

DECEMBER 1957 50c

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

Guns

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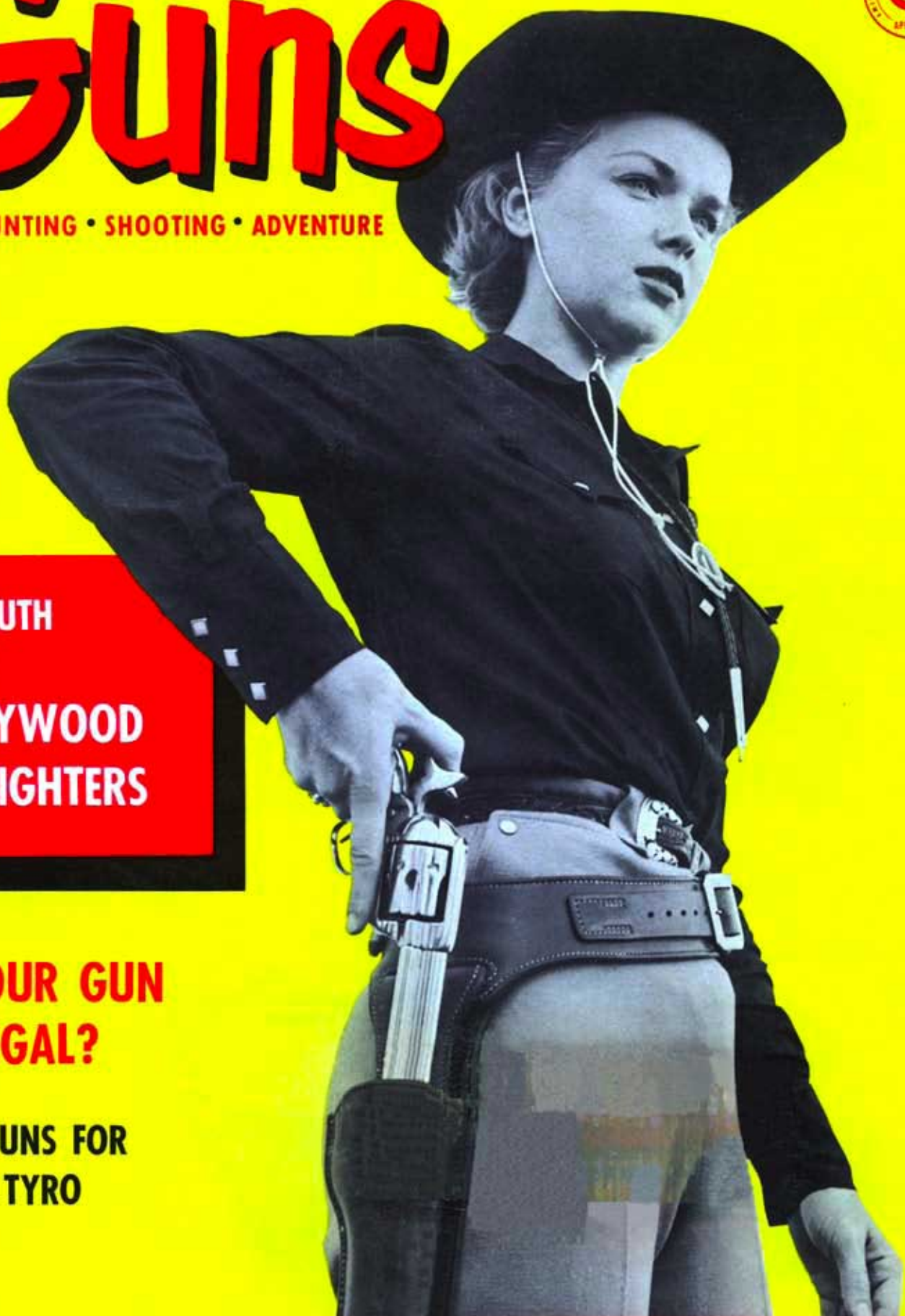


**THE TRUTH
ABOUT
HOLLYWOOD
GUNFIGHTERS**

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LEGAL?**

**HANDGUNS FOR
THE TYRO**

GUNS and GUNNERS of the FEUDING CLANS





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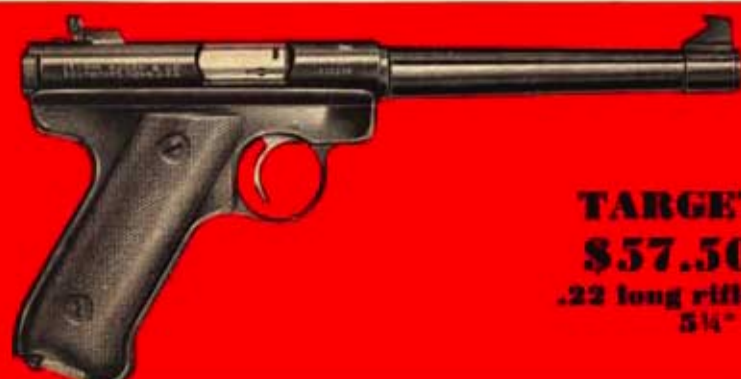


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VERLE WRIGHT

(United States, Olympic
Smallbore)

VERLE Wright, one of the smallbore riflemen who wore the insignia of the U.S.A. at the Olympic games in Australia last year, chooses his Remington Standard Model 37 as his favorite gun. The rifle is fitted with a Dunlop free-rifle stock and a Canjar trigger which is adjustable to lighter pull than the 3-3½ pound factory fitting. Wright did not shoot his best scores at Melbourne but said, "The fault was not with the rifle. The trouble was with the man behind it!" (For "ditto" from U.S.S.R., see below.)



**MY
FAVORITE
GUN**

**CONSTANTIN
ANTONESCU**

(Rumania, Olympic
Smallbore)

THERE is no better .22 match rifle than my German Anschutz. It is easily my favorite," says Constantin Antonescu who represented Rumania in the '57 smallbore competition at Melbourne. "I was not able to place better than 9th at Melbourne, but it is the shooter rather than the rifle who makes the score in rifle competition. Other rifles there may have been as good, but there were none with better scoring capability."



TRIGGER TALK

IT IS DIFFICULT, at least for anyone having more than a passing interest in guns, to witness one of Hollywood's standard slam-bang Western movies without raising a skeptical eyebrow now and again during the smokey flow of film. Admiration often gives way to a snicker when a single bullet, fired from the hero's hip, neatly disarms a distant badman. The snicker evolves into a sneer when later the same hero bags his seventh, eighth, or ninth (depending upon the casting director's budget) outlaw with his trusty but unloaded six-gun.

Questions arise. "Who the hell does Hollywood think it's kidding?" is one of the most frequent. The true gun-handling ability of actor-shooters is another subject often argued but which is, as yet, unresolved. Another aims a doubting finger at the skill of trick shot artists who "stand in" during difficult gun-action scenes. So wages the proverbial battle of "the right way," versus "the Hollywood way." We do not profess optimism of such quantity as to suggest that Hollywood limit six-guns to six shots, much less five, but we have included in this issue an excellent article by Charles MacDonald Heard, a professional movie gun expert who answers the questions and places the blame.

Of special interest to the gun collector and, in a way, to any man who has not always seen eye-to-eye with his next-door-neighbor, will be Carl Breihan's full coverage of the notorious Hatfield-McCoy feud. In his "Guns and Gunners of the Feuding Clans," Breihan discloses the present whereabouts of many of the weapons used during the long inter-family war. He also dismisses many of the legends attached to the feud, maintaining that "the story is fantastic enough even if one holds to the truth."

We have good news for many readers (the exact number to guess) who have been sending in requests: "How about handgun articles by Keith?" So here is the first of what we hope will be many pistol pointers by Shooting Editor Elmer Keith. Here is special advice for the tyro on "how to buy 'em and how to shoot 'em." Keith knows. He is "Mr. Handgun himself" to a wide segment of the shooting world.

Louis Corbeau tested a brand new gun barrel for GUNS. The Appel barrel, named after Dr. Gustav Appel who developed it, was claimed to have more accuracy over a longer barrel life. After a rifle was made up on the barrel, Corbeau attempted to burn it out as fast as possible and thus either prove or disprove claims of the Appel Process. His story, "The Barrel I Could Not Wear Out," is an interesting, and at times startling, account.

Anyone who can't afford an expedition to Africa will be happy to learn of the safari land described by Dev Klapp. It's right down yonder in Texas, podnah.



THE COVER

Pretty actress Anne Francis can not be listed among Hollywood's top gunfighters, but she was an apt and enthusiastic pupil when gunswift Arvo Ojala coached her in the use of the big sixes for a recent moving picture role.

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

DECEMBER, 1957 VOL. III, NO. 12-36

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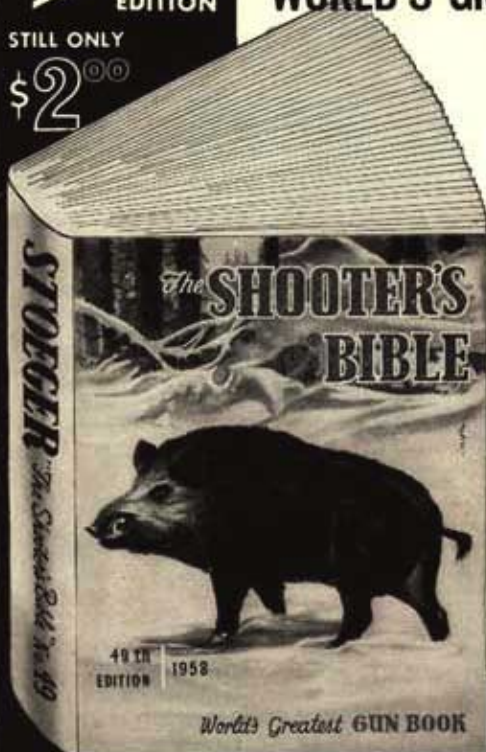
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GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

◆ St. Thomas, Canada: Two rookie policemen walked in upon a burglary in which one man had just punched a hole in the safe while his companion stood by with a sawed-off shotgun. One officer fumbled his revolver into action, hitting walls, floor, and ceiling. Said one crook, "Now, son, we're caught, and if you want to shoot it out, we'll be happy to oblige. Otherwise, just put up your pistol and we'll come along quietly." And as they say in the scripts, "exit two robbers," one still carrying his sawed-off shotgun as they strolled down to the police station, followed by two youthful cops with their revolvers holstered.

★ ★ ★

◆ When a Washington, D. C., detective rookie brought down a thief with one well-aimed shot, he was merely living up to the doings of his namesake. The detective was Pvt. Crockett.

★ ★ ★

◆ Seems it was about midnight when a butler awakened a wealthy British sportsman and told him, "There are noises downstairs, sir." "Are you quite sure?" yawned the sportsman.

"Yes, sir."

"Burglars, perhaps?"

"It would seem so, sir."

"Oh, very well," sighed the sportsman. "Fetch me my gray tweeds and my gun."

★ ★ ★

◆ During the Civil War it was necessary for recruits to have sufficient teeth in good condition not only to eat food properly but to tear cartridges quickly and with ease.

★ ★ ★

◆ A Washington journal reports this courtroom repartee:

Judge: How far were you from the defendant when he fired the first shot at the man?

Witness: Five feet.

Judge: How far were you when he fired the second shot?

Witness: Two blocks.

★ ★ ★

◆ Gov. Furcolo of Massachusetts has signed into law a bill which requires deer hunters to wear bright red or yellow clothing or be subject to a fine. The bill requires hunters to wear the vivid colors in the woods for the reduction of hunting accidents. The maximum fine will be \$50 for those who fail to comply.

★ ★ ★

◆ All during the deer season Arthur Wagner of Reedsville, Wis., kept his brown riding horse in the barn. Three minutes after the season closed he let the animal into a pasture for exercise. A moment later he heard a shot . . . and found the horse dead of a shot gun slug.



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CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Letter from Africa

Am out in the sticks here. Managed to get in, but unusually heavy rains have taken out roads and bridges and we can't even get mail now; send a boy to Arusha over 100 miles to mail letters.

My guns not here, being held up by Kenya Mau Mau regulations. Hope to get them to Arusha by the time we can get out. In the meantime am using the .458 I sent over last year, but ammo is getting low. The amount of game here is fantastic—elephants all over the place. Saw 14 rhinos in one short day's hunting, and hundreds of buffalo. Should be able to make some very good tests on my wild cat guns when I get them here, but the .458 has been quite satisfactory so far and seems to be a very lucky gun for me. However, the moral support of a rifle with more "kick" would at times be reassuring. Have had several encounters with the big stuff, usually hunting alone with one or two native boys.

My friend's farm is closed to hunters in general. He turned down offer by game department to "control" the game, preferring to handle the job himself as he likes to shoot and only wants to eliminate whatever game is threatening his crops.

J. R. Buhmiller
Arusha, Kenya

Urges Curb on Anti-Gun Laws

I have just finished reading your article, "Why Not a Pro-Gun Law" and I consider it the best and most worthwhile article you have ever published.

I expect to admire and own firearms for the rest of my life. However, if something is not done, and soon, to curb the never ending stream of proposed anti-gun laws which are always coming into action, the rights and privileges to do this will be taken away. This problem confronts all gun-lovers today, and your magazine is doing a great deal to point the way to a solution. Abolition of guns for prevention of crime is silly. It is my firm conviction, that no matter what laws are made or what precautions are taken, if a criminal wants a gun, he will always be able to somehow obtain one.

Donald J. Laing
Leadville, Colorado

Keen-Eyed Readers

Many thanks to you, Iris Stowers, and Dick Miller for using the newsphoto of me in GUNS, I sincerely appreciate the honor you nice people have bestowed upon me by giving me and "my gun" a one-half page spread in your fine magazine.

Because we aren't always able to receive our copy of GUNS every month, I'm enclosing a check for \$5.00 and would appreciate having you send it to us regularly.

Your readers are mighty "sharp" for recog-

nizing my gun as being a Parker. I'm sorry if this puts you on the spot, but it is a Parker and not an Ithaca, as was stated. Fact is, we were surprised to learn that many shooters who know me well were aware of the slight error. However, all comments were given in a friendly vein and I'm certain no harm has been done.

Our mutual friends, Carola and Leon Mandel, certainly are shooting up a storm in Europe these days. We miss having them with us at our Flyer shoots and look forward to their return in time for our big November shoot.

In the meantime, my husband and I are off to Wyoming to hunt antelope. If, at any time, I can be of any assistance to you, or the folks at GUNS, please write to me again.

Dolly Isetts
Kenosha, Wisc.

We have stories by the Colonel and Mrs. Mandel coming up soon on their European adventures.—Editors.

The Advertising Question

Just a few lines to tell you to keep up the good work. No other magazine comes anywhere near the standard set by you on the firearms field. I want to commend you in something no one has mentioned. Nowhere in any issue of GUNS that I have (I have about 20) can I find an advertisement that does not directly pertain to guns or hunting. Many other "sports" magazines, while having good stories and articles, also have two or three full page ads on liquor or cigarettes in each issue. Raise your subscription rates if you must, but stick to the subject for which you're named.

Donald Rudisuhle
Caledonia, Minn.

How do other readers feel about this advertising question? Remember, the more advertising, the more magazine we can give you. Cigarette, automobile, (and yes, even liquor) advertising could give you more for your subscription dollar—and gunners do smoke, drive cars, and buy liquor. What do you say?—Editors.

Wants Gun Books

I am a gun enthusiast. I became interested in guns just a short time ago through your magazine, GUNS. I would like to know where I can find books on guns; books that would be good for a beginner. Would you be able to help me in this matter? I hope so. Thank you.

Miss A. Coursen
Manhattan, Kans.

Ray Riling, 6844 Gorsten St., Philadelphia 19, Pa., is the author of a gun-book bibliography, "Guns and Shooting," which lists hundreds of books on guns from Gutenberg, to date. Riling also specializes in the sale of gun books, new and old. Support your retail dealer, whether it be books or guns.—Editors.



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SAVAGE MODEL 29—The .22 with the short slide action. A flick of the wrist ejects and loads cartridges smoothly without disturbing aim . . . one-piece bolt, removable without tools . . . single take-down screw . . . walnut stock . . . extra-long slide handle for firm grip. \$47.50.

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GUN RACK



GUNS Technical Staff

GUNS Tests BSA Imports

SOME MONTHS AGO we had occasion to review the first appearance of the newly designed BSA (Birmingham Small Arms Co., Ltd., England) big game rifles on the American scene. They were then imported by Al Freeland of Rock Island, Ill. Since that time Al, well-known among competitive target shooters as an expert on their needs, has concentrated on the new smallbore BSA's, while an accelerated merchandising program of BSA sporting rifles by J. L. Galef & Son, of New York, has permitted much wider distribution of these arms, with distinctively lower prices but not one bit of reduction in quality. For my money, the new BSA big bores remain among the most attractively finished rifles on the market today, and that is to say that they do not have many peers.

Mechanically, the BSA is a modified Mauser, involving two basic elements of Mauser design. These are the double locking lugs on the bolt front end, and the primary extracting cam on the root of the bolt handle, working against the receiver bridge on opening. But the styling and sense of line and proportion which has gone into making up these new BSA rifles combines the best of basic American styling with some indefinably British touch that sets it apart, distinctively, from other guns. The blueing is a rich blue-black. Polish is clean and precise without ripples or that "shoeblack" look of a sloppy buffing job, while the stock is varnished to a good finish. The floorplate of course is hinged with trigger guard release.

Receiver has dovetail blocks integral for the Parker-Hale scope mounts. While these mounts are of good design, quick to detach, they are the only

ones that fit, should be ordered with the rifle for convenience. The bolt handle is low for scope use. Standard sights for the American model consist of a triple leaf rear on the barrel, ranged for 100, 200 and 300 yards, and a ramp front sight. On samples tested, this was a wide blade foresight, good for range use on targets. As a hunting rifle, the new BSA will almost invariably be used with a scope to take advantage of its calibers. In three actions, the "Imperial" long receiver, the "Viscount" medium job, and the "Regent" shortie, the BSA is adapted for the following calibers: .22 Hornet, .222, 7x57 mm Mauser, .243, .257 Roberts, .300 Savage, .308, .270, .30-06, and .458. Combined with the pleasing appearance and design of the "Besa" and its wide range of calibers is its price schedule—from about a hundred and thirty to slightly less than two hundred bucks for the .458 Imperial.

Two things of greatest novelty are worth mentioning in the BSA line. First, their Featherweight models are truly light weight, both my .30-06 samples registering just six pounds seven ounces. For the "carry all day and shoot one shot to kill a deer" crowd, the Featherweight is a tough item to better, in price, quality, effectiveness. The second point of novelty is the patented "Besa" muzzle brake.

Muzzle brakes are as much a subject of pros and cons as the high velocity vs. the big bullet arguments. We will merely report what happened in our tests, with side comments from BSA. The pamphlet supplied by the maker describes the BSA brake in detail . . . a vertically slotted section near the muzzle to divert powder gases and, by harnessing some of their kinetic energy, cut recoil. There are a lot of formulæ

(Continued on Page 34)



Among most attractively finished rifles on the market are the big-game and smallbore imports from Birmingham Small Arms Co., Ltd., Birmingham, England.

Franchi

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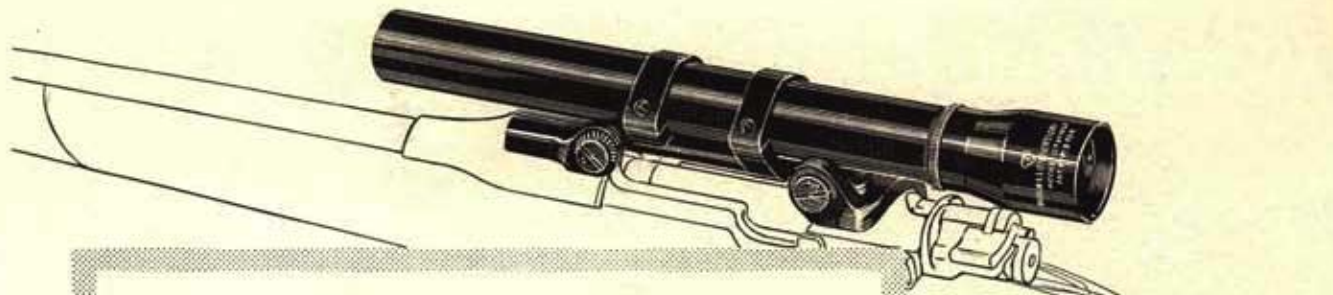
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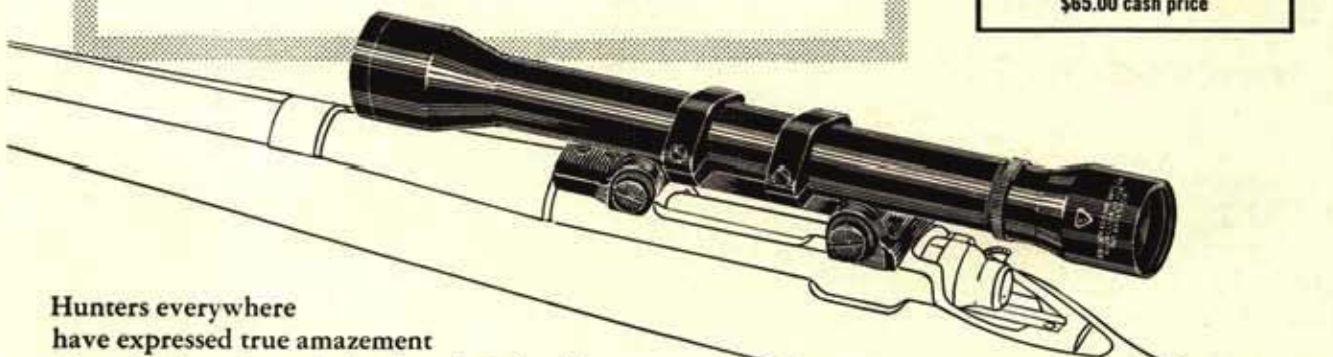
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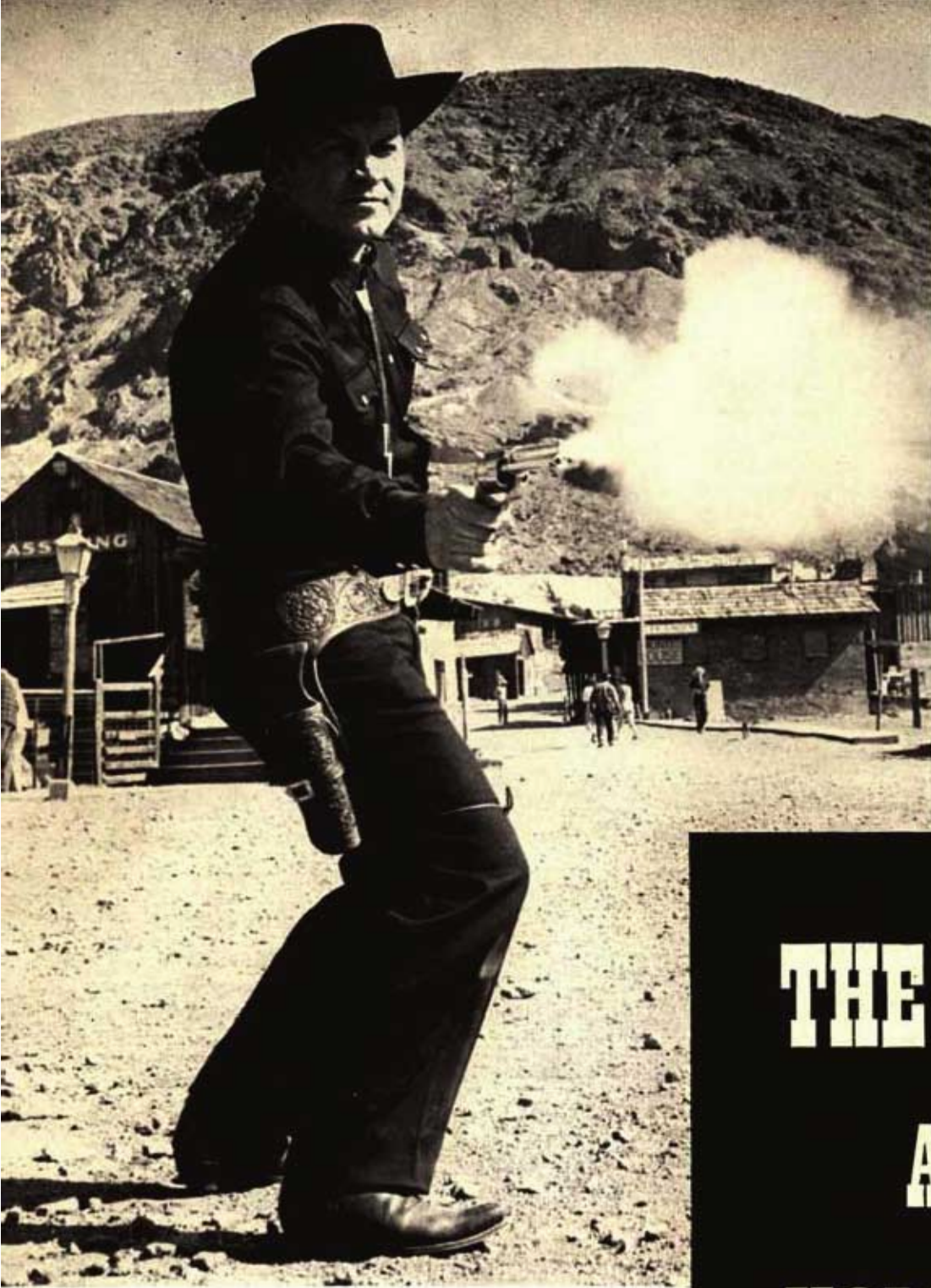
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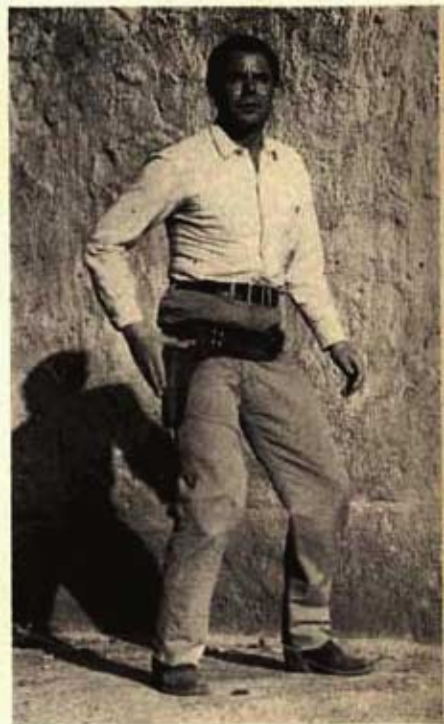
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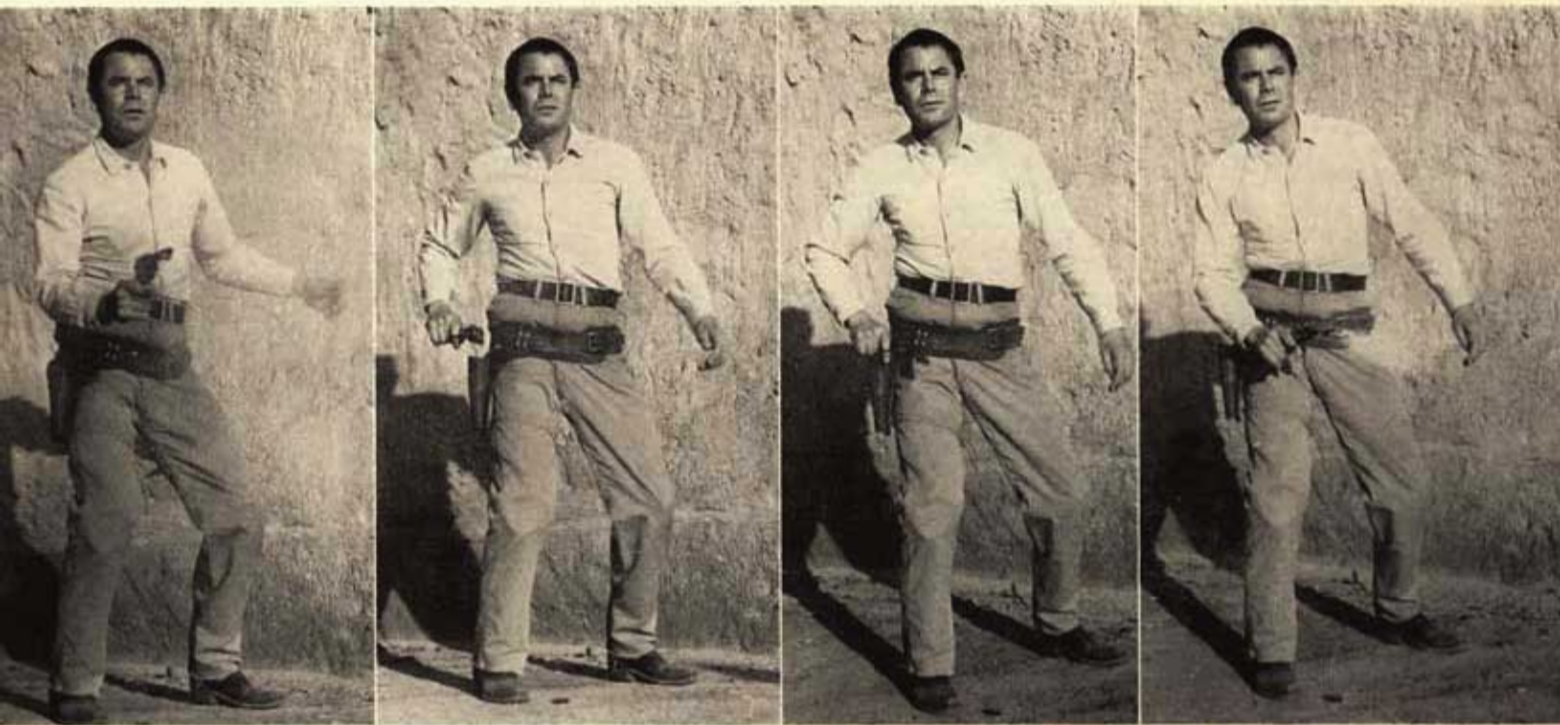




Snapping Colt .45 in one fast motion, movieland gun expert Arvo Ojala exhibits highly trained skill in getting sixgun into action. Holster is metal lined, of Ojala's own design.



THE TRUTH ABOUT HOLLYWOOD GUNFIGHTERS



Glen Ford, another expert movie gunman, demonstrates method of getting two fast shots by firing as gun clears holster, then rolling hammer against belt with trigger back to slip-shoot fast second shot.

PROFESSIONAL MOVIE GUN EXPERT DEBUNKS THE DEBUNKERS OF HOLLYWOOD QUICK-DRAW

By CHARLES MacDONALD HEARD



SO MUCH BUNK, so much de-bunking, glamorizing, criticizing, half-truths and full lies have been written about the men who make gunplay part of their careers in Hollywood motion pictures, that it seems time the truth "and nothing but the truth" is told concerning these actors and professional performers of gun-stunts. I feel that I'm as well qualified as anyone to tell these facts because for the past several years I have worked as a technical advisor on gunwork in films, and/or furnished technical and historical data to writers, producers, and directors of such gunplay stories . . . little of which advice was heeded, I must admit. Before coming to Hollywood, I shot on pistol and rifle teams in Alaska and the Southwest, and burned a lot of powder on my parents' ranch in Texas. I'm a former Custodian of Weapons at The Alamo, and have been a student of western Americana from my earliest boyhood memories of tales of Injuns and gunfights, as told me by Old Timers who were "there." Like most of the men who work with guns in Hollywood, I now shoot for fun and money.

As you have noted in countless films, there are often gross and ludicrous errors made concerning guns, gunfighters, and history in general. Too many of these avoidable errors are blamed upon the actors, stuntmen, gun instructors, gun specialists, or technical advisors. In truth we are, or should be, the group *least* to be blamed and maligned, for we make a profession of performing and teaching "the right way" as opposed to "the Hollywood way," as we call it.



Cinemactress Anne Francis gets tips from Ojala on handling of "Peacemaker" Colt. Anne was a good pupil, enjoyed practicing.



"Border shift" is taught by film gun experts Rodd Redwing, Heard, and (left) Ojala to actors cast for gunplay parts. Scene below is from "Run For Cover," starring gunfighters Cagney and Derek.





Movie gunfights are filmed from several angles to get best possible visual sequence, as in scenes above and left in which author Heard and Arvo Ojala duel for TV film. Heard and Ojala have fought many movie battles and Heard hopes some script lets him win so he will not have to do all of the jarring "dead-man falls."

Yet, nearly every article I've seen on this subject is either a blasting critique of our movie gunwork, or some publicity man's pipe dream about our "super-fast draws," "dazzling spins," and "amazing trick-shots."

The truth is, we are *neither* supermen *nor* phonies—just hard-working, well-practiced performers and technicians who have worked years to acquire our reputations for skill and knowledge within the movie industry. There are at least six men who have proven themselves "professional gunhands:" Arvo Ojala, Rodd Redwing, Carl Pitti, Doyle Brooks, Fred Carson, George Ross, and (I venture to add) myself.

Also, there are a number of actors who have practiced arduously on gun-skill and studied gunfighter lore in order to improve their portrayals of gunfighters. Among these are such stars as Audie Murphy, John Derek, Burt Lancaster, and many others, as well as the new TV gunfighters such as Hugh O'Brian, Clint Walker, Jim Davis, James Arness, Clayton Moore. These men are also "pros" who do not require a double to do their gunplay, no matter how fast or risky a scene may be.

Technicians and actors are hired professional performers, who claim to be nothing more. We all work for wages and take orders from the boss, the film's director or producer. Our actions are directed by them, often over our arguments and protests. So, the next time you see a show where the hero's pistol never runs dry, or one of us shoots a gun out of a guy's hand, or whatever, blame the right man—the Movie Maker. Even better for accuracy, blame yourself, for it is *you*—the movie-goer—who is really responsible for the perpetuation of these ridiculous errors. Start demanding your money back at theaters when they show you hogwash which purports to be history, and boy-

cott TV shows which mis-educate your children and fail to entertain anyone! Then, and only then, will you see gun-stories done the way you, and we, would like to see them done on the screen.

Believe me, we professionals will be very pleased to shoot our six-shooters the correct *five* times and then use our ejector-rods for true realism . . . and I can promise that none of us will ever again shoot a pistol from anyone's hand from the hip! Also, when the public makes itself felt in the offices of the movie moguls, maybe the publicity blurb writers will soft-pedal *their* claims for fantastic or impossible gun skill that they publish about their actors.

These "claims" of Hollywood gunhands are all based upon truth, but have been either incorrectly written by some "technical writer" or colored up by sensational "publicity men." I doubt if there is one of the "pros" I've mentioned who hasn't had some stranger come up to him on a movie set and insist upon asking "a few questions" (usually when we are all keyed up for a scene, or are trying to talk to someone else). After a half-dozen or so questions the stranger thanks us and leaves. Sometimes these strangers just watch us awhile and don't even ask questions. Later we read the "inside story" of how so-and-so got to be the "fastest gunhand in Hollywood," or "how the movie-boys fake gunfights," or whatever point of view this writer took about our work. These are the boys you can credit for the "claims" some of us are alleged to have made for super-speed fast draws and miraculous trick-shots.

Of course, there are tricks to all trades, and ours is no exception. Let's look at some of ours:

Quoting an article, "Arvo Ojala, who coaches the stars, claims he drops a half-dollar from waist level, draws a hip-holstered revolver, cocks, fires (Continued on page 35)

Safari-Land...IN



**TEXAS HOLDS SURPRISES THAT SURPRISE
EVEN TEXANS — INCLUDING GAME
FROM AFRICA AND ASIA**

By DEV KLAPP

A LOT OF PEOPLE would think you were crazy if you said you were going to Texas for African or Asiatic game. If you said you expected to shoot a Barasingha deer, an Aoudad or Barbary sheep, and a black buck or sable antelope, they'd *know* you were crazy—provided, of course, that they knew enough about game habitats to realize that these beasts are natives of India, Africa, and Asia respectively.

But there's a place in Texas where you could fill those bag specifications—and more. You could add, for instance, a Sika buck, native of Japan. Or an English fallow deer. Or an eland, straight out of an African safari. . . . Plus, of course, wild turkey, native white tail deer, or almost anything else in the way of game which you could expect to find on the North American continent between the Canadian border and Panama! The place? Captain Eddie Rickenbacher's Bear Creek Ranch, 20 miles west of Kerrville, in Kerr County, Texas.

The Rickenbacher name explains it, of course. You wouldn't expect things to be ordinary, run-of-the-mill, on a spread owned by this man whose whole life has been packed with the thrills and adventures of far places. And this 2,700 acre ranch will not disillusion you. Managed by Captain Eddie Rickenbacher's son, David, the ranch produces cattle and goats just as do other Texas ranches; but a Rickenbacher "hand" sees, in a day's ride, a lot of

TEXAS



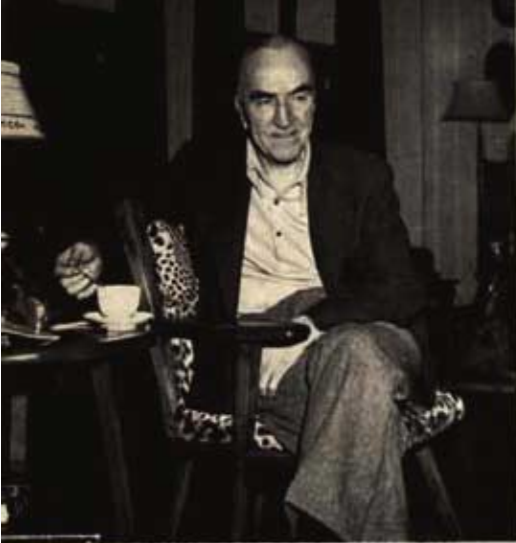
Heart of African hunting in Texas is Rickenbacker's native stone ranch house. Famous World War I ace Capt. Rickenbacker shows (facing page) a black buck antelope rug, one of his many big-game trophies.



HAVE
FUN
WITH
GUNS

Using .30-06 with 4X scope, Ludwig Brand sights Aoudad ram while Larry Rosmarin covers with binoculars. (Below) Two English Fallow deer freeze, watching hunters, showing characteristic antlers.





strange horns he might be tempted to "lay a loop over." And one of the ranch chores is riding herd on the hunters who come to Bear Creek looking for "foreign" game trophies.

Rickenbacker guest sportsmen come from all over the United States and from Canada, Mexico, Spain, wherever Captain Eddie has been, and even from places he hasn't visited. They arrive carrying various types of guns and ammunition. Usually the caliber, bullet weight, and powder charge are well suited to the animal hunted. But sometimes guests are inexperienced. One hunter from Canada brought along a Mauser 7.9 to bag a 90-lb. black buck antelope. Another fellow—this one from Illinois—had armed himself with a .22 Hornet; a fine little gun, but not exactly the caliber to use on the 620-lb. Sambur he wanted. On the basis of experiences such as these, David carefully checks all guns Rickenbacker guests intend using, often diplomatically suggests the use of heavier, or lighter, arms.

When two Houston hunters showed up on the day friend L. A. Wilke and I were down on the ranch taking pictures, David shoved us all in a station wagon and took off on a tour of the place. One of the hunters, Ludwig Brand, wanted an Aoudad ram. His partner, Larry Rosmarin, had his sights set for a prize Axis deer head. Neither sportsman would make use of any of the eight shooting towers on the place. Both wanted to take their trophies under conditions similar to those found in the animal's natural habitat. Therefore, we bounced across rocky pastures, up steep slopes, through thorny brush, looking for the game they wanted.

We had just rattled down one particularly steep incline when David eased on the brakes. "Look!" He pointed toward a group of reddish-brown animals walking single-file up the far side of the draw. "There are your Aoudads, Ludwig. Let's see you get one."

Ludwig fumbled for the door handle, slipped quietly (*Continued on page 38*)



A genial host, Capt. Rickenbacker (top of page) entertains guests in his Bear Creek Ranch trophy room. (Left, center) Hunter stands beside Sambur deer trophy. (Above) Hunters display day's bag: one white English Fallow deer, one Axis buck, and two black buck antelopes. (Left) Another prized black buck is dragged to car. Black bucks are alert, fast, difficult targets.

MEXICO'S MACHINE GUN MAESTRO

Señor Mendoza (left) with cannon designed for Pancho Villa. Genius for simplicity is further shown by late model pocket submachine gun (below).



**RAFAEL MENDOZA AT 71 STILL
STRIVES FOR PERFECTION
IN SIMPLY DESIGNED WEAPONS**

By LYSANDER KEMP

WHEN DON FRANCISCO asked me to design a cannon, he gave me only two specifications. It should make a lot of noise, and it should make a lot of smoke."

That is how Rafael Mendoza, Mexico's eminent inventor of automatic arms, remembers his introduction to gun-designing. The time was just after the outbreak of the Revolution of 1910, and "Don Francisco" was the great Francisco I. Madero, its guiding genius. Madero was a mild little man who looked like an associate-professor, but under his leadership dictator Porfirio Diaz, after a rule of almost 35 years, was driven into exile. Señor Mendoza was

an intimate of Madero when the Revolution was being planned, and took part in the first battles against the Federals at Ciudad Guerrero, Pedernales, Mal Paso, and Cerro Prieto. Then Don Francisco asked for that cannon.

Señor Mendoza is a busy man. Besides designing arms, he owns and manages a small factory next to his house where the popular Mendoza BB pistol and BB rifle are made. But he can find time to relax and converse in his garden. He smiles easily, and when he begins to reminisce his eyes shine behind thick-lensed glasses. The smile becomes a grin when he recalls that first assignment.

"I had never designed or made a gun before in my life,"



Tripod-mounted gun on facing page is Mendoza .30 cal. machine rifle used by Mexican army.

Mendoza smilingly handles his new RM2 .30 caliber automatic now being tested by Mexican army. Picture back of Mendoza shows Pancho Villa with his famous, picked Los Dorados escort.



Designer's grandson, Gabriel, shows new Mendoza BB revolver. Prices displayed are in pesos, about 12 times cost in dollars.

he says. "I was given the job because I'd run a small shop before the Revolution, manufacturing plows and other farming implements. That wasn't much of a qualification for designing a cannon. It worked, though. It was 37 mm., small and light, easy to handle. Plenty of smoke and racket, too." By lifting the handle the entire barrel slid forward, opening the breech to insert the loaded round. A spring striker at the back fired the gun.

It worked so well, in fact, that Madero placed Mendoza in charge of the manufacture and maintenance of the cannons, machine-guns, hand grenades, and other weapons with which the Revolutionary soldiers in northern Mexico were outfitted. Mendoza says that much of the equipment was crude and simple, but its very simplicity was partly a virtue, since many of the soldiers who used it had never had any real military training. As for the specification that

the cannon should produce lots of noise and smoke, it was to make the Federals believe that the Revolutionaries had as much firepower as themselves.

Once Mendoza began the manufacturing of arms, Don Francisco had another job for him, and it placed him at the right hand of the most colorful figure Mexico has ever known, one Doroteo Arango, better known as Pancho Villa. Madero wanted to persuade Villa to join the rebel forces, and sent Mendoza and a group of officers to interview him in Chihuahua. Mendoza, incidentally, has never held any formal military rank or title. The delegation finally won Villa over to the cause of the Revolution, and shortly afterwards Mendoza became a member of *Los Dorados*, Villa's personal escort.—In English "*Los Dorados*" means "The Golden Ones," or less literally, "The Golden Guard." His proudest keepsake of those



Taken during 1911 revolution, photo shows Mendoza firing his first machine gun (hand cranked, fed by 5-shot Mauser clips). Man standing, left, loads his M1893 Mauser while others aim U.S. repeating rifles.

eventful days, even more cherished than the original cannon he designed for Madero, is a yellowed and faded group portrait of *Los Dorados*.

Today Villa has become a legendary figure, and there is such a wealth of stories about him—some true, some embroidered, some pure fiction—that it is difficult to form a true picture of the man. In some versions he is presented as nothing but a bloodthirsty bandit who did more harm to the purposes of the Revolution than his victories were worth. In other versions he appears as a sort of Robin Hood in a ten-gallon hat. The truth, of course, lies somewhere between these extremes. Mendoza, remembering the actual human being, not lurid legend, has a high regard for Villa as an astute leader.

He also has a fund of anecdotes. His favorite concerns the time Villa wanted to see for himself what the cannon

designed for Madero's men would do. It used a projectile that exploded on contact, and Villa was favorably impressed by the damage it did to trees, walls, and other "dead" targets. But he also wanted to see it tried out on a live target. According to some of the myths, he should have sent out one of his fanatically-loyal *Dorados* to be shot at, but what actually happened was that he spied a distant group of mules, and told the cannoneer to shoot at one of them. Because of the distance he thought that all it would do would be to scare them.

About ten minutes later, however, an Indian came running up to announce that his one and only mule, which he loved like a brother and which was the mainstay of his livelihood, had been killed. Villa hiked over to where it lay, and was astonished to see that the critter had been completely disemboweled. At once he (Continued on page 40)



Marlin M1893 lever action repeater in .38-55 caliber was carried by Devil Anse, patriarch of Hatfield clan.

Guns and Gunners of the Feuding Clans

THE HATFIELD-McCOY FEUD, FAMED IN SONG AND STORY FOR DEAD-EYE LONG-RIFLE MARKSMANSHIP, WAS REALLY FOUGHT WITH "MODERN" WEAPONS BY AVERAGE MARKSMEN

MENTION THE HATFIELD-McCOY feud and most men's minds leap to legends of tall, gaunt, hard-eyed frontiersmen armed with long, slim "Kentucky" rifles—dead-eye marksmen all, able to pick the eye out of a squirrel with a bullet at a hundred paces or, better still, to "bark" him without so much as breaking his skin. With no thought of "debunking"—for the story is fantastic enough even if one sticks to the truth as of record—the legend as popularly accepted is, to say the least, mispainted.

The Hatfield-McCoy feud took place in the 1880's. There were no great, paved, super-highways in Kentucky or West Virginia then, but neither was it what you would call frontier country. The people were not frontiersmen; they were farmers. The men were tall, yes. "Devil Anse" Hatfield is said to have stood three or four or more inches over six feet in his sox. Some were gaunt and some, like other men everywhere, were fat. They were probably all hard-eyed enough, at least after the feud started. But they were not armed with Kentuckys; they carried the modern guns of that era — which meant, for the most part, double-

barrelled shotguns, six-shooting revolvers, and highly efficient lever action repeating rifles, caliber generally somewhere in the middle forties. And they were not remarkable marksmen, either, take them by and large; about equal, you might say, to any similar group of men you could pick out of a typical rural community today. They could miss, as well as hit. They did both. On one occasion, a representative group of Hatfields and a representative group of McCoys fired at each other for two days across the 20-yard width of Big Sandy Creek without a single casualty — not even a scratch — on either side.

You can just about write your own ticket as to how the feud started. If you like your manslaughter well spiced you can join the faction of those who insist that it all began when pretty Rose Ann (or Roseanna) McCoy mothered what, in that time and place, was picturesquely known as "a woods colt" after having allowed herself to be loved not wisely but too well by young Jonse Hatfield. (Or you can call him John, Johnse, or Johnson, each with precedent. His living relatives call him Jonse, which is as good



Never before published picture shows Anse Hatfield and friends rescuing George Hatfield from McCoys. Anse holds single-barrelled shotgun, man at left levels .45-70 Springfield, and man at Anse's right has a lever action rifle.

a name as any.) The story is that Jonse proudly acknowledged his paternity and took Rose home with him, but old Devil Anse flatly refused to permit a marriage ceremony. It probably made the McCoys mad, but so far as we know they did not start the shooting war because of it. Or maybe they did. It's a good story.

There's another faction behind the legend that it all started with a dispute over the ownership of a pig. Others say it wasn't a pig at all, but a fiddle. (A fiddle does enter into the story, but not as the cause of the war.) Some say it was simply a matter of politics, with the two families supporting different political parties in dispute over local issues. And some say it was because Devil Anse Hatfield was a captain in the Confederate Army whereas Randy McCoy not only fought on the side of the Union but did so as a private in the ranks. According to this faction, when you combine the usual North-South differences of opinion with the ancient bitterness between Rank and ranker, you have cause enough for a dozen feuds the size of the Hatfield-McCoy fracas. We are told, too, that Devil Anse Hatfield killed Harmon McCoy in 1863 in the midst of a Civil War skirmish, and that *this* was the cause of the feuding. You can take your pick of causes; or you can say, as many do, that all of these, and more, lay behind the blood-bath that finally came.

Devil Anse Hatfield was 27 years old at the close of the Civil War, a giant of a man, powerfully built, with long black hair and piercing black eyes. The Hatfield clan obeyed him to the letter (Continued on page 44)



Double-purpose violin said to have figured in Hatfield-McCoy feud had a .44 caliber gun imbedded in its throat, the hammer and trigger within easy reach of fiddler's fingers.

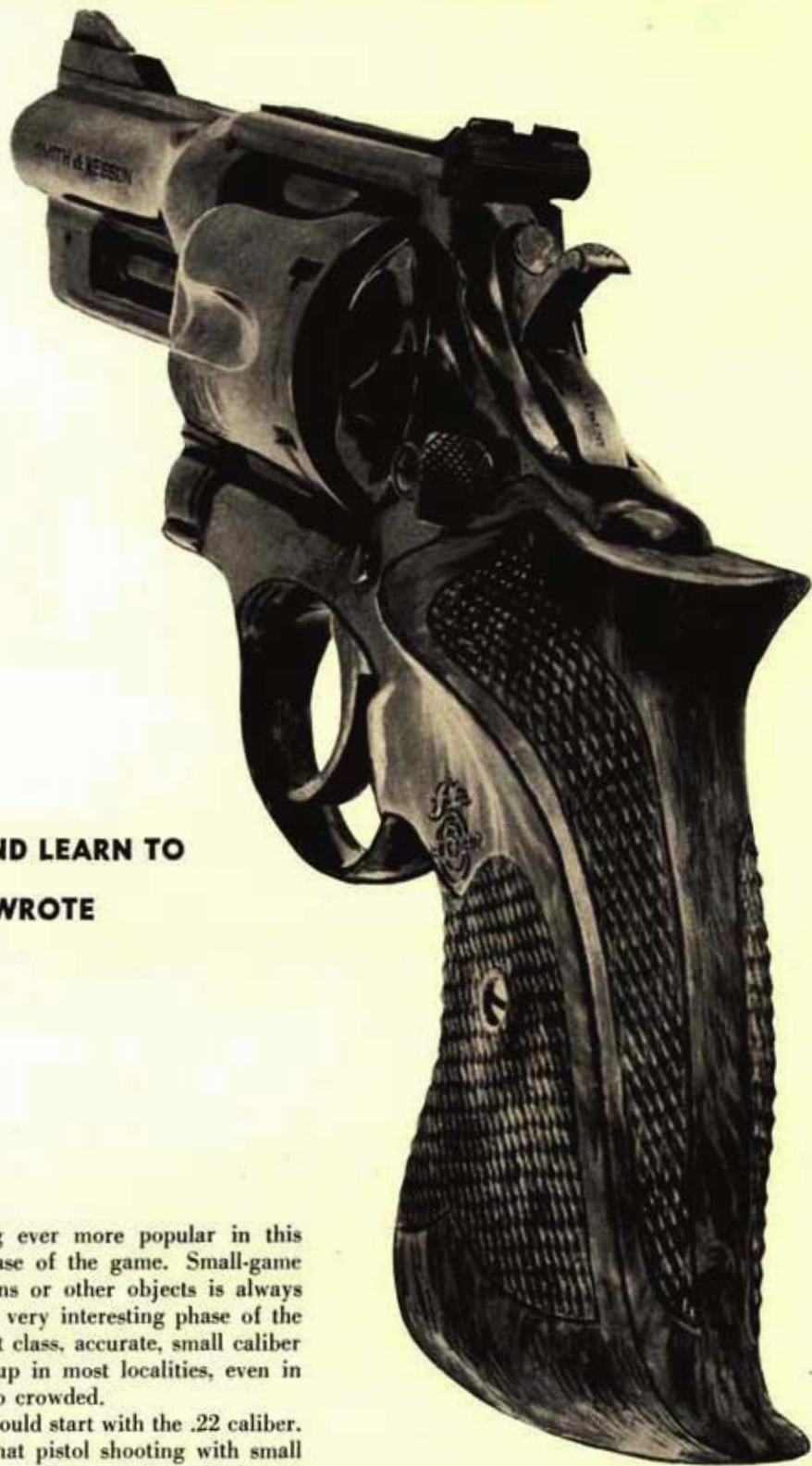


Lever action repeaters like one above were favorite arms of Hatfield and McCoy clansmen.



Anse Hatfield posed with group armed with Colt and Smith and Wesson revolvers and "modern" fast-firing repeating rifles.

HAND- GUNS FOR THE TYRO



**HOW TO CHOOSE A HANDGUN AND LEARN TO
SHOOT IT—BY "THE MAN WHO WROTE
THE BOOK" ON THE SUBJECT**

By ELMER KEITH

PISTOL SHOOTING as a sport is becoming ever more popular in this country, and target shooting is only one phase of the game. Small-game shooting is another, and informal matches at cans or other objects is always fun and good training. Trick shooting is another very interesting phase of the handgun game. The present great demand for first class, accurate, small caliber pistols shows the trend. Safe ranges can be set up in most localities, even in basements in cities where the outdoor scene is too crowded.

Anyone desiring to become a good pistol shot should start with the .22 caliber. The recoil is negligible and the report so light that pistol shooting with small calibers can be enjoyed in settled communities, providing a suitable back stop is found. This can be a regular target bunker, a hill of soft sand or dirt, a big block of wood, or one of the many bullet stops now on the market.

Start right by buying the best .22 caliber auto pistol or revolver you can afford, preferably with target sights that are fully adjustable. Then you can sight the arm to print exactly where the sights bear on the target. While there are many foreign automatic pistols in .22 caliber being offered, I prefer the Colt, Ruger, and High Standard guns made in this country. If repairs are needed you know where to get them. If revolvers are preferred, we have the fine Smith & Wesson, Colt, and Ruger lines, as well as the less expensive Great Western, Harrington and Richardson, and Iver Johnson arms, to choose from.

Let's look first at the auto pistols. If you contemplate serious match work as the ultimate goal, then you should get the best in target arms, such as the High Standard Super-Matic, the Colt Woodsman Match Target, or the fine

Handgun target shooting is a sport which women, children can play on even terms with men of family.



Just a few of the many types, weights, and price levels available to the handgun buyer are (left, top down) the H & R "Sportsman," Ruger Single Action, and Whitney Lightning Model, and (right, top down) Hi-Standard Olympic, Colt Woodsman, and Iver Johnson M855, all in .22 caliber which is best buy for beginners.

Ruger Mark I Target. These are the top quality arms, all capable of the finest possible .22 caliber handgun grouping.

For general plinking and informal target shooting or for a gun to carry on fishing trips, the shorter barreled auto pistols may be had in all makes, with or without adjustable sights. Some makes offer both barrel lengths, interchangeable, for an all-purpose combination. I believe the fully adjustable sights are to be preferred and worth all they cost. For most shooters the longer the barrel the better the target arm because of the greater weight and sight radius; but some oldsters may find that the shorter barrels give them both sights in better accommodation for their older eyes. Likewise, for handiness in carrying, the gun with the short barrel is easier to carry on a waist belt or in a car. For carrying on a horse or in a shoulder holster, the long barrel is not in the way.

The auto loader has advantages; it also has its faults. The magazines are usually slow and cranky to load, and can become lost out of the gun if the magazine release is pressed accidentally. If the magazine lips become battered, they may cause jams. They require special care if they are to function reliably in really cold weather.

The revolver is my own personal favorite in handguns and the finest sixguns in the world are made in this country in the Smith & Wesson, Colt, and Ruger plants. In the double action guns with swing out cylinders, you have simultaneous ejection of fired cases, and these guns are very

much faster to reload than an auto pistol clip. With no moving breech block, the revolver offers greater sight radius for the same over-all length of gun. (Revolver barrels are measured separately from the cylinder, but the length of the cylinder must also be included for true sight-length comparison.) Malfunctions are rare here and if one occurs or a cartridge fails to fire, you merely have to cock the gun to bring another cartridge under the firing pin. Or, with double action guns, you can just pull the trigger a second time; whereas, with all auto pistols, clearing a jam requires the use of both hands and considerably more time.

Revolver chambers can be fitted to closer tolerances than auto pistols, and if the chambers are perfectly lined up with the bore (as they usually are in high grade target arms), they are just as accurate as the auto pistol with its barrel and chamber in one piece but with looser chambering. Cheap revolvers may not line up all chambers perfectly with the bore when cocked. This causes inaccuracy and has caused some shooters to believe that revolvers are "just naturally" less accurate.

There is no magazine to load or get lost in a revolver, and no magazine lips to get bent and distorted. Fine double action guns can be fired at least as fast as can the automatic, and I find the double action revolver faster for certain hits, especially on moving targets. For the woodsman, trapper, camper, or hunter, these differences are important. I use greased bullet (Continued on page 47)



Proper grip places trigger finger on trigger so the squeeze is straight back.



Firing revolver from prone position with free hand as rest gives fine accuracy and near-rifle ranges, aids novice in gaining confidence.



Expert's kit includes case, spotting scope, guns of .22, .38, and .45 caliber, match ammunition, and "gadgets."



320 shots, more than average hunter would fire in 10 years, was just average one day's fodder for barrel used in grueling endurance test.

Problems are discussed as author Louis Corbeau (right) and gunsmith Wyatt Osburn consider plans for bedding Appel barrel into its stock.



THE BARREL

By LOUIS CORBEAU

DID YOU EVER buy or build a fine rifle and then purposely try to wreck it? Did you ever get a superbly accurate barrel and deliberately set out to burn it out as fast as possible?

That's the job I had in testing the new Appel Process cold-formed rifle barrel. Never heard of an Appel barrel? Chances are you'll be hearing lots about them in the future if my experience was any guide, for we really gave an Appel barrel a workout—and in the process I worked up quite a sweat, too. We had a rifle made up on the Appel barrel, to test for original accuracy, for barrel life, and for retained accuracy in its old age. Many a rifled tube will send all of its pills into one hole when it's new, but mighty few of them will do so when the erosive gases of a couple of thousand rounds have gone down their throats. But the German-designed Appel barrel, now made in America, upset this generalization.

Dr. Gustav Appel developed the cold-form process in Germany where it helped the MG-42 compile a fine record for barrel life in fast firing machine guns. The Doctor claims that his rifled barrels are smoother inside, more accurate, longer-lived under hot loads, and possessed of more uniform vibrations when fired, than barrels made by other methods. To gain these results, the Appel Process uses a mandrel rod with the rifling machined upside down on its outside diameter. This rod is inserted in a pre-drilled piece of gun steel. With the mandrel in place, the

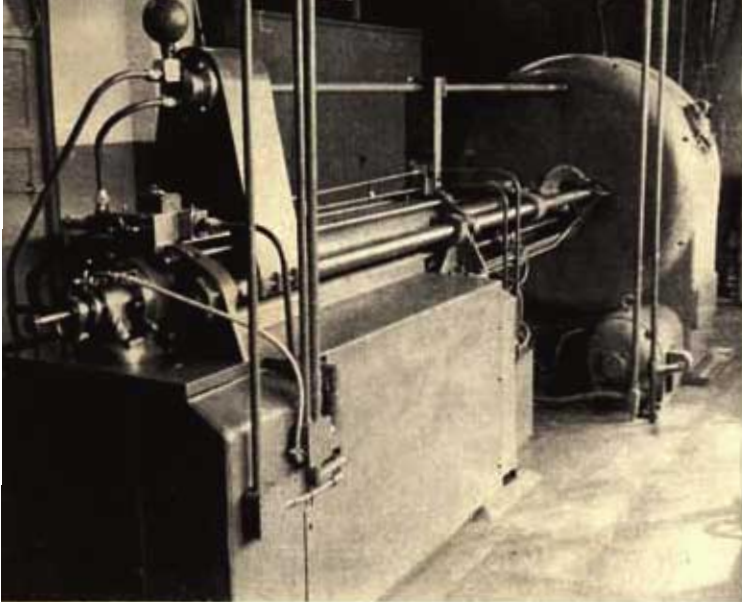
I COULD NOT WEAR OUT

APPEL-PROCESSED BARREL STILL SHOOTS LESS-THAN-INCH

GROUPS AFTER TORTURE ENDURANCE TEST OF 3,000 DANGEROUS OVERLOADS

"Where's that crow?" The .22-250 makes a good varmint, not too heavy (total weight $9\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. with scope) even for offhand stand-up shooting.





Appel process consists of driving a cutting tool through cold tube, so avoiding flaws due to heat stresses.



Amazing .85" 100-yd. group through 2,500-round-"old" barrel convinced author that Appel process does job.



The won't-wear-out barrel perched on top of some of the bullet boxes emptied in test which equaled several lifetimes of average shooting.

steel is subjected to a terrific pounding by a special forging machine. This hammering forces the steel into the grooves in the mandrel. Remove the rod and you have the rifling on the inside of the pre-drilled steel tube. Bear in mind that all of this machining is done while the steel is cold. No heating and cooling processes is involved, so there are no heat stresses to be relieved. There are no tiny inaccuracies in the rifling resulting from uneven expansion of steel during forging.

Because of the terrific pounding it received from the high impact forging machine, the granular structure of the metal is actually compressed. Because of the high impact forging, the barrel is left in a stress-balanced condition, which lends itself to uniform vibration on firing.

In simpler words, they claim more accuracy, over a longer barrel life. My question was, was their claim justified?

I had the Appel .224 barrel fitted to a Mauser 98 action and chambered to .22-250. The choice of caliber was dictated by a sincere desire to burn out the barrel in the interests of science. Those nearly 4,000-foot-per-second loads in the Varminter have the reputation for doing just that. I first considered the .220 Swift, but that caliber,

although also a notorious barrel burner, has never achieved the accuracy of the Varminter among the bench rest fraternity. The .22-250 seemed to be the best possible combination of land-eroding loads and pinpoint accuracy.

Looking ahead to about 3,000 explosions taking place within inches of my skull, and with no desire to end up cutting out paper dolls, I decided against making it a super lightweight cannon. Although I wanted that barrel turned down to a weight where a woodchucker could handle it all day, I had no intention of getting recoil-belted all over the scenery every time I touched her off. So we decided on a hunting-weight rifle and stock.

Second only to the barrel in importance is the trigger, for my money at least, so I chose a Jaeger Model 50 trigger especially designed for the Mauser. It has positive adjustment, a pull that is crisp and neat, lacking in creep—just right for what I had in mind.

Choice of scope was a tough one. I wanted a 20X to do the most perfect possible job of pointing it. On the other hand, to carry it in the field after prairie dogs, crows, and other such self-erecting targets, I needed a light 4X. The logical compromise was an 8X Bushnell Scope Chief. It shows me bullet (Continued on page 49)

IS YOUR GUN LEGAL? WHERE, AND FOR WHAT?

By ALFRED J. GOERG

SHOTGUNS WOUND MORE GAME, cause more game to be lost and wasted, than any other gun or any combination of guns used by hunters in the United States today. Yet shotguns are legal hunting arms in many states where rifled guns are prohibited.

This is no indictment of shotguns. I like shotguns. And I like shotgun shooting, at proper targets. So do several million other hunters; and of course the principal reason why shotguns wound more game than any other gun is that shotguns are used more times, for more kinds of game, by more hunters, than any other gun. If they are used sometimes on the *wrong* kind of game, that is not the fault of the gun, nor is it the fault of the hunter. It is the fault of the law. And that is what I am shooting at in this article: at the crazy muddle of inconsistencies and inanities that exists in our hunting laws from state to state in this allegedly united country!

I wanted to find out where, in which states, I would be permitted to use a handgun on game, and which handgun on what game. I sent for and got the game codes, or condensations thereof, from nearly every state in the Union. I got no very satisfactory answer to my question; most states seem not to have sensed the current upsurge of interest in handgun hunting. But I did get a startling and not very flattering look at the laws of our land regarding hunting. Some of the state laws defy interpretation; and others reduce to interpretations so illogical as to be absurd.

Simply because the shotgun versus rifle controversy is one of the most common (and one of the most confusing) instances of the differences in state hunting laws, let's examine it first.

As every hunter knows, many states permit the use of shotguns (loaded with shot of certain sizes, or with rifled slugs or ball) on deer, while prohibiting the use of rifled guns on deer or, in



Plump Rocky Mountain blue grouse picked off with revolver makes good camp meat, but few states permit you to shoot game with pistol.

**IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE LAWS OF
THE STATE IN WHICH YOU ARE ABOUT TO
HUNT, YOUR PET GUN MAY LAND YOU IN JAIL**

some instances, against any game whatever. Rifle hunters think this kind of law is pretty silly. Lawmakers, and some of the hunters, in the shotgun states defend the laws as being "in the interest of public safety." They say that thick woods, or thick population, make rifles unsafe. "The rifled guns shoot too far, kill people or stock out of sight of the hunter."

Neither my own experience nor the hunting casualty statistics I've studied seem to support this argument, but—let's say they've got a point. If so, it's a point against the reckless hunter, not against a type of weapon. Modern high-velocity rifle bullets disintegrate on contact with any obstacle, even a twig; and not even the "brush cutter" rifle bullets will go far through thick woods; not much further than a bouncing, ricocheting ball or slug from a shotgun barrel. Thickly populated areas *might* be endangered by long-range bullets that missed their intended targets, but this is a matter for education rather than legislation. The educated hunter never shoots unless he *can see* a sure, safe stopper for his bullet. And there must be as many reckless shotgunners as there are reckless riflemen; in fact, too many shotgunners depend much too much on the false belief that their guns "won't reach much farther than I can spit."

Shotguns loaded with No. 6 shot are legal in all states, so far as I know, for use on upland birds, small game, or even wildfowl. Yet many of the same states prohibit the use of ".22 caliber rifles." The lawmakers were probably thinking of the .22 rim fire shorts of their boyhood days; but some of our modern ".22 caliber" loads are pretty hot. A bird or rabbit hit by one No. 6 shot in the intestines can and will travel far and fast, too far and too fast to be bagged; but he will almost certainly die. That one No. 6 pellet in a rabbit is closely comparable to one .22 caliber rifle bullet in a deer. And, of course, a deer hit in the intestines with a .22 (or even much larger) slug may be lost. But some of our high velocity .22s produce tissue damage and shock entirely disproportionate to the size of the bullet; enough to bring many a gut-shot deer to bag. Moreover, the rifleman is much more often shooting at a stationary target on which he can place his shot for an instant kill—whereas the shotgunner is almost always shooting at an erratic, fast-moving target. Yet one

is legal and the other not. Is this because the bird or bunny is a smaller animal, must therefore suffer less?

(Some of the "laws" we hunters make for ourselves, in the name of sportsmanship, are a little odd themselves, under close scrutiny. For instance, that business of moving targets. The rifle goes all out for precision: uses a sling, scope sights, fires if at all possible from a kneeling, sitting, or prone position or from a rest. Nothing pleases him better than a shot at a standing target. He brags about such a shot, congratulating himself on the sportsmanship of a clean kill . . . The shotgunner, on the other hand, shoots standing (often off-balance; that's the luck of the field) with practically no sights at all, at small, swiftly moving targets—considers it utterly unsportsmanlike, even disgusting, to shoot at a sitting bird or rabbit. . . . Understand, please, that I'm not advocating shots at sitting birds or rabbits; neither am I damning shots at standing deer. I merely said, "It's funny.")

Most states, I found, allow shotguns to be used for deer hunting. The .410 gauge is frowned on by some states but is legal in others if slugs or ball loads are used. If the gauge is not over 10 nor under 20 it is legal to use No. 4 shot, or larger, on deer in Arkansas. But in this same state, not only the .22 rim fire but all .224 and .228 calibers are illegal. Presumably, then, the .22 Hipower Savage is not considered potent enough for Arkansas deer. Just for fun, I told my neighbor, an ex-Alaska hunter, about this regulation. His boiler pressure jumped alarmingly. Why, hell, he had killed many big brown bear with the .22 Hipower Savage! Not big enough for whitetails? They're crazy! . . . I refrained from telling him that, on the other side of the muddle, the state of Virginia *allows* the use of .25 rim fire loads on deer. I didn't want the old timer to have a stroke on my account.

To further confuse the average gun nut and hunter, I picked at random some of the various states' laws and regulations pertaining to the use of firearms in hunting. I don't guarantee these statements; there are questions of interpretation, questions of what is enforced and what is not, even contradictions and exceptions in various counties in the same state. But these are the laws as I read them.

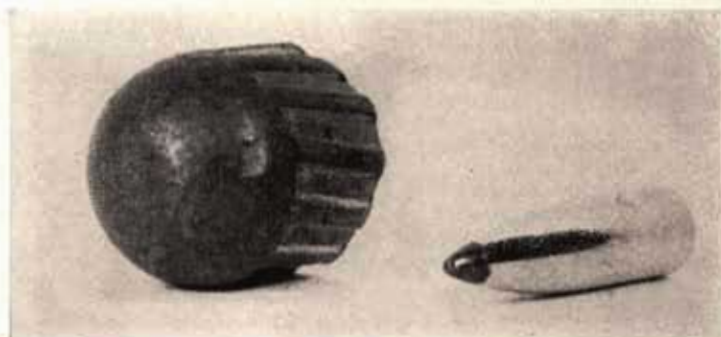
In New Jersey, no handguns are allowed for hunting. For deer, it is legal to use buckshot in shotguns not over



Many states forbid use of any rifle on any game. Some permit small game hunting with .22s like M77 pictured.



Beautiful, powerful, beloved by many hunters, guns like this fine .270 sporter are still outlawed by some states.



A 12 gauge rifle slug (for shotgun) and the 130 grain .270 bullet beside it both have one-ton impact at 25 yards. But the slug's extreme range is about 100 yds.,

while a .270 bullet will kill trophies like those pictured at ranges of three times that distance. Yet the .270 is outlawed in many states where shotguns are legal.

10 gauge. (A 20 gauge shotgun load is okay; a .44 Magnum revolver bullet isn't.)

In Pennsylvania, autoloading, automatic, and semi-automatic rifles are prohibited in all types of hunting. All .22 and .25 rim fire cartridges are illegal. (Does this mean that the .32 rim fire is legal?) Buckshot is illegal.

In Michigan, "No firearms other than shotgun and .22 caliber rim fire may be used in hunting during any season open to the taking of deer with firearms." This is the law at least in certain parts of the state.

In Connecticut, rifles using ammunition larger or heavier than .22 caliber rim fire Long Rifle are okay for deer. Shotgun ammunition with loads larger or heavier than No. 2 shot are illegal in some areas, okay in others. (Exactly what is meant by "larger or heavier?" Is the obsolete .25 rim fire, with a bullet weight of 65 grains, legal because of its weight and diameter? Or is energy in foot pounds what is meant by "heavier?")

In Nevada, big game hunting with a shotgun, handgun, or rifle with a velocity of less than 1000 foot pounds at 100 yards from the muzzle, is unlawful.

In Vermont, "The possession between 6:30 o'clock in the afternoon and 5:30 in the (Continued on page 55)



A few states permit shooting woodchuck with revolvers. Handgun hunting requires stalking as well as gun skill.

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GUN RACK

(Continued from Page 10)

in this pamphlet and the maker claims 47.3% recoil reduction. . . .

Muzzle blast is something else again. While I became accustomed to it through successive shootings, that first shot was definitely unpleasant. It is possible that the nervousness after the first shot contributed to the wide pattern, but I was not able to hold the shots inside about 4" at 100 yards. Pete Kuhlhoff's experience was much the same, as was John Amber's.

BSA stated these were the very first pilot models—more accurate Featherweights would go out to us directly. Came the second Featherweight. This was apparently identical to the first in design details, and the brake did crack a little, too. However, shots seemed to close down now to about 3" which while by no means spectacular is not too bad for a really light rifle. The "kick," was different—a sharp rap rearward which left my forend hand grasping a handful of air. The Featherweight with muzzle brake is not a gun for the target range, regrettably. In comparison with a .30-06 standard bolt action sporter which another shooter was using, the Featherweight blasted and kicked appreciably more than it should. Nevertheless, it is not fair to be too harsh on the gun. In finish and fit it is superb. In accuracy it is good. In recoil, well . . . it is okay for casual hunting.

The standard BSA, the Imperial .30-06 was another matter entirely. The forend is not scooped out to the extent that the Featherweight is lightened, and gave a better dampening effect to barrel whip. With both 180 grain pointed soft point hunting loads and the miscellaneous assortment of GI .30-06 Ball M2 that inevitably is the principal fodder for a "thirty caliber" arm, the Standard Imperial performed well. A couple of groups under 2" attested to the practical accuracy of the weapon and, repeatedly, its fine finish and entire presentation was impressive, appreciated by all the hangers-on at the range. But fine feathers don't make fine birds, and a look at the BSA action suggested that, because the bolt sleeve was inside the receiver contour, it might not handle gas from punctured primers too well. There is an inadequate gas-relief port on the receiver ring, and no ports in the bolt at all.

We tied the Standard Imperial down in an old tire and slipped a few rounds of notorious headseparators from Johnny Smith's scrap box, some brittle FA 33 stuff. A wisp of vapor arose on one indicating a slight separation, but no sweat to open the bolt at all. Adding injury to insult, we took sev-

eral of the cases and slotted them lengthwise at the bases to guarantee splitting. On two shots copious clouds of smoke poured out—but paper placed on a board and held immediately behind the Besa action failed to show significant blast effect. While there were minute perforations from gas, the ability of the action to handle gas under the most abused conditions of puncture or primer failure surprised the skeptics. Nothing leaked back that a pair of old Doc Mitchell's peeper protectors wouldn't have stopped easily.

Summing up, the Besas rate excellent on esthetic style and finish, with one mark against them for too-soft varnish. The susceptibility of the varnish to marking, even picking up cloth imprints, may have been because of the haste in getting this batch of guns over to America for writers' review. Gas handling is entirely adequate and safety is tops, proof against the normal hazards of primer puncture. Tight fitting bolt parts contribute to this security.

A score against it is that the firing pin is separate, like the Springfield. This has long been a bone of contention among the hyper-accurate belly shooters, that the separate fir-



Big Balvar 24 variable-power scopes were tested on a variety of rifles.

ing pin design contributes to soft firing pin blow, erratic ignition, and hence poor accuracy. In the BSA, planned as a sporting rifle to go to the far corners of the earth, the separate firing pin is sensible as it provides for easy repair in case of breakage. One thing was noted in disassembling the BSA bolt—it is best not to do it. The design is definitely less simple than the Mauser, or even the old "Enfield" with which it will inevitably be compared. Don't try to disassemble the BSA bolt. On accuracy, the Featherweight scores "fair, satisfactory for a hunting rifle," in the old terms, but owners of a Featherweight will do well to branch out into handloading to find the fodder that

(Continued on page 54)

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THE TRUTH ABOUT HOLLYWOOD GUNFIGHTERS

(Continued from Page 15)

and hits the half-dollar before it drops four inches." We do not blame the experts for being amazed and doubtful of the physical possibility of such a stunt—Ojala was even more amazed when he read he could do this thing! As usual this incredible performance was recorded for posterity by a writer who saw Ojala do his drop-the-coin stunt, and without bothering to learn how Arvo does the trick or being exact in giving details, this writer has done Ojala an injustice. The facts of this stunt are amazing enough! Actually, Arvo lays the fifty-cent piece on the top of his drawing hand, then moves the hand (palm down) to a horizontal position approximately four inches above his waist-belt and six inches forward of his gunbutt, which by measure is seven inches below his hipbone. He tilts his hand until the coin slides off, then he goes for his pistol. There is a shot, and the coin spins through the air. This is a trick, naturally, and the "hit" is only an illusion, since he has fired a blank and struck the coin with his pistol barrel as it arcs up and forward out of his holster.

The day I measured this stunt for the sake of truth, Arvo did the gag three times without a miss using a factory-fresh Colt Single-Action with 5½" barrel and one of his holsters ("Hollywood Fast Draw Holster"), which he now manufactures for sale to the general public. Obviously, the distance the coin drops is closer to 8" or 10" than it is to 4"; therefore, the distance, too, is in part an optical illusion. But the real thing to remember is that Arvo still has to make an ultra-fast draw, then shoot in perfect timing with his gun's striking of the coin!

ANOTHER stunt Ojala does, with either one gun or two, is one which has won him a lot of bets and, in my opinion, makes him the "fastest gun" in Hollywood. Here's the bit: He hands a person a single-action six-shooter (after all pistols have been inspected to assure their being empty) and tells the person to cock the pistol and aim it at his chest; then to pull the trigger when he sees him start to draw. The bet is that Arvo will draw either one or both pistols—starting them uncocked and hip-holstered—and snap his gun, or guns, before the other person can merely squeeze the trigger!

Impossible, you say? Well, several people have lost money learning that it is not. Star John Derek, who was originally taught to draw by Ojala, can also do this stunt using one gun, a Sheriff's model Colt Single-Action with three-inch barrel and a holster he designed for himself. Derek "took" a well-coordinated stuntman nine out of ten tries, for \$10.00 a try, on this stunt! So let's see how it's done: The "normal reaction time"

for any person is supposed to be 1/5th to 2/5ths of a second. By the time the person aiming the cocked pistol sees that the draw has begun and reacts by squeezing the trigger, he is already too late. The man doing the drawing has no psycho-physical time loss for reaction time, since he pre-determines when he will make his draw, which is purely a reflex movement on his part with no mental or physical delay. But any way you measure the drawing time, it must be less than 1/5th second, unless the draw is made against a handicapped person . . . and I've yet to see any actor or stuntman who "tried" Ojala or Derek who was in any way so handicapped. Again, this might be classed as a "trick," but it sure is a fast one.

ONE writer stated that Rodd Redwing "claims" to shoot through the hole in a candy Lifesaver. Gun experts have gone to great lengths to prove it is ballistically impossible, because the Lifesaver's hole is only .03" larger than a .22 cal. bullet. Yet Redwing does it all the time as part of a "shooting act" he does for kids . . . and gullible writers! He can even do it with a .22 pistol. Here's the stunt: Rodd puts a candy Lifesaver into a clamp in front of his "shooting board" (actually a panel of ¼" steel on an easel), then directly behind the hole in the candy he clamps a lighted match or birthday cake candle. That done, he steps off twenty feet or so, aims his .22 rifle or pistol and fires, and the flame is shot out! Far be it from me to give away Rodd's gimmick—and naturally there is some trickery involved—but I will again state the truth: the flame is shot out by the solid bullet he fires. Think back to some of the trickshooters you've seen and maybe you'll find the answer—the air in front of a bullet has to move pretty fast to get out of its way.

Here's one of Rodd Redwing's greatest stunts of fast-draw showmanship: He sets a wooden target over his steel "shooting board," steps off about twenty feet and holds a hunting knife up by its point, then tells his audience that he is going to throw the knife into a bullet-hole which he is going to make in the target while the knife is in the air, using his hip-holstered single-action .45! Sure enough, he tosses the knife, draws and shoots, and when the smoke clears the knife is sticking in the edge of the bullet-hole! This is also a trick, but perhaps the greatest trick of the whole thing is how that Indian can move fast enough to get everything done while his knife is flashing through the air.

One thing which really has the experts in a challenging mood is the claim that some of the movie gunhands draw in one-

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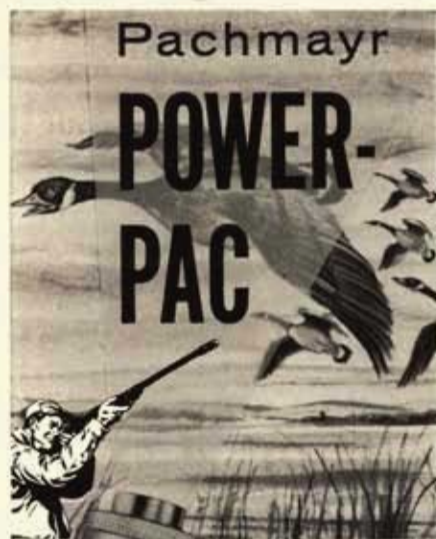


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tenth-second. Some of the Hollywood gunfighters have stated that they can draw in 1/10th second, and that they have photographic evidence to prove their time. Not one of them ever claimed, at least to my knowledge, that he could draw and fire a hit in 1/10th, so—at first—I believed this thing could be done "Hollywood-style." However, when I began to seek the truth and the proof, I found the answer to be *negative*—tenth-second draws, getting the pistol cocked, out and fired, have *not* been done. But several of the boys honestly thought that they had done so. It was an understandable miscalculation, as I think you will agree when the whole matter is brought before you for judgment.

The most natural and obvious timing device available to us Hollywood gunhands is the camera with which we work.

The Mitchell studio motion picture camera is used throughout the world because of its mechanical dependability. These Mitchells may cost \$13,000.00 and upward; they are equipped with very accurate tachometers. The opening of the shutter plus the shutter's running speed determines the exposure time of each frame. A sound-and-camera set up will give a very accurate record of time, as well as pictures of just what was done. The camera is constant. Thus, using a Mitchell studio camera running at the optimum speed of 24 frames per second for correlation of sound and image, and the variable shutter set at the normal opening of 175 degrees, each picture is exposed exactly 1/48th second.

It is this approximately 1/50th second exposure which has brought about the entire misconception of *proven* 1/10th second draws . . . the boys were using film strips of their draws to determine their speed. They counted the number of pictures from beginning of hand movement to muzzle flash; 10 frames should equal 1/5th second (10x1/50), and five frames was accepted by them as 1/10th (5x1/50). Some of the boys actually have made draws in *four frames*. (My own time averages somewhere around eight frames, so I'm sort of slow!)

What they weren't taking into account is that each frame is exposed 1/50th, but while the next un-exposed frame is moving into the camera's aperture, the dark half of the revolving shutter is cycling closed for one 50th. So the true time of each frame is 1/25th, mechanical duration, which makes a five-frame draw actually one-fifth-second, not 1/10th. I trust that you will see how this error originated, and that you will agree with my contention that we're a pretty "fast crowd" . . . especially since all our work is with single-actions!

As Ed McGivern has pointed out, "The quarter second draw squeezes the time down to what I believe to be very close to the limit of human reaction time and hand speed." And this time, according to McGivern who is certainly our best authority, is for any type gun, drawn from any type rig or holster. Of course, it must be remembered that his ¼ second minimum includes the scoring of a hit, our 1/5th does not. And the only way any of us ever approach this really amazing speed is by using holsters of scientific design (Ojala was the first to patent and market such a holster), but which still have the appearance of the Old Timer's rig. These holsters enabled Ojala to evolve a new and faster sequence of drawing,

for we cock, then draw with one continuous motion. This would have made *any* of the old time gunfighters think we were all a bunch of magicians who produced cocked pistols out of thin air. Never were holsters, single-action guns, and style so completely co-ordinated as ours are today. True, the Old Timer might put a hole in us, but he'd sure be afire from powder burns long before he even found his gun!

Our holsters are indeed far different from the regulation drop-loop western holster. My own design has no *bend* to it at all, since the holster is riveted hard-and-fast to the gun-belt, and both belt and holster are partly metal lined. John Derek's design is made up of one solid piece of leather which forms both belt and holster. Granted, these are not as comfortable as the Old Timer's soft 'scabbard' which was worn looped over his single-weight cartridge belt, and usually high about his waist with no tie-down though cutting into his leg. But we always know where our pistol is (a loop of whang under or over the hammer acts as a keeper, so that the gun won't fall out accidentally), whereas the Old Timer had to find his gun, pull it free of holsters which could bind his pistol, cock with his thumb, point and let go. Not that they weren't fast, but we would have the 'edge' all the way with our modern holsters and guns.

Yes, our guns are also a bit different from what you see, or think you see, in films. While all of us use Colts or Great Western single-action six-shooters of standard barrel length—4¾", 5½", or 7½"—with regular hammers, triggers, and guards, each man's pistol is "hand tuned" until it is smooth-working and perfectly timed. Actually only the front sight and main-spring are very much altered from factory condition. Both are filed down to about half their original size, making the pistols easy to speed-cock and faster to clear leather. None of the "pros" use Lightning Model Colts, or any DA pistol tricked-up to look like a single-action. However, such double-action guns are often supplied actors who are not able to fire a thumb-buster fast enough to suit a director. This was the case in the film, "Fastest Gun Alive," when Brod Crawford has to 'fan' his gun. With a production which ran into several thousand dollars per day being held up by Crawford's lack of gun skill, Carl Pitti, the Technical Instructor, handed Brod one of the Colt DA's that Stembridge Gun Rentals makes up for just such occasions. These are New Service .45 revolvers with Colt single-action grips and ejector rods added. Brod "fanned" out his shots, the scene was in the can, and that's how it happened.

Well, that's about the size of it, and maybe you can see now that we aren't trying to bamboozle anyone . . . we're just working guys who enjoy our jobs, when we get them, and we try to do them better and faster than anyone else, that's all. As for McGivern's idea of having a grand shoot-out to see who's the "Fastest or Top Gun in The West," we say, "You-all come down anytime, an' we'll have a lot of fun shootin' fer them silver pistols you promised the winner . . . but don't bother bringin' all them electric devices. We got cameras an' our own rules . . . we'll abide by them!" Remember, movies *are* better than ever, in spite of their faults, except there are too darn many "East-erns." Let's have more "Westerns!"

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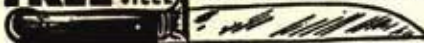
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SAFARI-LAND . . . IN TEXAS

(Continued from page 18)

out of the wagon while Larry watched the traveling animals through powerful glasses. The sheep soon moved into a clump of cedars and stopped. At first we could see only their rumps. Then the leading ram turned his massive head and stared at us, suspicious and alert. He was a beautiful sight, his head held proudly erect, his beard sweeping down across his foreparts until it touched the ground.

"I want that lead ram," Ludwig whispered, "but he's behind some cedar branches, and I can't get a clear shot." After maneuvering about a bit, he added, "Reckon I'll have to try to slip up on him."

"Be careful," David cautioned. "They'll cut and run at the slightest sound."

Ludwig nodded. He checked the bolt action of his .30-06, then crept forward cautiously until we lost sight of him in the brush.

There was a long space without sound or movement. The old ram moved cautiously into view. Through the glasses we could see him stomping uneasily. Twice he shook his head angrily.

Then the shot cracked. The big ram reared. The ewes bounded into the brush and disappeared. The ram didn't follow them, but walked around in a circle, stumbling and hesitating.

Ludwig burst from the screening brush and ran toward his quarry. He scrambled down the stony draw, eyes ahead, hell-bent on getting his sheep. But the Aoudad had life left in his rugged frame. Apparently, he heard Ludwig coming. He turned and made a mighty effort to follow the ewes.

Ludwig stopped running, set his feet, brought the gun to his shoulder, sighted a moment, and squeezed. When the shot crashed, the ram crumpled where he stood. Ludwig had his trophy.

And what a trophy it was! The Aoudad

weighed 250 pounds, had a horn spread of 26 inches at the widest point. Ludwig's first shot had placed the 180-grain bullet just back of the animal's shoulder, missing the lungs; but his second shot shattered the shoulder, and blasted the heart.

The Aoudad or Barbary sheep does very well in the American Southwest and, unlike the other unusual Rickenbacker ranch imports, this one can be found also in one other place on this continent: in New Mexico, where a wild herd of some 200 animals roams some of the roughest terrain in America under the careful protection of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, but available to hunters provided you are lucky enough to draw one of the strictly limited special permits for them. In New Mexico where they are hunted, they are extremely wild and difficult to approach. A much smaller herd, planted in a non-hunting, sightseeing area, are less wary. They are tricky targets, their tawny coats blending well into the coloring of the terrain they frequent; and since both ewes and rams are heavily horned, it is often very difficult to distinguish one from the other at a distance. Like the Rickenbackers, the New Mexico Department is studying the animals, learning their habits and needs, finding out whether or not they are subject to diseases dangerous to other local game or domestic animals, in the hope that here may be a new trophy for American hunters. The meat has much the flavor of venison.

We dressed Ludwig's kill quickly, for time was passing and Larry had to get his Axis. When the cleaning job was finished, we hung the carcass in a tree to wait for the ranch truck, and we all piled back into the station wagon.

Now Larry took the favored seat, and our attention was centered on getting an Axis buck. The time was just right, for the sun

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hovered over the cedars, and game was on the move. Our station wagon took to the back pasture trails, the remote sections of the ranch. Once we spotted two Sambur deer, browsing less than a hundred yards off the trail to our right. Later, we sighted a herd of nine Sika deer from Japan. These deer trooped along for a spell, paralleling our car at a discreet distance. There were two nice bucks in the herd, but Larry had his mind set on a fawn-spotted Axis, and nothing else would satisfy him.

Then, all of a sudden, an animal appeared before us. It was about the size of a Brahma cow. David slowed the wagon so we could get a good look at it. Two more of these animals stepped out of a dark thicket and stood beside the first. Their horns were black and about 18 inches long. Standing motionless, their brown bodies were scarcely visible against the tangle of scrub oaks. David told us they were elands, supposed to be the largest of the antelopes.

And all around the elands were their tiny cousins, the black buck antelopes. They were almost exactly the opposite of the elands in nature. The elands were quiet and dignified, while their small kin were active and frisky. The little fellows are naturally a red-tan color, with white underparts, except bucks which have reached three years of age. Then, usually, black appears around the head and down the back, and the spiral horns turn a glossy black. These are the trophy heads the hunters seek.

"Watch this," David said, and gave the horn a toot. As if activated by one string, every black buck antelope jumped straight up, five or six feet, then bounded away toward the skyline in weird pogo-stick jumps.

We were still laughing at the little animals' antics when the car rounded a bend and Larry saw his Axis. We counted fifteen in the herd before they spotted us and ran. In the lead, running in long, graceful bounds, was a buck of extraordinary beauty. He had six-point antlers (ten points is the world's record) and a large fawn-spotted body.

Larry wouldn't let us follow the herd with the station wagon, and we watched them race across the pasture and come to a stop on top of a high ridge some 300 yards away. "It'll be more fun stalking them, anyway," Larry explained. He eased out of the wagon and lost himself in the thick brush that twisted snake-like along the edge of the pasture.

We waited, every bit as tense as we had been earlier when Ludwig was stalking his sheep. We kept the deer in our glasses, and searched for the leader. But he wasn't with the others. They stood almost motionless, black silhouettes against a reddish sky.

Larry's shot was long in coming. We were conjecturing on the whereabouts of the lone buck when the shot cracked sharply, shattering the sundown quiet, and scattering the silhouettes on the far ridge into wild flight.

Finally we heard Larry's call, "I got him!" and we ran for the ridge.

The buck was a fine specimen, perfectly proportioned, and beautifully marked. One .30-06 bullet back of the shoulder, at 120 yards, had dropped him. Just as we had done with Ludwig's sheep, we swung Larry's 167-pound Axis up into a tree for the ranch truck to find, and trooped back to the station wagon.

Both hunters now had their trophies. They grinned happily as we turned toward the ranch house. They had achieved, in their own state of Texas, results otherwise obtainable only on a big game hunt in India or Africa, and at small cost.

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for a hunting lease and never got a thing!" one hunter remarked. Accommodations are inexpensive, and nice places to stay can be found near the ranch. "Of course," and David smiled when he said this, "if a fellow really wants to rough it, we have two camp houses on the ranch, either one of which a hunter may use at no cost. Both places are equipped with water, lights—and path."

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So, in the future, if some friend spins you a campfire yarn about bagging a Barbary ram or an Axis or Sambur deer, when you know perfectly well he's never been outside Uncle Sam's continental limits—don't call him a liar. He's probably been down to Bear Creek Ranch as a guest of the Rickenbackers.

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(Continued from page 21)

directed that the Indian should be given two of the mules which had been seized from a rich man's hacienda for use in the army. Also—and this is a very nice touch—he took the trouble to write and sign a statement that the mules belonged to the Indian and had not been stolen. Of course, the man went off singing his praises, and it was incidents like this that caused the Indians to crowd into his ranks.

It was this particular incident that led to the designing of Mendoza's most famous weapon, Villa had been much impressed by that very dead mule, and he asked Mendoza to design a machine-gun. Like Madero, he specified that it should make a lot of noise and smoke, but he also specified that it should be as simple as possible. "Some of the boys," he explained frankly, "are kind of simple themselves." Mendoza designed a 7 mm gun with two barrels, hand cranked somewhat like the gardner, that was exactly what Pancho wanted. It was first used during the battle of Casas Grandes, and also played an important part in the battle for Ciudad Juárez. It was later immortalized in the popular ballad "Seven Leagues" (which was the name of Pancho's favorite horse):

At three in the afternoon
The locomotive whistled;
Hooray for Villa, boys,
And set up that machine-gun.
At three in the afternoon
The locomotive whistled.

When Pancho's boys got their machine-guns set up, quite a few Federal locomotives stopped whistling.

After the Revolution had been won Mendoza went back to manufacturing farm implements; but after all the excitement, the work seemed tame. The designing of guns was in his blood by now, and he gave up his plows for the second (and last) time. He wanted to accept the challenge of inventing better, more efficient weapons than the rather primitive affairs he produced under stress during the Revolution. He also wanted to satisfy a deep patriotic ambition, which was to provide the ordinary soldier—the humble Mexican GI—with superior arms. There is no smile, no twinkle in his eyes, when he speaks of this dream. "I wish I could tell you truly," he says, "how pro-

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foundly moved I was during the Revolution by the courage and self-denial of the Mexican soldiers. I decided to serve my country in the only way I could, by devoting my life to studying and designing better weapons . . . weapons that would be as Mexican as I could make them."

Mendoza speaks Spanish, of course, and perhaps in English this declaration sounds a bit flowery. But he abandoned his profitable business, took his wife and small children to Mexico City, and haunted the National Arms Factory, asking for a job, any job, any job whatever, no matter how modest. He had married in August of 1910, only three months before the Revolution broke out, and now there were the children to support as well as his wife, but Señora Mendoza shared and encouraged his dream. Finally he was given work right where he wanted it, in the machine-gun shops.

He skips over the next years. He merely says that he worked, studied, and waited. But his patience must have been next to heroic, because it was not until 1929, almost twenty years after he designed the cannon for Don Francisco, that he finally received an Army directive to design a gun for the soldiers he had vowed to serve. On the 12th of November of that year, the Department of Military Manufactures gave him written instructions to devote all of his time to designing an automatic rifle. He was to incorporate the best features of similar weapons from other countries, but the Mexican version was to be simpler and lighter.

Here was the opportunity for which he had hoped and prepared himself over so many years. He designed a gun that he believed would fulfill all of the Army's requirements, and prayerfully submitted his models. The gun was under consideration for a heartbreakingly long time. It was subjected to innumerable comparative tests. A few trifling changes were requested and made. At last, in a Presidential Decree dated October 31, 1934, he saw his dream come true: the Mendoza 7 mm light machine rifle was adopted as standard by the Mexican Army and put into production.

Great secrecy had surrounded Mendoza's work. The actual adoption of the new gun occurred in December of 1933, nearly a year before the official pronouncement. Full production of the Mendoza LMG at the National Arms Factory was ordered by June of 1934,

and the first 20 guns were issued to the 48th Infantry Battalion, then stationed at Chapultepec. Replacing the heavy Hotchkiss, tripod-mounted Colt and Vickers Maxim guns in the hands of Mexican cavalry and infantry, the light Mendoza gun in one step placed the once-ill-equipped revolutionary army on a par with the best equipped of European forces.

Weighing about 18½ pounds, and firing from an open bolt to allow barrel cooling on full-auto bursts, Mendoza's weapon was, and is, one of the simplest machine guns in existence. Constructed with only 22 working parts, it fired at a rate of 500 rounds per minute, using double-column 30-shot top magazines. The bolt is simple, turned with two front lugs and a double cam slot through which the operating stud on the gas piston unlocks the bolt and draws it to the rear on firing. The firing pin, which in the Lewis gun is a fixed and breakable part of the gas operating rod, is, in the Mendoza, an instantly removable piece having pin tips on each end. If one breaks, field stripping to switch ends for repair is a matter of seconds. Quick barrel removal was another feature in which Sr. Mendoza was a pioneer. Flash hiders were standard on his earlier guns; more recent models have slotted muzzle brakes.

A brand-new design, also by Sr. Mendoza, is being studied by the Army, but currently the original machine rifle is still standard, although it is now made in the U.S. .30 caliber in accordance with an agreement between Mexico and the United States to standardize equipment.

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a while that the pattern of his life was set. But the Army's requests for new weapons were not frequent enough to keep him full-time at designing, and his work at the National Arms Factory was too routine to be a challenge. He had designed and built several .22 pistols and rifles for his young sons, and the boys were so proud of them (and the neighborhood small-fry so envious) that he felt sure the guns would sell profitably. After talking it over with his wife, he quit his job at the factory, set up a little shop on a shoe-string and a prayer, and offered his first products to the market.

They sold. In fact, they sold far better than he had dared to hope. And they have sold ever since. Today, the shop where they are made has some 20 stamping presses, besides milling machines, lathes, drills and other equipment, and employs almost 100 workmen. The Mendoza .22 pistol, which is modeled after a Frontier Colt, has intrigued the grown-ups as well as the small-fry. It is so accurate that it is being used more and more for target shooting. Mendoza will soon add a .22 rifle (designed by himself, of course) to his line. However, he never allows his commercial activities to take precedence over what he considers his real work: he still devotes his best efforts to his designs for the War Department.

It is difficult to believe that Mendoza was born 71 years ago, because his vivacity and his tall, erect carriage belie his age. He owns a city block in the suburbs of Mexico City, with his private home, in the shape of a wide open V with a huge garden, occupying about half the plot. The remainder contains his shop and the house of his married daughter. In the shop, besides the large area where his .22 guns are made, there is a separate area with lathes and other equipment for turning out new models for the Army, and another room which serves as a business office and drafting studio. Much of the Mendoza home is furnished with magnificent antique furniture. It was brought to this continent from Spain by Señora Mendoza's great-grandparents, and after the Revolution she brought it to Mexico City from the hacienda in Chihuahua where she was born.

The Mendozas have three sons and a daughter. The eldest son, Roberto, is in charge of all the machinery in his father's shop, and the youngest, Hector, is the shop foreman and a sportsman of considerable repute, with many trophies. The second son, José, also worked for a time in the shop, but later turned to interior decorating. He

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recently designed many of the beautiful fixtures—lamps, mirrors, door and drawer pulls—that have been installed in Mexico City's plush new Continental Hilton Hotel, and he seems destined for a creative career as successful as his father's.

At 71, with a past so full of accomplishment and a present so comfortable, Mendoza has earned the right to rest on his laurels and just doze away the days in his garden. But the very idea of retiring, or even of slacking up, horrifies him. He is still gazing eagerly into the future. The Army is now testing the new version (RM-2) of his automatic rifle. That .22 is almost ready for production. There is another Army weapon evolving on his drawing-board, and he will have to build 50 models, and then it will have to be tested. Retire? Not on your life!

"In the first place," he says, "I don't feel 71 at all. I feel like a *muchacho*." He says it with such obvious gusto that you know it is true. "Besides, I've got all these projects on hand. I'll be on pins and needles until the Army people adopt that RM-2. And if they turn it down I'll design it all over again. But the real challenge is that there's no such thing as an ideal gun. Every gun is a compromise. I'm rather proud of my sub-machine gun, for instance . . . but it's a compromise. It isn't perfect."

The Mendoza sub-machine gun is the latest of his designs to be accepted and put into production by the War Department. It is .45 cal. with a rate of fire of 500 rounds per minute. As with the automatic rifle, he was requested to make it "lighter and simpler." Therefore it weighs only 2½ kilos (about 5½ lbs.), can be dismantled in five seconds, and has only five main components: the frame, slide, fore-grip, main spring, and magazine. It is a shame that Pancho Villa never had a chance to use it. He would have loved it, and it is simple enough for the simplest of "the boys."

"But it isn't perfect," Mendoza repeats. He sits bolt upright in his garden chair, his eyes shine as they look ahead, he is still the eager young fellow who tackled that cannon thing for Don Francisco so long ago. "I can design a better one. I know I can. And someday, God willing, maybe I will."

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and carried out his orders without question. He owned thousands of acres of land and had thirteen children, four girls and nine boys. The original Hatfield home was at the head of Island Creek in Logan County, W. Va.

Randy McCoy was a man of strong physique, with dark hair and gray-blue eyes. He was twenty years older than Hatfield at the time the trouble began. McCoy built his home only a few miles from that of the Hatfields but across the line in Polk County, Kentucky.

The real war seems to have started in August of 1882, when Elias and Ellison Hatfield, Anse's brothers, rode into Polk County, Kentucky, and got embroiled with Randy McCoy and his sons, Phemar, Tolbert, and Little Randy. (Or maybe it began well before that. Nobody knows, for certain.) Anyway, according to newspaper reports of that time, on this August day in 1882, Tolbert McCoy badgered Elias into a quarrel and struck him to the ground. Ellison Hatfield leaped to the aid of his brother, whereupon Tolbert pulled his knife and stabbed Ellison. Then Little Randy McCoy entered the debate, also with a knife, and stabbed Ellison again in the side. Elias Hatfield tried to help his brother but was driven back by Floyd McCoy. Then Constable Matt Hatfield came running to the scene and arrested the McCoy's. Joe Hatfield, another constable, arrived next, took charge of the McCoy's and sent Matt off to fetch Devil Anse.

When Anse arrived he ordered that his wounded brother, Ellison, be removed to the home of Anderson Farrell and that Tolbert, Phemar, and Little Randy McCoy be arrested and kept under guard until it was learned if Ellison would survive. "If Ellison dies, then so do these three McCoy's," said Devil Anse.

On the third day Sarah McCoy, mother of the boys held prisoners, was allowed to see them, but the Hatfields turned a deaf ear to her pleadings. Also on the third day word

arrived that Ellison had died. Without further ado, the McCoy's were rowed from the West Virginia side across the river to the Kentucky side. Little Randy witnessed the death of his two brothers; then the fifteen-year-old lad was shot down also.

Old Randy McCoy said he would handle the matter according to the letter of the law, but it was not to be. Three of his sons were gone; only himself, young Calvin and Jim remained of the McCoy menfolk. McCoy appealed to Governor Knott of Kentucky, who issued indictments for a number of the Hatfield clan. These papers were forwarded to Governor Jacob Jackson at Charleston, West Virginia, but they were never served.

From here on, the story grows even bloodier and more involved. In the fall of 1886, Devil Anse was convinced that the wife of Bill Daniels, a Hatfield partisan, was carrying news to the McCoy camp. A party of men, allegedly Hatfields, descended upon the Daniels home, grabbed the suspected spy and beat her to death with a whip made from a cow's tail! Not content with this they dashed into the house and beat the woman's aged mother so badly that she was crippled.

The woman who was flogged to death was the sister of Jeff McCoy, one of Randy McCoy's relatives. Another McCoy woman, Nancy McCoy, had married Devil Anse's son, Jonse. One day, Jeff McCoy came to Jonse and Nancy and told them that he had killed a man and wanted them to hide him, believing he would be safe there in a Hatfield home since the lawmen seeking him were Hatfield men. He was wrong. Another of Anse's sons, Cap Hatfield, learned of the killing, arrested Jeff in Jonse's house, and, aided by one Tom Wallace, killed Jeff "as he tried to escape." Cap Hatfield was a constable who seems to have made his office serve his own ends!

Not long later, Jeff's brothers, Lake and Jake, captured Tom Wallace and put him in the jail at Pikeville, county seat of Pike County. And not long after that, Cap Hatfield helped Wallace to escape. Whereupon the McCoy's are said to have offered a nice reward for the capture or scalp of Tom Wallace. The story is that a heavily armed stranger walked into Pikeville one day and displayed a red-haired scalp to Jake and Lark McCoy. Tom Wallace was red-headed. Jake and Lark, we are told, paid off.

The feud became so widespread that law-enforcement became a thing of politics rather than of duty. The McCoy vote in Kentucky was a large one and the governor at Frankfort promised to do all in his power to have Devil Anse brought to justice. On the other hand the Hatfield vote was equally potent in West Virginia, and authorities there refused to be unduly swayed by out-of-state pressures.

But Devil Anse Hatfield overplayed his hand on New Year's night of 1888 when his forces swooped down upon the home of old Randy McCoy and demanded that Randy and his son, Calvin, surrender. Anse was infuriated because McCoy had induced the governor of Kentucky to place a price upon Hatfield heads, and the old man of the Hatfield's had been forced to live under

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constant guard even in his own home. With the attacking force was "Cotton-top" Mounts and Tom Mitchell. Mounts called to the inmates of the McCoy home, but was informed by a daughter, fifteen-year-old Allifair McCoy, that her father was not at home.

Mounts yelled, "Yo're a-lyin', damn yuh!" And, without further ado, leveled his rifle and killed the girl.

Quickly, the dead girl was dragged into the house. But the Hatfields climbed onto the roof and set it afire. Desperate hands made futile efforts to put out the flame as it ate through the dry shingles, but the water supply was soon exhausted and Calvin and Randy McCoy used buttermilk in further attempts to save the dwelling.

It was a hopeless effort. The attackers were closing in, Randy McCoy saw Tom Mitchell about to fire the door, and shot off several of his fingers. With that, the entire Hatfield clan present rushed the door and broke it down. But that shot must have made them wary since, when they entered the burning house, Randy and Calvin had escaped outside to the protection of a huge boulder, from which vantage point they poured bullets into the Hatfield ranks. However, their aim was mighty wild for no one was hit. But being shot at, even by bad marksmen, is no fun and Devil Anse and his crew mounted their horses and rode back to Peter Creek. Little Allifair was laid to rest beside the bodies of her brothers.

Again Randy McCoy appealed to the governor for protection until finally the chief executive of Kentucky demanded the surrender of Devil Anse Hatfield. But to no avail. The officers sent for the Hatfields always left without them, usually glad to get back safely to their own stamping grounds. Although detectives had been sent from far and near to capture the Hatfields, Old Devil Anse, his sons, Cap and Jonse, and their uncle, Jim Vance, went uncaptured and for the most part unmolested.

Then Val Hatfield was arrested and sent to prison for his part in the McCoy killings. His stay in prison was not long, however, for he soon died from worry and confinement. His death brought Devil Anse again into action. The McCoy's were not well organized, but under the new leadership of one Frank Phillips of Pikeville, they were formidable enough. Jim Vance was killed, a few days later, by a group of McCoy men led by Phillips.

The next outbreak was near Grapevine Creek when Tom Mitchell, Cap Hatfield, Devil Anse, Indian Hatfield, Lee White, and French Ellis were attacked by a strong force of McCoy men, again under the leadership of Frank Phillips. The fight lasted for several hours. Twenty of the McCoy attackers were wounded when Phillips finally gathered his men and rode back to Kentucky; and Cap Hatfield had killed Bud McCoy, and Indian Hatfield had been killed by a McCoy bullet through his brain. This was better shooting, though the circumstances were hardly such as to demand marksmanship. This was a slug-out, at close quarters.

Shortly after this battle, Jonse left the area for Washington, and his brother, Cap Hatfield, became Devil Anse's chief lieutenant. But Jonse did not remain away for long. He returned to his home town and Doc Ellis arrested him.

He was convicted and sent to prison for life. Several days after the trial, Doc Ellis

was found dead on the trail, shot, allegedly by Elias Hatfield. Jonse Hatfield was released from Moundsville after not too many years, chiefly through the political influence of his father, old Devil Anse.

Cotton-top Mounts' killing of the young McCoy girl had caused the regional sentiment to pile up against Anse and his followers, and soon law-enforcement officers were able to make legal arrests. But it was not until 1890 that Mounts paid the price for that killing. On February 19th of that year he was hanged at Pikeville. The McCoy family moved to Pikeville to avoid further bloodshed.

But the vendetta did not die. There was still plenty of hatred and plenty of gunplay. The apparent last of it was in 1896 when Anse's second son, Cap, shot by one John Rutherford. Cap's stepson, a teenage boy named Joe Glen, grabbed a gun and killed one McCoy partisan and wounded an innocent bystander. Maybe that was the end.

Devil Anse Hatfield died a natural death in 1921. Randy McCoy, the leader of that clan, had passed on some years before at the ripe age of ninety. Tennis Hatfield had a life-size statue of his father carved in Italy at a cost of \$10,000, and it stands today in

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the clan burial ground in West Virginia. All of Devil Anse's children who are dead, died in bed except Elias and Troy, who were killed in 1911 in a bar-room fight.

Four Hatfield sons (Joe, Tennis, Willis, and Elliot) were too young at the time of the fighting to participate in it. And in the decades since the guns stopped talking, both families have turned their steps along the paths of peace. During the 1920's, both Tennis and Joe Hatfield served as Sheriff of Logan County, and a first cousin, Henry D. Hatfield, was elected in 1913 as Governor of West Virginia. In 1928, he was elected to the United States Senate. Most of the old hatreds are forgotten, or at least ignored, even by the McCoy's. In 1926, Jim McCoy, then an old man, posed for a picture with Tennis Hatfield and Cap Hatfield's son, Elba. Today, the old Hatfield homestead at the head of Island Creek stands beautifully remodeled, thanks to Tennis who spent a fortune on it.

Gun collectors all over America display guns for which they claim Hatfield-McCoy feud connection. Beyond any doubt, many of

the claims are justified, whether they are provable or not. It is often difficult, even impossible, to prove even the truth about old weapons, as collectors have learned to their sorrow. But there were scores, possibly hundreds of guns used in the "feudin'," and many are still in existence.

Certainly the oddest of the guns said to have figured in the Hatfield-McCoy war was a short-barrelled rifle action built into the neck of a violin. It was an ingenious device: a .44 caliber gun firmly imbedded in the upper inches of the fiddle's neck, the muzzle opening at the top of the scroll, the rabbit-eared hammer sticking up among the tuning pins, and the trigger hanging within cozy reach of the fiddler's fingers. It is said to have belonged to a Hatfield. History does not record whether or not it ever added its .44 calibered bark to the staccato beat of a hoedown frolic, but one can imagine that its user must have enjoyed a peculiar sense of power as he fingered this by-lingual instrument. And woe to him who failed to pay the fiddler!

A letter from Ewell Hatfield of Charleston, West Virginia, offers some interesting sidelights on one Hatfield gun: "Regarding the gun that belonged to my grandfather, Anderson Hatfield, it was a Winchester .45-90 and the serial number was 96979. It was given to my father, Dr. Elliot R. Hatfield, by my grandfather. My father left it to me. I know that it was used by him during the greater part of the feud. This can be verified by my two uncles that are living (Joe T. and Willis Hatfield) and by my aunt, Bettie Caldwell. They are the three children of Anderson Hatfield who are still living. . . This is the same gun that Jonse Hatfield, the oldest son, was carrying when a party from Kentucky came over to West Virginia, captured him and took him back to Kentucky. He threw the gun down and made a small place (scar?) on the gun. My grandfather got it back shortly.

"Among other things he had killed several black bears with it. Also I heard tell about the time that he shot at this buck deer that was running and the bullet going through him and out the other side and killing a doe that was carrying a fawn; three deer killed with one shot. This was 60 to 70 years ago and the game laws were not the same. Those days there were no roadside stands as there are today and the rifle helped get a meal quite often. This was done by barking a squirrel, or shooting into the bark of tree or limb close to the squirrel and knocking it out."

A goodly number of "feud" guns are owned and on display in the tavern owned by Robert Hatfield in the village of Stirrat, West Virginia. There are said to be Hatfield weapons on display, too, in the Hatcher Hotel in Pikeville, Kentucky; and Elmer Hatfield of Gallipolis, Ohio, a former sheriff, is said to possess several .44 Colts revolvers with feudal history. . . . Bob Hatfield of Stirrat, West Virginia, is even said to have "the bloody shirt worn by Ellison the day he was killed."

And so the legend lives on and is cherished. Blood seems to lend strange life even to cloth and wood and metal; a life that seems to us now as unreal, as distorted as the passions that led to its spilling. The days when "the Hatfields and McCoy's was feudin' mountain boys" are gone . . . let us hope forever.

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(Continued from page 27)

ammunition exclusively in my revolvers, because dry-bullet ammunition in .22 caliber soon fouls the face of the cylinder, rear end of the barrel, and the barrel throat.

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American makers offer a wide choice in weights, barrel lengths, sight equipment, and price, in .22 caliber revolvers. For example, the five and the Colt Officers Model Match, in heavy six-inch barrel super accurate target arms. No finer target guns are made in .22 caliber. The Smith & Wesson K-22 Masterpiece is built on the .38 Military & Police frame, while the Colt Officers Model Match with its heavy 6-inch barrel is on the .41 frame and slightly heavier. Formerly, Colts made lighter .22 target revolvers. These have been dropped from production, but Smith & Wesson still make their fine little .22-32 target revolver with 6" barrel (or shorter to order), the Combat Masterpiece on the K-22 frame with 4" barrel with ramp front and target rear sights, and also the little Kit gun on the .32 frame. These, plus the wider assortment offered in the other makes, enable the shooter to select a gun of the exact size, weight, and barrel length best suited to his needs. The new H & R Sentinel line now offers a choice of colors also, a feature particularly attractive to women—who, incidentally, find handgun shooting just what the doctor ordered as a sport which they can share on equal terms with their men.

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Decide what you want in a handgun—what uses you will have for it, what features you most value. Select the arm you like best and that best fits your hand. Buy it, and start shooting. Ammunition is cheap and you can do a lot of practice shooting for small cost.

Few investments will pay off as well in terms of fun and personal satisfaction—and if you later decide that you want a better or different gun, the "trade in" value of guns is always high.

If at all possible, secure the services of a good coach. He will save you a lot of time and ammunition by starting you right, not only for safety but also to acquire good shooting habits from the start. Shoot with both eyes open if possible. But first determine which is your "master eye," the eye that actually controls your vision. If neither eye is the master, then train your shooting eye to be the master by closing the other one while you line up the sights and then partly open the non-aiming eye. Continue this and you will find the shooting eye becomes the

master and you can then fully open the non-shooting eye without the sights moving off the target.

Stand loosely and relaxed, facing away from the target at about a 45 degree angle. This varies with individuals, but you will find that if you face your target too squarely you tend to sway up and down with the gun and your shot groups will be vertically dispersed. If you turn too far away from the target, then your gun will have too much lateral sway and your groups will be laterally dispersed. Select the right angle for you as an individual and stick to it.

Start with a big target at close range. A gallon can at ten yards is good enough. Be sure that the rear sight is wide enough so you can see a strip of light on each side of the front sight. Hold the top of the front sight level with the top of and centered in

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the rear sight. Each time the sights come on the target perfectly, increase the pressure on the trigger in a gradual squeeze. Never pull or yank the trigger.

Do not aim too long. If you can't get the shot off before your arm tires, lower the gun, rest, and try again. Never let a shot go carelessly. With practice, you will soon be hitting the can with every shot. Then you can graduate to smaller cans, then to longer ranges. But shoot at targets you can hit. This breeds confidence.

"Dry" firing—simulated fire with an unloaded gun—is the best possible way to practice, and it costs nothing. Hold, aim, and squeeze exactly as if the gun were loaded, and watch where the sights are when the hammer falls. With a little practice, you can "call" your shots with amazing accuracy. (Dry-firing some .22 handguns will burr the edge of the chamber. If your gun is one of these, keep an empty cartridge case in the chamber when you are dry-firing.) A few minutes of "dry" practice each day will perfect your trigger squeeze faster even than a like amount of shooting, because you can check your own errors by watching the sights when the gun "fires," without being distracted by the shot or by recoil. And you don't even have to go out to the range.

Practice safe gun handling always. For cheap practice, .22 Shorts will do just as well as Long Rifle ammo if you clean the barrel with a brass brush and a good solvent after firing, to remove possible leading. For serious target work, use .22 Long Rifle ammunition. For small game, use high-speed hollow-point Long Rifle ammo. Your .22 handgun, so loaded, will kill squirrels, crows, close-range woodchucks, rabbits, frogs, snakes, owls, hawks, rats, almost any small game—if you place your shots.

Learn to use it, treat it right, and a handgun can be a fine friend and a fascinating companion. Learn with the .22, then try the heavier center-fire guns. First thing you know, you'll be an addict. And you'll be in good company. A lot of the world's finest people are handgun shooters.

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THAT APPEL BARREL

(Continued from page 30)

holes at 200 yards, has beautiful light gathering qualities and is remarkably free from parallax troubles. When focussed carefully, it has good resolving power. It proved to be a wise choice, and functioned perfectly during the long, jolting test. To hold it on the Mauser action, I chose Buehler mounts—simple, sturdy, and lacking in springiness.

Wyatt Osburn, of Auburn, Iowa, was my choice for the gunsmithing chores on this one. Wyatt has one fault—just when he is getting started working on "your" gun, some friend comes in to his shop and suggests a few rounds of blue rocks, or a trip to the bench rest. When that happens, Wyatt is done working for the day. I don't hold that against him; I wanted a "shooting" gunsmith, not a gun mechanic. It takes long and careful tinkering with the bedding to turn out a gun which is ready to deliver its best in accuracy. I wanted a man who was interested in the final accuracy of the gun he was working on.

Wyatt turned the barrel down to heavy sporter dimensions. Cut off and crowned, it measured a neat 22 inches. While machining it, he told me that there was something different about this barrel, not something he could put his finger on, but just "it worked up different." He tried to talk me into chambering it for his favorite wildcat, the .22-243, but finally agreed to do the job in .22-250.

The stock was a Bishop walnut, semi finished. It turned out to be a nice piece of wood, with fine, close grain—dense and free from bird pecks. There was a lot of figure in the butt stock which improved the appearance considerably.

I considered glass-bedding the rifle, then decided to allow a good gunsmith to perform the marriage of wood and metal which is the result of good inletting. I left Wyatt strictly alone during that job, for a painstaking job of inletting is not done carelessly,



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nor is it done in a few hours. Whatever a gunsmith charges for inletting—if he does a good job, it is worth it.

But even before the stock was inletted, Wyatt and I gave in to temptation. We fastened the scope on its Buehler mounts to the barreled action which was still in the white. We slapped the gun into an old issue Mauser Stock which allowed it to rattle around a bit. While Wyatt was fitting it together, I ran up a box of handloads on his bench. I put 35 grains of DuPont #4064 behind the 55 grain Sierra bullets, of which we had obtained 5,000 for the test.

Wyatt took a proof load out of the bench drawer and stepped out behind the shop. He put the muzzle in the testing pipe and touched her off. It didn't even flatten the primer, so we were off and running.

It was too far to the range, but there was a smooth-grassed pasture nearby. The bench rest pedestal and a couple of sand bags and put us in business. After boresighting, it took just three shots for Wyatt to move it onto point of aim at 100 yards. He tightened the mount screws and fired six more shots. The group he made on the side of the tomato crate was about one and one half inches! He was smiling when he straightened up from examining the target. "Considering the handicap of this stock," he said, "I'm willing to predict that she'll shoot." I slid in behind the Bushnell and fired my ten. My group was just about the same as Wyatt's. We were mighty happy when we went back to the shop.

When Wyatt finished the gun, blued and with the stock rough finished, I was so impatient that I didn't even sand the stock.

I fired 2,000 rounds through it before the stock was finished!

The actual firing of the gun being tested was done over sandbags on the trunk of the car out in the gravel pit. Firing ultra-hot loads, I got a group of five shots measured just .725" between extreme centers. However, the best ten shot group measured .891". That isn't going to take any world's record, I know, but wait a minute—those groups were fired from a gun weighing nine and one half pounds complete, not thirty! And the scope was eight power, not eighteen. And a trunk lid is definitely not a bench rest.

In addition, it must be remembered that the load being fired was not chosen for accuracy, but for speed alone. These groups were fired with 36.9 grains of DuPont 4064 behind a fifty-five grain Sierra bullet. Slide rule velocity is within inches of being 4,000 feet per second. The barrel was accurate, no question of that. With one loading which was much too hot, three out of five shots keyhole, with the bullet being driven too fast to stabilize. Even with three keyholing bullets, the total group was just three inches, which was once considered accurate.

So the Appel barrel when new was accurate. Now the next question was, "Accurate for how long?"

I upped the powder charges slowly, a tenth of a grain at a time until I was tamping the case full of #4064. I do not recommend this load. It is too hot. It is dangerous. It did not produce any accuracy. According to the ballistic tables, at least, I was well over 4,000 feet per second. That load must have subjected the fine steel of that rifling to a tremendous erosive effect of blistering gases

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at terrific speed. Primers flattened badly, extraction became difficult, and when one primer came right out of the pocket, I moved back to 38 grains, which is still hotter'n the breath of a goat dining on chili peppers.

All loads in this test were placed in Norma .250 cases, full-length resized to hold the .22 bullet. Norma cases have a reputation for thicker brass, which weighing two hundred "case fulls" of each proved to be correct. I found that Norma cases held 3/10 of a grain less powder than comparable American brass. This reduced case capacity and undoubtedly caused even higher pressures and velocities than we had figured. Norma cases also have the reputation of being made of good stuff. In my book, it is well earned. They took a brutal beating. Some of them were loaded with over-maximum loads ten times, and still came back for more. I discarded more cases from my own clumsiness with the loading tools than from wearing out in the chamber.

No load fired in this rifle could be called anything but hot. No one should approach any of the maximum loads we used unless he approaches them cautiously, a grain at a time and then a tenth of a grain at a time. Reason for this treatment was our attempt to pack a lifetime of shooting through that barrel in a few weeks.

The old beef of the bench rest fraternity is that a barrel is worn out and ready for the scrap heap by the time they have worked out a good load for it. To see if that was going to be true of the Appel barrel, I put that 4,000 feet per second load into each of 1,000 shots! If one man's shoulder takes all of that beating, the muzzle blast

is apt to leave one with a permanent set of crossed eyes, and with fewer fillings in one's teeth.

To help soak up some of the beating, and to get other shooting skills to properly evaluate the rifle, I enlisted help. It wasn't hard to find several good riflemen who were anxious to get off a couple of hundred well-aimed shots.

The best group was fired by one of my friends, and measured .583" for five shots at one hundred yards. I told him it was ninety percent luck and I think he agrees with me. When that group was fired, the barrel age was 1,158 rounds.

We reloaded evenings and we fired days, and the results continued to be good. At fifteen hundred rounds, the best group was one that measured .795" for ten shots. Close visual examination of the rifling showed no signs of discoloring at the throat or wear on the lands.

Dr. Appel claims that his process results in a barrel which vibrates uniformly, so a few comments on the rifle's ability to react to heat are worthy of mention. The first shot, from a completely cold barrel, would land one and a half inches low and an inch to the left of the aiming bull. The second shot, from a lukewarm barrel, would land in the bull. The third, fourth and fifth shots, from a warm, warmer and hot barrel, would also land in the bull. The fiftieth shot rapid fire, from a barrel so hot it was boiling the linseed oil out of the stock, would also land in the bull. That first shot, from the cold barrel, was consistent, but it would not group with the others.

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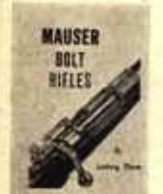
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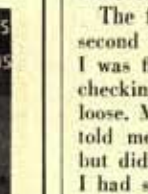


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Then, with a barrel so hot that it would cause a leather shooting glove to smoke, we would switch over and fire a carefully aimed ten shot group for record. We continued this sort of testing all through the second thousand rounds. When the log book showed 2,000 rounds, all hot loads, we went back to the bench rest.

In my hurry to get to that significant 2,000 round mark, I had subjected both myself and the gun to a marathon of firing on Saturday afternoon. I fired as rapidly as I could reload and sent four hundred loads through her in three and one half hours. The barrel was charring the wood when I quit. No one would shoot a target rifle like that. I was leaning over backwards to give it a true torture test.

After supper Saturday, I loaded up some light rounds of 34.5 grains of Hodgdon powder #4895. I wanted to get some real accuracy figures on Sunday.

We had a perfect day Sunday, zero wind, thick overcast and a good light on the targets. I fired just one target to find the point of impact of the lighter load. It was quickly moved up and I settled down to do some serious shooting.

The first shot drilled into the black. The second lit an inch and a half to the right. I was flabbergasted, and immediately began checking to see if any screws had worked loose. My pals gave me the horse laugh and told me to finish the group. I finished it, but didn't bother to measure. It looked like I had shot it with an inaccurate sling shot. It would take a Texan to cover the group with his hat.

I fired a second ten shot group, and got a group of about three inches. I was ready to admit that the Appel test was over. I thought that the 2,000 blistering bullets had been too much for it, just as they would be too much for any other barrel I'd ever seen. One of my friends volunteered to try a ten shotter; and I couldn't care less. He took a lot of time with his firing and when he finished he wore a king-sized grin. His group was a beauty, measured .755 of an inch!

Bewildered, I stared at my own target while another shooter took over. His group was just on the one inch mark. Obviously, it was me, not the barrel, which had worn out. Then someone told me that I was flinching like a goosed schoolteacher with each shot. I was gun shy from the pounding of the day before.

Once a flinch is admitted, it is fairly easy to conquer. I began squeezing more slowly, squeezing dead slow—so slow that I actually did surprise myself when the gun went off. My group came back to a respectable inch and one half. After a couple of hours away from the gun, I came back and shot a slow ten shot group which measured .850". This is the accuracy figure I'm using for 2190 rounds of barrel age.

To continue the test we went back to the routine of firing ninety maximum loads—loads which flattened primers, stretched case necks and made us use all our strength lifting the bolt handle. Then we'd go to the

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accuracy loading of 34 grains of Hodgdon 4895 and print ten for record. That seemed to be the best load for this particular rifle; 34 grains of 4895, a Cascade primer, and the 55 grain spitzer Sierra bullet. It might shoot like a crackerjack out of a drain pipe in the next gun, but for mine it was just what the doctor ordered. The results of this accuracy shooting are shown in the accompanying table which is the life history—to date at least—of my first Appel barrel.

Barrel Age (Total Rounds Fired)	Size of Best Group
300	1.000" for/10 shots.
500	.891" for/10 shots.
1,100	.583" for/10 shots.
1,500	.795" for/10 shots.
2,190	.850" for/10 shots.
2,450	.800" for/10 shots.
2,760	.700"/10 shots.
3,000	.855"/10 shots.

Which brings us up to date. That Appel Barreled .22-250 has fired 3,000 rounds, 2,700 of which were in the maximum load class. 2,500 of them were too hot to be shot safely in the average gun. They were designed for just one purpose—to burn out a barrel. It is my contention that these 3,000 loads subjected the rifling to more of a beating than it would get in two lifetimes of normal shooting.

We took on the Appel barrel for a long slugging match. The barrel won. If you want to take on such a contest, get in shape by going ten fast rounds with a good sharp-punching middleweight, before you go three thousand rounds with the .22-250!

Naturally, I intend to continue recording the accuracy of the gun as I shoot it. I figure if I load it sensibly, I'll still be able to make prairie dogs come unglued at 300 yards ten years from now.

Two more things I want to find out. I have an Appel barrel in .30 caliber that I intend to fit to a fine Fabrique Nationale Mauser single shot, in a bench rest stock and fire for accuracy.

Then, if I can wangle a .243 barrel from the Appel people, I'm going to work up an antelope rifle for this fall in Wyoming.

In the meantime, here is my report on the Appel barrel No. 1 for the readers of GUNS:

"I put 3,000 hot loads through the Appel .224 barrel, which should ruin it. The barrel was very accurate in the beginning. Insofar as I can determine, it is still just as accurate. One barrel doesn't make a still, but as far as I'm concerned, Dr. Appel definitely has something here.

Louis Corbeau."

PS: There is a postscript to this grueling enduro that even gun writer Corbeau doesn't know about, and that is—his barrel was defective, a reject barrel! According to Dr. Appel's letter to GUNS, "It apparently slipped our attention to request that the .22 barrel be returned, because this barrel was incorrectly manufactured. It was drilled for 6 mm and formed, in error, to a .22 barrel..." —Editor.

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**THE HOPPE
"UTILITY"**

GUN RACK

(Continued from Page 34)

their particular rifle performs best with. Despite the debunking fervor among arms writers these days about the "long range shot," the BSA Featherweights tried will not do as well as the ammunition's own factor of accuracy. Good, but not spectacular, is the way to put it. The Standard Imperial will group inside 2", depending on the ammo. Certainly there is no problem about tying the gun into the stock for solidity—the Standard Imperial and others of the Standard weight are inherently accurate. On the last count, muzzle brake, there is much to be said for this on both sides. Introduction of a factory-made rifle with integral muzzle brake is long-overdue. But the effectiveness of this muzzle brake, in terms of *subjective kick* and not abstract ballistic recoil, is still something to determine. The Featherweight is excellent for the walking hunter, the Standard for the accuracy fan.—W.R.E.

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We received several of the new "Balvar 24" telescope sights the other day and hauled them out to the range, trying them on everything from heavyweight varmint and bench rest guns to featherweight sporters. Our prediction: in spite of the high price of \$160.00

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IS YOUR GUN LEGAL? WHERE, FOR WHAT?

(Continued from Page 33)

morning following on lands inhabited by deer, of rifle larger than .22 caliber rim fire or a sidearm larger than a .38 caliber, or a shotgun and shells loaded with shot larger than No. 6 shall be presumptive evidence of a violation—." (If this was meant to discourage poaching, it is utterly ridiculous! Probably more deer are killed by poachers with .22 rim fire rifles than with any other firearm, because the report is not loud and the bullet is extremely accurate. Equally inconsistent is the fact that the poacher is within the law in carrying a .357 Magnum revolver, even though potential as a deer-slayer is twice that of the .45, which is illegal.)

In New Hampshire, the .22 rim fire is illegal for deer, Shotgun with single ball or loose buckshot only are legal.

In Maine, the meaning of the law is not

too clear but it appears that both rifles and shotgun are legal.

In Tennessee, deer hunters must use rifles of .25 caliber or larger, with muzzle velocity of 2200 feet or more. Shotguns must use a ball or slug.

In Nebraska, no rifles are allowed for deer; shotguns with ball or slug only.

The Utah law makes no mention of what is to be used on deer, but game birds must be shot with a shotgun only.

In Florida, anything goes, for deer, except the .22 rim fire.

In Colorado, the big game weapon must be a rifle with at least a 70 grain bullet which at 100 yards must retain 1000 foot pounds energy.

In Oregon, no rifles are legal for deer that are under .23 caliber. For elk and pronghorns the bore must not be under .25



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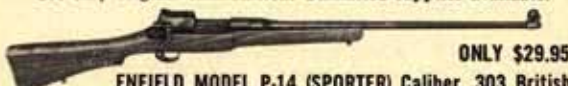
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caliber. No shotguns are allowed for deer that are loaded with buck or bird shot. Nothing is said about shotguns loaded with a single ball or slug.

In Oklahoma, nothing is said about what firearms are legal except no shotguns over 10 gauge.

Massachusetts, only shotguns of not over 10 gauge are permitted for deer. It is unlawful to use any rifle on game. Opposum and raccoon must be hunted by dogs only and killed with a pistol or revolver not larger than .38 caliber.

In California, apparently nothing is outlawed except that you can use no shotgun larger than a 10 gauge.

In the Kansas code, no mention is made of kinds or calibers of guns, but it is illegal to shoot game birds except when in the air.

In Delaware, no shotgun must be used that is larger than a 10 gauge.

In Iowa, only a shotgun is legal for deer.

In Minnesota, no rifle using a bullet smaller than .23 caliber or less than 1 1/4" long may be used for deer unless the caliber is .35 or larger. Slugs in shotgun are legal.

In Arkansas, .22 rim fire, .224, and .228 rifles, and .410 gauge shotguns are illegal for deer. No. 4 shot and slugs or ball are okay for deer in all shotguns above .410 gauge.

In West Virginia, a rifle of rim fire using a bullet of less than .25 caliber is illegal for deer. Shotgun slugs and ball are legal for deer; buckshot is illegal.

In New York, ball or slugs in shotguns not under 20 gauge are legal for deer. No rifles are allowed in some counties and Long Island.

(Continued on page 58)

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 3, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF GUNS MAGAZINE published monthly at Skokie, Illinois, for October 1, 1957.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Publishers Development Corporation, 8150 N. Central Park, Skokie, Ill.; Editor, E. B. Mann, 8150 N. Central Park, Skokie, Ill.; Managing editor, William Edwards, 8150 N. Central Park, Skokie, Ill.; Business manager, George E. von Rosen, 8150 N. Central Park, Skokie, Ill.

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3. The known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

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5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

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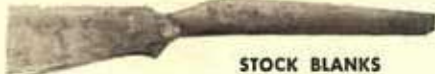
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IS YOUR GUN LEGAL?

(Continued from Page 56)

In Idaho, any firearm is legal with the probable exception of the .22 rim fire.

In Kentucky, shotguns are legal for deer. There is no mention of rifles being used.

In Indiana, there is no mention in the code book as to the type of firearm to be used on deer.

In Missouri, rifles, handguns, and shotguns are legal on rabbit and squirrel. There is no mention as to what to use on deer.

Illinois regulations are the same as Missouri's, or similar.

The South Carolina law makes no mention of the type of firearm to use on deer.

In Alabama, shotguns and rifles are legal for deer. The law does not state whether the .22 rim fire is legal or not.

In Maryland it is illegal to hunt deer with shot, buckshot, or full metal patch bullets. Use only ball or rifled slug in a shotgun, and no rifle is legal that has a muzzle energy less than 1200 foot pounds. Upland game may be hunted with a .22 rifle, except deer.

Arizona is a stickler on caliber and energy of rifles for certain animals. Better consult officials for interpretation of law before planning a hunt here.

In North Carolina, shotguns and rifles are legal for deer. So far as I can tell, even the .22 rim fire is legal.

In Virginia, shotguns are legal for deer in most places. Some counties forbid rifles and shotgun slugs but allow the use of .22 rim fire for hunting.

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or No. 1 buckshot or larger are legal. Center fire rifles of .25 caliber or larger (except .25-20, .32-20 and the .30 M T carbine) are okay.

In Wisconsin, big rifles are illegal for deer, and .22 rim fire rifles and .410 gauge shotguns are illegal for bear and deer. No upland game can be taken legally with .22 rim fire. Handguns of .22 caliber come under the same regulations as the .22 rifle, and other handguns are outlawed.

In North Dakota, slugs or 20 gauge and up are legal for deer. Also, for deer, all .22 rifles and other calibers are legal for deer *providing* the cartridge is 1 3/4" long or longer.

In South Dakota it is illegal to hunt deer with buck shot, slugs, or ball that weigh under 1/2 ounce. Rifles may be .22 caliber but bullets (or cartridges?) must be two inches or longer.

This covers not all but most of the states, and the others have similar regulations. The over-all picture is one of complete confusion. The one firm conclusion I have been able to draw from it is that the lawmakers in most states have displayed an amazing ignorance of firearms, ballistics, and the logical solutions to hunting problems.

In states where woodchuck hunting is a major sport, experienced farmers allow only hunters shooting precision high-velocity rifles with bullets that will break up on a hit, whether on a chuck or on a bit of sod. Why not, in big game areas, specify high velocity rifles of a stated, reasonable caliber, with thin jacketed bullets having muzzle velocities of, say 3000 feet per second to insure proper disintegration—plus, if you like, (Continued on Page 62)



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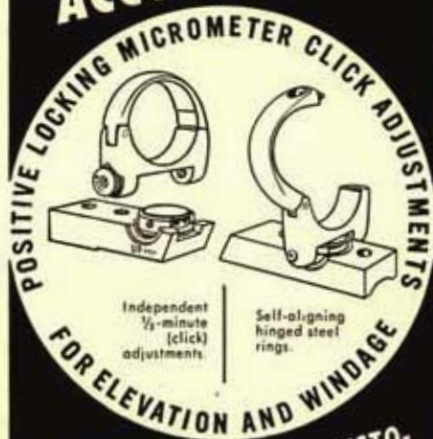
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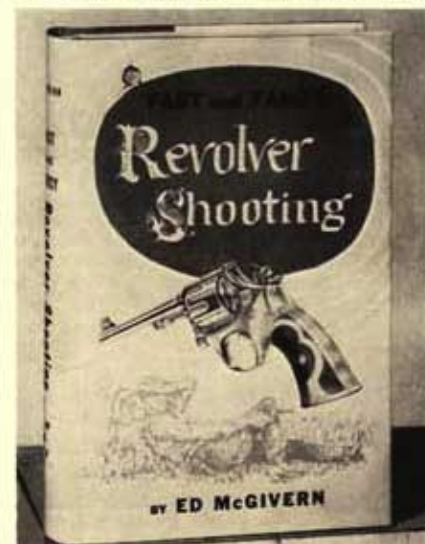


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spent most of a lifetime in proving what can and can't be done with pistols, makes this book the "Bible" for the present cult of quick-draw addicts.

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cap, and the Uplander hunting coat which has the yellow trim on pockets and yoke. The new color is also available in combination with gray in the Ranger long boot socks and Quail medium boot socks. Your dealer will have a complete line of these products, made by Utica Duxbak Corp., Dept. G-10, 815 Noyes, Utica 4, N. Y.



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IS YOUR GUN LEGAL?

(Continued from Page 59)

smoothbores or reasonable gauges, loaded with rifled slugs—and make this (or some similarly sane regulation) uniform in all the states?

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GUN STOCKS BLANKS**

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GUNSMITHING SERVICE**

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Model 12 Shotguns**

Very good used, 12 Ga.
26", with Lyman Cutts
Compensator and choice of
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\$67.50 complete.
Extra tubes \$3.25.

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NEW, VERY LATE DATE
.30-06 150 Gr. M.C.
NON CORROSIVE

Issue Ammo
\$7.50 per 100

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AJACK SCOPES**

3 1/2x70	-----	\$49.00
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STANDARD OR SERIES 300
FN ACTION OR HYA ACTION BARRELED TO
FINEST DOUGLAS ULTRA-RIFLED CHROME MOLY BARREL.

✓ CHECK THESE OUTSTANDING FEATURES:

1. New standard FN Mauser Action.
 2. Finest DOUGLAS Ultra-rifled, Chrome Moly barrel, with patented smooth hard 6 Gr. swedged "BUTTON" rifling.
 3. Each unit precision chambered to mirror finish with proper headspace.
 4. Each unit test-fired with sample fired case included for your inspection.
 5. Length and twist as wanted, otherwise we will ship recommended length and twist.
 6. Barrels have fine ground finish.
 7. Choice of light-weight or sporter weight, medium heavy, or heavy weight barrels.
- PRICES: for light or sporter weight (5-5 1/2 lbs.) \$72.50, Medium heavy, \$77.50, full heavy \$82.50. For premium grade barrel \$3.00 additional. For the new .300 series F.N. action or HYA Action (pictured above) \$10.00 additional. (With F.N. Engraved action with Double Set Triggers \$23.00 additional.)

CALIBERS:

- 220 SWIFT—22-250
 - 243 WIN.—244 REM.
 - 250 SAV.—257R—7MM
 - 270 WIN.—300 SAV.
 - 308 WIN. .30-06
- & the NEW 280 REM!

ACTIONS

F. N. ACTIONS IMPORTED—LITE WGT. vanadium steel barrels, blued with ramp (.220 Swift, .243 Win., .244 Rem., .257-R, .250-3000, .270, 7 mm or .30-06), \$74.00 PREPAID. NEW Series 300 F.N. barreled action \$96.00, PREPAID.

F. N. ACTIONS, Boehler 24" proof steel barrels, semi-octagon ribbed, matted. Sheared bead in ramp. Caliber .270, .308 Win. or 7 mm. 30-06, 22-250-220 Swift 26", 257R-250 Sav. \$95.00. \$10.00 extra for NEW series 300 action.

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SAKO ACTIONS on 26" 4 1/2" med. heavy DOUGLAS chrome moly barrel, white, .222 Rem., \$84.00.

SAKO ACTION on imported medium heavy barrel, blued, no sights. Ready for stocking, .222 Rem. \$90.00.

LIMITED SUPPLY—ENGRAVED F.N. ACTIONS
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BOEHLER BARRELS, proof steel, semi-octagon, ribbed, matted entire length. Made by FRANZ SODIA of Ferlach, Austria in .22, .25, .270, 7mm, and .30 caliber. Also now available in .243 and .244 cal. Highly accurate—in the white, \$45.00. (Fitted to your action, with sheared bead, complete price \$60.00).

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Per 100	
8 MM Mauser A.P.P. (Imported, Germany)—	
175 gr. B.T.M.C. (Case of 1500, \$75.00)...	\$ 6.00
.38-55 255-grain SP\$11.00
.303 Savage 180-grain SP\$ 7.50
.25-20 S.P. 86-Gr.\$ 6.00
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Lots of 500 or more—10% less.

SPECIAL

.270 Win. Factory New Primed cases ...\$9.75 per 100
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.30-30 Winchester	-----	\$3.00—100	.243 Winchester	-----	\$6.50—100

New imported 1" Leather military slings.
Live select leather, brass
keepers, \$3.25.



ACE TRIGGER SHOE \$2.50
For most rifles, shotguns
and handguns.
ACE DOUBLE-SET
TRIGGER\$10.00
Fitted to your Mauser or
F.N. Action \$6.00 more.



NEW PATTERN "B"—Oversize Grip and cheek-piece. Raised straight comb. No cast-off.

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Offered for the first time in many years. Each blank of this fine imported raw walnut is distinctively attractive, lightweight, yet very close-grained, hard, and smooth—the ideal wood for any fine rifle.
Limited Supply, standard grades, Circassian Walnut, turned and semi-inletted for most rifles, \$16.50 and \$19.50. We believe this is the first time this fine wood has ever been offered at these popular prices. Full fancy premium grades of this rare Circassian walnut, from \$40.00 to \$50.00. A few unusually attractive exhibition grades \$75.00. (Carefully turned and semi-inletted \$5.00 additional).

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Made by a nationally known barrel-maker of highest repute, we now offer a "button rifled" smooth, hard, swedged, six groove chrome moly barrel of absolutely top quality, completely threaded precision chambered and crowned at a money-saving price.

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Only \$24.00 complete*. \$2.50 additional if we headspace and test-fire to your action. Original order sent prepaid with return privilege.

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Fine High Quality Custom-Made Grips Hand-rubbed hard finish which brings out the beautiful grains. If you want the very finest for your gun, Order Now! **AVAILABLE FOR Colt Single-Action (old model) Colt Single-Action (new model) Ruger Single-Action Blakhawk Ruger 44 Magnum Single-Action Ruger Single Six Great Western Single-Action.**

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Custom made Original Authentic type holsters. Available for the Colt 1860 Army, Colt 1851 Navy and Remington Army Percussion revolvers. \$9.20 P.P. Colt 1849 Pocket Model

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Grade I \$59.85 Grade II \$49.85
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NOTE Grade I and II guns have all matching serial numbers, including Clips.
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EXTRA CLIPS—Brand New \$7.50
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The Very Latest in Single-Action Revolvers. Custom Blue Finish, Walnut Grips, Full-length Rib, Solid Front Sight, Rear Sight Adjustable for Wind and Elevation.
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This fine new single action revolver in an exact duplicate of the famous old guns that were the best. — IMMEDIATE DELIV. —
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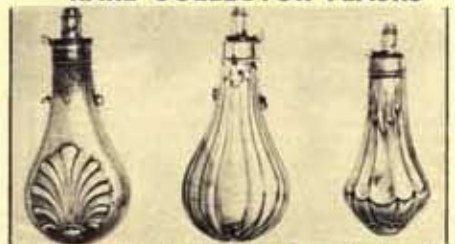
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Beautiful Custom Hand Tooled Genuine Leather Fast Draw Western Holsters. Completely lined with soft suede for the protection of your gun. Available for Colt, Great Western, or Ruger single actions. Any barrel length. Colors Natural or brown.

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Fine High quality German Walther, World War II German automatic. Fires 9mm Luger cartridge. Original near mint condition. Extra clips \$4.70. Ammo 9mm, \$9.50 for 100 rounds. Holster \$4.50. European Army Holster \$5.50



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GUNS & AMMUNITION

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THE FOLLOWING listed arms are in brand new & perfect condition & fully guaranteed: Colt Single Action Army 5 1/2" or 7 1/2", .38 Special or .45 Colt, \$99.50. Colt Python, \$99.50. Officers Model .22 or .38, \$72.50. Official Police, .22 or .38, \$57.50. Police Positive, .32 or .38, \$56.00. Cobra, \$58.88. Woodsman, \$74.50. Huntsman, \$41.50. Government Model .45, \$65.00. Smith & Wesson K-22, \$65.00. Chief, \$53.45. K01 Gun, \$61.50. .44 Magnum, \$129.00. Winchester M-70, all cal., \$105.00. Remington 721 or 722, \$80.00. Savage M-99, all cal., \$98.00. Good used Colt Single Actions from \$40.00. Gunsmithing, leather goods, hard to find parts. Catalog #25. Greer Fire Arms Company, Box 201, Griffin, Georgia.

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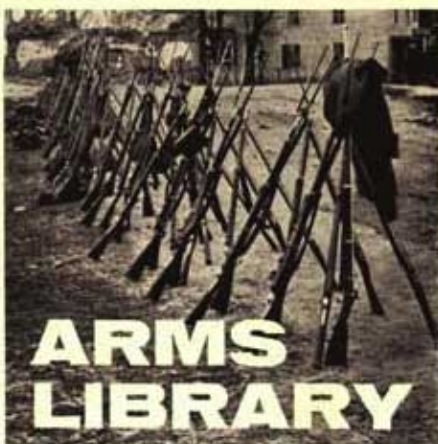
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