

Guns

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DECEMBER

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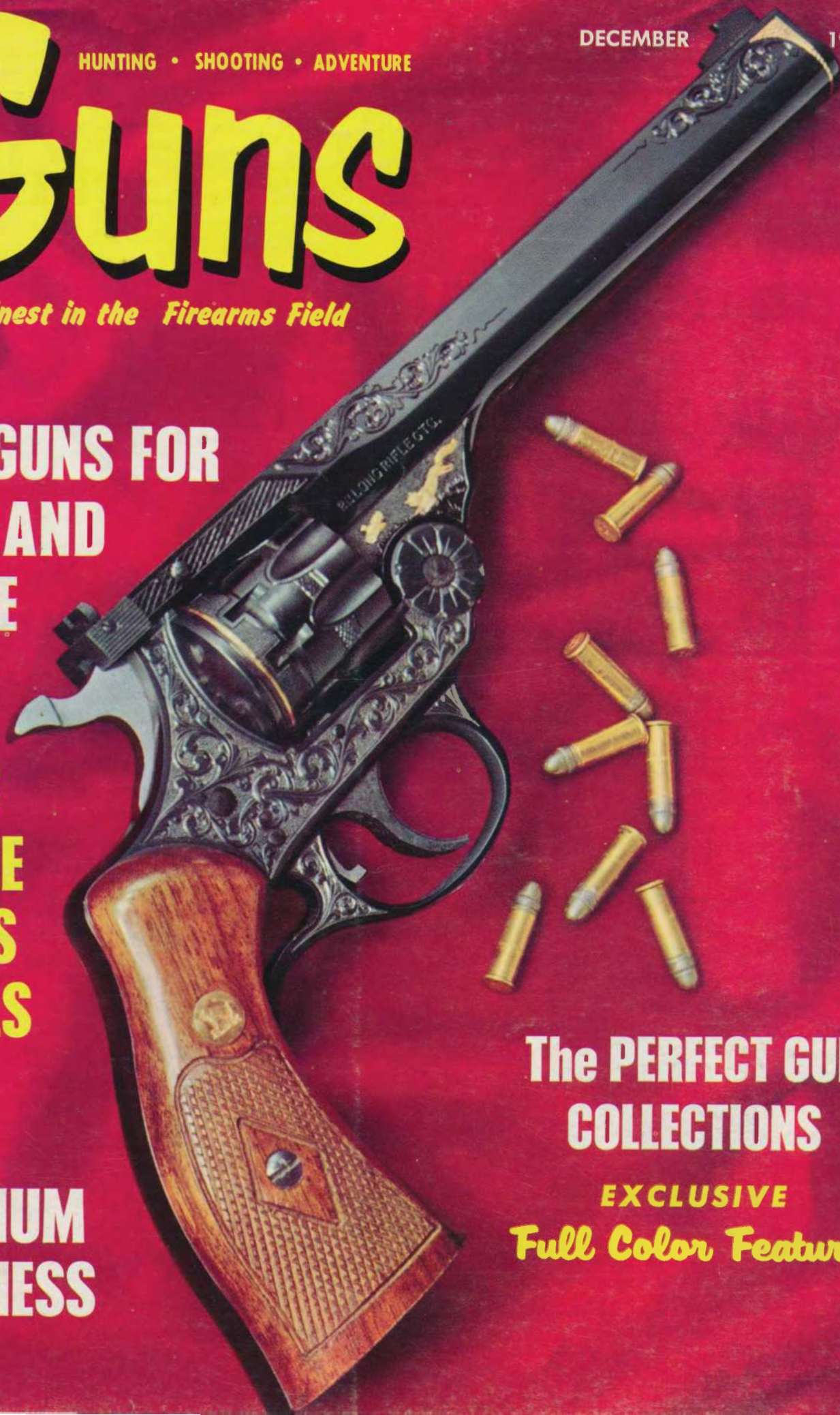
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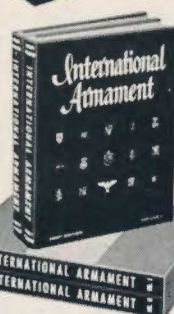
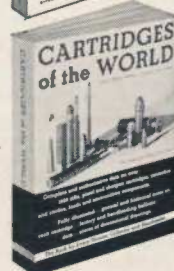
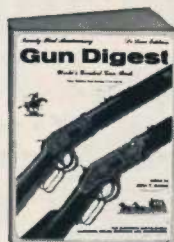
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TRIGGER TALK

THE LAST several issues of GUNS Magazine have brought us more mail than in any other like period I can recall. It appears that there are more readers interested in the commemorative guns (featured in Oct.) than we had realized. It also appears that many of our readers are interested in old badges. George Virgines heard from many badge collectors who saw his color photo on our Oct. cover.

Those who wrote in expressing their approval of the two articles by Harry O. Dean—"The .256 Magnum... Orphan Cartridge," and "The Littlest Magnum," will be pleased to know that we have another fine article coming up by Dean, this one on .22 rifles.

In this issue, we are pleased to bring you another top notch article by Jim Serven, and a strong lineup of technical articles to satisfy those who wrote in asking for these. Serven's article points out some of the rare guns that are often sought, but seldom found by collectors. Part II, in the January issue, will include a list of names that you should keep handy when scouting the gun shows or antique shops; names that may provide you with the opportunity to latch onto that elusive "sleeper."

Speaking of collections, it was fun selecting the color gallery this month. I took my lead from Serven's article, but applied my likes and dislikes to the pile of color transparencies in our file. The only problem that arose was caused by my appetite being bigger than the space available. I could have easily selected enough guns to cover more pages than are in the entire magazine.

We would like to acknowledge the cooperation of Smith & Wesson for their permission to reprint portions of the two books, "Bullet Holes" and "Burning Powder," in the article by E. B. Mann; also the help given to photographer Frank Eck by Abercrombie & Fitch, and finally to Mr. E. C. Prudhomme for letting us use the photo of his two superb guns in our color gallery.

THE COVER

The Harrington & Richardson Model 999 "Sportsman" on this month's cover is a special presentation model engraved for H&R by Bob Kain of Newfane, Vermont. We think it is a fitting cover to lead you to read the fascinating story of Harrington & Richardson—its history and its future, but more important, the story of the guns bearing this famous name.

DECEMBER, 1966

Vol. XII, No. 12-144

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Arthur S. Arkush
Ass't to the Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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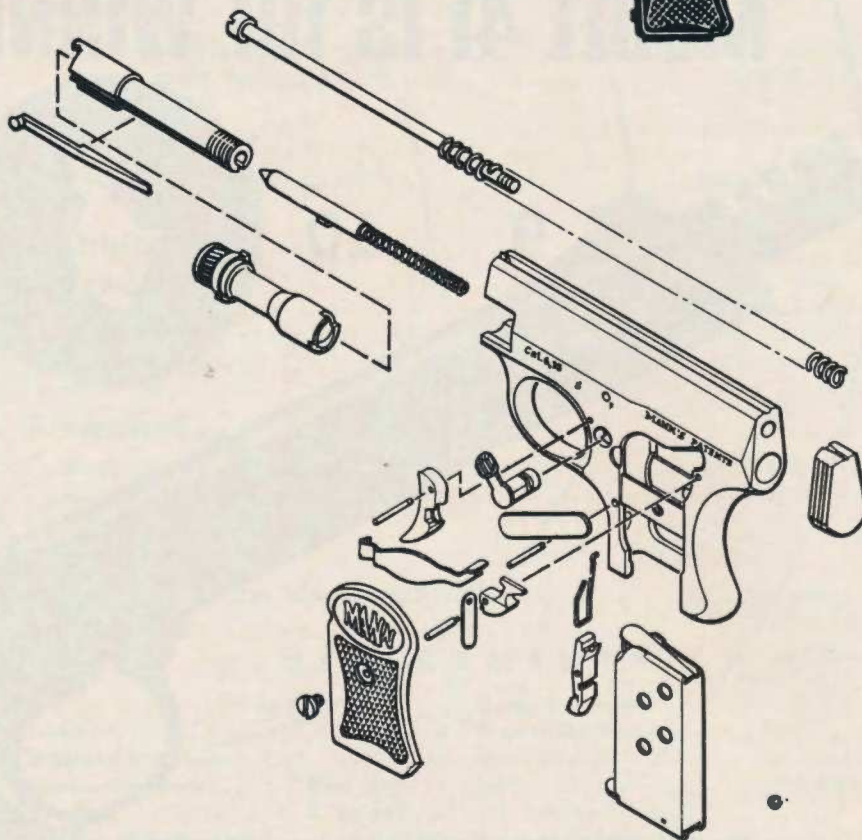
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AN INSIDE LOOK

AT THE MANN PISTOL

By SHELLEY BRAVERMAN



Shortly after World War I, Fritz and Otto Mann designed a small "Vest-pocket" pistol that was somewhat unconventional. It was introduced about 1920 and merchandised commercially for two or three years. While of poor manufacture, the quality was still better than the design—which was quite bad. The main interest in this gun now lies with collectors.

The illustration is of the .25 (6.35) caliber model; it measures 4" long and 2 3/4" high; because of the long overhang, the cocking knob on the recoil assembly frequently "bites" the web of the shooter's hand. The barrel, only 1 3/4" long, does not have sufficient capacity for efficient combustion of the powder charge.

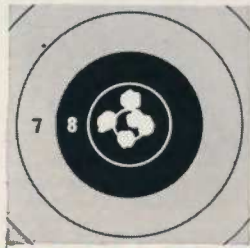
The barrel is held in position by the engagement of the breech face in the

extractor cut, thus it is only necessary to retract the cocking knob about 1/4" and turn the barrel counter-clockwise. During discharge (while the breech is in motion) the torque developed by the bullet is expected to retain the barrel in position.

While the limited magazine capacity (5 rounds) is not much of a fault per se, the short spring has little resiliency—reserve and feeding—jams result. (In an effort to overcome this defect, the magazine of the rare 5-shot .32 Mann has a very stiff magazine spring.)

The cone-shaped firing pin nose is a good feature—but not enough to offset defects such as sheet-metal inserts to cover milling cuts, bad safety design, difficult take-down, as well as barrel and magazine limitations as mentioned. Get one for your collection if you can.

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CO₂ CHARGING: New design. Simple lever cam-action piercing.

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GRIPS: Diamond checkered, with target-style thumb rest. Left hand grips available.

NO. SHOTS: Approx. 55 (high power) to 100 (low power) per single Powerlet.

SAFETY: Positive lever type.

CO₂ CHARGING: New design. Simple lever cam-action piercing.

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CROSSFIRE

.256 Magnum

Your splendid and probing treatment about the .256W magnum round should arouse greater interest than has been noted thus far so one cannot say "The Orphan Cartridge" died abornin'. The article will be read and should be re-read by all those who thumbed their noses at this finely developed cartridge. The .256W magnum round, in my opinion is the optimum median between the pellet gun and the .458W magnum. It should have been picked up by the military when the .30 US carbine was phased out.

Possibly the .256 magnum was snubbed because no one these days wants to become a lonesome pioneer, especially if married to an inherited shootin' iron and these days anybody that is anybody always moves up, especially with all the flat shootin' six or seven m/ms.

The tendency on the part of most these days is to over-gun and reach for parts unknown way out yonder, out of sight, using oversize charges complete with thunderous report, wild recoil and huge fireball. For a hand cannon this is fine but one must remember this is the age of sophistication and the .256W magnum is a petite well formed cartridge that shoots straight and true at any visible target using iron sights and for those who wish to scope up, the lil' maggie can group real good, as was stated in referenced article.

What more does anyone want? In this day and age of thickly settled farm areas any heavier cartridge such as the long range big bores is potentially dangerous (unless you are in the bush country and shoot for survival) and much too much big bad medicine for varmints.

The .256W magnum is not the worlds best all around multi-purpose high powered cartridge but it is ideally suited for the sportsman of mid-America. This up to date product of ballistic research may well be destined to be the worlds best all around trail gun as in my experience, when shooting for pleasure or pot one really doesn't need the excess bang and bores of safari calibers.

Joseph Schmidt
Bellwood, Illinois

Powder Placement

Regarding Dave Wolfe's column in the July, 1966, issue of GUNS where he mentions settling the powder to the front or rear of the shell before firing. Let me give you a tip on this and I suggest you print it as a warning in GUNS.

Care must be taken in settling a fast burning powder to the rear of a case, in a case comparable to the .222 Rem. It's amazing how it can build up pressures fast.

In the June version of Maynard Buehler's ad he is using a picture of a custom singleshot handgun I built on a surplus S&W frame. The five shot group was fired at 100 yards and measures 7/8 inch center to center, using the listed load and shaking the gun gently from side to side to settle the powder the full length of the case before firing. But by raising the muzzle straight up first then gently laying the gun on the sandbags, the same load shot three inches higher with a 2 1/2 inch vertical spread and the pressure was so high I had to beat the cylinder open with my fist after each shot. Incidentally, the barrel on this gun is 12 inches long.

Paul G. Westphal
Austin, Minn.

Legislation

I recently wrote letters to both Gov. John Volpe and Senator Edward M. Kennedy of my state, concerning the firearms legislation pending before the Senate.

I advised then of the fallacies of the "complete criminal program" of barring firearms from robbers, sex fiends, burglars, etc. I told them of the other, more sensible ideas, like Rep. Bob Casey's bill. I pointed out that these legislative restrictions should not hamper, cramp, or impede the process of the average hunter or sportsman in obtaining a firearm, etc. I pointed out that it was not the average hunters and sportsmen that commit the crimes for which all will suffer if these bills are enacted, and that the bills should be aimed at the crooks and not at the law-abiding citizens who have guns to hunt with, for collections, for hobbies, and for home protection. After all, this is an American's basic right, as guaranteed to us all in the Constitution.

The reply I received from Sen. Kennedy was a little shocking, and showed a little of the general ignorance on the part of many Congressmen concerning firearms legislation. Here, in fact, is what he said in his reply regarding the anti-gun legislation: "It is my own conviction that effective legislation is necessary in view of the extensive evidence which has been gathered that rifles and shotguns are a major contributing factor in the growing crime rate being experienced in this nation. The legislation being considered seeks to safeguard the legitimate use of weapons by outlawing the abuse of weapons.

(Continued on page 12)

ORIGINAL CETME RIFLES



\$219⁹⁵

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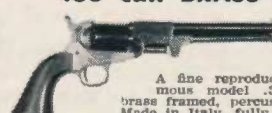
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A fine reproduction of a famous model .36 cal. Navy, brass framed, percussion revolver. Made in Italy, fully proofed.

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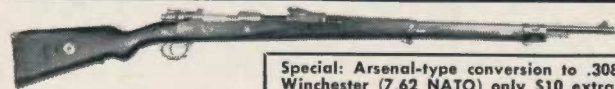
Vastly improved version of the Zouave replica rifle previously offered. Rifled 33" barrel. The barrel and lock are like those of the U.S. Rifle, M1851. The ramrod and bands are from the M1863 Musket, 2nd Type and the patch box. Butt plate, guard, stock and stock tip are from the M1855 rifle. Lock plate is marked with an eagle. Lock, lock plate and hammer are case-hardened. Blue-black barrel. Trigger, band springs, and screws are blued. Butt plate and other fittings in brass. Sights: front blade, rear 3-notch type graduated in 100, 200 and 300 yards increments.

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Because of the heavy influx of questions, it has become necessary to limit the number of questions submitted in one letter to two. Your questions must be submitted on separate sheets of paper, must carry full name and address, and your Shooters Club of America membership number. If you are not a member of the Shooters Club of America, send a dollar bill with each question. Questions lacking either number or money cannot be answered. If you want a personal answer, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for each question.

Auto Loads

I am writing in the hopes that you may be of assistance to me regarding a satisfactory target load for the Lyman bullet No. 35863, which is as you know an undersize bullet for the S&W Model 52 which I size at .356.

I use the Lyman Manual for arriving at all of the loads that I use, but unfortunately, the bullet in question is not listed by Lyman in their book with any recommended loads. Please provide me with loading data for both 25 and 50 yards using Bullseye powder; that is if you recommend Bullseye powder for this type of load.

H. C. Wilson
Honolulu, Hawaii

I used to own and do a lot of shooting with the S&W 52, and I can appreciate your problem. Kent Bellah sent me his recommended loads for both 25 and 50 yards; results were so good I never changed, although I am not a competitive shooter. Here are Kent's loads: For 25 yards, 2.5 grains of Bullseye; for 50 yards, 2.7 grains of Bullseye. These loads are, of course, for the 148-grain Lyman bullet, No. 35863 sized to .356.

Kent also advised the use of a taper-crimp die which you may want to look into. Gil Hebard, Knoxville, Illinois, will be able to help you here.—D.W.

Colt Wells Fargo

I recently acquired what I believe to be an 1847 Colt "Wells Fargo" revolver. It resembles pictures I have seen of that model. This gun has no loading lever; scene of stagecoach holdup is engraved in the cylinder, and all parts have serial number 89,277.

It is in good condition. I would appreciate what the approximate value of this gun is and where I may obtain some history on it.

Anthony V. Quosig
New Paltz, N. Y.

The Colt Pocket Pistol model of 1849 was manufactured with a three inch barrel and without a loading lever. It is sometimes called the "Wells Fargo" model. Five and six shot of .31 caliber, they were of two models, first of the short lock-frame, the second with a larger amount of space between the cylinder and barrel lug. Both had the stagecoach cylinder scene and rectangular cylinder slots. Made from about 1851 to 1860. Collectors value for an honest, good to better condition "Wells Fargo" Colt would be \$300 to \$500.—R.M.

Hammond Bull Dog

I have an old pistol, photographs of which are enclosed, which has been in the family for many years. I would be grateful if you would give me some information about it, such as date of manufacture, purpose for which it was intended, number made, etc.

It is a .44 caliber, single shot with ejector, rifled barrel, and fore and back sight. Along the barrel are the words "Connecticut Arms



Manfc. Co. Naubuc, Conn." Across the top of the breech is "Patented Oct 25 1864." The serial number under the butt plate is 5033. The gun appears to be completely original and is in excellent condition. What price would this arm bring if offered for sale?

K. Martin
Dubbo, Australia

The Connecticut Arms and Mfg. Co. of Naubuc Conn., manufactured the odd Hammond Bull Dog pistol. Other than being a much different pistol of its time, there really isn't too much that can be told about it. It was made in two calibers, .44 rimfire and .41 rimfire; had a four inch octagon barrel and its well-made breechblock revolved to the

left for loading. I have not seen too many of the Hammond Bull Dog around of late, but would guess the collectors value of one in fine condition would be about \$75 to \$100—R.M.

.222 Conversion

My question concerns a prewar Model 70 Winchester standard weight .22 Hornet rifle. Can I convert this to .222 and would you advise me to do it? I have heard some men say this is not the thing to do because the rifle doesn't have the right twist. My Hornet has a 24 inch barrel. Who would you suggest I contact to do this job?

Robert E. Wilson
Circleville, Ohio

Griffin and Howe, 114 East 13th Street, New York 17, N. Y., do this conversion and it works out very well.—P.T.H.

Colt Model L

I would appreciate it if you could inform me of the value of a Colt automatic pistol I have obtained here. This pistol is of a .38 caliber and in physical size is bigger than the U.S.A. Government .45 pistol. The serrations on the slide are of a frontal type and they consist of a rectangular block of horizontal and vertical score lines that cross each other to form a closely checkered pattern of lines.

The serial number is either 1375 or 13075. I have closely examined this pistol and it appears to be in working order. The barrel is worn but I could no signs of pitting.

K. J. Weynand
South Africa

The gun you describe is the Colt Model "L" Military. This arm was developed from the Colt "Pocket" Model. It was not particularly successful according to the military test boards, and most wound up in civilian hands. Note that the proper ammunition is the .38 ACP cartridge, not the Super .38! In good condition, the gun is attractive to collectors and has a current market price of \$65 to \$85.—S.B.

.357 Loads

I have an S&W .357 Magnum Highway Patrolman with six inch barrel. I would like to know what would be the best bullet and powder charge to handload in this pistol for the greatest stopping power at ranges not exceeding 20 feet. I want to know both the type and make of powder and bullet you would recommend for this particular use.

E. C. Martz
Omaha, Neb.

I assume you will be using jacketed bullets in your .357. My recommendation for a "stopping" load is the 160 grain Speer SP bullet and 14.5 grains of 2400 powder. This load gives about 1300 fps MV and pressure around 27,000 psi. At close range you will not be too concerned about accuracy. In my Model 27 S&W with 6½ inch barrel, I get better accuracy with this bullet using 3 grains of 2400. This load is, by the way, more comfortable to shoot.—D.W.

(Continued on page 75)



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(Continued from page 8)

There is clear evidence that where firearms regulations are lax, the homicide rate by firearms is substantially higher than in those areas where there are more stringent controls."

Also in the letter was this statement: "I can understand the need to protect the welfare of the legitimate gun industry and of sportsmen and collectors everywhere. I believe that the bills before the Subcommittee are designed to do this, and that they have been carefully drafted to reasonably meet the problem."

To be quite truthful, I was a little shocked that such a good Senator as he would feel that way about firearms. He must surely realize that it is the man, not the gun, that causes crime. A gun cannot shoot by itself. He must also realize that firearms have played a basic part in our rise to power and in safeguarding it, as is being demonstrated in Viet Nam.

Just yesterday I read in the paper that the Governor of New Jersey had signed an anti-gun bill into law for his state. It states that a person wishing to obtain a firearm must obtain a permit from the police department, be fingerprinted, sign for the arm and a whole lot of other hogwash like that. That's plain ridiculous. I would say that's teetering awfully close to the brink of dictatorship.

I love guns and love to hunt and enjoy a day's shooting like anyone else. And, like anyone else, I get a little disturbed about the trashy legislation concerning the "firearms problem" in America today. It's all pure fiction.

I subscribe to your magazine and I think it's the best anywhere, particularly on firearms legislation; the info. is great. Keep up the good work, we're behind you all the way, 1,000 per cent.

Robert W. Leslie
West Brookfield, Mass.

Gun Shows

I read with interest and some disappointment your gun show article in the last issue of GUNS. I am a regular gun show goer and have been harassed by the A. T. C. at two or three of the last shows. Now here are my feelings. I think everyone concerned is crying about collectors when most collectors arms are not covered under the law anyway. I build custom rifles and deal in new and used arms as well as collectors pieces. A lot of trades I make in my place of business are made with the knowledge that the gun acquired, while a slow mover in my area, may be taken to a gun show elsewhere and sold.

The point I'm trying to make is that at the average gun show, 50 per cent or better of the guns there are modern used and new weapons, military surplus, etc. As long as we're fighting, why not fight for all and not just the collectors at the shows. Take away the "wheeler-dealers" and you'll have a pretty dull show.

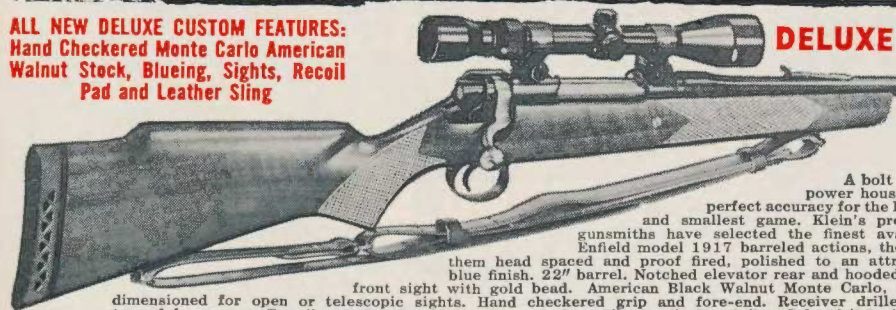
In the above letter, I'm speaking naturally of the average gun show, not just the shows restricted to collectors arms only.

J. W. Carlson
Crofton, Nebraska



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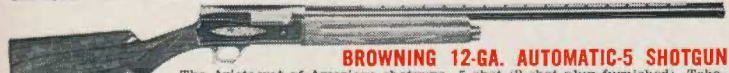
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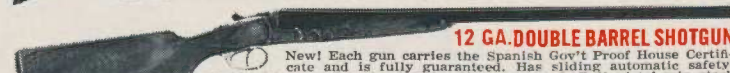
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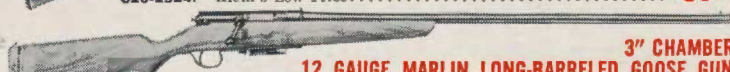
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HANDLOADING BENCH

By DAVE WOLFE

Editor and Publisher of
The HANDLOADER Magazine



IN THIS COLUMN several months ago, we posed the problem of taxes and licenses involved when a handloader puts together ammo for friends, or as a business enterprise. This question had come up in letters from readers and we frankly did not know the specific rules and regulations.

Several kind souls have responded to our query, for which we are very grateful. The most complete answer came from Mr. Frank Jones of Helena, Montana—a retired attorney and former Internal Revenue agent. His letter is so interesting we are printing it in full, as follows:

"If the commercial reloader uses his customer's cases (brass) in the operation, no tax attaches (under the present laws) to his sale of the reloaded ammo back to the customer. If the reloader furnishes cases—either on an exchange basis or from new stock—he (the reloader) then becomes a 'manufacturer' and must collect and pay to 'Uncle' a tax equal to ten per cent on a tax-included basis; that is, one-eleventh of the selling price of the loaded ammo.

"This tax is reported on federal quarterly excise tax return Form 720, and is filed with the District Director of Internal Revenue in the district that the reloader resides.

"In addition to the quarterly return, the reloader must register as a manufacturer in the appropriate district and, instead of the one dollar federal firearms permit, he must purchase a twenty-five dollar federal firearms manufacturers permit.

"I am an attorney and a retired internal revenue agent (excise) and have assisted several reloaders here in Montana in securing the proper (and required) forms and returns necessary to comply with the federal laws. It is also suggested that the prospective reloader check with his state officials to determine what, if any, state law or laws apply to his operation.

"The above should assist in eliminating some of the confusion. The important factor is, as you notice, the brass. If the customer's brass is used, the Service deems the reloading operation to be 'labor contract' and no tax attaches even though the reloader furnishes all the rest of the components necessary to assemble a finished cartridge. If the reloader furnishes the brass—on a trade, replacement, or new basis—he is deemed to be a manufacturer.

"On the matter of gun registration—the Dodd Bill—I wonder why, if elimination

of crime is the real reason behind this law, the laws are not aimed directly against the criminal. It would appear to me that a law making the use of a firearm in the commission of a crime a federal offense, punishable by death or life imprisonment (with no parole) would be simple to write, enforce, and would be aimed directly at the offender rather than the law-abiding citizen. The existing federal firearms laws are—if enforced—sufficient to keep 'illegal weapons' out of the hands of the criminal element. No law will—or at least to the present time has—kept a weapon of any kind out of the hands of a really determined criminal. A large portion of the weapons used by the criminal element are illegally acquired (stolen or smuggled) which is already against state and most federal laws."

Very truly yours,
Frank Jones

Many thanks, Mr. Jones. The plain fact is, to avoid the bother of taxes and licenses and to keep "Uncle" off your back, always insist that your friends supply the brass.

Another series of letters has been received on the "powder forward" method of shooting reduced loads, reported here earlier this year. These are excerpts from two letters, giving possible explanations for the increase in accuracy:

"I just read your column and was struck by the similarity of your findings with regard to the position of the powder charge in reduced loads, in findings reported by other authors. Generally speaking, you all seem to agree—powder charge forward means better accuracy.

"It seems perfectly logical to me that this should be so, since when all of the powder is up near the base of the bullet, it is exposed to the full blast of the primer; when the powder is in the rear of the case, a good share of it will be completely out of the cone of fire produced by the primer. It is also likely that the powder which is ignited by the primer has also blown forward away from the unignited grains, thereby resulting in a very slight hang-fire. Does this make sense? Sincerely, H. A. Bailey, Astoria, Oregon."

"Dear Sir: After reading your article in the July issue of GUNS, I came to the conclusion that the "powder forward" method was best for two reasons. These are merely theories or wild guesses, but here they are anyway.

"The powder forward method would put
(Continued on page 53)

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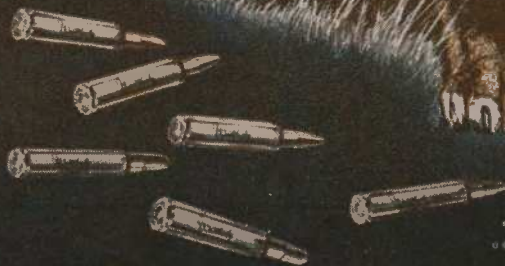
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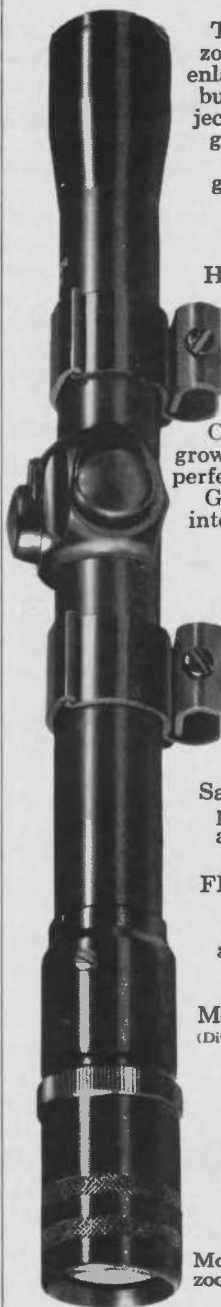
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By R. A. STEINDLER

Black Powder Barrels and Scope Safety

Les Bauska, Box 511G, Kalispell, Montana, 59901, makes fine black powder barrels and also complete guns. In the ML line, he offers barrels in the following bore diameters: .300, .320, .330, .350, .368, .375, .400, .422, .450, .458, .500, .577, and .580. He makes those in the standard 1" and also in the 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameters, but his bench barrels, in any of the above calibers, are the ones which have made him well known. These barrels are in the round, but they can be shaped to any form, and octagon barrels are almost always on hand for immediate shipment. Twist of the barrels is 1 in 48 inches, groove depth is 8-12 thousandths. Special twists and groove depth can be had, although deliveries are slow since Les is snowed under with special orders and good barrel work cannot be rushed. He makes some of the nicest looking barrels for the Sharps that I have ever seen, and some of his finished guns are so nice that you'll start figuring out ways to float a second mortgage to acquire one of them.

Les also recuts and rerifles barrels, especially the Model 86 which he converts to .45-70, and the Model 92 which he alters to handle the .357 Magnum cartridge. His Superior Scope Safety is a fine one, and I liked the looks of it so well that I got one right then and there for a M 98 action. These safeties are made for the Springfield, the Mauser 98, the FN, and the Mauser 95; coming shortly will be safeties for the Krag and the Mannlicher-Schoenauer. It can be installed by any gunsmith or, for that matter, by anyone having some mechanical skill and the ability to grind a notch into the bolt sleeve. The safety, by the way, retails for only \$3.95.

Verathane Stock Finish

When J. Hall Sharon, the barrel maker, visited me about a year ago, the talk turned to pet calibers and, sucker that I am, I was talked into a new rifle. When I visited Hall in his Kalispell, Montana, shop recently, I picked up my new smokepole. I hope to report on this gun in the near future and after I have tried it on some game in Alaska. The stock was done by Joe Dzivi, also of Kalispell, and it's a beauty. Joe selected a finely patterned Missouri walnut blank for my stock and the grip cap and the forend

are contrasting Brazil rosewood. Checkering follows the classic lines with 22 lines per inch. The finish looks and feels like the oil finish of yesteryear, but one glance at the barrel channel convinced me that Joe had not used oil.

Joe waterproofs stocks with Waterlox, then uses five coats of Verathane with oil. He makes up this mixture which can be kept on the workbench indefinitely. After the five coats of Verathane and oil, rubbing each coat down after it dried, he finished the stock with nine coats of Verathane—undiluted and without oil. The last three coats were rubbed down with rottenstone and oil, and the stock finish looks like the very best English oil finish.

This Verathane is wondrous stuff, and even the rankest amateur can apply it without having to worry about unsightly runs, brush marks, or over-laps. I had a stock that was in need of some tender, loving care, and I tried that Verathane on it without taking the pains and trouble that Joe Dzivi took. I simply slapped on a couple of coats of Verathane—I had managed to talk Joe out of a small can of the stuff—permitted each coat to dry completely and thoroughly, and rubbed the Verathane down with fine steel wool between applications. Presto, I have a stock that looks like the finishing was done by a pro.

I saw some very nice stocks at Joe's shop and also a couple of blanks that he had put aside for special orders—and they were really nice sticks. His stock work follows the classic lines, but he'll make up any special design that a customer might specify. The Verathane finish is made by the Flecto Company, Inc., Dept. G, Oakland, California, and Joe's shop is at 352 Seventh Ave., Kalispell, Montana, 59901. Joe answers his mail promptly and his prices are most reasonable considering the amount of work he puts into a stock and the painstaking care he takes with his inletting tools, checkering tools, and the finish.

Lee Wad Guide

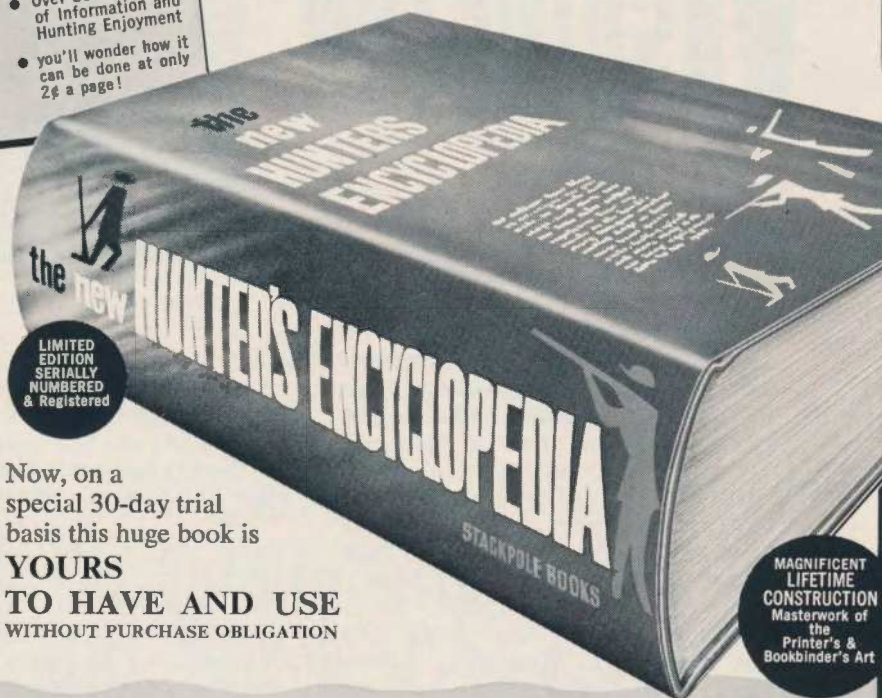
Lee Loaders should need no introduction to the handloader, and the company making those fine loaders now has hit the jackpot with their new wad guide. Wad guide fingers have the disconcerting habit of getting bent at the worst possible time—just when

(Continued on page 77)

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THE HRUSKA COMPROMISE

The Senate Judiciary Committee on September 22 forwarded the now-to-be renounced "Hruska Compromise," S. 3767, to amend the Federal Firearms Act. Only four of the committee's sixteen Senators dissented from the action, but this does not reflect the true feeling of the majority of the Judiciary: Strange the way votes are cast.

Dissenting were the Committee's top three democrats, Senators James Eastland (Miss.), John McClellan (Ark.), Sam Erwin (N. C.), and young Edward Kennedy (Mass.). The three senior senators truly wanted no gun bill. Kennedy, however, dissented because he believed the measure too mild. Voting for "reporting out," as they call it, or sending the Hruska Bill forward were a number of other Senators who really did not want the measure: Most noticeable, the bill's sponsor, Sen. Roman Hruska (R., Neb.) and Sen. Thomas Dodd (D., Conn.).

Hruska voted for his measure because of it being his, of course, but more correctly because of the same reason he introduced it. The Senator from Nebraska knows, if something is not worked out in the not so distant future, we will see the enactment of such a bill as the so-called Dodd Bill, or perhaps something worse.

Dodd voted for sending the measure forward though his heart was not in it. Dodd wanted the most restrictive of his pending bills, S. 1592. This is the one he introduced for the Administration, and the same one he sent forward to the Judiciary from his Juvenile Subcommittee.

Back in August, following the Texas tower tragedy, when the committee first agreed to make gun legislation the subject of a "markup" or voting session, Dodd's reasons started. Congress had to close shop soon because of the coming elections. When Senator Hiram Fong (R., Haw.) came out of the first executive meeting, I asked "What's happening in there?"

"A filibuster is under way," Fong answered. "Who is conducting it?" I asked, but only got a broad Hawaiian smile.

Senator Dodd came out next. "What about the filibuster," someone asked. "We wouldn't accuse Sen. Hruska of a filibuster. Let us say, he is insisting on a full discussion," he said. So ended the first executive session on more gun control. Dodd had ac-



complished one thing. He had gotten the committee to review his bill.

The next meeting came a week later. Dodd's anti-gun forces out-foxed themselves. They were "successful" in beating back several attempts to amend and weaken his measure: Successful must be put in quotes. His opposition pulled an old trick, the same one pulled on the floor of the Senate in the civil rights bill. The measure remained too restrictive to get by the committee. Blocked, Dodd watched time slip by as Congress came closer and closer toward adjournment. It was getting increasingly difficult, because of the primary elections, to even get one-half the committee members present so business could be conducted.

On September 22, 1966, a majority of members finally showed up. Sen. Dodd proposed the Hruska compromise be moved forward. His reason: Get a bill moving. His plan, he plainly stated, was to substitute his measure—S. 1592—when the bill reached the Senate floor.

NOT AN ANTI-CRIME BILL

So what is wrong with Sen. Hruska's Compromise? Not one legislator is satisfied with it. But then, no one is ever truly happy with a compromise. It will not stop the GUNS BY PERMISSION ONLY policy within the Federal Government. The second big reason is it will not, as any anti-gun bill will not, stop the misuse of firearms. Funny, the same lawmakers who contend strong laws punishing criminals do not prevent crime, contend other laws—gun laws—will prevent crime. Inconsistent?

But then there is plenty of inconsistency within the advocates of more gun control. For instance, anti-gun supporters contend the shooting sportsman should be willing to put up with the inconveniences of the Dodd Bill. Yet, they back down when inconvenience is proposed on behalf of the Federal Government.

Some time ago this writer thought of a simple and effective method of preventing firearms from falling into the hands of law violators through transit in interstate commerce. Simply; it is to require that all shipments of firearms to out of state customers be sent through the mail. The local postmaster would be made responsible for seeing to it that local gun laws, etc., were observed. This would be maximum control with minimum inconvenience to the purchaser. What is more accessible than the mail?

If local law required notification of the police on the sale of a handgun the police could be notified before delivery of the firearm. If there were no local laws against the purchase, the weapon would be delivered immediately. Simple!

What is wrong with the Post Office delivering firearms? The Post Office Dept. doesn't want the local postmasters to have to put up with the inconvenience of preventing the violation of local laws. (More on this next month.)

In the meantime, the Hruska Compromise is subject to change as it moves through Congress. But, Congress is also subject to adjournment before it can be enacted.



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The experts said it couldn't be done, but S&K wasn't listening. This rigid scope mount, designed for the popular SPRINGFIELD MODEL 1903 "issue" rifle, can be quickly attached without any alterations to the rifle. If your scope has an objective lens larger than 1" dia., you simply remove issue rear sight and alter bolt slightly by grinding as per instructions included. Base also made for '03-A3 Springfield, same prices. Specify rifle and model.

S&K introduces a wonderfully different approach to scope mounting, especially for the shooter who wants the best in sighting equipment, but has no facilities of his own with which to drill, tap or otherwise modify his rifle to accept a scope mount. It is ingeniously designed so that within only a few minutes after receiving it you can be on the range using it. A special nut that fits under the receiver bridge plus precision machining of all parts is the answer. Weighing only a few ounces and made of rich black-anodized alloy, the INSTA-MOUNT is a handsome addition to any rifle. The necessary wrench is included so that the only tool required for installation is a screwdriver. All S&K bases are precision-machined to accept Weaver top-detachable 1" rings.

M-1 CARBINE OWNERS!

2 Types of INSTA-MOUNTS for M-1 Carbine



\$9.00

TIP-OFF
INSTA-MOUNT
Same Price

Weaver 1" top-detachable rings, when purchased with mount, only \$8.00 additional.

This S&K-equipped M-1 Carbine features four S&K quality products: INSTA-MOUNT, \$9.00, M-1 Carbine Barrel Band, \$3.79, Push-button safety, \$1.95 and dummy gas piston DEACTIVATOR, with wrench for removing old piston, \$2.50.

INSTA-MOUNTS for 1917 & P14 ENFIELDS
(Also #4 & #5 LEE ENFIELDS)



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Weaver 1" top-detachable rings, when purchased with mount, \$8.00 additional. New INSTA-MOUNTS now made for #1 Mk. III Lee Enfield, \$12.00.

AT YOUR DEALERS OR
ORDER DIRECT. FREE FOLDER.

Always specify Rifle and Model
When ordering your INSTA-MOUNT

Pennsylvania residents add 5% sales tax

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PITTSFIELD, PENNA. 16340



Harrington & Richardson, Inc.

GUNS FOR WAR AND PEACE



H&R manufactured great quantities of the M-14 (above) and the M-1 rifles.



Popular among GIs during WW II, the Reising was developed by H&R.



By **JEROME RAKUSAN**

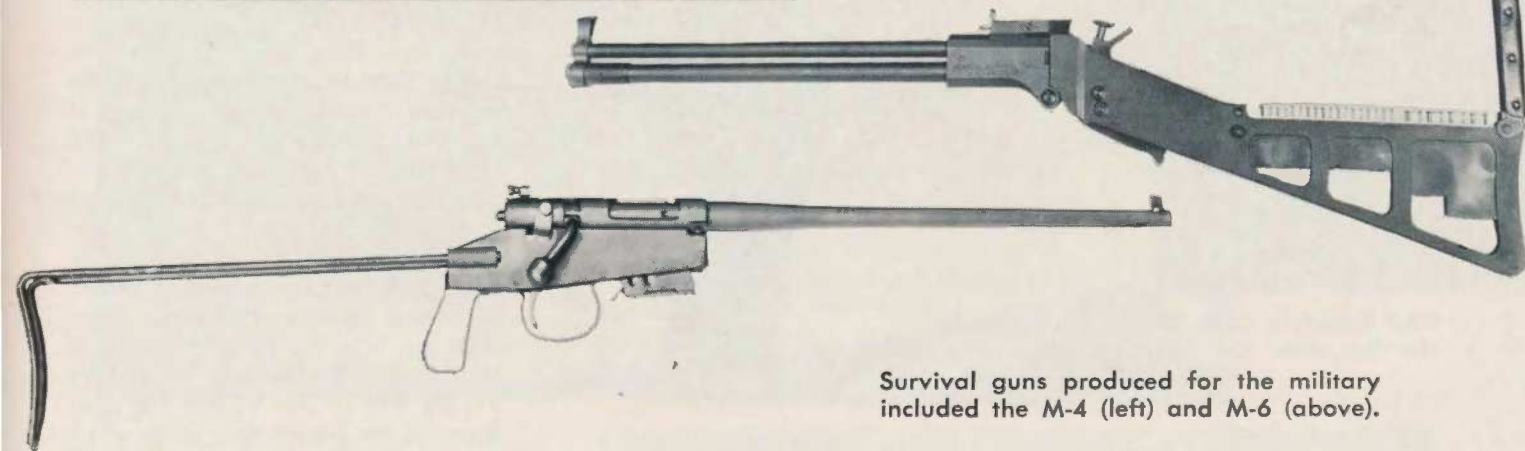
HARRINGTON & RICHARDSON—this name could bring to mind many things, depending on your firearms interest. When the name is mentioned, many will recall their first single barrel shotgun; others will think of early top-break revolvers; and still others, and especially collectors, will recall that H&R made such guns as the .25 and .32 auto pistols on the Webley patent, and the Handy Gun, a sawed off shotgun with a pistol grip.

These are all important firearms in the history of Harrington & Richardson, but they barely skim the surface of the shooting products made in Worcester, Massachusetts. The place to start, however, is at the beginning.

In 1871, two ingenious young men pooled their inventive talents and began making revolvers. These men were Gilbert Harrington—who, at the age of 26, invented the shell-ejecting, top break revolver—and William Augustus Richard-



H&R made the Handy Gun during the 1920's and 1930's in 20, 28, and .410 gauges. Left: The H&R final inspection room had 538,595 M-14 rifles pass through.



Survival guns produced for the military included the M-4 (left) and M-6 (above).

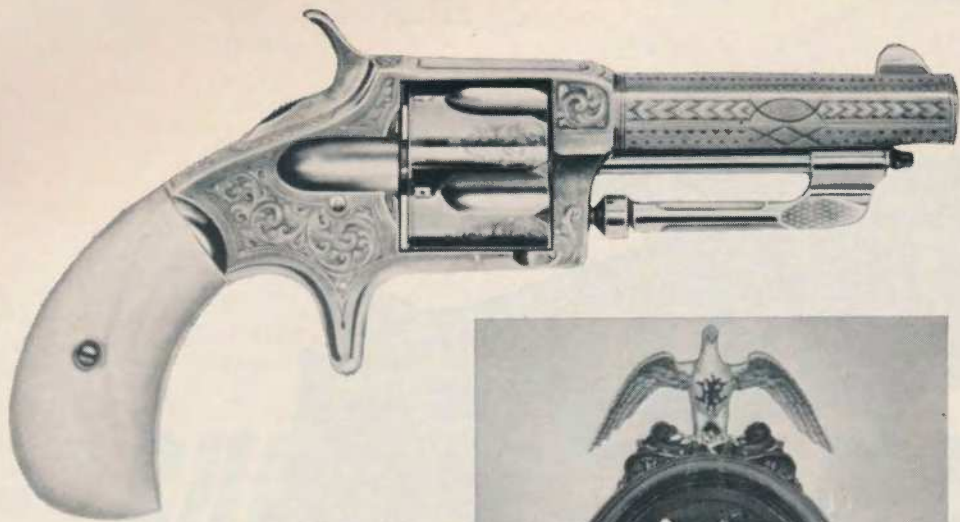
son, and the firm they formed carries the same name today, Harrington & Richardson, Inc.

During the early 1870's, the firm manufactured many of the revolutionary revolvers which carried the patented ejection feature invented by Gilbert Harrington. In 1876, H&R brought out another style of revolver, one in which a simple movement of the center pin allowed the cylinder to be removed and the pin used to eject the cartridge cases. In 1878, H&R produced what was to be the first of their many double action revolvers. During the years from 1900 to 1910, H&R grew, and as they grew, they diversified. During these 10 years, the company produced a variety of

police goods, including handcuffs and "twisters." They also made their famous single barrel shotguns, and a variety of handguns which included the unique .32 and .38 models with a folding knife under the barrel.

The years from 1910 to 1916 saw the emergence of the only semi-automatic pistols ever produced by H&R. In 1907 and 1909, H&R took out patents covering modifications of the Webley & Scott design. These hammerless pistols operated on the blowback principle, and had a simple takedown, removable barrel, and thumb safeties.

Another unique pistol produced by H&R was the famous single shot USRA model. The most expensive pistol of the



Above: This spur trigger was made by H&R in the 1870's. Right: Display shown at the U.S. Centennial Exposition.



H&R President C. E. Rowe, Jr., points to the first deer shot with the Ultra rifle.



Handguns produced by H&R range from the semi-automatic on the Webley & Scott design (above) to the USRA single shot target pistol.

entire H&R line, it was designed by Walter Roper and featured a very short hammer fall and an exceptionally fine trigger pull. This pistol was produced in an era which gave us many fine single shot target pistols, and the H&R found favor among some of the country's leading target shooters and won its share of the important matches.

The H&R line of handguns today shows signs of changes commanded by the dictates of the market; side swing cylinder models, the Model 949 with the "Western" look, and the Ultra Sidekick with ventilated rib and walnut target grips. However, the same features which made the early H&R handguns popular are still an integral part of the current line; the simplicity of the mechanism, the rugged sturdiness of high quality machined steel, and the realistic prices.

As mentioned earlier, H&R began production of their single barrel shotgun in 1900. Before that, however, the company ventured into the shotgun market with a bold undertaking. In 1880, H&R entered into an agreement with Anson & Deele of England, whereby they were given sole license in the U.S. to manufacture double hammerless shotguns under the Anson & Deele patents.

The H&R—A&D shotguns ranged in price from \$85 up to \$300, and even though these were premium prices, the sales were brisk. The manufacture of these double barrel shotguns continued until 1886, when the increased demand for H&R revolvers reached such proportions that something had to go.

Today, the H&R line of shotguns includes the ever-popular single-barrel—in several models—and slide action shotguns in every gauge from 12 to .410. Unique in the U.S. is the H&R Topper 4-in-1. This utilizes the basic frame of the Topper shotgun, to which any of four interchangeable barrels may be added—a .410 or 20 gauge shotgun barrel or a .30-30 or .22 Rem Jet rifle barrel—H&R's answer to the all-around gun.

Perhaps the most interesting phase of H&R production is that of the firearms made for the military. Their role in contributing to the needs of our Armed Forces began as World War I engulfed the nations. The Worcester plant produced huge quantities of shoulder-fired flare guns, and those relics of wars (Continued on page 62)



AP Radiophoto

Discussions of financial policy in the United States Congress often become quite heated. Rarely, however, do they become so stormy as the sessions which took place on the Venezuelan Congress floor last July 20. At one point opposition Congressman Ramon Echegaray pulled out a pistol, placed it on his desk, and vowed, "I'll talk until someone stops me." Discussion of the government's tax measures almost brought opposition and administration congressmen to blows several times during the session.

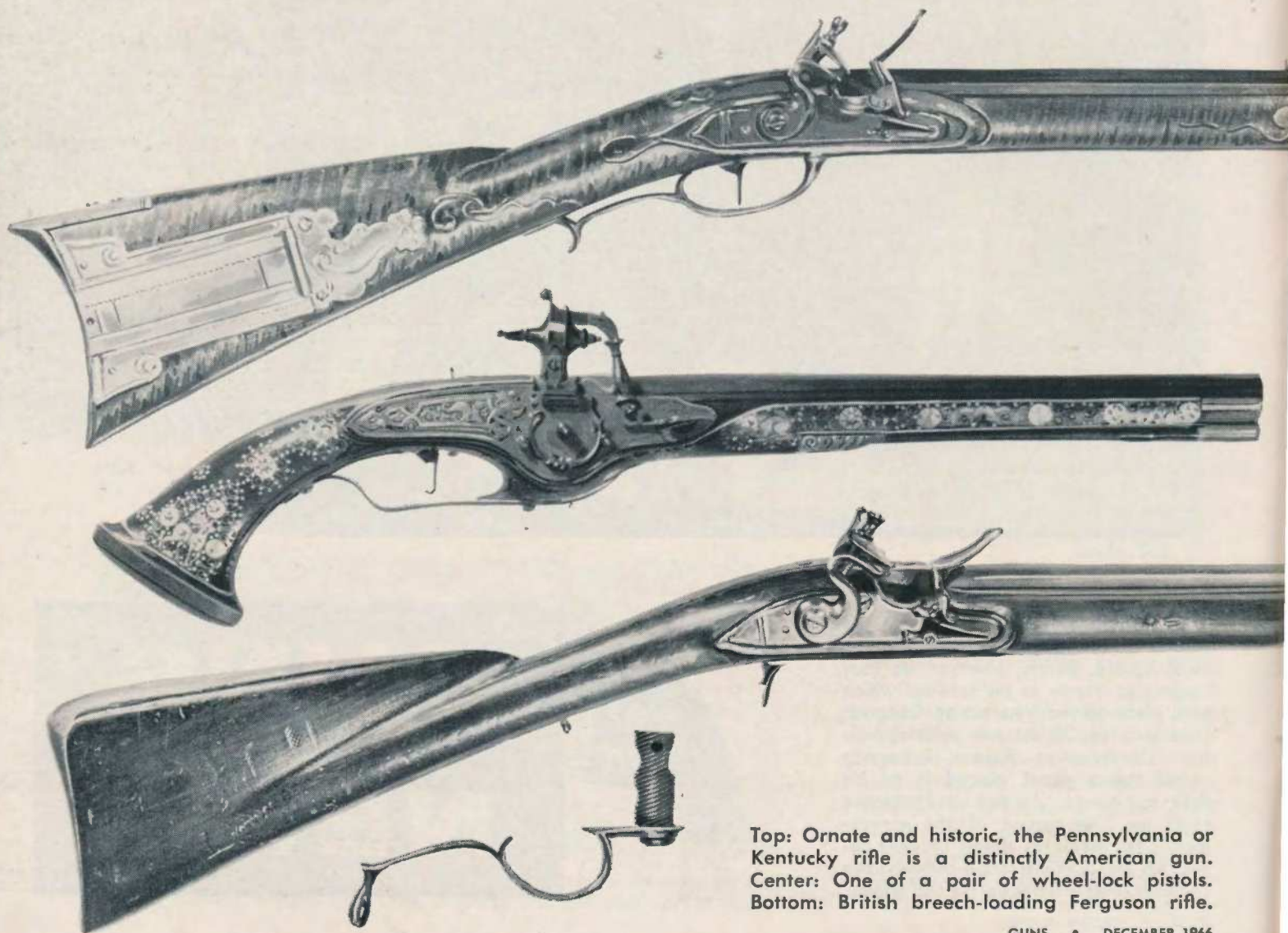


GUNS IN THE NEWS

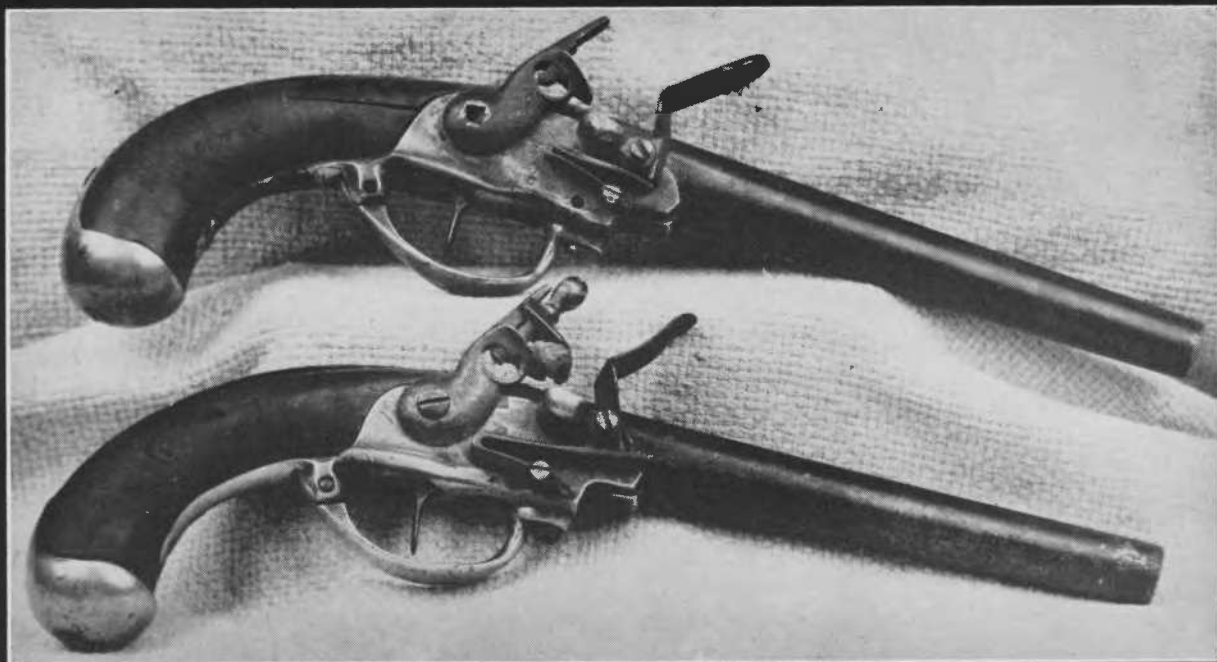
**GUNS
I WOULD
LIKE TO
OWN
PART ONE**



Top: An Italian-made snaphaunce pistol.
Center: An Elgin's Patent knife pistol.
Bottom: A Spanish miquelet-lock pistol.



Top: Ornate and historic, the Pennsylvania or Kentucky rifle is a distinctly American gun.
Center: One of a pair of wheel-lock pistols.
Bottom: British breech-loading Ferguson rifle.



These North & Cheney flintlocks are worth the price of a fine new car.

By JAMES E. SERVEN

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GUNS are not necessarily the most valuable. In fact, some of the plainest and clumsiest looking pistols ever held in a fist sell for several thousand dollars.

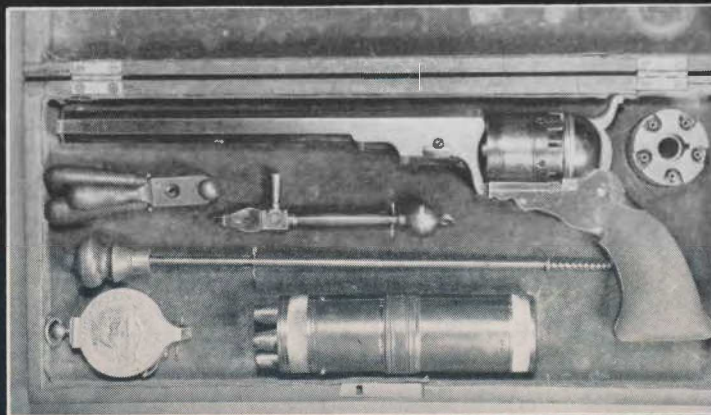
Our purpose here will be to tell you about some of those weapons which, for one reason or another, have captured the interest of collectors and museums in such degree that purse strings are loosened in very generous measure. There are, of course, many reasons for this—national importance, historic use, limited production, and so on—but we shall deal with the accomplished facts rather than the reasons why these guns are so highly valued.

There are a relatively few collectors in America who have the resources and the interest to collect fine Old World weapons, especially those made prior to 1812. But these arms often command very high prices and buyers can be found. The wheel lock arms, pistols and long arms alike, were ornamented with very elaborate inlays and carvings. In the early days only the lords of the manor could afford firearms—in some cases they were the only ones permitted to own any kind of firearms. Their weapons were very ornate; many were truly works of art.

As firearms progressed from the wheel locks of central Europe to the various forms of flintlock, national characteristics became pronounced. Throughout Brescia in Italy the snap-haunce with elaborate metal chiseling of lock and barrel was favored. These beautiful arms are actively sought and valuable. France devel-

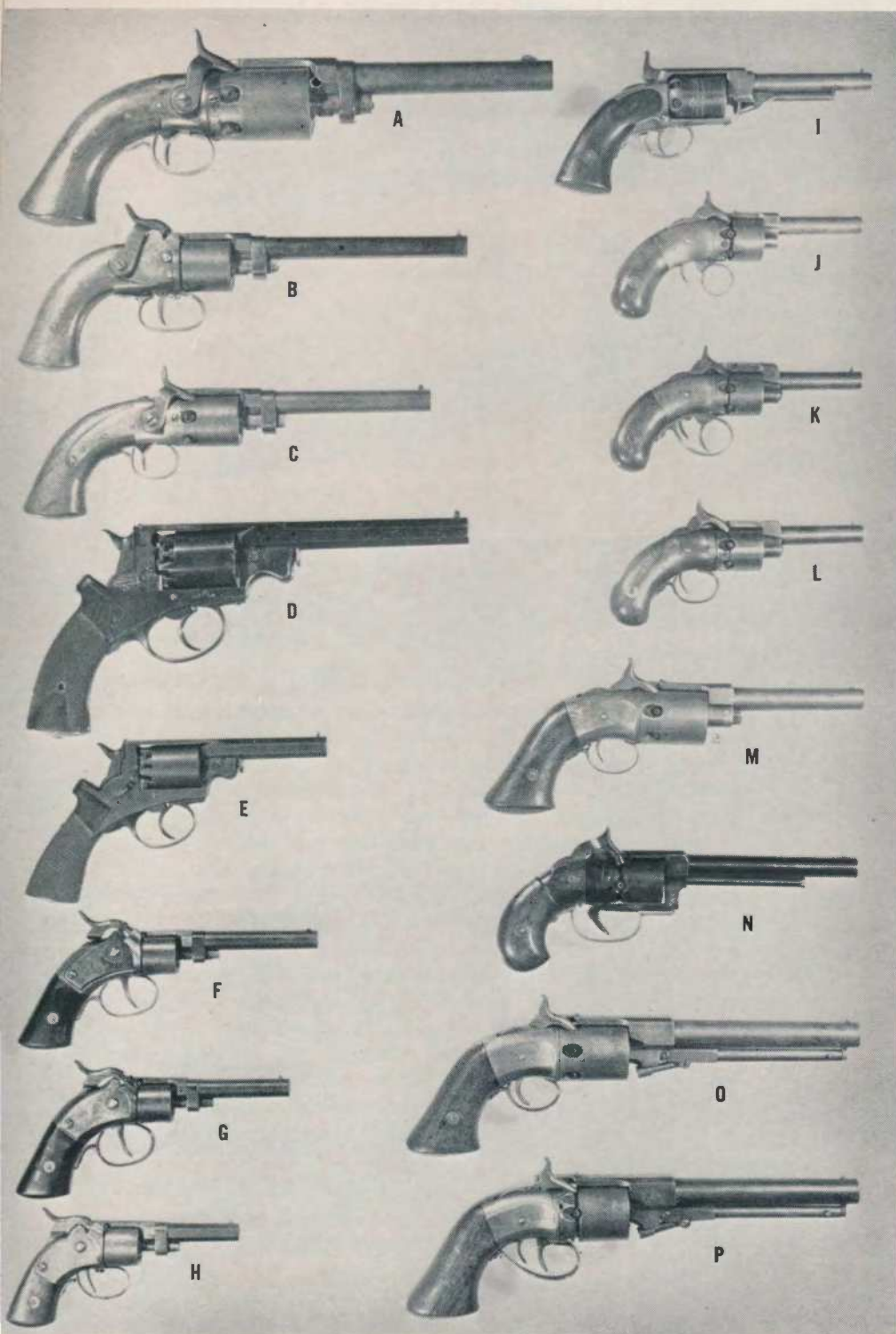
oped flintlocks of exceptional beauty, with gold-encrusted barrels and sculptured silver trim. The work of Boutet, Le Page, and a few others commands top prices. Spain turned to themiquelet form of lock, the barrels of their weapons especially fine. Scotland favored all-metal pistols—no wood for the stocks on their arms except the very early shoulder arms. Scotch pistols are another Old World firearms field in which prices dent anyone's bank roll.

Possibly greater quantities of flintlock weapons that now command big money were produced in England than any other country, and here we find the greatest variety. The importance of English flintlocks in American history may be given perspective by a reminder that the three pistols known to have been owned by



The cased Texas Model folding-trigger Colt is one of the greatest prizes in gun collecting.

GUNS I WOULD LIKE TO OWN



A Mass. Arms Co. Army Model.
 B Mass. Arms Maynard Patent.
 C Mass. Arms Co. belt model.
 D Mass. Arms .36 Navy Model.
 E Mass. Arms Adams Pocket Model.
 F, G & H Three variations of the Mass. Arms pocket pistol.

I Warner solid frame caplock.
 J Warner ring-trigger pistol.
 K Warner two-trigger pistol.
 L Warner single trigger pistol.
 M Warner belt model SA.
 N Warner belt model DA.
 O Warner Navy Model.
 P Warner Navy variation.

General George Washington, our first president, were all of English make.

English gunmakers were less inclined to ornamentation than their continental contemporaries, but they were uncompromising in the quality of their workmanship. They had imagination, too, and we find among the most valuable of their antique weapons the various systems of multi-shot flintlocks such as the Cookson lever operated repeater, the Collier and similar flintlock arms with revolving cylinders, breech-loading arms of the Ferguson type, multi-barrel arms, and eventually the various detonator systems of which the Reverend Alexander Forsyth's was the first in 1807.

It was the widespread custom abroad to make up pistols in matched pairs. These were often placed in partitioned hardwood cases which contained not only the pistols but the loading accessories and components as well. Duelling pistols were made up in this manner; handsomely wrought pairs were turned out by French, German, and English gunmakers. A very few pairs of duelling type pistols were made in America, and those mostly in the Philadelphia area. Matched pairs have a special appeal, and they usually carry a price tag somewhat higher than the total of two unmatched pistols of the same type.

There are many Old World arms which are beautiful, historically important and valuable, but the hard facts are that the average American collector will often pass up these beauties and pay \$2500 for an ugly looking club of a pistol like the American-made North & Cheney. Why? Because the North & Cheney was the granddaddy of all martial pistols made in any quantity here in America, the first standard pattern of a U. S. military pistol.

By the time the united American colonies got around to manufacturing their own arms in the closing years of the 18th century, they were disenchanted with anything British. The North & Cheney pistol, therefore, was patterned after a French model. We mention this because the French Model 1777 pistol, valued under \$100, is so similar to the North & Cheney American product that they can be easily confused.

Predating the North & Cheney pistols and our rather clumsy early U. S. muskets were more gracefully proportioned weap- (Continued on page 64)

U.S. Shotgunners Win World Titles



New World Trap Champion Ken Jones established an international-style record of 297x300 in the meet.

By DICK MILLER

IN YEARS GONE BY, the cry "The Yanks are coming" didn't create much of a ripple in the world of international clay target shooting championships. The legendary American marksman with his phenomenal accuracy seemed to exist largely in the imagination of his countrymen, and in the shooting game with which he was familiar.

Clay target games in most of the world are similar to our homegrown versions of trap and skeet only in that shooters employ shotguns, and fire at circular clay targets. Rules for the games, physical layouts of the fields, speed and timing of the targets, and general conduct of the games differ widely from our domestic versions.

Skeet shooters in the United States were first to take seriously the challenge of international skeet competition, and have now recorded their third consecutive team victory in International Shooting Union (ISU) World Championships. They notched a team victory at Cairo, Egypt, in 1962, at Santiago, Chile, in 1965, and turned back teams from twenty countries in this year's 39th ISU



America's World Champion Trap team is composed of Gordon Horner, Ken Jones, Charles Jensen, and Billy Hicks. Second place went to the Roumanian team shown on the left.



America's skeet team was composed of Gordon D. Horner, Strother Shumate, Jr., Frank Suber, and Arthur Harris.

World Championships held at Wiesbaden, Germany.

The victorious quartet of S/Sgt Arthur G. Harris, Lt. Gordon D. Horner, Capt. Strother Shumate Jr., and Frank Suber III, selected on the basis of scores fired in an NRA supervised tournament held at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in June, turned back a Russian quartet by two targets. Canada's team of Paul Laporte, Kent Clegg, Harry Willsie, and Eddie Tuvo broke 345 of the 400 targets, good for 19th place.

Jorge Jottar of Chile was first (Continued on page 68)



Magnum shells can be useful in open country where birds flush at 30 yards or better.

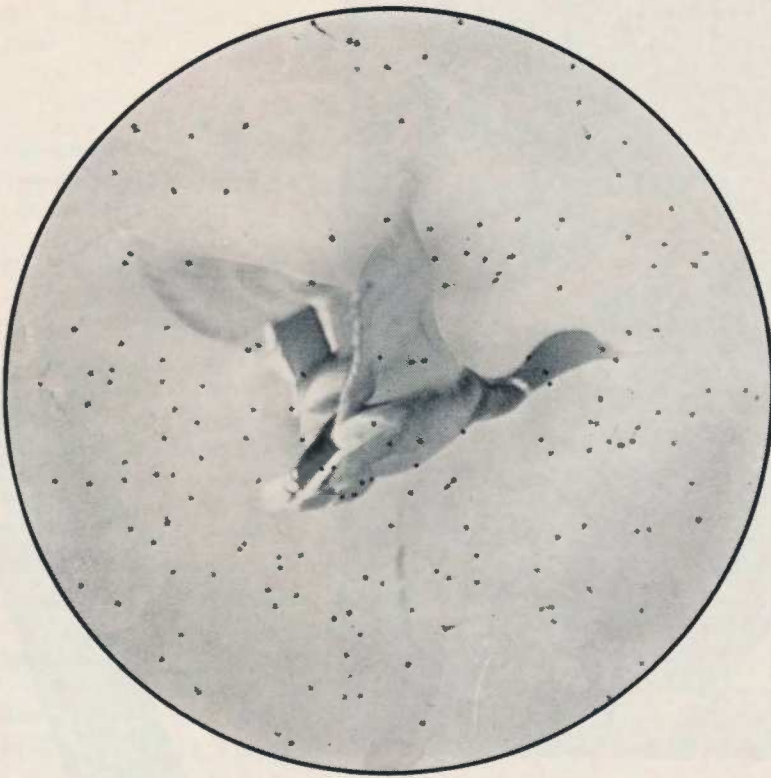
MAGNUM MADNESS

By FRANK A. TINKER

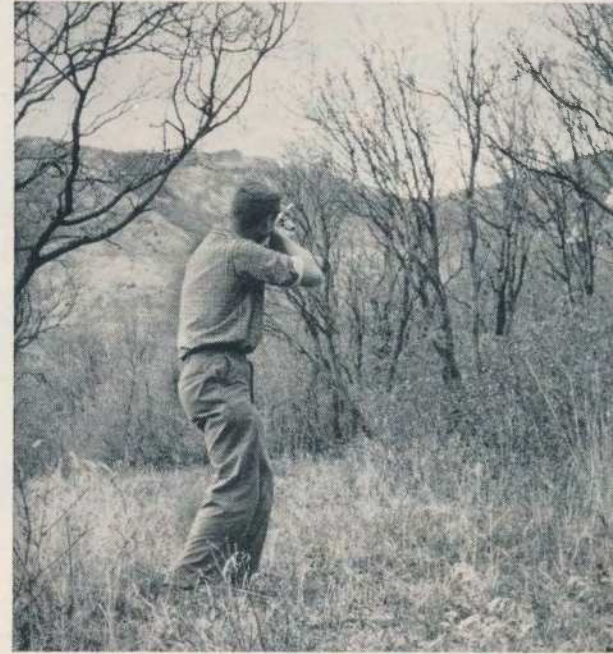


The 3 inch magnum shotshell is gaining on the 2¾ inch, but too many hunters think it replaces good technique.





Superimposing the life-size outline of a bird over your shotgun's 40 yard pattern will show why dense patterns are needed, but no shotgun's pattern is regular after having passed through a tangle of brush.



IN FIELDS APPARENTLY as different as actresses and shotshells, a disturbing trend has cropped up in the past decade. This trend, which may be a flight from reason and good taste, is emphatically toward the bigger rather than the better. The 38-22-36 statistics of the gals seem to count more toward a good TV rating than any possible dramatic ability; the $3-4\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{7}{8}$ of the magnum shell apparently convinces many hunters that the size alone will guarantee success in the game fields.

A survey sponsored in 1961 by a leading arms manufacturer found that one in every three hunters was paying a premium price for these overloads. Last year that ratio narrowed even more. Nevertheless, it has seemed to many observers that these magnum users still do not understand exactly what they are buying in terms of hunting advantage and possible grief.

With both gals and guns, those with experience maintain, the prime question is whether or not the product fits the purpose. The magnums have been in general use now for over a decade and the amount of experience accumulated in the field should be sufficient either to support or refute previous tests made on drawing board and gun range. This evidence shows that if the purpose of the hunter is to obtain a maximum kill at a minimum of cost, the magnum does not suit his purpose better than standard shells except in specific circumstances. And these circumstances do not occur nearly as frequently as one might suppose from the boost in magnum sales. *Ergo*, some shooters are kidding themselves, expensively.

What physical advantage—never mind the vanity—does a hunter get for his extra cash when he buys a magnum shell? The simple answer: more shot coming out the bar-

rel at a slightly higher velocity, some of the time. But what does this add up to within the killing range of the particular game he's after?

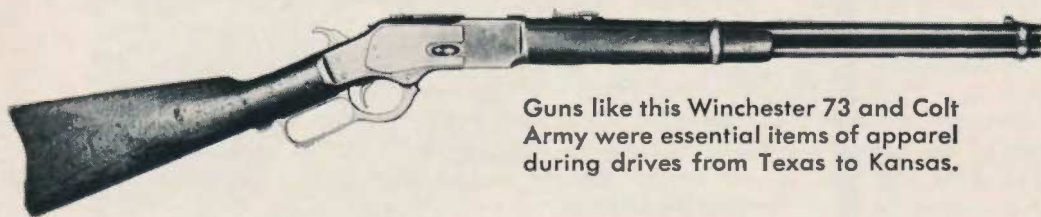
A lad met while struggling through a grouse-haunted stand of aspen not long ago was dragging a formidable, full-choked 12-gauge. Some timid prying revealed that he was using the three-inch blockbusters. Silly as it may seem, he was thus armed so that he could "really reach out" for those fast-flying birds. This might have had meaning elsewhere, but it was asinine amongst this foliage, which limited his range to less than thirty yards. Luckily, he had not yet hit anything—or at least he had not found anything he had hit.

Granted that this is an extreme case of a shooter who has never graduated from Lesson One, many more hunters than are willing to confess are doing much the same, blindly expecting fire power to answer their real need for logical patterns and more reasonable shooting. This grouser, for example, needed only an improved cylinder, a smaller gun, and a standard shot shell. Moreover, this combination would have furnished by far the better chance of him going home with something edible.

At the middle range for open-country upland game, usually counted at 40 yards but actually something less than this, the patterns of the regular high-velocity shell show that they are more than adequate. As for the extra shot in the magnum and its effectiveness at this distance *under ideal conditions*, such an improvement is easily computed. Take a standard 30-inch pattern of #6 shot and superimpose upon it the life-size figure of your bird. The chances are that if you hit him dead center about eight or ten pellets struck him solidly. (Continued on page 71)



Guns on the



Guns like this Winchester 73 and Colt Army were essential items of apparel during drives from Texas to Kansas.

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

IN 1866, an enterprising promoter by the name of Joe McCoy rode into Kansas and out to the forty-mile post on the Kansas & Pacific Railroad, where he met a jayhawker, Tim Hershey. The get-together was a propitious one. McCoy, six-and-a-half feet tall and with a brush of whiskers to do credit to Moses, was a big man with big ideas. Tim Hershey, on the other hand, was just a small Kansas cow-rancher, but his location was a strategic one. His holdings sat firmly astraddle the rail line.

Over a bottle of Indianhead whisky and a bait of buffalo ribs, these worthies hatched a plan. Hershey would lay out a town, a longhorn metropolis complete with stockyards, loading chutes, pens, switches, and a railroad station—all, of course, on Hershey property. For McCoy's part, he would go to Texas and advertise.

Texans fresh returned from the Civil War had found themselves rich in cattle



but poor in cash. The Southwest held an estimated six million cows and hundreds of thousands of horses but no local market. In the East were millions of Yankees hungry for beef and needing horseflesh for work and play. The McCoy-Hershey stratagem was to get the two together.

In the short space of twelve months things really happened. The energetic Hershey had his town a-building, including stockyards and loading pens, and was on hand to greet McCoy's galloping Tejanos when they threw the first of 35,000 wild longhorns into those pens. The town was Abilene, and this was just a beginning.

The cowboys who came up the trail behind those herds were a tough breed. They contributed in no time at all to the new Boot Hill cemetery in Abilene; some of them occupying lots there themselves, and others adding Abilene names to the grave markers, including those of a couple of town marshals. Abilene's main drag, known appropriately as Texas Street, quickly became a Hell's Highway charged with sixshooter smoke, rotgut whisky, and wild women. During the decades that followed, from 1866 to 1895, ten million longhorns trailed into this and later Kansas rail-

Many a cowpuncher had one of these Frontier Model .45 Colts riding his hip on the cattle trail from Texas.



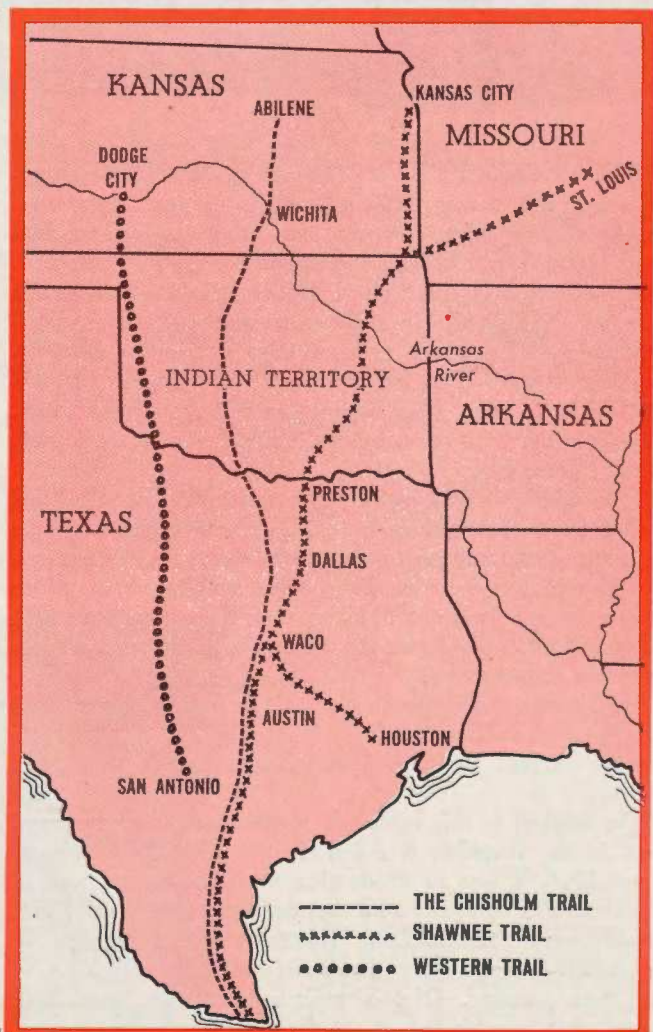
heads, and their cowboy drivers, ably aided and abetted by citizens of the cownowns, wrote "strife" in bloody letters across the flaming skies of Kansas.

The bucko who rode up the Chisholm Trail, or the Western Trail, or the old Shawnee Trail, with a pair of old Confederate Dance (or some other) .44s strapped to his flanks and a Spencer (or some other) carbine swung under a stirrup leather, came to town for just one purpose: a hell of a time! And despite the Hickoks, the Earps, and the Mastersons, he intended to have it. Product of the Civil War, veteran of a dozen brushes with Comanches and Lipan Apaches, after ninety days in (Continued on page 50)

Texas Trails



Scenes like the one shown in this old photograph were the rule all along any of the Texas trails. The map shows the various routes a cattle drive could follow.



SINGLE-SHOT PISTOLS OF THE 1900's

By DeWITT E. SELL

A LOOK AT THE DESIGN FEATURES OF THESE ALL-BUT-FORGOTTEN PISTOLS



Does the Wamo Powermaster design
remind you of something?

THE SINGLE-SHOT PISTOL can be classified as an anachronism among today's firearms—at least figuratively. As of 1960, there were but two American-made single-shot pistols on the commercial market—the Sheridan "Knocabout" and the Savage Model 101. As this article is being written early in 1966, there are only three American single-shot pistols commercially available—Remington's XP 100 in .221 Rem. "Fireball" and Ruger's "Hawkeye" in .256 Win. Mag. having been introduced in 1962 with Savage's 101 surviving as America's sole single-shot in .22 RF caliber.

This writer, as well as others, has had articles published earlier which covered such well-known single-shot pistols as those manufactured by Smith & Wesson, Colt, Stevens, and Harrington & Richardson. This article will therefore bypass their models in this category and concern itself with a number of lesser-known American single-shot pistols produced in this century.

Most American single-shot pistols introduced since 1900 have been in caliber .22 rimfire, noteworthy exceptions being the current Remington and Ruger entries mentioned above.

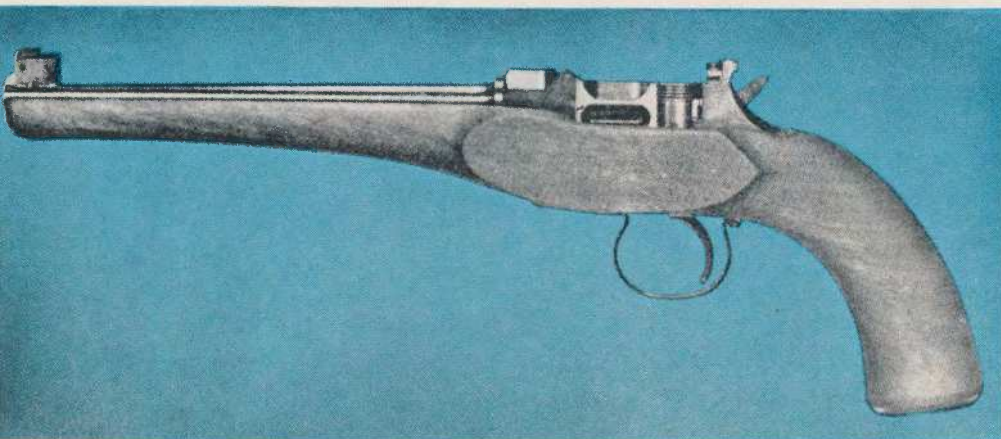
The earliest of this century's single-shot pistols included here is the Hopkins & Allen Target Pistol. Introduced about 1906, it was in production until the termination of this venerable company's independent operation as of 1915. Chambered for the .22 Long Rifle cartridge, it was sturdily fabricated to handle the then-new smokeless cartridges of increased potency. Of top-break construction, its 10-inch barrel unit was hinged at the front of the frame proper.

This single-shot featured Hopkins & Allen's Patented Solid Locking Joint also employed on their "Triple Action" Safety Police revolvers of the period. This patented joint consisted of a solid backstrap post, mortised on both sides, for the two locking dogs embodied in the topstrap. Spring-actuated knurled pincers released the dogs from the post for breaking upward. This type joint possessed greater strength and rigidity than the clutch joint commonly employed on top-break revolvers and would not shoot loose.

The barrel unit of the Hopkins & Allen had a topstrap of unusual contours which is readily distinguishing of this model. It rises significantly above the barrel line, requiring an unusually high front sight for alignment with the rear sight which is mounted at the extreme rear of the topstrap.

Standard grips furnished on the Hopkins & Allen Target Pistol were what the company termed its "New Army Grip." These were two-piece walnut panels with solid square butt which extended below the frame handle and were affixed by two screws. Available with either blued or nickel finish at no additional cost, the Target Pistol's retail price was higher than that of any of the company's contemporary revolver line—indicating that the quality and workmanship of this single-shot pistol was of first magnitude, to say the least.

The Hartford single-shot in .22 RF caliber made its appearance between World Wars I and II. Of unique design for its time, its frame and external appearance in general are not readily distinguishable from those of a semi-automatic. In fact, Hartford Arms (Continued on page 68)



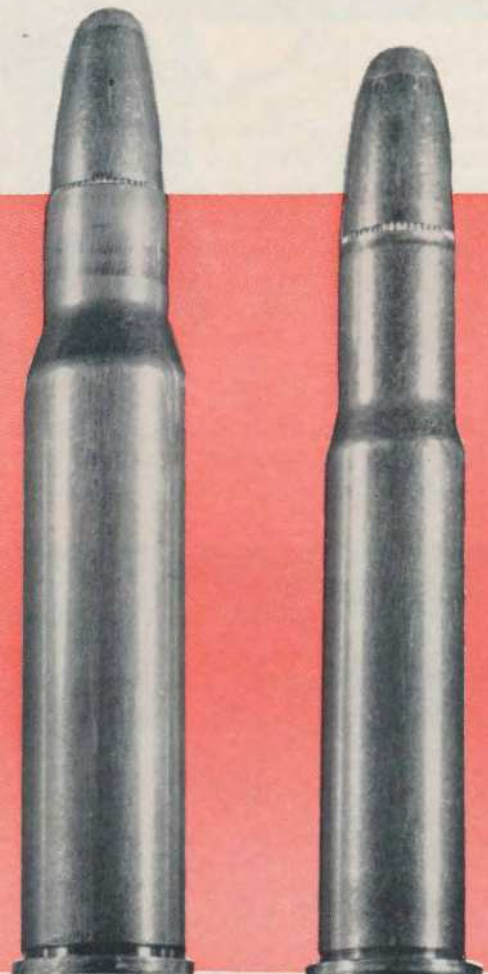
1. The Sporter by S-M.
2. The Hartford Arms single shot.
3. Sheridan Products' Knocabout.
4. H & A ad showed low price.
5. The Tompkins target pistol.

MAGNUMIZING THE .30-30

By WM. SCHUMAKER



Hard at work on his conversion, Bud Miller was able to alter the Model 94 action to handle his .30-30 wildcat which is shown to the left of the factory .30-30 round.



THERE IS LITTLE NEED to justify the visible hammer, lever action .30-30 rifles. Many of our senior citizen hunters have never fired any other gun, and suddenly thrusting one of our modern bolt action magnums into the hands of some northwoods guide during a grizzly bear attack might easily result in his habitually reaching for a non-existent hammer and lever, and paving the way for certain catastrophe.

And so it goes. The old-timers can't change, and the next generation, in part, follows. The other more progressive segment will go through untold mental and mechanical efforts to improve the hammer-lever type arms, until no one can justify more wildcatting or changing. The commercial answer has been Marlin's powerful .444 in their Model 336 lever action.

Constantly extolling the merits of the short, easy carrying and pointing Model 94, my frequent hunting and tool room companion, Bud Miller, of Malo, Washington, was still not content. He was wiping the metal cuttings from my .308 Winchester chambering reamer, one evening last winter, and a factory .30-30 carbine barrel was set-up between centers in the lathe. "Impossible, it can't work," I exclaimed, "you'll blow'er-up, wreck it or something!" But somehow the confident grin on his face told me he'd carefully thought out something that was almost certain to work.

There was ammo hiding and secrecy until he had re-assembled the barrel and action. Then he took a cartridge from his pocket, dropped it into the chamber, closed the action, levered it out, and handed me his new-born .30-30X .308X .444 Marlin round. "Really nothing new," he went on. "The lever-power series has been wildcatted for some time, but I just couldn't see any reason for fooling around with the hard-to-get and more difficult to convert .30-40 Krag or .303 British brass, now that we have these thicker, better .444 Marlin cases."

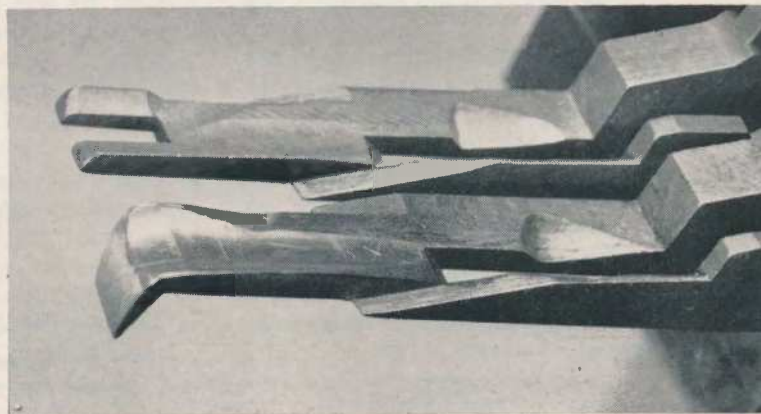
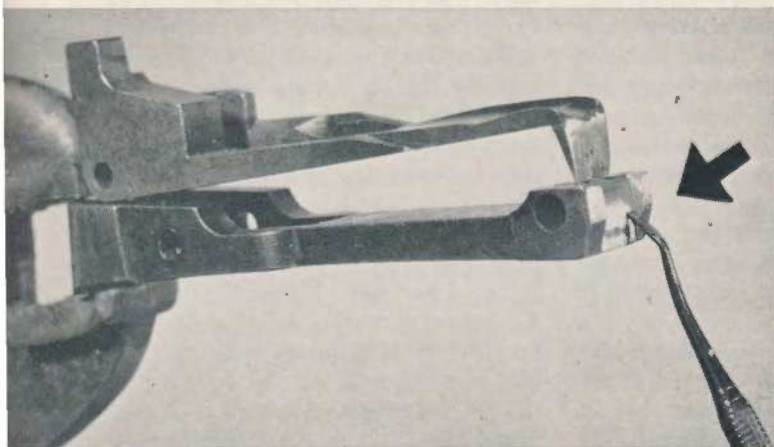
We fired his pilot model with a load of 42 grains of 4320 behind a 150-grain Speer bullet and experienced the typically easy .30-30 type extraction of the new case, which has approximately .300 Savage caliber capacity. Before cartridge feeding alterations were started, velocity tests were made with my Avtron chronograph. While we had not chronographed this barrel with factory ammunition in its original .30-30 caliber, indications were that a worthwhile gain of approximately 150 to 200fps could be expected.

Scantly covered feeding alterations in previously published lever-power articles were of little help in getting the fatter, longer round to feed properly. Several additional weeks of Bud Miller's spare time went into the final solution of combining the good features of both the M-94 Winchester and the Marlin 336 feeding mechanisms.

Once the rails were ground thinner, measuring .124" in thickness, the remaining culprit, the link nose coming up through the slotted end of the carrier and gouging and locking the new fatter cartridge, almost stopped the project. Exactly how the lever-power mechanics whipped this one was not mentioned, and remains a mystery to us. Miller decided to grind off the entire link nose projection of the M-94, and close the slot in the front of the carrier with weld. From there, he built a Marlin M-336 type cartridge stop tongue onto the front end of the M-94 carrier. After much trial and error the completed tongue width at top is .375", tapered to .300" at the bottom of its .315" length. The front end of the link required a groove of .075" depth to allow the newly built carrier tongue to bottom, as does the M-336 Marlin carrier when it releases a round from the magazine.

In order to facilitate feeding of his maximum length cartridge (2.5625" with a 150-grain Speer cannellured .30-30 bullet), a slight bevel had to be ground at 12 o'clock in the action face above the magazine tube opening. This gives clearance to the bullet nose when the carrier raises the round. The completed feeding conversion made it impossible to fabricate any sort of malfunction.

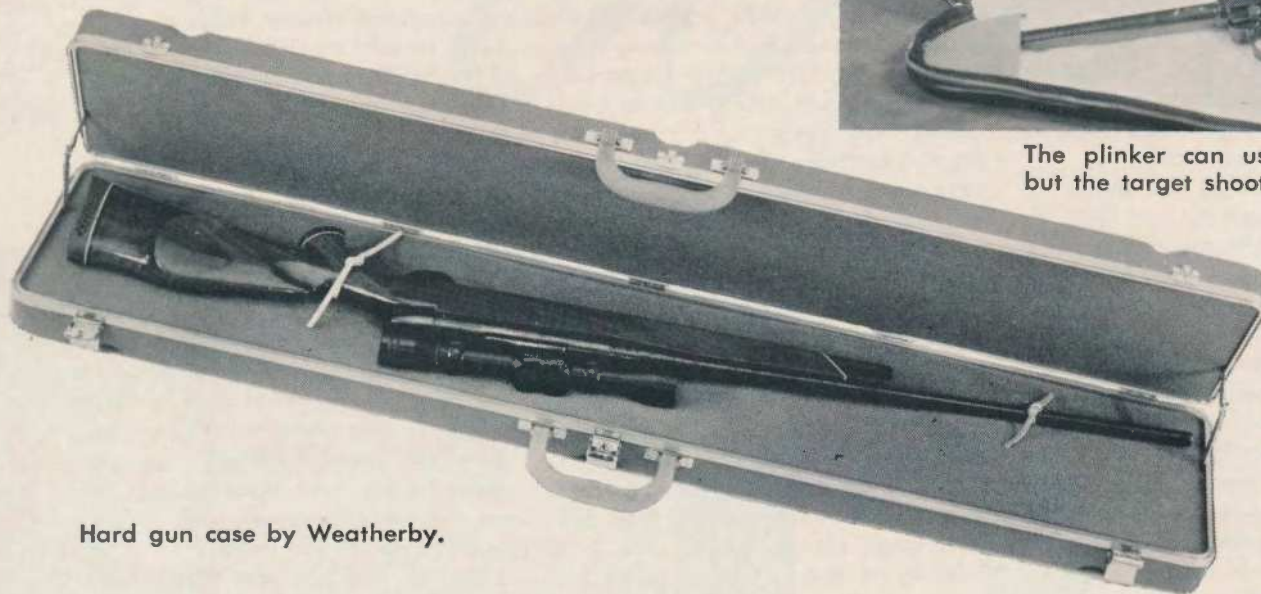
Due to the fact that his first experimental barrel was somewhat worn and pitted, (Continued on page 60)



Above: A groove was cut in the lever linkage to handle the tongue of the new carrier. Right: Changes in the altered carrier are clear in side-by-side comparison.

TRANSPORTING YOUR GUNS— *SAFELY!*

By R. A. STEINDLER



Hard gun case by Weatherby.



The plinker can use a pistol rug, but the target shooter needs a box.

HERE IS ONE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM

OF MOVING YOUR FIREARMS LEGALLY AND WITHOUT DANGER

BIG GAME HUNTING has become increasingly popular. More hunters have more time and more money, and a hunting trip to the West, to Alaska, or to the Northwest Territory is no longer an economic impossibility for those in search of big game.

But with so many making such jaunts the airlines are starting to worry about the guns they're carrying. They have, in fact, had a directive issued through the Federal Aviation Agency asking hunters and other shooting sportsmen traveling as airline passengers to "package their sporting weapons in strong, well-padded shipping cases, caddies, or trunks which are suitable for normal airline baggage handling, and to check their gun cases as baggage." To enforce

this politely worded request, the baggage checking personnel of the various airlines have become rather insistent about the checking of arms as baggage, their inspection before checking as to whether the gun is unloaded, and whether the bolt has been removed or the shotgun broken down.

Aside from the relative inconvenience of these requests, there arises the question of their practicality and appropriateness. Shooting sportsmen can understand the quite legitimate desire of the airlines to prevent any incidents from occurring: I dislike the idea of a little old lady gone hysterical over the mere sight of a cased rifle as much as I dislike the idea of someone with criminal leanings hijacking a plane the way several Cubans did a few years

ago. But, as a law-abiding shooting sportsman, I am even more concerned with getting my guns to and from a hunting area, and these airline regulations stand in the way of my getting them there in one piece in the safest way I know—in my own two hands. Now if you don't feel this is a matter for legitimate concern, consider the following story:

Not long ago, I heard about an American sportsman who had a custom .375 H&H Magnum made up for a long-hoped-for safari in Africa. He shipped all of his other rifles and gear to Africa in heavy crates, but he took the .375 along on the flight. The gun made the trip in one of the luggage compartments of the plane. Some gink must have tried to dropkick the cased



Displaying United Airline's long gun cartons are John Schooley of the NRA, Roy Rogers, General James Doolittle, and Lauritz Melchior.



Despite a heavy beating, the cased rifle still fired accurate groups.

rifle over the plane, for when the handsome gun was unpacked in Nairobi, the stock had been converted into enough small pieces to make several large boxes of toothpicks.

Most hunters I know are forced by Old Father Time to take to the air when going on such a jaunt, and to top it off the airlines are forcing them to put their guns into the regular baggage procedures. I am not saying that every rifle going into a plane's baggage compartment will be instantly and irretrievably converted to kindling, but I am saying that a hunter ought to be more interested in transporting his guns safely than are the airlines. As far as I know, there is only one adequate solution, yet it is at the same time simple and relatively cheap, especially when you are considering a hunting jaunt that is costing anywhere from several hundred to several thousand dollars: This is the hard gun case.

A simple trip to the nearest game preserve for some pheasant shooting presents no great transportation problem. The standard plastic, leather, or canvas cases with a full-length zipper and suitable padding offer, in most instances, adequate protection. If, however, you'll be bouncing around cross-country in some sort of 4-wheel drive vehicle, the simple zipper case does not provide enough protection for your shotgun, and certainly not enough for a scoped rifle.

The target shooter, be he a pistolero

or a smallbore addict, has long ago learned how vital gun protection is to him. Pistol boxes are a must for the target shooter, and even if you are carrying a plinker gun in your car, having it bounce around in the glove compartment, under the seat of the car, or in the trunk, is certain to raise Cain with it in no time at all. A pistol rug, and there is a variety on the market for many different types of guns, is the minimum protection needed. The fellow who enjoys hunting with a scoped handgun must have either a special pistol rug to accommodate the scoped gun, or he must put the scoped gun in a box. If you don't want to go to the expense of a special pistol box, then a sturdy cardboard box with plenty of cushioning material will do. Best are the special boxes with foam lining, such as those sold under the trade-name of Protecto-Kaddy. The cost of such a case is, in comparison to the cost of the gun, the scope, and the trip, a minor matter.

I believe that the smallbore target shooters began to use hard gun cases, suitably cushioned and fitted, long before the shooter-hunter ever considered the safety of his gun while lugging it here and there. I have my match .22 rifle in such a case and I carried the gun all over the east coast while I was shooting competitively. The gun, despite frequent bouncing around, has never lost its zero, and I have simply given up worrying about it. When I head for the range now, I pull the case

out from under my loading bench, check to see if I have an ample supply of ammo, grab my shooting jacket, spotting scope, and shooting mat, and I am off—to get skunked by a couple of points. The case holds my rifle, cuff, and sling, Redfield Olympic sight, and all the other paraphernalia smallbore shooters feel they must have.

What should you do to protect your gun from mishaps while it is being transported? If you are driving, then a good case with full length zipper and enough padding to afford the gun real protection is frequently sufficient. However, don't perch the gun on top of duffel where a fast stop can jar it loose and send it flying. I have seen one fellow put his rifle in such a case at the bottom of his car's trunk. On top of it he piled all his heavy gear. What he had not seen was that the gun muzzle rested on the jack, that most of the weight that he piled on top of the gun rested on the action and the scope. And when I pointed it out to him, he became highly insulted. He had always handled his gun that way, and he did not need any help or advice. But he was real happy when he was able to borrow another guy's spare rifle in hunting camp. His scope was busted off, and the mount bases were so high that he could not use the iron sights that were on the gun for just such a situation. If he'd done the same thing with a hard case, there'd have been no trouble.

If you are (Continued on page 58)

GUNS I WOULD LIKE TO OWN

IN HIS ARTICLE beginning on page 24, James E. Serven describes some of the antique firearms most sought by collectors. However, there are collectors and there are collectors. In selecting the color section for this issue, I thought I would show several of the guns I would like to own—some modern, some antique.

As you can see, I am not a specialized collector; I like certain guns because they represent a unique technological approach, certain others because of their superb workmanship and/or ornamentation, and others because they combine utilitarianism with a pleasing appearance.

The gun on the facing page appeals to me not because it is extremely handsome or because of its value. It is an interesting attempt to add firepower to a pistol at a time when most of the handguns around were single shots.

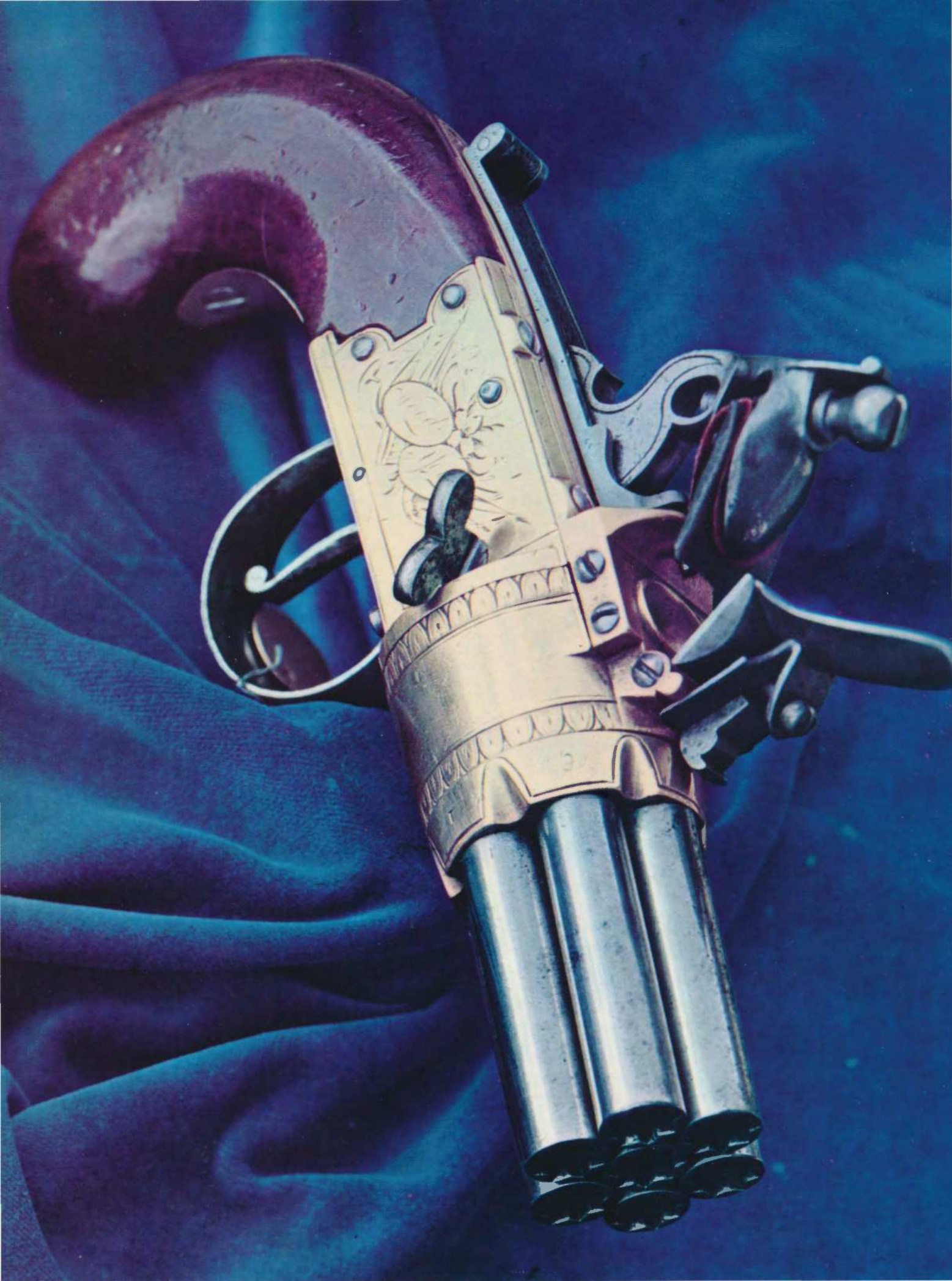
The two guns in the center spread appeal to me simply because they represent the finest product of a master engraver. The gold work is exceptional, and the overall design bespeaks of quiet elegance. The guns are not original Colts, but replicas. The metal work is representative of the artistry of master engraver E. C. Prudhomme.

The two rifles on page 42 show the basic Mauser action in two completely different settings. The Winslow is an example of what has been called the "California" style; the Holland & Holland displays classic conservatism. Both represent the finest in firearms—depending on your taste.—Editor.



THE UNIQUE

This seven-barrel revolving flintlock pistol looks massive, but the barrels are only two inches long. English-made, the pistol is signed "Wood-Rork." Relatively few of these were made, because of the high cost—only the very wealthy could afford them. Photo by Dick Friske. From the collection of Frank Bivens.

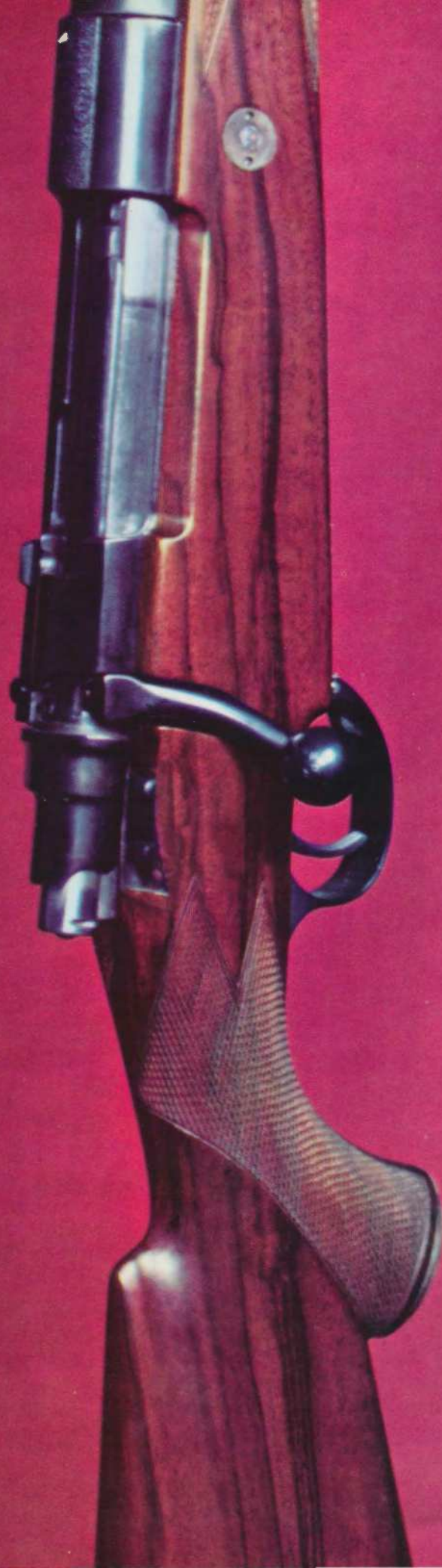




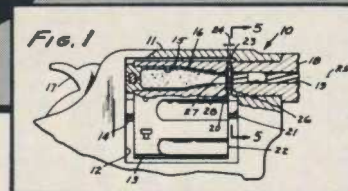
The Handsome

Take one pair of relatively inexpensive replica revolvers—these are “Yanks,” imported by Navy Arms—and add a few ounces of gold and the artistic talents of a master engraver, such as E. C. Prudhomme. What emerges is classic elegance in what may be the most enduring form of art. It would take less than \$200 to buy other replicas, but \$3,000 would not replace this pair.





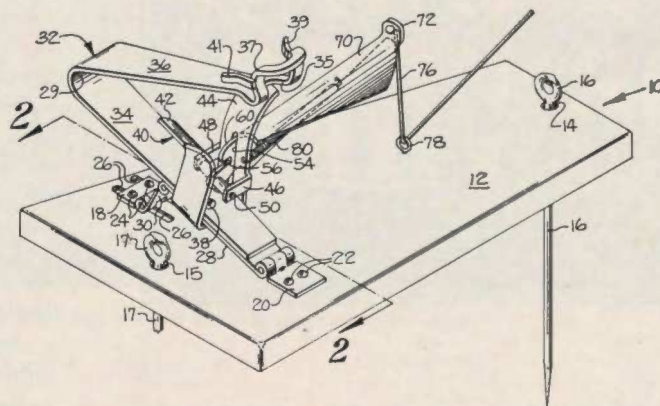
NEW PATENTS



3,221,726

TARGET TRAP

Raleigh W. Walker, Jr., 111 N. Everett St.,
Bennettsville, S.C.



1. A target trap comprising:

- (a) a base;
- (b) a supporting member carried by said base for pivotal adjustment about a substantially horizontal axis;
- (c) means for securing said supporting member in a desired position of pivotal adjustment relative to said base;
- (d) a leaf spring mounted upon said supporting member for pivotal adjustment therewith, said leaf spring having a free end portion manually movable relative to said supporting member and said base from a normal relaxed upward position to a downward deflected position and rapidly returnable from said downward deflected position to said normal upward position;
- (e) a pair of spaced arm members carried by and extending upwardly from said supporting member, said arm members terminating below said normal relaxed upward position of said free end portion of said leaf spring and being adapted to straddle said free end portion of said leaf spring during said manual movement thereof and guide the same to said downward deflected position; and
- (f) latch means carried by one of said arm members and pivotally movable toward and away from the other of said arm members for releasably maintaining said free end portion of said leaf spring in said downward deflected position.

Mr. Walker informs us that his target trap is not currently being manufactured, though several firms have shown varying degrees of interest.



THE MAGNIFICENT

The Winslow rifle, in 7 mm Magnum, weighs a bit over seven pounds. The Holland & Holland, in .244 Magnum, weighs a shade over eight lbs. If you are interested, the Winslow sells for \$846, while the Holland & Holland is priced at \$1,250. Both guns are sold by Abercrombie & Fitch of New York.

Photo by Frank Eck.

To get a copy of patent, send the number and 50¢ to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington 31, D.C. To communicate with an inventor or assignee, if the address given is insufficient, send a letter to him in care of the Commissioner mentioning the patent number.

BULLET HOLES

By DOUGLAS B. WESSON

BURNING POWDER

By LT. COL. DOUGLAS B. WESSON

With Editorial Comments By E. B. MANN

*"By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard 'round the world."*

THOSE LINES from Ralph Waldo Emerson's classic "Concord Hymn" have been memorized by generation after generation of American boys and girls, and "the shot heard 'round the world" is one of the best-known phrases in the English tongue.

But the reverse is true of most of the vast literature of guns and shooting. Few of even the most avid gun enthusiasts have any idea of the number of books that have been published in this field—(in a book titled "Guns and Shooting: A Selected Bibliography," Ray Riling listed 2769 titles; and this was "a selected bibliography," published fifteen years ago)—and fewer still have any concept of the wealth of information and interest that lies, for the most part entombed, in those volumes. Most of those books are out of print, and many of them (if you can find a copy at all) are collectors' items bearing price tags comparable to or sometimes above the price tag on a custom-made rifle!

It is with this thought in mind that we propose to bring you, from time to time, excerpts from some of these classics. Some will amaze you by their foresight of things yet to come; some will amuse you with prideful comparisons of "what they thought then" with "what we know now;" and still others will correct fallacies now commonly accepted as fact about guns and the men who shot them.

As an example in that latter category, what picture do you see in your mind's eye when you see or hear quoted Emerson's resounding phrase, "the shot heard 'round the world?" Many of us, perhaps most of us, think instantly of a tall, buckskin-shirted, coonskin-capped rifleman leveling a slim "Kaintucky" with deadly accuracy at a sword-waving red-coated invader. . . . But there were no "buckskin riflemen" present at that historic meeting of April 19, 1775, nor any Long Rifles either. Here is what Doug Wesson says about it, in his slim little volume, "Bullet Holes:"

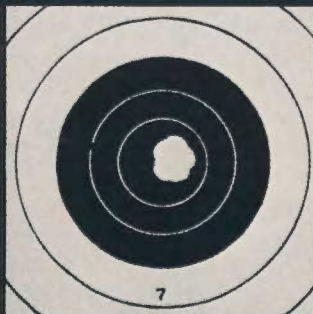
Another interesting fact that has no bearing on the subject of target shooting (as it is believed that he missed) is that the first shot of the War of the Revolution, fired by Major Pitcairn at Captain Parker's men on Lexington Green, was fired from a pistol.

Douglas B. Wesson spent a lifetime not only in the making of fine handguns but in the study and development of handgun accuracy. It could be said, without too much accent on the pun, that "he wrote the book" on the subject; and what follows is a part of that book, "Bullet Holes," reprinted here by permission of Smith & Wesson, the copyright owners:

When Roger Bacon mixed together sulphur, saltpetre, and powdered charcoal and applied fire to the compound, the results surprised him; in fact, it would



A



B



C

Smith & Wesson developed the first successful machine rest and fired these groups on it from their K-22 (A) and .357 Magnum (B) revolvers. The tape target (C) shows that bullet tipping, found with handguns, does not affect accuracy.



Developed in 1935, S&W's .357 Magnum is still one of the world's most powerful handguns.

be safe to say he was fairly taken off his feet. . .

When or where the compound he produced was first used to eject a missile from a tube is lost in the ages; but we know that in 1700 the highest development was a short, heavy gun of about one inch bore, and rifled by guess.

The first rifling was made about 1500, and was straight, to allow room for the powder ash, so the bullet in reloading would not require too much force to seat. The charge was ignited by a flint, which represents the only marked improvement since the origin—barring improvements in manufacture—as some of the

arms of this date are beautiful in design, workmanship, and ornamentation.

The beauty was the arm's main point, however, for its shooting qualities were practically nil. In fact, as late as 1775 a strong movement was started to put a (U. S.) regiment in the field armed with the English long bow, as it would shoot farther and with greater accuracy. This was the suggestion of Benjamin Franklin, and he made a strong address to the Continental Congress to support his stand. The comparatively small-calibered, close shooting Kentucky rifle, beloved by thousands of authors and imbued with miraculous possibilities by them, carried by Boone and Crockett, had, however, made its appearance and prevented the retrogression advocated by Franklin.

But pistols—single shot, muzzle loading, flint lock pistols—were, even then, only a forlorn hope, a last desperate chance, to fire and then throw. . . The duelling pistol of that date was a somewhat different proposition, as it was made with accuracy as the prime feature. And as a pair of these arms brought from one hundred and fifty to five hundred dollars of our money, the gunsmith could afford quite a bit of experimenting. As a rule, these were made in about 56 caliber, with 10-inch barrels, smooth bore or rifled as desired, and would place three consecutive balls in a three-inch circle at ten paces. Quite accurate enough to remove duelling from the list of (Continued on page 54)

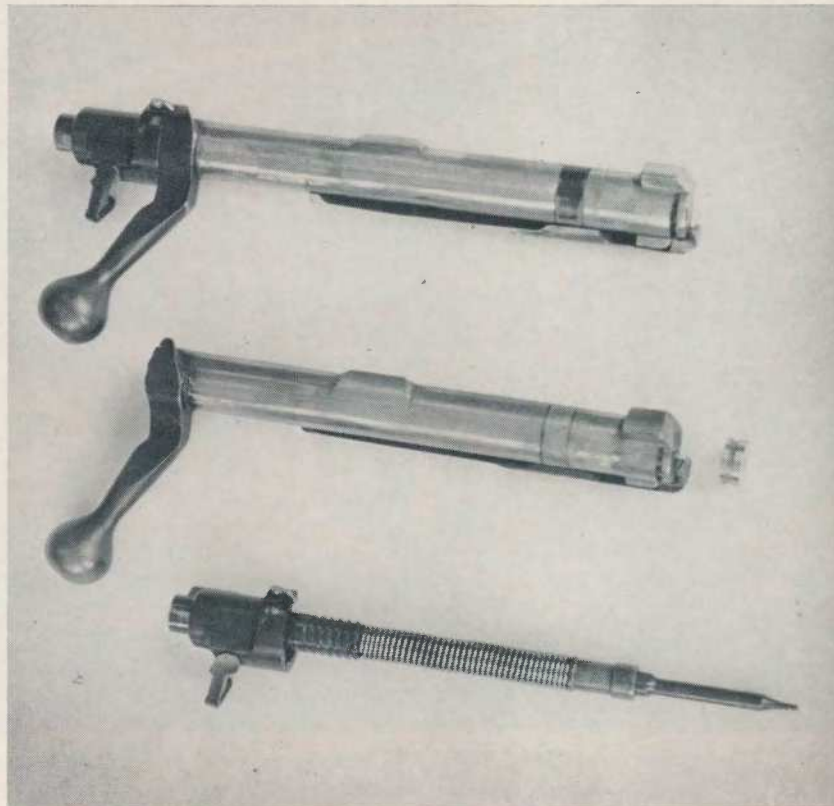


Timed with a machine he built, Ed McGivern fired record times of 2/5 and 9/20 of a second for five shots using his S&W pistol.

MIX OR



In 7 mm Magnum and .333 Magnum wildcat, these Model 70's have interchangeable bolts.



Matched and interchangeable, these Winchester Model 70 bolts are shown with a "no-go" belted magnum headspace gauge.

By JOHN F. KOHL

IT WAS A BITTER COLD DAY in the high mountains as the hunter settled himself in a good sitting position and laid the crosshairs of his scope on the shoulder of the magnificent bull elk 200 yards across the gully. He slowly squeezed the trigger, and heard nothing but a sharp click. Opening the bolt hastily, he found the chambered round unmarked by the firing pin. Fast inspection showed the tip of the firing pin broken off, and this meant the rifle was out of service. It had taken four days to pack into this area, and if he had to pack out to get a new firing pin or rifle and come back, it would take eight days. With only a week of his vacation left, this was out.

Was his hunt over? What could he do? There are several solutions for the hunter who finds himself in this dilemma. If anyone in camp has a spare rifle he might be able to borrow it, if that person will let him. If he has a spare rifle, he may continue his hunt with it. However, if his spare rifle is of a different caliber, or equipped with different sights, he may have to hunt at a disadvantage. It would be difficult hunting open country with a brush gun, if this is the spare, and vice-versa. Most hunters who invest money and valuable time in a hunting trip should carry a spare rifle in case of a breakdown, but, is this the complete solution? I always carry a spare rifle, but it is never in the same caliber as the regular rifle simply because I want the spare for use under conditions for which the main rifle would not be suited.

MATCH

BOLTS THAT ARE INTERCHANGEABLE
BETWEEN RIFLES CAN SAVE A HUNT

What, then, you ask, is the answer? I believe I have found a simple and not too expensive solution. Remember, when taking time off to hunt, you are losing pay (in many instances) for the period of hunting. Even if you are not using a guide or outfitter, you are investing money in a license, transportation, equipment, clothing, and many other incidentals. A few dollars more to insure that you will have a serviceable rifle of your choice, sighted for the purpose, and available when needed, will be money well spent.

Some years ago I stumbled on an answer which has worked out very well for me. I picked up in a trade a Winchester Model 70 with a shot-out barrel, and as this was (and still is) my favorite action, I decided to build a custom rifle on it. Not being a gunsmith, I naturally went to a competent local man, and had him fit a barrel and chamber the rifle to a 7 mm Magnum. I stocked it in French Walnut and scoped it with a 3X Bushnell on a Leopold top mount with integral peep sight for auxiliary use. I became extremely fond of this rifle for long range work and did a good deal of hunting with it.

One day, by a rather unusual incident, I obtained a used Model 70 .30-06 in trade and in a matter of hours traded the barrel off to a friend who was in need of a barrel for his venerable old Winchester with which he would not part to save his soul. This again left me with an action.

I toyed with an idea at the time, and found that I could insert the complete firing pin mechanism from the 7 mm into the bolt of the .30-06, but the mechanism from the .30-06 would not fit the 7 mm. Also, I could easily interchange bolts, but I had no assurance headspace would be correct. I had no fear of mixing up the bolts due to the fact that the action's serial number had been engraved on each bolt at the factory. I felt that something practical could come of this.

I took the .30-06 action and the 7 mm rifle to the same gunsmith with instructions to barrel the action to a .333 Magnum wildcat, and asked him about the feasibility of matching up both bolts and making both firing pin as-

semblies interchangeable. He assured me that this could be done, and would not be too expensive due to the fact that he was barreling the second action at the same time, which would make it easier for him.

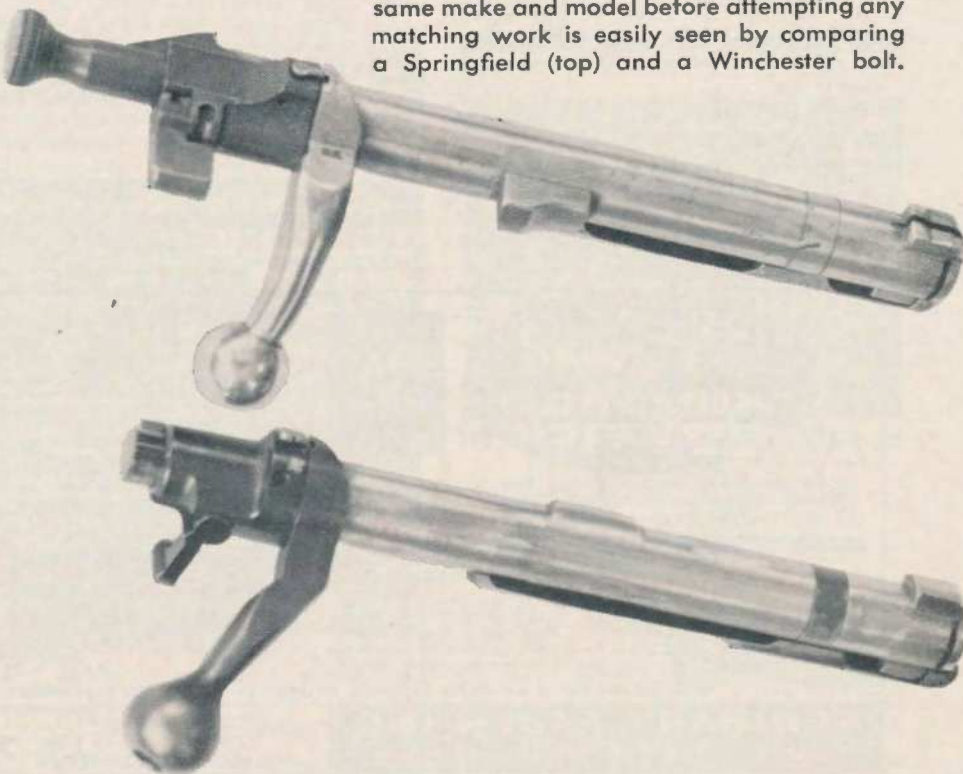
When I picked up the finished products and stocked the new rifle, I had the combination I wanted. I could interchange the firing pin mechanisms from one bolt to another easily, or switch bolts from rifle to rifle without having to worry about headspace. As I used the guns more and more, it became obvious to me that the firing pin mating was really not necessary. It is much easier to simply interchange bolts. This now leaves me in a position where, if on an extended hunt I take both guns and, for example, the 7 mm breaks a firing pin while hunting antelope, I am not forced to use the .333 with iron sights. I simply switch bolts, hunt antelope, and if I get into timber country after elk, I switch bolts again and hunt with the .333, and have my repairs made at home after the trip. This, of course, is not a cure all for

every type of breakdown which may occur, but, in my opinion, the broken firing pin is the most common of occurrences in breakdowns of bolt action rifles, which are still the most popular for our bigger game.

I always recall an incident which occurred some years back when I was in the sporting goods business. A police department which I serviced sent an officer to my store with one of their riot guns, a Model 12 Winchester, with instructions to have it reblued. I asked the officer if he wanted it checked, and any work necessary done to it. He said yes, but there couldn't be anything wrong, they had fired it just the week previous in a training session. I turned the gun over to my gunsmith for the work, and he found the firing pin was broken. The shotgun was utterly useless. Luckily, no one had had to use this particular weapon in an emergency situation while in that condition.

Not any pair of rifles can have their bolts matched up. There are some basic requirements, such as: they must both be of (Continued on page 76)

The reason why two actions must be of the same make and model before attempting any matching work is easily seen by comparing a Springfield (top) and a Winchester bolt.





EVERY BEGINNING trapshooter wants to know which of the various trap guns is best for him or her. And, judging from the amount of gun buying and gun trading done by many veteran shooters, not all of the veterans are convinced that the gun they are presently shooting is the absolute final choice for getting the job done. There is a simple answer to the question asking which gun is best, for either beginner or veteran: The best gun for any shooter is the one with which the shooter can break the most targets. How do you determine which gun is best for you? By shooting it, of course. Now, as in the case of so many seemingly simple answers to complex and controversial questions, come the "ifs", the "buts", and the "whereas'es."

There is a very large school of shooting thought which holds that the gun makes very little difference, if any. This school says without equivocation that you simply buy a gun that appeals to you, any gun, then learn to shoot that gun. This group counsels the shooter not to worry about substandard scores during the familiarization process—their theory being that success will come with the passage of time (and targets). I can't challenge the credo of this group, mostly because I can't prove that they are not right. Much of what they say makes sense to me.

But, I can't explain away the evidence of my own observation, which has seen some shooters shoot much better with one gun than with another. I recall with exceeding clarity a young shooter at a meat shoot in Southern Illinois a few years ago. He shot in

every match for half the night, with miserable results. I was having a hot night, and winning more than my share of the meat. If you hold firmly to the "any gun" theory, his request to borrow my gun for the next round was a thoroughly illogical one. It didn't turn out so illogically, however. He won the rest of the matches that night, beating me with my own gun. I told him on the spot to get a gun like mine and join the fun. I also felt like quitting loaning my gun so freely.

There is an "if" or a "but" sequel to the story of the young man with the borrowed gun. Every shooter who has been around the game of trap for an appreciable length of time has seen the shooter who picked up a strange gun and suddenly gotten a hot hand. Then, after a while, the hot streak tails off, and the new gun isn't shooting any better than old faithful. In effect, this repeated experience, which makes Monday a busy trading day in gun shops, takes the student of what gun to buy back to the "take one gun and learn to shoot it" theory.

But no matter what advice you take, there are four general classes or action types of trap guns.

Far and away the most popular trap gun is the slide action repeater, commonly called a "pump" gun. The pump gun has no inherent features of design or function which make it better than the other action types. Its popularity is due to the fact that good pump repeaters which are well-suited for trapshooting are priced substantially lower than the other action types.

The autoloader, or so-called automatic

shotgun is a very popular hunting shotgun, but has never achieved great acceptance by the trap fraternity. The principal objection to earlier automatic shotguns is that they ejected the fired shell toward the next shooter, and even occasionally plunked a hot shell on the neck of the contestant on the next post, which had a tendency to enliven the contest with some very colorful language. This problem does not exist in skeet, where the automatic is much more popular, and is probably number one today. There are more automatics in use on trap fields today, because most of the autoloaders specifically stocked for trap have been equipped with shell deflectors that eject the shell at the shooter's feet rather than caroming it off the shooter on the next post.

The great and classic side-by-side double was once undisputed king of the trap field, but lost ground in recent years simply because a good trap double costs more money than many shooters were willing to pay. Good doubles at lower prices are putting more side-by-sides on the trap line today.

The single barrel, break-open trap gun really comes into its own on the trap range. There are large numbers of this gun used, even though most of the new ones, and many of the used models, sell upwards of five hundred dollars. A number of firms have introduced what I consider good single barrels at prices comparable to pumps and autos, but trapshooters, peculiar breed that they are, seem to be willing to pay more for a used "name" brand than for a new but untried make.

Obviously, if the shooter intends to shoot doubles as well as 16-yard and handicap targets, he or she must own another gun capable of shooting two shots, if a single is the choice for 16-yard and handicap. Many shooters whom I know use the over-and-under shotgun for doubles if they use the single for the other two events. This is not to infer that the over-and-under is not used by many shooters for all three of the trap events. The over-and-under gun ranks high in trap gun popularity among all shooters.

All of the four action types are also made as hunting guns, sometimes called field guns, to distinguish them from trap or skeet guns. All trap guns specifically designated by the manufacturer as trap guns have ventilated ribs. The ventilated rib serves the purpose of dissipating heat set up by repeated firing, and allows more accurate gun pointing.

Trap stocks are "straighter" than field stocks, and usually longer. By straighter I mean that the trap gun has less drop at the heel than a field gun. Drop at the heel is the distance between an imaginary straight line extending rearward over the barrel to above the back end of the stock. The distance between the imaginary line and the top of the butt plate is less for a trap gun than for a field gun. This has the effect of making a trap gun shoot high, which allows the shooter to sit his target on top of the barrel. It also compensates for the fact that during the time a shooter spots his target, that fact is registered on his brain through his eyes, his brain gives the command to pull the trigger, he pulls the trigger, the primer on the shot-shell is ignited, setting fire to the powder, which then burns creating gas pressure that drives the shot to the target, the target has



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been rising. The trap gun shooting high then takes care of the target's rise while the foregoing process is taking place.

Most field guns are designed to shoot pointblank, and to effectively use a field gun for trap, the shooter must remember to shoot slightly over the target to compensate for this characteristic. I would be the first to admit that there are several fine veteran shooters who shoot field guns at trap, and very effectively. The point is that they have learned to shoot a particular gun, and to shoot it well. Most shooters are better advised to buy a gun designed for the purpose they have in mind. This is not to say that trap guns cannot be used very effectively as hunting guns. Many trap guns do double duty as wildfowl and pheasant guns, and some wildfowlers and pheasant gunners use trap guns only on game.

Beavertail forends are standard equipment on trap guns, for obvious reasons. The beavertail forend is a wide, generously proportioned forend, designed to keep the fingers away from a hot barrel. Anyone who has ever touched a hot gun barrel will not argue the value of a beavertail forend. The beavertail forend also provides just a little more control of the gun than the smaller field-type forend.

Most trap guns feature recoil pads as standard equipment, again for obvious reasons. The field shooter has had a big day if he fires a box of shells, while trap shooters expend several boxes per day. A trap stock can be longer than the field stock, because the shooter is allowed to put the gun to his shoulder and get set for the shot, which is not always true in field shooting. A field stock must be short enough to allow quick mounting to the shoulder, and often must be short enough to allow for extra clothing.

A rule of thumb in trapshooting holds that the shooter should use the longest stock of which he is capable, because of less recoil and better gun pointing. Another rule holds that a shooter should use the straightest stock he can shoot well, for the reasons outlined earlier. Almost all trap guns are equipped with thirty-inch barrels, and most of them are full choke. There are a few 28-

inch barrels showing up on the trap line, especially in pump and automatic actions. Some of the break-open actions, such as single, double, and over/under sport 32-inch barrels. Because of their shorter receivers or actions, these guns with 32-inch barrels are no longer in overall length than the 30-inch pump or auto.

While the full choke barrel is still predominant, because of the shooting distances involved in the trap game, more improved modified and even modified barrels are being used, mostly by experienced shooters who are also reasonably fast shooters. By fast shooter I mean that shooter who breaks the target almost as soon as he can see it.

Because I have mentioned that trap guns usually have 30-inch barrels, with some 32 inch barrels being used, and a smaller number of 28-inch, I hasten to explain that these longer barrels are not necessary to reach the target. The longer barrels simply swing more smoothly, and provide a little better overall balance. A twenty-six inch barrel would reach the targets, if it were of comparable choke, but the longer barrels work better for trap, where no "snap" shots are taken. This is not to be construed as a retreat from my oft-repeated theory that the field shooter is better off using the shortest barrel gun and most open choke that he can find. In my thinking, a 26-inch barrel improved cylinder gun would bring about changes in our bag limits if used by more hunters. But, we are talking of trap guns today.

I will not be trapped into recommending any one of the four possible trap guns for a specific shooter. The only deviation from this policy would be that I would suggest at least to a woman or small man that he or she try first one of the break-open actions, such as single, double, or over/under, simply because they are shorter in overall length and might not tend to put too much weight forward. What kind of gun do I use? I've shot 'em all, and own at least one of every type. I shot my best scores with a single, only for the reason that I shot it more than the rest. And therein probably lies the moral of this story.

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GUNS OF THE TEXAS TRAIL

(Continued from page 31)

the heat and the dust kicked up by some thousands of cow brutes, he galloped into Abilene to paint the town bright red!

He aimed to play poker, monte, and faro bank with the sky for a limit; he took cold if he pulled his sixshooters off, and no damyankee marshal was going to disarm him; he slept better on the ground than in bed, drank his whisky neat from a tin dipper, rolled his own from the sack of Bull Durham in his shirt pocket, loped into Abilene in the same pair of drawers he had on when the drive left Bandera, and neither bath, shave, nor haircut was his until the stock pen gates slammed shut and the Trail Boss shelled out the trail wages.

He was wicked, wild, reckless, and hardcase. He saw Abilene as his own Mecca, a glorious hell hole where cowboys gathered to hurrah the town, buffalo the marshal, and carry the soiled doves up the stairs at the Drover's Cottage; a watering place where they served up a dead man for breakfast every morning and the wilder, the wetter, and wickeder it got, the better he liked it. The cowboy who rode up the trail in the late 60's was spoiling for trouble. In Abilene, it didn't take him long to find it.

The guns he packed were those he had fetched home from the war. Johnny Reb, of which Texas was second only to Virginia in numbers, rode home from the war if he was lucky enough to have a mount; if not, he walked. Some trudged more than a thousand miles. But when everything else was tossed away, his sixshooter came with him. It might be a Griswold and Gunnison, the most popular of the southern-made revolvers; or it might be the Union handgun, the highly effective Colt Model 1860. This was the arm of the Union forces, and Confederates hunted every battlefield to find them. It was a big gun, .44 caliber, with an 8-inch barrel and a weight only fractions under three pounds. Or the Texan's gun might be a Remington Model 1858, another .44 and likewise much sought after. Remington made more than 140,000 of these big revolvers during the war. Many of them traveled to the Southwest and into sin-packed Abilene with Texas cowboys; others were waiting in the cowtowns on Kansan hips.

In 1866-7, when the half-wild longhorns were hazed out of the mesquite thickets along the Brazos and headed up the Chisholm Trail, every man put on his sixshooter in the morning like he put on his pants. But there was no manufacture of firearms in the Southwest, and no money to buy them. The item of barter was the cow. A three-year-old was worth \$3 on the hoof, \$10 in trade. So the cowboy rode out with a sticky loop, caught the first three cow brutes he found as mavericks, unbranded, slapped his mark on them with a cinch ring for a running iron, and swapped his newly acquired herd for a gun.

The pistol he got was an old gun. It might be a Colt of the 1850 era; more likely it was one fetched home from the 1861-65 fracas. The Griswold & Gunnison was a good revolver; it was a .36 caliber faithful copy of the Colt Navy Model 1851. It was a 6-shot, with

a brass frame and a 7½-inch round barrel. It was made during the war at Griswoldville, Georgia, and about 3600 were produced. It was the most common Confederate revolver. But there were others.

There was the Leech & Rigdon, also .36 caliber and, like the Griswold, a spittin' image of the Navy Colt. Then there was the Rigdon-Ansley and the Spiller & Burr, and the Columbus, made at Columbus, Georgia. Altogether, the several Confederate manufacturers produced about 10,000 handguns.

These shooting irons were all cap-and-ball jobs, and some of them got their owners into some godawful spots due to failure to deliver the goods when the cards were down. Evetts Haley, in his excellent book, "George W. Littlefield, Texan," describes one of these hairy episodes, an encounter between Littlefield and a man named Watson: "Watson pulled his gun and began shooting at Littlefield. Though they were within a few feet of each other, Watson missed. Littlefield drew his own gun. Two cylinders went off at once, and then the gun failed to fire. Shelton Dowell saw his uncle's predicament and rode up with his sixshooter, saying: 'Here, Cap'n, take my gun;' Littlefield dropped the old gun and took Dowell's but it too missed fire, so he picked up the old cap-and-ball again. By that time Watson, having emptied his own gun without hitting Littlefield, backed behind a post oak tree and stuck his head around the trunk, saying 'God damn you, Littlefield, you ain't got me yet!' But that was a little premature, for Littlefield succeeded finally in getting the gun to fire and shot Watson through the heart."

George Littlefield had been a major in the Confederate cavalry. He had fetched the revolver home from Virginia with him. It was a remote Schneider and Glassick, a brass frame revolver, 6-shot, .36 caliber, with 7½" full-octagon barrel. It was made in Memphis. Records show only a handful were manufactured, as both William Schneider and Fred Glassick put in most of the war as gunsmiths. The revolver tossed to Littlefield during the fight by his obliging nephew, Shelton Dowell, was a venerable Colt Brevevé, made during the early 1850's, a puny .31 caliber, with 5-shot cylinder. It was a pocket gun by the standards of the day, with a 5½ inch barrel and an overall dimension of only 10½ inches. That it failed to fire was not surprising, especially in view of its age and years of frontier service.

Many a cowboy of that day carried not one sixshooter but a pair of them. The Dodge City Daily Globe, a faithful chronicler of that town's powder-flecked hey-day, makes countless references to the proclivity of the hardcase trail drivers to swing a shooting iron from either flank. What the Daily Globe did not comment on was the sorry leather in which the guns were holstered.

A lifelong search of the museums of the southwest, and there are literally scores of them, together with an everlasting search of old books, magazines, photographic files, and ancient newspapers, reveals that the sixshooter scabbards of that day were simply awful!

The holster was a carry-over from the cav-

alry, the first fighting men to pack revolvers. They wore them in holsters which had a flap on top, and which swung the pistol with the butt to the front. Johnny Reb returning home from the war carried his filched Colt or Remington or whatever in the same manner. The cowboy who rode the Chisholm Trail did the same. But not for long.

When the wild bunch commenced to cut each other down in the Alamo, the Long Star, the Bull's Head, and the Longhorn saloons of rip-roaring Abilene, it was pretty quickly decided that the holster flap had better be pared away and the gun butt swung to the rear. But even with these alterations, the holsters were abominably poor. The rig did not fit the gun, and it was made of flanking leather, a kind of cowhide that is far too soft to hold its shape. As a result, the scabbard was too soft, too yielding, too inclined to cling and hold the weapon. The standard six shooter was likewise poorly suited to the lethal new game. Barrel lengths ran from 7" to as much as 12 inches, and fast gun play is not possible with such barrels.

Abilene's most colorful marshal, the formidable Wild Bill Hickok, is reputed to have rammed his guns into the waistband of his

various cartridges, calibers .56-50, .56-56, .52, or maybe .54. Altogether, more than 100,000 were made. Only the lack of ammunition kept the Spencer from enjoying a booming popularity among the longhorn drivers.

Even more eagerly sought after was the Henry, Model 1860, in .44 rimfire caliber. This was truly the great first choice of the early drivers. Long after the Winchester Model 1866 came along, and although it was a markedly improved firearm, the Henry was still a common rifle along the Chisholm Trail. Verification of this is found in the records of the F. C. Zimmerman Hardware, an emporium which stood on Front Street in Old Dodge and which boasted the only gunsmiths in town. Surprisingly complete data from the ledgers of a whole bevy of gun tinkers employed by Fred Zimmerman shows the Henry was around in numbers as late as 1878. Manufacture of the Henry ended upon the advent of the Winchester '66 (in 1866), but this had little effect on its popularity.

But as Kansas markets for Texas cattle put money for new guns in Tejaso pockets, from the commencement of the drives in 1866 until the last of them almost three decades later, the Winchester Model '66 and its cen-



The City Marshall of Dodge City, Kansas, Ramon House, presents plaques to the governors of Texas and Oklahoma, making each an honorary marshal.

trousers, or into a waist sash, disdaining holsters.

The sixshooter in the late 60's was a necessary item of dress for the well-turned-out cowboy come to town. For the business of whooping a herd of spooky longhorns across the Indian Territory, a land filled to overflowing with more than forty tribes of discontented Indians, the cowman needed a rifle. He wanted a repeater and one, preferably, that could be loaded on Monday and shot all week!

When Lee turned over his sword, and the ragtag and bobtail that was once his proud army commenced the long trek homeward, there was fixed in every rebel's mind the knowledge that the best repeating rifle on either side had been the Spencer carbine. When our rebel-turned-cowboy started up the trail to Kansas in '65, he carried a Spencer if one could be found. The rifle was a Union arm, made in both rifle and carbine styles. The latter was the cavalry version, and it was a good one. The gun held 7 cartridges, loaded through the buttstock, and was a lever action. It was chambered for

terfire counterpart, the Model '73 (.44-40.) became the big gun.

The Model '66 was a great deal like the Henry. It had a brass receiver, was offered as both a rifle and as a carbine, and in the longer version, the tubular magazine below the octagon barrel held 17 cartridges. The carbine took only 12 rounds. The principal shortcoming of the Henry had been a weak extractor, prone to breakage. Too, the magazine had no wooden forestock to protect it and was easily dented, which caused feeding problems. The Model '66 was beefed up in the extractor, and a forestock offered protection to the magazine.

The Model '66 with its shining brass receiver was called "Yellow Boy" by the Cheyennes. This year, Winchester celebrated its 100th anniversary and since this coincided with the centennial of the first longhorn drive, Winchester sent PR man Johnny Falk down to Doan's Crossing on Red River, the historic fording place where the herds swam into that dubious sanctuary known as Indian Territory.

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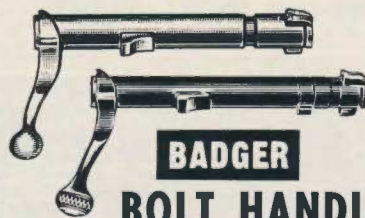
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The trail boss was the governor of Texas. Falk handed him a special commemorative Model '66 rifle. On the Oklahoma bank—the old Indian Territory is now the State of Oklahoma—was the governor of the Sooner State; and Falk had another Model '66 for him. Later, in Dodge City, on the very spot where Wyatt Earp gunned down Cowboy Hoyt, Falk presented the governor of Kansas with another "Yellow Boy."

The Winchester Centennial '66 is a far cry from the original Model of 1866. The old one had a brass receiver, the Centennial has a gold-plated one! The Model 1866 ceased manufacture in March 1898. To have revived it "as was" in 1966 would hardly have been practical, so Winchester achieved much the same result by plating the Model 94 receiver with gold, adding an octagon barrel and a full-length magazine, a 66 stock with crescent-shaped buttplate, and a set of sights like those of the earlier model.

The Winchester Model 1873, when it came along, bore a close resemblance to its predecessor, the '66. Where the receiver had been of brass, now it was of iron. There was a sliding cover over the breechblock to give

some protection from dirt and moisture; and while the M66 had been a .44 rimfire, the M73 was a .44 centerfire. It was made both as a rifle and as a carbine, in barrel lengths from 20 to 30 inches. Some indication of the tremendous popularity of this famous rifle can be gained from the fact that its manufacture began in 1873 and did not end until 1921—during which time three-quarters of a million guns were made.

Buffalo Bill Cody, writing to Winchester in 1875, had this to say about the Model 73: "I have been using and have thoroughly tested your latest improved rifle. Allow me to say that I have tried nearly every kind of gun made in the United States and for general hunting and Indian fighting I pronounce your improved Winchester, The Boss."

Uncounted thousands of the Model '73 went up the trail to Dodge. Among them may have been one or more of the 136 very specially selected rifles which bore, stamped proudly on the barrel, the words, "One of One Thousand." These specially-turned '73's were made from 1875 to 1878, and then discontinued. Little of the history of those 136 selected guns is known. A diligent search a few years ago produced only 36 of them.

The year 1873 was a momentous one from the standpoint of firearms development. Winchester gave us the '73 rifle, and Colt announced the most famous sixshooter of all time—the Model of 1873, known variously as the Single Action Army, the Frontier Model, and a bit later as the Peacemaker.

This metallic-cartridge handgun quickly became the first choice of the cowboy; he carries it to this day. Ned Buntline, author of the wild west dime thriller, had Frontier models made with 12-inch barrels and presented them to the lawmen in Dodge—Earp, Bat Masterson, Bill Tilghman, Charlie Bassett, and Neal Brown.

Bat Masterson, who was a sheriff of Dodge, had more gunfights and killed more men than Earp, wrote to the Colt company and ordered a new sixshooter. He did not write on the stationery of his official office, Sheriff of Ford County, but used a letterhead of the Opera House Saloon. He wrote to Dick Jarvis, President of Colt at the time:

"Gents: Please send me one of your nickel-plated short .45 revolvers. It is for my own use and for this reason I would like to have a little extra pains taken with it. I am willing to pay extra for extra work. Make it very easy on trigger and have the front sight a little higher and thicker than the ordinary pistol. Put on a gutta-percha handle and have the barrel about the same length as the ejecting rod. Ship express, COD. Signed W. B. Masterson."

A bunch of hell-raising cowboys, drunk and mean, got into a jangle with Ed Masterson, Bat's brother, in front of the Lady Gay Saloon, which was south of the Santa Fe tracks, in Dodge's tenderloin. Ed Masterson was then town marshal. Jack Wagner shot Ed Masterson. Bat was not more than forty feet distant and coming in fast. Says the Dodge City Times, which flourished on the gunplay of the day: "Bat Masterson fired four shots, one of them striking Wagner in the bowels on the left side. Walker (A. M. Walker was foreman of the outfit) was hit three times, one shot in the lungs and his right arm was horribly shattered with the other shots." The .45 ordered with "a trigger just as easy as possible" was working that night!

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HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 14)

the charge directly in front of the flash hole, but at a specified distance. With the powder in the rear, it would lie beneath the flash hole and against the head of the case.

"At the instant of ignition, the primer would scatter some of the powder forward, leaving the rest below the flash hole and producing a partial vacuum between the two portions of the charge. Maybe these things have already been considered but I offer them for what they may be worth. Sincerely, Mike Sidor, Wixom, Michigan."

In the November-December issue of *The HANDLOADER Magazine*, Bob Matt reports on a slight revision in the Dingell Bill. The bill now calls for a ten per cent tax instead of eleven percent. This tax would be placed on reloading components at the rate of two per cent a year until ten per cent has been reached.

Matt points out that like anything else, there are pros and cons on this new escalation clause. On the manufacturers' side, it will mean a price revision every year for the next five years. From the reloaders' point of view, the escalation clause makes the tax less painful.

As of early September, it appeared there would be no action on the Dingell Bill in this session of Congress, for further study is now required on the revision. Letters from reloaders are still requested at the headquarters of the National Reloading Manufacturers Association. Address your comments to A. Robert Matt, Executive Secretary, NRMA, 30 High Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

We recently acquired a Marlin Model 62 lever action rifle in .30 M-1 carbine caliber. Marlin has replaced the .256 Winchester chambering in this model with the .30 carbine. On the very day the gun arrived, we worked up three batches of handloads and put the gun through a series of shooting and chronographing tests.

To be quite honest with you, I see little need for plinking at tin cans or taking pot shots at running jack rabbits. Top velocities with a 110-grain bullet are in the 2,000 fps class. With properly placed bullets, some will argue that the gun is adequate for deer and medium sized game up to 100 yards. This could be, but why would anyone want to be thus limited when in the hunting fields?

Anyway, we put three different loadings through the Model 62 in an afternoon's shooting. The bullet used for all tests was the Hornady 110-grain round nose, and primers were the Federal small rifle. All cases were surplus GI stuff, once-fired and full-length resized in RCBS dies. We used three different powders as follows: 15.5 grains of 4227, 15 grains of H-110, and 14.5 grains of 2400.

All of the above loads were pleasant to shoot and gave approximately the same accuracy at 100 yards off the bench rest. Our scope was the new Leupold M-8 7.5x—far too much glass for this particular gun, but we wanted to give these particular loads a good accuracy test.

Most accurate load turned out to be 15 grains of H-110, with 5-shot groups averaging 1.25 inches. This particular load chronographed at 2,009 fps with the Avtron T-333 screens set ten feet apart, and the first screen ten feet from the muzzle.

Next best load was 15.5 grains of 4227. This one gave 1,991 fps average in the chronograph tests. The last loading, 14.5 grains of 2400 powder, gave 2,025 fps, but poor accuracy. Of the three groups fired with 2400 powder, none were under 2.5 inches, and one was nearly 5 inches. The fault could have been the shooter but with our bench rest setup, it seems highly unlikely.

This is a fun gun and a fun caliber. Recoil is light and muzzle blast not at all unpleasant. With the large amount of brass floating around, this is a relatively inexpen-

sive cartridge to load. The fact that this writer does not consider it a hunting cartridge is by no means a blanket condemnation. Quite the contrary—I plan to have a lot of "plinking" fun with this Marlin lever action in the years to come.

A new and somewhat revolutionary reloading tool will hit the market in a few months.

The tool is made by Bonanza in Faribault, Minnesota. According to the maker, Clarence Purdee, this new piece of equipment is the culmination of many, many years of experimenting in the reloading field. One of the primary innovations is the arrangement of the die; it is simply snapped in place and has its total bearing surface on the lock ring. Standard 7/8x14 dies will be used but in some cases the lock ring will need to be changed. It's as simple as that.

As soon as we've had a chance to give the tool a good workout, we'll report on it in this column, and also show you pictures of the machine. From where we sit right now, it looks like a winner at a price of \$59.95.



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BULLET HOLES

(Continued from page 45)

really safe sports. The accuracy decreased beyond this distance, however, as the square of the distance.

The adoption of percussion caps in place of flint and steel gave the art of pistol shooting a great impulse and it became one of the polite sports. The first match we can find on record is the one in 1860 between Capt. John Travers of Missouri and a gentleman whose name has not descended to posterity. In this match, each gentleman fired one shot each at fifteen china plates nine inches in diameter, at a distance of 100 feet. Captain Travers scored 11 out of the possible 15, while his opponent, 'although shooting with great skill,' (?) broke but nine.

In 1865, W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) and Capt. W. P. Schaaf came before the public as leading exponents of the art of handarms. Somewhat later, Captain Schaaf and Captain Travers joined forces and spent three years traveling the United States and giving pistol shooting exhibitions. We cannot ascertain what scores were made but, judging from the china breaking episode, no permanent records were established.

1880 or thereabouts saw the rise of Ira Anson Paine as a marksman of note. He became so expert with a pistol that he decided in 1881 to go over to Europe and give exhibitions there, shooting the Stevens pistol and using metallic ammunition...

While over there, (Paine) decided to add revolver shooting to his exhibitions, and consulted Gastine Renette, the famous pistol manufacturer of France, as to the most accurate and reliable revolver on the market. Together they tested every revolver they could obtain, firing light and heavy loads, offhand and fixed rest—thousands upon thousands of shots—and the arm selected as being the most perfect of its kind in the world was the .44 Russian Model Smith & Wesson. This revolver was used by Mr. Paine for all his shooting, both indoor and outdoor range, and stage work, until his death. Such good work was accomplished with it that, in 1882, in the presence of a notable assemblage, Paine was knighted by the King of

Portugal and made a chevalier of an ancient military order. His skill was such that he was commonly supposed to resort to tricks to accomplish his results, and many attempts were made to expose him...

... By 1886, both pistol and revolver shooting had reached such a point of popularity that the National Rifle Association decided to include a revolver match among their events at Creedmoor. This match was a re-entry, five shots in a string; distance 25 yards; target, the Standard 200-yard rifle; three best targets to count. The winning total was made by C. E. Gillette with a Colt .45 Army revolver and factory loaded ammunition: 143 out of a possible 150.

Encouraged by the popularity of this match, the Massachusetts Rifle Association scheduled an event for revolvers in their meet at Walnut Hill in the fall of the same year (1886), with the same conditions but the five best targets to count. In this match, Chevalier Ira Paine took part, shooting his .44 Russian Model Smith & Wesson. As this was a re-entry match, we will give his three best five-shot targets to compare with the results at Creedmoor. (His best target was) a possible 50, and two others of 49 each (made) a total of 148 out of a possible 150—five points better, and within two points of maximum.

This gave a great impetus to the game, and after a short time the members of the Massachusetts Rifle Association proved that the 200 yard (rifle) target at 25 yards would allow too frequent possible scores, so the distance was officially changed to 50 yards...

Chevalier Paine was the first to shoot a 100-shot string for record at the new distance. October 15, 1886, shooting his .44 Russian Smith & Wesson and factory loaded ammunition, he scored 791 out of a possible 1000...

March 17, 1887, Paine, with the same weapon he used before, shot ten 10-shot targets of 87, 72, 85, 86, 90, 79, 86, 87, 82, and 87, for a total of 841. His first string broke all 10-shot records, his fifth broke that (90), and his total of 841 was fifty

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points over his original record and 59 points more than had ever been scored by any other person in a 100-shot match.

November 4 of the same year, Mr. F. E. Bennett . . . shot a total of 857, 16 points above Paine's record. Ten days later he again shot . . . scoring 877, 20 points above his own previous record. . . . Again in the same month, Mr. Bennett attempted to raise his 100-shot score, but failed. However, his eighth target scored 10, 10, 10, 9, 9, 10, 9, 9, for a total of 95. Mr. Bennett now held the 10-shot and 100-shot records.

The next shooting of mark was done by Sergeant W. C. Johnston, Jr., of the Massachusetts National Guards, when on July 7, 1888, he made the first recorded possible 100 at fifty yards on the Standard American target and in the presence of reputable witnesses, using the .44 Smith & Wesson with full service black powder ammunition. He then succeeded in placing six more consecutive shots in the ten ring, a record of 160 out of a possible 160."

We talk much nowadays of better guns, better ammo, and better shooters, and we tend to sneer smugly at the old guns and the black-powder ammo—even at the high-colored, mustachioed men who fired them. But anybody who sneers at the scores listed above had better look at the records. Matches have changed, along with guns and ammunition, since the 1880's; we don't keep records now on the basis of 10-shot or 100-shot performances. Our records for 50-yard pistol shooting are for 20 shots; and, to reduce the frequency of ties, we have added an inner scoring ring, the X ring, inside the 10. So what are those records?

Chevalier Paine and Sgt. Johnson, you will remember, were firing .44 caliber revolvers, using full service black-powder ammunition. Comparable handguns in target competition today would be the .45 and the ".32 caliber or larger" center fire weapons. Today's U. S. National record with the .45 for 20 shots (possible 200) is 199 with 9 Xs, held by W. B. Blankenship. Today's U. S. National record with the .38 is 199, 5 Xs, held by W. E. Eubank. Only with the .22 pistol has the record climbed to a 20-shot 200 "Possible," and that score is 200 with 9 Xs, held by L. A. Wessel. Sixteen consecutive 10s from the 50-yard line, with any pistol, will stir up a buzz of excitement behind any handgun firing line in the world today; and the man who fires them will be within four shots—four 10's—of a record that has defied the best efforts of the best pistolmen.

Douglas B. Wesson was not only an avid

observer of, but an active participant in, these achievements in handgun accuracy. A fine handgun marksman himself, he was determined that Smith & Wesson handguns should be the best in the world and he was tireless in his search for and study of the factors that determine handguns (specifically, revolver) accuracy. He discussed these factors in yet another book, "Burning Powder," published in 1921:

For many years it has been realized that the .22 Single Shot pistol has all the inherent accuracy of the rifle; but it was generally assumed that the revolver, with its problem of barrel and cylinder alignment, to say nothing of the fact that there was some jump of the bullet when leaving the chamber and entering the barrel, had only what might be called comparative accuracy. . . . Furthermore, the problem of the design of a suitable bench rest for testing revolvers was one that was only solved by us within the past few years. Until then, the machine rests in use . . . were utterly incapable of giving results even approximating the capabilities of the revolvers and ammunition. . . .

. . . . Some years ago, while developing the K-22 revolver, we designed and built a machine rest (that enabled us), for the first time in the history of revolver manufacture, to demonstrate the actual accuracy of our arms. We produced, in fact, such close groups with the K-22 that when they were first published their authenticity was publicly questioned by certain 'authorities.' One of these .22 caliber groups is shown here, made at 60 feet with the Smith & Wesson rest, six shots, one from each chamber. Also shown is a target made with the .357 Magnum.

The advent of a dependable machine rest brought to light many interesting points. . . . A very good example is the flat nose or wad cutter bullet; this bullet, particularly in the .38 S&W Special Mid-Range load, is by far the most popular among the target shooters in the large caliber matches. With this bullet we frequently encounter definite indications of 'bullet tipping,' the hole in the target being slightly oval instead of perfectly round, and one side of the oval showing lead marking. This is to be in no way confused with 'keyholing' . . . or tumbling. With the machine rest we are able to prove that the tipping of the wad cutter bullet does not affect accuracy in the slightest. The six shots showing bullet tipping (see picture of tape target) were fired from the same arm, using ammunition from the

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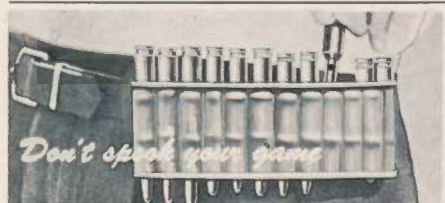
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We are now convinced that the length of a revolver barrel has no bearing on the accuracy of the arm. Any barrel that is sufficiently long to impart a true spin to the bullet is fully as accurate as a longer one. The longer sighting base of the longer barrel may be of assistance to the shooter in his holding, but from the standpoint of the accuracy of the firearm it has no bearing.

At short ranges of say twelve to fifteen feet, one will at times notice on a target signs of bullet tipping, particularly with the .22 Long Rifle. This is due to gyroscopic effect, the bullet traveling in a straight path with its nose, but the base not having settled down in its spin, is describing circles around the line of flight. A good example of this action is the movement of the upper part of a top when it is first started spinning and before it 'goes to sleep.'

It goes without saying that the accuracy of a revolver is dependent to a great extent on the ammunition that is used in it; but it was not until a dependable machine rest was developed that we were able to give definite and accurate examples of the tremendous variations that are encountered in different commercial loadings.

Another point that affects the accuracy of any arm to a surprising extent is the weight of hammer nose or firing pin blow on the primer. This is entirely overlooked by many who attempt to ease the action of their revolvers or reduce trigger pull by weakening the main spring or relieving the tension by backing out the strain screw. The fact that the hammer blow is sufficient to ignite the primer is no indication that the blow has the proper weight for uniform ignition, even though there may be no misfires. There is bound to exist in primers a variation in sensitiveness, and the hammer blow must be such that it will produce complete ignition in all cases. The targets shown here indicate plainly the lack of uniform ignition. The first group was made with the mainspring at the proper tension; the second, with the mainspring slacked off to obtain a lighter blow but not to the extent of producing misfires. . .

. . . There is one condition that we have found to exist that, frankly, we are unable to account for; we can only admit its existence; and that is what we describe as 'selectivity.' 'Selectivity' is the word used to attempt to describe the condition where two revolvers as nearly identical as it is possible to make them, show marked preference for two different makes or brands of ammunition: in other words, where revolver "A" will, in a machine rest, produce closest groups with ammunition "X," while revolver "B" performs to the best advantage with the "Y" cartridge. This is an acknowledged condition in all firearms, but shows up most clearly in the .22 caliber revolvers and rifles.

There are those still who will argue some of Wesson's statements. Perhaps most controversial is his conclusion that the length of a handgun barrel has no effect on accuracy—except insofar as reduction of sighting radius reduces the shooter's ability to hold accurately or consistently. But no one can question Wesson's devotion to handguns.

Best known to most people of Wesson's work is his part in the development of the .357 Magnum revolver and cartridge. And because many have disputed the claims made for this cartridge—basing their arguments on their own tests of bullet penetration through wooden planks—here is an additional quote from Wesson's book, "Burning Powder:"

In testing this new revolver and cartridge to determine its value as a police weapon, we found that it would penetrate one, two, and even three thicknesses of 'bullet proof' vests swinging freely on a rod; and would easily pass through duralumin plates that successfully withstood what were heretofore known as the most powerful hand-arm cartridges—the .38 Super Auto and the .38-44 S&W Special. One most interesting test was on an automobile: with the motor idling at high speed, one shot was fired through the hood from the Magnum, and the engine was wrecked; so much so that it was impossible to turn it over even with the hand crank. . .

We found, oddly enough, that with all this demonstrated power, the penetration of the Magnum in semi-hard material, such as wood, was little or no greater than with the .38-44 S&W Special. This condition we found to be due to the fact that, for the first time in handgun ballistics, enough velocity was developed to produce true mushrooming of the solid lead bullet; and that means, of course, a maximum of efficiency and impact value.

Wesson also went to great lengths to prove, through his own shooting and through the experiences of other hunters, that his .357 Magnum was fully capable of taking any North or South American (and many African and Asian) big game animals. The following mild complaint, in "Burning Powder," will win the sympathy of many present-day writers and editors:

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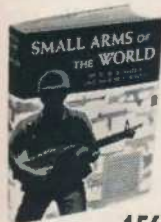
Wesson was learning, as we have learned, the truth of Lincoln's statement: "You can't please all of the people all of the time." But criticism follows accomplishment as night follows day; and Douglas Wesson's name and his accomplishments will live as long as firearms are made.



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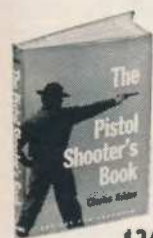
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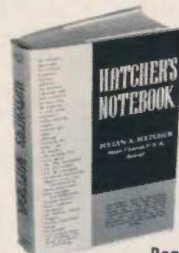
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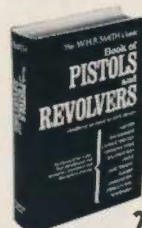
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(Continued from page 37)

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flying, you face a number of problems. Airlines accustomed to handling hunters, such as Air Canada, and these are a minority, only request that the bolt be removed from the rifle. You are permitted to carry the cased rifle aboard as hand luggage, and you or the stewardess can store the cased blunderbuss in the cabin's luggage and cloak cabinet. I have made several trips with Air Canada, have never once run into trouble. Of course, you are burdened with handling the cased gun, but this is little enough to pay for peace of mind. Things get a bit more difficult if you cannot remove the bolt from your gun. If it is a shotgun and can be taken down, by all means, take it down, and carry it aboard in a suitable case. Again, one of the padded hard cases is ideal. If the bolt of the gun cannot be removed readily, then you must explain the facts. Most airlines will cooperate, but some of them will insist that you cannot lug the gun on as hand luggage. Then old Betsy will make the trip in the baggage compartment, and what happens to it there will depend entirely on you and your foresight.

Cases such as the Mastra Gun Caddy, the American Safety Gun Case, the previously mentioned Protecto cases, and those offered by Penguin Associates and Roy Weatherby are the best. Lined with foam in the bottom and inside the lid, they hold guns safely, and do not permit a firearm to bounce around. They have luggage type handles and some of them have a lock so that inquisitive baggage smashers can't get too nosy. These cases can be shipped ahead, and are the ideal means of sending a gun to Africa, India, or other countries.

It is never a good idea to carry the ammu-

nition with the gun. The few boxes of ammo that you may need are best carried in your hand luggage, and the airlines will say no to a cased gun that also contains suitable ammo.

If you ship your gun via common carrier, the more protection you can give it, the greater your assurance that it will arrive at its destination in one piece. Strapping the solid gun case with either leather or canvas straps is a good idea. Better yet is the new plastic strapping that is similar to, yet lighter and stronger than, the old steel strip strapping. If you have someone do the job, make sure that not too much pressure is exerted with the strapping tool. The straps should be snug, but the force exerted by the tool is enough to crush any rifle case, including the heavy wooden ones which at one time were used in the tropics.

In order to see just how much protection a case such as the Protecto offers, I tried several experiments. I have in the past used this case to transport a benchrest rifle, and knew that the case gave the gun maximum protection under ordinary circumstances. For these tests I used a custom hunting rifle, dropped the cased rifle off a roof onto the frozen ground, a drop of 12½ feet. The gun's location in the case had been marked, and there was no evidence that the drop had moved the gun in the case and the zero of the B&L scope remained unchanged. I then placed the case, still containing the rifle, under the left front wheel of my Toyota Land Cruiser and drove the wheel over the case. The curb weight of the unloaded car is over 4,000 pounds, and is equipped with a heavy duty winch which weighs over 200 pounds. This brutal treatment did bend one hinge and crushed the edge of the Protecto case, but the rifle was undamaged and the scope remained in zero. This I consider to be fairly good evidence that a rifle shipped in one of these cases, or in a similar one, has a better than average chance of getting to the game country in one piece. One good way of transporting the saddle scabbard is to strap it to the solid rifle case, and if the job is done properly, the entire package will be able to withstand the most severe treatment that baggage smashers usually dole out to anything marked "FRAGILE." If you take but one rifle and have a two gun case, you can do what I did quite successfully on my last hunt. I carried the cased rifle aboard the Air Canada jet and the Canadian Pacific Airlines plane, and in the case I also carried my saddle scabbard. I admit that man-handling the long and cumbersome case was not always a joy, but I transported by gun well over 4,000 miles that way without having to worry about getting it banged up or the scope busted.

You plan your hunt, you carefully consider your gear, you sight in your gun—so why not pay some attention to the gun while it is being transported? After all, the gun is your reason for traveling to distant game country. Take care of it and you'll enjoy using it for many years.



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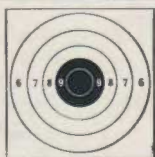


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MAGNUMIZING THE .30-30

(Continued from page 35)

it was decided to re-chamber and install a new M-94 factory barrel in the action. This allowed me to follow step by step with camera and micrometers. By first chronographing the original .30-30, the same barrel rechambered and chronographed would then provide us with a true velocity comparison.

To begin such a conversion, the barrel has to be removed from the action. Since the bolt face must be slightly enlarged to accept the .444 rim, and the rails, link and carrier worked on, the entire action must be detail stripped. Miller chose to open the bolt face rather than continually be bothered by turning the .444 rims slightly smaller. The bolt face alteration should come first. The M-94 Winchester bolt must be detail stripped, and accurately centered in a four-jaw lathe chuck with the aid of a dial indicator. A properly ground cutting bit can be used to turn out the required .010" difference between the .30-30 and .444 Marlin rim diameter. Extractor hook must also be ground or filed back accordingly and re-sharpened as it was originally.

A one-turn set-back of the barrel shank shoulder is also necessary, because the additional diameter of the .308 chambering reamer (which by the way measures the same at the head as the .444) cuts away supporting metal at the edge of the original extractor slot entrance in the top rear edge of the chamber. While straight arithmetic tells you a one-turn of the 20tpi shank amounts to .050", it is well to check the cinch-up tension of the shank shoulder against the action when the barrel is first removed. This rather shallow shoulder often compresses slightly and loosens when a barrel is tightened and removed several times. Therefore, allowing about .002" less is to your advantage. If this should prove to be too tight in reaching the index marks of barrel and action, it can easily be removed later. Chamber end of the barrel must then also be faced off the .050" one-turn equivalent. If the conversion is being done on an older M-94, .30-30, having slight headspace, the wear can be taken up by facing off the rear end of barrel shank sufficiently to allow snug breeching on the .444 Marlin rim.

When assembling the rifle, it will be found that the front and rear magazine band screw slots won't line up until the rear end of the magazine has also been shortened .050".

Then the wood forestock can be regrooved and trimmed to fit. The converted rifle cleverly conceals all visible evidence of the change-over, but it now shoots a more skookum-looking cartridge that reminds you of a sort of "baby" .348.

Miller's magnumized .30-30 has a dual practical value in that the average gunsmith already is equipped with .308 Win. chambering reamers—and .308 Win. loading dies are used in forming cases and assembling the ammunition. In a sense this isn't a full-fledged wildcat.

Rimmed cartridge cases pose no headspacing problem, and form to any depth chamber upon firing—but in this instance practicality ceases on a case length of 2.1093". Also, the action's working pressure of about 40,000 psi, should be considered. Greater case capacity experiments weren't even attempted.

Miller found that initial case sizing could be done with a single stroke of his A-2 RCBS press. To avoid collapsing brass, the decapping-expanding plug unit was removed from the full length sizing die and a .289" diameter steel support rod inserted into the .444 Marlin case before executing the re-sizing operation. The support rod also doubles as a "knock-out rod" when cases are tight in the die. Anhydrous lanolin was used as a lubricant. After cutting to proper 2.1093 length in a Wilson trimmer, the decapping-expanding plug unit was replaced in the die and the cases were run through once more to expand the necks.

It can be noted in the cartridge photos that the new cartridge body is about 1/2" longer than the .308. The .308 sizing die had to be left this distance above the loading tool shell holder when sizing the .444 cases. A system for uniformity could easily be established by cutting a half-moon shaped shim of proper thickness and slipping it around the case base protruding from the shell holder before completing the sizing stroke.

When the souped-up carbine was left with me for chronographing and further testing, all the work had already been done. I did discover, however, that I could size the .444 cases easily in my Hollywood turret press by setting the shoulder back in stages. This was accomplished by turning the sizing die down a little at a time, running the case up into the die each time, and

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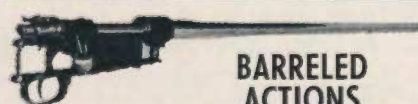
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repeating this until the case shoulder was set back to fit the chamber, after trimming.

To get a true comparison of the .30-30 against the Miller .30-30 Magnum, we ran a 5-shot string of Western Super X 150-grain factory ammo over the Avtron chronograph with this new .30-30 barrel before removing it for conversion. They averaged 234lfps. We noted that in other publicity comparing the regular .30-30 against the lever-power .30 cal., the .30-30 was listed at its factory claim of 2410fps. Our test was made at an outside temperature of 40 degrees. Before and after conversion, targeting gave identical accuracy.

Temperature was 20 degrees at the time the .30-30 Magnum chronographing was done. Hence a temperature compensation of about 20fps could be added.

Bullet	Powder Amount	5-Shot MV Average
150-gr. Speer	4320 42-gr.	2423
150-gr. Speer	4064 41-gr.	2419
170-gr. Hornady	4064 40-gr.	2310
130-gr. Speer	4064 43-gr.	2637

Comparing our factory ammo against the same 150-grain bullet weight in the conversion, we would then have a gain of 82fps., plus 20fps for temperature compensation, or a total of 102fps gain. This is nothing spectacular, but never the less a noticeable gain—and in loadings that we considered safe in this rifle.

Upping the No. 1 load above to 44 grains of 4320, we got a velocity gain of 50fps. This however, gave slightly sticky extraction, and was discarded for the lever action.

Our velocity tests failed to substantiate the Ackley Lever-Power listed velocities (for instance: 42 grs. 4064, 150-grain. Sierra bullet at 2700fps). Of course it must be remembered there is a variation in barrel performance—and likewise some difference in the quality, accuracy, and cost of velocity-reading machines.

Since many of the factory claims have been proven to be in excess of what actually develops in the barrel length, in which these calibers are normally marketed, I have a slight distrust of velocities that come out to neat round figures. While velocities taken over my Avtron Chronograph have in the past been within a scant few feet of factory tests on such recent new calibers as the .444 Marlin and .350 Remington Magnum, and in close relation to many loads listed in the Speer Manual, it's only once in a blue moon that they come up in round figures!

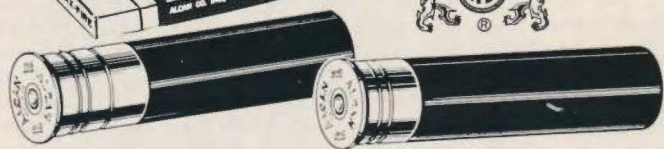
So if you like the extra confidence that a bigger, meaner-looking cartridge gives you, and want a moderate actual average gain of about 102fps in that neat little 20-inch barrel Model 94 Winchester carbine, then the Miller conversion with .444 Marlin brass, and the .308 Win. reamer and loading dies, is one of the neatest, most logical and foolproof alterations I have seen.



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HARRINGTON & RICHARDSON

(Continued from page 22)

past, sword scabbards. As the fighting reached an apex, H&R geared up for the production of cartridge cases, but this production line was halted before it began when the Armistice was declared in 1918.

In the post-war period, H&R converted inventories of their flare guns into tear gas guns for law enforcement, and added other flare guns, line throwing guns, and newly designed handcuffs and leg irons. It was also during these years that the H&R Handy Gun and the USRA pistol were developed as H&R subjected their entire line to a comprehensive re-designing program.

In 1940, as our country began its race toward rearmament, H&R was assigned the task of developing and producing a light, rapid fire weapon for the Marine Corps, and Eugene Reising, H&R's chief designer, came up with a design in a matter of only a few days. Throughout the Asiatic campaign, from the Solomons to Okinawa, the Reising submachine gun was an indispensable weapon in the hands of assault troops, ground forces, and paratroopers. The Reising was made in two styles, the Model 50 (illustrated), with a solid wood stock and compensator, and the Model 55, similar except with folding wire stock and without compensator. H&R produced 80,750 of these two models for the military.

Late in the 1940's, H&R received government contracts for survival weapons, and two models were developed. The first was the M-4, a bolt action rifle with detachable wire shoulder stock and barrel, chambered for the .22 Hornet cartridge. Some 29,344 of the M-4 rifles were produced.

The other survival weapon developed by H&R was the M-6. This was an over-under combination gun with the top barrel chambered for the .22 Hornet and the lower barrel chambered for the .410 shotshell. The metal, skeletonized shoulder stock had a hinged padded cover which gave access to a loading block-type magazine which held nine .22 Hornet cartridges and four .410 shells. Less than 50 of the M-6 (government designation, T-39) survival guns were produced under a research and development contract.

During World War II and the Korean conflict, H&R produced over 600,000 firearms for the military, including over 428,000 M-1 Garand rifles. In the early 1950's, when the military was torn between use of the Garand and the development of a new NATO weapon, H&R undertook vital experimental and design work on the improved military weapons. They produced 500 of the T-48 rifles in 7.62 caliber under an R&D contract. When the R&D work was done, and the military decided on the M-14 rifle, H&R received a contract for a quantity of these models. H&R became the principal supplier of M-14's, and through 1963 delivered 538,595 rifles to the Armed Services. To accomplish this, additional manufacturing facilities were opened in Gardener and Rochdale, Mass.; Marlboro, N.H., and Wheeling, W. Va.

In 1963, H&R received a contract for R&D work on the new infantry weapon—still top secret—the famed SPIW (Special Purpose Individual Weapon) or dart gun. There is little doubt in the minds of mili-

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tary experts that the SPIW will become an important factor in future military armament. How much of a factor is hard to say, for military experts know all too well that it is not the design of the weapons that determine the manner of combat; rather it is the nature of the combat that determines the design of the weapons.

The success which H&R earned in their manufacture of military weapons left a lasting impression on the management of the company. A firearms manufacturer does not produce over a half million big bore rifles without gaining some insight into how this knowledge could be used for the production of civilian big game rifles. Thus, in 1965, H&R introduced their two "Ultra" big game rifles, a semi-automatic and a bolt action.

There are many ways the company could have gone in the design and ultimate manufacture of these rifles. They could have started from scratch on the bolt action, designing and manufacturing their own actions and barrels. But there was a "winner" already available to them—as a matter of fact, two winners—and the H&R Ultra bolt action rifle features the time proven, world famous FN Mauser Supreme action and a barrel by America's leading barrelmaker, G. R. Douglas. With the autoloader, however, there was another angle. There was no such action available to H&R, so they took all of their knowledge gained through the years producing the M-14, and developed their own gas-operated semi-automatic action. They combined this with the famous Douglas barrel, and came up with their Ultra Automatic.

These two rifles were not designed, and are not manufactured, to compete in price with any of the domestic or foreign big game rifles; rather, they are the closest approach that any manufacturer has achieved to what American sportsmen are having made up as custom rifles. And, don't discount the impact that custom rifles have had on the thinking of American firearms manufacturers. The shooter, after deciding that he wants something a little bit special, chooses an action, has the custom gunsmith fit the best barrel available, and usually wraps the whole thing up in a walnut stock of classic American design. What we've described here is both a typical custom rifle and the H&R Ultra bolt action.

The only thing we have not covered are the .22 rifles by H&R. Probably the most famous of these is the Model 165 "Leatherneck." Actually, there were five different models of this rifle, starting with the "General," which was patterned after the Reising submachine gun. This was first produced for the civilian market in 1944. The "Leatherneck" was similar, but had a sporter stock. The last "Leatherneck" was made in 1954. Today, H&R has four .22 rifles, each designed for a special purpose, and each following the tradition of quality at a popular price.

With leadership headed by C. Edward Rowe, Jr., H&R's young president, the firm started in 1871 has found itself a major factor in the highly competitive field of gunmaking, and it is becoming more and more the company to watch—whether in sporting arms for peace or weapons for war.



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GUNS I'D LIKE TO OWN

(Continued from page 26)

ons made principally by the German and Huguenot settlers in Pennsylvania. These today are popularly called "Kentucky rifles" and "Kentucky pistols." While the Pennsylvania-made rifles evolved from hunting rifles used in Central Europe, the change was so great as to make them practically unique. Three good books have been written about arms of this type, and today a good original Kentucky type rifle or pistol brings far more than piggybank money.

The Kentucky (or Pennsylvania) arms were rifled in most cases, and our military men considered them unsuited for the regular troops. Therefore the smoothbore was the martial arm for many years. A few very rare flintlock pistols such as the Rappahannock Forge, McCormick, Morgan, Miles, Annely, Nicholson, Henry, Guest, Calderwood, Frye, Shuler, Ansted and Deringer were made for the U. S. in the early 1800's. These were plain, full-stock pistols of large smoothbore caliber; they are seldom found and are of great interest to advanced collectors.

As we go down through the various models of the United States single shot martial pistols we find a few that stand out value-wise. First are several models of the Simeon North flintlocks which were made in Berlin, Connecticut (where the North & Cheney was made), and bear the Berlin address on the lock plate. A second group includes the most

graceful of all U. S. martial hand arms, the half-stock flintlock pistols made at Harper's Ferry 1806-7-8 (and bearing one of those dates) along with similar pistols made by the Virginia Manufactory, Richmond, at approximately the same time. A third high-priced pistol model, which for unwieldiness even outranks the North & Cheney, is the big full-stock Springfield Armory pistol; it bears 1815 or 1818 dates on the lock plate. This monstrosity has a total length of 17¾ inches and an awesome .69 caliber bore. Few were issued, and a number were converted to caplock. Hence, original flintlock specimens are rare and valuable.

About 1835 armsmaking in America was on the brink of a big change. The percussion cap had come into its own and flintlock arms were on the way out. Men with imagination like Samuel Colt, John Cochran, Ethan Allen, the Darling Brothers, Rufus Nichols, Edward Childs, D. Leavitt, O. W. Whittier, and Eli Whitney had big ideas for multi-shot firearms.

The most famous of these was Samuel Colt, who is credited with producing the first successful multi-chambered pistol with a single barrel. All of the arms made from 1836 to 1843 by the Patent Arms Mfg. Co. at Paterson, N. J., under Colt's patent are very valuable. Equally high priced are the 1100 four-pound "Dragoon" six-shooters made for Colt

at Whitneyville, Conn.; 1000 of which were sold to the Army during the Mexican War and marked U. S. 1847. A word of warning here: Any gun that has been made can be duplicated. The folding trigger Colt pistols made at Paterson, N. J., and the long 9" barrel pistols made at Whitneyville, Conn., being rare and valuable, have been duplicated. They are ostensibly sold as replicas, but sometimes are "age-doctored" and offered as originals.

Other arms to look for in the 1836-1846 period are the turret pistols and rifles made under Cochran's patent, Elgin's patent single shot pistols with a wicked-looking knife blade under the barrel, multi-shot arms made by Nichols & Childs, the iron frame pepper-box pistols made by J. and J. Darling, and the Grafton-made arms of Ethan Allen. The O. W. Whittier multi-shot revolving cylinder rifles are perhaps the rarest of all guns in that category; they are easily recognized by the zigzag channels milled in the outer surface of the cylinder.

Our swelling population of the early 1800's was restless. From the eastern seaboard states the adventurous spilled through the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky; they moved into Tennessee, to Ohio, to Illinois, and across the Mississippi.

The long Pennsylvania-made full-stock rifles were cumbersome for travelers, and there evolved the shorter-barreled half-stock caplock rifle so well described in Ned Robert's book "The Muzzle Loading Caplock Rifle." Prominent in providing such guns were Andrew Wurfflein, Slotter & Co., J. Kunz, and

(Continued on page 66)



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- a. They are too busy to read mail.
- b. They want to know what people from home are thinking.
- c. They do not care what your opinions are.

(The answer is "b". They always welcome sincere letters from constituents.)

It is your duty, as a sportsman and citizen, to take an active interest in the bills introduced each year which affect the future of outdoor recreation in America. How much do you know about making your opinions count? Here is a quick test.

2. Name the Congressman from your district. (ten points)

(For answer, contact your town or county clerk)

3. Name the two U.S. Senators from your state. (ten points each)

(You can find out from your town or county clerk)

4. The preferred form of address when writing your Congressmen is: (ten points)

- a. "The Right Honorable _____"
- b. "Dear Senator _____" or "Dear Representative _____"
- c. "Dear Mr. _____"

(Most Congressmen aren't too concerned with formalities. "b" is perfectly acceptable.)

5. If I am interested in a bill introduced in the House, I should write to: (ten points)

- a. The Representative who introduced the bill.
 - b. The chairman of the committee which will hear the bill.
 - c. The Representative from my district.
- (Write "c" first, then "a" and "b" if the situation warrants.)*

6. When I write a letter expressing an opinion, I should: (five points)

- a. Quote what the "experts" are saying.
 - b. Express my own reasons and beliefs.
 - c. Send a petition with a lot of names.
- (You are his constituent. The answer is "b".)*

7. When I write a Congressman, I should: (five points)

- a. Tell him how important I am.
 - b. Threaten him with my vote.
 - c. State the name of any organization I represent and my title.
- (The answer is "c".)*

8. When I write a Congressman, I should: (ten points)

- a. Tell him what the Constitution means.
 - b. Be polite, sincere and brief.
 - c. Set him straight once and for all.
- (Congressmen are familiar with what the Constitution means. "b" is the answer.)*

9. When I write a Congressman, I should: (five points)

- a. Tell him I am a Democrat.
 - b. Tell him I am a Republican.
 - c. It is not necessary to state party affiliation.
- ("c". Leave parties out of it.)*

10. Circle one. (five points)

- a. Congressmen are hardened to criticism.
 - b. Congressmen have the same feelings as anyone.
 - c. Congressmen ignore good or bad comments.
- ("b". Although too many people overlook this.)*

11. About how many bills are introduced in Congress each session? (ten points)

- a. 3,000
 - b. 5,000
 - c. 15,000
- ("c". No Congressman can read that many bills. That's why you should call his attention to bills that are important to you.)*

12. I should express my opinion on a bill: (ten points)

- a. Just before committee hearings.
 - b. When the bill comes up for vote in Congress.
 - c. When the bill goes to the President for signing.
- (The committee recommendation usually decides the outcome of a bill. "a")*

13. When a bill has been signed into law, I should: (five points)

- a. Write and thank my Congressman for any help he gave.
 - b. Forget about the bill.
 - c. Complain to my Congressman.
- ("a". Win, lose or draw, he'll remember your gratitude on "another day".)*

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(Continued from page 64)

several others of Philadelphia, and H. E. Leman of Lancaster. Leman also made smooth-bore trade guns for the Indians, now called "Northwest guns." These have a traditional large bow to the trigger guard, and on the left side, serving as an escutcheon for the lock screws, you will find a plate in the shape of a serpent. Similar guns were also imported from England; all are now actively sought and have substantial value when in reasonably good condition.

St. Louis became a major outfitting center for those who sought furs, land, or gold beyond the Missouri, and here were established three gunmakers of lasting fame. One was H. E. Dimick, a native of Vermont; another (somewhat later) was John P. Gemmer, a native of Germany; and two brothers, Jacob and Samuel Hawken, originally of Maryland. The Hawken name led all the rest, and their half-stock "machine to throw balls" hurled big .54 caliber lead balls at buffalo, grizzly bears, and hostile Indians with deadly accuracy; these were the favorite guns of Kit Carson, Jim Bridger, John Fremont, and many others who broke the trails in the 1840's for our great western migration. A Hawken rifle in almost any kind of condition is a treasure today.

With the movement and growth of our population there came about gradual changes in local customs. The old turkey and beef shoots in the settlements gradually gave way to more formal matches. The 1840's and 1850's saw new-purpose firearms come on the American scene. One was the heavy-barreled match rifle. New York and New England makers took the lead here, and anyone is lucky indeed if he possesses one of these fine old guns made by Morgan James, George or Fred Ferris, William Billingham, Nelson Lewis, Edwin Wesson, N. S. Brockway, and a few others of that era. Match shooting, very popular in the East, was quick to become popular in the West when California gold-seekers had time to catch their breath and look for relaxation. Top quality rifles made in California came from the benches of the transplanted Easterners Ben Bigelow, Charles Slotterbek, and Horace Rowell. It might be noted in passing that heavy, deadly-accurate match rifles were sometimes employed by snipers during the Civil War.

On the other end of the size scale in the 1840's (and for some years thereafter) gun shops offered cute little pocket pistols, their design largely attributed to Henry Deringer. These little full-stock pistols (called deringers with the double r) had barrels only a couple inches long, but were of .40 to .45 bore and deadly enough at close range. Their



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popularity was quickly established and soon Deringer had many competitors. Among them were Slotter, Tryon, Krider, Wurfflein, Evans, and Grubb of Philadelphia. In New York there was Bruff, Gillespie, Seaver, Spies, and Syms. There were also makers in Nashville, Memphis, and elsewhere. Dimick tried his hand at them in St. Louis. All these pistols, which were valued about \$10 apiece thirty years ago, bring \$100 or more today if in good condition.

Special prizes in the percussion derringer field are the "Roman candle" two-shot (one barrel) derringers made by Frederick Beerstecher and the patent primer derringers made by Butterfield. These bring quite a premium.

As the 1840's drew to a close the competition in armsmaking became keener. Christian Sharps was granted a patent on his strong and practical breechloader. The early models of these guns from 1850 to 1852 are rare, and some of the later Sharps rifles and carbines are also now bringing a lot more than high-grade modern rifles.

Samuel Colt opened his Hartford factory in 1848, beginning production there with re-vamped, heavy .44 caliber Dragoon six-shooters and a .31 caliber pocket pistol. These were very successful and started the Colt company on a long and distinguished career. The rare and valuable arms of this one make are so extensive that they would require many pages of description. In brief, these are some to look for: the Paterson-made arms; the heavy 4-pound Dragoon pistols; percussion pistols with a straight rather than curved rear contour to the trigger guard; pistols that are engraved, inscribed, or cased; pistols with an attached shoulder stock; target pistols of early models with a flat top to the strap over the cylinder; Colt revolving cylinder rifles of any type, and double barrel Colt rifles.

Lewis Jennings was granted a patent in 1849 for a breech-loading repeating rifle, which through various steps and different places of manufacture became the Smith & Wesson lever action arms of 1854 made at Norwich, then the Volcanic, the Henry, and eventually the Winchester rifle. Any of these lever action magazine arms, right up to the brass frame model 1866 Winchester, are good property and will fetch a good price if complete and not badly abused. Some later Winchester arms, such as the 1873 and 1876 models marked "One of One Thousand" bear four-figure price tags.

A group that was to give Colt his earliest serious challenge can be lumped together as the Massachusetts Arms Co. They made arms under patents of Wesson & Leavitt, Maynard and others. The big heavy Wesson & Leavitt revolvers, comparable to the Colt Dragoon, are scarce and will bring \$250 or more. Comparable arms made by the Springfield Arms Company under Warner or Jacquith's patents are also to be reckoned with for good collector value. Revolving cylinder rifles by these makers are especially desirable.

(To be continued)

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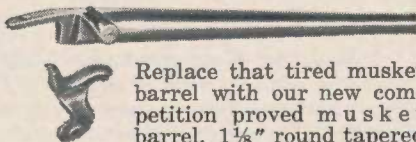
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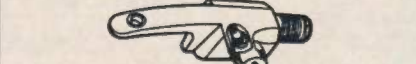
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U.S. SHOOTERS WIN

(Continued from page 27)

in individual competition, with Hajo Suppli of West Germany second. Gordon Horner of the USA placed fourth after a shoot-off with Artur Rogowski of Poland, who took third. Mrs. Dianne Coulter of the USA placed fifth in the ladies event, won by Claudia Smirnova of Russia.

The shots heard 'round the world from Wiesbaden and the ISU Championships this year were those fired by Airman 1/C Kenneth A. Jones on the way to his remarkable individual victory in the very difficult International Trapshooting championship, with a score of 297x300, the highest score ever recorded in this type competition, a new world's record, and five targets better than the second place score of Enache of Rumania. Third place went to Senicev of Russia. Gordon Horner, the double-duty Yank, who won a place on both teams, was 8th, with a score of 289. Jones, Enache, and Senicev led their respective teams to 1-2-3 placing in team competition.

The Yank foursome of Jones, SP4 Charles T. Jensen, Lt. Horner, and 1st/Sgt Billy G. Hicks topped the entries from 22 countries with their 768 team total. Rumania was second with 764, and Russia third at 757. Canada's Hendersen, Rick McGarry, Carl McGarry, and Primrose posted 725, for 16th.

Jones' victory in the rugged International trap game would be on the order of Bart

Starr from the Green Bay Packers switching to the National Basketball League this fall, and winning the individual scoring championship as a rookie. The team victory of Jones, Horner, Jensen, and Hicks is almost as newsworthy as would be a victory by a selected quartet from the San Francisco Giants in world cricket championships, and just about as difficult.

The polished performances of both United States clay target teams are especially noteworthy when the conditions under which they competed at Wiesbaden are compared with conditions at Lackland AFB during the tournaments from which the teams were selected. Weather was hot and dry in Texas, with little wind, and only a small amount of rain. The weather at Wiesbaden was cool and rainy, with occasional wind. The target ranges had been literally hacked out of a forest and backgrounds were very difficult for the shooters. Targets at some posts were especially difficult to see.

Tournament clay target gunners in the United States are accustomed to, and expect, near-perfect background conditions. The entire United States may well take pride in the performances of their representatives at Wiesbaden. Their performances rank with the best of those recorded in other worldwide competitions, such as the Olympics and Pan-American Games.

SINGLE SHOT PISTOLS

(Continued from page 33)

& Equipment Company also produced a .22 caliber semi-automatic of virtually the same pattern as its single-shot counterpart.

The Hartford single-shot is loaded by releasing a lever on the left side of the frame which frees the breech-block lock, and then drawing the "slide" to the rear which also cocks the internal hammer. This internal hammer functions in the conventional manner of rotating in an arc—being entirely recessed within the handle proper when at full-cock. The mainspring and sear are also within the handle of the frame whereas the "slide" contains the floating firing pin. A cross-bolt safety is located just to the rear of the trigger guard.

The Hartford weighs some 38 ounces with its 6¼ inch barrel. Its two grip panels of walnut, affixed to the frame at top and bottom by screws, are scored—a feature akin to checkering which provided a pragmatic as well as esthetic appeal. The grip angle was contributive to natural pointing.

The Hartford single-shot constitutes a desirable collector's item inasmuch as it was produced for only a few years (c. 1928-1932) and in limited volume. The Hartford Arms & Equipment Company of Hartford, Conn., was acquired by the High Standard Corporation in 1932 and the first of High Standard's semi-automatics (e.g., Models B and C) var-

ied little in overall appearance from their Hartford predecessors.

With the resumption of commercial firearms imminent following the termination of World War II, Walter Roper among other handgun authorities predicted that the single-shot pistol was dead—that American manufacturers were unlikely to ever produce another pistol of this type or revive their prewar models. While this prediction with reference to prewar models has proven correct over the past two decades, it was only the latter half of 1946 when the first post-World War II single-shot pistol made its appearance—the Varsity Manufacturing Company of Springfield, Mass., introduced its Tompkins single-shot Target Pistol at this time.

Chambered for the .22 Long Rifle cartridge, the Tompkins in silhouette is reminiscent of the dueling pistols of the early 19th century. The barrel and action are bedded in a one-piece walnut stock which extends to the muzzle. The breech-block is hinged at the front, swinging up and forward to load or to remove an expended cartridge case. Pulling up on a vertical sliding latch opens the breech and simultaneously activates the extractor. The cartridge case removal must be completed by hand. This type breech-block action is meritorious for simplicity as

well as strength.

The trigger mechanism on the Tompkins is noteworthy for its lack of creep—there being no noticeable change in trigger resistance following sear release. The engineering design of this trigger mechanism has been lauded as superb among American target pistols.

Sporting an 8-inch barrel, the Tompkins has a slight radius of 9 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches. Patridge-type sights featured a high-rise undercut front coupled with a wide-top rear adjustable for windage via two locking screws. The Tompkins weighs a comfortable 31 ounces which are well-distributed. Its quality and price placed this pistol in the luxury class which probably hastened its demise. Empirical evidence suggests that the production run of the Tompkins was in the neighborhood of 1,000 and terminated prior to 1950.

The second single-shot pistol to be launched in the post-WW II era was the S-M "Sporter" made in Alexandria, Virginia. The S-M stands for Sydney Manson who presumably was the designer as well as manufacturer. Inasmuch as this arm has been obsolete for more than a decade and the whereabouts of Mr. Manson unknown to this writer, exact data relative to specific years in production, or total units produced, remain obscure.

The S-M "Sporter" is chambered for the .22 Long Rifle cartridge and in general appearance resembles a semi-automatic. A pressed steel receiver houses the machined bolt which in turn contains the firing pin and its spring. A knobbed shaft extends from the rear of the receiver which serves to cock the arm and withdraw the bolt breech-block for loading. After insertion of a cartridge, the receiver is closed by releasing a lever on the left side of frame which permits the bolt to slam forward. There is no hammer as such—the spring-actuated firing pin being held back by the sear as in the instance of .25 cal. semi-automatics of Browning design. The safety lever is also on the left side of frame, being on safe when in rearmost position. The trigger is fashioned in the style of a typical single action semi-automatic. There is no extractor—ejection of cartridge case being accomplished via the blow-back principle upon ignition of cartridge which also blows the bolt breech-block open.

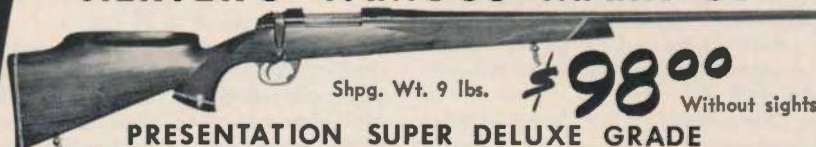
The "Sporter" has a fixed high-rise front sight with rear sight adjustable for windage via a set screw. Its 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch barrel has six lands and grooves—the entire arm weighing 23 ounces. Frame handle features a one-piece wrap-around grip of checkered black plastic. The fact that this single-shot model is seldom encountered at "gun shows" or noted among used gun advertisements would indicate that production was not extensive.

An engineer at Savage Arms expressed the opinion, during a visit at the Savage plant by this writer, that the S-M "Sporter" constitutes a dangerous design—presumably due to the fact that any part projecting from the rear of a receiver which blows back following detonation of cartridge can conceivably break away from its internal component and continue its flight toward the face of the shooter.

Sheridan's "Knocabout" single-shot pistol in .22 RF caliber made its appearance on the American market in April, 1953. Manufac-

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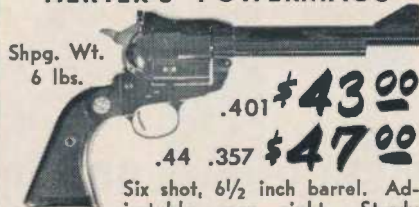
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tured by Sheridan Products, Inc. of Racine, Wisconsin, this rugged well-engineered pistol was aptly named as it could withstand considerable knocking about without significant damage or danger to its owner. Its moderate price also contributed to its adaptability as a general utility gun for hunters, fishermen, campers, trappers or just plain plinkers.

The "Knocabout's" 5-inch barrel of alloy steel is mounted on a receiver incorporating the tip-up action. A knobbed release lever just forward of the trigger guard, when retracted, permits the barrel breech to spring up and activates the extractor located in the barrel beneath the breech. The fixed breech-block contains the floating firing pin. The external hammer features a rounded, scored spur. The anti-jerk squeeze type trigger is externally analogous to that of a single action semi-automatic. Both front and rear sights are fixed and integral to the barrel. An oversized rotary bolt safety on the left of

frame serves to block the hammer from reaching the firing pin when on "safe"—thus permitting dry-firing without damage or risk. The two-piece brown plastic grips completely wrap around the frame handle. The entire pistol weighs in at 24 ounces.

The "Knocabout" was discontinued as of October, 1960, after a run of 10,795 units—as per data furnished this writer by Sheridan's President. The Sheridan people give as their reason for terminating this practical little gem that, being a cartridge arm, it did not dovetail with their lines of pneumatic arms.

The last of the now obsolete American single-shot pistols to be reviewed here is the Wamo "Powermaster" whose commercial life-span was less than three years (1956-1959).

From an engineering standpoint, the "Powermaster" represents a unique and intriguing design in the field of handguns. The action consists of but two basic moving parts—the floating bolt breech-block and the straight-line hammer, both of which are housed in the steel receiver. The frame itself is two-piece, the hollow upper section merely housing and aligning the internal steel action assembly while the lower grip section contains the sear and trigger assemblies. Both frame sections are zinc alloy die castings of anodized non-glare finish held together by two large screws.

The "Powermaster's" 4¾-inch internal steel barrel of 10 land broach-rifling is permanently assembled to the steel receiver. There is no extractor as such—an ejector

spring riveted to the bottom of the receiver just behind the breech serving to flip the cartridge case out of the action when blown back upon discharge. This ejector spring also serves the dual role of holding the bolt shut when forward in firing position. There is no positive manual safety. The manufacturer claimed the loaded arm to be safe when the floating bolt was in its rearmost position but this has been proven unreliable by impartial testing (NRA Technical Staff). The Wamo also suffers the same safety deficiency as pointed out in reference to the S-M "Sporter"—a shaft affixed to the back of the straight-line hammer extends through a hole in the rear of the upper frame housing when cocked and blows back through this hole following cartridge ignition. There can be no guarantee that this shaft cannot break loose from the hammer proper under the circumstances and continue its flight into the face of the shooter causing serious injury.

The Wamo "Powermaster" has an excellent grip angle and its contoured brown plastic grips aid its natural pointing quality. Owners of the current Daisy CO₂ Model 200 will recognize that, as to external frame and grip angle, it is a dead ringer for the Wamo. It appears that Daisy acquired the rights to the frame design of the Wamo subsequent to its discontinuance.

Inasmuch as there have been seven American single-shot pistols produced since World War II despite "expert" forecasts to the contrary, this writer will refrain from rendering an obituary for this type handgun and will instead anticipate the introduction of further models.



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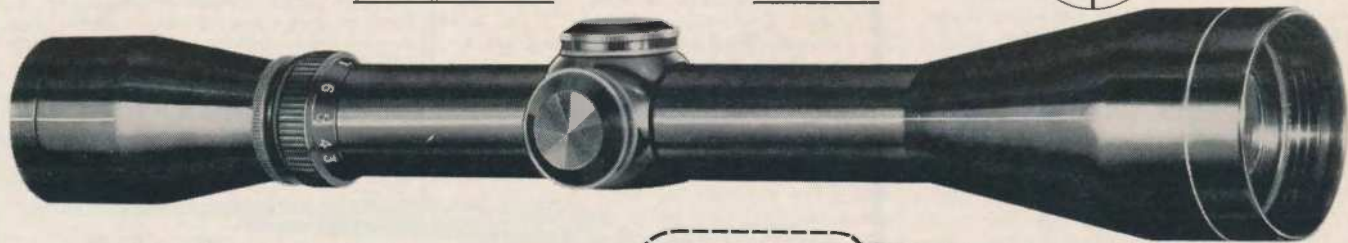
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MAGNUM MADNESS

(Continued from page 29)

This is a handy figure, because the increase in the number of pellets in a magnum load is just about one-eighth. The standard 2¾ inch 20-gauge holds one ounce of shot; the magnum, 1½ ounces.

This means that instead of clobbering your pheasant with eight pellets using this gun, you may hit him with nine of the same size. However, number 7½ is an acceptable size at this yardage and if more shot in the bird is the goal, a shift to this lighter pellet will increase one's chances by 50 per cent. The comparable improvement in using a magnum shell with #6 shot is only 12 per cent since there are approximately 350 pellets in an ounce of #7½, as compared to the 225 of #6. Although the lighter weight is critical at this yardage, that ounce of 7½ still furnishes 13 pellets to the bird, while standard #6 shot gives 8 and a magnum load of #6 only 9.

But how about the long range shot usually obtained in open marsh or water when the targets are ducks or geese? Here the 20 gauge is traded for the 12, the shot goes to a four or even larger for honkers. And here is where the magnums should serve a valuable purpose, which is to maintain a dense pattern of heavy shot at extreme ranges. Certainly the stories about the magnums' effect do increase in density!

"I laid it right on that ol' mallard," runs the tale. "At 70 yards he didn't even flutter. Boy, those mags really get out there. . ."

And so on. First of all, say the cynics, the chances are that it was nearer 50 yards than 70. Secondly, the magnums got there only one hundredth of a second faster than the standard shot. It is true that early in the magnum history there was considerably propaganda afoot about the increased velocity of these loads. The gist of this was that most hunters nowadays couldn't lead a bird properly; thus it would be a merciful act to cut down the necessity for that lead, preferably by giving this miserable oaf a high-velocity shell. The unflattering gift was completely ineffective in this respect.

Some tests have showed the magnums actually flying slower than standard loads. Others have given a slight increase in velocity over the first forty yards. This is not enough, however, to warrant any significant change in lead, since the bird would still be well within a normal pattern. The only place an increase in shot velocity itself might put more pellets into the bird would be at the extreme edge of a pattern—where many other factors also come into play.

When trying to boost velocities, shotgun shell makers are faced with the same problems as those loading rifle cartridges, plus a few others peculiar to the rather 'soft' materials with which the scatter-shell is constructed. Additional powder will create increased pressures, but at a certain critical point the pressure soars and the velocity remains constant. Handloaders who are socking the nitro to their loads should take heed.

If velocity alone is desired, the shotgunner seeking his optimum combination should investigate the differences between chokes or

even between gauges, since these factors may have more effect than any magnum load. Those who cherish the fiction that the larger the gauge, the faster the shot should consult their charts again. These show the 12 gauge throwing out the shot slightly faster than a 20 gauge, about 1,000 fps vs. 950. The little .410 blasts this argument, though, by bettering the 12 gauge at least 25 fps.

Remember too that shot does not travel in flat planes but in a string. At middle ranges 80 per cent of the load is contained in the first six or seven feet, but the string may stretch out to 14 feet with a standard load. The new plastic shot collars have cut this string significantly by minimizing damage to individual pellets, but it is neither wise nor practicable to concentrate this load too heavily. With a reasonable length of the shot string, a hunter has a better chance of hitting a moving target.

Since our present targets are waterfowl, let it be said that the calculations of any gunner would have to be fine indeed to take

into account the minor differences in the velocity between shot sizes. Much more allowance would have to be made for the flying speeds of different birds. A mallard, for instance, may fly 50 feet per second, a canvasback 100. By the time the student gets out his slide rule, identifies his duck, calculates his angle and wind, remembers that he is now using a magnum—this duck, regardless of ancestry, is home safe.

Another disquieting fact for long-range shooters: at distances over 40 yards most patterns begin to disintegrate. The reasons are several, but one large factor has been the battering shot takes as it passes through the barrel. Again, by wrapping the shot, the shot collar goes much further toward putting unharmed shot into a good pattern than does simply making an oversized shell. But even with these improved loads, velocity has decreased and normal deterioration of the pattern begins to set in at this approximate range. Most tests show that at some point between 55 and 60 yards all shot strings have reached the point where a bird in the pattern no longer guarantees a kill. Say that we have now shifted from #6's to #4's. Instead of 225 pellets in our ounce of shot there are only 135. A normal 12 gauge shell will carry 170 stingers in its 1½ ounces,

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a 1½-ounce load will boost this to 197, and the three-inchers now add another eighth of an ounce, a total of 214 shot.

This is not many pellets to spread over an area as large as most patterns cover at this distance. A smaller gauge gun, of course, throws not only a smaller pattern but a thinner one, so the hunter who believes he can pinpoint his 20 gauge load is kidding only himself, not the bird.

If the pattern of the magnum can maintain its uniformity, it will be at these extreme ranges that it will be valuable, not in some thicket. But the extent of this additional range is only 2½ to five yards, not a dozen. The mathematics are fairly obvious, and actual tests are even more revealing. These show that the density of the pattern, when averaged out, does not come up to that theoretically provided by the magnum's increase in pellets. Shell manufacturers may argue the point, but overall the magnum load seems to have a greater tendency toward 'blown' patterns than the regular high-velocity shell. Some of this is rightly blamed on the individual gun, as well as wadding interference, excessive gas pressures, and so forth.

The only way to tell how well the magnum shell will perform in a particular gun is to try it with different size shot, different choke, and under different conditions. In this way you can come up with the most favorable combination for that particular gun—and it will usually be a combination which cannot be predicted on paper. Also, it will frequently fail to make any difference in the field.

A hunter waiting in his blind for the flight to approach has several things to consider

when he reaches for a shell. First, the magnum may give him those very few yards of range, and he's a whiz if he can tell when a speeding duck is 56 rather than 52 yards away. He can, more accurately, and reasonably, wait an extra tenth of a second on an incoming flight and obtain the same results with a regular load.

Experience in the field has emphasized the sorry extent to which hunters are depending upon the magnum's supposed range. They are not waiting for reasonable shots, and are attempting those which reason should tell them could result only in crippled birds. The effect is a higher ratio of losses, exactly the opposite of what's intended for the magnum, and a higher temperature amongst other shooters who witness this nonsense. Nobody objects to the long shot, if it is truly within the capability of the gun and load. Any hunter, however, has a right to complain when uninformed citizens who have not tested or even shot their guns since the previous season blast wildly and merely hopefully at the distant flight of increasingly precious waterfowl, counting on their magnums to do the impossible.

Aside from damage to the sport itself, there is the matter of possible damage to the gun using oversize loads. Shooters who are in doubt about their effect might talk with a veteran gunsmith. In many such interviews, I found the warning clear: Shooters who should have known better were using magnum shells in guns which had not been designed for them and which might suffer from prolonged use of heavy shells. These older guns, the smiths declare, were built for

particular pressures on all their parts. Although the metal used in them is more elastic than in some other guns and will usually yield before rupturing, it is subject to wear and may fail under constant stress.

Modern magnum guns, stressed for higher pressures, are nearly all capable of virtually unlimited firing of these shells. The Browning development shops, for instance, put 10,000 rounds through a gun as a standard test. This is many more than the average hunter or part-time trapshooter will fire.

Other guns, not made for the magnums, have to depend upon the additional safety standards built into them to withstand this heavy use. Whereas some of the automatic mechanisms of the magnum guns will not receive sufficient pressure from ordinary shells to operate efficiently, standard guns take a heavy beating in these areas from the higher power loads. Most shooters oil their guns too freely, and with magnum shells this may permit the ejector mechanism to operate too quickly and loosely. Even when lightly oiled, the bolt locking lugs and wells can suffer in ordinary guns.

Head space is also worth watching more carefully when using the magnums. Although there is a leeway of about .003 inch built in for safety and to allow for the variation in shells, anything over .006 must be considered too loose. Persons using magnum shells in guns not built specifically for their use would do well to have this checked at the shop occasionally.

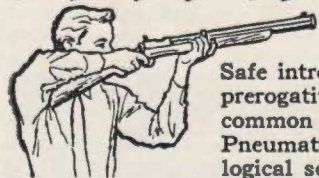
Some magnum shell makers list on the carton the guns for which their loads are unsuitable. The unfortunate implication is that if your gun is not included in this list, it will handle the more powerful loads without restriction or damage. This may not be so. The large majority of guns in use today were made before the magnum shell came into popular use.

How then to tell if your favorite fowling piece is hardy enough for these jolts? One way is write the manufacturer, asking not whether it will stand the magnums but whether it *should* be subjected to them. Gun makers are human and in the business of selling their own guns. Both pride and practicality forbid them from claiming anything but the best for their product.

Second, take your gun to a good gunsmith and ask his opinion. He usually will be frank in saying what he thinks are the limits of the gun. It can be argued that the maker knows more about his goods than any repairman, but the latter is the one who sees the various wrecks brought in to be glued together. He can lay rather accurate odds on whether or not yours will be among them.

Third, there are some guns which are very evidently not to be used with outsized loads. Those with chambers smaller than the shell, head the list. Obvious, of course, but hardly a day goes by that some gunner won't try to shove a three-inch magnum into a 2¾" chamber. Or, more frequently, he will try to use the 2¾" shell in an old gun made for a fraction of an inch less. In this same category are those antiques and foreign guns which were made for less powerful loads. Foreign shotgun loadings often are "weaker" than the American, and guns made overseas show a lack of respect for our high-velocity shells, much less the magnums. The exceptions to this are the guns made specifically for the

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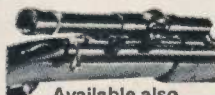


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American market as an export item. Brown-ing guns are manufactured in Belgium, but are strictly an American-minded design.

When in doubt, as a starter you might check the proof marks on a foreign gun you buy. The list is too long to repeat in full here, but is available in several manuals. At the base of the barrel or somewhere along its underside, there will be a smattering of hieroglyphics telling just about what that gun has been tested for. The most important to our point here will pertain to the powder used in the tests. A few of the most common are: German, an N or Nitro; Italian, PSF(2); Belgian, a figure of an animal above a line, the letters E.C. below; English, P.N. with a sword arm above or a florid scrawl of what looks like VB with a crown following it. Such marks tell you at least that the gun has been put through trials with smokeless powder and is not liable to blow up in your hands. Using magnums in it will depend upon the word you receive from maker or smith.

One last item of wear which a heavy load will inflict: the blow against a shooter's shoulder. Much work is being done on this

Internal Revenue Service

The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division, Internal Revenue Service, has instituted a new procedure to relax the regulation requiring a separate federal firearms license for collector-dealers at gun shows.

Under the new ruling, a collector-dealer holding a federal firearms license sends a letter to the Assistant Regional Commissioner, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax, to inform him that the collector-dealer will be at a particular gun show on a particular date. The Assistant Regional Commissioner will endorse the letter and return it to the sender. The endorsed letter will serve as official permission for the collector-dealer to conduct business at the gun show.

The letter must be sent to the Assistant Regional Commissioner at least 10 days before the date of the gun show.

right now and some interesting technical facts should emerge. In the field, with the excitement of the hunt, one doesn't notice such blows. The place to feel the real impact of any shell is on the firing range. Here you'll realize what's meant when it is said that the kinetic energy of an average gun's recoil increases almost 50 per cent when the dram equivalent of its shell is upped only a half dram.

However, it's worth the beating to fire a dozen rounds of magnum loads at the usual 30-inch circle at 40 yards, then look over the patterns. Remember that for all practical purposes each pellet of the same size carries equal killing weight, whether they come from magnum shells or regulars. After firing both for a comparison you can decide for yourself whether the increase in density is worth the total cost to your gun and your shoulder, as well as your pocketbook. If you believe that it is, remember that you have accepted a responsibility—that of using your head afield rather than succumbing to a magnum madness. For the sake of good sportsmanship, bear in mind that magnums are not a substitute for any part of good hunting technique.



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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Continued from page 10)

Winchester '76

I have a Winchester Model 1876 in .45-75 caliber. It's in excellent condition with at least 90 percent of the original bluing still on it. The serial number is 873. It has a set trigger, but no dust cover. The stock and forearm are in fine condition. I wonder if you could tell me something of the gun and what it would be worth today.

Pete A. Wesin
Centralia, Wash.

The Winchester Model of 1876 made its first public appearance at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876. It was called at that time the "Centennial Model" commemorating the Revolutionary War anniversary. First of the Winchesters to chamber the larger cartridges, essentially the same as the 1873 model, but with a larger receiver. The early '76's had no dust covers and few had the set triggers.

Your '76 sounds like a fine collectors item and with the low serial number and set triggers and stated fine condition, it should bring between \$250 and \$400 from a Winchester collector.—R.M.

Kennedy Carbine

I have a .44 caliber carbine with double triggers. Action and barrel are in very fine condition. However, the outside of the gun has been cleaned and no trace of varnish or bluing remain. The markings on the gun are "Whitneyville Armory C = U.S.A./Pat. Jan. 7-1973." I would appreciate anything you can tell me about this gun and its approximate worth.

C. W. Baughman
Morgantown, W.Va.

The "1973" seems to be an obvious error; "Jan. 7-73" is probably the correct mark, and if so, you should have a Kennedy carbine. The Kennedys were made for a short period during the latter part of the last century. Value would depend on condition to a very great extent—mechanical condition, wood, and how much original finish remains. The market price would range all the way from \$25 to \$250.—S.B.

Bullets for a .270

I own a Winchester Model 70 in .270 caliber, which is approximately 10 years old. I understand they are now making a bullet of 180 grains for use in this rifle. I would like to know if I can use this bullet in my rifle, and if so, what trajectory it has at different ranges.

W. L. Stevenson, Jr.
Enid, Okla.

The 180 grain .270 bullets are available. Ken Waters, in an article in the May-June issue of The HANDLOADER Magazine, lists 56 grains of 4831 powder for the 180 grain Barnes bullet at a velocity of close to 2700 fps in a 22 inch barrel. Trajectory, when sighted in at 150 yards, will be approximately 1 1/4 inches high at 50 yards, three inches low at 250 yards and 17 at 350. This should be worked out precisely in your particular rifle.—D.W.

Marlin Model 92

I recently purchased a Marlin Lever Action Model 92 in .32 caliber. I paid \$50 for the gun. Could you tell me please if you think I got a good buy or did I get skinned? It has the octagon barrel and is in near perfect condition. It has no caliber marking.

James M. Franklin
Riverside, Mo.

The Marlin Lever Action rifle, Model 1892, was a fine rifle and well made; it was the model that superseded the Model 1891 and was made with a more simplified action and a few other improvements. I have seen your model Marlin with and without caliber stamping on the barrel; your caliber could be .32 rim fire and not .32 c.f. Collectors value today for a Model 92 would be about \$65 and up depending on condition.—R.M.

Reloading Measures

I am considering the purchase of a powder measure made by Rotex Mfg. Co. under the brand name "Texan." This is a rather expensive measure at \$28 with stand. It is ad-

vertised as being suitable for loading both pistol and rifle loads and as having a built-in trickler. I wish to reload both pistol and rifle cases in four different calibers. Many other measures list for less but most require additional attachments for different types of powder and different loads. Can you tell me if this measure will fill my needs as is? I use mostly Hodgdon powders but may use other makes if these are not available. How does this measure compare with the Pacific EM-25 Standard Measure as to quality for the price?

Jerry A. Dickson
Tebbetts, Mo.

Regarding the Texan powder measure, I personally believe that you will be satisfied with this item. The built-in powder trickler is a definite advantage, but only if you weigh each charge. This has become a standard practice in my shop—mainly because I do a lot of load development work.

The Pacific Standard measure is also a good one, but you may find slight variation in weight of small pistol charges. However, it is good for the money. Perhaps your best bet is to find some one with one or both in their shop and test them out. This way you will know what you are getting.—D.W.



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MIX OR MATCH

(Continued from page 47)

same make and model, and they must have their headspace measured to the same standard, if they are not of the same caliber. For example, all of the belted magnums currently popular have their headspace measured at the belted portion, and are usually uniform. If you are in doubt about your particular rifles, consult any competent gunsmith and he will advise you.

It is quite possible that with the new production techniques in use today two rifles of the same make and model could have the same headspace, or be so close that they are within permissible tolerances. This, of course, must be determined by someone skilled in the use of headspace gauges.

Once you have determined that your guns are suited for bolt matching, it becomes a job for a competent gunsmith. First, he will match up the bolts. Then, either one or both of the rifles will have excessive headspace. This means that the barrel(s) with excessive headspace will have to be removed from the action, cut off one full turn, and be rechambered to the same headspace as the other, or, if both are cut off, rechamber them to minimum dimensions. The cutting off and setting back of the barrel will leave a small gap around the barrel due to its contour, and will probably leave it free floating. This quite often changes accuracy, sometimes improving it, sometimes not. If the end result is undesirable from a performance standpoint, or too unsightly, it is a simple matter to glass bed the barrel and fill in the gap. If the gap is glass bedded for appearance

sake alone, and a free floating barrel is desired, the barrel groove can easily be opened up by sanding carefully until the desired space is achieved. Again, all of this work can be performed by a good gunsmith at reasonable prices.

One exceptionally good reason for carrying two rifles of the same make and model, even though in different calibers, in addition to the fact that bolts can be matched, is that the rifles will both feel the same, safeties are in the same place, stocks fit the same (in production rifles), and you, the shooter, will find that when changing from one to another, no concentration on the operation of the firearm is required.

My two rifles are sighted differently, but with interchangeable sights, which proves to be useful in some ways. The 7 mm has a scope, plus iron sights in the mount base for auxiliary use. The .333 is equipped with a good peep sight, with the insert disk removed for faster sighting.

If the scope fails on the Seven, it is an easy matter to remove it and use iron sights. If I desire to use the scope on the .333, I carry spare bases with me, and with the tools I always have in the hunting kit I can install them on the rifle, mount the scope, zero it in and be afield on the short side of half an hour. The peep is easily removable; when mounting the scope I just remove the slide of the peepsight from its base and it is out of the way. If the entire sighting equipment fails on the Seven, I can remove the peep base from the .333 and install it on the other rifle.

All this is possible only because the two rifles are of the same make and model, and I feel that this is the most important aspect of carrying two rifles in the hunting country. Don't mix—match.

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GUN RACK

(Continued from page 16)

you want to load a passle of hulls, the guide gives way and that is that. I got into the habit of having some spares on hand, but now I don't worry any more—the Lee Wad Guide lasts and lasts and is as a matter of fact guaranteed for two full years.

Made by Lee Custom Engineering, Inc., Dept. G, Hartford, Wisc., 53027, the wad guide is available in 12, 16, and 20 gauge, and sells for only 95 cents. Made from tough yet flexible polycarbonate—the space age plastic that is being used in the Gemini Space Program—the wad guide fingers will not take a set, but instead return to their normal position. Try one of these wad guides—the one I tried worked out very well in my fairly extensive tests.

Zero Bullets

Another new bullet company has recently sprung to life. The Zero Bullet Co., 7254G Farnum, Inkster, Michigan 48141, some time ago sent me some .308 caliber bullets. The obviously nonselected lot—there were 50 130 gr. HP and 50 150 gr. SP bullets in the same box—showed good expansion in the moist sand recovery box, and bullet weight and diameter was uniform enough to satisfy all but the benchrest shooter. Loading 55 gr. of 4895 and using three different brands of primers, I fired five shot groups with the 130 gr. HP bullet that averaged 1.5 - 1.75 inches

at 100 yards. The test gun was a well used M70 in caliber .30-06, and I used once-fired GI brass for these loads. For the 150 gr. bullet, I used once-fired and full-length sized Remington brass, and my charge was 59 gr. of 4350. Again, I used the same three brands of primers to see if the various primers would alter group location, but group sizes were not affected to any marked degree. Average group size was 1.75 inches, and since the Model 70 usually turns in a better performance, it seems certain to me that carefully worked up loads with the Zero bullets would also produce better groups. Lack of an adequate number of bullets however precluded any further testing and I did not have enough bullets left after my accuracy and expansion tests to run meaningful chronograph tests. All in all, these bullets turned in a performance more than adequate for hunting purposes, and I believe that, with more carefully developed charges, the Zero bullets will do well in the field.

Cartridge Case Cleaner

This Cartridge Cleaner, distributed by Harry W. Anderson, Dept. G, 602 W. Atlantic Street, Appleton, Wisconsin 54912, has as its effective cleaning agent nitric acid—one of the most potent cleaning agents for metals. Nitric acid is powerful stuff and should

be handled with all due care and respect. Once these premises are understood, using this preparation is easy, and the results of giving a handful of cases a bath in the Anderson Cartridge Cleaner probably will knock your eyes out—brass comes out shiny clean and sparkling. All brass cleaners work chemically—unless you rely on tumbling your cases and thus clean them mechanically—and rinsing the cases is essential, especially with this cleaner.

Manipulation of acid covered brass with bare hands is not to be attempted, and plastic tongues are furnished with each bottle of the cleaner. I found that even the dirtiest lot of cases, immersed once and for less than a minute, and then thoroughly rinsed in running water to neutralize the effects of the nitric acid, came out clean and grease free. I understand that coin collectors use this cleaning preparation extensively and, with proper care, it does a neat and quick job on cartridge cases too.





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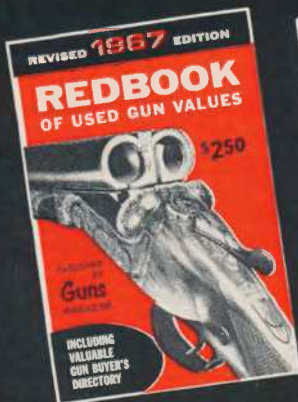
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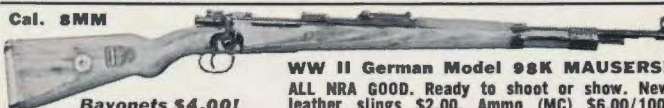
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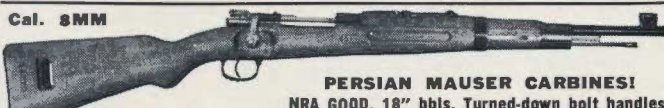
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WW II German Model 98K MAUSERS!
ALL NRA GOOD. Ready to shoot or show. New leather slings \$2.00. Ammo (MC) \$6.00/100.

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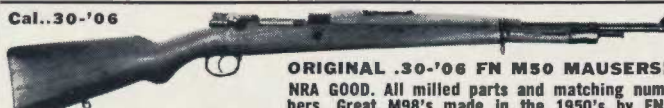
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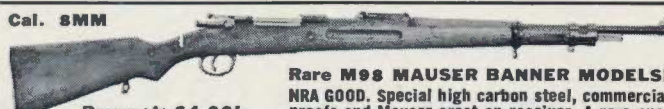
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ORIGINAL .30-'06 FN M50 MAUSERS!
NRA GOOD. All milled parts and matching numbers. Great M98's made in the 1950's by FN.

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Rare M98 MAUSER BANNER MODELS!
NRA GOOD. Special high carbon steel, commercial proofs and Mauser crest on receiver. A rare one!

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REMINGTON ROLLING-BLOCK RIFLES!
Authentic 19th century American-made arms. One of the most desirable collector/decorator pieces.

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Authentic museum pieces from Victorian England's Colonial Empire. Known from Sudan to the Khyber pass. Dates from the 19th Century.

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ALL HAND GUN PURCHASES MUST CONFORM TO REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL FIRE-ARMS ACT. STATEMENTS WILL BE FORWARDED FOR SIGNATURE PRIOR TO SHIPMENT ON SALES TO OTHER THAN LICENSED DEALERS. WE REQUIRE ANY CITY OR STATE PERMIT. See "Arms Chest" for required NRA statement

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U. S. M1
CARBINES!



NRA
GOOD

ONLY
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CAL. .30 M1
CARBINE

Authentic GI production—Original forged-steel receivers. Rugged dependability and light weight. Additional 15-rd magazines only \$1.00.

ACCESSORIES INCLUDED FREE!

Two (2) extra 15-round mags. Sling, Oiler, Cleaning brush and pull-through cleaning cord.

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Quality, custom-crafted double-barrel shotguns! Classic Continental—English design. • 16-ga. standard 2 3/4" chamber • Only 6 1/2 lbs. • Barrels & receiver forged from nickel-chrome steel. 27" barrels, modified and full choke. • All officially pre-tested and also proofed.



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\$20 NRA GOOD
Internal hammer, 3 safeties. Extremely durable, unusually safe. Extra 7-rd mags. \$3.00.

ASTRA 400!

CAL. 9MM LONG "MAGNUM"



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\$27 NRA GOOD
Sold commercially worldwide. Choice of famed "Condor" Legion. Extra 7-rd. magazines \$3.00.

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ONLY
\$35 NRA GOOD
Trusted for strength and reliability. Adapted to .45 ACP. Extra "Half-moon clips 50¢ a pair.

WEBLEY REVOLVERS!

CAL. .45 ACP



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\$25 NRA GOOD
Patterned after U.S. Model 1911 .45 ACP—scaled down. 8-rd. magazine ea. \$3.00.

FRENCH M35S

CAL. .32 LONG "MAGNUM" (7.65MM LONG)



ONLY
\$23 NRA GOOD
Design features of Browning, Petter and the Neuhausen auto. 8-rd. mags. \$3.00.

FRENCH M35A

M98 MAUSER ACTIONS!



Build your own custom rifle. Incomparable M98 MAUSER Actions with all milled parts—ready for rebarreling in your very favorite caliber.

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6.5 Italian (M.C.) (with one clip).....	\$6.00
6.5x54 Mannlicher Schoenauer (M.C.).....	\$6.00
7MM Mauser (M.C.).....	\$6.00
7.35 Italian in Clips (M.C.).....	\$5.00
7.62 NATO .308 Win. (M.C.) (non-cor.).....	\$12.00
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7.62x39 Russian Short (20 rds.).....	\$5.00
7.63MM Mauser (M.C.).....	\$6.00
.303 British Military.....	\$6.00
8MM German Mauser Issue.....	\$6.00
8x56R Mannlicher (M.C.).....	\$6.00

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7.62 Tokarev (Pistol) M.C.....	\$5.00
7.63 Mauser (Pistol) M.C.....	\$5.00
.32 Long "Magnum" (M.C.).....	\$7.00
9MM Luger Pistol M.C. (Non-Cor).....	\$5.00
9MM Browning Long (M.C.).....	\$6.00
9MM Bergmann-Bayard (M.C.).....	\$6.00
.45 ACP (Berdan, cor.).....	\$6.00

SOFT POINT SPORTING CARTRIDGES

6.5 Swedish Soft Point (40 rds.).....	\$6.00
7MM Mauser Soft Point (20 rds.).....	\$3.50
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.30 M1 Carbine Soft Point (100 rds.).....	\$15.00
.30-'06 Soft Point (20 rds.).....	\$4.00
.308 Win. Soft Point (20 rds.).....	\$3.50
.30-40 Krag Soft Point (20 rds.).....	\$3.50
.303 British Soft Point (30 rds.).....	\$4.50
8MM Mauser Soft Point (40 rds.).....	\$6.00
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GERMAN PISTOLE '08



Cal. 9mm Parabellum

COMMERCIAL BLUED!

George Luger's classic "Pistole Parabellum Model '08". The most sought—NRA GOOD after pistol in the world. ONLY Expertly refinished. Extra, brand new mags. \$6.00! \$60

LAST CHANCE!

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HUNTERS LODGE

Dept. G-2
200 S. UNION ST.,
ALEXANDRIA 13, VA.

Okay, we confess.

We whacked the Mark 5 shotgun shell in two.

We'll spill everything we know.

The casing looks like ordinary plastic, doesn't it? It isn't.

It's stronger, safer compression-formed plastic. (Exclusive with us.)

And see where it's thicker at the base?

That's so it can get along without a base wad.

It's so strong that the high brass isn't really needed for strength.

Only for extraction.

The shot is extra hard.

But it also has a collar wrapped around it to keep it from getting battered in the barrel.

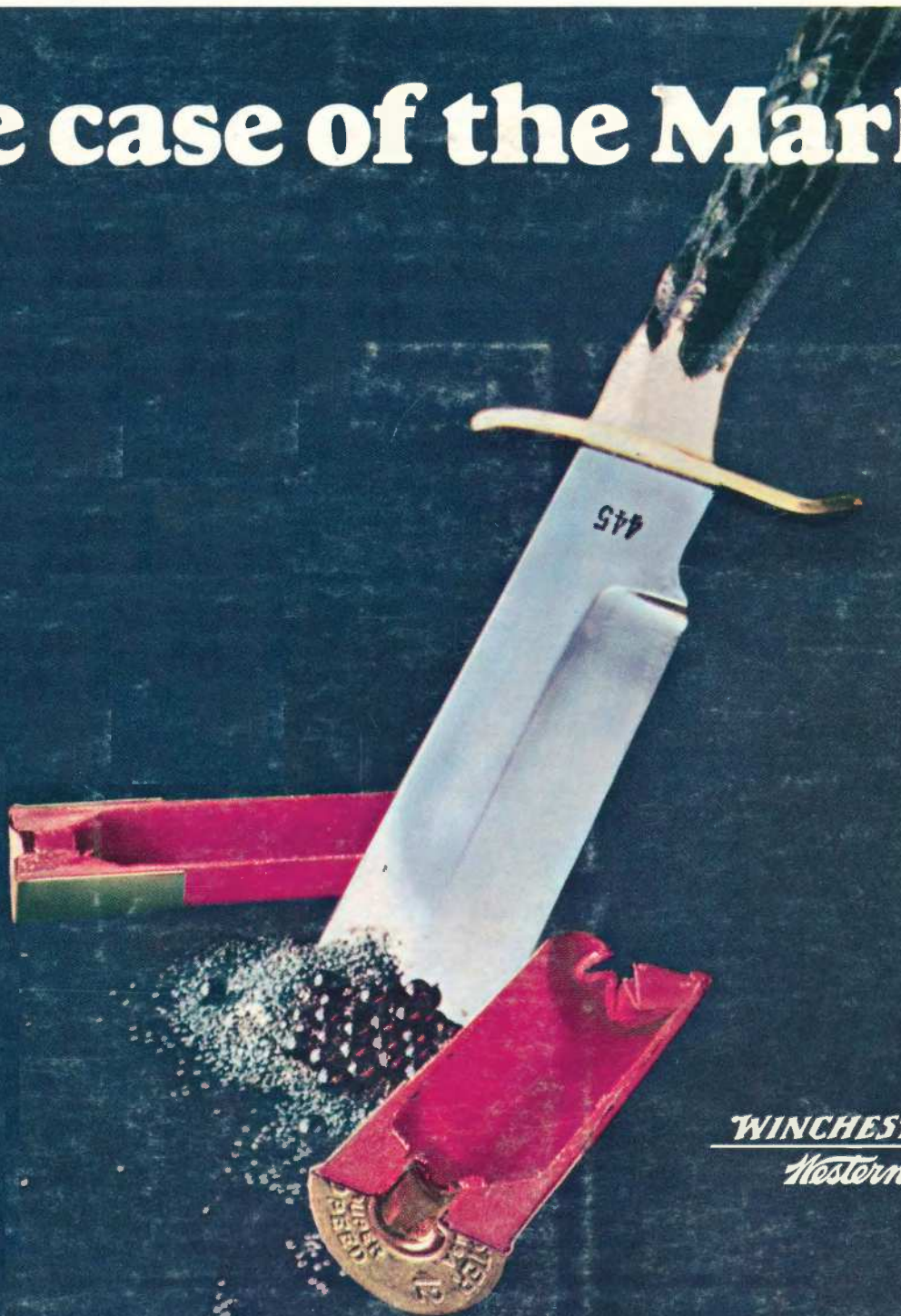
So there's up to 10% more of it in the pattern, traveling straighter, faster, farther and hitting harder than shot ever did before.

Which is saying quite a mouthful.

And that just about sums up our Mark 5 story.

What's your verdict?

The case of the Mark 5.



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