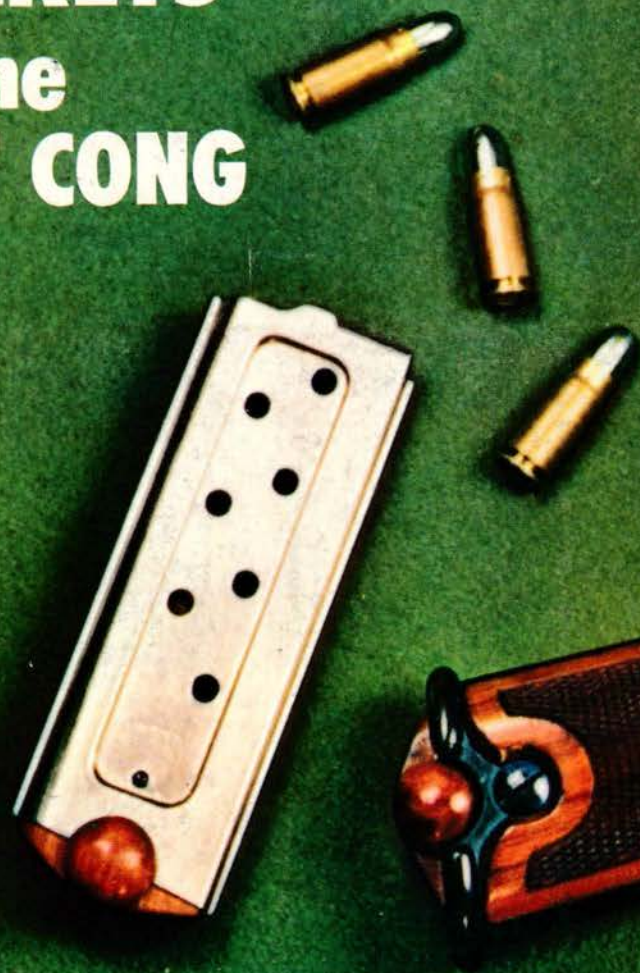


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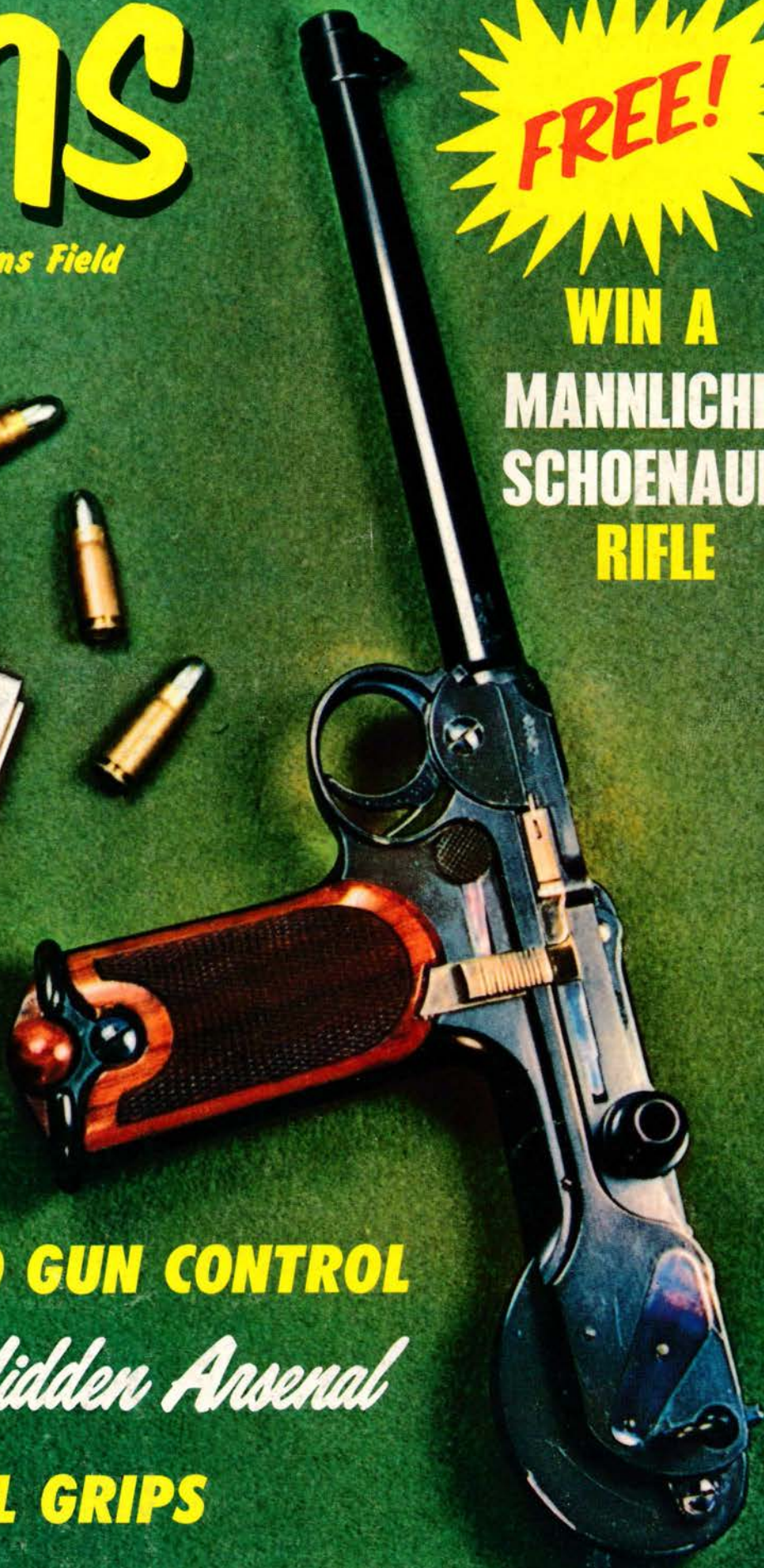
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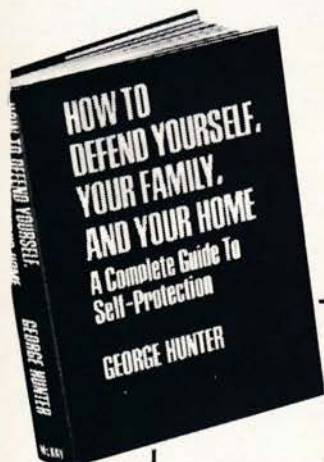
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As with accident insurance, we dearly hope you never have to use what you will get out of this book. But merely *having* all this information is the best guarantee you will never be faced with criminal attack. (Even if you yourself are a burly ex-Marine and feel no need for this book, remember, your wife and children are different.)

FBI, Police, Army Information

Whether you live in a big city, a posh suburb (where crime is growing fastest) or a small town... in a house or an apartment, author George Hunter understands your security problems. Not only has he written and lectured widely on the subject; this book is based on data from organizations like the FBI, the New York City police, the U.S. Army and the National Rifle Association. How much of the following information do you honestly know right now? And yet your safety and your very life, your wife's, your child's, could depend on your knowing *any one* of these facts:

- The art of locking up. (Hunter shows that the average home is relying on "useless junk")
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- Perils of the self-service elevator. 3 ways to avoid danger.
- Defensive techniques to protect yourself in your car. Safety measures when driving through dangerous areas.
- The \$12 device that can fool prowlers when you're way from home.
- The law is not always on your side! How to deal with the legal pitfalls you face when merely defending yourself or coming to the aid of someone being attacked.
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TRIGGER TALK

FREE GUN DRAWING!

The drawing for the Navy Arms 66 Rifle shown in our November issue has been delayed so that we will be able to conform to the new Federal regulations. The winner will be announced in the next issue.

* * *

AS YOU READ THIS, we will be entering a brand new year; and a new era for firearms controls. There will be no more mail-order sales of guns; no more importation of military surplus arms; no more importation of "non-sporting" firearms. There will be, however, a lot of headaches for your local gun dealer. He will have many new rules and regulations to follow—some quite clear, others somewhat vague—and a lot more book-keeping. As your local dealer gets into this new control he will, in most cases, become frustrated, and he may develop a short temper. If so, don't add to his burdens by demanding services which may be impossible for him to give; don't complain about the delay in getting you your order; and don't blame him for being somewhat wary about selling you a gun or ammunition. The gun dealer of 1969 has it a lot tougher than in the past, and a little help from you, with patience and understanding, will make his job a lot easier.

* * *

Coming up in the April issue of GUNS Magazine is one of the most exciting features we have ever offered; 8 full color pages of some of the most fascinating firearms you have ever seen. This will be a must for all who admire fine firearms; don't miss it!

* * *

—Graffiti—

"Big Tim Sullivan is alive—and laughing like crazy."

THE COVER

The Borchardt—the first successful autoloading pistol. Manufactured in Germany, this was designed by Hugo Borchardt, an American who, at one time, worked for Winchester Repeating Arms Co. in Hartford. From this design evolved the world-famous Luger pistol. Photo by J. B. Wood.

February, 1969

Vol. XV, No. 9-2

George E. von Rosen
Publisher

Guns

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

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EDITORIAL OFFICES: Jerome Rakusan, 8150 N. Central Park, Skokie, Ill. 60076, ORchard 5-5602.
NATIONAL ADV. OFFICES, 8150 N. Central Park Ave., Skokie, Ill., 60076, ORchard 5-6010.

GUNS Magazine is published monthly by Publishers' Development Corp., 8150 N. Central Park Avenue, Skokie, Illinois, 60076. Second class postage paid at Skokie, Illinois, and at additional mailing offices. SUBSCRIPTIONS: One year (12 issues), \$7.50. Single monthly copies, 75¢. CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Four weeks' notice required on all changes. Send old address as well as new. CONTRIBUTORS submitting manuscripts, photographs or drawings do so at their own risk. Material cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. PAYMENT will be made at rates current at time of publication and will cover reproduction in any or all GUNS Magazine editions. ADVERTISING RATES furnished on request. Copyright 1968 Publishers' Development Corporation. All rights reserved. Title to this publication passes to subscriber only on delivery to his address.

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CROSSFIRE

Trained To Kill Our Fellow Man

Recent Massachusetts legislation has made our state's gun laws the most severe in the nation. Perhaps if you printed this letter it might cause some politicians or citizens to wake up.

In the past few years there have been three savage assassinations within our "Great Society." But who mentions the rising death rate on the highways? Legislation has been passed against the use of firearms, but what has been done about cars?

As it stands now, a minor can not purchase a firearm or ammunition in Massachusetts but he can hold a hunting license. This is sensible?

As of a man's 18th birthday he can be inducted into the army where he is taught not the correct and safe use of firearms, but to use them to kill as many human beings as possible. I think that this fact is one of the most absurd in the history of the human race.

If more determined effort were directed toward the ending of the Vietnam War and not toward denying the rights of law abiding citizens this country might be a little better off.

Bob Hayes, Jr.
Plainville, Mass.

Fast Draw Club Addresses

Portland Fast Draw Club
6530 E. 91st St.
Portland, Ore.

Prince George Fast Draw Club
Prince George, Canada

Thunderbird Fast Draw Club
5584 Union St.
Vancouver, Canada

Calgary Fast Draw Club
4524 20th Ave., N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
Canada

Practice What You. . . .

Which ever Editor wrote the "Trigger Talk" column in May issue of Guns gets right down to cases, and huzzahs for same.

A personal experience has stuck in my mind for many years, and tends to a commentary in the same vein.

Shortly after WWII I was sitting in a barber chair in the neighboring town of Dillon getting a haircut from my old friend Fred, who was by way of being a sorta gun crank, and was just finishing up a fancy carved stocking job on a .30-06 which he had in the corner of the barber shop to maybe show off a bit. A middle-aged, capable looking man in ranch type clothes, obviously no stranger to guns, came in and casually picked the rifle up to look it over. He stood about five feet in front of me with the business end pointed it directly at my middle. I said, "Mister, if you don't mind, I wish you'd point that thing away from me." He looked from examining the action and said, rather impatiently, "I know it's not loaded." You recommend that I should have called him a stupid S.O.B., (indicated!), but what I said was, "Now look, Mister, I've been getting paid \$136.50 a month for the past several years to look down those things, but nobody is paying me now, so point it away from me! You may know it's not loaded, but I don't!"

The man put the rifle back in the corner, pretty ungraciously, and stomped out, muttering something or other under his breath. You can imagine the silence when he left, eight or ten men all looking at me, saying nothing—neither barber making a

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sound, and I began to get the impression that I had insulted one of their most respected sportsmen. However, after an appreciable silence Fred said, "Larry, I'm real glad that happened, just yesterday that man gave a customer right in here a real dressing down for careless handling of a shotgun, only he wasn't near as nice as you were about it!"

I hope the moral of this story is as clear as it is true. It simply isn't right to let careless gun handling go by without calling it to attention, loud and clear. Also I hope it points out that even experienced people get unaware, and need to keep constantly on guard, and even perhaps need reminding once in awhile. The man I mention, I've learned since, was experienced, and quite respected, but that don't make a .30 cal. hole look any better in me! I hope he hasn't forgotten.

L. B. Preston
Sheridan, Montana

Pro-Gun Organizations

In response to a letter by Mr. Angerer inquiring about organizations to combat anti-gun laws, I strongly suggest the National Rifle Association which, through its members, has been quite effective.

I wrote Mr. Angerer personally about the NRA. I also intend to contact the organization he was inquiring about for possible membership.

For the benefit of your readers, I would like to say the NRA is a fine organization and can always use new members. I also hope your readers

were aware of their legislators' views when they went to the polls election day—I definitely was aware of mine.

Donald Baker
Columbiana, Ohio

Reason vs. Emotion

I truly believe that those of us interested in keeping the "Right to Bear Arms" alive in the United States must take a more militant stand now! Our "be satisfied to hold the line" attitude is failing. Those who would restrict or abolish this priceless right of the individual are winning the war.

We have cried, "fact not emotion," but our opponents are using pure maudlin emotion and they are, in fact, pounding hell out of us and our facts. It is a fact that emotion not logic rules the masses. Unless we begin to use emotion charged editorials ourselves, I am certain that we fight for a lost cause. In short, gentlemen, we must find the "Tom Paines" and "Patrick Henrys" in our ranks.

Robert M. Syverson
Matteson, Illinois

Rolling Block Reloads

I would like to add some comments to the article "Shoot Your .43 Rolling Block" in this December issue. (which article, unfortunately, I mutilated in cutting out the contest coupon). Mr. Miller has developed a very simple and ingenious method for reloading for this gun using the original Berdan primed brass.

For those who already have conventional loading presses, and particularly for those who already reload for the 11mm Mauser (.43 Mauser) a

much simpler method is to use 11 mm Mauser brass in the .43 Spanish rifle. Case measurements, given by W.H.B. Smith in "The Book of Rifles" are as follows:

	11 mm Mauser	.43 Spanish
Case length, overall:	2.37"	2.25"
Length, to shoulder:	1.46	1.55
Diameter at rim:	.582	.627
Diameter at base:	.513	.524
Diameter at shoulder:	.508	.510
Diameter at neck:	.463	.462

Thus, the 11 mm Mauser case can be trimmed to the length of the .43 Spanish case, and the other measurements are not enough smaller to make any difference. I have obtained good results in light and medium loads even without trimming the case; I have not yet tried to develop any maximum loads. Lyman makes molds for cast bullets for both the 11 mm Mauser and the .43 Spanish. 11 mm Mauser cartridges, and I presume, unprimed brass, with boxer primer pockets, is available from Dominion (Canadian Industries Limited). I use 11 mm Mauser dies adjusted so as to neck-size the case only. The first firing of the 11 mm Mauser brass in the .43 Spanish chamber reforms the case to the .43 Spanish size. Although my dies are the two stage variety, I have found that it is worth while to bell the mouth of the case as a separate step, using .45 or other suitable expander buttons, adjusted so as to give a definite bell to the mouth of the case. It is quite an experience loading and shooting these heavy bullets in the old rifle.

John R. Ledbetter, Jr.

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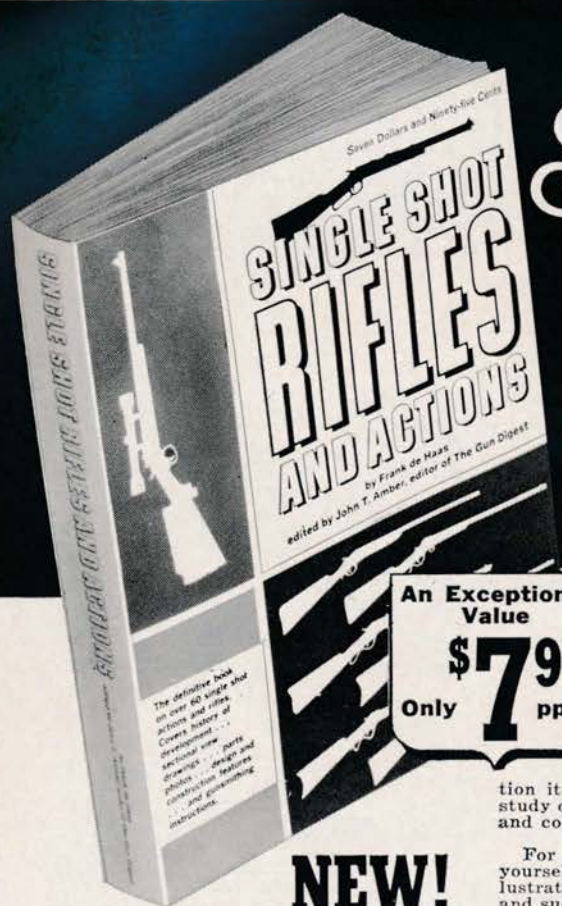
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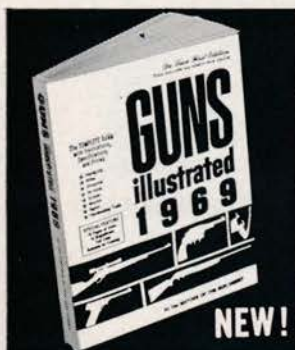
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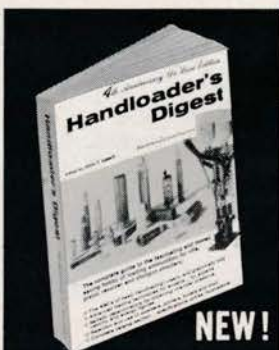


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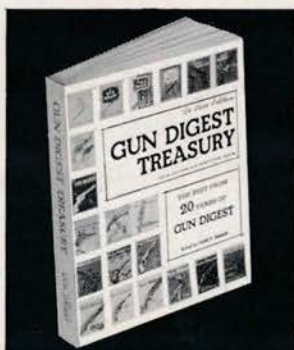


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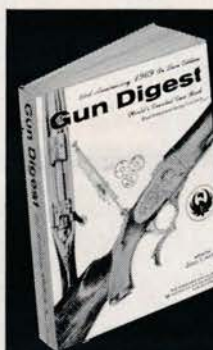


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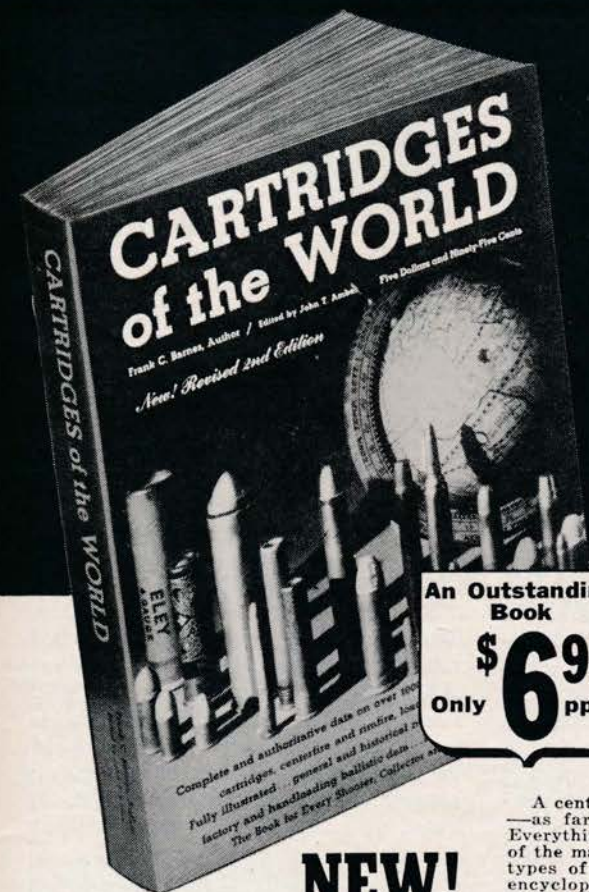
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Panel of Experts

S&W M39 Versus Walther P-38

I may well not be qualified to argue, but it seems to me that all indications are that the Smith and Wesson Model 39 automatic pistol is in no way, at no functional point, as preferable to the Walther P-38 as you like to say it is. The S&W has nothing (other than finish, and other 'frosting') going for it that the Walther doesn't. They are chambered for the same ammunition, have the same magazine capacity, are virtually identical in weight and overall length, and have the same sort of action, including the feature for allowing the external hammer to be safely lowered on a chambered round. They are about as alike as two guns from different manufacturers can be. Differences seem to point in the Walther's favor: the barrel is an inch longer, making it a shade more accurate, the slide ends at the chamber area, making it more natural pointer than the traditional American slide-to-the-muzzle autoloader. It also has better balance. I respect your opinions, Major Nonte, and wish you would point out to me the flaws of the Walther and the sterling virtues of the S&W that I have missed.

Steve Williams
Kannapolis, N. C.

Your comments on the P-38 and S&W M39 are well taken, but I find the S&W easier to handle, easier to conceal, to have an altogether smoother double action pull, and to be fully as accurate as the P-38. To me the P-38 is unnecessarily boxy and bulky, and its grip less well suited for fast work. I might add that the S&W is unusually more nicely finished and fitted throughout. I've fired thousands of rounds in both weapons and have decided the S&W suits me fine.—G.N.

O Model Walther PP

During the war, I acquired a Walther Model PP automatic pistol manufactured in Zella-Mehlis before 1939. The serial number is PP60321. The pistol has its magazine release on the bottom of the grip and came to me without a magazine. I recently bought a replacement and fired 50 rounds of .380 ACP through it, but



the new mag is evidently cut for the type of Walther that has a button release next to the trigger. The gun is in excellent, near-new condition throughout. How much is it worth, and are there proper magazines for it around?

Peter Sevetz
Wethersfield, Connecticut

An O Model .380 Walther PP with butt magazine latch is worth \$160-200 in excellent shape when complete with the original magazine. The current magazines have a notch cut for the thumb-button release and work okay, but repel collectors. The correct magazine for your Walther is now selling for around \$25.—S.B.

Harper's Ferry Musket

I have an old muzzle-loading shotgun I would like some information on. At the stock end of the barrel is "U S OHIO" and near the hammer is an

eagle and "HARPERS FERRY 1816." Is this gun a collectors item?

Edward LaBar
Glasgow, Missouri

Your "old shotgun" is not a shotgun, but a military Harpers Ferry Musket of 1816, which is definitely a collector's item. As for its worth it is hard to say without knowing whether or not it has been modified or cut down. It could be either in its original flintlock ignition state, or converted to percussion, as many were during the Civil War. But even in fair shape, it should bring \$90 from a collector. If in fine or better condition, it would be worth much more.—R.M.

Savage 1905 Pistol

I have a Savage Automatic Pistol and would like to know its value and if there are parts available for it. It is marked "MANUFACTURED BY SAVAGE ARMS CO. CAL. .380, UTICA N.Y. U.S.A. PAT.—NOV. 21, 1905." It has a long groove cut into the top of the slide as a sight, an exposed hammer, and is in nearly new condition.

Mack Moore
Freeport, Texas

Parts for your Savage 1905 .380 auto pistol are available only on the search-and-catch-as-catch-can basis. You might try Numrich Arms or Christy Gun Works, 875 57th St., Sacramento, Calif. 95819 for used parts. Value of a gun like this is never a cut and dry matter, especially without actually examining it. In working order, a Savage like this would bring around \$30. A collector might go higher.—W.S.

Cooper's Patent Pepperbox

I have a revolving-barrel pistol marked "COOPERS PATENT" with six barrels and an underhammer. It is in near perfect condition, and is complete with many of the original accessories such as powder flask and shot bag. When were these made and how much are they worth?

Louis R. Schmitz
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

Your "Copper's Patent" six-barrel pepperbox was made by J. R. Cooper of England, who took out several patents from 1840 on. Most Cooper's pistols had ring triggers. Collectors will pay \$90 to \$115 for an English-made pepperbox in fine condition.—R.M.

Loading the 6.5x68 mm Von Hofe

I have a well made European sporter for the 6.5x68S cartridge. I have killed two deer, one very nicely, the other too messy to suit me, and would like some reload suggestions. I have been unable to purchase ammo other than the RWS 93 gr. bullet with 4.55 grams of some special German powder that gives a MV of 3937 fps from a 26 inch barrel. This is okay for varmints, but does poorly with deer shooting through even thin brush or twigs. I want to use a 120-130 gr. or so bullet in RCBS dies.

L. C. Smith
Corpus Christi, Texas

I have no specific loading data tested for the 6.5x68 mm Von Hofe cartridge. I would suggest that you obtain a "Powley Computer" from Marion Powley, 17623 Winslow Rd., Cleveland, Ohio, and use it to develop some basic loads. The Computer enables one to take the case capacity in grains of water, combined with bullet weight, and compute basic loads in the 50,000 psi range. Utilizing 130 or 140 grain bullets, the 6.5x68 mm should outperform the .264 Winchester by a modest margin. However, the 6.5 burns a lot of powder.—G.N.

New Navy Model Colt

Recently I came onto an odd-ball Colt revolver with many features different from those in the catalogs. The markings are "COLT.D.A.41" and "COLTS PT F.A. MFG. CO. HARTFORD CT. U.S.A. PATENED AUG. 5H, 1884 NOVEMBER 6TH 1888." No other Colt grips would fit this one. There are no notches in the cylinder and no cam to lock the cylinder. The cylinder is turned by an odd hand that binds in its notch, aligning the cylinder for firing and stopping it tightly. The only serial number is #582 and it is in almost brand new shape.

Herb Snapp Jr.
Grottoes, Virginia

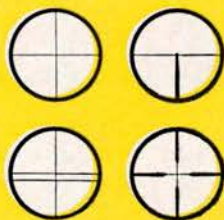
The revolver you describe is what Colt called the New Navy Revolver (sometimes New Army or New Marine Corps) that was introduced in the summer of 1889 and adopted by the U.S. Navy the same year. The original issue had no "bolt" or bolt cuts on the outside of the cylinder until 1892 when a double bolt was added. Your Colt is a model that is quite scarce and knowledgeable collectors would pay \$150-175 for a specimen in fine condition.—S.B.

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OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON



By CARL WOLFF

VOICELESS DOUBLE-TALK

If you ship, receive, or carry firearms across State lines, you can Constitutionally be convicted of violating federal law based only on the facts that you have been indicted (not convicted) for violating a law, then move a firearm across a State line. Even if the first indictment is later dropped or thrown out by the Court, the federal conviction will stand. Then as a law violator, you permanently lose the right to carry or ship a gun across State lines.

This is the result of the Supreme Court of the United States having refused a "Petition for a Writ of Certiorari," on behalf of Robert Bolivar DePugh. The petition for the Court to review a lower Court decision was rejected October 14, 1968. The obvious question answered by this rejection was that the federal government has the Constitutional right to make illegal, actions taken by a person under indictment that would otherwise be legal for a person not under indictment. Put another way, don't move a firearm across state lines while you are under indictment of any charge that could result in a maximum sentence of one year.

The County of Jackson, Missouri, on the 9th of July, 1965, indicted (not convicted) Robert B. DePugh, charging that he did "feloniously have in his possession and under his control various bombs and bomb shells; against the peace and dignity of the State."

The law Mr. DePugh was charged with violating reads: "Every person who has in his possession or under his control a bomb or bombshell or who carries or possesses any explosive substance with intent to use the same unlawfully against

the person or property of another, is guilty of a felony, et cetera."

The State indictment did not charge that Mr. DePugh "intended to use the same unlawfully against the person or property of another." The indictment was left pending for about fifteen months as no further State action was taken.

This indictment was still pending when the defendant, Mr. DePugh, was alleged to have transported a revolver from Des Moines, Iowa, to Kansas City, Missouri, between the dates of July 23, 1966 and August 20, 1966. On September 30, 1966, a one-count indictment was returned against DePugh in the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, charging that while under indictment by the State of Missouri for "unlawfully, wilfully, and feloniously having in his possession and under his control various bombs and bomb shells," he wilfully caused the transportation of a revolver in interstate commerce, in violation of the Federal Firearms Act. On January 27, 1967, the District Court denied a motion on behalf of Mr. DePugh to dismiss the indictment. Rejected was his claim that the underlying state indictment (against which a motion to dismiss was pending) was invalid and that the federal statute was unconstitutional.

On January 31, 1967, Mr. DePugh entered a plea of "nolo contendere" (a plea not contesting the charge but not admitting guilt) to the federal charge and was sentenced to imprisonment for one year.

At the time of sentencing in this case, government counsel advised the federal trial (Continued on next page)

court that if the case had gone to trial it would have been proven that on July 23, 1966, DePugh purchased eight revolvers in Des Moines, Iowa, and that on August 20, 1966, he was arrested in possession of certain of these weapons in Missouri.

On March 9, 1967, about a month after the imposition of sentence and notice of appeal, the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri, sustained DePugh's motion to dismiss the state indictment and quashed that indictment on the grounds that it did "not contain an essential element of the statutory offense: (intent to use the bombs, etc., unlawfully against the person or property of another)."

On an appeal of the federal conviction, DePugh's attorneys charged that the throwing out of the state charges did invalidate the Federal charges. The appeal Court held that Congress could reasonably conclude that when persons are under indictment for a serious crime, the potential of their misuse of firearms is great enough to warrant barring their carrying of firearms in interstate commerce.

DePugh's attorney charged that, "It could well have been that the state's inactivity was by reason of its knowledge of some of the federal charges as it is not uncommon for state charges to be sometimes dropped when the same defendant has been convicted or sentenced under a federal charge."

The question of DePugh's conviction came to the Supreme Court on June 7, 1968. The Court was asked

to rule on four constitutional questions: (1) Whether in forbidding the transportation across state lines of firearms by persons under indictment, constitutes an infringement of the right to keep and bear arms in violation of the Second Amendment; (2) Whether the conviction constitutes a discrimination against persons under indictment, and a prejudgment of guilt, all in violation of the Fifth and Sixth Amendments; (3) Whether law is properly construed as applying to a state indictment which is "fatally defective" and "not susceptible of amendment" under state law, and which is probably not in compliance with minimum due process standards; and (4) If the answer to Question 3 was "yes" whether the law is arbitrary and unreasonable and therefore presents a deprivation of property without due process of law, in imposing discriminatory sanctions against a person held to answer a void indictment.

The petition of DePugh was refused by the Supreme Court without comment as are all such refusals. This leaves the decision of the lower Courts standing. Like most actions by the Supreme Court, it poses more questions than it answers.

The question everyone should now consider relates to firearm ownership and gun registration. Under the principles of constitutional law laid down by this case, state and federal laws, if enacted, providing for the confiscation of firearms of anyone indicted may be constitutional!



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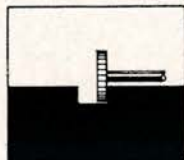
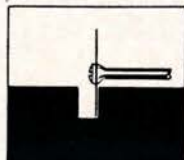
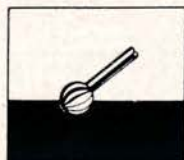
By MAJ. GEO. C. NONTE

EACH YEAR, Winchester-Western spends a goodly sum of money to compile and publish a "Hunting Compendium For The United States." It's prepared in regional form and the copy we have at hand breaks the areas down: Mid-America; Northeast; South; and West. Well-known outdoor writers intimately familiar with each area render a report on the outlook for each major game species. They don't pull their statements out of the air, but base them on considerable research. Their necessarily brief reports can be of great assistance when you are planning that "Hunt of The Year."

In addition, each state is covered separately; and complete information

a few loading blocks—but that's about it.

However, there is a low-cost power tool I'd sure hate to have to do without. Used primarily for maintenance and repair on loading equipment and dies, it makes odious chores easy and can enable you to salvage otherwise ruined items. I use the heavy-duty Dremel, (Dremel Mfg. Co., Box 518, Racine, Wisconsin) Moto-Tool hand grinder hundreds of times in a twelve-month. Its 22,000 plus r.p.m. makes polishing dies with Gritcloth a breeze, readily removing burrs or imbedded grit. Fitted with a brass or bristle brush, it cleans out holes and recesses in dies and tools—and with a steel brush it will quickly remove rust in



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is given on seasons, bag limits, license fees, special requirements, gun limitation, etc. You couldn't ask for a more complete compilation of hunting information between a single set of covers. Also included is good dope on W-W shooting films, W-W World-Wide Safaris, and various shooting promotion activities. Best of all, you can get this Compendium by simply mailing two-bits (.25¢) to Winchester News Bureau, 460 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022. And, if you need a batch of them, like for club use, special bulk prices are available. We realize that by the time you read this, the seasons will be all but gone—but, keep the Compendium in mind for Sept. or Oct. of next year.

• • •

ONE DOESN'T ordinarily associate power tools with handloading. Of course, there are the expensive power-operated loading tools none of us can afford, and there's usually a portable electric drill we might use to drill press mounting holes or make up

die-hole threads. Using it with an abrasive cloth-wrapped dowel, you can even true up pivot-pin holes in a badly-worn press, so that new oversize pins will restore its accuracy and usefulness. Shell holders and primer punch bushings get burred, bent, or accidentally crushed. Have you ever spoiled a soft shell holder by ramming it too hard against a die? A thin cut-off disc in the Moto-Tool can be used to clean up and enlarge the slot for the case rim. You can even use it to rework an old holder for another caliber. I've done that many times when working with an odd-ball cartridge for which the holder wasn't at hand. One of these little tools at your bench will also be quite handy for much of your gun tinkering. A note to Dremel will get you all the details.

• • •

FOR ABOUT a year now, we've been using the Speer 125 grain Soft Point 9 mm (.355" dia.) bullet in several 9 mm calibers, extensively in .38 Colt Super

Automatic, and to some extent in .38 Special and .357 Magnum. As originally introduced, the bullet had a very slightly tapered bearing surface and was uncannelured. Now it's been changed. A smooth cannellure has been added, placed correctly for the 9 mm Parabellum (Luger) cartridge. The cannellure is quite shallow, tapering in depth from rear to front. It allows for only a slight crimp, but that's all that is ever required for the various 9 mms. Actually, a crimp is seldom used because most 9 mms headspace on the case mouth, but it's nice to be able to if you want. Continuing the fine accuracy and expansion characteristics of the earlier form, this bullet is giving us excellent results in several 9 mm cartridges.

Excellent loads in 9 mm Parabellum have been developed by Speer for this bullet. Our favorite is 6.0 grains Unique, producing 1139 fps from the S&W M39 4" barrel. Virtually identical velocity is produced by 5.0 grains Red Dot; 4.8 grains Bullseye; 6.6 grains HS-6; 10.9 grains H-110; 7.4 grains AL-5; and 7.0 grains Herco. These are Speer's top recommended loads and should be approached from below.

The same bullet is now offered in .357" diameter for .38 Special and .357 Magnum use. The cannellure is serrated and located farther forward—to produce correct length when crimped in the .357 Maggie case. We don't have specific, well-tested loading data—but it looks like 9.0 grains of Unique will produce very close to 1600 fps from 6" and longer .357 Magnum barrels.

Both of these new Speer bullets are at your favorite gun shop now, at \$3.75 per hundred.

• • •

WHEN YOU READ THIS—written in the midst of numerous opening days, sharp frosts, and first snows—it will be time to think about spring shooting. The fall hunts will have faded to fond memory and most of the elk and venison will have evaporated from the freezer, and nobody will want to hear those same hunting stories, ever again. Get something new going. Varmints are the Spring Thing, and there are at least some species you can hunt in virtually almost any place you might live. Chucks in the East and Midwest, with foxes and gophers in the latter as well; prairie dogs and coyotes in the Southwest and plains country; rock chucks westward; cats here and there; and the ubiquitous crow almost everywhere.

If you've not hunted varmints,

you've missed a Hell of a lot of fun and the most challenging gun game of all. It takes the best of marksmanship, guns, sights, and—most of all—ammunition. There is where the handloader shines. The handloading varmint aficionado can fire hundreds of his own carefully-assembled loads at game each year. Compare that with the big game hunter who has an opportunity to use only three or four rounds for serious purposes. Loads that will stay on a dinner plate at 100 yards will take venison regularly, but won't even ruffle the neckhair of a wily sod poodle. If you think your handloads are pretty good, just because they knock down a buck once a year, you may be in for a shock the first time you try them on minute, varmint-type targets.

Loading for varmints requires the utmost in care and attention to detail—from selection of bullet and powder right on through wiping and boxing the completed cartridges. The world's finest components and rifles are available to you. Try matching them all together for some of the finest and most exacting shooting to be had. As the season rolls along, we'll try to cover some of the more important aspects of varmint load assembly in these pages.

• • •

THERE AREN'T MANY pistols around chambered for the long-obsolete and now unavailable 9 mm Mauser cartridge—just enough Broom-Handle '96 Mausers that we occasionally get a plaintive call for help. This cartridge enjoyed only a short production life as DWM #487, beginning in 1908. Production of the "Export Model" Mauser chambered for it ended in 1914, but the cartridge was revived in the '30s, when the Neuhausen and Steyr-Solothurn S1-100 submachine guns were chambered for it. It drives a 123-128 grain bullet at 1362 fps (DWM 1934 catalog), making it considerably superior to the 9 mm Parabellum (Luger) and, to a lesser degree, the .38 Colt Super Automatic. It is, in fact, the most powerful auto pistol cartridge ever to achieve commercial production in significant quantity.

The case is virtually identical to the 9 mm Parabellum except for length, which is .978"-.984". Head diameter runs .387"-.394". The 9 mm Parabellum cartridge will enter the chamber, but unless held solidly by the extractor, will create a condition of greatly excessive headspace. As a result it will either not fire, or will be deformed or ruptured in firing. Moral: Don't use any other 9 mm round in a 9 mm Mauser. This doesn't apply to

the "Red-9" Mausers of W.W. I, actually chambered for the 9 mm Parabellum.

If your particular pistol will feed .38 Colt Super cartridges, and the bolt will close fully on them (some Mausers won't), that cartridge can be used in an emergency. The .38 semi-rim solves the headspace problem, even though the case is about .075" short. Pressures will be somewhat higher than they should, due to forcing that .357" bullet through a .355" barrel. However, I know of no guns being damaged by such use. I don't consider this good practice, but it can be done if the urgency warrants.

The 9 mm Mauser ammunition is easily assembled by any competent handloader. The simplest way to get cases is to expand the necks of 7.63 mm (.30) Mauser brass to 9 mm diameter. Then, load, using .38 Colt Super Auto data, and the job is done. If you are in a hurry and don't mind the cost, just fire standard .30 Mauser ammunition in the gun, making certain each round is held in the extractor. The cases will expand to fit the 9 mm chamber and can then be reloaded in normal fashion. Old cases, or those of poor brass, will sometimes split at the mouth when so fired, but I've never encountered any problems with those of recent domestic manufacture.

Alternative solutions require more work. Take .38 Special or .357 Magnum cases and trim to length. Next, lathe-turn off the rim and reproduce the rimless Mauser head. Then load. Or, shorten and expand the mouth of .222, .221, or .223 Remington cases, then reduce the neck wall thickness until the assembled round will chamber freely.

Cases made by these two methods will be about .010" undersize at the head, but will expand without splitting to fill the chamber if the brass is of good quality.

Any .38 Super load may be used, but will produce slightly less than claimed velocity. The original DWM load can be closely matched by the Speer 125 grain soft point 9 mm bullet and 8.0 grains of Hercules Unique powder. This will produce about 1350 fps—rather potent performance. Dies can be had from RCBS on special order and the 9 mm Parabellum shell holder works fine. When all is considered, there's no reason you can't shoot a 9 mm Mauser M1896 Export Model. Make up loads as above. If you're just naturally lazy, George Spence, Steel, Mo., will furnish either formed cases or custom-loaded ammunition.

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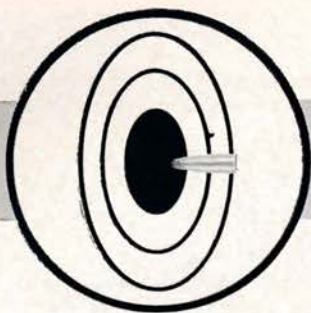
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POINT BLANK

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

IT HAS BEEN more than a year now since we discarded the old big-bore rifle targets known as A and B. The first one of these we have been firing on for the past half-century. It is for 200 and 300 yards. Target B is for 500 and 600 yards. We have a third, this is target C. It is for 800, 900 and 1,000 yards. It is still retained.

Our target situation has been a mess for a long time. We evolved some targets before the turn of the century and have always shot on them both for qualification and matches. But these targets are so peculiarly ours that we can't get anyone



Old "B" target now replaced by M-R.

beyond these shores to have anything to do with them. The world beyond our borders shoots on the International target. There is one for the rifle and another for the pistol. Except for a little handful of International marksmen like Gary Anderson, Lones Wigger and Don Hamilton, scarcely any American shooters know anything much about the Int'l mark.

The old A and B targets have gotten so easy that possible scores have become commonplace. The perfect total is 250. There used to be a "250" club among the hotrocks and it was thought really something to get into this charmed circle. Here of late the club has gone by the board because it had too many members! Someone in every shoot of any consequence always run out a perfect 250 total.

What with better shooting irons, improved ammo, sharpened up practice and coaching, it became more and

more obvious that the old targets had to be junked. The National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice together with the National Rifle Association, acted on the recommendation of the Army that: the old targets A and B be replaced, that those still in stock be relegated to the use of recruit firers, and that these no longer be used for any kind of match competition. This was agreed to by all concerned and new targets have been approved.

The new target for 200 and 300 yards is dubbed Target Rifle Competition Short Range—called S-R for short—and has a 10 ring. Where old target A had a bullseye which scored only 5, the new mark has a bullseye which scores 10. Within it is an X-ring. This is to settle ties. The 10-ring measures 7 inches in diameter. The older target measured 12 inches across the bull. Within the black on the new S-R target is also the 9 ring. It measures 13 inches in diameter.

Replacing old target B is the new one, designated Target Rifle Competition Mid-Range—M-R for short—and like its twin it has a 10-ring. This measures 12 inches with an X-ring of 6 inches. Both the 9 and 8 rings are in the black. The 9 has a diameter of 18 inches and the 8 measures 24 inches. On the old B target the bullseye counted 5 and measured 20 inches. Within it was a V-ring which had a diameter of 12 inches.

The course of fire for the national match course remains 50 shots. This used to total 250 if a perfect score was tallied. Now those 50 shots will gain you a 500 for a perfect total, because, as you will appreciate, the inner ring now scores 10 points for a hit where before this was only worth 5 points.

These changes have upset the record score situation. Now you may be sure the perfect totals that will be hung up will be few indeed. It puts the situation with regard to new national records up in the air. The old records will be continued on the books but all the hotrock marksmen are out to hang up new marks on the new targets and under the new scor-

ing system. What will happen is that the record book will, in effect, carry both the old score and the new ones as these are hung up. It ought to be pretty confusing for quite a while. But the shift to the new targets was long overdue and will be a benefit to the shooting game.

The telephone company out in the open country loses so many insulators to those marksmen who like to see the glass fly that in my part of the country they have put up a plaintive admonition, "Sportsmen, please don't shoot the insulators." Maybe it appeals to some. Over in Louisiana, the Olin Corporation owns large tracts of timberlands and thinking to win the good will of the local sportsmen put up a series of signs which invited the hunter to come in and shoot. "Ah, there ain't no shootin' in them piney woods," a native jeered. "If there was they wouldn't invite us in." It's pretty hard to win some times.

This is the season of the year when the sportsman tooling down the back roads in search of a likely hunting spot is confronted with what sometimes may seem like an endless number of "No Hunting" signs. This can be pretty frustrating but if you will just search long enough you may get, as I do, a little humor out of the situation.

The other day I found one that read, "You Dam Dudes Keep Out!" Just before reaching this one I had driven through a sizeable pueblo where, in the very middle of town on the main stem which ran therein, was this one, "This is God's Country Don't Go Through it Like Hell!" I liked that!

Once, shooting along the North Carolina-Virginia line, below Norfolk a piece, I broke into a pasture filled with a dairy herd. Every last cow was wearing a bright orange blanket of canvas. Stenciled on each blanket was the word, "Cow." This farmer had lost three of his valuable animals and these had been shot even though all bore the bright orange garb with its lettering. Blaze orange vests are now becoming mandatory in many states and one I saw the other day may catch on. Lettered across the broad shoulders of the wearer was the word "Man." I hope he doesn't fare like those Virginia cows!

Scrambling on the shale and along the glaciers of a tallish mountain on the Alaska-Yukon boundary one day I finally heaved myself up to the very top of the peak. It was a quest for Dall sheep and this always involves a lot of mountaineering. There firmly implanted in a rock cairn was an iron enameled sign reading, "Brooklyn

3642 miles." I suspect some ancient joker from the old Geodetic Survey.

One time I was south and east of Fort Portal, in Uganda. In the foothills of the Mountains of the Moon. There I bumped into some Englishman's humor. I found a venerable shingle beside a mountain trail which read, "Stanley Passed Here." During the time of the great depression of the early 1930's the government whumped up a make-work program called the WPA. Sometime after the WPA came into being I was stalking elk in northern New Mexico and ran into a board tacked to a barbwire gate. It read, "Don't Shoot Until it Moves, it May be a WPA Worker."

A fellow with a sense of humor made a cut-out of a deer from sheet-iron and planted his buck silhouette at a bend in the road hours before daylight on the opening day of the deer season. By sundown there were 62 bullet holes in the metallic target. It is against the law to shoot from a public road and a further violation to fire from a vehicle on game. If he'd draped his cut-out with a canvas blanket and inscribed the word "Cow" in big letters on the sides he might have trapped even more hunters. Signs, whether funny or serious, are oftentimes the exasperated expression of countless landowners who, imposed upon in the past, are determined to put a stop to the thoughtless minorities who make it tough for the rest of us.

• • •

Now that some of the heat has been taken off the M-16 rifle as a result of chromium lining barrel and chamber, it may be appropriate to speculate on what the next service rifle will look like. There is a committee in the Army weapons command that is right now working on the specs for a new model. Two or three years ago it looked like the weapon referred to as the SPIW would be it. This was a revolutionary number and was designed to poop out darts in clusters and in salvos. Each little dart or flechette weighed only eight grains. Somewhere along the line the SPIW struck a snag and has apparently been shelved. On the west coast an experimental laboratory came along with a miniaturized rocket and rifle to fire it. Calibers ranged from .30 cal. up to 20 mm. Tests showed the projectiles were not acceptable because of extremely poor accuracy. The pony-size rocket had a lot going for it because it eliminated the cartridge casing. The propellant and the primer were contained in the rocket base.

The new rifle, you may be sure, will not have a bore over .22 caliber, won't weigh over 6 pounds, and will

not be over 36 inches overall. Since the turn of the century we've constantly reduced the caliber of the service rifle, its weight, and its length. You can just bet the newcomer won't be any bigger, any heavier or any more lengthy than the current M-16. It will, if the trend is followed, be even lighter than the M-16, and it may be a .17 caliber or may be as small as a .14 caliber. These lilliputs with bullets of 17 to 27 grains are sufficiently lethal at close range to kill an enemy. The trend has continually been to smaller and smaller bores and we have not yet reached the millennium. There are those facetious members who contend that the day is not

(Continued on page 68)

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Large pistol



Small rifle



Large rifle

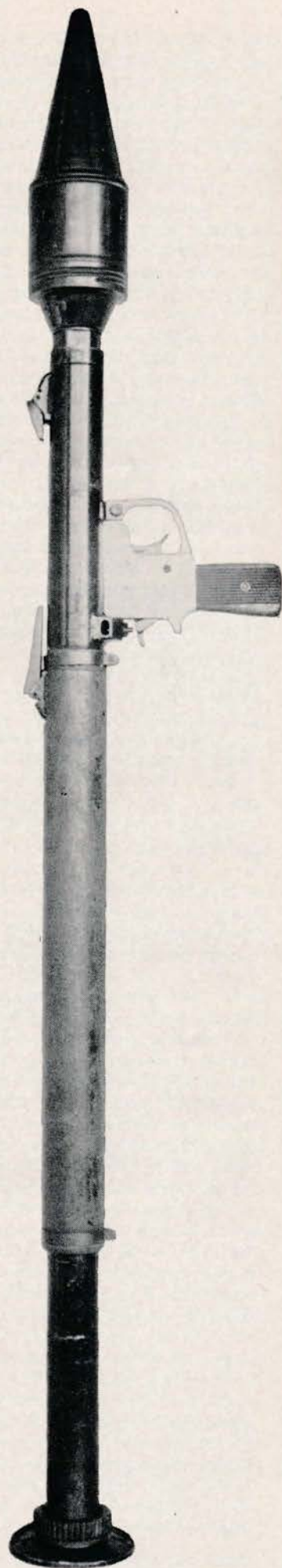


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*HOW "CHARLIE" GOES ABOUT
RAISING HELL, ROOFS WITH ROCKETS*

Viet Cong Rockets

By JOHN ENNIS

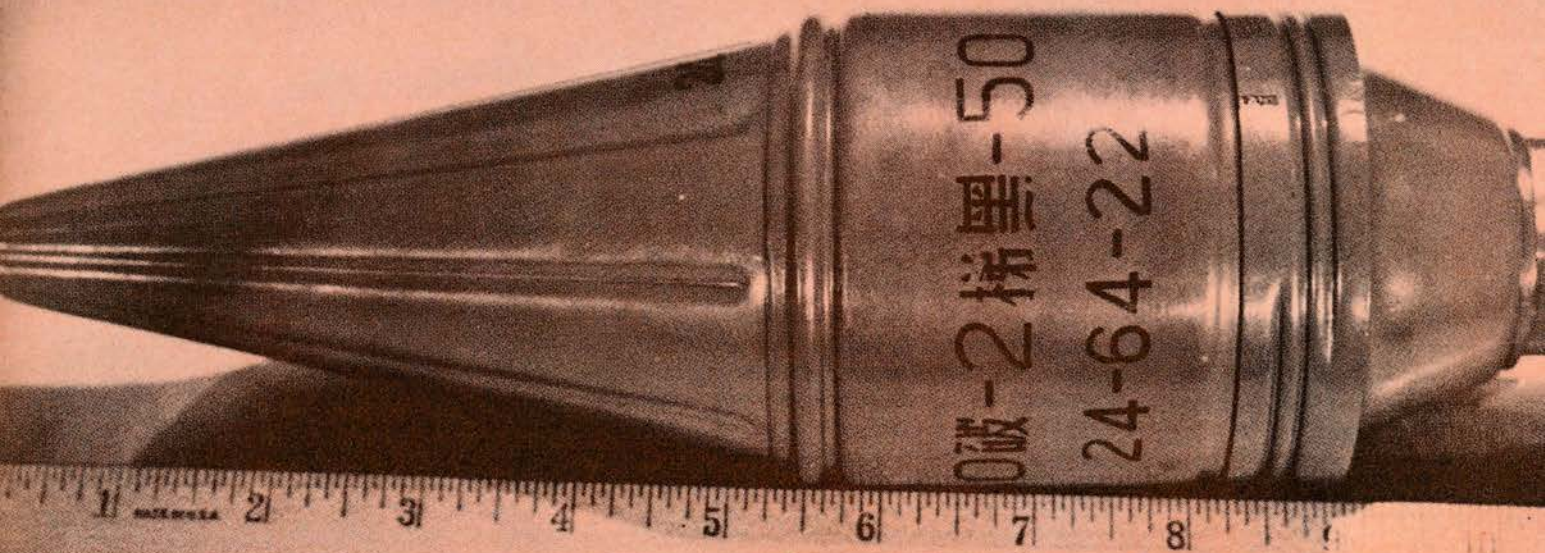
THE DARK, olive drab gun boat, its propellers churning the muddy waters of a narrow Mekong Delta canal, chugged slowly through the mangrove swamp. On either side of the vessel the sound of gunfire could be heard as members of the 2nd brigade, 9th Infantry pursued the Viet Cong through knee deep mud. Overhead, camouflaged Air Force jets screamed earthward, dropping their cargo of death a few feet above the green tree tops.

"Stay alert down there," a Chief Boatswain yelled through the window of the pilot house. "They're driving Charlie out of the swamp onto the canal banks."

Sweat-drenched crew members manning a 40 mm gun on the bow of the miniature battleship stared into the dense jungle as the 60 foot Monitor approached a bend in the narrow waterway.

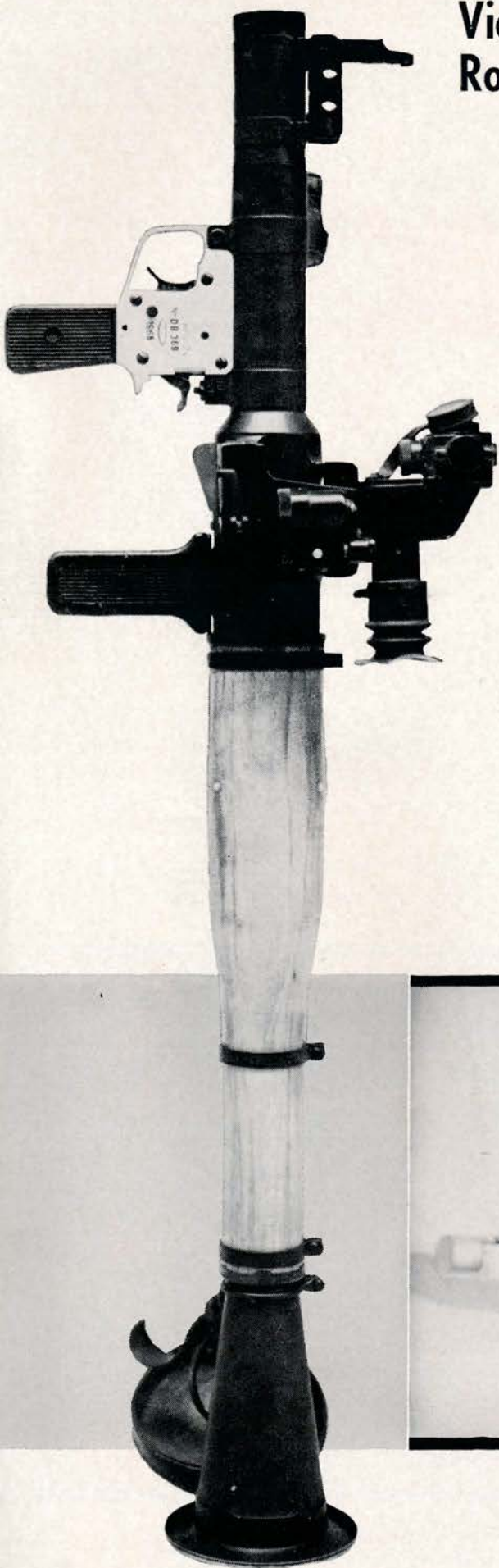
"Rockets, Incoming!" screamed a young seaman as a loud whoosh ending in an earth shattering explosion drowned out the sound of his voice.

"The Chief's dead, two more are wounded," a blackened, burned face yelled through the window of the flaming pilot house as crew members dashed to the aid of their comrades.



Opposite Page: Viet Cong 122 mm Rocket, shown next to GI, and RPG-2 rocket launcher which is less sophisticated than the RPG-7. Above: Markings on Chinese rocket head, copy of Soviet RPG-2 rocket.

Viet Cong Rockets



The enemy rocket had struck the pilot house below the front window then burned through several inches of armor plating before exploding an inch from the chief's face.

That evening, while American 105 howitzer shells exploded less than 100 yards from another boat, a Navy Lt. who had been fighting the V.C. for seven months talked to a GUNS magazine reporter who was moonlighting as a .30 cal. machine gunner.

"First it was the recoilless rifle teams that tore up these boats, now it's rockets. Charlie used to fire at the hull, which is protected by bar armor. The shell would explode outside the boat and scare the hell out of you but it wouldn't kill you. Now he's found the secret. The pilot house on these old boats don't have bar armor and all it takes to wipe out part of the crew is a Heat projectile. We're all scared to death of rockets."

The officer had good reason to be apprehensive. A classified report issued to a select handful of Naval officers by the Pentagon reveals that eighty per cent of the men fighting with the Mobile Riverine Force may be killed or wounded this year. Viet Cong rockets account for many of the fatalities not only in the Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone, but also in I Corps where the Marines are.

"The rocket is one weapon we have no effective way of combating," Marine Sgt. Jim Rolland said while sitting in a bunker during a recent attack on the huge Da Nang air base, and his comment underlines a very important difference in U.S. and V.C. battle tactics. The United States fights primarily from fixed bases. Our main heavy fire weapons such as the 105 howitzers weigh at least 5,000 pounds and have a very slow rate of fire. The V.C. rely on hit-and-run operations using mortars and rockets. Their pride and joy, the Russian RPG-7, can fire six 80 mm rounds a minute. The effective range for the RPG-7 is much shorter than the 105, about 285 meters vs. 11,555, but by the time the American gun crews can train in on the original position of the V.C. rocket team, the enemy can move and fire from at least three different positions be-



Left: The RPG-7 weighs 15 lbs, and has a range of 285 meters. Above: The RPG-7 rocket, broken down into components which are easily carried in jungle.



Marine Private examines captured RPG-7 near Dong Ha in I Corps, RVN area.

Major Viet Cong Rocket Systems

(Data supplied by USMC and U.S. Army)

Name	Origin	Weight of Weapon (lbs.)	Length (inches)	Effective Range (meter)	Rate of Fire (rpm)	Penetrat'n ins. of armor
RPG-7/80mm	Russia	15	41	285	4-6	12½
RPG-2/40mm	Russia/ Red China	6.3	38	100	4-6	7
140mm	Russia	22	45	10,000	3-4	5
122mm	Russia	155	97	11,000	4-5	5
107mm	Red China	200	N.A.	5,500	3-4	5
		W/Tri-pod				5
.87mm	Red China	21	60	183	2-4	5
P-27/120mm	Czech.	15	40	100	3-4	7
107mm multiple launcher	Red China	1500	N.A.	5,500	1-12 rounds simul.	5

cause the RPG-7 weighs only 15 pounds.

"The RPG-7 is murder against trucks and small Navy landing craft," a Marine Gunnery Sgt. said. "And it can blow the hell out of a patrol that is bunched up. We captured one several weeks ago and I fired it. You press the firing mechanism and the missile springs from the tube. Then a rocket motor cuts in and zap, bang, all hell breaks loose."

The RPG-7 can penetrate 12½ inches of armor. Its predecessor, the RPG-2 which fired a 40 mm shell, could knock a hole in seven inches of armor plate but its effective range was only 100 meters. Many G.I.'s have a special reason to remember the RPG-2.

Cpl. John Thompson of Newark, N.J. was caught in a V.C. rocket attack last year. "Man, they hit us with those RPG-2's and before we could figure out what happened about 30 men were wounded or killed. We called in the Air Force but by the time they arrived the V.C. had shagged."

One of the tactics used by the V.C. is barrage rocketry. Three or more rocket teams will fire from one position then dash to another and another before pulling out of the area. Several minutes after the allied troops pour out of their barracks and jump into bunkers the attack is over and several million dollars worth of aircraft are burning on the runway.

Barrage rockets in the V.C. arsenal are as varied as the countries from which they originate. The 140 mm spin stabilized rocket is almost 45 inches long and can carry a 9½ lb. explosive charge for 10,000 meters. It can be set to explode on contact or after impact, delivering a lethal surprise to anyone cleaning up the base.

The 107 mm rocket which the V.C. procure from the Russians or Red Chinese is a deadly weapon that can pack a wallop up to five miles and has almost double the fire power of the American 75 mm Howitzer, which weighs 1270 pounds not including ammunition. The weight of the 107 and one round of ammo is only 200 pounds.

A year ago the enemy's most dreaded weapon was the 122 mm rocket which is fired from an eight foot launch tube. Like the 107 mm rocket, it is fin stabilized and can be set to explode like the 140 mm. But let's pause here for a moment and go back to the basic U.S. artillery weapon in Vietnam, the 105 Howitzer. That gun weighs almost 5,000 pounds and can only be moved by truck or helicopter. The Communist 122 mm rocket weighs 101 pounds and has a range of

(Continued on page 66)

THE REMARKABLE .30 CALIBER



Charles Askins

By **CHARLES ASKINS**



Askins fires Ruger's Farquharson-type .30-06 single shot.

THE GENT who is in the market for a new shooting iron is pretty confused these days. There are too many guns, too many calibers, and too much advice. He doesn't know what gun is best for his kind of hunting and looks for some rule of thumb that will guide him.

The best thing to do is to stick with the .30 caliber.

There isn't a better bore size than this one, nor a greater range of bullet velocities, energies, casings, powder loadings, bullet weights and versatility than you will find in the remarkable thirty. If I had to make do the rest of my days with only one caliber I would find it no chore at all to settle on the .30. It would serve my every purpose; from the Endicotts of Arctic Alaska to the farthest reaches of distant Angola; from the Big Bend of Texas to the Pamirs of the Hindu Kush.

And so it is with the great majority of shooting men. Regardless of the

shooting plans of the recruit hunter, the thirty offers more. With it he can have a low-powered rifle, a high-powered rifle or a sort of medium middle-of-the-road number. He can shoot short range, long range, or in between. He can churn up enough smash to stop some of the biggest critters on this earth or he can go out and pot badgers. And along with all this, by judicious selection he can punch holes in targets with such uniform regularity as to win matches. The thirty caliber takes a backseat to no others in the matter of precision.

There are several score .30 caliber cartridges; maybe as many as a hundred. Cartridge casings range from a length of barely more than 1 inch to 3 inches; from bullet weights of 30 grains to 275; with powder charges from a squib of 11 grains of AL-8 to 120 grains of H570; with velocities commencing at 1500 fps and approaching 5,000 feet per second. The .30 is

fired in every kind of an action: single shot, lever, pump repeater, semi-auto and bolt.

The modern .30 caliber is 78 years of age. The cartridge was whumped up by army ordnance in 1890 for the Krag-Jorgensen rifle, adopted two years later for military use. The cartridge was called the .30 U.S. Army, later on was dubbed the .30-40 and is more commonly identified by this sobriquet these days. In 1894, Winchester produced another one, the .30-30. More thirty-thirty cartridges are loaded, so they say, than any other centerfire.

In 1903 the military junked the Krag rifle and adopted the Springfield. Along with the switcheroo the older .30-40 round was kicked out and a new one, a rimless number came in. It was first called the .30'03; in 1906 it was altered slightly and was then dubbed the .30'06. For the past three or four decades it has been the best seller



among centerfire cartridges. The ammo makers like to contend that the .30-30 outsells the '06 but I haven't seen any recent figures.

We have fought a gaggle of major wars with the .30'06 and now that it is being cashiered by the military in favor of a .22 there is a lot of bellyache registered.

The Speer handloading manual pretty well sums it up. "No other smokeless powder cartridge ever designed has achieved the popularity and the world wide distribution, both military and in sporting arms, that the .30'06 has achieved." The cartridge is loaded by every ammo maker on this continent, and is also put together in England, Germany, Italy, Belgium and Sweden. It is unquestionably the most popular round for reloading by our shooting fraternity, and besides being turned out in original form is necked up and necked down for a miscellany of calibers from .224 to .400.

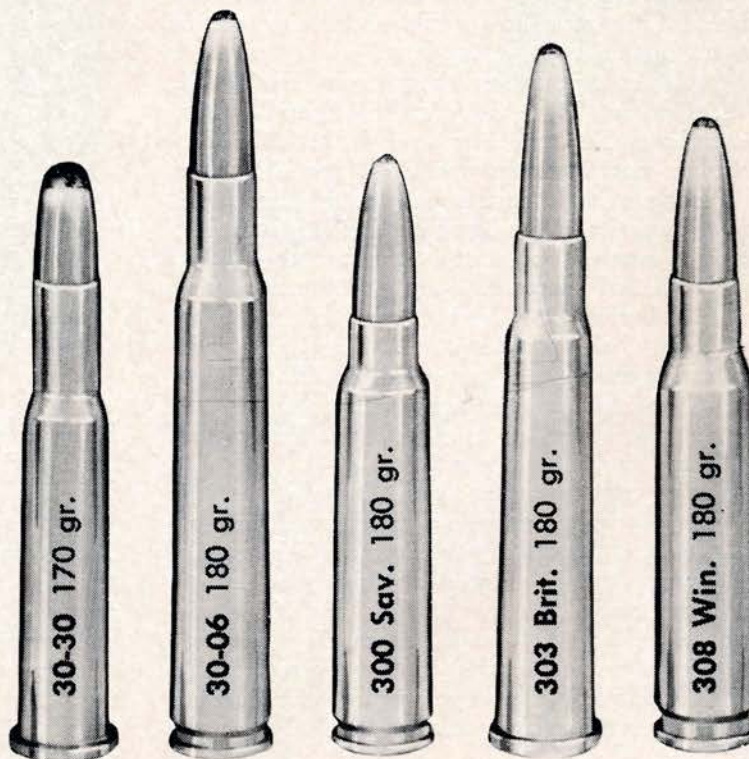
There are other .30 calibers than the '06, and some of its distant cousins are among the sorriest. The .30 covers a very considerable range of performance and some of those numbers at the short end of the horn are poor indeed. Just because the cartridge has .30 caliber stamped on the head don't mean it is a world beater.

If wide usage is any criteria the

.30-30 nudges the .30'06 for all-around honors. Loaded with a 170-gr bullet at 2220 fps muzzle velocity, the energy at barrel's end is 1860 ft. lb. This is a 100-yd deer rifle. Despite its lack of authority, the thirty-thirty has been tested on every critter in North America, and it has killed 'em all. But it has also accounted for too many cripples. The .30 Remington is the rimless version; it is as dead as Senator Dodd's chances for president of the NRA. When the model 8 and 14 Remington rifles bit the dust so did this cartridge.

The Cousin Jacks have an old favorite, the .303. It is just as old hat as the Krag .30-40 and about on a par. In a commercial loading with 180-gr. bullet, you get a respectable 2550 fps MV. This in turn accounts for 2580 ft. lb., of muzzle swoosh. Popular wherever the John Bull types hold forth, the .303 is used on every game critter from woods bison of the NW Territories to New Zealand's thar. Parker Ackley, the eminent barrel-maker, lifted the hackles of all the British contingent here lately by intimating that the SMLE rifle which fires the .303 round was an outdated clunk; he may have a point there.

Another .30 about as worthwhile as a boot full of river sand is the .303 Savage. This one isn't as potent as the .303 British. (Continued on page 59)



A line-up of popular .30 caliber cartridges, including "big brother"—the .300 Wby. Mag.

.45/410 CONTENDER PISTOL

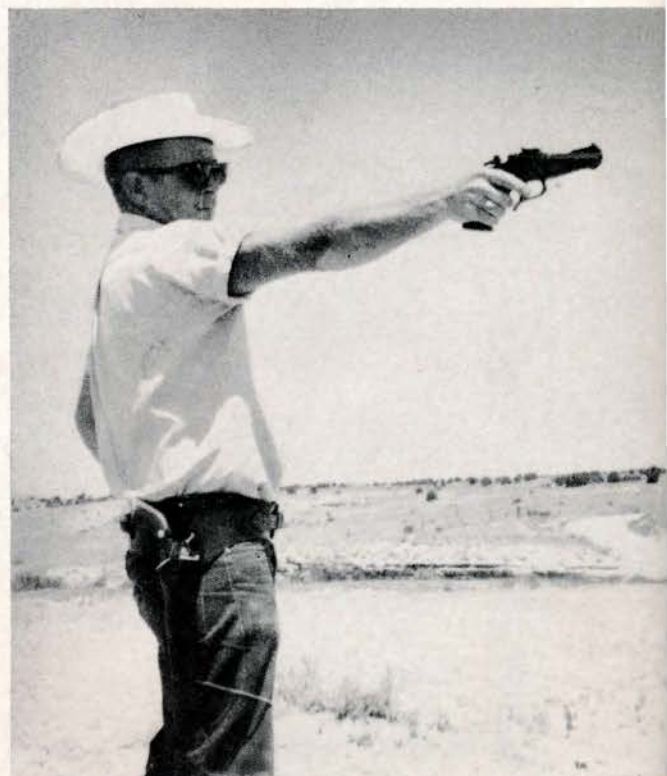
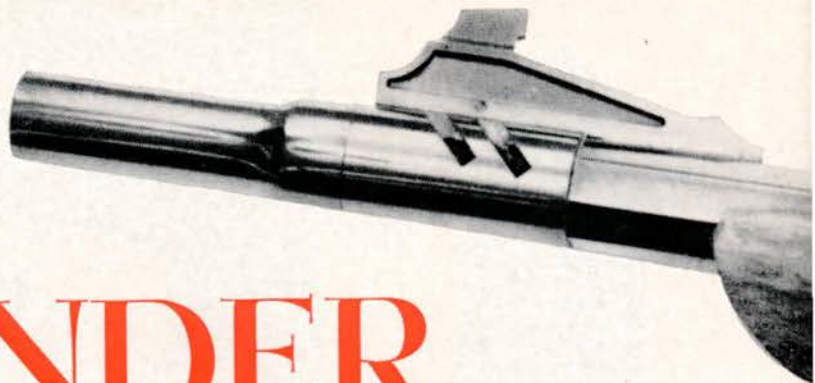
By GENE WEST

Rarely does a new offering in the handgun line come along that creates the interest shown in the Contender put out by Thompson/Center Arms of Rochester, N.H. Now, in addition to the calibers they initially chambered this quality single shot handgun for, they offer it in .45 Long Colt with a 6" barrel, and also with a 10" tube designed to handle not only the .45 round, but .410 shotshells as well. The 6" variety, to me, is a most striking and businesslike looking gun. Due to the unique single shot, break action, and also the schnobbel forearm, this 6" version gives a definite snub-nosed effect and appearance. The longer barrel tends more to resemble something out of Buck Rogers, but we'll get to that later.

Initially, the Contender was brought out in .22 LR, .22WMR, .22 Hornet, .22 Rem-Jet, and .38 Special. Then, almost immediately they also barreled it for the .357 Magnum cartridge. Barrel lengths were $3\frac{3}{4}$ " and 10". Then the .256 Winchester Magnum was added to the lineup, and now the two varieties of the block busting .45 Colt. The gun I initially received came with three barrels—.22LR, .22 Hornet, and .357 Magnum. Later a .256 arrived, and also the 6" .45 barrel. More lately, I received the .45-410 barrel with the choke accessory. The barrels are completely interchangeable, so if a person should decide to buy the gun, and then as the family budget permits, buy additional barrels, he can do so with full confidence that they will fit and function perfectly.

I had always been impressed by the Contender as it is an accurate, well made, extremely beautiful, and versatile handgun. Truly, it is quality merchandise in all respects. In many respects, these two latest offerings are the most practical of the bunch. Whereas the $3\frac{3}{4}$ " and 10" barrels in the smaller calibers had tended to be slightly muzzle heavy, both of these new barrels, and most especially the 6" .45, have excellent balance. For a gun to stick in either a holster or your hip pocket, this 6" job is by far the handiest.

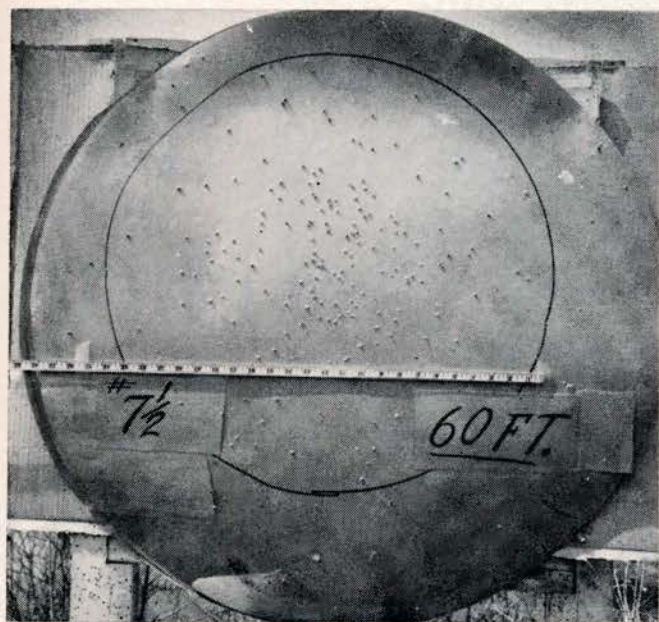
The 10" model is a different breed of cat. The actual barrel measures $6\frac{1}{16}$ ". The muzzle break, to which the front sight is attached, adds another $1\frac{5}{16}$ ", and the choke



With more conventional Colt SA Army holstered, West tests .45 Contender with six-inch barrel. Schnobbel forearm gives snub-nosed appearance.

device adds another $1\frac{7}{8}$ " to bring the total to 10". In both this barrel and the 6" one you will find rifling, making them legal for shot shells. This rifling, however, varies in the two barrels. The 6" one has 12 groove, very shallow, rifling with the twist to the right, as does a Smith & Wesson. The longer barrel has shallow rifling, but with only six grooves, and with the left-hand twist of a Colt. The muzzle brake, which incidentally, does a fine job, has four round holes, on each side, near the top, and close to the front sight. The choke device I found extremely interesting. As the shot comes thru the barrel, the rifling naturally imparts a certain amount of twist to it and as a result, donut-shaped patterns normally occur. In the past, I have done considerable experimenting with shotshells in revolvers and in all cases, this was one of the major drawbacks I found.

TEST REPORT:

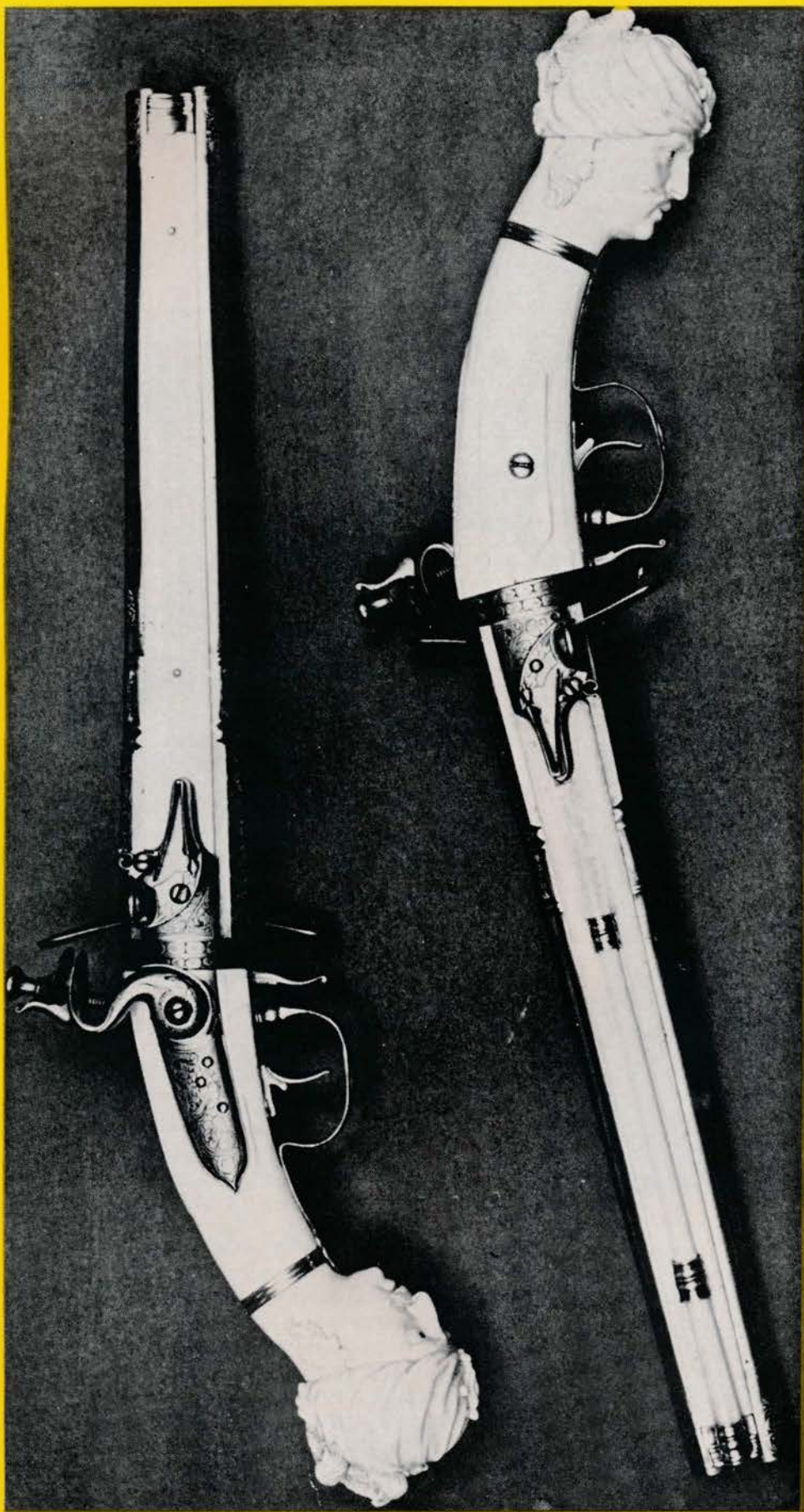


Above: The Contender with .410 barrel and choke attached. Left: Factory pattern with #7½ shot.

With the shallow 12 groove rifling in the 6" barrel this also occurred, though not as badly as in sixguns with less grooves, and with deeper rifling. Also, those guns and loads tended to give a very open pattern and the shot dispersed, even at very close range. To alleviate this problem, the compensator or choke device has been added to the .45 barrel designed for the .410 shot shells. Looking at the end of it, it gives all appearances of having very deep, sharp rifling. Closer examination, however, shows that this is not rifling, but rather straight grooves. Starting from nothing, they taper upward to reach a depth of about $\frac{1}{32}$ " at the muzzle. There are six of these ridges, or grooves, and they most effectively stop the sprayed effect of the rifling, constrict the shot, and produce good, tight patterns. As the inside diameter of the barrel is reduced

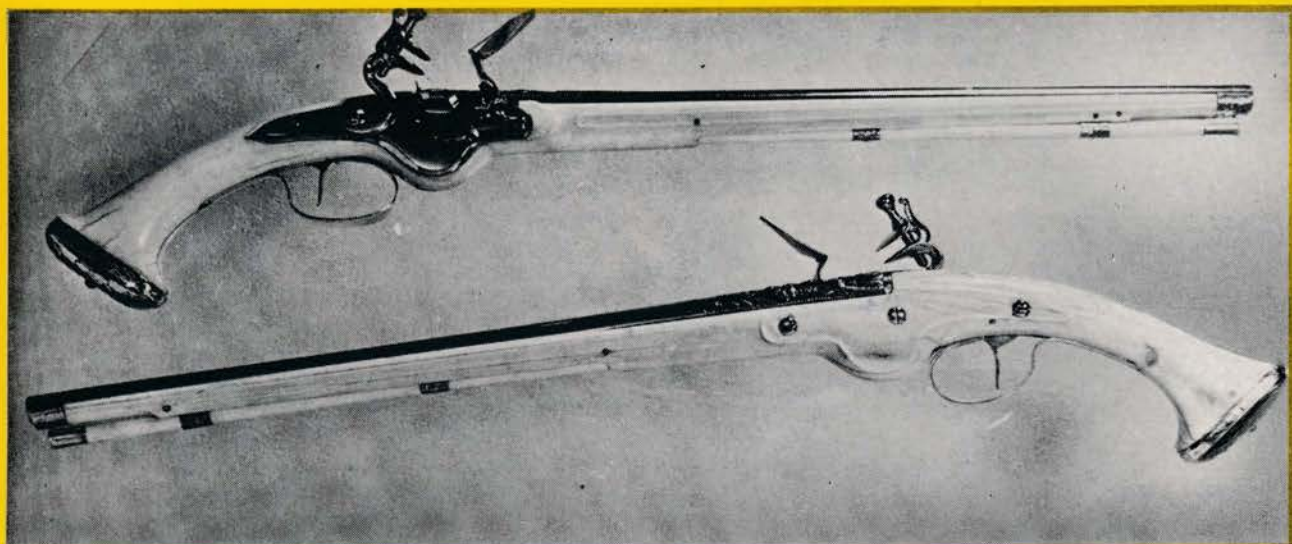
by these ridges, .45 Colt ammo most definitely should not be fired with the choke device attached. The results, could, and probably would, be disastrous. The choke device is readily removed or installed with nothing more than a $\frac{5}{8}$ " wrench being needed to screw it on or off.

While many may question the practicality of a single shot gun, I feel that there is a definite niche in the shooting world for it. Didn't most of us cut our shooting teeth on single shot .22's? And I well remember that the first shot gun I used with any amount of regularity was a break action, 20 gauge single shot—I killed a lot of pheasants and jack rabbits with it, too! Also, today there is a renewing trend in high quality single shot rifles; so why not the same for hand guns? Really, if a person will concentrate on their shot, is the fast second one (*Continued on page 72*)

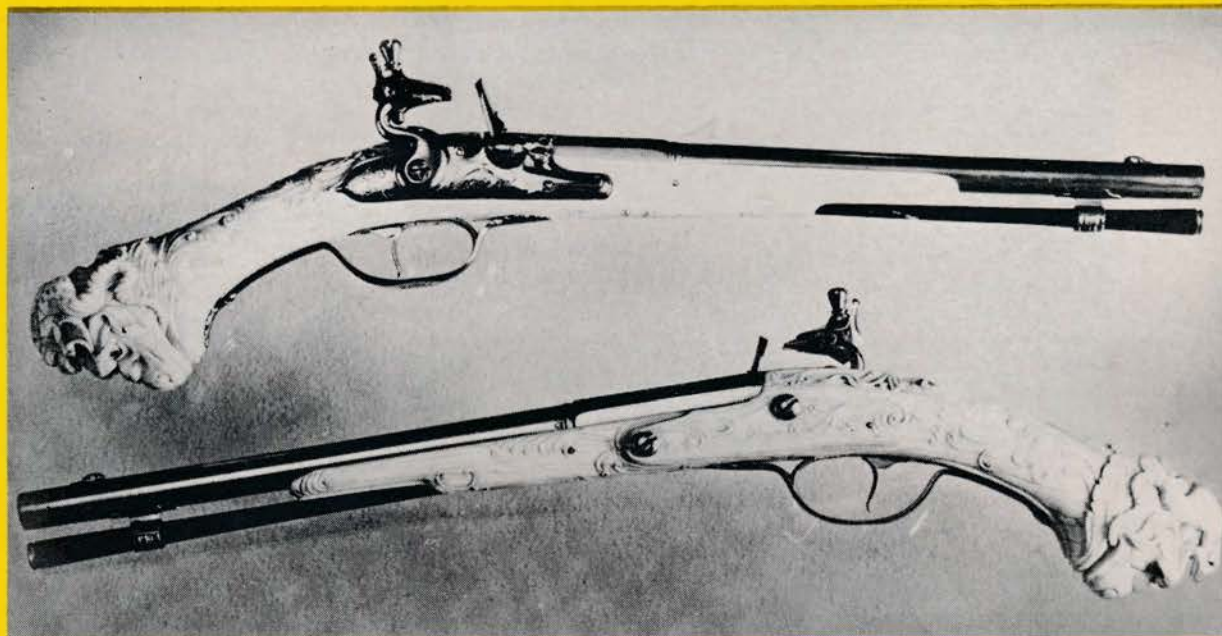


Artistry in Ivory

By ROBERT MANDEL



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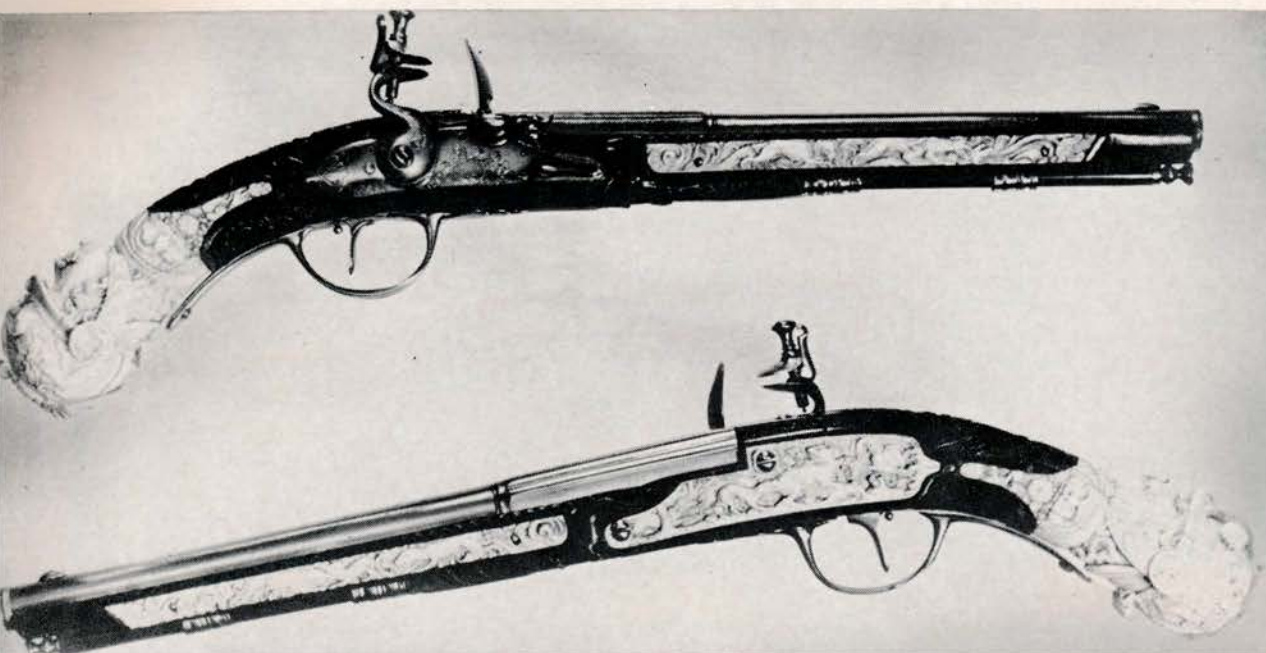
FEW FIREARMS in the collectors field hold as much interest, or can hold a veteran collector is such awe, as a pair of ivory stocked pistols. Although ivory has been used for decoration and inlays on firearms since the days of the ancient Egyptians, the use of solid ivory for pistol stocks was so costly and difficult to produce that only the nobles of the 16th and 17th centuries could afford to own arms stocked in this magnificent material. I would think that it is the dream of every collector to sometime in his life own a pair of ivory stocked pistols. It is doubtful that this would ever be possible, for the price would stop many, and the fact is that in over 15 years in the collectors field, I have seen only seven or eight pairs of quality ivory stocked pistols offered for sale.

Pictured here are a few of the finest of pairs.

Some collectors may never in their lifetime see pairs such as shown here, so I will go into some detail on each.

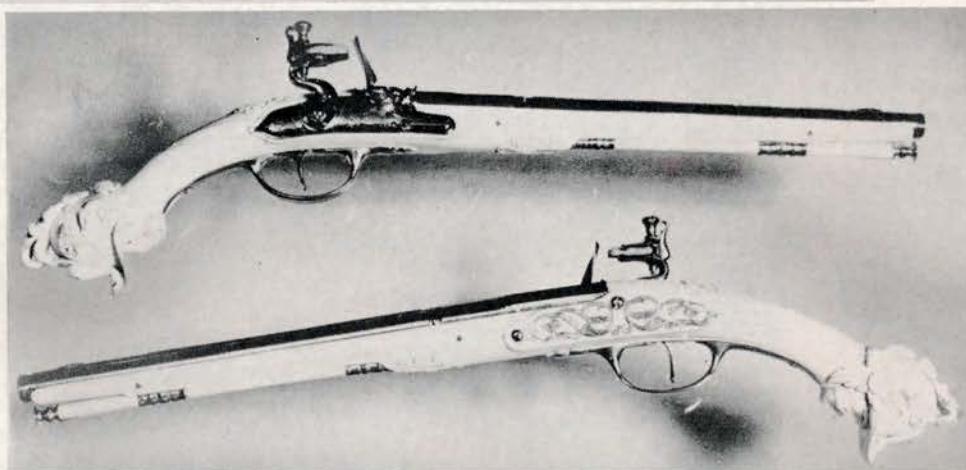
(1). A pair of over-and-under pistols of the 1680 period. Dutch made, the barrels are separate, each inletted into the solid ivory stocks. Barrels are superimposed, and turn by pulling the lever in front of the trigger guard. Both barrels and lock plates are deeply chiselled. The carved heads, which form the butts, are a perfect likeness of Dutch sailors, even to the earrings. This pair was fabricated in Maastricht during the reign of William III of the Netherlands and England. Truly one of the finest pair of carved ivory stocked over/under flintlock pistols in the world.

(2). A pair of Dutch silver-mounted, full stocked ivory flintlock pistols, with one of the longest one-piece ivory stocks found on any pistol. This fa-



4

Artistry in Ivory



5

mous pair, 24 inches overall with 17 inch barrels, shows the ultimate in the making of a long full stock out of one solid piece of elephant ivory. Only the Dutch, with their world trade resources, could have secured prime ivory tusks long enough for the stocks of these pistols.

(3). From the National Museum, Munchen, a pair of carved ivory stocked flintlock pistols signed Leonard Cleuter. The Cleuter family was one of the great gunsmith clans of Western Europe in the 17th century. This rare pair was fabricated about 1660. The carving of the stock and butt is of the finest workmanship, with its grotesque face for the butt, a frog on its top, and the face repeated three times on the stock. This pair is the ultimate in ivory stock carving.

(4). Although not fully ivory stocked, using ivory only for the butts and panels, this pair of arms is so finely done, and the workmanship of such excellence, that it is perfectly fitting they be included in this group of ivory arms. Made by Michael Maucher, they show the mating of wood and ivory in the finest of taste. A maker of only presentation pistols, Maucher arms, in the opinion of many, were much too beautiful to be used;

and may only have been for Royal Family armory exhibition. The carved ivory soldier's head is very well done, and the Royal Lion on each side of the head is in high relief. The ivory inserts or panels show scenes of the royal chase—dogs, wild boar, deer and even small rabbits. The high raised carving of the mahogany stocks are in design of arms and armor.

(5). Jacob Kosser of Maastricht, Holland, fabricated this fine pair of full ivory stock and gold mounted flintlock pistols. The face on the butt is the Spirit of Dutch Military Might; the 12" chiselled barrels are gold plaque inlaid with the wording, "Ein Grosser Helt." On each side of the soldier's helmet, a mythical dragon is done in high raised carving. The lockplates are engraved and signed. A wonderful pair of ivory stocked pistols.

The beauty of ivory stocked pistols can not be completely told in words. Only by holding them in one's hands and viewing the wonderful workmanship, time, and even love that went into the fabrication can one really understand why artistry in ivory has come to be the ultimate for many collectors.



TWO PATHS TO GUN CONTROL

By DEAN LIPTON

SINCE Senator Robert Kennedy's assassination in Los Angeles, San Francisco has become a laboratory for the study of the two alternative ways of achieving gun control: 1) by penalizing the sportsman or home owner through compulsory gun registration; 2) by punishing the criminal through mandatory harsher sentences where guns are used in the commission of a crime.

The city's leading exponent of the first approach is Mayor Joseph L. Alioto (ably abetted by a number of rising young politicians on the make). Alioto is, in about this order: a member of an old and prominent San Francisco family, a wealthy corporation attorney, a liberal Democrat, the man who placed the name of Hubert Humphrey in nomination at the Democratic Convention, and one of the two most often mentioned possibilities for the Democratic nomination for Governor against Ronald Reagan in 1970.

Mayor Alioto got his anti-gun campaign off to a comic-opera flying start during the hysterical days immediately following Senator Kennedy's murder by instituting a voluntary gun collection drive. Its announced purpose was to thin down private gun ownership in the city, and residents were asked to turn in their guns to the nearest police station, fire house, or other designated collection points. During the period of the drive, lasting for a month, guns could be turned in on a no-questions-asked basis. The campaign was supported and

(Continued on page 64)

'Vital Issue'

**A Proud Alioto
Signs Gun Law
--45-Day Wait**

Mayor Joseph L. Alioto signed San Francisco's new gun registration ordinance yesterday. The registration rule will go into effect in 45 days.

**Judge Won't Block
New S.F. Gun Law**

Superior Court Judge Eyman yesterday took that field of legislation away from the cities.

APPEAL PLANNED

**SF Gun Law
Decision Hit**

The rejection of San Francisco's gun registration ordinance by the State Court of Appeals has set up with the

**For reasons known only to themselves, politicians
continue their drive to punish sportsmen rather than criminals**



GUNS and the LAW

POLICE RIOT HEADGEAR

THE OTHER DAY, while looking over a professional police magazine, I encountered a full page ad for police body armor. Depicted was an advertising agency concept of what a policeman in a riot-sniping, or barricade situation should look like. Hung on this scared looking model was the 23 lb. ceramic armor vest that the ad was featuring. On the head of the man was a "dinky," little aluminum helmet that would have been hard put to stop a BB pellet in flight. Believe it or not, this is the type of equipment in the hands of many law enforcement agencies and is indicative of the standards of procurement and forethought being given to arming policemen against criminal and riot violence. The \$500 ceramic vest was capable of stopping a 30 calibre AP bullet traveling at 2800 ft. per second, while the ten dollar miner's safety helmet afforded only minimal head and face protection against any type of bullet, shotgun pellet, or thrown missile. Daily, T.V. depicts similar, incongruous, protective armor combinations for those who want to take note. This is not, necessarily, entirely the policeman's fault, or that of his department, but it is illogical and ridiculous to fail to provide adequate head protection within the limits of reason and budget, while at the same time paying hundreds of dollars for body armor.

Police head protection falls into two categories; those types designed against conventional mob weapons including all types of thrown missiles, and those recently designed for protection against low and medium velocity bullets, such as are normally encountered in riot actions, where firearms are in the hands of criminals and riot elements. Low price alone should not dictate law enforcement procurement of special issue helmets for riot-combat purposes.

Protective helmets for police of one type or another are as old as law enforcement itself. Modern police have available to them numerous types of protective headgear. Furthermore, any rigid type helmet that will give some degree of protection is better than the traditional cloth cap.



Ballistic helmet without suspension installed fitted over a riot helmet.

However, more departmental attention should be given to procurement of the correct type of special issue headgear for riot duty.

RIOT HEADGEAR

Clubs, stones, bricks and bottles thrown from a roof top or from the mob body can cause serious and sometimes fatal head injuries. The proper type riot helmets should protect from thrown missiles, blows, cutting, abrasion and also minimize possibilities of concussion. In addition to the crown of the head, a good helmet should protect the temples, ears, forehead, and nape of the neck. It should be cool and well ventilated to enable continuous wear in warm weather, and, at the same time, light enough so that it can be worn without too much discomfort by men who



By
COL. REX APPLEGATE

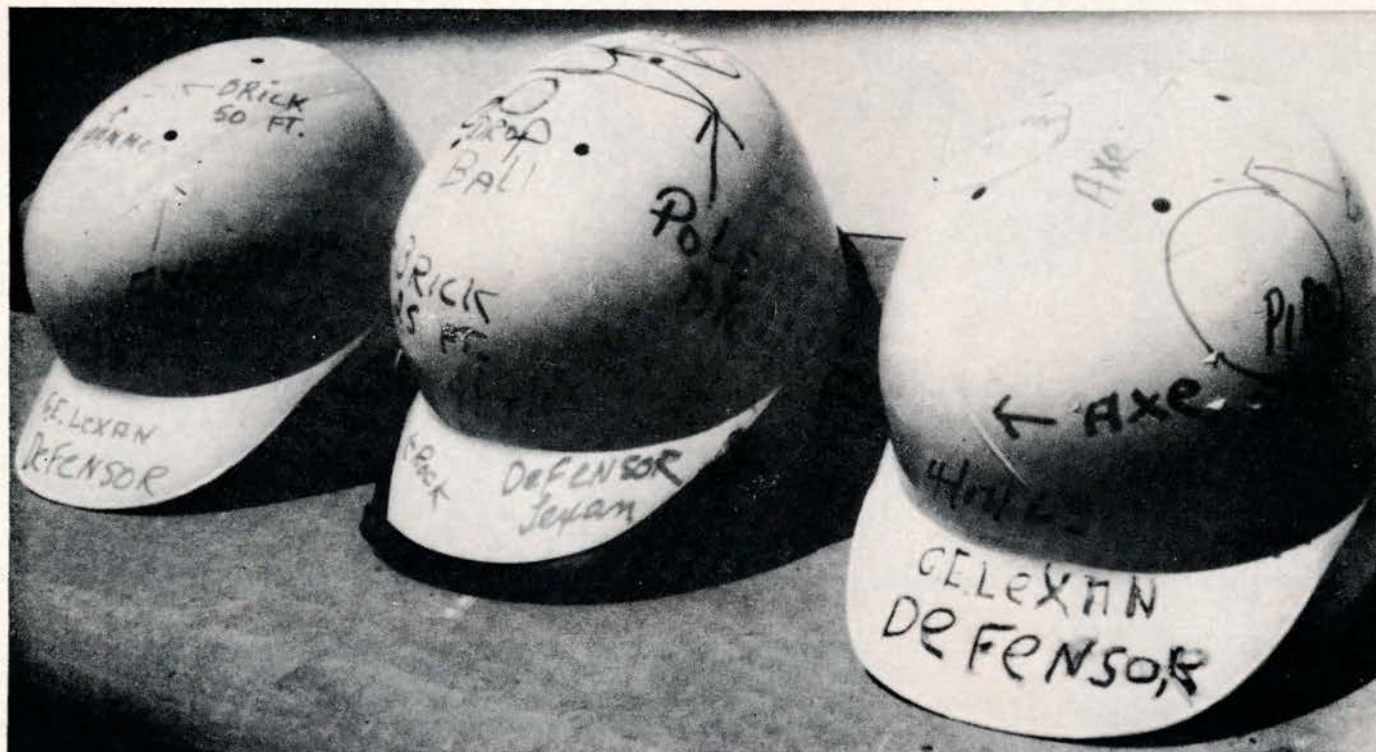
are not used to wearing this type of headgear. A chin strap that is detachable, or pulls loose under combat conditions when the helmet may be grasped by a rioter, is desirable. The ideal helmet should also be designed so that it will stay on the head in combat without having to be anchored by the chin strap, and should stay in place even though it may be struck on the rim, or the visor, by a club or missile.

The helmet suspension system can be either integral with the inside lining, or anchored to the outer protective shell in a sufficient number of places so that it prevents the helmet from flopping around during sudden head movement. The material of the outer shell should be resistant to blows and impact from heavy thrown objects. It should

not shatter, dent, or easily permit penetration from sharp objects. Modern plastic materials of the poly-carbonate class meet this requirement. Fiber glass, used in many traffic helmets, is relatively tough in relation to weight, but is more costly and vulnerable to unsightly dents and abrasions. Aluminum is the basic material used in industrial safety helmets. A new military combat helmet of fiber glass and plastic materials is now under development. The design objective is to withstand small firearms and eventually replace the World War II metal type, with liner. The fiber liner of the current U.S. Army infantry helmet, available in many surplus stores, provides very limited riot protection. It was designed for protection against the elements, only.

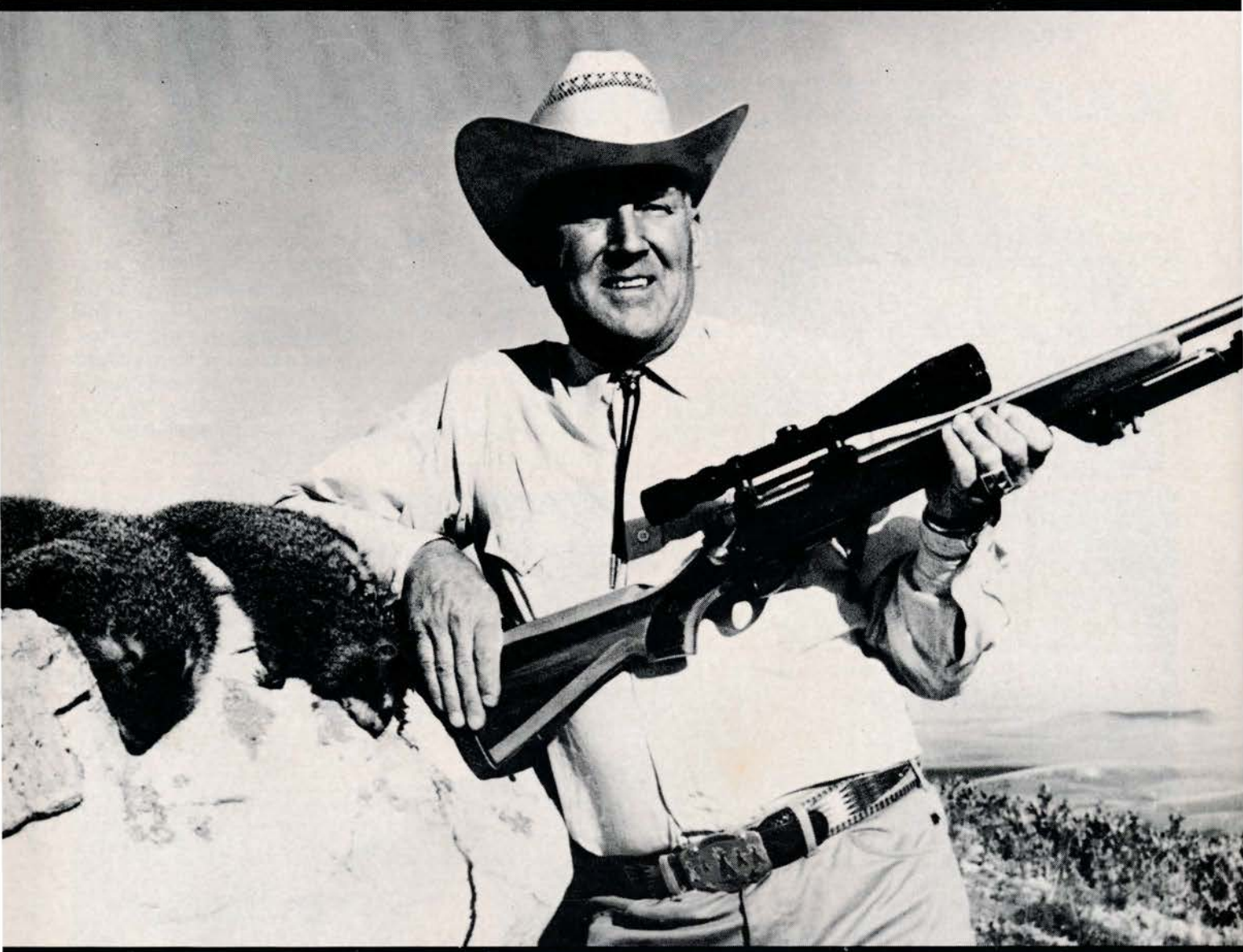
A thick resilient helmet lining with a slow rebound effect, attached to the inside of the outer shell, will give good protection from concussion and help absorb blows and sharp impacts. Generally, a helmet designed so that the force of the impact can be distributed over a larger area, and not concentrated, will be a much safer type. Smooth helmets without rivet heads protruding on the outside of the shell are superior, because the force of the blow landing on the rivet head may penetrate the shell and merge on the other end of the rivet, inside.

Many of the desirable features above are found in auto and aviation crash helmets. They are also found in the types issued to traffic and motorcycle police. A great deal of costly design and research has been undertaken in these fields, directed toward the concussion and head impact effect against hard objects as occurs in automobile accidents, etc. The higher initial procurement cost of the good traffic type police helmet used (Continued on page 72)



Extensive tests showed these Defensor helmets able to withstand many types of blows.

.17's ARE HERE TO STAY!



Tom Frye took rock chucks with a .17/223 on regular 600 action and stock with A&M barrel. Harris rest is attached to forend.

ALTHOUGH IT IS a fact that they have been around for quite some time, it seems impossible to definitely establish exactly who made up the first of the sub-miniature (under .22 caliber) cartridges or rifles. We do know that several of these small calibers, at least as small as .12 or .14 caliber size, were made up early in this century, although none of them proved at all popular.

A number of reasons contributed to this lack of interest in them. One was the lack of proper steel, and a method of working it, that would provide the needed accuracy for such small bores. Another was the lack of bullets properly structured to stand up well and produce good kills. And during this time there were no proper powders available for these small cartridges. Shooters didn't stay interested and even the experimenters soon gave up.

A great deal of the present success of the exceedingly interesting .17 caliber started when P. O. Ackley, of Salt Lake City, Utah, introduced his .17 PeeWee, about 1945. This was soon followed by a number of wildcats made up on cases from the .17/30 carbine to the .220 Swift. However, there is no doubt but that the actual popularity of the new .17 caliber started when: Vern O'Brien of Las Vegas, Nevada, made up his version, using the .221 Remington Fireball case; A & M of Prescott, Arizona, using the .222 case; and P. O. Ackley brought out his .222 Magnum case. This took place just three or four years ago.

The .222 case head size, with its various powder capacities and small size primers made especially for these cases, proved to be nearly ideal for the caliber size. Experiments in the use of larger case capacities, such as the .225 Winchester and the .22-250 Remington, resulted in very little gain in velocity, but produced more pressure and shorter barrel life.

The use of a caliber smaller than the popular and well established .224s can only be justified if it does a particular job as well or better. Shooting a smaller caliber at tin cans or targets proves nothing and can get rather monotonous. In order to put the light bullets of the .17 caliber (from 20 to 26 grains) into a useful varmint killing category, with a reasonable killing range also included, it is necessary to have a considerably higher velocity than most of the .222s. This is easy to do with such a light bullet. The resulting recoil and "kick" is practically



Les Bowman

By LES BOWMAN

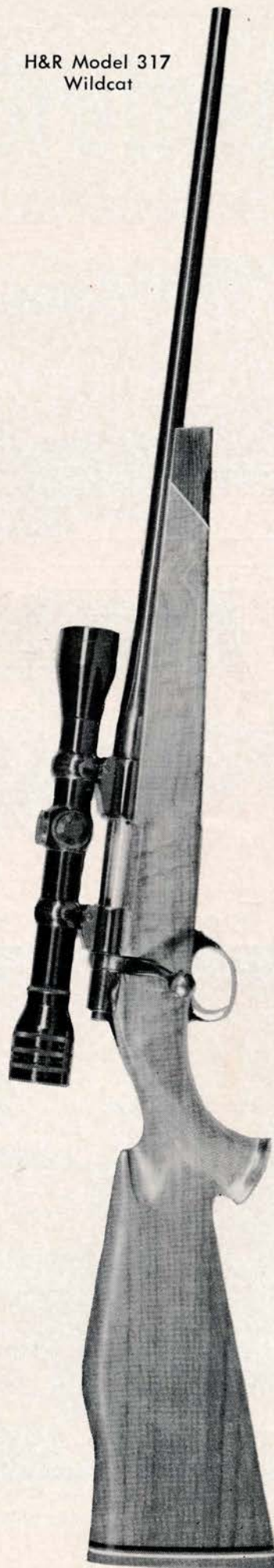
nothing and this, together with the low report or noise level, makes the caliber a pleasant one to use.

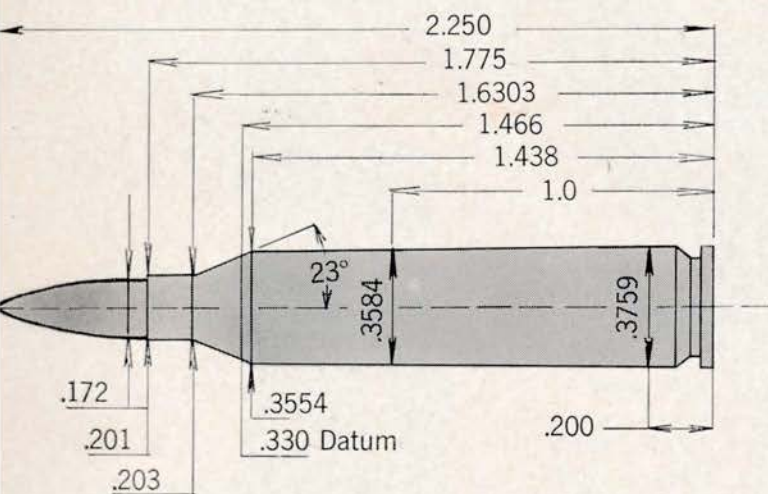
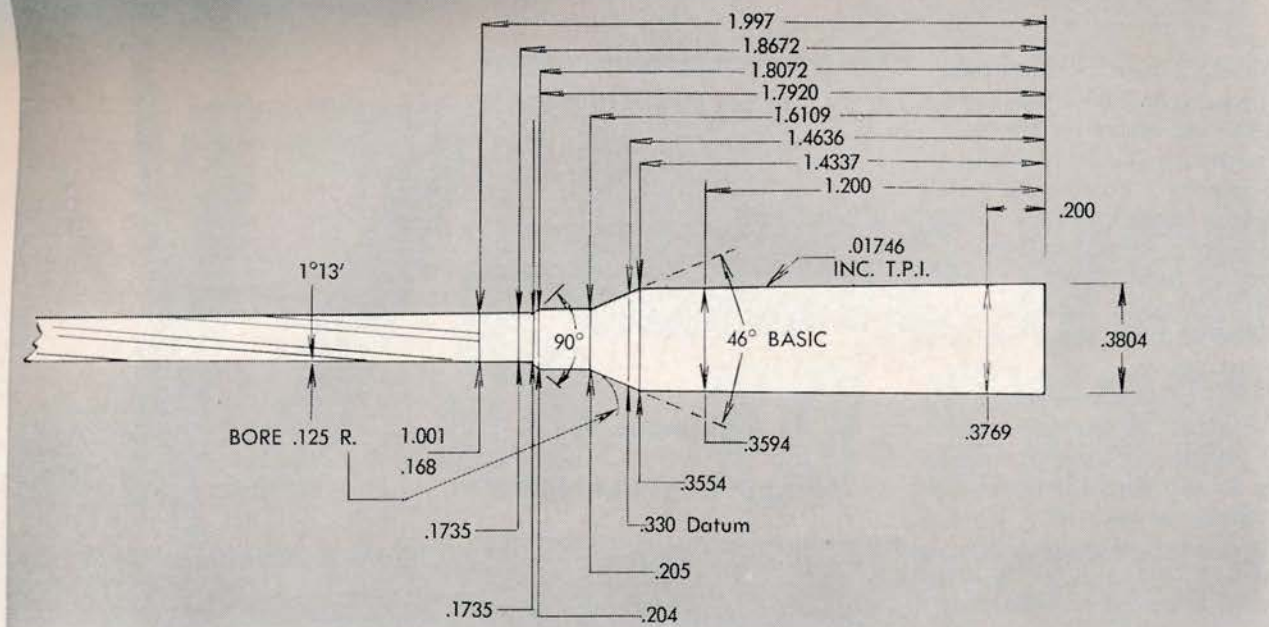
These higher velocities put the gun and bullet makers back into a field of some problems hard to remedy. However, shooters, experimenters, barrel makers and bullet makers usually expect such troubles and work together to eliminate them. In the past three or four years a great deal has been done along this line as regards the .17 caliber. Several of the better known barrel makers, such as P. O. Ackley, A&M and Shilen, are very much aware of the problems encountered in making these small barrels and have found a remedy for them. It is a real art to drill the tiny .168 hole through a hard steel barrel blank 20 to 24 inches long and keep it straight. And to cut the rifling properly takes rifling buttons of the finest type, cut very true. Even after reaming the bore and button rifling it to .172 groove diameter, it is still not smooth enough to prevent metal fouling unless it is carefully polished, honed or lapped.

The bullet makers also ran into troubles in making these small bullets. Since they will be used at ultra high velocities they must be structured so they will hold together well under the heat, stress and velocity to which they are subjected. It is interesting to note that this small caliber bullet rotates at the fantastic speed of 400,000 revolutions per minute as it leaves the barrel. Bullets must also be made to function correctly in order to kill varmints or predators quickly and surely. Many of the early bullets that would stand up to 3000 fps velocity just disintegrated in these small barrels and would not even mark a target 25 feet away.

Today we have 15 or so small independent bullet makers turning out

H&R Model 317
Wildcat





good bullets. They are excellent varmint killers as well as being very accurate. One of the large independent bullet companies is now in production of .17 caliber bullets and two others are giving it serious consideration. One of the major metal companies, also in the gun and bullet business, is interested enough in .17 caliber problems to furnish specially developed metal for bullet jackets for experiments. Other large gun companies are exploring this interest and demand, and checking on sales possibility of the .17.

Harrington & Richardson have definitely entered the .17 caliber field with the purchase of Vern O'Brien's .17 caliber business. They have chosen the .223 case size as their standard, and have informed me that the first of their .17 caliber production rifles are coming off the line right now. What is needed now to make the .17 caliber a standard is for one or more of the large ammunition companies to start producing commercial ammunition. At this time it is still definitely a handloading operation, although an easy one with readily available components.

My use of, and work with, the .17 calibers started about three years ago. P. O. Ackley had been after me for some years to try the .17 as we are both exponents of the smaller caliber sizes and use them a lot. Although I knew how well the small calibers can be made to perform, I did feel that the .17 was a bit of a toy—that its range would be too short and its killing power too weak. It wasn't until I visited my old bullet making friend, Ralph Sisk of Iowa Park, Texas, and learned most of his current bullet production was devoted to the .17s, that it became apparent this little caliber must be darned interesting.

On returning home I wrote Vern O'Brien for information on the caliber and his rifle. In the return mail I not only got a letter but also one of his very beautiful, scaled down rifles in .17 Magnum chambering on a small Sako action. He had also sent along a set of dies, bullets, cases and other loading accessories and in his letter he told me to use them and find out for myself just what the caliber and rifle was like.

I had already written to several of the .17 caliber bullet makers and had received bullets in 9 different makes and from 20 to 26 grains in weight. The result of my first week's work with this little rifle made me a very enthusiastic advocate of the .17. Tests on the chronograph, the bench range and on actual (Continued on page 52)

The Wesson Brothers

By JAMES SERVEN



Wesson made several derringer models with rotating barrels, from .22 - .41 cal. r.f.; some were fitted with sliding knife blade. Top: .44 cal. carbine of Civil War vintage.

FRANKLIN WESSON, younger than Edwin by 17 years, was born November 8, 1828 at Worcester. He went down to Hartford in 1848 with Edwin and worked with his brother in "Wesson's Rifle Manufactory" at the corner of Talcott and Charles streets in that city. Although only 20 years old when he arrived in Hartford, Franklin, or Frank as he is sometimes called, was already a skilled workman.

After Edwin Wesson's death early in 1849, listings for the Wesson Rifle Manufactory, Franklin Wesson and Daniel B. Wesson appeared thereafter only in the May 1849-May 1850 Hartford City Directory. Franklin soon departed from 103 Front Street where he had been living. Like many other gunmakers in the East at that time he became excited over reports from the Far West which told of rich gold strikes and the golden opportunities for skilled craftsmen.

Putting his adventurous urge into action in 1851, Franklin set out for the West. Proceeding north from San Francisco he arrived at a small settlement called Shasta, advantageously located in gold bearing country a short distance

east of the famous gold-rush town of Weaverville. Weaverville had a population of 2000 Chinese alone in the 1850s. Shasta proved to be a good location for a gunmaker and Franklin Wesson was so impressed with the possibilities that he put up the first brick building in the town. Here he was apparently kept busy for about six years at the gunmaking trade, although very little information about this period in his life has survived.

It is doubtful that any small town could hold Franklin Wesson for long; he had a lively imagination and creative ideas that would not be suppressed. When the gold fever had abated somewhat up there in California's "Trinity Alps," he began thinking of home and friends. He dreamed, too, of stepping up from a custom gunmaker to the role of manufacturer and had a design for breech-loading arms in mind.

In 1858 we find Franklin Wesson back among his family and New England friends at Worcester, Mass. After returning from California, Franklin visited with his brother Daniel who had meanwhile started the manufacture of .22

The Wesson Brothers

caliber revolvers over at Springfield with a partner named Horace Smith. Finding Daniel already involved in an armsmaking venture, Franklin sought out Nathan S. Harrington. Franklin's older brother Edwin had married Nancy H. Harrington; the families were close friends. With Nathan Harrington, Franklin was granted his first patent for a breech-loading firearm on October 25, 1859.

Washburn's *Industrial Worcester* tells us that Wesson began manufacturing his first model, a .22 caliber single shot breech-loading pistol with a tip-up barrel, in the Merrifield building on Exchange Street during 1859. The decision to manufacture this type of single shot pistol was a logical one at that time. The existing Rollin White patent, enjoyed by Smith & Wesson, was a roadblock to making revolvers, but the relatively new .22 caliber metallic rimfire cartridges had become easily obtainable and small pocket pistols were in demand.

It was not long before a number of competitive single shot .22 breech-loading pistols came on the market, including those of Ethan Allen, also a resident of Worcester. Turning then to a field he thought would be less crowded, Franklin Wesson gave attention to the development of a breech-loading rifle. By November 11, 1862 he had been granted a patent that was to serve as the basic system on which his greatest arms success was built.

This patent actually was an improvement on the original 1859 pistol tip-up action but was applied to carbines and rifles. The barrel was hinged to tip up when released by the trigger located under the frame just ahead of the main trigger. The gun was soon chambered to accommodate the .44 rimfire cartridges, then quite new, as well as the smaller .22, .32, and .38 caliber rimfire cartridges.

Wesson's efforts were timely—the War between the States had started and the Federal and State governments were seeking new and efficient arms, with attention turned especially toward New England armsmakers.

Many of the Wesson arms supplied

Typical fine match rifles from the Franklin Wesson plant, employing a dropping block action which Wesson patented in 1877.

during the war were purchased through B. Kittredge & Co. of Cincinnati. Some mystery surrounds the relationship between Franklin Wesson and Benjamin Kittredge, but it has been reasonably established that Kittredge was merely a general agent for Franklin Wesson's breech-loading carbine. The Kittredge Company was given a government contract on July 7, 1863 for "150 Wesson carbines, caliber .44 each." The month before, on June 16, the Ordnance Department had received a letter from Kittredge in which he offered to sell "300 Wesson rifles at \$23."

It has been further established that a quantity of Franklin Wesson's breech loading carbines were sold through Kittredge to the states of Kentucky and Indiana and to various militia companies in Ohio, Kansas and Missouri.

In 1938 a respected book devoted to rifles strayed into two questionable statements about the manufacture of Franklin Wesson rifles. One was that B. Kittredge & Co. had manufactured Wesson's early breech-loading carbines, and the second was that Franklin Wesson moved from Worcester to Springfield in 1865 and operated for a dozen or more years in that city.

As to manufacture of Wesson carbines by B. Kittredge & Co., no concrete evidence has been found that this is true. From a study of Kittredge's various operations, there is no indication that Kittredge had the desire or the capacity to undertake the machine work to manufacture 300 Wesson carbines, as offered the government in 1863.

Benjamin Kittredge had moved to Cincinnati from Chester, New Hampshire, in 1842. He established a gun store in 1847 on Main Street Cincinnati, renting premises there for a number of years from John Slevin. Later Kittredge bought the property. In the *Centennial Review of Cincinnati* published in 1888, Kittredge is described as a dealer; in no instance is there reference to him as a manufacturer of Wesson rifles. Kittredge & Co. did enjoy a broad field of retail trade and were agents for many American, (Continued on page 56)

Frank Wesson single shot rifle in .38 rimfire or center fire. From the Harry Sefried gun collection. Photo by Bruce Pendleton.





Above: Ruger Blackhawk with custom myrtlewood grips. Inlaid with Thunderbird; made by Cloyce's Gun Stocks.

CUSTOM PISTOL GRIPS



Turquoise and silver grips made up by Dick Peterson.

By GENE WEST
Color photo by Earl Etter

Handgun grips, just like rifle and shotgun stocks, are designed to fit the average person. Should you, or your hand, happen to fall into this category, you can probably do quite well with the grips put out by our arms factories. However, if you don't fit the description of the average sized American male, and especially if your hands happen to be on the large beefy side, a set of custom grips could be just what the "Doc" ordered. Many grips are made today to add a touch of splendor, beauty, or personality to the otherwise nondescript sixgun. A handgun, more than any other gun, is from my point of view a personal and individual thing, and the proper selection of grips for it can certainly make it even more that way. Personalized grips can also be extremely functional, as well as beautiful. They can not only reflect the personality of their proud owner, but they can also help him to do a better job of shooting, and as a result,

make his shooting very much more enjoyable.

My personal four-inch Smith & Wesson .44 is now sporting a new set of Trooper grips, custom made to fit my hand, by Cloyce Edwards of Cloyce's Gun Stocks, Box 1133, Twin Falls, Idaho. Although not as well known as some of the stock and grip makers, Cloyce is one of the outstanding artists in this field today. Some time ago, I sent an outline of my hand to another leading grip maker, only to have him write back, saying that because of the small size of my hand he could not fit me with grips for this gun. The outline was recently sent to Cloyce, and in very short order, the grips arrived. The fit to the gun is perfect, and the stocks blend with the metal as well as any I've ever seen. While they are too large for me to use for fast, double action shooting, they fit my hand nicely for single action work. The design is such that the gun nestles right down in your hand, pointing just as it should—that is, as an extension of your arm and hand, rather than as

a separate entity. Recoil from a .44, especially in double action guns, can be fairly substantial, and even objectional if a great amount of shooting is done. These fine grips from Cloyce do a very good job of helping control this recoil and make the gun far more pleasurable to shoot, as it's not nearly as abusive to the web of my hand between thumb and finger. Where they help control the recoil, they also make it quicker and easier to get back on target for succeeding shots. All in all, they perform most admirably and they are as pretty a set as you could hope to see. Made from a single block of good walnut, they are fitted with virtually no break in the grain of the wood, and they almost appear to be one solid piece of wood. They are heavily hand checkered, with the checkering across both front and back, where I really like it, to afford a much firmer grip with far less slippage on the gun. This checkering is fine, 24 lines to the inch, and of top quality. I can find nothing but perfection in the quality of material and workmanship that went into these grips, including the finish work.

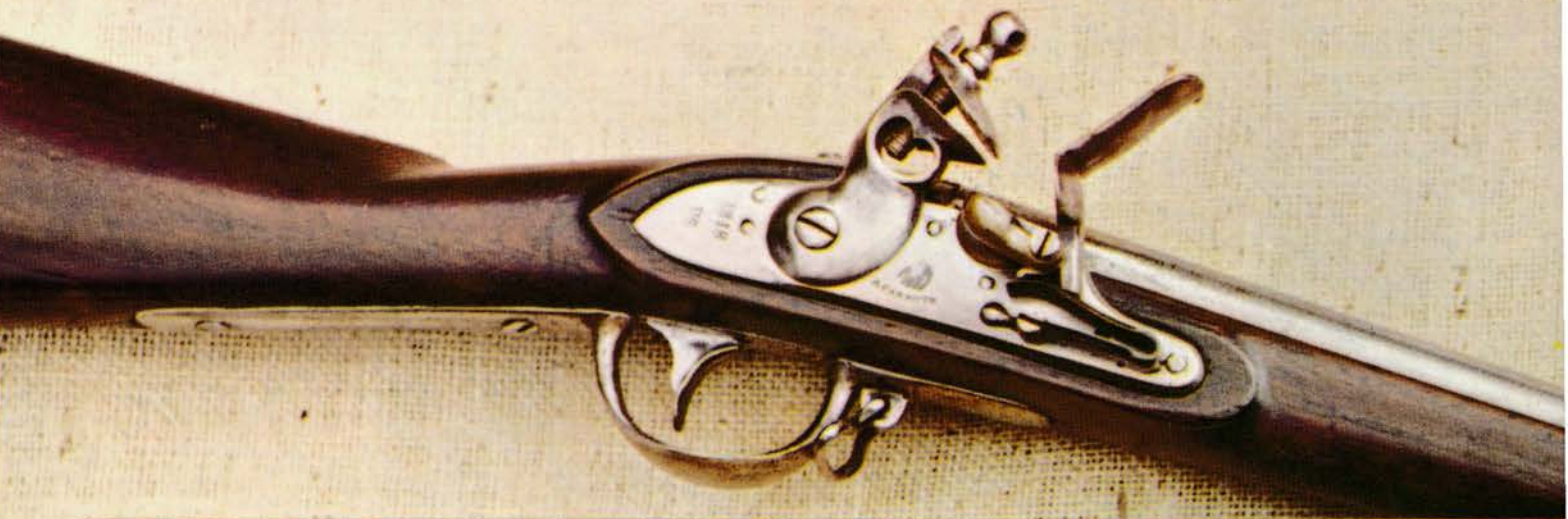
Probably the nearest thing to what I call custom grips on any factory gun are those put on the Contender by Thompson/Center Arms. They are of a very fine grade of walnut with an adequate thumb rest to make them suffice for target work. They have good checkering, 16 lines to

the inch on both sides and on the back as well. I would prefer it if the front of this grip, which is broad and flat, were also checkered. They are topped off with a rather luxurious sterling silver plate which covers the base, or butt, of the one piece grip. For a personal touch, I have had my name engraved on it, as I'm sure many others have also done.

Some of the prettiest, as well as functional, sixgun grips I have ever seen are made by Dr. Dick Peterson of 6 La Huerta, Pueblo, Colo. They are made entirely of sterling silver and turquoise, and many hours go into fitting them to an individual gun and hand. Making these grips is somewhat of a labor of love for Dick and he now sells them for, I believe, \$65.00 a pair. Not a cheap price, but many hours of work go into their making, and they are as nice a set of grips as you could want. He starts with a sheet of silver and first fits it to the gun. Then he builds it up with silver and turquoise into the completed grip, fitting the stones to fit your hand. They are extremely comfortable, and do fit the individual hand far better than do normal grips. For the ultra conservative sixgunner they would undoubtedly be too loud and garish, but for a person whose tastes run along this line, they are some really special custom grips. *(Continued on page 61)*



A. Inlaid grips made with material from Bone Grip Co. B. Herrett's target stocks with a split pattern. C. Enforcer combat grips by Caray Sales Co., law enforcement suppliers.





MUSKET AND A HALF

The original: manufactured by A. Carruth in 1819, in Greenville, South Carolina, on contract for the U.S. Army. Only a few of these are known to be in existence. The replica: copies the original in all details, but in one half scale. Made by Ned. H. Hipp of South Carolina; photo by Dr. G. F. Hawkins.





Top: Fritz Dickie checks a Thompson at a machine gun safe. Below: Supply of military weapons grows as movies demand the latest arms.



HOLLYWOOD'S HIDDEN ARSENAL

By L. G. NORMAN

Photos by Stan Holden

PEACE really never comes to the busy arsenal hidden within Paramount Studios in world famous Hollywood. This is not a make-believe arsenal, as one might expect of a business connected with the film capital, but a privately owned collection of weapons that may well be the biggest and most diversified in the world today.

Stembridge Gun Rentals is located in a Paramount building and inside its well guarded walls are more than 7,000 rifles, 1200 pistols, and over 200 machine guns. The collection is used by the motion picture and television industry to provide firearms for its films. On Pearl Harbor Day their weapons actually went to war.

James Sidney Stembridge came to Hollywood as an actor around 1925, just about the time the first really big western was being made. Stembridge detected the studios need for guns in large quantities and borrowed the money to buy an assortment of 200 rifles, revolvers, and automatics; thus founding the Gun Room. The enterprise is now operated by his nephew Ed.

Fritz Dickie, who has worked for the Stembridges since 1926, shows visitors around the place. Guns of every description are stashed in bins or mounted on walls from floor to ceiling. Locked in a safe are automatic rifles, ranging from Thompson sub-machine guns to British Stens.

"The use of automatic firearms in movies is closely regulated so we have to keep those locked up," Dickie explained.

The shop must have a powder permit under the Federal Explosive Act. a federal

(Continued on page 54)

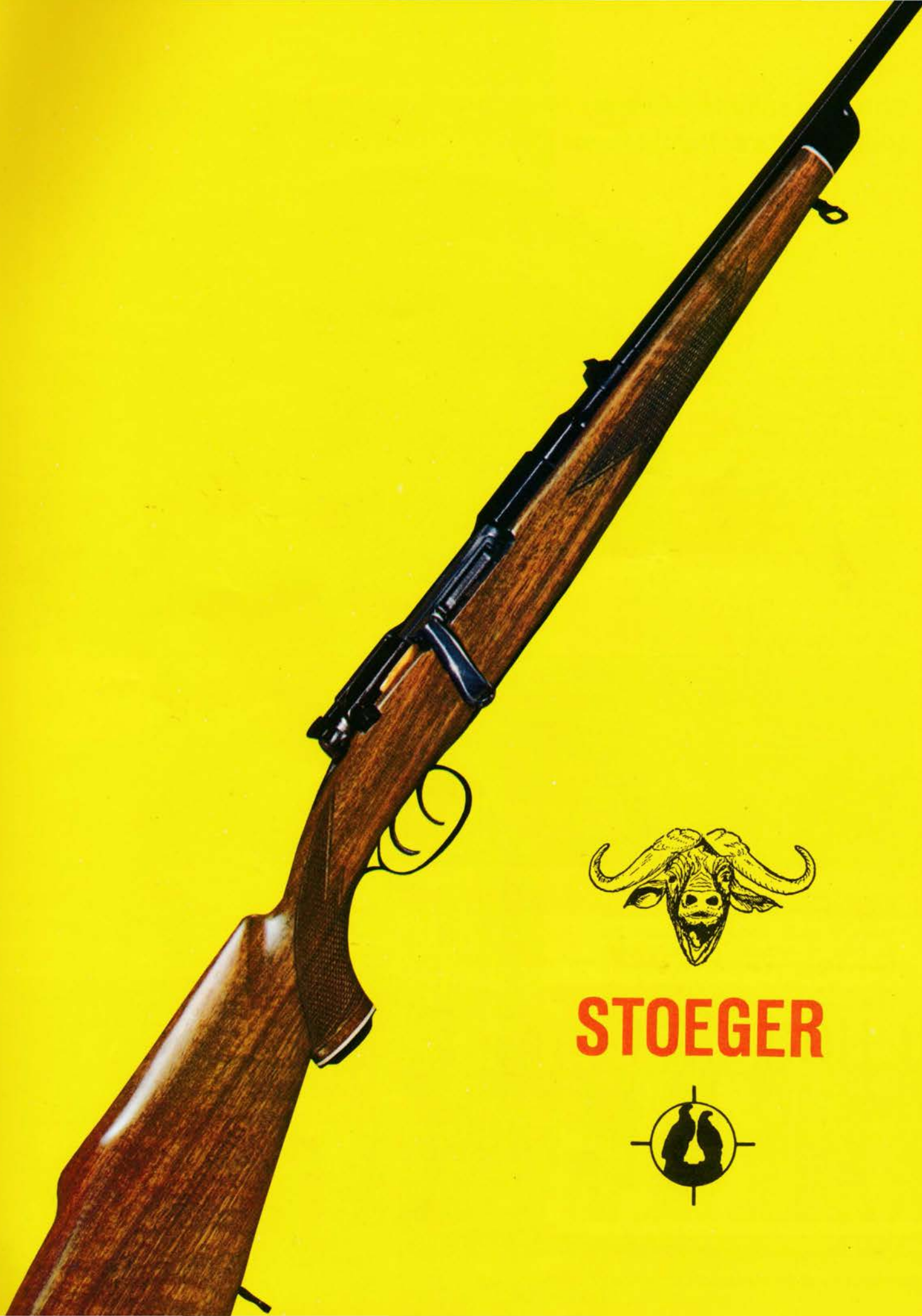
***This gun shop is home for firearms of
Hollywood's celluloid heros***

Historical movies require the proper weapon of the period, and Stembridge is ready. Shown here are the match-lock musket, wheel-lock musket and the seven barrel flintlock mentioned in the article. These are favorites of all visitors.



Below: Submachine guns, Western rigs, and revolvers, ready for "lights, camera, action."





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THE RAREST STEVENS?

By **KINGSLEY P. KARNOPP**

ONLY TEN OF THESE rifles were made, according to O. M. "Jack" Knode, Vice President at Savage-Stevens-Fox. Thirty years ago when he first came to Stevens, the old timers told him that these ten were outlawed on the famous Bisley range in England, because they were "too accurate." Jack says to take this one with several grains of salt, but nevertheless that was the story the way he heard it.

A typical turn-of-the-century half-octagon Stevens barrel, in .22 r.f. caliber is mounted on a typical heavy British Martini action. The usual Stevens markings are on the barrel. The frame is engraved "Stevens Bisley Model." ☐



LAMES $\frac{0}{u}$ SHOTGUN



By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

THE SCATTERGUN with all the razzle-dazzle these days is the over—under. As a result of this there are now a baker's dozen of barrel-over-barrel models, made here at home, in Europe and Asia. All of them rather costly but despite the going figure still quite popular. Shooters who have never shot game with this kind of smoothbore are invariably pleasantly astonished at how they hit right from the first.

The over/under is a favorite of mine. I have a cabinet full of them, ranging through all the useable gauges from 20 to 10 magnum. The other day I ran onto another dandy; the Lames. An Italian-made 12 gauge, resembling at least superficially, the Browning. It is imported by L. A. Distributors, 4 Center Market Place, NYC. It sells for a nickle under three hundred dollars.

The woods these days are full of Italian stacked-barrel shotguns. There are Fabbris, Perazzis, Berettas, Franchis and now the Lames. The Italians bid fair to corner the over-under market with the high quality of their current offering.

The Lames—pronounced “Lah-mess”—is made by the Italian firm, Lames-Faverzani-Chivari Company. The gun



Askins pattern-tested the Lames at 25, 30 and 40 yds. and in all instances it indicated good distribution.

is available in 12 gauge only, and it is to be hoped that it will also be offered in 20 gauge. The model sent me for field test is an impressive piece. It looks, as I have noted, like the Browning. However, an examination of the lockup, the forestock and its design, and the trigger assembly reveals that it is of a different design. For all that, it opens and closes quite as easily as the Browning. The hammers are brought to full cock and the auto selective ejectors to full stand effortlessly. This is more than can be said for some other over-unders that fetch considerably more lucre.

My Lames is an upland gun. It

weighs a delightful 7 lb. 3 oz., with 28" barrels and a stock that measures $14\frac{1}{4}" \times 1\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$, with a down pitch of 4 inches. There is a gentle pistol grip, sort of a half-pistol as the English would refer to it, and the forehead is big, fat and generously sized, extending 16 inches ahead of the single trigger. For fast work on close-rising game, the hand should be well extended on the forestock. With the Lames, a long-arm hold is comfortably possible.

There is a raised vent rib, $\frac{1}{4}"$ in width, nicely stippled to eliminate glare. The rib is flat and straight and is a distinct advantage for fast work.

A no-holds-barred investigation of the latest Italian offering to over/under shotgun fans



TEST REPORT

There is only one bead, a front, but I think there should have been a second about midway of the rib. Bluing on the barrels is excellent; it is deep and lustrous and adds to the good looks of the shotgun.

The barrels have been engine-turned on the flats and the ejectors likewise are finished in this manner. The shotgun breech is made up in one piece; that is the chambers and the under lump which locks up the gun are machined as a single unit. Subsequently, the barrels are pressed into this unit. This means the breechlock is not welded or sweated to the action but is an integral part.

Measurement of the barrels, which were marked 13.4 mm (improved cylinder) showed that both tubes were under standard 12 gauge diameter. Both measured .724" whereas the common spec is .729". The choke in the upper barrel (usually the tighter of the two) showed the choke as a taper job that started 2 inches from the muzzle and came down to .695". This is full choke. The under barrel showed a choke of .700". This is also full choke. Ten patterns from the upper tube with Federal plastic target loads, gave an incredible 81% average on the pattern sheet at 40 yards. The under barrel indicated 70% for 10 patterns. This kind of performance would be fine in a duck gun but was too tight for uplands shooting where the marking 13.5 mm (Imp. Cyl.) would have been much more useful.

The Lames has a non-automatic safety which is a boon. The barrels may be switched in firing by a movement of the safety thumb latch, exactly as does the Browning over/under. The ejectors are automatic and selective and are

triggered by the fall of the hammer. Some 240 shots indicated the ejection is positive and quite strong. Empties are sent spinning for ten feet or so. The single trigger is actuated for the second shot by the recoil of the first shot. A miniature inertia hammer readies the second pull instantly. During the extended firing there was never a failure of the trigger mechanism. The trigger pull is short, sweet, and clean. It lifted a deadweight of 4 lb. 2 oz, which is very near ideal. The trigger is set a mite too far forward in the trigger guard. Unless the gunner's hand is a large one he cannot maintain a comfortable grasp of the pistol grip and still reach the trigger as he should.

The action is blued, and it is engraved with a game bird scene on either flat of the action, surrounded by English scroll work. The checkering on the pistol grip and fore-end is well done. It is hand-checkered and is not able for good execution, with no run-overs, misalignment, or other bobbles.

The wood in butt-stock and forestock is of walnut, with a little figure. The finish is a very dark sort of plastic that gives the furniture the appearance of being solid plastic. This is disappointing and is the greatest single criticism of an otherwise fine shotgun. There is a plastic buttplate, but on a scattergun as light as this I think there should be a good ventilated type recoil pad.

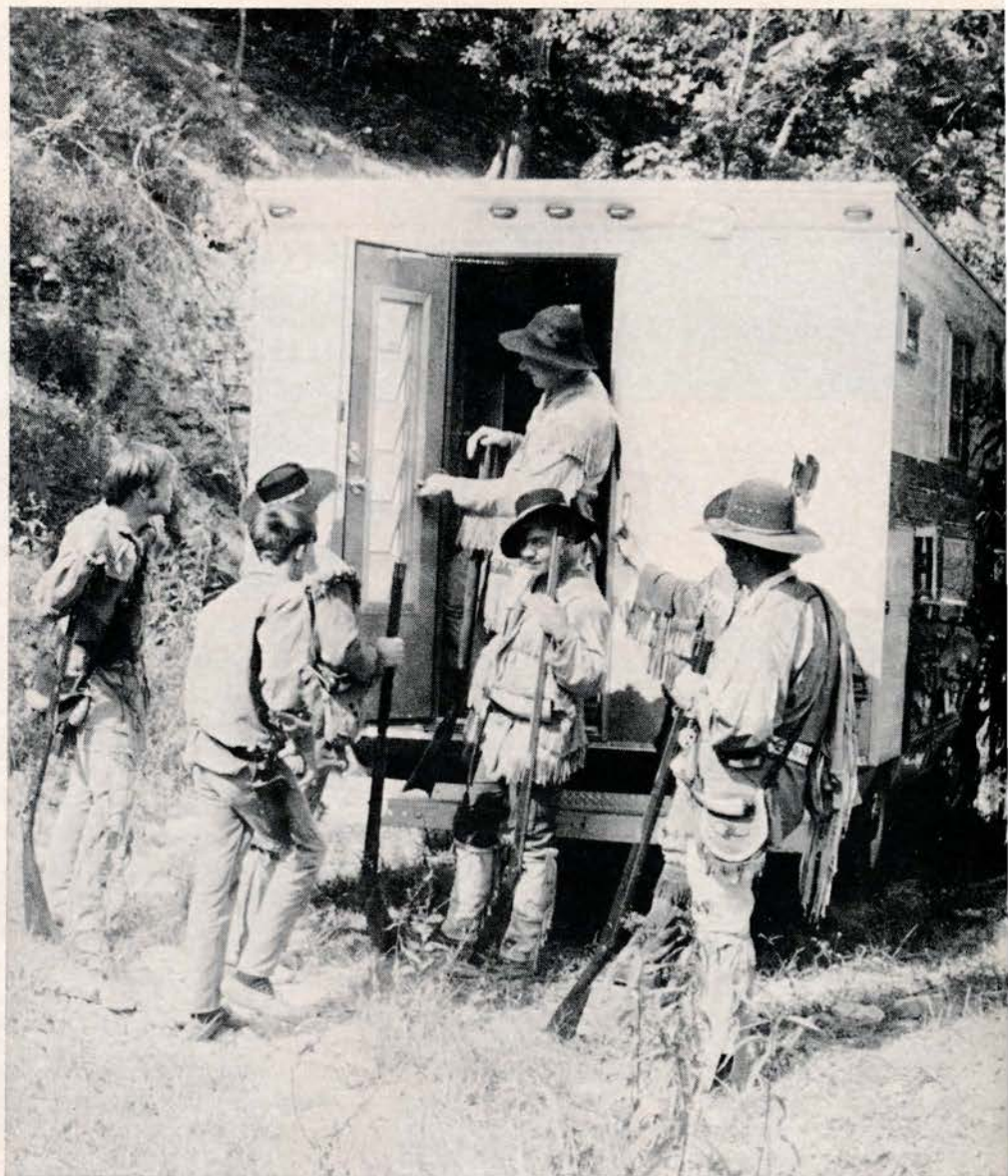
The over-under shotgun has a lot going for it; it points better than the others because of its design. Because of the arrangement of the barrels, the gunner gets his hands into position so that this support is very close to the axis of the bores. The hands point the

shotgun and the closer both fists are to the barrels the more accurate the pointing. Due to the low position of the under tube, which is always fired first, there is less recoil. The under barrel is in line with the shoulder and this dampens the turning motion which all guns develop during recoil. This lack of kick on the first shot permits the shooter to get off his second round to better advantage because of less up-chuck on the first barrel. The Lames, I noted in handling, was ideally balanced to give a lively response. The weight centered between the hands and there was no feeling of but heaviness, nor of muzzle preponderance. With a long-arm grip on the forend and with the 28-inch barrels the gun swung and pointed beautifully.

Doves were in season when the Lames arrived. After a hundred rounds or more at the pattern sheet, thrown targets, and simple function firing, I took it into the sunflowers for the winged game. The birds were passing targets, most of them from 25 to 40 yards. I found, after the first box of shells, that the barrels were far too tightly bored for good performance on the difficult game. Had the gun belonged to me I'd have turned it over to Ernie Simmons and had him ream out some of that choke; to modified in the upper barrel and about quarter choke, or a weak modified, in the under tube.

This is a fine shotgun. A real value for the dollars asked. It is handsome in appearance, has an excellently designed easy-working action that opens and closes like a much more expensive arm, and it handled a variety of loads without any signs of indigestion.





They dress in the buckskin of their ancestors and wield the arms of the pioneers—though they can hardly neglect occasional comforts.



HOW ONCE EVERY YEAR THE INDIANA
COUNTRYSIDE RETURNS TO THE GUNS AND
GARB OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

GUNS AT LAUGHERY

By MAJ. GEORGE C. NONTE

YOU COULD, just by mere coincidence, stop to stretch your legs along Highway 62 about 65 miles westward of Cincinnati. It's mighty nice rolling, timbered country. You might even be tempted to stroll up one of the several creeks trickling delightfully downward over terraced sandstone between timbered banks where arching hickories and chestnuts create inviting sun-dappled tunnels.

If you happen to do so within a week or two, either way, of Labor Day, there could be a shock in store. You might well come face to face with a Pawnee brave in breechclout, fringed leggings, and bristling scalplock, with knife and tomahawk at his waist. Or, you might jump to a rifle-crack off on your flank and turn to see a lanky, long-haired and bewhiskered mountain man in full buckskin rigging loading his flintlock long-rifle, as the white, black powder smoke of the shot dissolves slowly under the trees. Wander up just the right creek and, if you're slow and quiet, you might come upon a scene straight out of the Lewis and Clark Journals—a half-dozen figures in complete 18th Century frontier regalia, some lounging with twist tobacco in clay pipes while a couple idly, but unerringly, hurl tomahawks and knives into a convenient stump—others tend carefully to guns and trail gear. And to see a fully-uniformed Continental soldier trudge up with Brown Bess or Charleville in hand, or a green-buckskinned Ranger lope in with powder horn flapping on his rump would just about convince you some nuclear cataclysm had blown the World backward a pair of centuries.

But don't lose your cool—it only happens each year in the heat of late August. At this time, one thousand or more shooters converge on Friendship, Indiana (most aptly named), for the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association Championship Matches. A large percentage of the lads who

shoot traditional (as opposed to sophisticated modern design) muzzle loaders give free rein to their atavistic urges. They go all the way in suiting dress and action, even speech, to their guns. Many have killed and tanned their own buckskin, then made the outfit, from moccasin to hat, as well as all the sundry items so essential to the lone frontiersman west of the Mississippi 150 years ago.

Of course, stepping into an authentic teepee and being confronted with a portable electric refrigerator stocked with iced beer does upset the picture. But, after all, not everything of the "good ole days" was beyond improvement.

The NMLRA (National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association) Championship Matches are held each year in late August at the Walter Cline Range on the outskirts of Friendship. The Matches had their beginning in 1933 when just a few front-loader devotees gathered to prove what their old-time rifles could do. Since then, there's been continuous interest and growth. The range has grown from a few targets and log rests to a quarter-mile long covered firing line, two trap fields, target houses, a fine, big, rustic clubhouse and the permanent headquarters of the Association. The entire complex takes in over 450 acres and includes hundreds of camping spaces with electrical power and the necessary sanitary facilities not to mention an excellent cafeteria and "commercial row" buildings where scores of muzzle-loading business firms exhibit during the Matches. While the matches are underway, the range population is many times that of little Friendship's 200-odd souls.

For many reasons, most competitors camp at the Range. There are tents, trailers, mobile homes and campers in profusion. While local tourist facilities aren't really up to handling the influx, that isn't the main reason. These people *prefer* to camp.

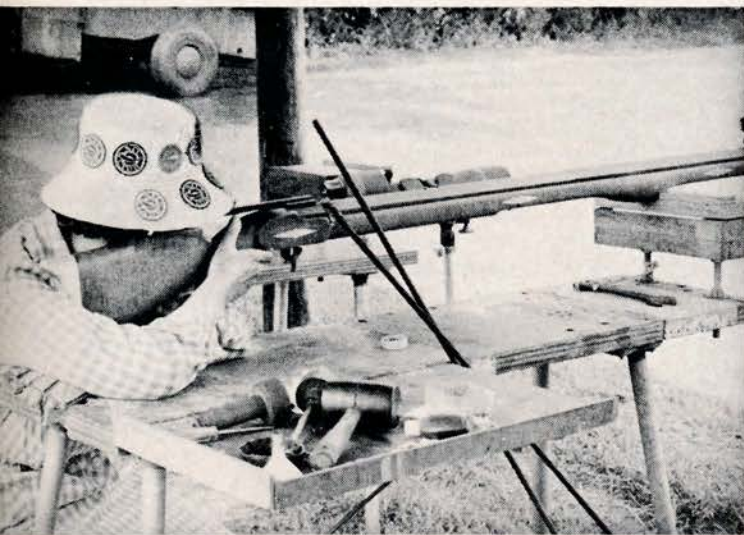
Consequently, my preparations for the trip consisted of checking out a 1968 Chevrolet Camper Special—a ¾-ton pickup outfitted with a spanking new Wolverine Camper. The truck had oversize tires, air conditioning, intercom to the camper, extra batteries to serve the camper, big 396 cubic-inch V-8 engine (but it burns Regular) and all sorts of other goodies. Nary a time during the 750-mile trip did the truck give a bit of trouble, either at turn-pike speeds, or creeping over narrow, winding gravel roads where fords replace bridges in the southern Indiana hills. One surprise was the lack of any problem with the stiff crosswinds encountered. Though the entire rig was heavy, there was plenty of acceleration for any traffic situation.

Once settled in at the range with the larder stocked, we had a complete base of operations—bed and board, our own private john, heat, water, cooking facilities even to making our own ice to partially dilute some good Scotch.

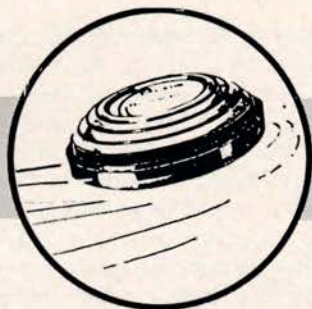
I was envied by many a competitor whose traveling rig was less complete and robust than this one. For wandering around to the various muzzle-loading shoots, one could hardly ask for a better setup. Those affairs are often held in out-of-the-way places where self-sufficiency such as we had can really make things more enjoyable.

There are events to cover every phase of muzzle-loading interest, and the rules are generous enough that almost any gun you can imagine may be entered in at least one or two matches. It just has to be loaded from the muzzle using black powder and fired by percussion cap or flint.

And, that covers a multitude of types. Beginning on the left flank of the line, we find (Continued on page 62)



CREEK . . .



PULL!

By DICK MILLER

MORE THAN FIFTY THOUSAND clay target shooters in the United States and Canada go through a lifetime of shooting without ever finding out how good they really are! Because it seems to me that this is a shameful waste of time, money, skill, and energy, I address this column to the more than fifty thousand clay target shooters who are not members of the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA) or the National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA).

Membership rolls of ATA and NSSA show steady annual increases, and the numbers of tournaments and tournament shooters grow each year. There are also thousands upon thousands of trap and skeet gunners who are capable of winning the biggest of all officially sanctioned tournaments, but who don't, simply because they are not entered! Local club shooters, capable of winning state, regional, and national trophies, offer a variety of reasons for avoiding the "big time," many of which are not necessarily valid.

Some club shooters mention the matter of costs. First of all in the matter of cost, the annual membership fee in either ATA or NSSA is about the cost of a couple of boxes of shells, so we can scratch that item. The cost of registering targets is not nearly so much as many club shooters imagine, and very often works out to be less than the charges for meat shoots or merchandise shoots in which these club shooters are nearly invincible.

Let's set up a reasonably typical example. A shooter can enter almost any registered tournament (tournaments sanctioned by ATA or NSSA) for an entry fee of ten dollars per hundred targets, or less. If the club shooter will check entry fees of merchandise shoots conducted by the local club, he will discover that he is often paying ten cents per target, or more.

On the trap side of the ledger,

where money awards are more common than in skeet, any club shooter who can hold his own in local shoots or in merchandise shoots can count on getting all or most of his entry fees back by playing the optionals, even if he does not win a major trophy or championship. To be more specific, a 50 straight will usually send the shooter home ahead of the game, and very often, especially in handicap events, one good round of 25 will recover the investment.

I put special emphasis on handicap events, because in my own Mid-West trapshooting days I have tangled with club shooters in miss-and-out programs who were tougher than anyone I locked horns with in state, regional, and even Grand American tournaments.

Club shooters, when you weigh whether or not to shoot registered targets, consider a specific example from my own experience. Less than a month after winning a major award in the Grand American (which provided enough cash to put my oldest boy through his first year at MIT) I shot at a small club in Western Kentucky. There was only one other shooter on the grounds who had ever competed in registered tournaments. At the end of the day, when neither of us had been able to win a single event, I commented to the other tournament veteran that I was sure glad none of these fellows had competed in the Grand American! I have heard some club shooters explain that they avoid the tournament circuit because of travel costs. Obviously, if you attend all the big shoots in a geographical area, travel costs could become a factor (unless you are a consistent winner, in the case of trap). It is not necessary to attend every big tournament. One, or only a few, will suffice to prove to you how good you are.

It seems to me that the great majority of trap or skeet gunners in any state could make sure to enter their

own state tournament, even if they do not shoot every day, or all of the events.

Another factor which is almost universally overlooked by local or club shooters in evaluating their chances in big tournaments is the improvement in shooting conditions usually compared with local targets. In all of the big shoots, traps are carefully adjusted to throw consistently uniform targets. With no intent to downgrade or demean local facilities, I can point out that their targets are not always found in the bigger tournaments, as uniform. I might go so far as to say that I have shot at some non-registered clubs and left with the firm feeling that any man who could consistently break targets on that field is certainly capable of winning either the Grand American or the Skeet Nationals any day. More than once, I have shot on a squad in a major tournament with a club shooter getting his first look at consistently regulation targets, and been amused at his comment to the effect that, "These targets looked as big as wash tubs, and twice as easy to hit," when compared with the wild angles and screamers he saw at home. And, more often than not, his score was his highest ever, far better than he imagined he was capable of shooting.

I once knew a better-than-average local shooter who, when pressed for the reason why he did not enter some registered tournaments and put his shooting ability to work for him, confessed that he felt registered tournaments were the private province of corporation executives and bank presidents. Nothing could be farther from the truth. One of the most appealing facets of the clay target games is that while it may be true that a bank president or corporate executive might be squadded with you, so might also be a truck driver, a clerk, or a production worker. And, while they are at the gun club, it's unlikely that anyone will be able to detect which is which.

Then there is the club shooter who is simply shy and ill at ease around strangers. I once knew a farm boy who was an excellent trap shot, but who always declined any invitations to attend area registered shoots. One year I was amazed to see him strolling along the grounds at the Grand American. Later in the day, I talked with his wife who confessed that she, realizing that he wanted to compete but was too shy, had persuaded him to take a little vacation trip which just happened to bring them through Vandalia, Ohio. Naturally, as long as they were near Vandalia, they might just as well have a look at the fabu-

lous Grand. And, just as naturally, as long as friend husband was there, he couldn't resist shooting. She was a wise and understanding wife, and her husband was a proud man when he won as big as we all knew he could.

Another reason for getting out of your own back yard and competing in bigger tournaments is that you pick up shooting knowledge from more and better shooters. And, for some shooters the realization that they are in the big time provides a stimulus that results in higher scores than they have ever recorded at home.

I would be remiss if I left the impression that local shooters should branch out and take in the bigger events only in the hope of winning bigger. More often than not, the fellowship with shooters from other clubs, whom you meet only at the big shoots, is more rewarding than the bare face of winning. I know of no other competitive sport that provides as much or more esprit de corps or just good fellowship than the clay target sports.

Most shooters are interested in the economic health and progress of their own club. It is a well-known fact that few gun clubs, either trap or skeet, can survive solely on the shooting activity of the club's own members. Most clubs must attract shooters from other clubs if they are to survive. If your club sends shooters to another club, that club feels in most cases duty bound to reciprocate. If your club is ingrown, and exports no shooters to other clubs, the other clubs are not likely to support your club. It's as simple as that.

So, in 1969, why not resolve that you are going to find out how good you really are, to learn some improved shooting techniques from other shooters, to take a look at some possibly better targets, with conceivably better background, to make the acquaintance of shooters from distant areas, and to support your own club by supporting some other clubs in their programs. And 1969 could just possibly be the biggest year of your life. You won't know, if you don't try.

And now, a word for the reader who is neither a registered clay target shooter, or one of the more than fifty thousand club shooters. All the rewards of winning, companionship, and achievement that are open to the shooter are just one trip to the gun club away from you. One of the biggest winners in the 1968 Grand American began shooting only a year before, and one of the Grand winners began shooting in May of 1968. There is still plenty of time for you in 1969 (or maybe in 1970:) How will you know if you don't start?



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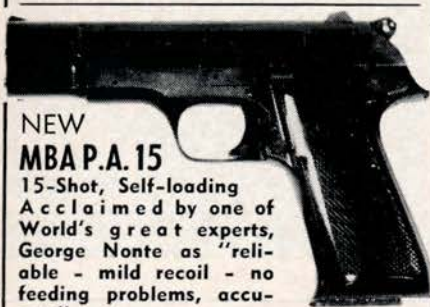
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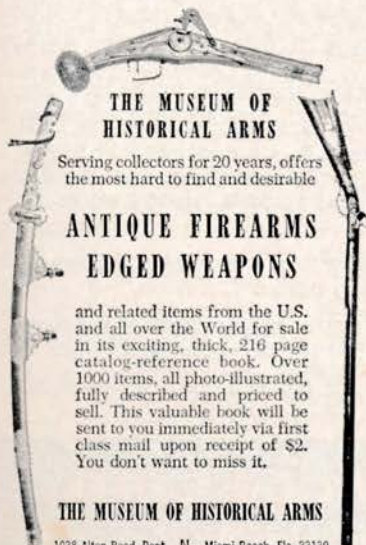
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THE .17 CALIBER

(Continued from page 34)

kills on rockchucks, convinced me that this was a really top varmint rifle out to about 300 yards and that it was also a real "fun gun" to handle and use—low report, very low recoil and good kills on varmints and, best of all, the accuracy of this little rifle. The rifle and my handloads were a very accurate combination. If conditions were right, one inch groups were standard and many five shot groups were consistently of 3/4 inch or less spread.

Continued use and testing of the rifle, plus the many experiments I made with various handloads, revealed quite a number of the problems one

rockchuck hunting. I loaded up about 100 rounds and we tested a few on the range before we left for hunting. Tests gave us 3950 fps and one inch groups with the load we were using. Twenty of the bullets were of one make and the rest were of another. All were the same weight.

Fred killed a number of chucks, at short to long (300 yards) ranges, with the first twenty loads. Then he changed to the other make of bullets and in a very short time he was missing every chuck at which he shot. We picked out a good rock for a target and started some checking. The bullets were going in all directions and



could expect with .17 calibers. The barrel on this first rifle I used was an Ackley six groove and although it was very accurate it had a rough spot about 2/3 of the length, toward the muzzle. Ackley told me about this and said it might smooth out after considerable shooting. Actually, it might have done this if I had stayed with my original top velocity loadings of 3800 fps or less. However, like all experimenters, I wanted to see just what maximum velocities could be safely reached in the .17.

I had just received a new lot of bullets in 20 to 26 grain weights and I decided to load some 20 grain ones to maximum. This proved to be near 4600 fps with one type of powder. I loaded other weights to their maximum and in the 25 grain weight, the one I like best in the .17/223 or .17 Magnums, I reached 4100 fps. Fred Huntington, Jr., of RCBS was visiting me at the time and we decided to go

not even coming near the target. The more we shot, the worse it seemed to get, so we quit and came home. Inspection of the barrel revealed a tremendous build-up of fouling, that proved to be metal and not powder, at the rough spot in the barrel. Now I found out another problem facing .17 users. I couldn't find a wire brush cleaner. Vern had sent me a cleaning rod and powder funnel that he had made for his own use, but now I needed a wire brush. I took two undersize .22 brushes and brazed them to small rods and after three hours work I got most of the metal fouling out. I tried the rifle out on the range and with just a few shots it fouled up again so badly that it was hard to get the brushes through the barrel. This time the bullets were apparently disintegrating as they went through the barrel because they didn't even mark a target twenty-five feet away.

I phoned Ackley and he told me

there was really no positive way to get all metal fouling out of a barrel once it has started. He told me to send the rifle back to him for rebarreling. I also phoned Vern O'Brien about my trouble and late the next day I had received another of his handsome little rifles by air express. This one had a very smooth A & M barrel. I went on with my tests, keeping my loads below 4000 fps and I cleaned the barrel quite properly after each 30 or 40 rounds. Ackley sent my rebarreled rifle back in record time and I used this one in testing also. The new barrel had been polished or honed and I used Brobst J.B. compound frequently to clean it. Although I fired over 800 rounds through it and some well in excess of 4000 fps, I had no more trouble with this rifle. P.O. had made this one a 22 inch barrel length instead of the 20 inch one that was originally on the rifle. The same applied to the second rifle Vern sent me with the A & M. The extra two inches gave me about 50 fps more velocity, with the same loads.

I decided I would like to try a 24 inch barrel on a Remington 600 action in more tests and P.O. suggested making one with three grooves instead of six. He thought this would cut down friction of engraving the bullet and resulting heat and should allow higher velocities without metal fouling. Well, I sent the action to P.O. and he put the barrel on it and then Reinhart Fajen stocked it most beautifully in laminated birch and walnut, using Ed Shilen's Stock Pattern Bench Rest varmint type.

This rifle also produced higher velocities, by 50 or 60 fps, than did the 22 inch barrel using the same loads. I am not sure whether part of this is due to less friction of the three groove barrel but I did raise the loadings to the 4150 fps level and have used the rifle all summer, on the range and in the field, and have killed hundreds of rockchucks and prairie dogs, with complete success. All bullets used were the 25 grain weight.

In a short time I should be receiving a new .17 caliber in a .17/223 chambering, the same as Harrington & Richardson's new rifles will be. My new one will be on the new Ranger single shot bolt action, designed for accuracy and bench rest work. I have also received notice from H & R that I should very soon have one of their production rifles in the .17/223 for some testing. In the meantime, two of my friends each had a .17/223 custom made for them from 600 Remington's. One has a 22 inch A & M barrel and the other a 23 inch Shilen barrel. Both shoot one inch groups consistently and

neither of them have given a bit of trouble about metal fouling.

I believe I have put over 5000 rounds through the .17s that I have been testing. If metal fouling is eliminated I see no excessive barrel wear problem, but I am convinced that .17 caliber barrels *must* be honed or lapped smooth *before even one shot is fired*. If all roughness is eliminated and the barrel is perfectly smooth I feel quite sure that there will be no metal fouling at normal velocities. Powder fouling is still a problem with these small bores. Frequent and thorough cleaning is necessary, at least every 30 or 40 rounds, but powder fouling cleans out very easily. There are now numerous accessories available for cleaning and reloading the .17s that I did not have when I first started.

Varmint kills with the .17/223 or the .17 Magnums can be made quite effectively out to ranges of 300 yards on animals up to the 15 pound rockchuck size. I found little difference in the .17s and .224s in this respect, out to 300 yards. Beyond this range the .224s take over. The hydrostatic shocking power of the little 25 grain bullet at its muzzle velocity of over 4000 fps is terrific. It makes just a small .17 caliber size entrance hole and no exit hole. It blows up internally and kills instantly.

Shooters who have never used a .17 always bring up the wind drift problem. I have done most of my varmint killing high up, on open windy ridges, in the Big Horns. I see little difference in wind drift of the .17 caliber with 25 grain bullets at 4000 plus fps than I do the .224s at 3600 or slower velocities. The fact that the sectional density of the 25 grain .17 caliber bullet is nearly the same as that of the 50 grain .224 is one reason for this, and then the little .17 is going far faster, gets to the target quicker and sort of doesn't hang around for wind drift to bother it.

I have a great deal more experimenting to do with bullets, loads and actual shooting with the .17s. I have just received 4000 new bullets for this purpose. This will give me a fresh start. I will just mention here that Fred Woods of Bahler Dies, who makes most of the .17 caliber jackets used by independent bullets makers, has been experimenting with different jacket materials as to thickness and core hardness. A new metal he will soon have for experiments shows great promise.

There is much to learn yet about the .17s but I am sure we are over the big hurdles and the little .17 is here to stay.



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HOLLYWOOD'S HIDDEN ARSENAL

(Continued from page 43)

Firearms license, and an International Revenue license. The police are furnished with records of all machine guns and they keep cards on all revolvers.

The machine gun is the most policed prop in pictures. In addition to the police records, an officer always accompanies a gun when one is taken to a Paramount stage, to another studio or even to the machine shop for repairs. The law requires that a guard must be on the set whenever a machine gun is used and that it must be under surveillance at all times.

Dickie chuckled as he recalled one of his favorite incidents.

"In 'All Quiet on the Western Front'," Dickie said, "I had to put on a German uniform and double for a featured player because the machine gun used in the scene would not work for the actor."

The guns used in the movie and television industry must be re-designed in the shop so they will shoot only blank ammo. The employees in the Gun Room are all experts in their field. They have to be, for they must know what makes over 8,000 guns go BANG! Experts say that semi-automatic weapons are as temperamental as people. These and automatics have to be gone over time and time again, and the ammo painstakingly made so they will shoot perfectly.

The ammo for Stenbridge tommy guns is made from .30-06 rifle shells. Many of these blanks are purchased from the Army. Thousands of these shells must go through eight processes to become tommy gun blank ammo: (1) Blown; (2) Cut; (3) Reamed; (4) Loaded; (5) Wadded; (6) Shellacked; (7) Crimped; (8) Boxed.

A special blowing machine created by Fritz Dickie is used to blow out the slow progressive powder that is used by the Army. The shells are then cut on another Dickie invention, and at the same time the cannellure (crease at the closed end of the shell) is deepened. Another machine reams the open end of the shell to smooth the edges. It is loaded and the wad placed over the powder and shellacked. It is then left to dry overnight. When the shellack is dry, the shell is run through a crimping machine to get the right crimp so it will feed into the chamber of the gun. These shells go through the gun at the rate of 500 a minute.

Most of the general public is unaware of the time and effort that is

involved in just the different powder charges that must be used for different scenes in these Westerns. There are three different loads normally used. They are: quarter loads; half loads in order to work the machine parts; and black powder for just about every caliber except .22. Odd loads must be ordered.

Half loads are used around cattle by order of the SPCA. They must show a flash for night scenes and show smoke for day scenes. A flash will not photograph by day and smoke cannot be seen at night. The load fired outside must coincide with the shot fired inside on a sound stage set up to look like an outside scene. Automatic weapons shoot only full loads in order to work the machine parts, so consequently they can never be changed.

The Gun Room carries in stock all standard U.S. cartridges and a special cartridge called the 5-in-1. Reming-



ton made this one up special to meet Ed and Fritz's specifications. It works successfully in the .38-40, .44-40, .45 Colt revolvers, .38-40 rifle, and the .44-40 rifle.

Ed chuckled, "I thought we had the shell problem pretty well licked until the Bazooka came along."

During 1941, U.S. scientists developed an explosive projectile which, taking advantage of the Munroe effect, was able to penetrate armor without the high velocity only a cannon could produce. For projecting this explosive a rocket motor was developed. Launching of this rocket required only a lightweight, hollow tube which could be carried by a soldier. That launching tube, called the Bazooka, was put into production during 1942, and was used during the invasion of N. Africa at the end of the year.

Ed pointed out that this firing piece shoots backwards. The tube is loaded from the back by a companion gunman. When the tube is loaded, he then taps the firer on the shoulder to let him know that the rocket is ready. When the trigger is pressed all you see is the flash from the rear end of

the tube. Ed now was faced with the problem of making this gun shoot without the rocket.

A special gismo was made to hold just the right amount of powder, and the right mixture was found, a special wad was also made and a squid was used, connected to a dry cell battery. When the trigger is pressed the Bazooka gives the illusion that a projectile has been propelled from the front end. If the target is in view of the camera, the powder man on the picture sets up a dynamite charge at the target and the actor shooting the bazooka aims at the target. The powder man takes his cue from the bazooka shot and trips his explosion.

"Since you never know what historical period will be popular, we have to keep many old and unusual guns in the collection," Ed stated.

Perhaps the most valuable is a seven-barrel flintlock scattergun. It was a British naval weapon and was used at Trafalgar. Since all seven barrels fire at once, the gun propels the bullets in one direction and the man who fires it in the other. The British used this gun mainly for shooting at snipers in the rigging of boats.

The matchlock musket made about 1600 and a ivory-inlaid wheel-lock of 1675 are two more museum pieces. The wheel-lock served as a set decoration piece in Paramount's "The Emperor Waltz," with Bing Crosby and Joan Fontaine.

A functioning Gatling gun valued at \$5,000, that has been fired in scores of movies, is another prized possession. The oldest gun in his collection is a circa 1600 German wheel-lock and the newest, M16's of the type now used in Vietnam. The M16's were bought for the movie "Seven Days in May." The film was supposed to be taking place in 1970 and the studio wanted some advanced-looking weapons.

But apparently the problem of authenticity is, to some producers, no problem at all. For instance, Dickie continually lets the producers know that the lever action Winchester is not the proper weapon for cavalry use, but the response he gets is always the same. "The trap door Springfield is too slow," say the producers, "and who knows the difference anyway. We don't want to be bothered with having actors stop and load." So, of course, the actors don't. As far as the revolvers are concerned, anytime they are shooting a movie in the percussion period producers think it too much trouble and too slow to load them the proper way, so Stembidge must convert the revolvers to take blank cartridges. "Who knows the difference anyway."

Of great interest to visitors are photographs of past and present patrons. Gary Cooper, known as one of the best movie gunslingers, and the unforgettable Wallace Beery, are just two of the oldtime greats pictured. Boris Karloff, John Wayne, Bob Hope—and John Derek, considered one of the fastest gunmen in the West—are pictured in the gallery.

A wall display shows the sidearms carried by television cowboys; Hugh O'Brien-Wyatt Earp, Richard Boone-Paladin, Jim Arness-Matt Dillon, along with many others.

"There is always a steady demand for Winchesters and Colts needed in Western films and at present we have over 400 early Winchesters in stock," says Dickie.

Some of the biggest rental orders by the studios were: 800 rifles for "All Quiet on the Western Front" (1930); 1,200 World War I rifles used in "Hells Angels" (1930); and 1000 Colonial-era flintlocks, Brown-Bess muskets, Pennsylvania rifles, Dragoons, and single and double barrel pistols for "Unconquered." Just recently they furnished several Winchesters for the Charlton Heston film, "Will Penny," that Paramount has just finished shooting. For television they supplied several tommy guns for the once highly rated series "The Untouchables."

From the mixture of memories of Stembidges' 45 year old history, Fritz Dickie believes the phone call in mid-afternoon of Dec. 7, 1941, is the most vivid one he recollects.

"Is this for real?" Dickie exclaimed, as he listened to the party at the other end of the line.

After years of working on make-believe wars, one could hardly blame Dickie for his reaction. The rush call was from the Coast Artillery in charge of Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles. They wanted to borrow all of the serviceable automatic weapons in the Gun Room collection. By night-fall the guns which had been used mostly in gangster movies were ready for the feared Japanese invasion. During the next few days, machine guns, pistols and shotguns were loaned to the California State Guard and rifles were sent to the Coast Guard stationed at Catalina Island. It was several months before all the weapons were returned.

With the movie industry turning out many war pictures during this time, the gun room was really caught short. The biggest wartime shortages were brass for shells, primers, and flash powder for night scenes. They solved the cartridge crisis by re-claiming all fired shells and reloading them. After each big gun battle, you would see

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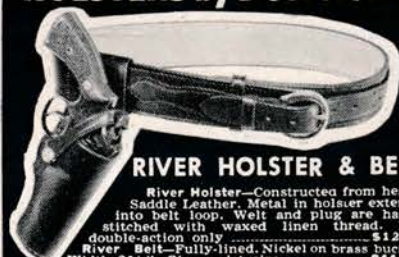
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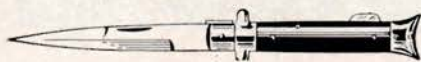
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men scurrying around the sets pick-
ing up empty shells. Powder was
conserved by eliminating all actual
firing of guns in rehearsal shots. An
all industry appeal to the WPB ob-
tained a limited supply of primers.

"In another sense, we had plenty
of 'brass' during the war years. The
Gun Room was always closely
guarded but then we had extra mili-
tary protection. Army and Navy In-
telligence officers constantly visited
us," recalled Dickie.

Employees helped stage shows for
the Army and Navy and furnished
some weapons for training films.

Proudly hung on one of the few va-
cant wall spaces in the shop is a letter
from the Harbor Defenses Command
which said in part: "Due to critical
shortage of such weapons on Dec. 7,
1941, those provided from your stock
were a most welcome addition to our
defenses."

Rodd Redwing once said, "If it
shoots they've got it, or know where
to get it. If there is no such gun
they'll make it."

Rodd is one of filmlands fastest
gunmen and has taught fast draw to

most of Movietown's star gunslingers.
In addition, he does a great deal of
trick shooting for films, teaches all
types of gun handling and drill work,
and acts as advisor on many ballistic
problems that come up in the indus-
try. At times he has worked in the
Gun Room in order to expand his
knowledge of guns. Although the col-
lection has guns of almost every na-
tion and every historical period, un-
usual requests keep these gun gen-
iuses working overtime.

Dickie remarked about one lethal
instrument which has never been in a
picture. "It's a double-barreled shot-
gun with a twist in the stock so that
it can be shot from the right shoulder
but aimed with the left eye and we
call it the 'Ben Turpin,'" he says.

He continued, "One of these days a
left-eye, right handed actor will come
along and his part will require that
he shoot a shotgun. We'll be ready for
him."

Owner Ed Stembridge and man-
ager Fritz Dickie have an endless
number of exciting experiences to re-
count—and a rightful place
in each and every one.



THE WESSON BROS. Part II

(Continued from page 37)

English and European manufacturers
of firearms, accessories and miscel-
laneous sporting goods. The company
was last listed in the 1891 Cincinnati
business directory.

No records whatever have been
found to support the statement that
Franklin Wesson moved to Springfield
in 1865. The Worcester library veri-
fies that he was listed in Worcester
directories from 1858 to 1900, the last
date providing an obituary notice. He
was listed as a gunmaker in Worcester
up to the 1893 edition, at which point
he went into retirement. All patent
papers from 1859 through 1877 give
Wesson's address as Worcester and all
advertisements bear the Worcester
address.

Although the sales potential to mili-
tary forces was great when manufac-
ture of Wesson breech-loading rifles
was begun, Wesson did not neglect
the civilian market despite wartime
conditions. Advertisements appeared
in *Leslie's Weekly* as early as Novem-
ber, 1861, and continued during the
war years.

Franklin Wesson believed in adver-
tising, and we find that his arms were
advertised in many publications from
the 1860s to the 1880s. In 1864 a Wes-
son advertisement appeared in the
back of H. W. S. Cleveland's book

Hints To Rifleman. The rifles were
advertised by a New York City deal-
er, J. W. Storrs of 256 Broadway, of
whom we shall learn more later. Many
advantages were claimed for the Wes-
son breechloader, such as: simplicity
of construction; barrels of finest steel;
rapidity of fire (15 shots per minute);
impossible to load incorrectly; and
form of cartridges said to equal the
accuracy of a false muzzle and bullet
starter used with the best target guns.

The length of the barrel was given
in this 1864 advertisement as 24 inches;
calibers available were .22, .32, .38 and
.44. Cleveland stated: "For accuracy
and power I have found it superior to
any gun of its size using the self-ex-
ploding cartridge."

At the Massachusetts state trials for
breech-loading arms at Readville in
the early 1860s, the Wesson rifle put
twenty successive shots in the target
at 200 yards. Fifty shots were fired in
less than four minutes. As Cleveland
had indicated, for a gun of its size
there is no doubt that the Wesson
break-open breechloader was well
made and efficient—a sporting rifle in
keeping with the Wesson family
standard of quality workmanship.

With his rifles successfully launched,
Wesson again turned his attention to
pistols. On July 20, 1869 he patented

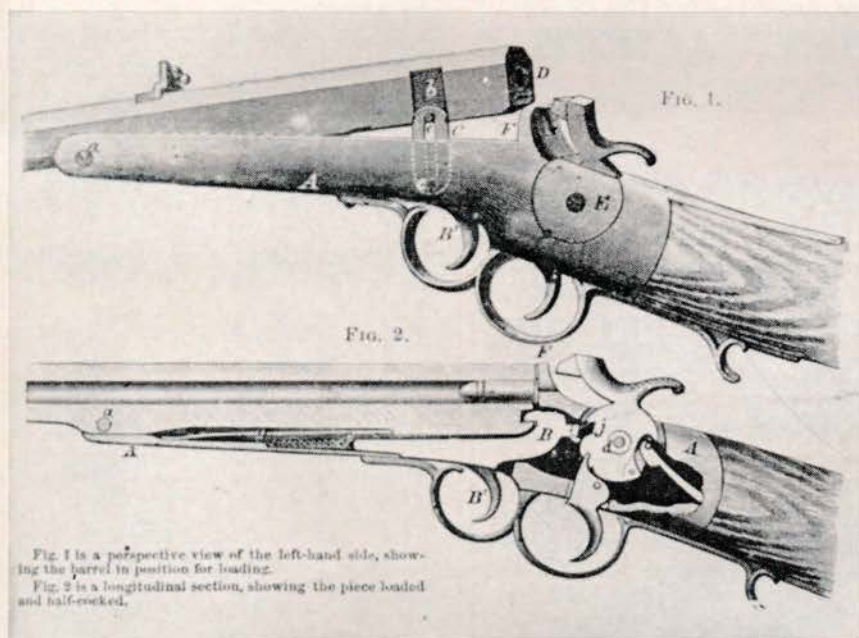
a derringer type pistol which had two barrels and a short knife blade recessed between them that could be slid out into an extended position. Wesson called this a "Pistol and Dirk Knife." The barrels were reversible by a swivel motion to bring each chamber in line with a single hammer. This pistol was also made in .22 and .32 calibers without the blade. The model with the sliding blade was chambered for .41 short rimfire cartridges.

Almost a year later, on May 31, 1870, Wesson patented a single shot arm that can be considered an intermediate step between a pistol and a rifle. It was called a "Pocket Rifle" and could be had with a metal skeleton-type attachable shoulder stock.

1871. This business was located at 18 Manchester Street, Worcester, in a portion of the building used by Wesson for a number of years as his rifle factory.

The principal product of the Wesson & Harrington partnership was a stud trigger revolver with bird-head grip and an odd cartridge ejector located under the barrel. The No. 1 revolver was of .22 caliber with a 7-shot cylinder; the No. 2 revolver was a 5-shot model in .32 caliber. Expiration of the Rollin White patent on a bored-through cylinder had now left the field for revolvers wide open.

This venture was short lived, however, for in 1874 Wesson sold his interest to Harrington who then proceeded to reorganize, taking William



Unlike his earlier single shot arms with a tip-up barrel, the barrel on this model swung to the side for loading. It was offered in .22 or .32 rimfire caliber and with 10", 12", 15", 18" or 20" octagon barrels. Prices ranged from \$12 to \$20 depending on barrel length. An advertisement in Homer Fisher's 1876 catalogue claimed, "It is quickly loaded and entirely safe to carry. Every farmer in the land would find it exceedingly useful, while as a piece for amusement, in target practice, it is delightful." Perhaps this is why they sometimes advertised this model as the "Sportsman's jewel!"

Particularly noticeable in the Worcester-Springfield areas were interlocking or subsidiary arms manufacturing enterprises. One of Franklin Wesson's adventures in this field was the formation of a separate company to manufacture revolvers. With Gilbert H. Harrington he formed the Wesson & Harrington Company in

A. Richardson as a partner and forming the Harrington & Richardson firm.

Apparently partnerships did not appeal to Franklin Wesson, and he was not enthusiastic about revolvers. His single shot arms had been a success and he was convinced that loading the cartridge in a barrel chamber was far better than loading in a separate cylinder.

An advertisement in the 1872 Worcester directory is interesting because it illustrates the Wesson & Harrington pistol over the single name Frank Wesson. Apparently Frank proved to be an easier name for general purposes than Franklin, although only one of Wesson's patents was issued in that form. Another enlightening feature of this advertisement is that it read "Manufacturer of Superior Breech Loading Rifles, Shotguns & Pistols." Some of the Wesson arms were bored out to employ shot shells. He also bored out muskets to make



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them into shotguns. It is likely, however, that Wesson was referring to double barrel shotguns made by the Wesson Fire Arms Co. of Springfield in which he had an interest. His address by 1872 had been changed to 20 Manchester Street in Worcester.

It was in 1872 that Wesson, anticipating the popularity of reloadable centerfire cartridges, patented a movable nose piece for the hammer and other minor mechanical adjustments for his sporting rifles with the result that they might accommodate either rimfire or center-fire ammunition.

This improved Model 1872 sporting rifle and the Model 1870 pocket rifle with what Wesson called a "detachable shoulder-rest" were illustrated in the 1876 Worcester directory. At that time the sporting rifle with 24" barrel cost \$30. Each additional inch of barrel length cost 50¢, and globe sights were \$5 extra.

Always alert to the advancement of mechanical design and sensitive to popular demand, Franklin Wesson began to plan a rifle action which would safely hold larger and more powerful cartridges than the .44 rimfire or other relatively short .44 cartridges used in his tip-up rifles. The Model 1874 Sharps rifles, with their long .40, .44, .45 and .50 caliber cartridges capable of hitting targets up to 1000 yards, had made a deep impression on Wesson's mind and he decided to build an action that would be comparable or even better than the Sharps.

In Charles N. Cutter, Wesson found a man with helpful design ideas, and together they built a dropping-block action for which a patent was granted and assigned to Wesson on July 10, 1877. This model developed into the finest gun to come from Franklin Wesson's gun factory. It was made in the Long Range Creedmoor style, in Mid Range target size, and as a sporting rifle.

The 1888 Worcester directory contains the "Frank Wesson, 20 Manchester Street, Worcester, Mass." signature and also indicates that the tip-up barrel rifles were still being made along with the newer dropping-block model.

By 1893, having spent almost fifty years in the armsmaking trade, Franklin Wesson retired, his firearms and his reputation for quality products well known throughout the country. He died on March 6, 1899, a half century later than his brother Edwin. By this time the single shot arms which Franklin Wesson had long championed were fast being pushed into corner is by the repeater.



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THE REMARKABLE .30 CALIBER

(Continued from page 23)

It drives a 190-gr. bullet at 1980 fps MV; energy stands at 1650 ft. lb.

The .300 Savage, a spittin' image forerunner of the .308 (7.62 NATO) cartridge, has had it. The .300 was introduced in 1920 by the Savage Company to provide a round as hot as the .30'06 but still short enough to work through the Model 99 lever action rifle. The ascendancy of the .308, which looks a lot like its progenitor, has put the older number in the shade. The .300 drives a 150-gr. bullet at 2670 fps but can get only 2370 fps out of the more popular 180-gr. slug. The .308, on the other hand can do a little better than this, with the 150-gr. it pushes along at 2860 fps; and with the 180-gr. does 2610 fps.

The .308—as the military like to dub it, the 7.62 mm NATO—is fired out of the M-14 service rifle. This rifle is still one of our standard weapons. It is also used by a number of the NATO signatories. On the sporting side the cartridge is a hot one. It is gaining in popularity year by year, is widely accepted by reloaders, is necked up and necked down, both by the kitchen brew boys and by the factories, and has alarmed a lot of the old guard for fear it will catch and finally surpass the venerable '06 in popularity.

The load is a pretty good one but not quite as potent as the old perennial. While the .308 whoops the 150-gr. along at 2860 fps, the '06 boosts it to 2970 fps; for the 180-gr. the story is 2610 fps for the .308 and an even 2700 fps for the .30'06.

Since 1945, the year World War II ground out, we've had an infusion of foreign .30 caliber rifles. Among these the 7.62 Russian, the 7.65 Argentine Mauser, the 7.7 Japanese and others.

The Norma Precision Co. imports a cartridge for the 7.62 Russ. This round fires a 180-gr. bullet at 2624 fps MV with a related energy, at muzzle, of 2725 ft. lb. The old Russian cartridge is a rimmed job, a vintage offering like unto the .30-40 and the British .303. The 7.65 Argentine, on the other hand, is a modern loading, with a rimless case and excellent ballistics. The Norma load is put up with a 150-gr. softpoint and delivers 2920 fps MV. Norma likewise sells the 7.7 Japanese. This cartridge can be had with either 130-gr. or 180-gr. bullets; the 130-gr. at 2952 fps and the 180-gr. at 2490 fps.

In 1914, the Holland & Holland Co. of England, developed the .30 Super cartridge, which has come to be called

the .300 H&H magnum over here. It is old, senile, and outmoded these days. At its best it is slightly ahead of the .30'06 but not much. The best thing about the .300 H&H is the empty casing. It has been the basis for the design of a number of our better magnum cartridges. The casing head has a big husky belt on it and this lengthened rim contributes any number of well understood advantages. It facilitates the chore of headspacing, makes for a stronger closure of the breech, and accounts for a much more sturdy cartridge.

The old 1914 Holland casing has had a tremendous effect on the progress of our most modern sporting cartridges. With it as a basis, most of the Weatherby line of magnum cartridges have their beginning. Such new numbers as the Winchester .458, the .264 magnum, the .338 magnum and more lately the .300 magnum all trace their lineage to the English .30 Super. The most popular of the magnum cartridges these days is the 7 mm Remington Magnum. If you will study the belted rim and put your micrometer on the head of the shell, you will find that parentage traces back in direct line to the .300 H&H.

Among the .30 caliber loadings there is a series of magnum cartridges. These are the very cream of the thirty caliber crop; the best; the most desirable; the super performers.

In looking at cartridges, I always want to know how much the bullet drops over average game ranges—that is out to 300 yards. Secondly, and just as important, how much punch does the slug retain at those yardages where the critter is taken. When bullet drop and killing power are used as the primary criteria, you make out a case for the .30 magnums that simply cannot be ignored.

The .300 H&H with an 180-gr. bullet (its best) starts off at 2920 fps and indicates 3400 ft. lbs. of energy; at 300 yards the bullet has dropped 23.2 inches. The old perennial, the .30'06, again with the 180 grain, kicks off at 2700 fps and an energy of 2910 ft. lbs. At 300 yards it has fallen 33.2 inches. On the score of energy at the 300-yd. point the .300 H&H shows 1970 ft. lbs.; the '06 but 1210.

Best of the .300 magnums is the Weatherby; the case is bigger, holds more powder, and drives the 180-gr. bullet faster. The .300 WM starts off at 3245 fps with 4200 ft. lbs. of energy. At 300 yards, the drop of the bullet is

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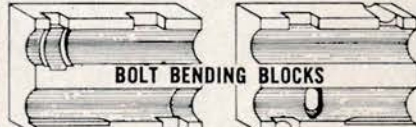
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21 inches, the energy is 2448 ft. lbs. Note this is twice that of the .30'06 with identical 180-gr. slug.

The second best of the .300's is the .308 Norma Magnum. With 180-gr. it spins out at 3100 fps, with an energy quotient of 3840 ft. lbs. At 300 yards the fall is only 21.4 inches; energy at this yardage is 2427 ft. lbs. The .300 Winchester Magnum, the third of the super cartridges, shapes up like this: Muzzle velocity with the 180-gr. bullet stands at 3070 fps, muzzle energy amounts to 3770 ft. lbs.; drop at 300 yards is 22.4 inches, energy at this range is 2380 ft. lb.

The flat shooting load accounts for more hits. This is precisely why we seek out the .300 magnum. It shoots flatter than anything else in the thirty caliber field, and indeed shoots as flat as any of the hunting calibers. The popular 7 mm Remington magnum, currently the hottest thing going, fires a 175-gr. bullet at 3070 fps, with an energy at muzzle of 3660 ft. lb. The drop at 300 yards is 26.8 inches and energy at this distance stands at 2290 ft. lb. All the .300's, even the Winchester, do better than this.

It would seem from these ballistics data that everyone would beat a path to the door of the .300 magnum, actually they do not. The .300, despite all its virtues, enjoys only a so-so sort of popularity. One reason for this is that there is a good deal of recoil wrapped up in the .300 loading.

The .300 Weatherby magnum, best of the supers, delivers up 38 ft. lbs. of recoil energy. The .308 Norma and the .300 Winchester magnum are virtually the same. Now this is quite a fair wallop. The .30'06, by comparison is light indeed, only 20.31 ft. lbs. The .308 (7.62 NATO) is practically the same. A 12 gauge load with 3¼ drams of powder and 1½ oz. of shot in a 7 lb. gun will kick 24.2 ft. lbs. Everybody thinks the 12 is quite a punisher, and it is mentioned here so that there is basis for comparison. The .300 magnum has 33 per cent more back wallop than this shotgun.

For the outdoorsman who wants the best rifle for the game fields, not only of America but around the world, the selection of a .30 and preferably the .300 is about as near an approach as can be made to the all-around all-purpose shooting iron. If he can take the recoil this is a natural. If he knows he cannot, and few of us fool ourselves about that glass jaw we may have, then he should fight shy of the magnums in the .30 classification and stick with that old time-honored work horse the '06. After all, this venerable number has proven itself over these past 65 years.



CUSTOM PISTOL GRIPS

(Continued from page 39)

While not designed for hard usage, one of the prettiest sets I have seen are on my old GI .45 ACP. Made in Korea, they definitely are of oriental design. Black, they have a dragon inlaid in the right grip and a stalking tiger in the left. Both inlays are seashells of some sort, and most attractive though not overly durable. Part of the shell on the tiger is starting to crack out, so when the gun is taken out to use these grips are replaced by the conventional GI type.

My silver and brass plated .45 auto sports a set of Herrett's Presentation Grade Shooting Stars from Herrett's, Box 741, Twin Falls, Idaho. They are of light, well grained, beautiful walnut, sans checkering. Very pretty, and functional as well. They are designed to fit either hand equally well, and do a nice job of it. As does Cloyce, Herret also makes a complete line of custom grips for just about any handgun you might have. However, from what I have seen, and from what other pistoleros have said, it seems that the finish and fitting on Cloyce's stocks is generally superior to that of Herrett's.

My two-inch Colt Cobra, .38 Special sports a set of walnut "Enforcer" grips put out by Caray Sales Co., Fort Lee, N. J. They make combat grips of either walnut or rosewood for all series of Smith & Wesson revolvers, Colt double action revolvers, and the Colt .38 and .45 ACPs. While they look unusually large on the small Cobra, they fit both the gun and my hand beautifully, and most certainly are a big help in controlling the little gun, especially in fast, double action shooting. With an oil finish, they are extremely attractive.

Mustang of Sunnymead, Calif., also puts out a good line of grips for Smith & Wesson and Colt double actions, as well as for the .45 ACP. I have a set of their large frame grips with flare on a Smith & Wesson 357. Designed to fit either hand, these grips have large, well defined grooves for each finger, affording excellent control over the gun. Mine are of dark African rosewood, and with the fine oil finish there is much depth and beauty to the wood. The old gun is worn and doesn't do anything to complement this set of grips, but I plan one day soon to gold plate it. With a good gold plate on the gun, and these deep red rosewood grips, it should make a most striking piece.

Incidentally, as you have probably

noticed by now, with the exception of the turquoise and silver grips, all that I have mentioned thus far are made of wood—either walnut or rosewood. I am prejudiced, most strongly, in favor of wood for grips. Especially when carried in a belt holster, the grips take considerable abuse and wood is far less susceptible to cracking, chipping, splitting and breaking than are most of the plastic ones. Over the years, I have had many varieties of plastic, hard rubber, etc., grips, and I still have a few sets of them, but I much prefer wood. It may be either checkered or plain, and I like a good oil finish. Also, wood weighs a little more than do the artificials, helping to reduce the recoil slightly and make the sixgun balance a little better. I have, however, seen some of natural stag that I liked quite well.

Leonard Ross, a cousin of mine up in Wyoming, has been a rifle and shotgun nut for as long as I can remember, but just recently developed an interest in handguns. I was up that way on a varmint safari and was quite surprised when I stopped by to see him and he produced a few sixguns for me to look over. His rifles have always been his pride and joy and without exception he has restocked them all. Most of the stocks are of exceptionally good wood and many of them feature beautiful and delicate inlays. Because of this, I wasn't too surprised to see the elk horn grips on a 1911 Colt. Polished and blued, the old gun looked good, but the natural elk grips really set it off. They were slightly thicker than is the normal grip for the .45 ACP, felt good, and because of the additional width, recoil is distributed over a greater area and isn't nearly as noticeable. In addition, the natural "grain" of the antlers works about as well as checkering to help provide a firm, non-slip grip on the gun.

Ivory works very nicely for grips, especially I think, when it's carved. A steer's head, eagle, or grizzly all make beautiful figures in a good, dense set of ivory grips. In addition they help maintain a good grip on the gun without twisting or slippage. As the ivory (which is heavy—one of the reasons I like it) ages and turns to a mellow yellowish color, I think the beauty of the grips is enhanced even more.

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Without doubt, my favorite set of
grips are those that are pictured on
the opening page of this article. Filler
grips aren't too often used on single
action six-guns, but especially if the
gun is being used for target work,
they hold a distinct advantage over
the conventional ones. These grips,
on my old .357 Ruger, were made to
fit my hand by Cloyce's Stocks of
Twin Falls, Idaho. They are of a
beautiful, light, well grained myrtle-

wood. Thunderbirds are inlaid into
both sides and add just enough of a
distinctive touch to really set them
off. The finish is such that it adds
great depth to the wood and it almost
seems that you can look right into it.
These grips, more than any I have
ever seen, are functional, beautiful,
and highly distinctive. They are truly
a fine example of the stock maker's
art!

Custom grips can be designed to fit
your individual hand, and aid materi-
ally in improving your shooting. They
can dress up an otherwise drab sixgun
and make it a thing of beauty. They
can add an air of distinction, person-
ality and personal taste to your gun.
They can be either functional or
beautiful, or both. Try a set that
suits your hand and taste—
I think you'll be glad you did. 

GUNS AT LAUGHERY CREEK

(Continued from page 49)

100- and 200-yard targets for the big
Slug Guns. Monstrous weapons, they
usually range upward from .45 caliber
and often weigh as much as 50-60
pounds. They can't be fired except
from substantial rests and some burn
as much as 200 grains of powder per
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for maximum accuracy from rest.
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type of muzzle-loading arm. Care-
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required.

The gun alone isn't enough. The
shooter must not only be a top marks-
man, he must literally know the gun
and its idiosyncrasies inside out. The
slug gun is known for being the most
temperamental of all firearms. It de-
mands absolute uniformity of every-
thing, including the number of
patches used to clean it. Powder
charges even change—what works in
Spring may have to be cut or in-
creased five grains for Fall or Winter
shooting. If you frustrate easily, don't
take up the slug gun, or you'll be
couch-bait for certain.

Almost as impressive, but somewhat
less fussy are the heavy roundball
match rifles shot from rest. They, too,
tend toward large calibers and barrels
so heavy a man wishes for help carry-
ing the gun to the line. They'll be
found there in both flint and percus-
sion persuasion, normally fitted only
with iron sights.

On down the line, you'll begin to
run into less specialized guns—the
typical Kentucky being shot offhand
at 50 yards and the heavy Hawken-
type Plains Rifles being shot in the
"Buffalo" matches. For this, a paper
buffalo target is used and the shooter
plants himself on his haunches with his
rifle barrel settled in the "X" formed



A contestant concentrates on getting
just the right load in his Remington.

by a pair of crossed sticks stuck in the
ground—just like the hide hunters did
it nearly a century ago. Most use a
large-caliber, heavy-barrel, half-stock
rifle with lots of black powder driving
the patched round ball.

On this part of the line, you'll en-

counter many people in full period costume. The long-rifle fanciers set more store by such things than do the rest shooters.

Don't get the idea there are only men on this line. In getting this far along you'll have passed a number of ladies, ranging from pony-tailed, pert sub-teens to portly dowagers in poke bonnets. They have one thing in common—they can shoot, some of them better than their menfolk who often help in loading their long, unwieldy firepieces. One fellow told me he took up slug gun shooting because his wife beat him with all the other guns! I noted one pretty lass in particular this year. For three days, she shot continuously in Buffalo style, wearing thicker bandages each day on her cheek and jaw. Each time that heavy rifle roared and rocked her back on her attractive haunches, the stock peeled a wee mite more skin from her face. She'll do to take along! Don't know what she would do on the Mekong Delta with an M16, but she sure could make that Plains Rifle sit up and beg.

By far the most picturesque, surpassed only by the official 1968 Piper in full Highland dress (Fighting Stuart Tartan), were the trappers and mountain men mentioned in our beginning. The Illinois contingent had marched 125 miles in 5 days over the 4th of July, retracing George Rogers Clark's route for their State's Sesquicentennial celebration—all in full buckskin and moccasins, yet! Try that some time if you think *your* feet are tough.

Perhaps more colorful, but no less authentic, was the Oklahoma contingent, represented by Lee Good of Tulsa, in full Shoshone array.

These lads came, complete with teepees, primarily to compete in the Primitive matches. Most intriguing of them is the Seneca, designed to simulate as accurately as possible a line scout's running fight with numerous enemies. The course winds several hundred yards along a primeval creek deep in the timbered hills. Along the course are five half-hidden targets. The contestant must run on signal full tilt up the trail, spot each target, stop, load his flintlock, fire, hit, and then gallop on to the next. When its all over and if he hasn't lost his ramrod, broken a leg, or failed to spot and shoot at all targets, he's scored on both elapsed time and marksmanship. It takes flying feet, runner's wind, superb shooting, unusual dexterity, and a goodly portion of Dame Fortune's precious commodity to win this one. If you think it sounds easy, just drop down to Friendship some week-end and try to follow Max Vickery, long-legged Chief Range Of-

ficer, over the course. Regular competitors train all year round just for this one match, even running barefoot in the woods.

Other primitive events consist of "Shooting the Cross," both off-hand and resting over a log; tomahawk and knife throwing, etc. These boys seem every bit as good as some of our legendary frontier heroes.

At the right flank of the roofed firing line, we find the handgunners—the pistoleros with every manner of short gun one can imagine. A partial list of what was being used in '68: Colt .45 automatic converted to percussion single shot; hand-made external copy of the rare Cookson flintlock magazine pistol; numerous Navy Arms copies of Remington Civil War revolvers; replicas of Colt Army and Navy sidearms; various home-made flint and percussion single shots, some with understriker locks, backward-striking locks, straight-line strikers, etc., ad infinitum. Some were finished like works of art, others looked as if they'd been half-finished, tossed on the ash heap, and then retrieved just in time for the Matches.

The many original designs and conversions (like the .45 Auto) indicate the handgunners are more inventive and unconventional in thought than long-gun fanciers. Some of the matches reflect this feeling, too. Night shooting, for example. Dimly-lighted conventional targets, crosses, even apples dangling from strings, deflated many a daylight ego. Just try cutting a vertical string or a playing card with a caplock revolver some dark night, and you'll see what they were



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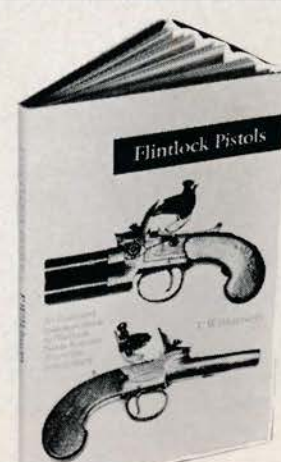
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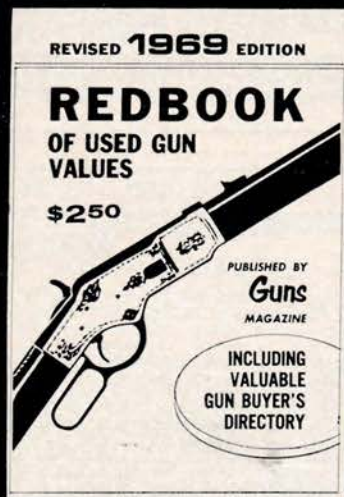
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up against. That basketball-size blossom of orange-yellow muzzle flame sure plays hell with one's night vision—and subsequent shots.

During my hours on the pistol range, single-shot guns seemed to predominate, and all manner of ideas were in use to achieve maximum accuracy. The owner of the Cookson copy mentioned used pre-engraved bullets to avoid seating and ramming deformation. They were of wadcutter form, hand-swaged in a die made from a piece of the same rifled barrel fitted to the gun. Apparently lubricated with graphite and shot without any patch, they did right well in that unusual gun. The straight-line pistols were designed for maximum ignition speed and to place the barrel as low to the hand as possible.

Revolver shooters seemed to have the most fun, though. After all, they were the only people there with repeating guns. Some shot their slow-fire matches using the same carefully-loaded chamber for every shot. They'd tested the gun to know which chamber had a slight accuracy edge over the others. All I watched measured light powder charges carefully, then metered over them a filler charge of Cream of Wheat or Corn Meal. This served to allow firm seating of the ball without placing it too far from the forcing cone of the barrel.

By far the most prevalent revolvers were Navy Arms reproductions of the Remington .44 Army and .36 Navy guns of Civil War note. Many were fitted up the Micro or similar micrometer-type rear sights and towering front blades. Custom-made grips were in evidence, but not nearly to the extent seen on comparable cartridge guns in competition.

The handgunners shot steadily every day of the week-long matches, and some arrived a week early for

daily practice.

Out in the open at the far right of the line are two conventional trap fields where 10-, 20-, and 25-bird matches are held. Practically any front-loading scatter-gun one can carry to the line may be used, though those who show up with 6- or 8-gauge cannons draw a few frowns. Even so, the careful, methodical shooters with 14- and 12-gauge guns throwing $\frac{7}{8}$ or 1 ounce of shot seem to usually come out on top. I watched one friendly old gentleman break 26 straight, moving unhurriedly back to the loading shed after each shot. I can show you plenty of Sunday shooters who can't do that well with the most modern \$1200 trap gun and the best factory-loaded ammo.

For safety's sake, all shotguns must be charged back at the open-sided loading shed which is fenced in to keep out spectators and curious finger-pokers. Shooters leave all their gear on the loading benches when moving up to shoot. Anyone questioning the advisability of these precautions might just take a look at a ramrod hole in the shed roof. Someone—we won't say who—got a wee bit careless with his loading and a lingering ember in the bore caused a sudden boom as he lost his ramrod (and composure) through the roof.

Whether you regard muzzle-loading aficionados as quaint throw-backs or serious students of marksmanship, you can't avoid admitting they can shoot. And, they have fun while about it. I'll bet a fifth of good scotch whiskey that many a budding ulcer has been wiped out by days or weeks spent leisurely afield with long-rifle or front-loading fowling piece. You can't ask much more than that of a hobby, especially when it's fun, and an occasional buckskin mini-skirt shows up, too.



TWO PATHS TO GUN CONTROL

(Continued from page 29)

publicized by both the city's newspapers, the independently-owned *Chronicle* and the Hearst *Examiner*. Governor Reagan, however, pointed out at a press conference that it would make the solution of some gun-committed crimes more difficult or even impossible as criminals would be able to dispose of "hot" guns without the necessity of answering the usual embarrassing police questions.

Except for such weapons, it is doubtful that any criminal turned in his gun. Nor is it any more likely

that the arsenals of the militant extremists were stripped. The guns that were turned in ranged from inoperable World War II souvenirs to relics inherited by widows from their late husbands; although they included a bazooka in good working condition and a handful of shotguns and rifles from guilt-ridden sportsmen. In the end, the city managed to collect 1,943 guns, and cynics pointed out that this was hardly an impressive number considering that there is an estimated 200,000 privately-owned guns in San

Francisco.

Nevertheless, Mayor Alioto proclaimed the drive an unqualified success, and said that he planned to call for more voluntary gun collections in the future. The paramount question in certain San Francisco circles last summer was what was to be done with the 1,943 guns already collected, and the newspapers ran frequent bulletins on the various suggestions. Alioto himself provided the winning one. He said that the gun metal should be melted down, and the San Francisco sculptor, Benny Bufano, famed equally for his grotesquely-modernistic sculpture and his left-leaning political views, would then use it to make a statue dedicated to peace.

When it became obvious that despite all of the ballyhoo voluntary gun collections weren't going to diminish gun ownership appreciably, a freshman member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, named Robert Mendelsohn, introduced a bill for compulsory gun registration. It provided that rifles and shotguns as well as handguns must be registered. Gun owners were required to pay a licensing fee of \$2.00 per gun, gun collectors a flat fee of \$15 for their collection. As could be expected, both newspapers heartily supported this legislation, and Alioto put the powerful prestige of the mayor's office behind it. Its passage, therefore was a foregone conclusion.

However, a group of San Francisco gun clubs retained attorney J. Edward Fleishell to fight it. Fleishell lost in San Francisco Superior Court where Judge Andrew J. Eyman found that there were no constitutional considerations involved. But, the California Court of Appeals didn't agree, and immediately granted Fleishell a temporary injunction against the gun law. The city interpreted this to mean that the gun law was in effect until the final hearing. But Presiding Judge, Daniel R. Shoemaker, took the unusual step of informing San Francisco that that was not what the court meant, and ordering that all enforcement of the gun law be stopped until the court had a chance to study the constitutional issues.

Meanwhile, a gun law of an entirely different nature was introduced into the California State Legislature by State Senator Milton Marks of San Francisco. Marks, a Republican, had been elected to the State Senate from over-whelmingly Democratic San Francisco with the vigorous support and help of Governor Reagan. He was formerly an assemblyman and a superior court judge. His experience in the latter position, he claimed, led

him to believe in the hard approach to gun-committed crimes.

Marks' bill first plugged up an existing loop-hole in previous gun laws in the state. These laws had treated only handguns and certain weapons such as sawed-off shotguns as guns when a crime such as armed robbery was committed. Under the new legislation, all guns including rifles and standard shotguns were included. But he went beyond this, and provided that even the threatened or simulated use of a gun—a toy pistol or a hand in a criminal's pocket—would be covered under the new law.

The gist of Marks' gun-control law was the provision that the use or threatened use of a gun be considered as a second crime with a separate penalty. In other words, an armed robber would be sentenced first for robbery, and secondly for using or threatening to use a gun in the commission of the crime. Knowing the leniency of some judges, the law provided that the sentences must run consecutively, and not concurrently. The sentences were likewise mandatory, and ranged from *not less* than five years for the first offense to *not less* than twenty five years for subsequent convictions.

After its passage, it might be noted that both the *Examiner* and *Chronicle* gave Marks' gun law the same vocal editorial support they had given Alioto's abortive efforts. Somehow, they missed the point that two such contradictory approaches could not both be right, but lacked the sense of selectivity to choose between them.

As this is written, the California Court of Appeal, in unanimous decision of its three judges, declared the San Francisco registration law unconstitutional. However, city officials have announced that San Francisco will appeal this decision to the State Supreme Court.

The tragedy of all this is twofold. First, that such an important question should become a partisan issue. Secondly, that when the statistics of the future show which of these two laws served best to reduce crime, those who perpetrated the poor law may no longer be available to account for their actions.

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VIET CONG ROCKETS

(Continued from page 21)

11,000 meters, 155 meters less than the 105. The 122 mm continues to destroy millions of dollars worth of planes on every airbase in Vietnam.

"I don't think anyone has ever sat down and figured out how many millions of dollars worth of equipment and how many lives the V.C. have destroyed in rocket attacks," a MACV (Military Assistance Command Vietnam) Public Information Officer told this reporter while sitting at the bar of the Rex Hotel in Saigon. "But the figure must be fantastic. See that plaza over there," he pointed. "Last year the Vietnamese held a celebration and the Admiral couldn't make it so he selected another officer to represent him. Two minutes after the ceremony began Charlie fired a 140 mm rocket and it exploded less than ten feet from the officer."

Rockets, like any weapon, have a very personal meaning to men who are meant to be on the receiving end of them.

"I was sitting in my bunker during an attack at a small base we had built near the Cambodian border," Sgt. Johnny Bishop, a member of an Army

Special Forces said, "when this huge object crashed through the roof and landed at my feet. It was dark so I flicked my cigarette lighter on and almost had a heart attack. There stuck in the ground was a Viet Cong 122 mm rocket. The damn thing was only about nine inches from me and a Vietnamese employed by the C.I.A. We just sat there and prayed until the attack was over. I can laugh about it now but it wasn't so funny then."

American fighting men have always had a unique sense of humor which in many cases is born out of a necessity to release immediate tensions. However, the thing that scares them the most is the unknown. Before most of our service men are sent to Vietnam they are rushed through a "weapons familiarization course" and given a glimpse of enemy weapons used in South East Asia. It is not until they finally go into battle that they realize what they are up against.

"So you were asked to find out how many different V.C. rockets are used against our troops and how effective they are," a bald Marine Captain said. "Well, I've gone to most of the intel-

ligence briefings during the past eight months and I don't think anyone knows. A lot of the weapons used by the Viet Cong are left over from the French occupation. Other weapon systems date back to the Japanese occupation during World War II, and although the V.C. are forced to make their own ammunition for these weapons they are still fairly effective."

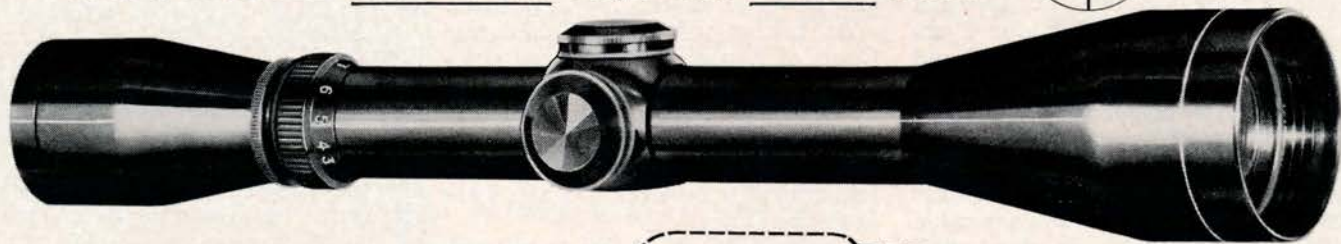


Twin 140 mm rocket launchers.

Many of the rocket systems also come from other Communist countries. The Chinese Communist 87 mm rocket has been used successfully by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese. The Chi-Com 87 mm is a copy of the American 3.5 rocket launcher but is battery powered and weighs seven pounds more than Uncle Sam's.

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GUNS • FEBRUARY 1969

Effective range of the 87 mm is about 180 meters with a maximum armor penetration of five inches.

The Czechoslovakian 120 mm has an effective range of 100 meters with a penetration rate of seven inches. The 120 mm shell is fired from a 45 mm launcher from which a good portion of the projectile protrudes once the weapon is loaded. The 120 firing system is an electromagneto. Standing behind the 120 when it is fired is almost as dangerous as standing in front of it. As the rocket leaves the launcher, a stream of metal filings is ejected under pressure through the rear of the tube.

In addition to rockets, at least a dozen and a half different types of recoilless rifles and mortars are being used by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese against allied troops.

The fact that the Asiatic race is skilled with these weapons is not unusual. Rockets were said to be in-

beams transmit signals to a scope over which two azimuth and range strobes are installed. The heart of the system, a highly sophisticated computer, determines the location of the weapon and the information is sent to the officer in charge. The system sounds good on paper but some servicemen point out that by the time the officer receives the position of the rocket launcher, the enemy may have already moved to a new location.

The radar system is being designed so that it will fit into a vehicle. Three years ago the Army junked a similar project in which it had invested several million dollars because the radar weighed 60,000 pounds and would have been heavier when completed.

Today American G.I.s are using the same methods to locate V.C. rocket teams their fathers used in the First and Second World Wars.

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The 122 mm rocket launcher used by VC to shell military bases.

vented more than 725 years ago when a Chinese inventor whose name has apparently been lost to history manufactured the first rockets ever fired in anger.

Viet Cong rocket teams haunt the American forces like a fatal disease, and so far a satisfactory cure has not been found. "The Q-4 radar can track high trajectory mortar rounds back to their launchers but it's useless against rockets," an Army research officer said. "We've been working here at the Combat Development Command for several years, and maybe next year or the year after we'll find the answer." The system presently being developed by the Army at the command's Fort Belvoir, Virginia headquarters is similar to the Q-4.

An incoming rocket round will fly through several radar beams. The

Chi said, "in an effort to pinpoint range and direction by sound waves." The base at Cu Chi is the home of the 25th Infantry and still gets clobbered by rockets. A favorite target area is the helicopter landing pad. It attracts rockets like a giant magnet. So do other airfields, like Da Nang where twenty per cent of the Vietnamese workers employed by the Navy and Marines are believed to be Viet Cong or V.C. sympathizers.

The city of Saigon is also a primary target for V.C. rocket men. Recently soldiers from the U.S. 9th Division and the South Vietnamese 25th Division were conducting a sweep-and-destroy operation 16 miles south of the capital when they captured a North Vietnamese Officer.

The commander of the VN 25th regiment deployed with the American

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troops, Lt. Col. Tran Van Huyen, questioned the young 2nd Lieutenant for several days. Huyen learned that the enemy soldier was one of approximately 150 highly trained North Vietnamese rocket officers who had infiltrated South Vietnam through the Plain of Reeds. A mass infiltration of rocket specialists could mean only one thing. The enemy was planning to shell the hell out of South Vietnam, and the city of Saigon was a major target. Huyen's prisoner also spoke about a "Super Launcher" that would be used in the attacks, and offered to lead the South Vietnamese to the village of Tan An where one of the weapons was buried. Huyen quickly organized a raiding party and led an assault on the village. Six enemy soldiers who had sought refuge in the small settlement were killed during a brief but intense firefight and minutes later the government soldiers uncovered hundreds of rocket launcher parts buried 18 inches underground.

The Vietnamese had found the super rocket launcher, but the Americans were assigned the task of assembling it.

"We worked all night putting it together, just like an erector set," said Col. Ira Hunt, commander of the 9th Division's 1st Brigade.

The 107 mm launcher weighs about 1500 pounds and has 12 tubes grouped in four vertical rows. Hunt estimated it requires at least six men to carry it plus more bearers for the 42 pound rockets.

"Good God Almighty," were the first words uttered by General Creigh-

ton Abrams, Jr., when he saw the weapon. The senior American Commander was visibly surprised.

The electrically fired weapon can send its 12 destructive rockets 5500 meters. The deadly projectiles can be fired singularly or simultaneously by remote control cables. This means the operator can be dug in underground, safe from air strikes, or perhaps 500 yards away from the launcher when it is fired.

Several years ago, many of the weapons used by the V.C. were home-made. Then the Soviets, Chinese and North Vietnamese began sending modern arms down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Recently American troops have been quite successful in locating hidden enemy supply dumps and this is putting the squeeze on old Charlie. He may be hurting but he hasn't forgotten that "necessity is the mother of invention." During a recent search-and-destroy mission, 16 miles south of Saigon, American soldiers uncovered what may be the biggest rocket launcher ever made. The G. I.'s who found the home-made weapon nicknamed it "Trash Can" because it looks like a giant pregnant garbage can. The launcher has to be propped up on wooden sawhorses to be fired and its 220 pound warhead is designed to impede allied shipping along Vietnam's many waterways.

"The V.C. are the most ingenious enemy we have ever fought," said Army Sgt. Bill Jackson as he examined the Trash Can. "I only wish they weren't so damn rocket happy."

"Amen," muttered his company commander, "Amen."



POINT BLANK

(Continued from page 17)

far distant when the Army will be firing darning needles. This may well come to pass.

For years the Army has toyed with the idea of a military cartridge which would have as the casing a shell or a plug of propellant. This has been done experimentally and the Daisy caseless round as well as that one by Smith & Wesson are essentially what the Army has in mind. There would be real advantage in such a cartridge for when fired there would be no empty casing to extract and eject from the rifle. The bullet would be propelled down the bore by the burning of the propellant and remaining in the chamber would be a little ash. In theory this looks good but in practice problems arise. The propellant does not withstand the hard useage and exposure which a soldier must give it.

It cannot be crimped about the bullet, cannot successfully hold the conventional primer, and some means would have to be found to extract unfired rounds. Too, what would be done with the exploded primers? These certainly could not rattle around in the chamber after the round has been fired.

As for the rifle apart from the cartridge, it will be of improved design. The present gas system will be eliminated. In its place there will be the application of electric power to function the weapon. A motor suitably transistorized and powered by a battery likewise miniaturized will provide a reliability of operation we've never realized before in any automatic firearm.

It has been the history of the development of our service rifles these

past three-quarters century that no extraordinary breakthrough has occurred. While technological progress has been rapid what with the impetus of almost constant war since 1941 it would be unduly sanguine to speculate that the Army weapons command is going to crash through with a super model capable of anesthetizing the enemy out to 300 meters. Or firing discarded C rations cans as a gesture toward the current cost consciousness of the administration.

A couple of Minnesota game department technicians have completed a fascinating study on the effectiveness of game calls on their local foxes. The biologists tried eight different commercial calls which included one of the expensive battery operated record playing kind. All the calls put out the usual rabbit-squeal signal. The amplified job, it was discovered, was poorest of all. The users believe it was not so effective because of the background noises.

During some 13 months our pair of technicians found they enjoyed success during 15% of their callings. Of those little reds who heeded the call, 75% were so curious they came up within 50 feet. Likewise of these some 74% came within three minutes of hearing the first squeal. If no fox showed after 25 minutes the boys found they might as well fold up and go home.

Once they had three foxes come at the same time and on 13 different occasions called up a pair together. Calling from a car was quite successful—apparently the little predators did not associate the car with man at all. Calling from a tree perch was none too good.

The biologists learned that they had best success if they used a loud reed-type call at first and once they knew the fox was coming in switch to a small rubber squeeze-bulb type which gave a more shrill altho less strong note.

The best time for hunting, they determined, was during those hours just before darkness and after dark, when it was necessary to use a light to spot

the game. Early morning calling was poorest of all and if the wind was high it was decidedly a waste of time. Along these same lines the duo discovered that foxes responded best during the mating season, that is during April and May. They found, too, that August was a good month altho they could not explain why.

The deeper the game technicians went into the woods to do their calling the higher the degree of success. This is not to say that they did not call up many foxes while operating close to human habitations. Sometimes they were within an eighth of a mile of houses and roads. An interesting fact which the investigators fully developed was the fact that the man doing the calling does not necessarily have to be concealed. He can sit out in the open but he must sit god-awful still!

If the game spots the slightest movement it will never complete the approach. The better course, reported our game people, is to conceal yourself in the corner of a fence row, in a stand of brush, or under a windfall. The caller should not hide himself, however, so completely that he does not command the various avenues of approach. Foxes, our boys observed, frequently approached so cleverly they stood for many minutes within 50 feet and neither caller saw them.

At times the game people had the good luck to spot a fox from far away when he first heard the siren call. On one occasion they observed a fox trot in from a distance of 1100 feet. On another occasion during the winter a second responded from 650 feet and approached to within 15 feet. There was a snowstorm raging at the time.

The study is quite fascinating altho hardly anything new has been turned up. To those of us who have hunted a great deal with the predator call the results simply bear out old experience. What makes the findings such meaty reading is that the sport, its percentage of success, the times of day, the wind and weather, the best seasons of the year, and the kinds of calls used are all reduced to hard figures.



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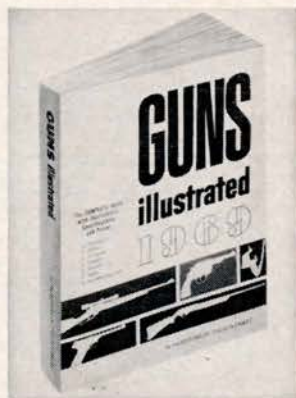
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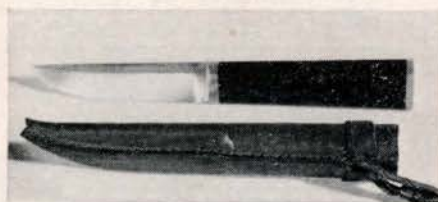
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values and full specifications are given on every item backed up with the authority based on fact that every gun buff looks for. Popular military arms generally applied to sporting uses are included in detail. Perfect for anyone updating their collection,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

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SHOPPING WITH Guns

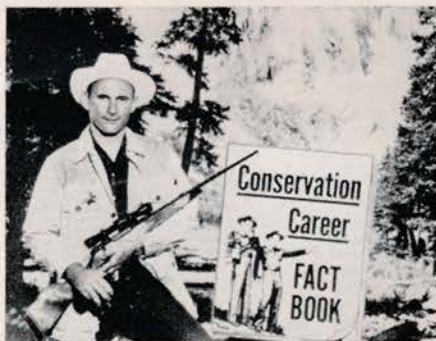
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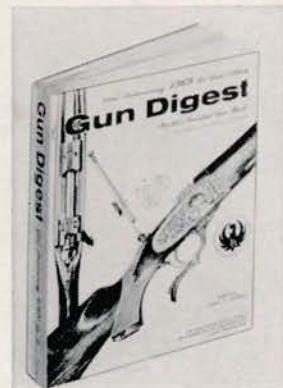
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THOMPSON/CENTER .45-410 CONTENDER

(Continued from page 25)

so vitally important? I am prone to feel that that first shot is all important, and if we realize that we're going to have to reload again before firing the next round, we're going to take far greater efforts to make sure we place that first shot where we want it.

In testing the Contender shot barrel, I first patterned it on lifesize targets of cottontails and quail at various ranges. For this game, the most practical range seems to be from 15 to about 25 yards. At 10 yards, the pattern is still far too tight and it would simply tear anything edible completely to pieces. Beyond 25 yards, the pattern starts getting too thin for sure kills every time. I tried Remington, Winchester, and Federal shells in it, and could notice no appreciable difference in the patterns that each produced if the same size shot was used. My shooting was done with 3" shells, and in the .410 I feel that No. 7½ shot is far the best for this small gauge. From my tests so far, I am sure that it will work very well for quail, doves, bunnies, grouse, and similar sized game if the range is kept under 25 yards. For rattlesnakes, which are usually killed at ranges of less than ten feet, it will prove outstanding. At this close range it would be hard to miss, yet a hit would literally blow their heads off.

I have recently been doing a bit of experimenting with a tape recorder crow call put out by the Burnham Brothers of Marble Falls, Texas. This seems to work equally well on calling in both crows and magpies, and both will quite often swoop in very close if you're well concealed. It's great sport to knock them out of the sky with a shotgun, but even more fun

and a greater challenge to do it with the Contender pistol.

As a heavy handgun, the old .45 is still a great one. Factory ballistics for a 250 gr. lead bullet show a muzzle velocity of 860 fps and corresponding energy of 410 lbs. For comparative purposes, the muzzle energy of some of our other handgun rounds are as follows: .38 Special—256 lbs., .357 Magnum—696 lbs., .44 Special—311 lbs., .45ACP—369 lbs., and .44 Magnum—1150 lbs. While this energy figure certainly can't be used solely as the criterion by which to judge or compare one round to another, it does give a fairly realistic comparison of the various calibers. If you're a reloader, far greater versatility can be obtained from the .45 cartridge. I would recommend, however, loading only bullets of quite heavy weight. The 255 gr. Lyman #454424 bullet, sized to .454, and loaded over either 10.0 gr. of Unique or 22.0 gr. of 4227 makes a fine load, moving the big slug out at an initial velocity of approximately 1000 fps. For a lighter small game or target load drop down to 6.0 gr. of Bullseye.

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GUNS AND THE LAW

(Continued from page 31)

by many departments for riot issue, is justifiable especially when used for general duty purposes. However, this type helmet is generally too heavy and too costly for procurement in quantity for riot issue, only. Compared to the traffic type, plastic helmets of special design for riot duty are relatively inexpensive, and generally superior for special issue riot duty.

In close combat situations, a man instinctively strives to protect his

eyes, abdomen, and groin. If these areas, and his head, are protected, he will perform in combat in a much superior and more aggressive fashion. The ideal helmet should have a short integral visor protruding over the forehead to protect the forehead, eyes and bridge of the nose from blows and thrown objects descending from above the line of vision. Riot actions taking place at night, where men cannot see, cause many injuries if visors and face shields are not on the helmet. In many

recent mob actions, police have been subjected to dirt, sand, gravel, pepper, and acids thrown at their faces. Riots which have involved students and women, especially, have subjected police to attacks of this type.

Any police helmet of good design, providing adequate and complete head protection, must also enable use of a clear plastic face piece, or heavy rigid type plastic goggles to protect the eyes and at the same time enable the mounting of gas masks. The clear type plastic face shield that provides full facial coverage is the best. This shield is made of a heavy, clear plastic material that has good optical qualities, and provides full eye, nose and mouth protection against all blows, thrown objects, acids and other dangerous liquids. The best type face shield will also provide a degree of protection against the smaller size shotgun pellet. These may crack or shatter when the pellet impacts but will stop them completely, etc. Such face shields are now available mounted either integral with helmets, detachable, or hinged so they can be upraised.

The color of riot helmets is subject to departmental preference and experience. White helmets are preferred for crowd control and psychological purposes, in many areas. Other police agencies prefer dark helmets for use in violent riot action, as they present less of a target to rioter and sniper. Departments equipped with white helmets can secure, or have made, dark cloth covers for their white helmets, if indicated.

BALLISTIC RIOT HELMETS

Counter sniper team members and other selected police units should be equipped with helmets that provide protection against small arms fire of the low and medium velocity range. It is illogical for a department to spend a considerable sum for protective vests and not, at the same time, provide the same kind of head protection, when it is available.

The current "pot" type metal helmet being issued by the U.S. Army is principally designed for protection against fragmentation from grenades, artillery and mortar projectiles, etc. It will also protect against low velocity, light bullet weights and small arms fire, such as .22 caliber. This helmet can be penetrated by the various pistol magnum calibers and 9 mm projectiles. The slow moving, heavy .45 ACP bullet generally will not penetrate the military helmet, but will cause a deep dent, and possible concussion.

Some departments have been able

to procure from military surplus and other sources the U.S. Army helmet and liner for riot issue. Until recently, this was the best type of helmet providing some bullet protection, available. At the time of this writing, such inventories are exhausted and future procurement is doubtful. Police agencies offered the army type helmet in the future are advised to test all such helmets prior to purchase. Inferior copies of the military helmet are reported to be in manufacture for sale at bargain prices, etc.

One ballistic fiber glass helmet has just been introduced to the police market, and others are reported to be in development. This helmet provides protection against all projectiles up to the 1300 fps velocities and is generally superior to the U.S. Army metal type helmet in this respect. Its weight is approximately equal to that of the U.S. Army helmet with liner. Ceramic-fiber glass helmets that will provide protection against high velocity rifle projectiles are on the way, but their excessive weight and cost problems have not, as yet, been solved.

The value of an officer's life is not calculable, but his loss to the department in time and money, as a result of injuries or wounds received in riot or other duty, is. It is now possible to

provide the officer with both body and head protection against the type of small arms fire most anticipated in the future. This can be done at a cost level of less than \$200 per man, depending on the degree of protection desired. Body protection can be secured against high velocity projectiles at a higher cost. Police exposed to the hazards necessitating this kind of equipment should be given all the protection possible and budgeting provisions, planned accordingly.

POLICE SHIELDS

Police shields in current use are of two basic types; riot and barricade. They are a special issue item of various types and configurations. The riot shield should be light and maneuverable and, afford protection against rocks, bricks, other missiles and blows directed at the police by rioters. The barricade shield is heavy and designed for police protection in situations where gunfire is directed at them by persons barricaded in buildings, or in counter sniper operations.

Riot shields are used on a large scale by police and paramilitary riot units in South America, the Far East, Africa, Japan and, more lately, in some parts of Europe. Such shields can be locally improvised at low cost from reeds, plywood, hides and light

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metal. Fiber glass and a tough clear plastic are the favored materials for shields used in the United States. Generally, the design of such shields is little different from those used during the age of chivalry. However, most modern types are made of tougher light weight plastic and fiber glass materials. Some also have low velocity bullet resistant qualities and are recommended for all original police procurement of shields of the light weight, maneuverable riot type.

A round "buckler", or oval riot combat type shield, developed in the United States, is made of fiber glass, bullet resistant armor. Its weight and size enables it to be employed as a ready maneuverable protection against thrown objects and blows. It also is useful as a shoving instrument in crowd control or, in some cases, as a weapon for striking, thrusting or cutting blows with the front or edges. This type shield weighs about six pounds and resists all bullets traveling up to 1100 fps.

ANOTHER model riot shield in current use is made of clear plastic and is slightly curved and rectangular in shape. The extremely tough transparent plastic material is called LEXAN and is of the polycarbonate family. This shield affords good protection, due to its larger size and has the "see through" advantages. It is not as maneuverable as the buckler type and cannot be used as effectively, offensively. It also lacks the bullet resistant qualities possible by construction using fiber glass.

Police using shields in formations, or individually, will perform more aggressively in mob confrontation. However, when a protective shield is carried strapped to the forearm, it limits the use of that arm, leaving only one free hand for use with a short baton, or other weapon. When used in formations with short batons, shields enable close rioter contact to be established. Short batons in this form of mob combat are usually used to thrust or strike overhead blows. The protection the shield affords the formation members is good; however, when men are to close together in the ranks, this hinders use of the free hand with the baton and forces the interval between ranks to become greater and subject to rioter penetration.

Generally, shields in mob operations are best employed in formations, when the men carrying them are equipped with liquid tear gas projectors such as the CHEMICAL MACE^(R) in the weapon hand (Mark IV or Mark IX). With this combina-

tion, the shield permits close range use of the chemical projector, while at the same time, the formation remains tight and out of actual physical contact. The CHEMICAL MACE^(R) (Mark VII) baton is also a very indicated weapon for shield-formation type use.

Police barricade shields are made either of steel or fiber glass armor. They are relatively heavy due to the fact that they must provide the maximum bullet protection possible, while at the same time be portable enough to be carried rapidly over short distances. The best type barricade shield should be large enough so that a six foot officer can kneel behind it receiving total frontal protection. The notch or firing port in the shield should be large enough to permit aimed firing with all classes of side arms.

SOURCES OF SUPPLY

Information on riot helmets, shields and vests discussed in this article can be received from:

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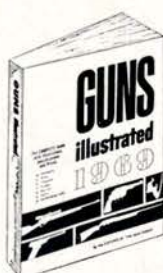
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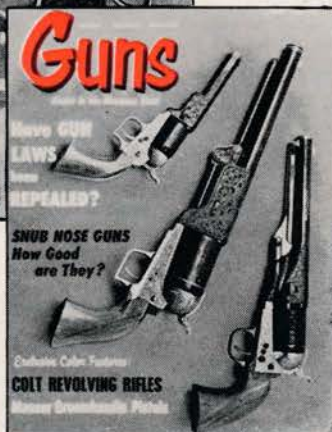
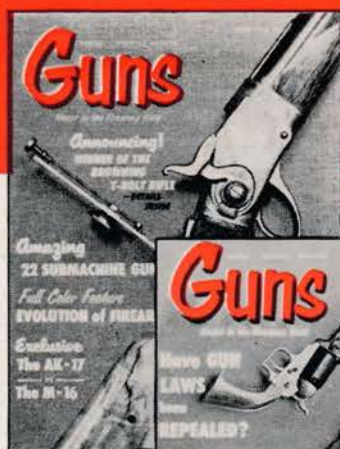
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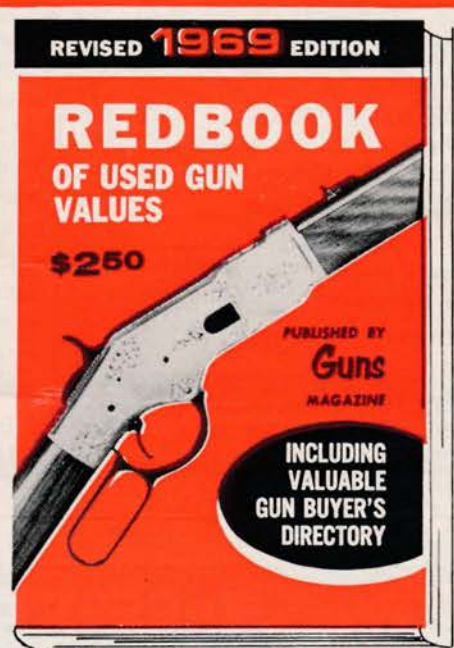
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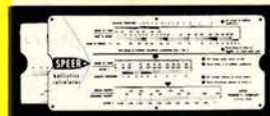
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