliest shots I know, none other than the famous wildlife photographer, Charley Schwartz, shoots a 20 gauge for everything. But he is more than a good shot. He knows ducks and where to find them, how to sneak them and how to call effectively. This combination gets his birds in close enough for the lesser range of effectiveness of the small bore. Other things being equal, the man with the 12 gauge has a much better chance.

And then comes loads. Don't make the mistake I did once when shooting with two more experienced friends. They killed ducks on both sides of me and I kept blasting away "without any luck." One of them got suspicious and said, "Bill, what kind of loads have you got there?" I looked and sure enough, they were light loads! The low brass base on the shell should have told me they were

no shells to bring on a duck hunt—they lacked the power and range needed. The high brass base on the heavy loads means there is more powder inside and this is what gives the lead shot the speed they need to penetrate the heavy layer of feathers, down and sub-cutaneous fat that ducks and geese carry around with them.

Want to get a hot argument going? Just ask a bunch of hunters what's the best shot size for ducks. Some swear that sixes are best, nearly an equal number believe in fours, and a few shoot two's at everything—what's good for goose is good for gadwall, teal or mallard, they say. And then I have a friend who says pattern means everything in bringing down a bird. So number 7½ shot is his choice.

Basically it's a simple question. The bigger the shot the harder it hits and the farther from the gun it retains this hitting power. But shells can be just so big—a maximum of 3 inches long in barrels chambered for magnum loads. With limited space the bigger the shot the fewer can be loaded in any one shell. So the dilemma a man faces is, how much can I sacrifice in pattern to gain greater hitting power?

To resolve this question once and for all Frank Bellrose of the Illinois Natural History Survey made a series of careful tests. He used live game farm mallards as targets, posed them with outstretched wings at a 45 degree angle from his gun. He then fired standard loads from a full-choked, 12 gauge shotgun held with a bench-type rest to insure accuracy. This set-up was checked by mounting paper behind the bird to print the pattern of each round. The effect on the duck was tested by observation on its ability to escape if still alive. Survivors were then killed and all were plucked to plot the course of the pellets that hit. In addition they were examined by X-ray for presence of shots that had lodged and not gone on through.

From these elaborate tests he learned that up to 35 yards one shot size was as good as another but beyond this, *number fours were better than sixes*, and the greater the range the greater the difference in their effectiveness. Well-centered patterns with number sixes began to give cripples beyond 40 yards. With number fours, however, this crippling did not begin until 50 yards was reached. This came from the fact that on the average, four shots must

penetrate the duck's body to make it likely to come down, and heavier shot has greater penetrating power. And they must hit hard enough to break a wing, penetrate the skull or the thick breast muscle or cut a blood vessel. In other words, if a gunner can put his pattern exactly on a duck at 50 yards, only half of the birds will get hit by four or more shots and at 60 yards only 19 per cent will collide with four shots.

From now on I'm shooting number fours at ducks, and geese too. Geese are usually farther away but look close because they are so big. That explains why so many

geese are flying around with one or two shots in their flesh.

Seven years ago we got curious about how many ducks and geese really are hit by shot and live to fly north again. So I built a portable fluoroscope. All it took was a small X-ray machine mounted in a lead-lined box to protect me and my helpers. On top was placed a cardboard screen coated with a special mineral that shines when hit by X-rays. Putting a blackout tent over this apparatus and making it run with a portable gasoline generator, we were ready to examine ducks and geese to see how many had lead shot in their flesh. Since lead holds back the X-rays, more than does bird bone, each



Careful studies of habits of ducks in native habitat as well as X-rays are designed to conserve birds and give hunters more birds to shoot at.

shot would show up as a round black dot on the bright screen in the dark of my tent.

But the mallard is a rugged individualist and doesn't show up in the sick bay when he needs X-ray therapy. How do you go about fluoroscoping a thousand mallards? The recipe starts out—"first catch the ducks."

These birds were all live ones caught by conservation teams for banding. We helped the banders trap and round up the flappers (ducks that are hiding because they can't fly in midsummer during the peak of their feather molt), and the other fellows helped me fluoroscope the birds before turning them loose on the marsh.

By now 20,000 birds have gone under that machine and a lot of surprising things have turned up. Nearly one drake mallard out of every three that survives the fall flight and returns to Canada to nest has lead shot in his body. In Canada geese, 40 per cent to 50 per cent are carrying body shot. These are the healthy birds that have got well from their wounds of last fall. To me (Continued on page 49)

SKEET

Skeet stance is demonstrated by instructor W. S. Seybold of Greenbriar Hotel at White Sulphur Springs.

BETWEEN THE TWO SHOTGUN SPORTS, THERE IS SLIGHT DIFFERENCE BUT FANS WILL HEATEDLY ARGUE MERITS OF FASTEST-GROWING SHOOTING GAMES

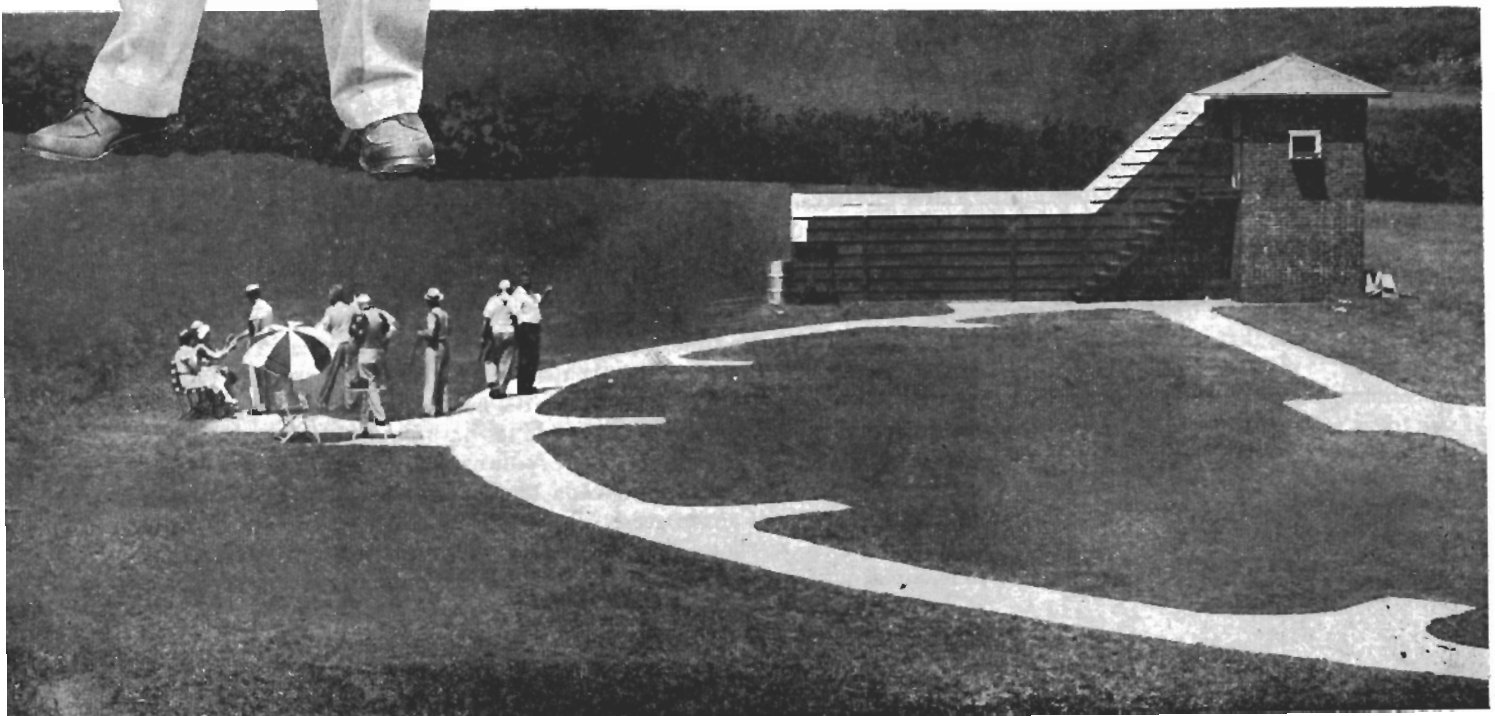
A LONG THE HIGHWAYS you're beginning to see their ranges more frequently. At night their floodlights blaze for miles around. If you stop to watch, the "pop" of shotguns drifts in from the firing front where in groups of five, men, women, and children are taking part in this fastest-growing sport in America, the live-wire action game of shotgunning.

To watch these shooters in action is a revelation to the rifle and pistol man. Rifle shooters—large and small caliber—and pistol shooters get together at Camp Perry every year and have a chance to watch and learn each other's idiosyncrasies. But shotgunners seem a race apart: for long blistering days, they blaze away at small flashing grey disks, expending hundreds of thousands of shotshells in an incredibly short space of time. The grounds between clean-up times are literally carpeted with red and green shotshells at

the firing points. That was the picture at two of the most important summer gun meets in America—the Grand American Handicap trap shooting tournament at Vandalia, Ohio, and the meeting of the National Skeet Shooting Association at Waterford, Michigan.

Among these roadside shooters, men, women, and nerveless teenagers, are many aiming for the chance to attend the granddaddy of trapshooting tournaments, the Grand American. Vandalia is thrilling: the crowds, the competition, and the prize money. From piddling little prizes like \$1300 won by Bill Clark of Chicago, and another \$1300 won by Dick Miller of Princeton, Indiana, up to the whopping purse of \$9,000 and a box full of sterling silver which came to top-scoring gunner Logan Bennett by way of compensation for his thousands of practice rounds spent preparing for the event. There is

Typical skeet layout has concrete semicircle of seven gun stations and center station in line with towers. Only high tower is shown in photograph below.



VERSUS TRAP

By STERLING MARCHER

Trap stance with gun ready is shown by Greenbriar's instructor Seybold.

a lot of money in prizes floating around southern Ohio in August, and a lot of winners after the shooting is over. Entry is not cheap: about \$300 in fees to compete in all events, but to those who can regularly follow the call of "pull!" with a black puff of clay-bird dust, the end is mighty satisfying.

Shotgunners as they come into action are motion perfected. A trap shooter stands at the shooting position, gun at the shoulder, pointed at the trap house. At "pull" the referee sends a clay bird flying and the gunner follows through. A skilled gunner can respond so fast to the visual stimulus of seeing the bird that it is pulverized a few yards from the trap house. Others hold on it a little longer. Some—the losers—wait too long or fire hurriedly, missing.

Skeet shooters have a different stance, if "stance" it could be called. A line of five expert skeet gunners, shooting off a tie, will walk up to the firing

point, snap their guns to the shoulder, mutter "pull!" and without conscious or perceptible aim or even seeming to look at the flying targets, blast doubles right and left. Apparently not even having paused in their walking, they wheel around and return to the end of the line. There is no doubt about a fair hit: the target disappears in a puff of black dust. A bird not centered in the pattern, or one that may have almost slipped through a hole, will break into several pieces but not disappear as completely as one hit square.

At Vandalia, an unexpected mental hazard was offered by the use of some new clay birds. They wouldn't shatter: one bird was picked up with 22 pellet holes drilled neatly through it, unbroken! Such accidents are rare, and with ordinary clay birds now in use, nothing like that need be expected.

Trapshooting has changed somewhat from the days of Joe Manton and

Trap layout has five positions and extra length concrete for handicap distances. Grand American tournament is held annually in August at Vandalia, Ohio, where nation's best compete for big prizes after a year-long buildup.





At #5 trap point gunner takes a stance which allows him to quickly cover birds thrown in any direction.

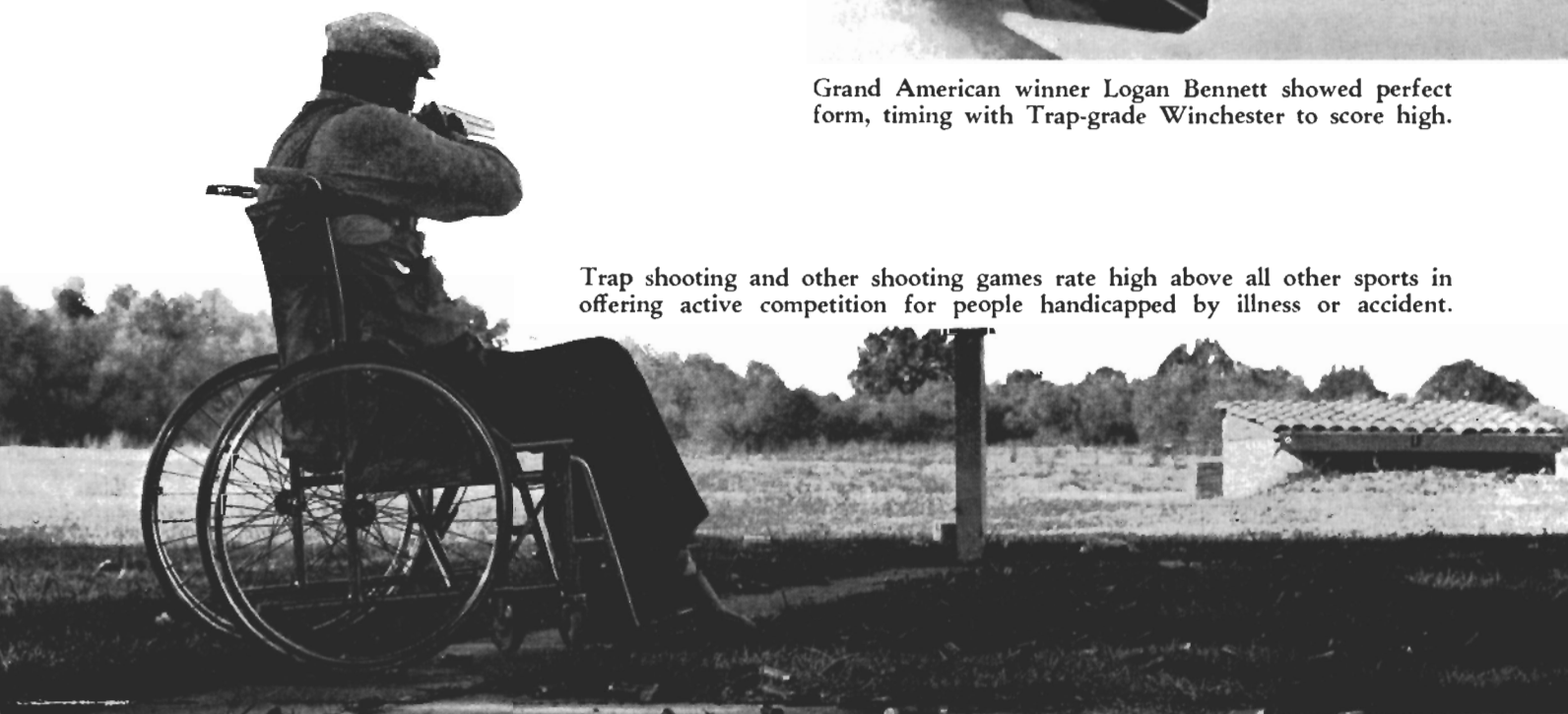
Colonel Peter Hawker in the 18th Century. Today a trap range is made up of one to a dozen or more firing lines, depending of course on the amount of land available and the number of people using it. Shotgunning, because extreme range is 80-100 yards with even heavy shot, can be done under range conditions where solid bullets would be dangerous. No backstops are needed for trap shooting, and the pellets can fall harmlessly into a farmer's field without damaging the crops. It is a good bet for land near a highway, where the blast of high power rifles or pistols would be objectionable and the bullets dangerous.

A regulation trap layout consists of five positions or stations from which the members of the squad fire. The stations are 16 yards from the trap house, and are placed in a slight semi-circle and five yards apart. The five contestants are called a squad, with each man taking his own station.

The round begins with the man at station #1 who takes the first shot, then the man at station #2 fires, with each man firing only once when his turn comes. When a man is ready to shoot he is at the 16 yard rise or line, is in his shooting stance, gun to his shoulder, shell in the chamber, and is aiming at the trap ready to *(Continued on page 42)*

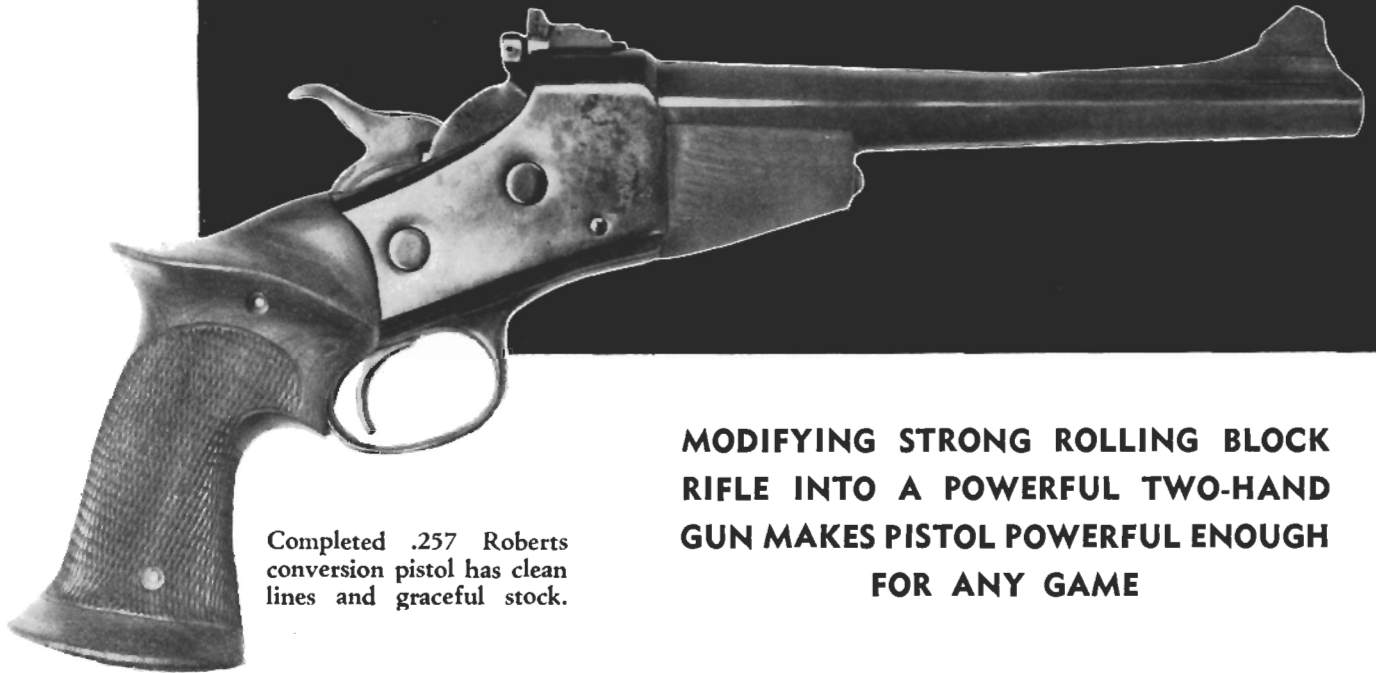


Grand American winner Logan Bennett showed perfect form, timing with Trap-grade Winchester to score high.



Trap shooting and other shooting games rate high above all other sports in offering active competition for people handicapped by illness or accident.

CONVERTING A RIFLE INTO A PISTOL



Completed .257 Roberts conversion pistol has clean lines and graceful stock.

**MODIFYING STRONG ROLLING BLOCK
RIFLE INTO A POWERFUL TWO-HAND
GUN MAKES PISTOL POWERFUL ENOUGH
FOR ANY GAME**

By ALFRED J. GOERG

THERE ARE many kinds of madness, running the gamut from the screwballs who think they're Napoleon to the weirdies who cut out paper dolls. I guess everyone gets his own crazy notions every so often and recently I became addled with what many would term a nutty idea—I wanted a pistol which would shoot a rifle cartridge.

I wasn't exactly the first one to get the mad notion of making a pocket howitzer—the ordnance department had beaten me to it some years ago. Shortly after the Civil War some wag at Springfield Armory sawed off a .50 caliber Model 1866 rifle and made a pistol out of it. Later no less an officer than General William T. Sherman ordered the Colt Company to make a single action revolver firing the .45/70 carbine cartridge. They say that tester Sergeant Bull fired one shot, sprained his wrist, and left the range before they asked him to do any more tricks.

So when I decided to clobber up my doggy Remington rolling block carbine into a heavy rifle-caliber pistol, I wasn't exactly trodding a new path. Yet when all was done, I was far from displeased, and the resulting handgun proved to me and many admiring gun-nuts that the idea of a pistol-rifle, properly carried out, is really practical.

I used a Remington rolling block for two reasons: first, it was strong and it was handy, and secondly, Remington had used smaller rolling block frames for pistols as well as rifles. Such alterations from 7mm rifle into pistol requires an active imagination, an overabundance of ingenuity, and . . . I almost forgot . . . a skilled machinist-gunsmith.

Between gunsmith William "Mac" McDougall and myself (who supplied the overactive imagination), there was created a 4¼ pound two-handed pistol chambered for the



Original Remington rolling-block carbine in 7mm Mauser caliber was used as basis for big-game killing pistol.



Remington receiver tangs must be bent and spring altered for large-size custom grips to take up kick.



New Micro rear sight was put on breech, tangs bent and hammer spur lowered in pistol conversion.



Special form-fitting grips made by Steve Herrett allow firing .257 rifle cartridge with comfort and accuracy.



While pistol is real handful, it is not appreciably larger than ordinary guns. Being a single shot, only one spare cartridge is carried in loop on holster skirt.

bouncy .257 Roberts rifle cartridge. I avoided saying the pistol was "born," because that would leave me open for some detractor to slyly ask "aborted?" But by the time we were done cutting and hacking, we had whomped up one of the neatest bundles of dynamite to ever wear walnut handles. It was a handloading proposition of course, as the nine-inch barrel is too short to efficiently burn the powder used in factory loadings. The only thing the factory loads give to the pistol is an ear-splitting muzzle blast and a flash like Hiroshima.

Almost any barrel bored for the cartridge you intend to use can be fitted to the action. We used a Winchester barrel shouldered back and re-chambered to .257 Roberts with a free bore of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. This latter is purely a precautionary measure against excessive pressures.

The 7mm extractor was already the correct size as the 7mm case head is the same as the .257 Roberts case. Fortunately, this same extractor size will also work on other cases based on the Mauser diameters, such as the .300 Savage, 250/3000 Savage, .30-06, .308, and others. The rimmed cases like the .30-40 and .30-30 can be made to work


with some extractor alteration. Originally of course the rolling block action was designed for rimmed cases.

Mac tapered the new barrel and put a 7/16 inch Williams ramp on the front. He then milled a patridge type front sight for the $\frac{3}{8}$ " ramp dovetail, making the blade the right size for the rear sight. This was a Micro adjustable rear, made for the Colt New Service revolver, and was fastened to the top of the receiver with two screws.

Action work involved a lot of changing, but nothing beyond the capabilities of an ordinarily skilled metal worker with a few tools. The hammer spur was heated and bent down with a slight curve. I wanted a little less hammer fall, so two $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and one $\frac{5}{16}$ inch holes were drilled in it to lighten it. The trigger pull was shortened and eased by drilling a hole in the hammer notch and inserting a pin. Then the pin was cut to give full control of the sear.

To make it possible to fit a pistol grip to the ordinarily straight stock action, the bottom tang was bent downward in a long curve. The top tang was cut off and built up by welding on a piece of metal. The heavier part was then drilled and tapped. A piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch steel (Continued on page 48)

HOW TO CHOOSE A GUN FOR YOUR YOUNGSTER



Light .410 or 20-gauge pump gun, such as the Model 12 Winchester, is good choice for older boy.

PICKING A RIFLE FOR SMALL FRY REQUIRES SOUND JUDGMENT TO FIT GUN TO BOY, STARTING HIM OFF RIGHT AS GOOD SHOOTER

By HENRY M. STEBBINS

TO CHOOSE A GUN for a youngster is to be a broker in dreams—and woe to you if you “sell him short.” Guns are important to a lad, from the TV-cowboy small fry up to the serious teen-age or junior shooter. It’s no fooling matter, this problem of a first rifle, but it needn’t be a problem to you. The kid’s been mixing serious thought with his breathless hope, and he’s likely to have definite ideas. So you—someone he ought to remember long after

your last hunt is over—are there to guide his choice intelligently.

I remember one 14-year-old, who was bigger in courage than size. To bring the long 12 gauge pump to face made him grunt, and the recoil sent him back almost to the waiting hands of the instructor. It was his gun, at least for the day, and he wanted to shoot it, but it was really just too much gun for him. The moral is obvious.



BSA-Martini was shot by Miguel Swanswick, 11, in Canadian matches.



Jackie O'Donnell, junior trap champ, found Winchester M12 "right gun."



Nick Egan, Flushing, L. I., teen-ager, won Grand American with Model 12.

He welcomes your advice. Whether he knows it or not, he wants a gun to help him develop all the skill that's latent in him. Kids like to excel. The more common sense you show in helping him, the more likely he is to consult you when time and need bring up the selection of a second gun, or a third.

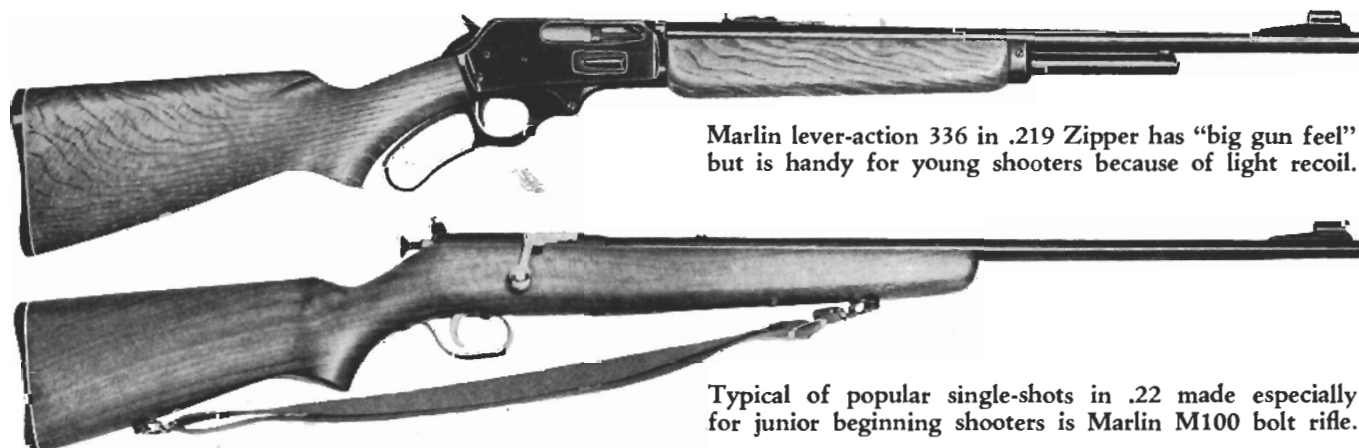
Usually the first one is a .22. If he joins a junior rifle club, he needs one. Oh sure, he can borrow a friend's rifle at the range or use a club gun, but pride of ownership comes close to self-respect itself. He'll take care of his own if you show him the why and how, and he'll get to know it as a rifleman should.

If there's hunting as well as target work, he may need something lighter than the 8 to 9 pound junior match rifles like the Mossberg 144 LS, Winchester 75 and Remington 513 T, dual-purpose though they are for a big fellow who can tote one all day and still be in form when the sun gets low. A gunsling means everything in prone

or sitting, or offhand when a cross-wind buffets the rifle. The pinhole disc of the peep sight can be turned out to leave a big aperture close enough to the eye for snap-shooting. Except in shady woods or swampland the black post insert of the front sight works well, and for those places a neat dab of white paint does wonders.

Another target and game rifle, the short-stocked Remington 521 TL, goes about 7 pounds and was built for juniors. Less expensive .22's can be cut to size. In this age of plastics and home workshops, it's easy to put fillers under the buttplate for extra length as the kid's arms creep out past the cuffs of last year's windbreaker.

In lower price brackets, the cheaper grade is preferable. Detachable box magazines are easier to unload (and be sure that they are unloaded) than tubular magazines are. Sometimes a last cartridge lands in the tube, waiting to make trouble. And the forestock bedding of the "clip" type is snuggier. You never want the beginner to feel that



Marlin lever-action 336 in .219 Zipper has "big gun feel" but is handy for young shooters because of light recoil.

Typical of popular single-shots in .22 made especially for junior beginning shooters is Marlin M100 bolt rifle.

he was plenty of shots at his disposal. The old hunter knows he hasn't!

Two well-refined rifles, the Winchester 75 Sporter and the Remington 513 S, are of game-gun style. The Winchester weighs about 5½ pounds, the Remington over a pound more. Weight out front in the barrel helps marksmanship, but weight is relative. A boy is willing to grow up to a fairly-heavy rifle but he doesn't want to wait too long. To him, hunting means far travel and seeing lots of country. In that way outdoorsmen are made.

If the .22 is almost entirely for hunting, a bolt gun needn't be first pick. Lever or slide action may have won the boy's heart. Yet the fact that he's left-handed doesn't rule out the bolt. A southpaw can wrench its handle up and slap it down with the sureness of the right-hander if the stock is short enough for him. Starboard ejection of empties bothers him no more than top ejection annoys a rifleman who shoots without a scope. These "drawbacks" mean nothing when the mind is on the shooting, instead of on the gun.

We must have accuracy, which other actions than the bolt can deliver, too. The .22 long-rifle is a sorry game load for anything tougher than a cottontail, unless the lead hits brain, heart or spine. The accuracy requirement rules out open sights, period. And no backtracking on that statement. Small game shooting with a rifle is precision work.

NRA Junior rules don't allow a scope. Yet in the hunting field the glass helps under most conditions, though it isn't as indispensable as some seem to think. Four power is enough for a light .22 sporter.

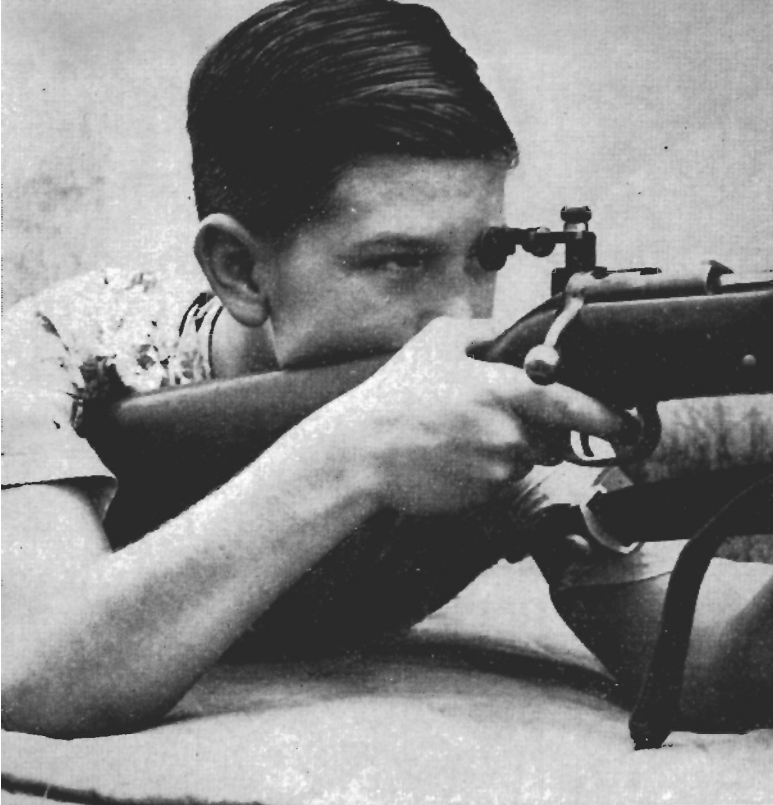
Most .22's now made are capable of sure kills on squirrels—brain shots, that means—up to 25 yards which is a long woods range on them. Some do better. There remains the ultimate "if"—shooting skill. No one gets sharp with the rifle unless he has a gunsling and good



Quality equipment like heavy barrel M52 with Redfield "Olympic" sights help junior shooter develop his skill.



LaVerne Young, Senn High School sophomore, is an enthusiastic shooter and under the guidance of her father, who goes hunting often, has become a crack shot with standard weight M52 with stock conveniently shortened for her use.



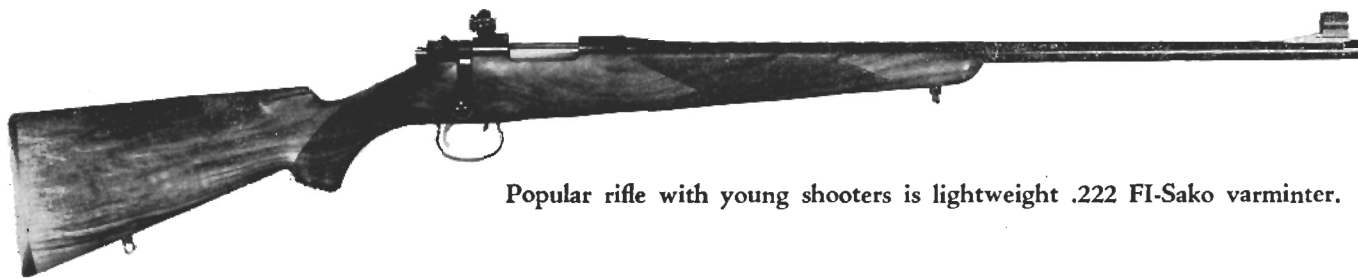
M52 Winchester is used by school athletic departments and is favorite with kids graduating to first "big" rifle.

iron or glass sights, and a record behind him of lots of carefully squeezed-off target rounds too.

There's an exception, snapshooting, like those tingling tries for running rabbits or safe, straight-overhead shots at crows. Here the slide action rifle, well balanced though hard to fit with a sling, does nicely. Too nicely, experience shows, with its too-easy rapid fire. And the semi-automatic should be barred as a first gun. Even with a single-shot it's hard to teach the cool command of a weapon, and this rifle often is the best for a start. It's no handicap in junior target training. Juniors don't use magazine fire.

For bigger small-game and longer shooting, the .22 Hornet cartridge is popular, and the .218 Bee is nearly if not quite as accurate. The .222 Remington, if too noisy for hunting fields near home, makes a good Hornet when handloaded down. The two little fellows are effective on woodchucks under 150 yards, under good conditions. The .222 is a rather good killer of coyotes—where any have survived the poisoning campaigns. The .219 Zipper in the light Marlin 336 makes a good combination for the bigger boy.

The 6-pound Winchester 43 Hornet or Bee is almost as accurate as the 70 Hornet that's 50 per cent heavier. The Savage 340 and British BSA in Hornet and .222, the Remington 722 and Marlin 322 in .222, all run about 7 pounds with iron sights and no sling, and they balance well for carrying. The foreign Thälson—JGA and FI-Sako come in



Popular rifle with young shooters is lightweight .222 FI-Sako varmint.



all three calibers, the latter with a heavy barrel as optional.

Those useful smallbores, .250 Savage and .257 Roberts, give the accuracy that teaches marksmanship. If you want a light rifle, you can get it in a Savage 99 F lever action or a Remington 722 bolt. Factories load sharp 87 grain bullets for varmint hunting.

Handloading makes other light rifles or carbines good all-rounders in .30-30, .300 Savage, .308 Winchester or .35 Remington. Besides fitting almost any caliber for at least moderate range varmint shooting, a loading outfit eases the steps up to full power rations.

Then there are standard weight rifles from about 8 to 9 pounds, a pound heavier with scope. In this bracket a husky kid has wide latitude in choosing style, action and caliber.

Often a big game rifle serves well as a varmint rifle too. The advantage of knowing an arm through year-round use is obvious, and most youngsters like full-calendar hunting.

My brother first hunted deer at about the age of 12 and did well, too, with his .44-40 carbine. Ranges were short and he kept his head. Now most boys are much older when they take their first deer hunt, and gun weight and recoil matter less to many of them than they do to lots of us.

(Continued on page 42)

Both Charles Prentiss—father and son—use Model 31 Remington skeet guns defending titles at Dallas shoot.

A SHOOTING IRON TOO HOT TO HANDLE



Special .22 Centerfire Colt Woodsman with barrel rib and weight by King became subject of heated controversy.

RADICAL .22 CENTERFIRE THREATENED TO SWEEP SHOOTING HONORS AT PERRY UNTIL POWERS-THAT-BE PRESSURED GUN OUT OF COMPETITION

By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS

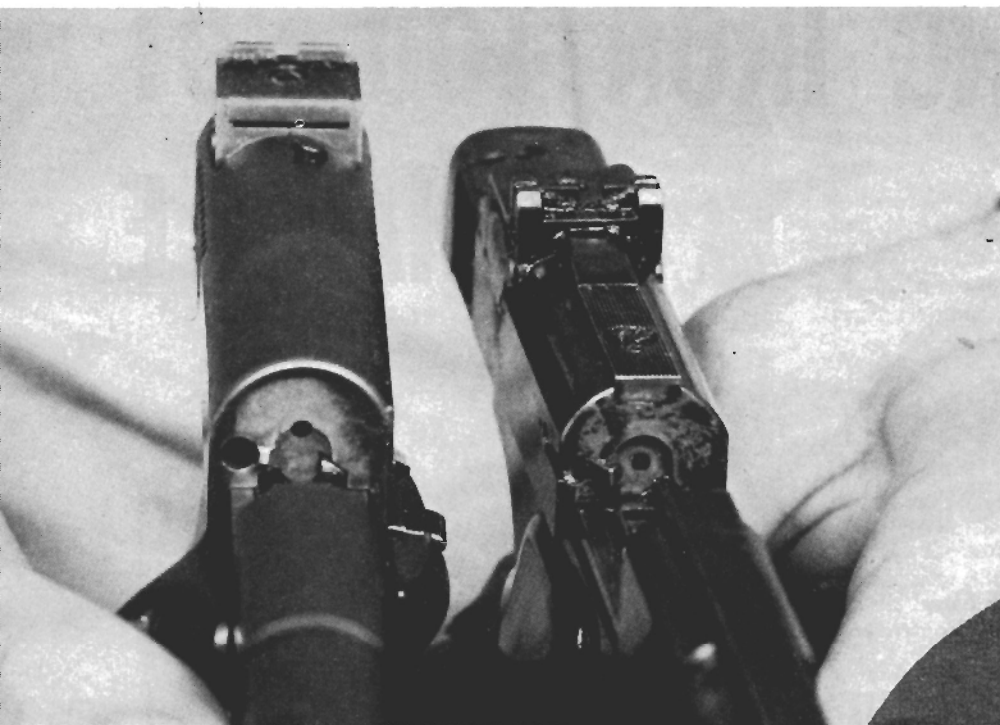
DURING A 10-YEAR period, I shot away by careful tally a total of 334,000 rounds of pistol ammunition. In that time I won the individual pistol championship of the United States, the pistol and revolver grand aggregate championship of the country, and was the No. 1 John on the 22 All-America Team. I barnstormed from Winnipeg to Havana and from Maine to Washington and every year was a firing member of the U.S. International Pistol Team. I won \$8.56 from the National Rifle Association when I copped the all-around championship so this made me a "pro" and ineligible for an Olympic berth.

I was not the best hand gunner in the game; I was just one of the best. I could go to the Nationals each year and come away with my share of the prizes but I couldn't beat everybody every time even though I wanted to do that.

This is the story of how I tried to do just that by putting together a shooting iron that gave me an edge on target. But my shooting iron proved to be too hot to handle—not for me but for the gents who run target shooting at the Camp Perry matches each year.

Big collection of trophies was garnered by Colonel Askins in shooting competition, but he was looking for gun that would make him regular winner. .221 Askins was result but officials barred it from matches.





Firing pin relocation to hit center is basic alteration of .22 rimfire to shoot centerfire .221 Askins load.

At first I had the notion that with more practice, I could bolster my skill so as to trim the competition regularly. I tried shooting every day—at first 100 rounds, and then 200 shots, and finally 300, but this was not the answer. I then switched to the other extreme and experimented with firing once weekly and after that twice each seven days. I finally settled on a practice stint every other day year in and year out. I lived like an Olympic athlete in strenuous training, did a regular stint of roadwork daily, followed a regime of calisthenics, careful diet, and was cautious not to over-indulge in any way.

As chief instructor of firearms for the U.S. Border Patrol, my only chore was to improve the marksmanship standards of the service. I felt there was a whale of a lot that was unknown about how to train marksmen, and was determined to pry into some of those secrets.

My experiments in shooting taught me a lot but did not



Center fire "Velo Dog" cases (right below and circle) furnished brass for forming shorter .221 Askins cartridge which was loaded (center below) to equal .22.



disclose how to clobber the other topfliers every time we went to bat. Finally I reached the conclusion that physical conditioning and practice firing were not the whole answer. Since guns and cartridges played a pretty big part in the equation, I took a long, hard look at both. Obviously the guns could stand some sharpening up. Which one needed it most?

Very apparently the old "target" .38. It was a clunk, a holdover in a thinly-disguised improvement from its for-bearer, the .38 Army Special, a sixgun that came out of the summer fracas we had with the Spanish back in '98. If I was going to improve my battery, here was the place for a beginning.

What I wanted to wring out of the .38 were scores as good as I could chalk up with the .22. I shot 295 with the .22 but only 285 with the centerfire. If I could jack the .38 totals up to the level of the .22 I'd have that necessary margin I was seeking. I determined to try.

What seemed to be the greatest failing of the old thutty-eight? Why, the recoil. The frame is so deep it permits a most pronounced turning motion when the fulminate explodes. This up-flip at muzzle is hard to control, since the grip cannot be maintained from shot to shot in a uniform manner. To boost scores I would have to find some way to dampen or entirely eliminate the kick.

I commenced by shortening the case. I whittled it down a tenth of an inch at a time until it was a runt. The gun still recoiled. Then I switched to the .38 S&W cartridge, a bunty case and a big bullet, but full of possibilities I thought. I tried various powder charges, different case lengths, several bullets but the experiment was a washout. The gun kicked.

I just be darned if I was going to be content with any centerfire that bucked a whit more than the peewee .22. It looked like it was going to be quite a chase.

I took another tack. The cartridge most closely akin to the .22, so far as diameter was concerned, was the .25 ACP. I gathered up a few hundred and commenced to experiment with them. The bullet is a little stinker, too short for its diameter and thus fated to shoot in lousy manner insofar as accuracy is concerned. I designed a new bullet and wheedled a good-natured mould manufacturer into making a mould which cast a longer and heavier slug. I had a gunsmith amigo rebuild the ratty (*Continued on page 62*)



Exhaustive testing of standard centerfire handguns convinced Askins that only a center fire .22 would eliminate recoil, which harassed all centerfire shooters in competition.


On duty with Border Patrol, Askins (right rear) was threatened with dismissal for developing "illegal" .221 cartridge.



THE BIGGEST GUN IN BASEBALL



After early morning hunt, Ted relaxes with bag of mallards lying at his feet.



Ted's favorite gun is Model 31 Remington pump, bought several years ago a few days before baseball season.

**TED WILLIAMS HELPED DEVELOP HIS
AMAZING BATTING EYE BY STARTING
TO SHOOT WHEN 14 AND CONTINUING
HUNTING FOR GAME IN LATER YEARS**

By TAP GOODENOUGH

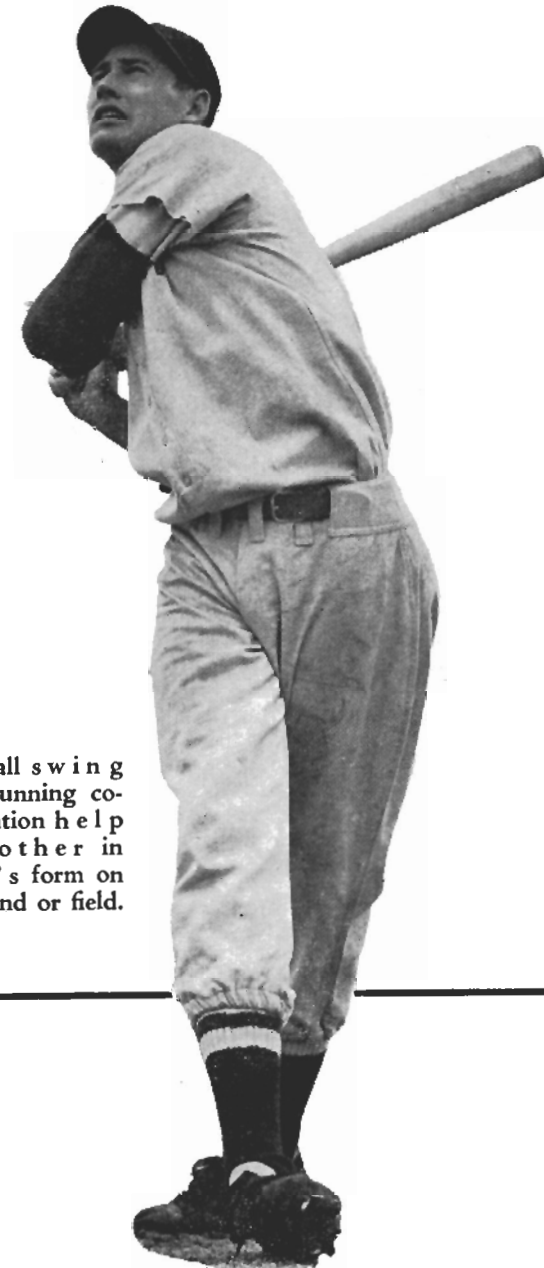
TALL, TANNED TED WILLIAMS, top batting star of the big leagues, wields a booming bat for the Boston Red Sox that has brought him fame as one of the greatest hitters in modern times. And booming barrels have long helped him to sharpen his batting eyes, helped his reflexes to stay tuned as fine as a concert violin. Noted as an expert and versatile angler for many years, few fans realize that Ted is equally adept with shotgun and rifle.

"Hunting and other kinds of gunning have always aided me in keeping my eye on the ball, as well as on targets, birds or game," grins Ted. "In recent years, I've tried some skeet and trap shooting—terrific sports! Why, I'd recommend every ball player to take up skeet or trap. They'd find that they'd whack that old apple oftener after a while."

As for hunting, Williams indulges in the pastime chiefly to condition his legs during the off-seasons. He feels that walking is neglected too much by today's athletes, so he covers miles and miles through fields and woods. As a result, he always reports for early spring training as fit as a Derby colt.

Is Ted a good marksman? "Williams is a natural at anything he attempts," comments a veteran gunner and companion of the Red Sox swatter. "He rarely misses his target. He's a superb wing shot, possessing rare judgment as to ranges, sighting and the like. And he's always cool under pressure, the sign of a top competitor."

Now 37, Ted saved his money earned from doing work after school, purchasing his first weapon when he was



Baseball swing and gunning coordination help each other in Ted's form on diamond or field.

about 14 or 15 in San Diego, Calif. He chose a double-barreled Winchester .410 shotgun, soon becoming very proficient with it. It was at this period in his life when he began to become interested in baseball at playgrounds near his home, yet much of his spare time was devoted to hunting and fishing.

As a kid, Williams was scrawny and underweight. He attributes his physical development to the constant use of rod and gun. The latter, of course, contributed to his good eyesight—an advantage to any batter.

"I loved to gun for ducks with that good old .410," reminisces Ted, his eyes shining like a youngster thinking of a favorite toy. "Yes, I used that gun for many purposes, even though it didn't have the range or power of other gauges. I think the .410 is an ideal shotgun for kids to start with. Matter of fact, it's swell for ladies, too, or all beginners, since there isn't any recoil. And it's accurate."

Ted chuckles when he recalls that shells cost only about 75 cents per box in those happy days as a youth. "Shot-



New magnum Model 12 duck gun is used by Ted for long shots in waterfowl hunting.



Credited with two years of flying in Korea, Ted much prefers exhilaration of duck shooting over decoys to chasing after MIG's in the skies.

gun shooting is an expensive sport today," says he. "Doesn't take long to use up several boxes of shells at skeet or trap—or even when hunting, if you're not on your targets."

Since Williams is paid an annual salary of \$100,000 by Tom Yawkey, owner of the Red Sox, he doesn't have to worry over the cost of ammo.

Like thousands of American boys, this idol of kids the country over once owned a .22 rifle, a little Winchester single-shot, enjoying many golden days in quest of squirrels, rabbits and other small game. He still fires a .22 occasionally for fun. Some time ago, so the story goes, he shot several pigeons in Fenway Park, Boston, on a day when the cavernous ball yard was empty save for the feathered intruders.

"A .22 can be a wonderful rifle for kids," say Ted, "and it's inexpensive to shoot, too. But I wish that more parents would see that their boys were taught how to handle their firearms properly. Not enough kids have been made to realize that a .22 cartridge carries for nearly a mile.

"A careful boy can have great sport with a .22. If he's lucky enough to live in the country, he's a king with his rifle. He wanders through the fields, knocking off blackbirds, squirrels and woodchucks. Crows and hawks offer good shooting, too. I wish every kid would make sure of his background before

firing, however. He must remember that ricochets are dangerous, never aiming at animals or birds on stonewalls—or at water.

"Care of rifles and shotguns is very important, although many boys and adults forget this, unfortunately. It's just as easy to clean your guns after they're fired as to wait for weeks, thereby allowing rust to form in the barrel. I always take good care of my guns and tackle."

During the past quarter-century, Williams has owned many rifles and shotguns of all calibers and gauges. He uses a 12-gauge magnum standard Model 12 Winchester considerably, but his favorite is a Remington pump, Model 31, in a little fancy grade.

"I've had my eye on that Model 21 Winchester shotgun with 28-inch barrel," says this "modern Babe Ruth," who intends to get one shortly. But Ted believes that a good marksman doesn't have to spend a fortune for his weapons.

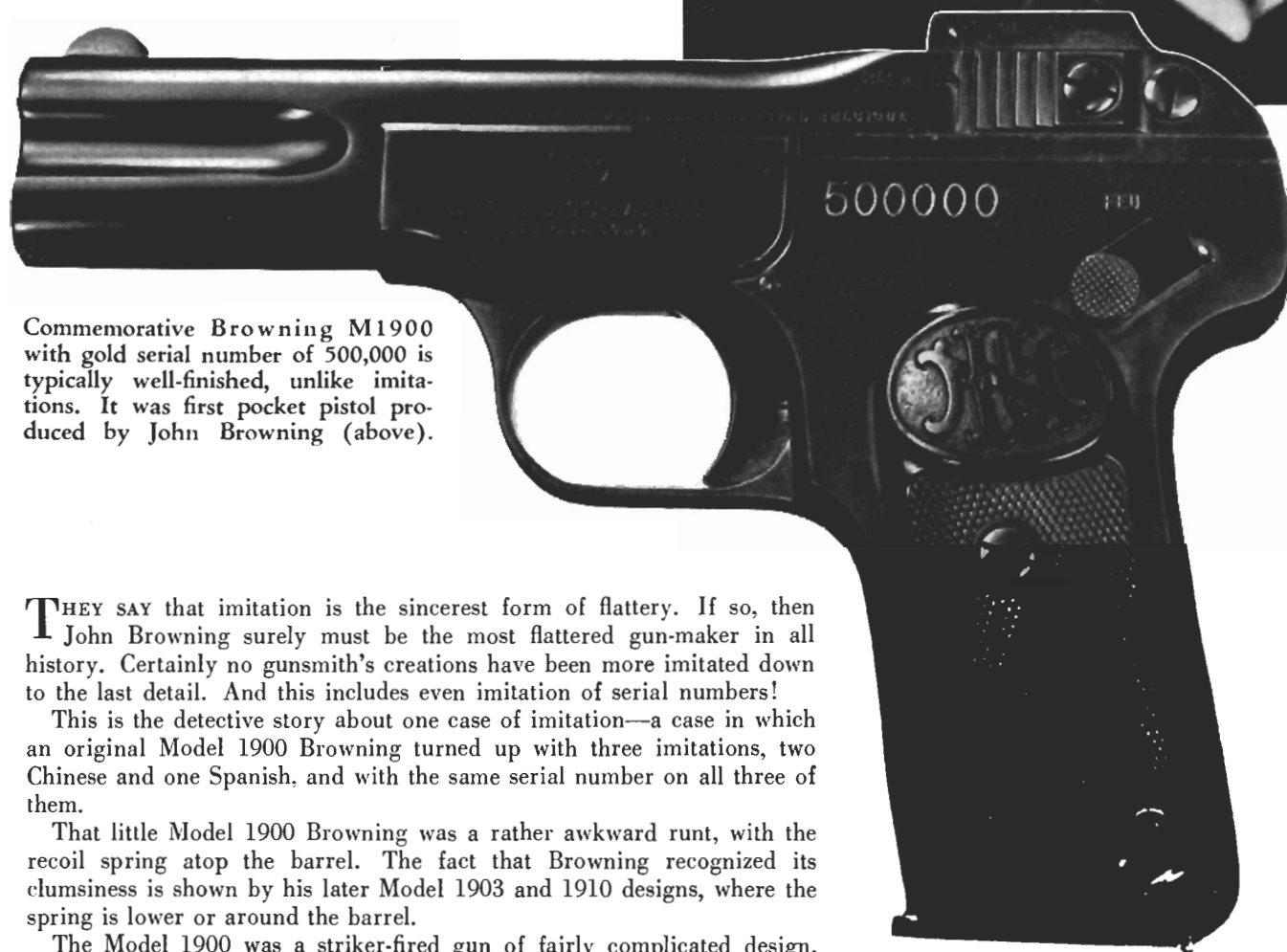
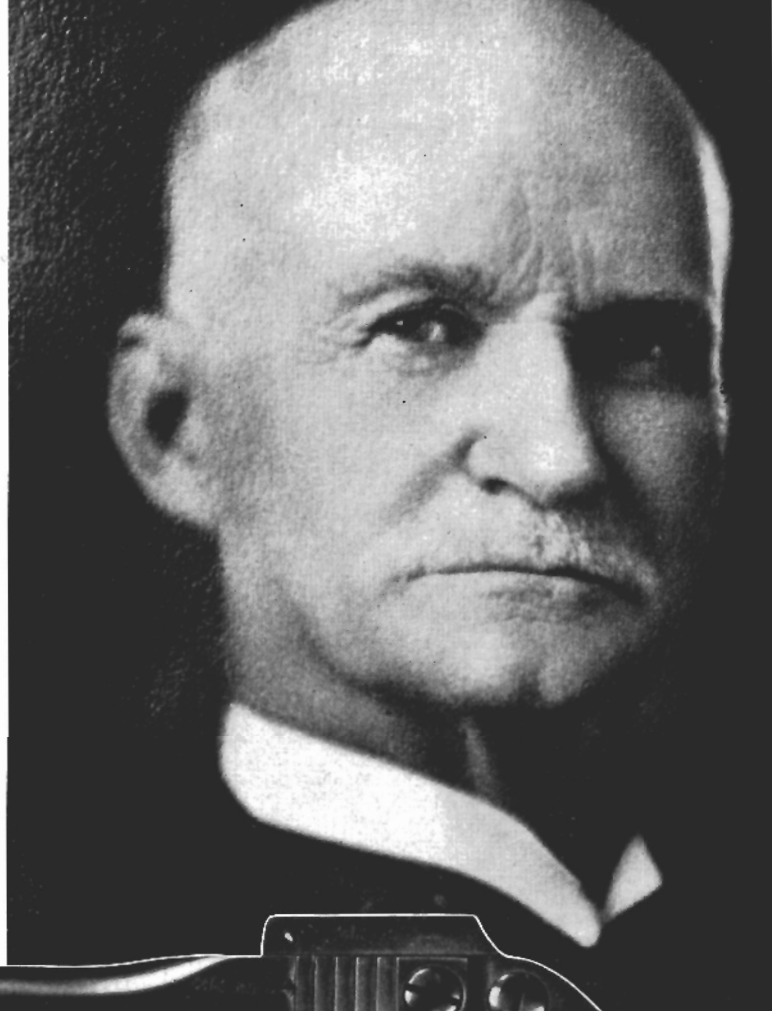
While Ted has gunned for all kinds of game and birds in many sections of this country and Canada, he prefers to seek ducks or grouse to any other sort of hunting.

"Ducks over decoys," he exults. "Man! That's living! Years ago, I had some wonderful shooting in Minnesota and South Dakota. That was in the period when (Continued on page 59)

THE WORLD'S MOST-IMITATED FIREARM

NOT ONLY WERE BROWNING M1900
POCKET PISTOLS COPIED IN CHINA
AND SPAIN BUT EVEN SAME SERIAL
NUMBERS WERE PUT ON IMITATIONS

By GRAHAM BURNSIDE



Commemorative Browning M1900 with gold serial number of 500,000 is typically well-finished, unlike imitations. It was first pocket pistol produced by John Browning (above).

THEY SAY that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. If so, then John Browning surely must be the most flattered gun-maker in all history. Certainly no gunsmith's creations have been more imitated down to the last detail. And this includes even imitation of serial numbers!

This is the detective story about one case of imitation—a case in which an original Model 1900 Browning turned up with three imitations, two Chinese and one Spanish, and with the same serial number on all three of them.

That little Model 1900 Browning was a rather awkward runt, with the recoil spring atop the barrel. The fact that Browning recognized its clumsiness is shown by his later Model 1903 and 1910 designs, where the spring is lower or around the barrel.

The Model 1900 was a striker-fired gun of fairly complicated design, involving some of the elements in his machine guns, such as the inside cocking lever in place of an ordinary concealed hammer. It was rugged,



Three similar pistols bearing identical serial numbers demonstrate boldness of sharpers in copying Browning.



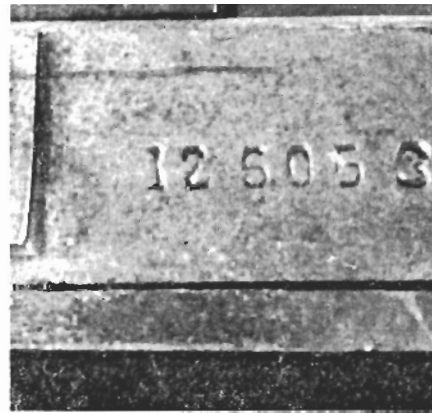
Skillful craftsmen of Browning factory in Belgium would be surprised by crudeness of copies of automatics.

however, and well made, and it managed to shoot and continue shooting under a number of adverse conditions. The original makers, the Fabrique National arms factory in Liege, Belgium, turned out many hundreds of thousands of these pistols and it was this model in .32 automatic caliber which made the French dictionaries include the word "browning" as a common noun for "pistolet automatique."

World-wide sales of the Model 1900 Brown found it "at home" in the desk drawer of a French businessman, the belt holster of a Chinese warlord, and even in the hands of a wild-eyed Serbian student who used a Model 1900 Browning to end the life of Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria and so bring on the gathering storm of World War I.

Such popularity evidently could not be enjoyed by the Model 1900 Browning without imitation, and soon some "cousins" began to stagger in from the far hills. They looked close enough to the Browning so that the casual customer was put to it to tell the genuine from the fake.

One American collector recently got quite a surprise from the habit of foreign gunsmiths imitating the Model 1900 Browning. He was Frank Wheeler of Osborne, Kansas, a gent with a yen for odd-ball pistols. Some 170 pistols grace the walls and cabinets of Frank's home, and among them are three pistols that really have the boys scratching their heads. All three guns are copies of the Model 1900 Browning. All three appear to be copies (*Continued on page 46*)



Enlargements of serial numbers in Browning imitations shows similar number stamping in some figures, suggests one single handyman may have made all pistols after one genuine Browning pistol which bore serial number of #126063.

CARTRIDGES

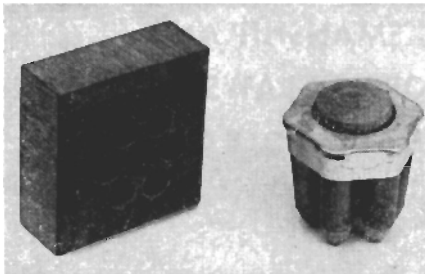
QUIPS QUOTES & QUERIES

By STUART MILLER

Colt Cartridge Packet

AT A MEETING of the Ohio Gun Collectors Association about a year ago, I came across one of the rarest of all Colt items—the Model 1889 cartridge loading packet for Colt's New Navy & Army Revolvers, .38 caliber.

The packet consists of a pressed metal ring or rim with a center wooden plug which wedges the shells into the metal rim holder. A wooden block drilled for six bullet points and the tip of the wedge plug is used to assemble the packet. Supposedly this was to be a very fast unit for reloading a swing-



out Colt, but more commonly the packet became loosened in the user's pocket and all he had was a handful of cartridges and lint when he wanted to reload in a hurry.

Patented in 1889 and advertised with the first Colt swing-out revolvers, this packet was made for only a very short time. While I bought mine at the Ohio show for only 35 cents, I wouldn't sell it for a hundred times that amount, as it is very unique.

Rocket Bullets Of Today

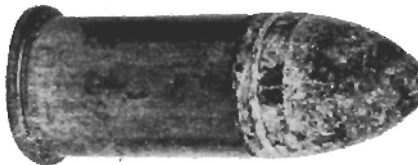
It was 107 years ago the man who invented the safety pin decided to invent a gun. The rifle Walter Hunt built eventually became the Winchester, but the bullet, Hunt's "rocket ball," was doomed to extinction. It carried the propelling charge inside the bullet, and had no cartridge case. In firing, the gas blew back and because the machinery of those days was badly fitted, the result was a little annoying to the shooter. Yet today Hunt's rocket ball may be the answer to modern machine gun designers' need for greater firepower from automatic guns.

Half the time of operation of an automatic gun is now spent in removing and throwing away the empty cartridge case. If this step in the cycle could be left out, that time could be devoted to loading and firing a new

round, and firepower increased exactly 100 per cent in one stroke! Ammunition developments along the lines of plastic cartridge cases may make this speed-up a reality, with case material which burns with the powder, and leaves nothing but maybe a little smoke in the chamber. Another possibility being experimented with is the idea of a solid powder charge, like a huge stick of cannon powder, glued to the base of the bullet. Perforated with many little holes to make it burn right when ignited, this solid charge might be designed to remain in the gun, or it might be designed to fly down the barrel, just like the self-contained charge of the Hunt bullet so long ago.

When Remington Made "S & W's"

Back in the late 1860's some of the percussion New Model Army Remington revolvers in .44 caliber were converted to shoot cartridges. Called the ".46 Rimfire," these were one of the larger rimfire cartridges made in America. Because of the patents which Smith & Wesson held on the design and manufacture of metallic cartridges, the boxes for the .46 Army revolver cartridges made by UMC in Bridgeport



bore a phrase "For Remington's Smith & Wesson Army Pistol," denoting the license agreement between S & W, the Army, and the Remington company. Cylinders of these converted Remington revolvers also bear a light patent date stamping of a design patent controlled by Smith & Wesson, the "cylinders bored clear through" patent of April 3, 1855.

The conversion of these Remington revolvers was done by making a new cylinder which was bored for cartridges and (Continued on page 48)

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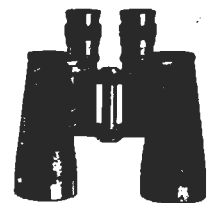
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Army Special	6.75	9.00
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Police Positive N.M.	5.25	7.75
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Defective Special	5.25	7.75
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.22 Woodsmen old model	6.25	15.00
.45 Auto. Government	6.25	15.00
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K.22, .38 Sq. Butt,		
1905 O.M.	5.50	8.00
1902 rd butt	5.00	7.00
.32 H.E., .38 T.B.	3.50	4.50
.32 N.D., .38 N.D.	3.50	4.50
REMINGTON Derringer	3.50	4.50
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Frank Hamer at the age of 22 right after he joined the Texas Rangers in 1906.



Big collection of guns was carried by Clyde Barrow, who took photo of brother with firearms to display to friends.

TEXAS RANGERS



By HAROLD PREECE

EXCEPT for a moment's timing of fate, he might have been remembered as a more spectacular bandit than Clyde Barrow whom his wit trapped and his gun helped slay. Yet when he died a few months ago, Frank Hamer ranked as the last of the great Western law enforcer breed immortalized by such artists of the .45 as Pat Garrett and Wyatt Earp. The mountainous ex-cowhand was the last of the great Texas Rangers as that spunky little gamecock, Jack Hays, was the first.

Hamer's career is by now a legend in the Lone Star State, though he died only recently. Yet there are so many living witnesses to his fabulous exploits with Winchester and Colt that there is no doubt of the truth of these tales. In this Hamer's story has somewhat stronger ground to rest on, than the legends of another famous Texan, Davy Crockett.

Hamer's skill with firearms was recognized by both sides of the law. His reputation for sure shooting was such that a notorious Texas outlaw, when asked by a reporter to name the man he feared most, replied: "Frank Hamer. I'd rather tangle with the whole Dallas

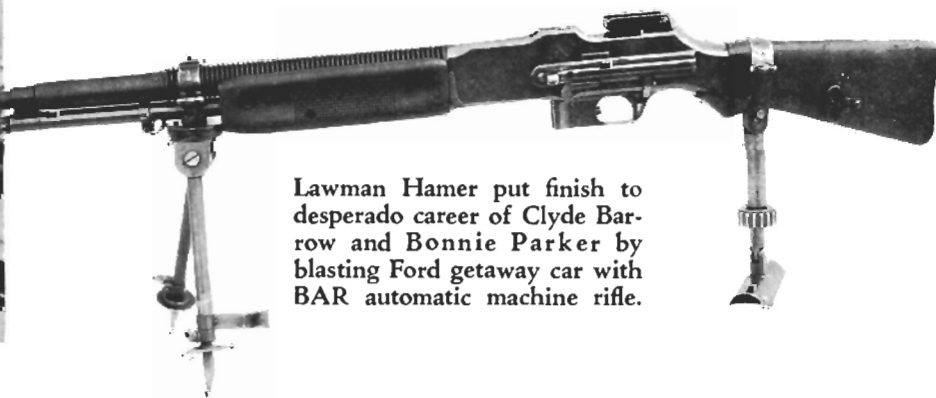
police force than with that one damn Ranger." There was more truth in this than exaggeration, for on many occasions in his checkered life Hamer actually substituted for entire police forces, and without any braggadocio cleaned up town after town literally single handed.

Hamer was of that same master mould of men which cast the "typical Ranger." Of Rangers generally, and none more specifically than Hamer, there is told an old story down Texas way. They say a town was being hoorawed by cowboys, and the mayor wired to the Rangers: "Send help. Riot in progress." By the next train came a banty youth with nary a whisker, who stepped down from the car, his saddle over his shoulder and a carbine in his hand. The mayor's men asked, "Where are the Rangers?" His reply was, "Shucks, I'm him. Ain't but one riot, is they?"

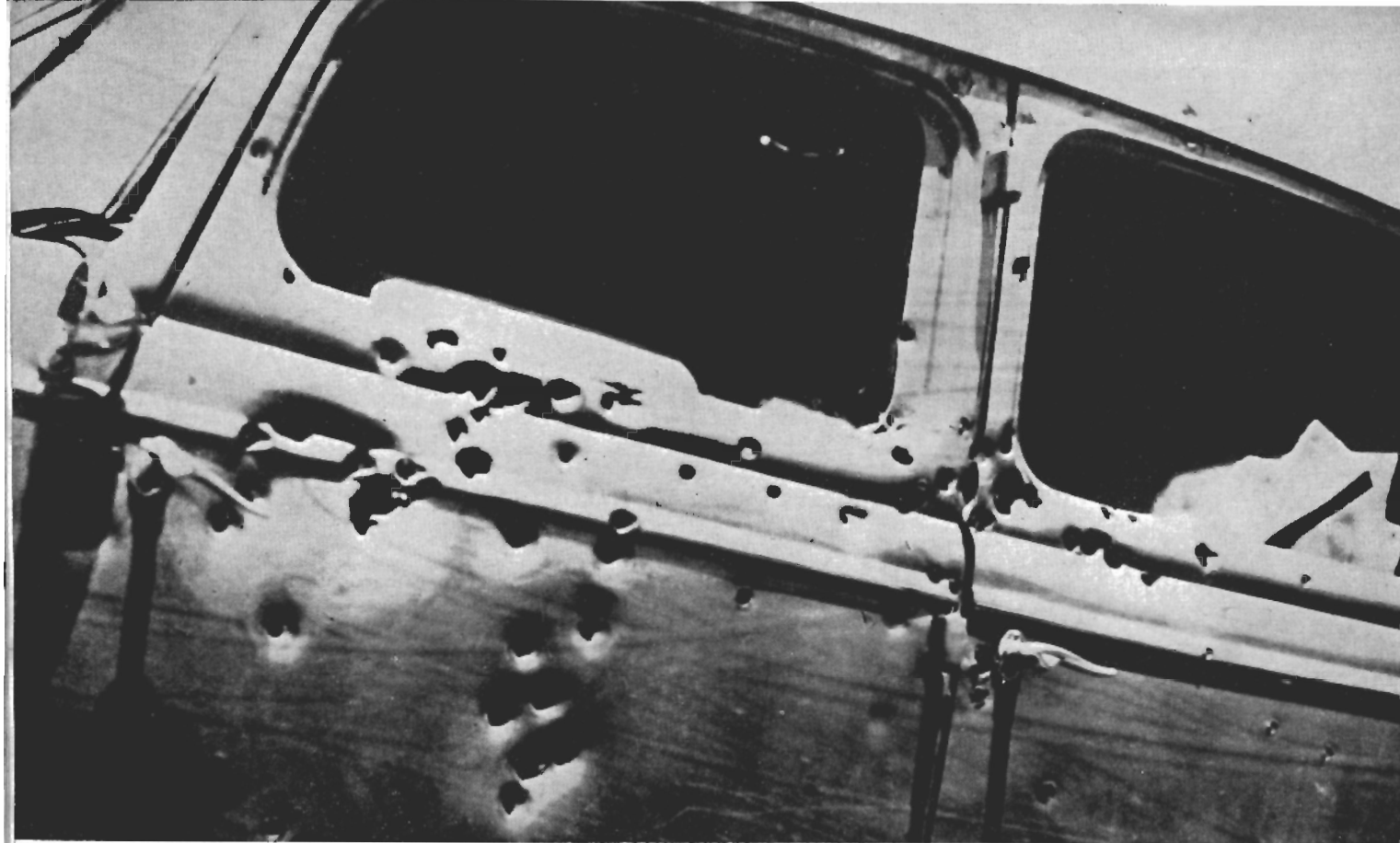
Proof of these town pacifications lies partly in the archives of the Hamer family, and in the hands of close personal friends of Hamer's. Almost equaling the numbers of guns allegedly once owned by Jesse James are the legitimate Single Action Colts presented



"Gun moll" Bonnie Parker, who smoked cigars, carried big Colt .45.



Lawman Hamer put finish to desperado career of Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker by blasting Ford getaway car with BAR automatic machine rifle.



Souped-up Ford V-8 used by Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow was literally riddled with bullets as noted criminals' escape from Ranger ambush was cut short by volleys from Browning Automatic Rifle wielded by Hamer.

to Hamer "By the Grateful Citizens." Although the Single Action proved a favorite with donors of pistols, other makes are represented among the dozens of legitimate Hamer guns. One highly prized by Hamer himself was a heavy Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum, presented to him in his later years by five or six of his Ranger associates.

His use of guns did not give him primary status as a gunfighter, but rather as a lawman. Yet there was a time when the future of Hamer hung precariously, and he had as much chance to become a master criminal as a master detective.

Hamer grew up in the pistol-haunted town of San Saba where "Blackjack" Tom Ketchum's celebrated band of road desperadoes had incubated. Texas Rangers were considered meddlesome characters who barged in to stop vendettas between rival cliques in San Saba. The hard-riding, pistol-toting Ketchum brothers—Tom and Sam—were local heroes as the James boys had been in their Missouri home town.

During his early youth, Frank Hamer heard only one favorable comment about the obtrusive roving Texas lawmen. They were the best shots in the whole country. And men who'd run afoul of them displayed scars to prove it.

Young Frank swore that he'd learn to outshoot and outride the Rangers who'd exiled the Ketchums from their native draws and canyons. Six years old he was when those two ingenious gunsmiths, Charles Newton and Henry Donaldson, began perfecting the .22-caliber varmint rifle. At 10, Frank Hamer was San Saba's crack shot with the new-style weapon. Before he'd reached 14, he was winning

every one of the town's rifle matches with Winchesters and Marlins.

At 19, he'd become one of the wandering, restless cowboys from whom outlaw rings often recruited fresh manpower. Six feet three he stood then, with his giant frame carrying 200 pounds of brawn and muscle. On a ranch near San Angelo, he found himself forking broncs with an older man who'd followed Blackjack Ketchum till New Mexico marshals had finally shattered the gang.

"I'll cut a San Saba boy in on a deal I'm figuring," the fugitive bandit told his younger saddle mate. "When we punchers deliver the next string of ponies to San Angelo, we'll stick up the bank there. Then we'll light out to Mexico, buy a ranch there and live like kings."

"Yeah," Hamer agreed. "What's the use of bustin' your can for thirty a month when the bank's got thousands just waiting to be snatched."

All plans had been carefully laid when the punchers drove a herd of horses into San Angelo a few weeks later. As they'd anticipated, the ranch foreman strayed off to find a buyer for the ponies. That quest, they felt, would take him a minimum time of one hour.

Within 15 minutes, the would-be robbers had steered their mounts toward the head of the street where the bank lay. Their Colts were loaded; they were looking expectantly toward their leader for the go-ahead sign when the foreman suddenly reappeared.

"Found a buyer the minute I left you," he boasted. "Now git back to where them ponies are penned and drive 'em over to his corral."

Reluctantly the punchers obeyed orders. The bank kept

its money. Then and there, Frank Hamer decided that outlawry was not his trade.

"I realized it wasn't in my cards to be like Blackjack Ketchum," he once told me. "Otherwise that bank haul would have come off. So I decided to play my hand straight by playing it on the side of law."

He made no conscious decision to become a lawman. But afterwards and as part of a cowhand's duty, he began running down horse thieves preying on ranches where he worked. While employed on the Carr Ranch near Fort Stockton, he captured a notorious bronc snatcher whom a commissioned deputy had been too terrified to touch.

After the thief had been locked up, Sheriff Dudley S. Barker spoke to the young cowboy: "Good work, son. How old are you?"

"Twenty-one," Hamer answered.

"Twenty-one. Old enough to join the Texas Rangers. I can get you in the company that will be stationed in this county."

Several months passed before Hamer's application for enlistment was processed by state military authorities in Austin. On April 21, 1906—four weeks after his 22nd birthday—he became a fledg- (Continued on page 50)



Once-feared as "The Phantom Bandit," and the terror of banks in the Southwest, Clyde Barrow is carried, very dead, from wrecked automobile.



Killing by Parker and Barrow of dozens of peace officers aroused this lawman's group to ambush them on lonely Louisiana road. Officers are (top): Ted Hinton, Dallas Cy. sheriff; P. M. Oakley, deputy sheriff; and B. M. Gault, special Texas officer. Bottom, R. Alcorn, Dallas deputy sheriff; Sheriff H. Jordan, Bienville Parish, La., and Frank Hamer.

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HOW TO CHOOSE A GUN FOR YOUR YOUNGESTER

(Continued from page 28)

To most youngsters deer hunting is an advanced course, a privilege long anticipated. Usually a boy starts with small game, and his first gun is likely to be a .22. But in much good country that first gun to enter the house as his own may be a shotgun. It's practical. Rabbit, squirrel, quail, grouse, pheasant or duck—some or even all of them—are there for the hunting. Off-season, there are pests like hawk and owl, fox, weasel and rats.

Though the shotgun is a useful tool, it should also be the instrument of an art, the art of wing-shooting. A kid should never be overgunned with his first one. This rule applies especially to girls, those daughters who so honestly flatter Dad by wanting to hunt with him. Boys are different; they like to exhibit more strength than they have! So Dad must be firm when the matter of gun weight comes up.

A single-barrel shotgun is a good choice, its chief drawback being that it might let some wounded game escape. It's light, and better balanced than most pumps or automatics. Some, even with the new, longer hammer spur, are hard for a small boy to cock, and there must be no temptation to carry a gun ready to fire. Even though with a hammer gun "You always know when it's loaded," a hammerless may be safer. The thumb safety of the Savage 220 is big and handy.

Bolt actions are slow, and no hunter can aspire to make his first double on quail or grouse with one. Hardly! Yet the extra rounds might halt a cripple. Some, even in .410, are heavy and unresponsive in hand. But most of them have convenient safeties.

The autoloader isn't the choice as the kid's first shotgun even if he's had rifle experience. He'll do better without three or more shells to belt off in drumfire time. The pump gun enforces some pause between shots, but a little guy can't reach a standard slide handle easily. He needs one of the extension type if he's to know the natural feel of a gun that's so essential in learning to hit 'em flying.

As for balance, nothing beats a well-built double, particularly in side-by-side design. But a fine one costs about ten times as much as a plain single, and some of the cheaper grades are sluggish in mounting and swing. Used-gun racks contain beautifully balanced Fox, Ithaca, Parker and Smith doubles,

barreled and chambered for modern shells. Like many "obsolete" rifles they can be most desirable, and a kid understands why such a purchase is made for good reason.

For over 20 years the .410 has been popular, but the 28 gauge is better. Both throw a 3/4 ounce shot load, but .410 velocity is at the foot of the list and the 28's do steps out like that of a heavy 12. It's been well called "the smallest gauge that isn't a toy."

Those two are more for the expert than the tenderfoot. The 20, 16 and 12 are game guns. They don't handicap a beginner unless he's overgunned, and they offer wide choice of power in loading and weight to be handled.

Shotgun recoil worries a lot of kids. If the first shooting is at a moving target, clays from a hand trap best of all, the jolt is felt much less than in firing cold turkey at a still target. Most choke-regulating devices cut recoil, at the cost of throwing muzzle-blast back into the shooter's ears. Flinching sometimes comes as much from ringing ears as from a buffeted shoulder. Many, it's true, don't mind the racket at all.

On a stock that's short enough a recoil pad softens punishment, but if the overall is too long the rubber catches on the clothing. To learn wing-shooting, everything must be right, and youth is the golden time to learn it.

Modified choke is a good all-round bore except in .410 and 28 gauge, which should be bored full for most hunting. A full choke of larger bore is right for duck or pheasant shooting usually, and "brush" or "scatter load" shells open its pattern for quick work in the woods. If a shooter is reasonably fast in his reactions, he finds improved cylinder good for quail or grouse in thick cover. Except in 12 gauge, it's special-purpose boring; yet in what may be the most difficult shooting of all it can kill cleanly and often, building the needed confidence. But don't strain it!

Sometimes the first gun isn't new. It may be a used one bought for sound reasons, including economy, which a kid can understand even in so terribly important a matter as this. But don't let it be a worn-out hand-me-down, a dusty fulfillment of a dream. Let it be a gift of trust, and let it be his very own. ©

SKEET VERSUS TRAP

(Continued from page 22)

follow the target. The shooter then yells, "Pull!" and the clay target flashes from the trap which is operated electrically by remote control by an observer from behind the firing line. Then the shooter at the next station calls for his target and so on through the squad, with each man in the squad firing once in rotation.

After each man in the squad has fired five rounds from his station, then all the men rotate to the right to their next station. By changing stations after every five rounds, all the shooters have the opportunity to fire at the target from different angles.

Doubles is where there are two targets launched from the trap simultaneously. One target is flashed almost directly away from the trap and the other target goes at an angle. Most shooters take the straight-away

target and then take the angling target next. In tournaments, trapshooters fire at the doubles from the 16-yard rise.

Any distance beyond the 16-yard rise is referred to as a handicapping distance—that's any distance from 17 through 25 yards. Many shooters can fire better scores at a handicap distance of 20 or 21 yards than they can from the 16-yard rise.

If you should choose to fire from a handicap distance of 20 yards, and you are a fast shooter too, then you would be knocking down targets at about a distance of 35 yards. Some shooters like to fire at handicap distances because they do not have to "arc" the muzzles of their guns so much in order to aim and lead their targets.

Trapshooting is a fast game, but it is also pretty expensive. A good shot standing at

the 16-yard rise can aim, lead and blast his target in .468 of a second after it leaves the trap—less than ½ second! But for cost, it runs pretty high, compared to other, more leisurely sports. A box of 25 12-gauge shells will cost you about \$3.40—about 13½¢ a round. A carton of 135 clay targets will run about \$4.50—a little over 3¼¢ each, regardless of whether you hit it or not. And of course your shotgun costs a little—almost anything between \$23.50 up to \$1500 and more, depending on how fancy you like your hardware. Ordinarily, trap guns in the more popular standard makes range from about \$130-140 up to \$250, depending on the grade of fancy wood, deluxe checkering, barrel ribs, and choke attachments if added to the base cost of the gun.

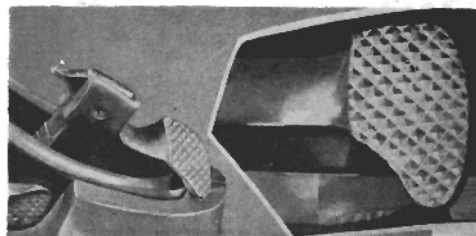
At about 17¢ a shot, an afternoon at the range can run you into quite a bit of money. Clubs, buying in quantities, pass along their discounts to members. Trap loads bought this way cost about \$2 for 25, and targets about \$1. Thus the price per shot is shaved to about 12 cents a shot, which is still a lot of candy bars for Junior. Trap shooters who have more time than money are finding shotshell reloading a practical measure, but even then the equipment needed takes a slice of the change purse right at first. From \$20 to \$90 will buy you shotshell reloading outfits, with all the necessary dies and accessories. This way you cut the cost of your ammo down to a nickel a round for powder, primers and shot. Sorry—nobody has yet devised a machine for rebuilding pulverized clay targets!

Trapshooting is the oldest of the two shotgun games—trap and skeet. Trap began in the leisurely days of muzzle loading shotguns, back in England during the 1790's when the British temporarily tired of blasting American peasants and began shooting English pheasants and other winged beasts. Because of the abundance of wildfowl, it didn't take much cost or effect to trap large numbers of birds to shoot at for sport. Live birds were sold to shooting groups or to individuals as live targets. The birds were placed single in cages or "traps" and were released upon the command of the shooter

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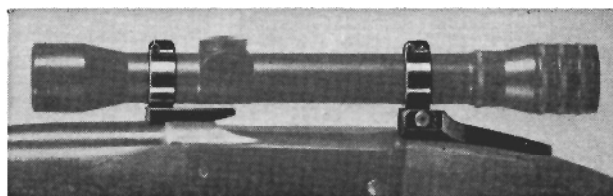
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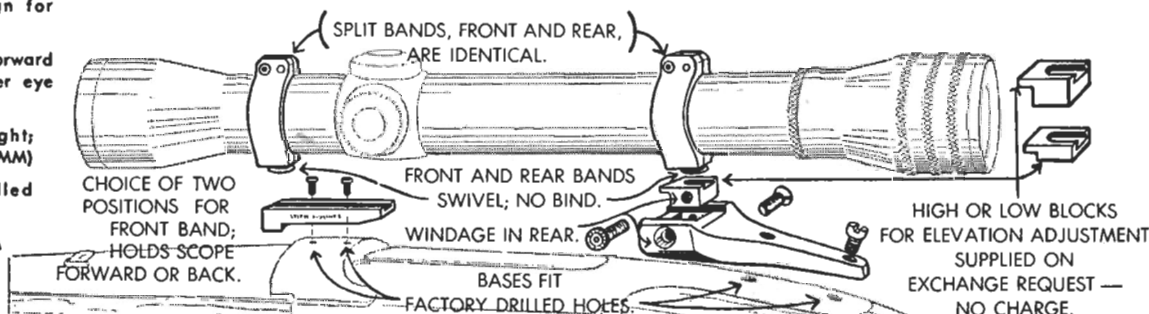
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who then took a shot at the bird with his flintlock before it disappeared into the royal blue yonder.

It was not till about 1825 that trapshooting jumped the Atlantic to our country. The Cincinnati Sportsmen's Club was our first trapshooting club organized here, established in 1831.

In America as in England only live birds were used for targets. Unfortunately, our now extinct Passenger pigeon bore the brunt of being the most popular target.

Trapshooting in the "good ole' days" was not only tough on the birds but on the shooters as well. The rules of the sport called for the shooter to be 21 yards from where the singles (one bird) were released as compared to 16 yards now, and 18 yards from two birds (doubles). It's also only 16 yards today. In those days the shooter had to drop the bird within 100 yards of the firing line, and then retrieve the bird or birds by hand within three minutes.

By 1866 trap shooting was increasing in popularity and the Passenger pigeon was rapidly being exterminated by the trapshooter, farmers, city slickers, and everyone else who owned a firearm. It was in this year that the glass ball filled with feathers was introduced for target work.

Glass ball targets were launched from behind dirt ramparts by springboards. However, the glass ball "birds" weren't too satisfactory because of their poor trap delivery and erratic flight.

Trapshooting made another step forward in the 1880's, when a fellow by the name of Ligowski invented a new trap and bird that was vastly superior to the glass ball—springboard affair. Ligowski's invention was a target (bird) that had a flipper which engaged the spring trap machine in such a way so as to throw it (target) at different angles.

New life came to trapshooting with the advent of smokeless powder, chilled shot, choke-hore guns, and new traps and targets, and the sport took on a national importance. Many local and state organizations began making their own rules and regulations, which created much confusion among the shooters from various locales. In 1892, the Interstate Trapshooting Association was formed with the financial blessings of the gun and ammunition manufacturers who were naturally interested in promoting the sport. By 1923 the association's name had been changed to Amateur Trapshooters Association and was handed over to the novice shooters with the ammo and gun companies fading away.

In trapshooting, pump-action and single barreled shotguns are the favorite, all of them being 12 gauge. In the pumps, most shooters prefer 30 inch barrels and bored full choke. In the single barrel one shot jobs, 32 inch barrels are preferred, bored full choke or improved-modified. The Remington M 870 Trap, Winchester Model 12, and Ithaca Model 37T are all good pump trap guns.

The Ithaca simple-trap is an especial favorite of expert shooters but costs upwards of \$400 as it isn't made in plain grade.

Automatic type shotguns aren't commonly used on trap ranges because the ejected shells will usually land on or bother the man at the next station to the shooter's right. However, there is a device on the market now that will deflect an ejected shell downward towards

the shooter's feet instead at the man at the next station. Compensators and variable choke devices aren't too popular on the trap range either as their muzzle blasts would be uncomfortable to other men in the squad.

Trap shooting is good practice and does keep a shooter in trim, but it certainly doesn't compare to actual shooting in the field. To begin with, at traps the shooter as the rule is standing still, has his gun to his shoulder, cocked and aimed, and knows that his target will, upon his command spring up in front of him some 16 yards distant. Field shooting embodies greater surprise.

Another argument against trapshooting voiced by the hunting and gun experts is in the speed of the targets. The clay target when it leaves the trap is going at a considerable speed and then slows down as it gets further away from the trap. Just the opposite is true in upland game hunting; for example a pheasant usually leaves cover flying rather slowly and picks up speed as he goes.

Ragardless of some of the "faults" of trapshooting it does teach the shooter how to swing and time his shots.

Skeet is an American game developed in this country in the early 1920's and is considered to be a better game to practice for shooters who want to shoot their limit in the field. Before World War I, skeet did not exist. It is said that the army "invented" skeet, developed it out of specialized combat shotgun training. After the war, skeet rapidly boomed to prominence as a contender with trap for the attention of the nation's shotgunners.

In a typical skeet layout there are two trap houses, one for hurling the targets at a high angle, and the other house for throwing the targets at a low angle. Targets from each of the two houses always follow the same trajectory, but the shooters get different angles by firing from the different stations that are in a semi-circle between the two houses. The two trap houses are on a line with each other and are 40 yards apart.

The skeeter starts at station #1 which is at the left of the field, the "high house," and then proceeds around the semi-circle to his right to each station, with station #7 at the "low house" where the traps are flung out fast from directly by his right elbow. If a group is shooting, each member of the two-to-five man team shoots at the same station, and then the team moves on to the next station, unlike traps where the five are strung out in a semi-circle, each shooter at one station, and the shots fired in rotation.

The #8 station in skeet is pretty rugged. It beats the doubles at #7 from high and low houses, for at least on those two you have some distance to swing through in order to get either or both. In the No. 8 you are on the spot midway between the two houses. The bird approaches directly across your front, and you cannot shoot it beyond the midpoint. Any onlooker will see plenty of birds shot by gunners whose backs are arched and guns pointed over their heads. Referees would score these as misses, since the bird by ruling cannot be followed beyond the mid-point.

Another important difference between skeet and trap is that skeet mixes in doubles with singles in the same round. The shooter

after firing a pair of singles from all eight stations, returns and fires pairs of doubles from stations #1, #2, #6, and #7. A shooter has to be darn fast and pretty sure hitting to do all this, since there are only 25 shots per "round," skeet or trap. Speed alone isn't the only factor in skillful skeet shooting, though, since some skeeters seem to "case" their own ranges and use a sort of pattern to their shooting. Thus since the birds fly in a constant path, the differing relationships between their guns in the different stations and the steady "birds" are plotted and remembered.

Stakes set out beyond the "dead bird" limit are used in sighting, with the gunner holding his gun pointed at one stake so as to get a pre-set lead as the bird is thrown. Leads of so many inches or muzzle diameters are figured out carefully in advance, from each of the stations.

It's a game of motion and follow-through, more exacting than golf in this respect. You can usually tell when your bird and the center of the pattern connected: all that remains is a puff of black clay-dust in the air as the birdie explodes with the impact of a hundred or so shot pellets square in the middle of the pattern.

Because of the fast doubles, automatic shotguns nowadays predominate the skeet field. Pumps can be used, and many are the skillful shooters who find that a smooth-acting pump is plenty fast enough for skeet. But automatics find their following, as each man fires from the one point in rotation and there is no hazard of an automatic dropping a hot empty down the shirt neck of that shooter standing on your right, as in trap.

Because of the different angles and ranges in skeet at which birds are shot, variable chokes and compensators are used. Ventilated ribs of course have their value for any sort of fast firing, as they prevent the heat haze from the hot barrel from interfering with your sighting at the all-too-tiny clay bird. Almost uniformly 12-gauge is the standard trap size, but skeet is shot with a variety of gauges. The calibers result in categories for competition, which are: sub-small bore, the .410 with 1/2 ounce of shot; the smallbore, the 28 and .410 gauge guns with 3/4 ounces of shot; and the all-bore, with 12, 16 and 20 gauge guns carrying about the same charges of shot.

Between skeet and trap there is not too much to choose, but arguments over the relative merits of the two are heated. Trap may seem "easier" because most of the shots are straight away, none coming virtually toward the gunner as in skeet. Skeet is preferred by many not only because it mixes doubles and singles, but also because many shooters do not mount their guns until they call for the target. This makes it more nearly simulate actual field hunting.

Yet neither trap nor skeet were originally intended to simulate field hunting; there was plenty of that around in the old days for the real hunter. Rather, they became developed as range shotgunning games, something to stack individuals up in honest competition one against the other, a way to prove who was "the better man." As games, trap and skeet have an enduring value to the American sportsman for sheer shotgunning fun. And as a sort of added dividend, regardless of whether you shoot skeet or trap or both, your hunting abilities in the field will improve. ©

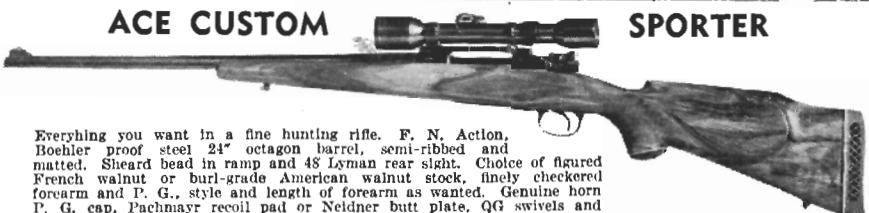
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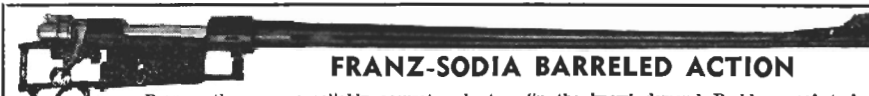
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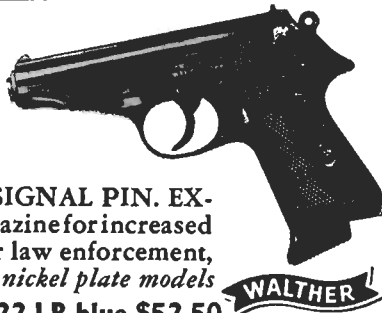
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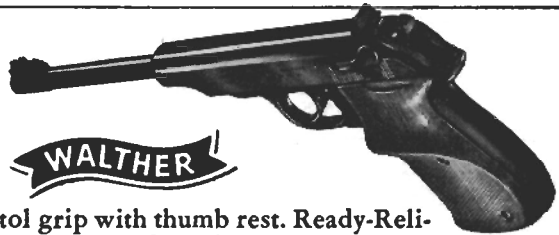
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(Continued from page 36)

by different mechanics in different countries. What startles everyone is that all three have the same serial number!

First of the trio is a pistol which is somewhat worn in condition, but at first glance appears to be an ordinary Browning M1900, .32 caliber. It is numbered on frame, slide and cocking lever lug atop the slide #126063. On the slide appears the words "Fabrique National D'Armes de Guerre Herstal, Belgique," and on the frame are the words "Browning's Patent Brevete S.G.D.G." which is the usual marking of the pistol. In addition the serial number was stamped, and the grips bore the early Browning trademark of a M1900 Browning pistol and the letters FN within an oval. From the crudeness of the rubber moulding at the oval, and other rude elements in the finishing, some assumed that this is a Belgian copy made in Liege to compete illicitly with the genuine article. It is marked with false marks simulating the genuine Liege proof marks which all genuine Browning pistols have.

While naturally a Belgian faker would not mark his gun with his name, but would pass it off as a real Browning, the gun is believed by some to be of Chinese manufacture. On the trigger guard appears a small cypher in a square which resembles a letter of the simplified Chinese alphabet. Mauser pistols and rifles are known to be made in China under legitimate Mauser factory license agreements, and this Browning, if Chinese make, may have resulted from a similar deal between a Chinese provincial governor and the FN people.

The second pistol came into Wheeler's possession about five years ago. It too resembles an Oriental model, since the inscription on the slide says "D'armes dg" six full times in a single line! Other Chinese pistols are known marked "Browning's Patent Browning's Patent Browning's Patent" and with serial numbers of "1111222233334444" or similar arbitrary stamping. But in this one, the stamper of the serial number has faithfully followed a pattern: it, too, is "126063." Simulated Belgian proof marks also appear. When Wheeler obtained this second gun, he was a little short of amazed, since neither pistol showed signs of any alteration or tampering with the serial numbers.

The plot thickened about two years ago



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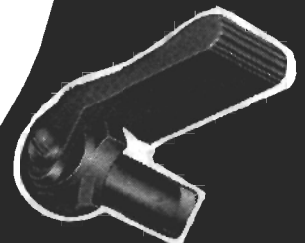
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when the third copy came to Wheeler's hands—another copy with the same No. 126063 serial number! This third pistol has Spanish proof marks, or what pass for them. It is assumed by some that it is therefore a copy of Spanish origin, perhaps turned out in some pot-metal shop in Barcelona or Eibar. This Spanish reproduction is marked "Brevete S.g.d.g." on the slide and "Browning E" on the frame.

While these pistols are of the basic M1900 pattern, there are some differences easily seen between them. The most noticeable are the grip shapes, which in the last "Spanish" copy has a pronounced curve to the rear and a rather fancy shape to the cocking lever lug atop the slide. But all three pistols are number "126063."

Perhaps most curious to the gunner who has encountered fakes and forgeries in collecting guns is the fact that Wheeler made no effort to obtain pistols with any particular serial numbers, but merely culled these from trading and buying guns in Osborne, Kansas.

One other pistol bearing this identical "126063" serial number has been reported. Certainly the existence of these guns raises a big question "why?" Maybe the pattern pistol used by a small Chinese arsenal where mechanics chopped out pistols from old iron rails and scrap bore that number. Or maybe it is a coincidence, almost unbelievable, that several imitators should hit on the same number. What the real answer may be lies in further research on these pistols with the unique serial number of 126063. Possibly someone will one day come up with the solution to this mystery about the world's most imitated firearm, the Browning M1900 auto pistol. ©

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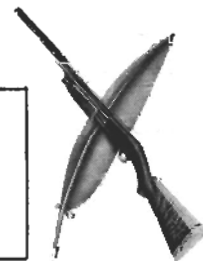
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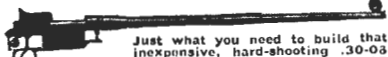


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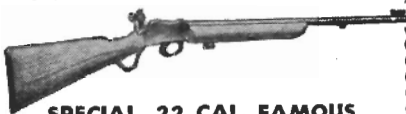


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RIFLE TO PISTOL

(Continued from page 24)

rod was screwed into the hole, cut to length, and the other end drilled for a screw.

Our reason for these odd doings was that we did not know beforehand just what the recoil of this little joker would be, nor exactly how we planned to fit the handle on it. If I were to do this job over again, the most direct method would be to bend the top tang down at the right point, and weld on a piece for length. The two tangs must be connected and this done with a machine screw.

The hammer spring had to be cut, welded and retempered. The bottom half of the spring was fastened securely to keep it from bending when cocked.

To hold the foreend, since the barrel bands and dovetail lug arrangements of the original gun had gone overboard, a long stove bolt was fitted to the solid part of the frame right below the barrel. This bolt extended forward, parallel to the barrel and held the small walnut foreend in place. The gun was then polished and blued.

Here Mac and I left the gun alone; with one exception, our jobs were done. I shipped the little monster off to stockmaker Steve Herrett of Idaho for one of his special handles.

But stocks alone don't take up all the recoil, and that's where I came into the project again. I was supposed to shoot it! Steve's skill really showed up on this special job, for the gun had excellent balance and the recoil was easily absorbed by the broad checkered and grooved back areas of the

handle. It seemed to kick approximately as much as my .357 S & W Magnum.

Accuracy of the pistol is as good as my .357 Magnum. Power is much greater—the 115 grain hollowpoint slug easily penetrates a 5-inch diameter green alder. I haven't had much chance to try it on game yet but if I can get close enough to be certain of a fair hit I don't see why it shouldn't be able to take almost anything that walks or flies. I don't say "swim" for whales would be a little too big for its class but I will say this: it's a whale of an impressive, powerful little gun. ©

CARTRIDGES

(Continued from page 37)

recessed at the rear to take the cartridge rims. A hammer similar to the original percussion hammer was used which struck through a newly-fitted breech plate that had a small slot for the hammer nose. The rear edge of the cylinder was cut away to allow the hammer nose to strike the otherwise enclosed rims, and also with between-chambers notches as safety notches. The idea was to lower the hammer in one of these notches between chambers so there was no danger of accidental discharge.

Although these .46 cartridges were for the "Army" pistol, they were not interchangeable with the conversion cartridge for the same type of Colt revolver, the converted Model 1860 .44 Army. Colt's cartridges were center-fire, and also of a smaller diameter with a very narrow rim. Usually found in boxes marked "Colt's Old Model," they are also one of the scarcer cartridges, though not as rare as the .46 Remington "Smith & Wesson." ©

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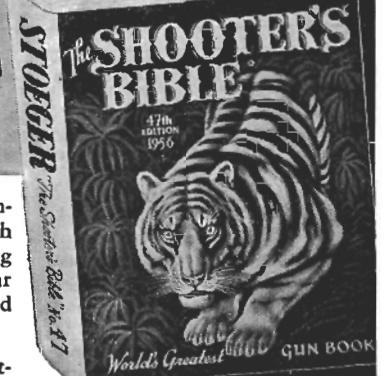
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DUCKS

(Continued from page 19)

they tell several stories. First of all there is too much "sky shooting" being done, overhead shots at extreme range. Most of these birds and most cripples that drop in the marsh to be eaten by a 'coon or a turtle are a result of shooting out of range.

Secondly, there are lots of birds with one or two deeply-lodged pellets. I've even seen them in the heart wall moving up and down with every beat. These indicate that the birds were fired at in good range but were on the edge of the pattern. Most of this is due to insufficient lead.

High speed loads by getting the shot out there faster to the duck in effect cuts down on the lead you need. They are part of the "right equipment" for duck hunting. These high speed loads have another advantage important in killing ducks. This is the matter of *length of shot string*. All the pellets can't leave the muzzle at the same fraction of a second. Hence, some start out behind, and they never catch up but continue to lag more until they are strung out for 17 feet by the time the first pellets have reached a duck at 60 yards from the gunner. In the speed loads this string is only 11 feet long at this distance. This means that with

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Mausers (pistol & rifle), P38, Luger, G43, Japanese (pistol & rifle), Italian, Browning, Orgies, some Springfield, Enfield, 45 Auto., Others, Stamped, addressed envelope for list. Mauser HSO Firing Pins, Springs, 4.00 set. Orgies Firing Pins 2.50 ea. Japanese 7.7 Guard Screws 26c each, \$2.50 dozen. Mauser Military Bolt (recoil) Springs, 648 Recoil Springs, Luger Dofl Main Springs, Japanese Main Springs (rifle) 75c ea., \$5.00 dozen, \$5.50 dozen assorted.

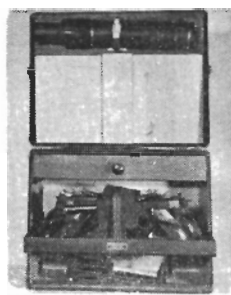
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←"SPORTSMAN" GUNBERTH® 7 GUN SIZE

Overall Dimensions: 28" W, 72" H, 13" D

This beautiful and ruggedly designed Gunberth places 7 guns. The locks are self-centering and are designed to place any type of gun. The butt platform includes an exclusive "gun tilt" for solid placement. Ample space allowed for scope mounts. The open view shows the spacious compartments for ammo, components and all other shooting equipment. Complete Set of Working Plans... only \$3.50 ppd.



These Gunberth models, illustrated above and at left, are unequalled in low material cost, beauty of appearance and compact design. If you have limited floor space and require maximum storage, these deluxe cabinets will solve your problems.

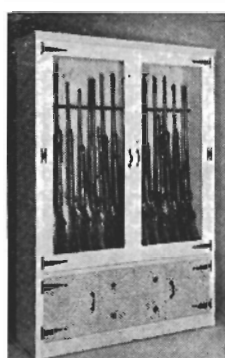
"SPORTSMAN"

←15 Gun Size

O.D. 50" W, 72" H, 13" D

This Gunberth is basically of the same design as model shown above, but places 15 guns and may also be had in an 11 gun size. You will note that this model in addition to the two large compartments, contains two full depth drawers for extra safe storage.

Complete Set of Plans For:
15 Gun Size... \$5.50 ppd.
11 Gun Size... 4.95 ppd.



Your long felt need for a well designed Pistol Cabinet is answered with these NEW and very versatile "PISTOL-BERTH" cabinets. No handgun is too large or too small for secure placement. All size guns are readily placed with handy screw-in type brackets and if you change gun placements, from time to time, the back is always as good as new due to the patent perfo-board insert which is mounted on the 3/4" thick back.

"PISTOL-BERTH"™ With Twin Doors

12 Gun Size →

50" W, 26" H, 4" D

Easy to follow Working Plans are complete for the 12 gun size illustrated and also include details with complete bills of material for 20 and 28 gun sizes.

Working Plans for "PISTOL-BERTH" With Twin Doors Complete for 12, 20 and 28 gun sizes... \$2.95 ppd.
Working Plans for "PISTOL-BERTH" With Single Door Complete for 6, 10 and 14 gun sizes... \$1.95 ppd.



SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER!

The same specially designed Pistol-Berth Brackets (for holding handguns) used in this cabinet are now available to you and at a special low price. The Pistol-Berth Brackets are screw-in type and made of rubber covered steel. One pair consists of one small bracket for barrel end and one larger bracket for grip end. Remember, this is a special offer and for a limited time only!

Send For Your "Pistol-Berth" Brackets Today!

6 Pair... \$2.75 ppd. 12 Pair... \$4.95 ppd.

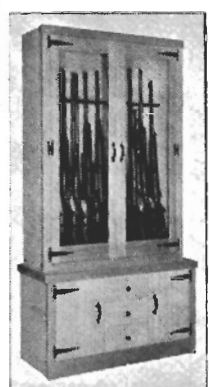
"RIFLEMAN"

←11-Gun Size

O. Dim. 40" W, 77" H, 16" D

This beautiful and superbly designed GUNBERTH® places 11 guns and is also available in 7 gun and 15 gun sizes. Locks are self-centering and will place any type of gun. Ample space for scope mounts. The butt platform includes an exclusive "gun tilt." The cabinet consists of two units giving you "bonus" storage space for all shooting equipment. Complete Set of Plans and Full Size Patterns, For:

7 Gun Size... \$5.50 ppd.
11 Gun Size... 6.95 ppd.
15 Gun Size... 7.50 ppd.



The Rifleman series were particularly designed for the shooter requiring a maximum amount of storage for both his guns and all shooting equipment in a given floor space. And like all Gunberth's, these "Rifleman" cabinets are truly Super Deluxe Gun Cabinets in every detail. Order your plans TODAY!

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE...

to get your copy of Big. Catalog No. 2. We still have a limited quantity of these beautifully illustrated complete catalogs on the Gunberth line... listing the World's largest selection of Finer Gun Cabinets and Racks. And while the supply lasts you can get your copy for only \$1.00. For Deluxe Plastic Bound Edition send \$2.00. For ideas alone, these comprehensive catalogs are worth many times the price. To avoid disappointment, don't wait...

SEND FOR YOURS NOW!

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"SHOWMASTER"

←5 Gun Size

O. Dim. 53" W, 48" H, 6" L

Your Guns Too, can be beautifully displayed in a NEW, Gunberth "Showmaster"! The Showmaster series, all wall models, can be had in a 3, 4 or 5 gun size (model illustrated) and models placing 2 guns per set of brackets (as in "Professional" model illustrated below) are also available in 6, 8 and 10 gun sizes.

Complete Working Plans for "Showmaster" Series:

For Plans including 3, 4 and 5 Gun Sizes... \$2.95 ppd.
For Plans including 6, 8 and 10 Gun Sizes... 4.95 ppd.

Rubber-Covered, Steel Gun Brackets For You!

The same specially designed Gunberth Brackets (for holding rifles and shotguns) as used in the "Showmaster" (shown above) are now available to you at a special reduced price. Brackets are screw-in type and made of rubber covered steel. Easy to use... Simply screw into wooden wall or panel. Protect your guns! Send in NOW!

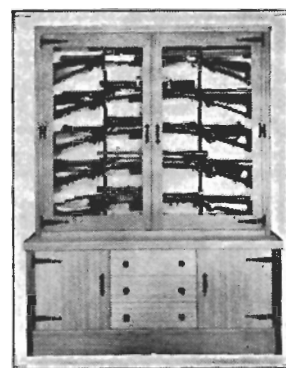
3 pr. (for 3 guns)... \$1.95 ppd. 5 pr.... \$2.95 ppd.

"PROFESSIONAL"

10 GUN SIZE →

55" W, 72" H, 16" D

The "Professional" series were especially designed for the shooter desiring a maximum of protection and still wishing to display the beauty of both his rifle and shotgun. The supporting gun brackets are ruggedly designed and place 2 guns per tier. Ample space for scope mounts. The cabinet consists of two units and the lower unit is in fact a complete store house for all shooting equipment.



Complete Set of Plans and Full Size Patterns for:
10 Gun Size... \$7.95 ppd. 12 Gun Size... \$7.95 ppd.
Full Size Patterns for Gun Brackets Alone... \$1.95 ppd.

GUN BRACKET KITS

Complete Gun Bracket assemblies... the same as used in the "Professional" cabinet shown above... are available. Kits consist of gun brackets completely cut out and assembled. Felt and glue included for you to apply to edges.

Complete Gun Bracket Kits for:

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12 Gun Size, 53" high... 22.95 ppd.

SAFE DISPLAY GUN RACK

←Model No. 7U-4 Gun Size

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Drawings are complete for 4, 5 and 6 gun sizes... tho' it may be made larger to any size you wish. Complete set of Plans... only \$1.00 ppd.



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Name

Address.....City & State.....

Age.....Occupation.....

number 4 shot there are 76 pellets instead of 42 that may get to the target in time. And this is what counts in stopping a bird traveling 60 miles an hour—or 88 feet per second.

While cannon-trapping ducks recently, we found two dead ducks under the net. As it is quite rare to kill one with the trap, they were given the once over. Both had been shot, both were still warm.

A quick run to the fluoroscope showed that both ducks had been shot with a .22 rifle. The warden who was helping in the trapping remembered seeing a car go by, headed toward the freezing lake where the bait was placed. He grabbed the two ducks and went speeding on their trail. He figured that he was less than ten minutes behind, as a duck won't bleed very long in near-zero weather.

He stopped the suspect's car and informed them that he had found the ducks, exhibiting the two mallards. Hoping that this was all the evidence the warden had, one culprit asked, "What killed 'em?"

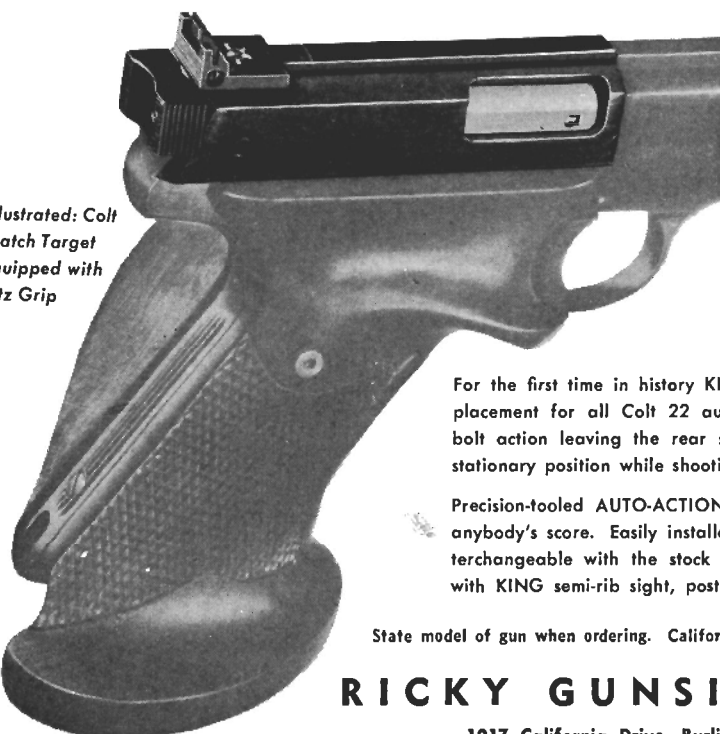
The warden knew that there had been considerable publicity in the local papers on this X-ray project, so ran a bluff. "We already had these ducks under the fluoroscope. It shows that they were killed by .22 bullets." He paused to let that sink in, then added, "And it shows that the bullets came from your guns!"

Confronted by this scientific evidence, the culprits told the whole story and were later tried and convicted of the game law violation. Although they are probably beginning to wonder how you identify the gun by X-raying the duck, their names have gone down in history as the first poachers caught by an X-ray machine.

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TEXAS RANGERS

(Continued from page 41)

ling private of Ranger Company E commanded by the celebrated frontier man hunter and criminologist, Captain John H. Rogers.

From the start, the young recruit demonstrated that he was of the stuff which produced Western officers like Earp and Garrett. Not only could he outshoot any man in the Frontier Battalion which comprised the majority of the Ranger companies. But he could actually call each shot before it landed on a rifle range target. For his remarkable vision glimpsed the oncoming bullets concealed in miniscule clouds of heat waves generated by friction between air and lead.

His skill with a blade matched his skill with a gun. Often he slew browsing deer with hunting knives hurled from distances. He knew the habits of every animal that Rangers stalked on foraging parties and, from the hunting of wild beasts, drew lessons about the hunting of wild men.

As the Rangers patrolled the turbulent Texas-Mexican border, it was Frank Hamer who told them whether an owl's hoot or a crane's call came from an actual bird or was a signal being exchanged between outlaws. During two years of endless risk and constant danger, he gave new meaning to the old saw that "a Ranger always gets his man."

When a mob of floaters took over the lumber town of Navasota in the East Texas Piney Woods, Texas' most promising young lawman was drafted to fill the marshal's job left vacant by the frightened farmer who'd thrown down the badge.

On November 1, 1908, Hamer left the Rangers to rebuild the broken framework of law in the place that old-timers compared to Tascosa and Tombstone at their worst. Now 24, he was the youngest marshal in Texas. The leader of the lawless element—a hotel keeper who rented quarters to thieving strumpets—began bragging that the new lawman wouldn't live to collect his first month's salary.

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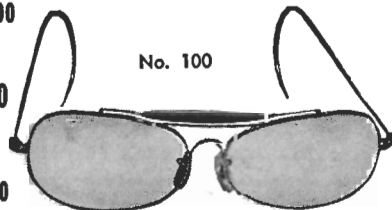
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that I previously overlooked, entirely! And now that
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always enjoyed so much in the past."

(Signed) Townsend Whelen, Colonel U.S.A. (Ret.)

Col. Whelen is the dean of American outdoors-
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In the hotel lobby, the tout kept a savage bulldog which has previously routed all East Texas deputies who came to serve papers on the prostitutes. Hamer decided to answer threats to his authority by calling the turn on both the dog and its master.

He stomped into the lobby, two hands poised on two Colt .38's. The dog snarled and began edging toward him when he entered. The hotel man's fingers strayed toward a Smith & Wesson Terrier concealed in his pocket.

"One more move toward your gun," Hamer warned, "and you'll make a move for the buzzards." His left hand lunged over the desk and grabbed the Terrier in a quick frisk of the braggart.

The dog leaped forward. "Sic 'em, Tige!" the hotel man screamed.

Fangs sank into Hamer's boot. Raising the Terrier, the marshal pulled on the trigger. The bullet crashed into the dog's brain.

Hamer kicked aside the bloody shell. "Better bury your dog," he drawled. "And if you raise any more ruckus in this town, I'll be measurin' you for the graveyard."

For two years and a half, Frank Hamer's Colts kept pacifying and purifying Navasota. They were drawn as marching orders for the dealers of crooked cards. They halted the flight of killers dodging ropes strung in a dozen states. They made Navasota as tame as a New England county seat when Hamer bade it farewell in April, 1911.

He next went to Houston where his six-shooters liquidated a Texas mafia specializing in the assassination of policemen. Afterwards he served as a special deputy sheriff routing gangs of brand burners and fence cutters in the hill country of his boyhood.

Other commissions followed in other areas of the Lone Star State. At 31, Hamer had forgotten the number of criminals his triggers had dispatched to Texas jails or Texas boothills. He expected to continue at free-lance lawing as a career.

Then a man he'd never seen changed his mind. The man was a strutting, illiterate Aztec peasant with a grandiose dream of building an empire stretching across both banks of the Rio Grande. Pancho Villa was the fellow's name.

Rifles roared and machetes slashed in Mexico when *Pancho El Tigre*—Pancho the Tiger—took the warpath in the gory autumn of 1914. Bands of his armed peons, promised paradise, swarmed over the Rio Grande to burn the villages of the *gringos* and to

DECAL CHECKERING PATTERNS

FOR THE PROFESSIONAL

More and more professional stock makers are using Decal Checkering Patterns, finding this to be the most efficient way to apply the design to the gunstock. They have also discovered that with Decal Checkering Patterns they can offer their clients a much larger choice of designs. (Illustrated is one of a new series of patterns designed expressly for the Custom Stockmaker.)

FOR THE AMATEUR

A number of patterns are also available to meet the needs of the novice. In addition to checkering, some of these designs may also be used with the easier-to-do stippling techniques. However, genuine checkering is not too difficult, and hundreds of amateurs have produced professional-looking checkering jobs with the aid of Decal Checkering Patterns.



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HOLLYWOOD "SENIOR" RELOADING TOOL. Shown set-up for swaging bullets.

HOLLYWOOD "TURRET" RELOADING TOOLS. Shown at left side set-up for shotshell reloading. Below set-up for rifle or pistol reloading. A fast versatile production tool.

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MODERN production machinery and tooling enables us to make this big, money-saving KIT offer. Note that price of the entire kit is less than the usual cost of a good sporter barrel—or a finished stock alone. Or, if your MAUSER '98, SPRINGFIELD '03 or ENFIELD '17 military rifle is already "sporter-stocked" or "sporter-barreled", you can order ONLY the barrel or stock—and still have your own CUSTOM SPORTER at lowest possible cost. Remember, all the hard work is done for you. All you have to do is screw out old barrel and screw in the new one—and tighten stock screws! Minor inletting may be required on stocks used with military barrels or barrels of other than our make. ALL STOCKS SHIPPED INLETTER FOR OUR SPORTER BARREL.

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swell ranks with Texas-Mexican "volunteers," who were legally citizens of the United States.

Texas military officials issued an appeal urging all ex-Rangers to re-enlist for protection of the border. Frank Hamer was one of the first Ranger veterans to answer that call.

Five hundred a month he gave up to work for fifty. He provided leadership for that majority of the Texas-Mexicans who wanted no part of the foreign political upheaval rocking their settlements. His rifle barrel became not only a permanent "git goin'" sign pointed south for undercover agents of Don Pancho. It also proved to be the grim dispenser of death to Villista invaders, led by "General" Antonio Pizano, who crossed the Rio Grande in August, 1915, with the announced intention of reconquering Texas and the Southwest for Mexico.

Ranger Frank Hamer helped give the invaders a reception hotter than the Texas sun. Largely because of Hamer's preliminary policing, not one of the thousands of Texas-Mexicans fulfilled Pizano's hopes by joining his "army" of 61 swashbuckling bravados.

Of those filibusters, only ten returned alive to Mexican soil after the Rangers ran them in a mad rout toward the boundary. Border legend asserts to this day that more than half the slugs dug from the gaping Mexican skulls had been planted by the efficient carbine of Frank Hamer.

Hamer decided to cripple Don Pancho by staging a counter-offensive on the enemy's home ground. Against official orders and defying a threat of court-martial, the determined Texan forded the Rio Grande on his big stallion, Bugler. He contacted the commander of a Mexican regular corps bucking Villistas. That officer assigned him a squad of soldiers to direct mop-up operations against international raiders and gun runners.

First gringo ever to direct Mexican troops, Hamer trained his outfit in Texas-style gun science, then led them through bristling cactus jungles to fight battles that are still remembered as classics of border warfare.

Eventually the Villa revolt ended when Don Pancho disillusioned his followers by settling for a *hacienda* and a pension from the Mexican government. Some men along the Rio Grande say yet that his decision was considerably influenced by the activities of Frank Hamer. But before the guerilla chieftain had furled his colors, new trouble had started festering on the border.

With the enactment of the Prohibition Amendment in 1919, Mexican liquor began slaking Texan thirsts. Soon alien distillers of tequila were reaping fortunes from "wet" cargoes transported on horseback or by camouflaged burro carts across shallow stretches of the Rio Grande.

Privately, Frank Hamer had no love for the unpopular "dry" laws. "But they are laws, by God!" he reminded friends, who advised him to let bootleggers be. "And so long as they're on the books, I'll enforce 'em."

He made good his word with his Winchester. Border booze barons either went out of business or went to the cemetery. Hamer led one lightning raid after another on innocent-looking cafes and *tiendas* serving as storage places for illegal rotgut. He slew the kingpin of the Lower Rio Grande tequila peddlers, Encarnacion Delgado, in a

pitched battle after Delgado had killed Ranger Sergeant Delbert Timberlake.

Finally Hamer received a long-overdue promotion to the rank of Ranger commander. In September, 1921, he was designated Captain of Company stationed at Del Rio on the border. A few months later, when the hell-popping new oil towns had become stinks in the Texas nostrils, he was appointed headquarters captain or senior officer of the entire force.

Perhaps history will declare that Frank Hamer was to the Oil Age what Earp and Hickok were to the Cattle and Mining Eras. Except that unlike many other officers trained on the raw and naively violent frontier, Hamer was able to make the transition from a basically simple milieu to a vastly complex one. Ranger Hamer was one of the few who understood the new epoch and its efficient ways of getting your man.

He found himself able to read the clues left by auto tires infallibly as he'd interpreted those left by mustang hooves. He mastered the Bertillon fingerprint system and ordered prints taken of every man picked up by the Rangers. He interested himself in the new types of police communication which began with the two-way radio.

He captured and jailed several big "hot car rings," tracing them not only by tire marks and juggled license plates but even by the types of gas that the thieves bought at roadside filling stations.

Unerringly the Ranger chief matched death slugs with murder weapons. By a combination of new techniques, he learned the identities of a state-wide group of organized assassins engaged in putting innocent farm boys on the spot and having them murdered in order to collect promised rewards for "dead bank robbers."

For 11 years till the bizarre "Ma" Ferguson was elected governor, Hamer commanded the Texas Rangers.

Now many citizens felt—perhaps wrongly—that the work of the Rangers was finished. After "Ma" Ferguson took over, some sentimental regard for the Texas past made the state legislature retain a skeleton corps bearing the honored Ranger name but mainly functioning as a plainclothes squad of the newly-established state police.

Already that heroic last commander of the spur-and-Stetson brigade had glimpsed the handwriting on the wall. A few months before the sunbonnet regime was installed in Austin, he resigned his post to become a private investigator for clients who flocked to him.

His hair was graying and he was hitting 50. Never again did he expect to lead a chase nor buck a draw. But once again, a kill-mad gunman came along to alter his plans. This time, however, it was not a peasant who'd run amuck, but a hard-faced little slum hoodlum who had graduated from what peaceful folk dub juvenile delinquency to what criminals call being a big shot.

Pancho Villa had led hundreds in butchery. Clyde Barrow generally traveled only with the tough hussie named Bonnie Parker whom he'd picked up after her legal spouse had been sent up to the Texas penitentiary for highjacking. It was 1934 when Clyde and Bonnie, doubling as bedmates and pistol partners, skyrocketed into the headlines. In January of that year, they staged a daring raid on a Texas prison farm where four of

their "friends" were serving sentences. The pair covered the guards with submachine guns and freed the quartet of desperadoes in one of the most spectacular breaks in American penal history.

Tearing along in their souped-up Ford V-8, the couple blazed a trail of robbery and wanton murder stretching from Iowa to Texas. Thirteen killings they'd chalked up by April.

The Southwest was aroused as it had not been since the rampages of Billy the Kid, three generations before. Younger officers of the new school threw up their hands in despair as the Barrow-Parker blood sprees continued. Then the terrorized area turned to a man-catcher of the old school.

At a secret conference of Texas police officials in Austin, Frank Hamer was tabbed for a job that could end only with his killing or being killed.

Carefully, methodically, as he might study the habits of predatory wolves, Hamer began analyzing the behavior patterns of these two predators in human shape. Soon he found that Barrow and the girl "played a circle from Dallas to Joplin, Missouri, to Louisiana and back to Dallas." Red-headed Bonnie, he learned, smoked cigars and scribbled doggerel that she called "poetry."

Poetess and gunman—that was a combination Frank Hamer had never bucked before. But while Bonnie was writing her odes and

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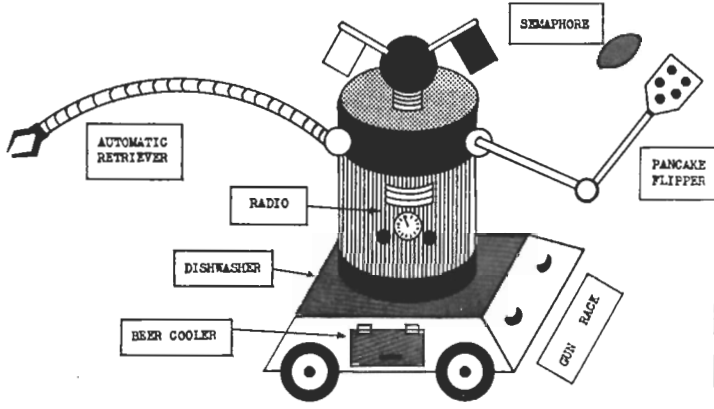
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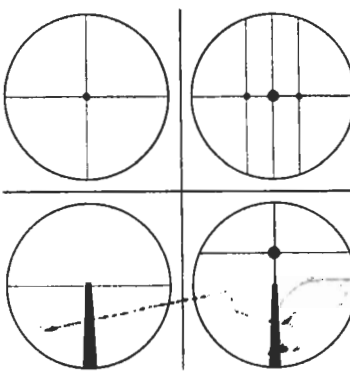
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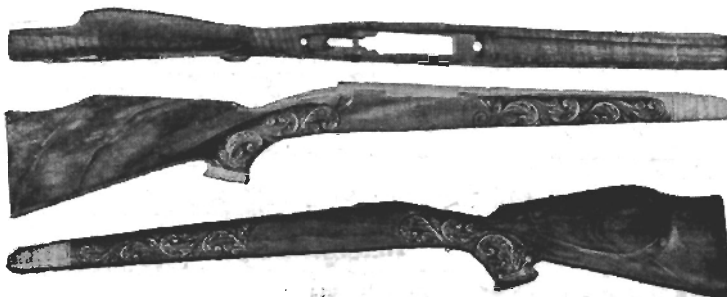
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oiling her gats, the old Ranger was nosing around that hell's kitchen of Texas—West Dallas—where the pair had been reared.

By adroit undercover work, Hamer learned that the pair maintained a creek bottom hide-out in a certain Louisiana parish—that state's term for a county. But a further check revealed that this parish was blessed with an indiscreet sheriff who confided everything to everybody. When Barrow next visited Dallas, he was informed by an ex-convict that his retreat had been spotted. Eagerly the desperado accepted a hint from his friend to establish another rendezvous in a neighboring parish.

What Clyde Barrow did not know was that his chum had "sung" to Frank Hamer and was helping the law spring the trap. For it so happened that the sheriff of the second parish was a trusted friend of the Texan guiding the pursuit.

From then on, Barrow was doomed. Hamer had the outlaw and the wild wench where he wanted them. Now it remained only to keep tab of their movements so that a posse would be waiting at the right moment of the right day. On the quiet spring morning of May 23, 1934, the tense saga reached its end.

Under a lazy sun, a small, dark-faced man and a slender, red-haired girl drove down a country road near Arcadia, Louisiana. The girl lit a cigar and inhaled a deep puff. The man halted the car and glanced toward a pine stump covered by a rough board. Under that board and in the stump's hollow, Clyde

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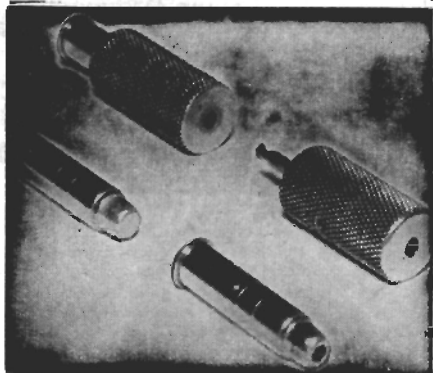


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Barrow was used to picking up "messages" left by his cohorts.

But this time the message was unexpected—and oral.

"Stick 'em up!" Frank Hamer's voice sounded from a knoll overlooking the road. Hamer leaped with his Browning automatic rifle from a pine brush followed by five other Louisiana and Texas officers whose guns began blazing. The couple grabbed at the sawed-off shotguns in their laps.

"It's Captain Hamer," screamed Bonnie Parker. Barrow's frantic foot released the automobile's clutch. But both desperadoes were dead without firing a shot when the car rolled and crashed into a ditch.

The .30-caliber jacketed BAR bullets had turned their corpses into human sieves when they were pulled out of the wrecked Ford. Fifty revolver and rifle slugs had riddled the carcass of Clyde.

What was left of Bonnie Parker made even Hamer, so used to witnessing violent death, stagger back against a tree where he vomited like a baby. Bloody and unrecognizable, the mutilated gun girl lay slumped over the wheel. Pieces of her flesh were scattered from windshield to bumper. On the car floor lay a severed finger with a ring given her by Barrow.

No fierce amazon of the Old West had ever died a death as dramatic and fitting.

After the double slaying, Hamer found in the car the largest private arsenal ever carried by any outlaw partnership in the Southwest. It included three .30-caliber Browning automatic rifles, two sawed-off shotguns, a Browning and a Stevenson 20 and 16 gauges, ten Colt automatics or revolvers of various calibers, including a double-action New Service .45, a hundred machine gun clips for the BAR containing 20 cartridges each and 3,000 rounds of ammunition.

Hamer felt that the stark drama enacted on the Louisiana road was an appropriate finale to his long public career. Publishers and film producers besieged him after he returned to Texas. But he refused to capitalize on the Barrow-Parker incident as Pat Garrett had cashed in on the killing of Billy the Kid. Firmly and emphatically, Hamer said no to every book man who wanted to print his saga and every movie maker who wanted to film it.

For the rest of his life, he undertook only well-paid private assignments that enabled him to accumulate an estate for his wife and two daughters. In off moments, he worked on a theory of criminal identification original with him. He believed that wrongdoers could be tagged by their ears as surely as by their fingerprints. Every set of human ears, he maintained, is different from every other pair.

He was 71 when he died of an incurable illness last July 10. Many memories many Texans will cherish of him. So will this Texan who knew him well.

I last saw him on a mountain road, west of Austin, his home. His left hand was gripped on the steering wheel of the car which he was driving at a slack pace. His right hand clutched a pistol whose blasts kept plowing up spurts of dirt under a rock a little piece ahead.

Past 65 Frank Hamer must have been then. But not once did his aim falter.

Not once did the gun miss. Not once did the rock stop bobbing and turning. ©

BIGGEST GUN

(Continued from page 34)

ducks were as plentiful as leaves on the trees. What a thrill to watch a big flight come swooping down toward your blocks, then blaze away at 'em, always getting your limit—and fine gunning, as well."

Williams admits that many people think duck hunters are foolish to arise far ahead of the dawn, then go forth to shiver and huddle in a blind on a frosty marsh.

"To me, there's more to duck hunting than bagging ducks," he says philosophically. "There's the pleasure in companionship of other sportsmen. There's the stillness of the morning—a kind of challenge to your patience. And there's the final test of your skill and marksmanship. Even when I didn't get any ducks, I usually learn something new about 'em."

As for decoys, the sharp-shooting batter has tried them all, including the old-fashioned wooden blocks, cork-made ones, molded-paper or plastic, rubber and shadows.

"I've had good luck with wooden decoys," explains Ted. "True, they're heavy and unwieldy, but for use at a fixed blind, they're best, I think. Pellets may chip them, yet they won't sink. They can be repainted, too, thus giving a gunner plenty of mileage."

On the subject of plastic decoys, the broad-shouldered gunner feels that they have several possibilities, although he doesn't like the way they bob about in the water.

"Shadows are practical," advises Ted. "Many hunters enjoy making them during the winter months. They really draw black

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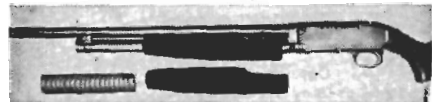


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ducks. Once during a snowstorm, I saw another hunter watch two blacks come within range, then hover over his shadows. Bam! He bagged one with his right barrel, getting the other duck in short order. Those ducks just wouldn't leave the magnetic shadows." A hearty eater, Williams dotes on roast duck, saying they taste best if he has shot them himself.

"Grouse offer a different kind of shooting from ducks," states the athlete who sparked the Red Sox to an amazing performance last season. "I believe they're much smarter, more cunning. Grouse have great speed, making them difficult to hit whether in the air or on the ground.

"I notice that they speed away low and in zig-zag manner when in flight, so you have only a moment or two in which to figure the direction of the flight and its angles of change. If you can get half of the grouse you put up, that's excellent!

"I always look for grouse in their natural feeding areas. They live on wild grapes, sumac berries, rose hips and briar berries. Best hunting terrain is in old mountain orchards, by tangles of grapevines, and in little valleys which are abundant in alder thickets. They feed in the mornings and the early parts of the afternoon. They're great shooting—and nice eating."

A former Marine captain, the six-foot, four-inch diamond ace served two Air Corps hitches, the latter including two years of blazing action in Korea. He learned how to shoot well with various service revolvers. With his eyesight and shooting skill, Ted would have made a top gunner, but he was a pilot instead, doing heroic duty "I really did not.

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Herb Glass

BOX 625 BULLVILLE, NEW YORK

LETTER

ing," he says modestly. "All of the other pilots in our two squadrons deserved more credit than I received."

Ted is pleased that the principles of skeet and trap shooting are being applied in the training of aerial gunners. "That's why our boys downed more enemy planes," he opines. "They knew how to lead on 'em—just like shooting at clay pigeons or ducks."

Speaking of combat, Williams is certain that today's hunting is growing to be far more dangerous!

"There are too many hunters in the woods now and they're killing each other rapidly," he says grimly. "Honestly, I'd rather go into battle than venture out among all those damn fools! If more gunners would consider that hunting is dangerous, perhaps there'd be less accidents."

"I've seen some crazy things happen when on hunting trips," he relates. "We were after deer in Maine late one fall. Well, what did we come across but a joker who had wounded another gunner. Seems the poor fellow was bending down over a brook for a drink, so this other guy sees him from across the stream, firing at him! He says he thought the man was a bear, but I've never seen a bald-headed bear!"

"Another time, I met a farmer, who was very mad because some hunter had killed one of his white horses in a nearby field. Then he claimed he mistook the animal for an albino deer!"

"This is funny: for a gag, one farmer put an old hat of his wife's on the limb of a tree. This hat was trimmed with several large and bright-colored feathers. Sure enough, passing hunters soon shot hell out of it!"

To avoid the wild and reckless gunners, Williams generally does his gunning at a wilderness rendezvous, accompanied by a reliable guide. Large groups of hunters, he feels, cause many needless casualties each autumn.

What are Ted's suggestions for safer shooting?

"There's one big rule to follow," he emphasizes. "Every gun should be treated as though it were loaded at all times. Too many wounds are self-inflicted. Too many accidents are caused by weapons that their users thought weren't loaded."

"Always make certain that the barrel and action are clear. Check your ammunition, seeing that it's the proper size for your shotgun or rifle. I carry my guns like a crate of eggs, keeping the muzzles away from myself and other hunters. Shotguns should be carried with their actions broken or the safeties on. The latter applies to rifles, as well."

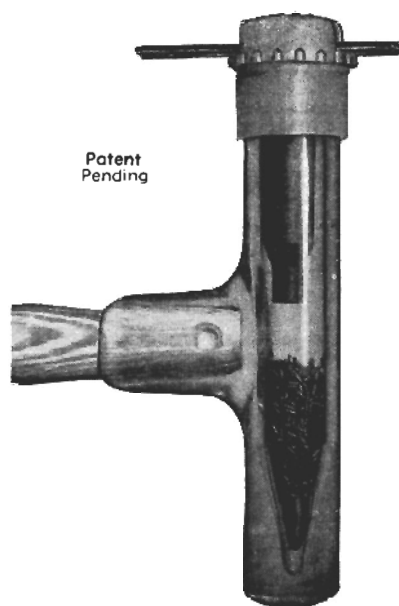
"Don't fire at rustles in the bushes—or at sounds. I never squeeze a trigger until my target is lined up in the sights. And drinking booze before hunting can prove fatal!" Ted, who rarely smokes or drinks, practices what he preaches about gun safety.

The love for good guns and the delight in perfecting the art of marksmanship are American heritages, handed down from the days of the pioneers. Every boy, in the opinion of Ted Williams, should be encouraged along these lines. And the great athlete is an outstanding example of this theory, since gunning undoubtedly aided his physical and mental development through the years. Result: an amazing batter, who can smash a home run from a ball hurled at him with the speed of an express train. ©

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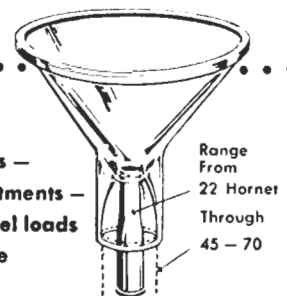
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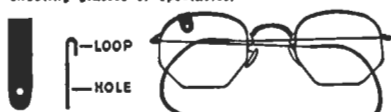
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(Continued from page 31)

little 25 Auto. The pistol when we finished had a 6-inch barrel, a man-sized set of stocks, target sights, a refitted action, a honed and rebuilt trigger. It was a target gun in the best accepted pattern. The long experimentation went for naught. It recoiled.

In turn I tested very laboriously and at great length the .32 ACP and the .380. I really had hopes for this latter number. I shortened the .380 case until it contained only powder space sufficient for a charge that would blow your nose and little more. Despite these alterations it kicked. It had to have the feel of the .22 or else I would not be content.

I looked over the .30 Mauser but it was a bottleneck and I could not see how it might be made to pay dividends. I reduced the case length of the .38 Super Colt as I had done the .380 and eventually developed a 25-yard rapidfire load that was a red-tailed whiz. But the powder charge wouldn't carry the slug to 50 yards with the gilt-edged accuracy I had to have. Recoil, too, was there.

I tried the .32 S&W Long. As a matter of fact I shot this load in choice over the .38 Special for some time. It did recoil but the kick was not marked and the accuracy was fair. At 25 yards it was a decided advantage

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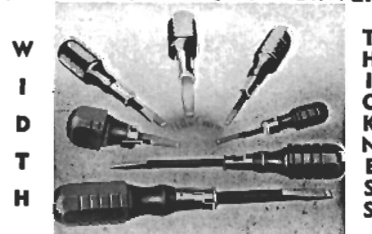
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over the .38 but at 50 steps slowfire, it could not measure up to its big brother. You can take the .32 and loop off a part of the case and then by employing the 96 grain wad-cutter, really develop a lulu for 20 and 25 yard target panning.

One night I jumped out a border smuggler, a lobo loaded with marijuana, and when I shook him down I took a sixgun out of his waistband. The next morning I looked over the hardware. For size it was no larger than the span of a man's hand; a 9-shooter it was and double action only. I pried out a cartridge and was gazing at a curiosity. The case was a centerfire, marked 5.5 mm V.D. on the head, no larger in diameter than a .22 rimfire but fully twice as long. A blunt-nosed, jacketed slug barely peeped from the bow. A bit of hasty conversion persuaded me that 5.5 millimeters came out to mighty nearly $\frac{22}{100}$ of an inch. My interest quickened. The revolver was French-made, and like all froggie ordnance was about as sad as morals along the Rue Pigalle. The cartridge, though, was something else again.

I miked the case and found it would chamber in any .22 rimfire gun. It was too long by twice to seat, however. At the head of the case was a considerable rim, a rim not only wide of dimension but extraordi-

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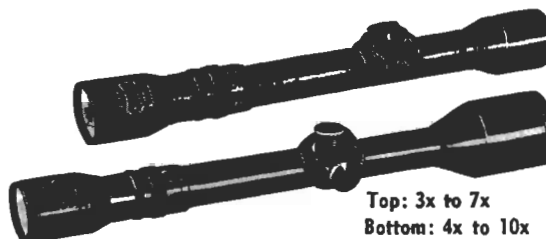
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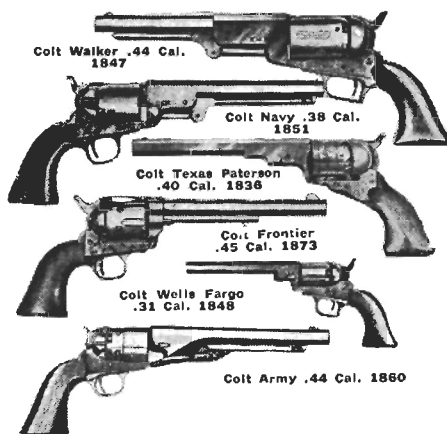
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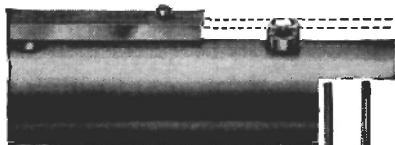
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narily thick as well. The primer was the No. 1½ Remington, and I noted the cartridges had been loaded by the old UMC Co.

I wrote my friend "Pancho" Kahrs, then shooting promotion wheel for Remington-Peters, and asked him if he had any cartridges remaining in stock. The cartridge was the 5.5 mm Velo Dog.

Kahrs replied by bundling up and sending me all that remained in stock, some 6500 rounds. Just what the hell I was to do with more than six thousand cartridges and a busted-up, worn-out Frenchman's boudoir gun, sporting an 2¼-inch barrel and not worth a tinker's hoot even when it was shiny new, I didn't know. But I had an idea.

I pulled the bullets on several hundred 5.5 cases, dumped the powder and then chucked the empty cases up in a jeweler's lathe and shortened them to exactly the length of the .22 Long Rifle rimfire cartridge. After that I made a jig and turned down the head of the shell until it had a rim that conformed to the dimension of the .22 LR.

After that came an interchange between J. D. Buchanan, the West Coast gunsmith, and myself. Buck, one of the finest and most skilled pistolsmiths, told me to send out a pistol and he would do the necessary work. I shipped Buchanan a Woodsman

that had been given the full treatment by D. W. King, the hombre who made the raised, ventilated ribs, barrel weights and other target accessories.

Buck altered the firing pin so that instead of striking on the rim of the case it would indent the No. 1½ Remington cap squarely on the nose. He countersunk the face of the breechblock so it would accept the extra thick rim on the 5.5 case. He then had to make a new extractor and refashion the ejector, both of which he accomplished successfully. Minor feed troubles developed and the clip was altered about the lips.

Since it was my intention to load the standard .22 Long Rifle leaden bullet in the 5.5 case, and since I was especially careful to obtain an overall length that would conform to the length of the .22 rimfire, Buck found it unnecessary to make modifications to the chamber-throat but he was forced to enlarge the chamber somewhat due to the thickness of the 5.5 case. The gun was returned to me for the firing tests.

While Buchanan was accomplishing the change of sex operation, I was busy at home with Peters, El Paso gun-making wizard. Pete made for me an entire set of reloading tools for the 5.5. The powder charge I had to work up. Since the case, as I've pointed

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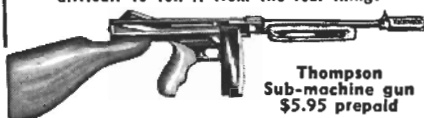
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out, had an overall length of the .22 rimfire, this charge had necessarily to be small. The measure was an original machine, accurate to less than one-tenth grain. The cases, whacked off as they were to little more than half the original length were heavy and impossible to crimp. Each had to be chamfer reamed so that a suitable crimp could be obtained. Harold Russell of the Federal Cartridge Company suggested a special .22 Long Rifle bullet his outfit was making. I decided to try them. Fresh primers were loaded in all the altered cases.

I loaded a thousand rounds and the gun was ready for its baptism. I had no idea of the quantity of powder to be loaded; the limitations of the case persuaded me I had no fear about getting too much! I was hopeful of working up a load that would closely approximate the .22 rimfire as to velocity. I was fearful the hot 1½ primer in a case so small was going to give me over-ignition and probably make accuracy very sketchy. These were all things that would come out in the wash. I marched to the targets.

The hybrid shot like a dream! From the first shot through the full clip and for all the thousand first rounds I'd loaded it never missed a stutter. I made many adjustments of the powder charge and finally after exhaustive benchrest testings hit on the load that gave me best accuracy. I then commenced to shoot for score.

The first ten scores at 50 yards showed a high of 99 and a low of 94. At timed fire, five shots in 20 seconds at 25 yards, it ran neck and neck with the .22 rim, and at rapid fire it was the same. I ran over the National

Match course 25 times during a week's practice and had an average 9.7 points higher than my usual effort with the .38 revolver.

Pistol shooting in the United States at the time I created my .22 centerfire was classified as follows:

- (1) Matches limited to any rimfire pistol or revolver;
- (2) Matches limited to any centerfire pistol or revolver;
- (3) Matches limited to the .45 Automatic, Model of 1911.

The hybrid I'd thrown together came within the rules governing centerfire handguns. The regulations said not a word about the caliber of the weapon to be used and for that reason I went ahead with intensive practice intending to shoot it in those tourneys where the other marksmen would be swinging .38s. I was going to have considerable advantage over fellow competitors and I knew it. I had long ago decided that the elimination of recoil was the answer to higher tallies and now it appeared I'd found the solution. If this was catching the other top-fighters with their pants at half-mast, why let 'em breed a new shooting iron as I had done.

I looked upon my new gun in much the same light as I would view a new golf club developed by Ben Hogan which while completely legal was yet capable of trimming strokes from the 18-hole stint.

I dubbed the altered 5.5 centerfire the .221 Askins. To distinguish it from a .22 Long Rifle you almost had to upend the cartridge to see the centerfire primer. Viewed from the side the two were well nigh identical.

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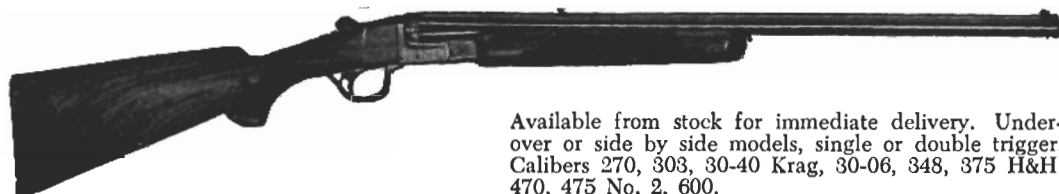
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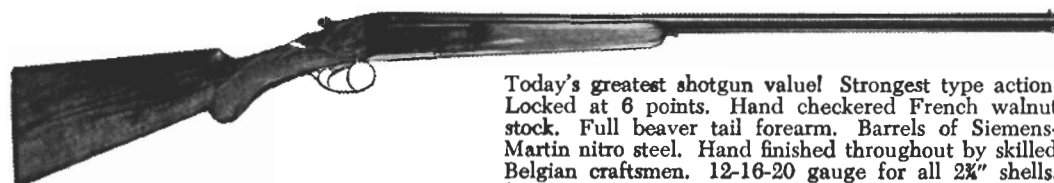
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ONE APPLICATION
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I had made no secret of my development work on the .221. I practiced regularly at a big club and as the national champion my practice sessions generally attracted a good many onlookers. It didn't take long for this crew to reach major proportions when word was grapevined that I had a centerfire .22—and not only that but a cutter that stacked up scores like unto none heretofore seen.

The word spread fast. The National Rifle Association wrote me asking a description and followed the letter with a second filled with fatherly advice to the effect that I was going to most surely take unfair advantage of the boys at the Nationals come fall. There was no hint that my gun violated any current rule; it was just that I had hit on something that was not going to be sporting because it gave me too great an edge.

Various name figures in the shooting world then took to calling and writing, crying the same line of blues. Their lament ran generally to the effect that everyone shot the good, old .38 revolver, which made all the top-fighters equal. Why did I have to upset the appercart by whumping up a powder burner that was going to see me win not because my skill was greater but because I had better equipment?

Word of the .221 traveled up and down the land. By the time the National Matches were set in gear there was scarcely a marksman of the handgunning fraternity who hadn't heard about the centerfire.

I had run 5,000 rounds through the Woodsman by that time. It had developed some minor bugs and I'd zipped it out to Buchanan who had quickly ironed 'em out. The first reloading tools had been tossed out the window and Peters had built a new set. I had run over the long course three times weekly from early spring and now it was late summer and my average cheek-hy-jowl with that of the .22 rimfire Woodsman. Both hovered around the 293 level. I was ready for Perry.

I was the chief instructor of firearms for the United States Border Patrol at the time. Just before my departure for the Nationals, the jefe of the outfit, Willard F. Kelly, called from Washington and told me if I shot the .221 Askins at Perry he'd fire me. This was pretty strong medicine. I tucked the gun in a hip pocket, despite little Buster's threats, and there it remained until I pulled up hard by the shores of old Lake Erie.

At Perry the NRA swooped down on me like I was a cross between Typhoid Mary and the No. 1 man on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted

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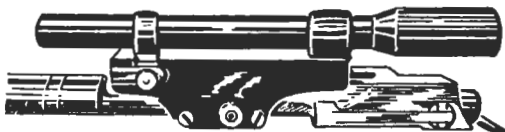
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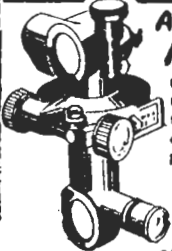
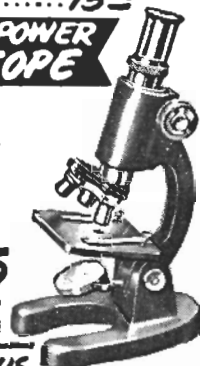
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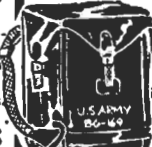
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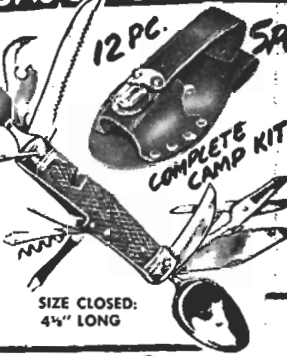
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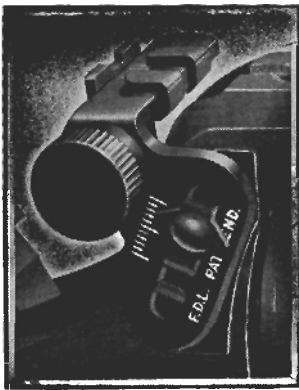


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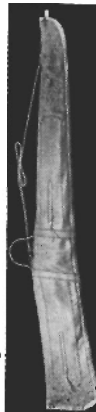
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list, and asked to get their hot, sweaty little hands on the hybrid Woodsman. I took the pistol to the range and with a committee breathing right over my crupper I fired the gun. After that I delivered up 50 cartridges. These the association boys broke down, chewed up, assayed, tested, inspected, weighed, measured, and I think a half-dozen were shipped to J. Edgar Hoover.

Finally in high glee I was informed that I could not shoot the .221 because it violated the current rules. "What rules?" I wanted to know.

"The rear sight is behind the hammer," I was told. Sure enough, I had overlooked an old regulation which states, in effect, that the rear sight must be located forward of the hammer. Overnight I removed the King click-adjustable rear sight and relocated it on the slide well forward of the hammer. I submitted the gun for re-inspection after the modification. It was grudgingly given an okay.

The centerfire matches followed the .22 program that year. I finished the .22 portion of the lengthy program in an exceptionally

strong position for all-caliber aggregate honors. All I'd have to do would be to unleash my redhot centerfire in the .38 events and I'd then lead the pack by such a margin as to be able to coast through the .45 bangfests.

Came the day of the centerfire competitions. I did not fire the .221 and have never shot it since. It lies rusting in my gun cabinet at this moment.

The NRA inquisition plus the mortally-wounded looks in the eyes of my fellow competitors, "that goddamned Askins has taken advantage of us," plus the lying-in-wait tactics of my boss, Kelly, were too much. I tossed the pistol in the ashcan.

Very directly after the Nationals that year two things happened: (1) The NRA hastily got its pistol committee into a huddle and came up with a revision to the pistol rule which reads, generally, like this, "Match shall be open to any pistol or revolver, centerfire, .32 caliber or larger." Thus my .221 was torpedoed for all time. (2) I looked up little Buster and told him where he could ram his job as chief instructor of firearms. ©

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GUN RACK

(Continued from page 8)

shot caught him in the rump, the 100 grain .243 bullet pulping about a soft-ball sized cavity in the deer's right ham. The deer was down but scrambled up again and turned sideways, and a second fast shot at the front of the neck put him down for good. The bullet apparently exploded, and no wonder: at 200 yards the 100 grain slug is whistling along at around 2900 f.p.s. which sets up a terrific centrifugal effect on contact with animal tissue. The pulping noticed was a result of the water in the meat cells being agitated away from the center of the bullet disturbance, as well as the shock cavity which is large in proportion to velocity. The mulie was very dead.

Amber also clipped an antelope at about 250 yards, although such a kill is commonplace and nothing more than should be expected of the .243. The pronghorn buck was looking at him, sort of a three-quartering view. John had stalked the antelope, crawling up on his belly until he came over a ridge and there was the beast. He tried for the shoulder but the wind was blowing and the 100 grain bullet connected with the antelope behind the ear. The antelope dropped in his tracks and the brain cavity was shattered. Tiny fragments of copper were all that remained of the bullet.

The Remington 722 in .244 was used on prairie dogs, as Amber fitted a Weaver KV to it for long-range sniping. Using the 75 grain bullet on the dogs, Amber had a good shoot practically in the middle of a prairie dog village. With a muzzle velocity of 3500 f.p.s. and a 400-yard speed of still almost 2,000 f.p.s., the .244 in the light bullet is sure medicine for chucks. But if you want to have anything left of the chuck, hit them over the head with the gun barrel: the .244 practically pulps them at all ranges hit. With the 90 grain load, the .244 is a good deer cartridge and certainly effective on antelope and any lighter game, quoth Amber.

There is one thing worth mentioning when power and speed are tied up in small packages, and that is, their potential on thicker-skinned, larger American animals like bear, moose, and elk. These light calibers are intended as combination deer and varmint cartridges, not as "kill 'em alls" for anything that walks, flies or crawls. A skilled woods

hunter, devoid of nerve and possessing perfect control and ideal sighting conditions, may kill anything he could call his shots on. But this is likewise almost true of the tiny .22 Long Rifle. So the man who takes a 90 or 100 grain bullet load into the woods after bigger game is going to make a fool out of himself and wound an animal.

The light, thin-jacketed bullets do not have the hold-togetherness needed to penetrate. Although they possess considerable striking energy, it lacks the sure-thing setup of more common, big-bore heavy game loads. Someone may develop a bullet and load combination in the .244 or .243 that will give the needed reliability on big game, but right now there isn't one kicking around. As is, the two offer you a choice in our leading rifle brands of a good, all-around rifle combining moderate report and recoil, light weight if wanted, and highly accurate long-distance killing power for chucks to deer.

The .243 is now made in the Featherweight Model 70. Soon it will be available in the "Lever Lightning" Model 88. Remington's offering comes in the M722 which is one of the least expensive, yet most modernly designed, bolt guns on the market.

The .308 case offered another logical choice for Winchester designers: not only the "standard" in .30 caliber, nor the "small bore" in 6mm, but the "large bore" in 9mm or as the Big Red W crowd call it, the ".358 Winchester." Yes, that's right, .358, not .348, which is the old designation of the tried and true shooting load for the Model 71 lever rifles. The .358 is loaded with a trickle of powder lighter than the .348, possibly to avoid case stretching which is important in lever-action extraction. The .348 case is made with a more abrupt body taper than the .358, and an over-expanded .358 in the chamber if the lever-action Model 88 would make things a little sticky. Both 200 and 250 grain Silver Tips are loaded. Winchester wisely publishes the 50-yard velocity of 2320 f.p.s. for the 200 grain slug, giving 2380 ft. lbs. energy at that common woods shooting range. The 250 grainer carries along at 2135 f.p.s. fifty yards from the muzzle, with 2530 ft. lbs. energy. In this new caliber, which is planned for the Model 88 in a few months more in 1956, the fast acting lever rifle will be suitable even according to the most conservative ideas, for any North American big game. And one of these days somebody is going to drag a moose home bagged with a 100-grain .244 or .243 bullet.

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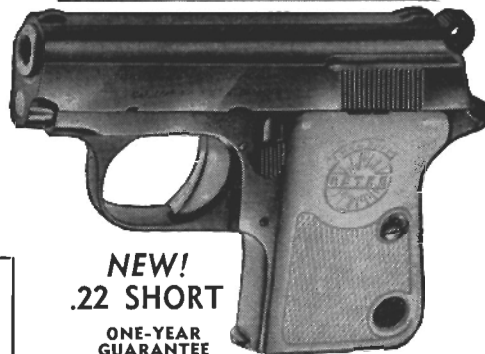
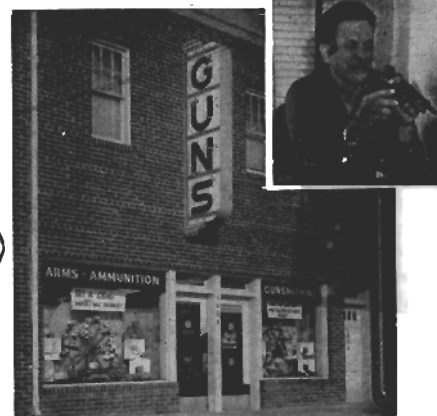
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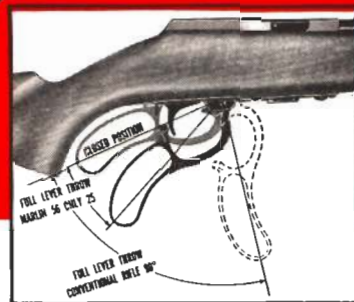
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